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Our mission is to improve the quality of lives of stray dogs through rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing them; to increase public awareness and acceptance of stray dogs as companion animals and that they deserved to be treated with compassion and kindness.



SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS: SAMMIE, TAMMIE AND ELLIE

We join the reunion of three adopted siblings with their families. Since the dogs were from the same pack and familiar with each other, activities together have been seamless and easy to schedule.

What was your decision making process when you decided to adopt?

TAMMIE - Mingyun: Our rescued cat is a senior, so we were looking for a dog that wouldn't be high energy and could coexist with our cat. When we saw Tammie at the shelter, she seemed very timid and stressed - we were drawn to her because we really wanted to give her a chance.

SAMMIE - Yeetien: Kelly was hesitant about Sammie as a suitable option. But similar to Mingyun, we chose her because she was a more challenging dog that would unlikely get adopted, and we were prepared to give it a shot. One big question that we had was if we were going to have to hand feed her for the rest of her life - however, we were already very emotionally invested in her after spending so much time with her and we did not want to give up.

ELLIE - Elvin: We decided on Ellie mainly because she is a smaller sized dog that would be suitable for our house.

Why did you decide to adopt from a shelter and from MercyLight specifically?

TAMMIE - Mingyun: Jeff grew up with dogs in his household, whereas I grew up with other smaller pets. We started thinking about adopting another pet after we rescued a cat from our neighbourhood. We submitted two applications, one to MercyLight and one to another shelter. Kelly responded quickly, we received a reply the next day. We were considering Miyoo at first, but decided on Tammie eventually.

SAMMIE - Yeetien: Information about dog adoptions has become more available now compared to the past, due to social media. We chanced upon a Facebook post about MercyLight, about Mylo (another MercyLight dog that was up for adoption). We first saw him at his fosterer's home, but he did not seem to like men and did not get along with my husband. We then decided to head to the MercyLight shelter to look at the other dogs there.

MEET THE ADOPTERS: TAMMIE, SAMMIE & ELLIE

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ELLIE - Elvin: Ellie is our first dog, and I was initially very reluctant to get a dog because I knew the huge responsibility that would come with it. My son Elijah came up with a whole presentation to convince me to get a dog, and I eventually relented. We visited different shelters to look for a suitable dog, but we did not have a good experience as we were given limited interaction time with the dogs and did not get a chance to form bonds with them. I like how all the dogs in MercyLight are placed in one big area, instead of individual enclosures - it is very different from the other shelters we've visited.

What was the adoption process like for you?

TAMMIE - Mingyun: Over a period of several months, we made about 5-6 visits to the shelter, followed by several staycations that lasted for longer periods. At the end of one staycation, we proceeded directly with the 3 week homestay, followed by the adoption afterwards. Tammie's good friend Kudo (another shelter dog) also accompanied her on staycation. Tammie followed Kudo closely - when Kudo ate, Tammie also ate. Kudo's example allowed Tammie to settle in quicker.

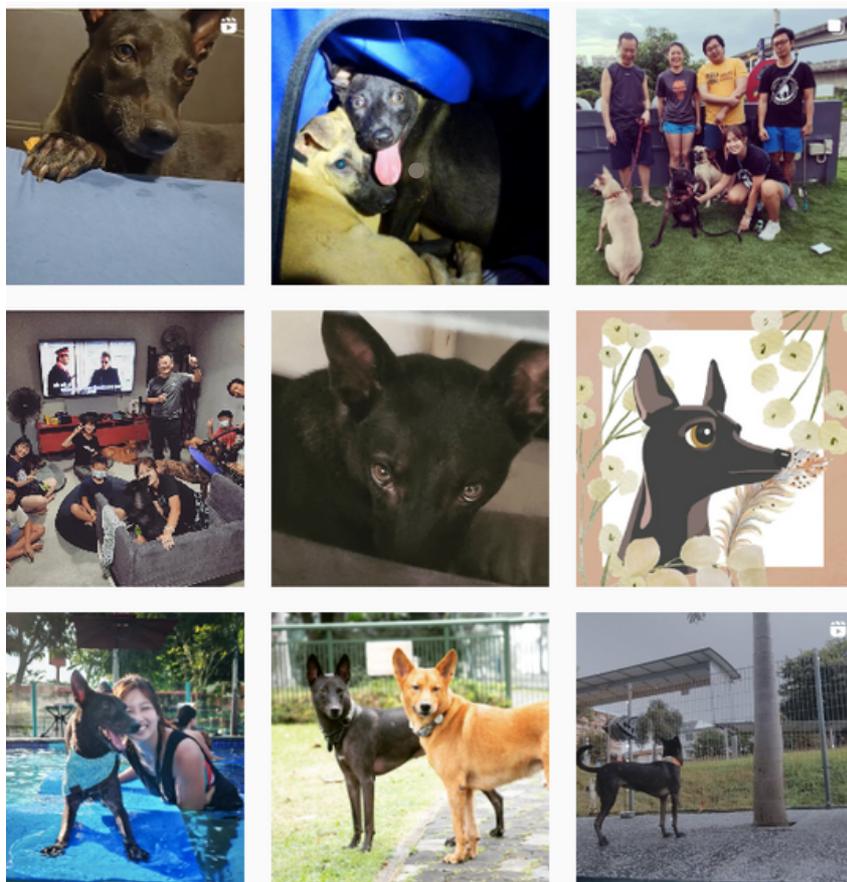
SAMMIE - Yeetien: We visited MercyLight at least 10 times and we mostly just sat with Sammie to make her more comfortable around us. Afterwards, we brought her to our home for a few staycations. It was honestly challenging for her as it was her first few times out of the shelter and in a proper home - she did not seem to understand the concept of a home and even poo'd on our bed a few times! We can tell that Kelly has the best interests for the dogs, which is why she is very strict about the adoption criteria and wanted us to be very certain before we went ahead with the adoption.

ELLIE - Elvin: We went to another shelter initially but did not have a good experience there as they kept rejecting us when we wanted to adopt certain dogs, without giving us specific reasons. We felt very discouraged by that. We then got in touch with MercyLight, and had much better interactions with Kelly - Kelly was very welcoming and it felt as though we were talking to a friend.



Sammie Owners: Jason & Yeetien
Adopted: 1 year ago

@sammieisnohungry



“ We visited MercyLight at least 10 times and we mostly just sat with Sammie to make her more comfortable around us ”

MEET THE ADOPTERS: TAMMIE, SAMMIE & ELLIE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

**How have they been settling into your family?
How has your daily lives changed?**

TAMMIE - Mingyun: Tammie is constantly on our minds, family member. We are always thinking about how to make her more comfortable in our home. We can tell that she is more relaxed and comfortable at home now, and her tail is no longer pointing down all the time. We can also see that Tammie is making effort herself to settle into our home.

SAMMIE - Yeetien: The biggest challenge with Sammie is definitely her picky eating habits - we brought her to the vet almost every month to find out why she did not want to eat, and we also tried many different types of food to find out what works best for her. She's definitely gotten closer to us and listens to us more - she even snuggles with us on the bed and sleeps on our shoulders sometimes.

Sammie also introduced more routine and discipline to our lives, and we've become more outdoorsy because of her. For example, she loves to swim so we take her out to swim more often.

ELLIE - Elvin: We are definitely walking more and have a more fixed routine. Ellie is very well behaved and understands basic commands well. We can also see that she is more confident now - she no longer backs up when she sees us approaching.

What advice would you share to others who are considering adoption?

SAMMIE - Yeetien: Consider adopting a Singapore special because they are extremely clever and tough - we've observed that Sammie is very intelligent and picks up good habits and cues. For example, she knows how to adjust her legs to make it easier for us to put on her pyjamas at night.

SAMMIE - Jason: do consider adopting a dog like a Singapore Special rather than buying a pedigree. Double coated dogs that are usually meant for colder weather, can have trouble in the heat here. Singapore Specials are already acclimatized to the Singapore weather.

How important do you think it is for siblings/families to meet up and how often do you usually plan?

TAMMIE - Mingyun: Tammie recently learnt swimming from Sammie at Mutts and Mittens, which was a very good experience for her.



Ellie Owners: Elijah (Son), Elvin (Dad)
Adopted: 2 years ago

We love that the MercyLight community is very welcoming - we follow each other's dog pages on Instagram and we've received very encouraging comments on it. We also gain tips from each other when it comes to dealing with similar problems.

SAMMIE - Yeetien: We usually organize playdates for Sammie with Donn and Cherish, other MercyLight dogs who were adopted at around the same time as Sammie. Kelly linked us up so that we can meet up, have meals and gain insights from each other. We recently also had a dog chalet staycation at CSC Loyang with Donn and Cherish's families, and invited other MercyLight dogs like Dazzler, Yoshi and Bodin. It's good for Sammie to meet up with her old MercyLight friends, and she shows a lot of interest in playing with them.

I get a lot of assurance from the other families when they point out that Sammie has made a lot of progress since the start. The MercyLight community is very supportive, and we all encourage each other and share tips with each other so that we can make progress together. 🐾

“ [With Ellie] we are definitely walking more and have a more fixed routine. Ellie is very well behaved and understands basic commands well ”

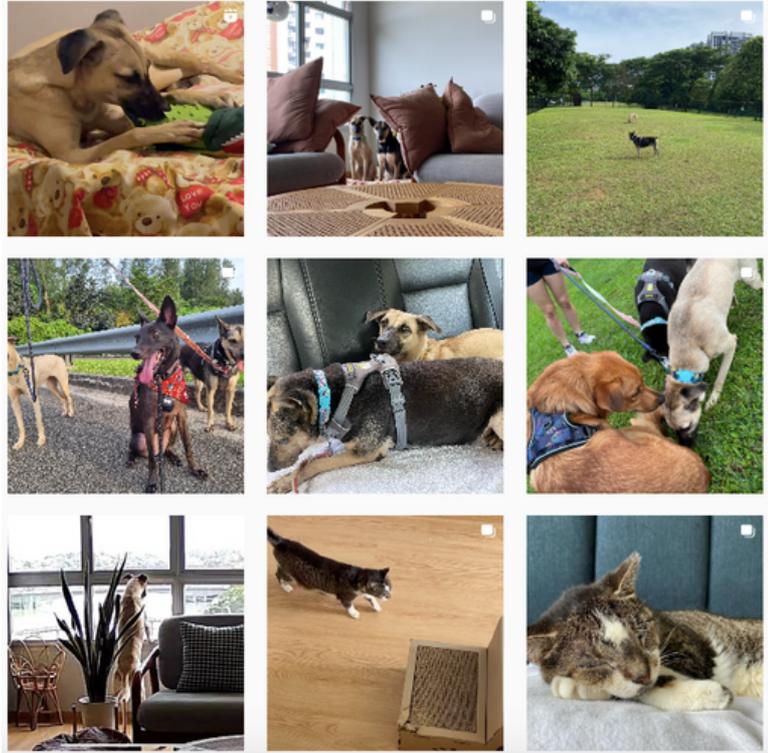
MEET THE ADOPTERS: TAMMIE, SAMMIE & ELLIE

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Tammie Owners: Jeff & Mingyun
Adopted: 1 month ago

@tammieandtuna 🐾



^ Urban hideout at Thomson
"they serve dog meals to dogs also"

Some of of Tammie, Sammie and Ellie's favorite spots



^ Dog friendly chalets (eg CSC Loyang)
'main door has a dog gate, and a few chalets are linked to a dog run so the dogs can run freely!'



^ Mutts & Mittens Active
"for swimming and being active"



< Essen @ Anchorvale - dog friendly restaurant

SUPPORTING THE BLESSINGS: DR. VALERIE TEO

A HUMAN AND ANIMAL CERTIFIED CHIROPRACTOR LENDS HER EXPERTISE

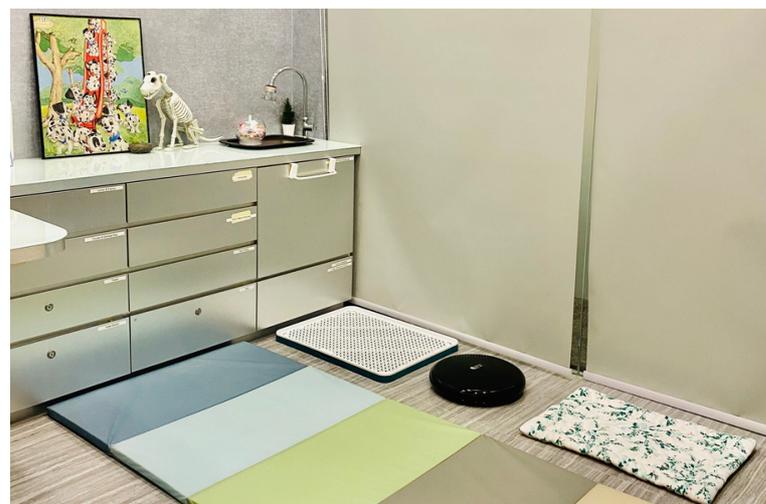
Along the bustling, multi-cultural area of Race Course Road is Dr. Valerie Teo's chiropractic practice. The front door appears like any other practice but next to the doorbell is a bright sign asking pet owners to use the backdoor for access to their animal-friendly treatment room.

"When I started animal chiropractic in 2014, I was the only one in Singapore," said Dr. Valerie. In 2022, Dr. Valerie continues to be the only Certified Animal Chiropractor in Singapore.

With an undergraduate and masters degree in chiropractic medicine from Australia, Dr. Valerie practiced in Singapore. She later studied to become a Certified Animal Chiropractor. The certification requires hundreds of hours of classroom and practical study. Even with her training and experience, Dr. Valerie strives to keep up with her profession and regularly takes seminars and trainings to improve the quality of her treatments.

"I originally wanted to be a veterinarian," shared Dr. Valerie when recalling her journey, "but I knew I could not handle blood or euthanasia." Dr. Valerie's chiropractic career shifted to include animals after a special case including a patient and her pet. Prior to knowing that her patient was also a pet-owner, Dr. Valerie was puzzled when the patient's condition seemed to worsen with each visit. It turned out that the patient was lifting her heavy, immobile dog several times each day. The patient asked Dr. Valerie if she could evaluate the dog. Dr. Valerie shared that she was not trained to help animals (at that time) but that she would try to help. Afterwards the dog regained some mobility and could even wag its tail - which it could not do before. "I realized I had a touch for helping animals," shared Dr. Valerie.

Today, Dr. Valerie has patients who come with their pet. The human is treated and then their pet. Outside the clinic doors patients include horses and agility dogs. Other special patients include shelter dogs.



The special treatment room designed for animals



Dr. Valerie's goal is to bring positive change to every patient she sees.

"I reached out to local shelters to offer my treatment," said Dr. Valerie. After that initial message, a few MercyLight dogs were able to seek treatment. One of the first dogs to visit Dr. Valerie was a small, gentle dog, Amber. Before the treatment, Amber was often unable to finish the full walking route in the morning and evening with volunteers. After several weeks of treatment by Dr. Valerie and daily exercises administered by volunteers, Amber was able to finish the full walk comfortably with her pack.

According to Dr. Valerie, the biggest difference between treating humans and animals is that animals have no voice. For many dogs, especially strays, medical histories are unknown and past injuries are often not visible. For Dr. Valerie, experience and training has allowed her to efficiently lock in and identify the sources of discomfort, pain or stiffness. "For both humans and animals, a misaligned spine or joint can disrupt blood flow to organs which can put strain on the different systems in the body," said Dr. Valerie. During chiropractic treatment, the animal is awake and alert and relief is often expressed by the animal instantly.

For dogs like Amber, this non-invasive form of treatment improved her quality of life and health. By getting her full walks in, Amber is more engaged with her pack, more mentally stimulated outside and ultimately, she has a better chance for adoption. 🐾

 @animalpalchiropractic & @drvalerietechirosg

MEET THE ADOPTERS: AKI, HIKARI, LAEL AND MIA ON THE DECISION, ADOPTION AND GROWTH FROM PUPPY TO FAMILY MEMBER

Why did you decide to adopt from a shelter?

AKI - Ting Yen & Bo Jun: Adoption was the only option for us because we want to help save homeless dogs and give them a better life. When we decided to adopt, we applied to a few shelters and MercyLight happened to be one of them.

HIKARI - Lilian & family: My daughter wanted a dog, and as a family we decided to adopt as it was more meaningful. We applied to a few shelters and MercyLight was the only shelter that replied to us.

LAEL - Edmund & Siew: We were looking to adopt, as there are a lot of dogs in shelters. When we saw MercyLight had a litter of 6, we decided to apply for one of them as we were looking for puppies specifically.

MIA - Marie: I was looking to adopt a dog that was more predictable, and I thought I could offer Mia something.

Can you run us through your decision?

AKI - Ting Yen & Bo Jun: Our first dog was a senior SS adopted from another shelter. After slightly over a year, she fell sick and passed away soon after. It felt like there was a void at home after she left us. Almost a year later, we decided to adopt another dog - a younger one so that we can have a longer time together. We enjoy outdoor activities and so a younger dog would have more energy to join us for outdoor activities.

HIKARI - Lilian & family: We were actually looking at Izzie initially, as we wanted a younger, active dog. Izzie wasn't the easiest, and Kelly asked us to see the other dogs. Kelly said we could consider Hikari as she was HDB approved, and it was love at first sight.

LAEL - Edmund & Siew: We didn't have any criteria other than size. We didn't want a big dog, but were willing to accept a slightly bigger dog. We knew what we were getting into with Singapore Specials. We picked Lael as she was the cutest of the lot. We were initially picking between Mia and Lael, but decided to go with Lael as she was smaller and she had an eye condition. We thought if we didn't take her, no one else would (due to her eye condition).

MIA - Marie: She wasn't too energetic, but mild and balanced. She was social, but not pushy.

LEFT: The family of Aki. Aki is attending daycare in December to help him become more comfortable around other dogs



Above: (Left to right) the families of Mia, Hikari, Lael

How was the adoption process like for you?

AKI - Ting Yen & Bo Jun: We visited the shelter once a week for about two months. Although it was a long way from home, we knew it was important so that we are sure about bringing a dog home. Looking back, it didn't feel like a long process.

HIKARI - Lilian & family: The process was about 2 months, and was a bit tedious as we live in Pasir Ris. We had to come down every week at a certain time, and there was bad traffic. I think maybe one staycation would be enough, as Hikari got used to our place, then went back to the shelter, and the process repeated.

LAEL - Edmund & Siew: The process required a lot of information and was very in depth. The process filters out the people who may not be ready for the lifetime commitment.

MIA - Marie: The process took about 2 weeks for Mia as she was a puppy and I was prepared to commit to it.

How have they been settling in and how have your days changed?

AKI - Ting Yen & Bo Jun: Aki seems to be settling down well. He eats a lot and is not picky with food. He is a sweet boy who follows us everywhere we go and sticks close to us when we go on walks.



MEET THE ADOPTERS: AKI, HIKARI, LAEL AND MIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

We are also learning to handle challenges such as helping Aki with his reactivity towards other dogs. He brings us a lot of joy (and headaches), and we've enjoyed every moment with him so far.

HIKARI - Lilian & family: We have shifts to walk Hikari, and she is adapting pretty well. Her habits have also changed - she is more confident now, and barks more.

LAEL - Edmund & Siew: When we first got her, we walked her 4 times a day. We worry she is lonely at home, so we go home earlier. She is very well trained, and doesn't poop at home. It's always nice to come home to a little one who is super excited to see you.

MIA - Marie: She has been settling in well. As for changes in lifestyle, we are more active now. We take her for really long walks for hours, to tennis, to the beach. She loves the beach!

Do you have any advice for others who are considering adoption?

AKI - Ting Yen & Bo Jun: Adopting a dog is like having another child. It is a decision that should not be made lightly. Expect some challenges but don't worry too much because I've come to realize that the SS and MercyLight community spirit is very strong and there will always be people who can advise or help you.

HIKARI - Lilian & family: Be patient, the process might be a little tedious.

LAEL - Edmund & Siew: Do it!

MIA - Marie: You have to invest a lot in the beginning period.

How important do you think it is for siblings/families to meet up?

AKI - Ting Yen & Bo Jun: It would be good to meet up with his siblings, but given Aki's reactivity to other dogs, it might not be a good idea at this point (until we sort out Aki's behavioural issue). Aki did not recognise Mia or Lael and was quite unfriendly toward them. Aki has friends staying nearby and we meet up with them often, such as Tammie and Hikari (during obedience training). It is nice to see him play nice with them. Aki is also going to daycare in December to learn socialization skills with other dogs.

HIKARI - Lilian & family: It's good to socialize them, as Hikari has no friends. We try to bring her out to make friends, and she tends to make friends with smaller dogs.



Mia's family: "we are more active now"



Hikari's family: "we decided to adopt as it was more meaningful"

LAEL - Edmund & Siew: I think it's good for them to meet up, does not have to be siblings.

MIA - Marie: I don't think being siblings matters at this point. If they had met regularly throughout, it may be different. Socialization is key, but an unstable pack is not good.

Do you bring them out for outings & what are some places you would recommend for new dog owners?

AKI - Ting Yen & Bo Jun: We bring Aki out to the nearby parks and park connectors often. We would love to bring him to the dog run, but he cannot be unleashed there at this point. We brought Aki to the beach once and he loved it! He is not afraid of the water and even tried to eat the sand.

HIKARI - Lilian & family: We like Pasir Ris park!

LAEL - Edmund & Siew: Parks are okay, but dog parks only if there are no dogs around. At this age, they need some stability.

MIA - Marie: We like Sentosa, as Mia loves the beach. 🐾

“

Adopting a dog is like having another child. It is a decision that should not be made lightly. Expect some challenges but don't worry too much because I've come to realize that the SS and MercyLight community spirit is very strong and there will always be people who can advise or help

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FRESH FACES AT THE SHELTER

SOME ARRIVALS WITH NEW CHAPTERS AHEAD

SHAMUEL, LUKA & JOY

Joy, Shamuel and Luka were caught by NParks from Tampines due to public complaints about them resting at HDB void decks. We redeemed them on 30 August 2022.



SHAMUEL

Although he seems shy, confused as to his circumstances and slightly lost, he is comfortable being touched and looks very happy after having settled down a little. 🐾



LUKA

Luka wagged his tail when he arrived at the shelter and was met with the other dogs in our kennel. Now, he seems happy due to his freedom and friends. He is an easy eater. 🐾



JOY

Joy seemed to know Luka when she arrived at the shelter and appeared relaxed and happy when she saw him. She is an easy eater and has assimilated into the pack. 🐾

ANGEL (MOTHER) & XANDER, TED, AVERY, NATE (4 PUPPIES)



Angel and her 4 puppies were redeemed from NParks on 27 Sept 2022. Angel was captured after complaints arose from HDB residents who spotted her loitering. Angel had her puppies in the NParks kennel. Angel is a very pretty black dog with sharp features and is definitely good natured. Like all newly rescued dogs, she is re-building trust with humans again. Volunteers are patiently introducing her to walks and baths. Once her puppies are weaned she'll be sterilised and eligible for adoption. 🐾



XANDER

Looks similar to Ted, but comparatively more chill and calm personality-wise. 🐾



TED

More active and inquisitive as compared to Xander. 🐾



AVERY

Avery is adventurous – she was the first one to explore outside of the room (her comfort zone) and out of the wings of her mother despite being the only girl among the 4 puppies. 🐾



NATE

Nate was the last to come out of his comfort zone (room), suggesting that he may have a more cautious or timid personality. Once he's checked out the new environment, however, he is all playful just like the rest! 🐾

FRESH FACES AT THE SHELTER

SOME ARRIVALS WITH NEW CHAPTERS AHEAD

ABBY, RAINE AND SKYLAR

Abby, Raine and Skylar were redeemed from NParks on 4 Oct 2022. According to NParks, they were trapped because of complaints from residents that they had been loitering in HDB void decks.



ABBY

Abby is a very sweet girl. She loves affection and is quite food-motivated despite being shy initially. 🐾



RAINE

Raine is shy but gentle. We were told that she faced the corner of the wall throughout the time she was in the pound. She did the same when she first came but even so, when we stroked her, cleaned her face or handfed her, she responded gently. 🐾



SKYLAR

Skylar assimilated into the pack almost immediately due to her cheeky personality and efforts in getting to know other dogs right away. Toward humans, she is wary but not distrustful. 🐾

CHOCO JR, DINO, TESS, MIKEL

Choco Jr, Dino, Tess and Mikel were redeemed from NParks on 26 Oct 2022. According to NParks, they were trapped due to complaints from residents that they had been loitering in HDB void decks. As these dogs are new, their personalities are just starting to come out. All very gentle dogs who need time to trust humans again. With stability and the care of MercyLight volunteers their personalities will soon shine through. 🐾



CHOCO JR



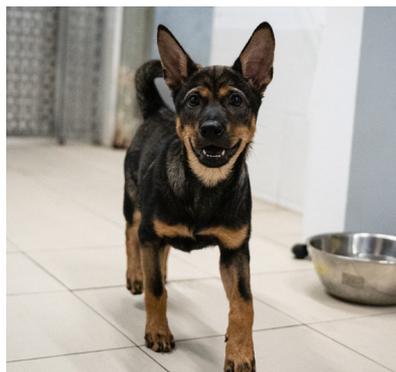
DINO



TESS



MIKEL



PSALMUS JR

Psalmus Jr was caught by NParks at Tampines and redeemed by us on 22 Aug 2022. Psalmus is a very sociable puppy with both humans and dogs. She adapts very easily and is very intelligent. She knows when to retreat when she knows she is pushing her luck with the adult dogs and she knows when to be a little bit more naughty when the humans are around to protect her. 🐾