

NARF News

From just a tiny Patch... grew Jumbo



It was a Saturday morning in January '03. My husband Andrew was reading a notice for a "Small Animal Pet Fair" by a rescue organization called NARF. We'd talked about getting a dog for nearly a decade, but the timing had never been "perfect" enough for me. "OK," I finally said. "Let's just go look to get an idea of what's out there."

We slowly walked around the low-fenced corral and one tiny dog immediately attracted Andrew. He pointed out a scrawny 4.5 lb. speckled critter who sat huddled and shaking. While admittedly cute (in a pathetic sort of way), it wasn't exactly the dog I'd imagined adopting. I decided to pick him up and hold him. I set him down again and said to Andrew, "We don't even know if his legs work!" All we'd seen him do was hunch and shiver. After watching the other dogs scamper and play, I ended up back at that same bony, quivering dog (nicknamed "Patch" because of the black pattern above his right eye). I picked up his vibrating little body one more time. When I went to set Patch down again, I found myself starting to cry. I guess we were taking a dog home today after all!



Patch (age 2-3 years) was a stray fostered by Linda Pope, President of NARF, along with about 8 other dogs. It was impossible to imagine this tiny beast fending for himself at feeding time, or being on his own outdoors! When we later discovered he was blind, his feat seemed even more amazing. Pairing an unknown history with his current body language, Linda counseled us that Patch "may never be the kind of dog who runs to greet you at the door." We renamed him "Jumbo" the night we brought him home. That same night, when we'd lost track of which room he was in, I called out "Jumm-bbo!" for the first time. He immediately ran out from the spare bedroom, toward my voice.

No one at NARF knew Jumbo was blind because his eyes at that time looked perfectly normal. He "looked" directly into your eyes when you spoke and came right to you when called. He'd fooled everyone and blindness never seemed much of an issue for him. During the first week, we took him to a large, grassy park and let him "fetch" small bites of dried seaweed paper while he gleefully ran the 30-foot distance back and forth between us. That day, nobody could've convinced us he was blind! Jumbo didn't bark for a month. Perhaps recovering from kennel cough, flea infestation and worms, plus feeling more at home, had finally given him the confidence to express himself.

Fast forward a few months: Jumbo was "king" of our cul-de-sac. He walked off-leash (right at our side) and knew several necessary guide words: "Up, Down. Come. Watch out!" He ran on the lawn and twirled. He didn't walk, he pranced, gracefully lifting his feet high to compensate for lack of vision. He had memorized all the sidewalk curbs, but occasionally anticipated them too soon and lifted his feet even higher for several paces, waiting to connect with the curb. Many neighbors fed him treats, and Jumbo's walks were a perpetual trick-or-treat session.

Jumbo loved to run on the beach! While he avoided getting wet, he wasn't afraid of the ocean's roar. And when coaxed to cross a miniature stream through the sand, he did so with complete trust in the sound of our voices. He was fearless. Jumbo was a traffic-stopper! We were repeatedly stopped by people who wanted to touch him, talk about him, or just look at him. When did that shaky little critter become this gorgeous celebrity? He was undoubtedly the most beautiful, perfect dog I had ever seen in my entire life.

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President's Message

As the Nike Animal Rescue Foundation celebrates its 30th anniversary, we are thankful for our generous donors, our supportive community partners, our relentless volunteers and our giving and dedicated foster homes. We started in 1985 as a handful of individuals dedicated to protecting dogs and cats in the San Jose area, and thirty years later, our 100% all-volunteer group continues to carry on that mission.

This year, we are proud to have four active programs in place:

-Kathleen Desimone Feline Medical Assistance Fund: donations provide veterinary medical care for local, non-foster cats in a crisis situation.

-Steven Askins Spay and Neuter Program: donations provide financial assistance for the spay and neuter of non-foster cats and dogs, in addition to feral cats in our community.

-Miles Canine Medical Assistance Fund: donations provide veterinary medical care for local non-foster dogs in a crisis situation.

-Senior Program: donations provide veterinary medical assistance to senior citizens adopting a NARF rescue cat or dog.

These community programs would not be possible today without your support over the past 30 years. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of you for your generous time and contribution that you have given, and continue to give to the dogs and cats in our community.

--Linda Pope, President

Officers/ Board Members
President Linda Pope
Vice President Ann Keady
Secretary Megan Seidel
Treasurer Evonne Phelps
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Be sure to join us for our 2015 Walk-a-Thon on September 13th!

Last year, hundreds of NARF friends came out to enjoy a beautiful day in September. They walked with canine companions (theirs or NARF foster dogs), participated in the incredible raffle, enjoyed lunch and had a wonderful time. On Sunday, September 13th, our 20th annual Dog Walk-a-Thon will take place and you are cordially invited to come by and have fun. For all the details, please check out our website at www.narfrescue.org.

Also, please check us out on Facebook, and remember to *like* us!

(Jumbo, continued)

Andrew's favorite trick was Jumbo as "attack" dog. He'd say "Get 'em, Jumbo!" and Jumbo would bark with all the ferociousness his (now) 5.5 pound body could muster. Jumbo learned to softly growl for treats over just a 2-day period when he was about 13 years old and continued to learn the entire time he was with us.

For nearly a decade, my husband complained I'd taken too long to get a dog. And for the 11 ½ years we spent loving him, I reminded Andrew that if we'd found a dog sooner, we'd have missed out on Jumbo. Our vet informed me that Jumbo may have been 18 years old when he finally went to sleep. Jumbo lived long and was the recipient of much love. But the joy he gave to us and those around him was immeasurable.

Jumbo also taught us that an old dog can learn new tricks! While most dogs are afraid of specific things their entire lives (fireworks, etc.), Jumbo learned not to be afraid. The first time we drove through a thunderous car wash, he trembled with fear. The next time, he startled just a bit then settled right down. Each time after, he was completely unafraid. Fireworks startled him, especially if he was outside. But it didn't take long to learn he was safe inside. New Year's Eve and 4th of July were just like any other night if he was snuggled up with us on the couch.

And every time we came home from being away for a time, he would run to greet us at the door.

(Submitted by Selesa Webster)

NARF Gifts to Benefit Loving Animals

Supporting Gifts

Supporting gifts allow Nike to rescue, rehabilitate and secure loving adoptive homes for hundreds of companion animals annually. Additionally, these gifts are crucial to Nike's continued success in educating our community about conscientious animal care, loving behavior modification, and the vital importance of spaying and neutering. \$_____

Honorary & Memorial Gifts

These honorary and respectful gifts further all of NARF's life-saving programs, while honoring and remembering loved ones and friends – both the two-legged and four-legged varieties. NARF will send gift announcement cards, in addition to printing gift acknowledgments in the newsletter. Please provide name(s) and address(es) for appropriate and timely recognition. \$_____

Canine Medical Assistance Fund

Contributions support Nike's pro-active efforts to spay and neuter non-foster dogs within the greater Santa Clara Valley area. Through this important fund, donors help combat the overpopulation epidemic that claims the lives of tens of thousands of adult dogs and puppies each year in our local cities. \$_____

Kathleen Desimone Memorial Feline Fund

Donations allow Nike to provide medical care for local, non-foster kitties in crisis situations. Contributors assist Nike in reaching out to suffering animals that have no other available resources. Established through the generosity of animal lover Kathleen Desimone's estate, this special fund fulfills her wishes to promote and endure the health and well being of cats. \$_____

Ask your employer about matching donations

Honorary and Memorial Gifts Form

Recipient Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

From: _____

Memorial: _____



Mail to: Nike Animal Rescue Foundation
P.O. Box 26587
San Jose, CA 95159

Note: All donations are tax-deductible



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(408) 224-NARF (6273)
www.narfrescue.org

**Please visit our website at www.narfrescue.org for more
Nike Animal Rescue Foundation updates.**

NARF Meetings

Board meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. If you have an idea to present to the Board, contact NARF at 408-242-6273.

Nike Animal Rescue Foundation

P.O. Box 26587, San Jose, CA 95159 (408) 224-6273 and (408) 946-2291 (cat specific).

The Nike Animal Rescue Foundation (NARF) is a non-profit, all volunteer organization founded in 1985, dedicated to protecting dogs and cats. We strive to eliminate animal overpopulation through spay and neuter programs and public education. Our volunteers rescue and shelter dogs and cats in need. We provide medical care and locate quality, permanent homes.

All Dog Pet Adoption Fairs are held on Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM and on Sundays from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. All Cat Pet Fairs are held on Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The location of each pet fair is advertised on our website www.narfrescue.org. Everyone is welcome to come by. Please do not bring pets for adoption unless by previous arrangement.