

Rescuing Roxi

Summers in South Carolina can be brutal for both people and animals, and on the first day of summer in 2013, Greenville County Animal Care received a call that would define just how brutal life can be for a puppy mill breeding dog.

That day, the shelter was told that a puppy mill bust was in progress and to be ready to receive up to 150 small dogs with various medical and behavioral conditions. As the day wore on, kennels filled with Chihuahuas, Dachshunds, Poodles, and other small designer breeds. A Pomeranian from the puppy mill that was later named Roxi was whisked off the animal control truck and straight to the onsite clinic for emergency medical care.

When the shelter veterinarian examined her, it was determined that emergency surgery would be needed to repair the damaged and dead tissue on Roxi's back. The source of the injury was unknown, but one thing was certain. Without immediate intervention, Roxi would die.

The decaying flesh on Roxi's back was carefully removed and the remaining tender skin stapled back together. Because of the severity of her injury, she required round-the-clock care. A shelter employee, Deanne, stepped right up and offered to help by fostering her. Another surgery and 3 months of daily surgical wraps later, Roxi was beginning to physically heal.

Mentally, though, Roxi was still suffering. She didn't have even the very basic understandings of how a pet lived. She was terrified of men and suspicious of people in general. She didn't even understand



Foster mom and Animal Care employee, Deanne, holding on tight to a sleepy Pomeranian named "Roxi"

how to drink water properly from a bowl! Each day, her foster mom would share a new experience with Roxi, and each day the bond between the two of them grew stronger. Roxi learned to trust Deanne, and 3 months after she was rescued from a 2'x2' wire crate, she was running happily with a wag in her tail every time she heard Deanne's voice calling her.

People in the animal shelter and rescue world often joke about "foster failures"; you know, the foster families that take a dog or cat into their home and later decide, "There is no way I can give you up!" After 5 months, Deanne realized the same thing and proudly announced to everyone that she, too, was a foster failure!

Now, Roxi shares her new, improved life with a family that cherishes her despite her physical and emotional scars.

Watch Roxi's story here: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/local-news/greenville-news/burned-dogs-rescued-from-puppy-mill-need-help/-/9654794/20945828/-/fye0ahz/-/index.html#ixzz2YraCeUC3>

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