

VOL. 1 - INAUGURAL ISSUE OCT. 2021

KIND CONNECTIONS

Official Newsletter for the Life of Kai
A crazy idea becomes a reality!



We are Live and Ready to do Good!

After Kai unexpectedly became a part of my life in 2012, the journey with Life of Kai took me on a transformative adventure. Like a hermit crab exploring beyond its shell, I was suddenly awakened to the world of animal sheltering, high-kill shelters, dog transportation, and the diversity of canine companions beyond labradors. I realized I had quite a limited perspective on dogs before Kai entered my life as someone who only raised black labs and did not grow up with pet dogs.

My very first black lab, Toco, arrived as a surprise gift from New Mexico while I was a graduate student in California. He was this adorable, 8-week-old bundle of joy, ready to forge a deep bond with someone, and there I was with limited time and resources, uncertain about how to navigate this new responsibility. Our journey together began in a unique way, as we found ourselves living in my van for a few months due to his arrival coinciding with the end of my rental lease. Eventually, I made the difficult decision to find him a new home after completing grad school, a choice that has always weighed heavily on my heart. Tragically, Toco's life was cut short at the age of 6 when he was hit by a car. It took me 22 years to open my heart to other dogs. Leica and Kodi also black labs became my sources of pride and joy, even though I still wished I could have been an even better caretaker.

Kai's entrance into my life turned everything around. For dogs like Kai who don't fit the "lab" mold and happen to land in shelters looking a certain way, even if they're just puppies, their chances of survival diminish in overcrowded high-kill shelters. It's a stark reminder of the inequalities that persist in our society. Sadly, some people in my community immediately judged Kai based on his appearance and advocated for his removal from the neighborhood. There were even those who suggested putting him to sleep, all because of his "look." It's a heartbreaking truth that he might have been treated differently if he resembled Toco, Leica, or Kodi.

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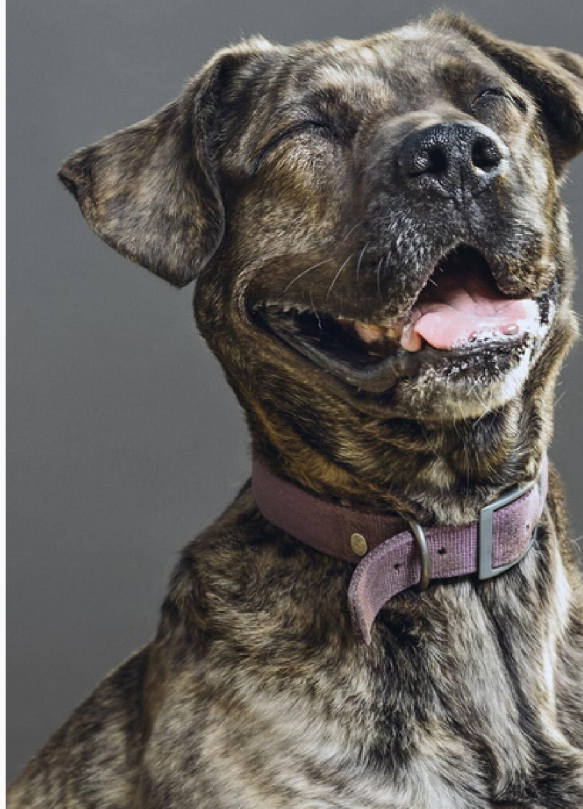
We are Live and Ready to do Good!

Among all my cherished dogs, Kai stands out as my most affectionate and loyal companion. He carries a bit of Leica and Kodi's spirit within him. He's incredibly intelligent and showers us with love. While he might not always exude confidence, he makes up for it with his unwavering affection and thoughtfulness. I truly believe that Kai came into my life for a purpose. We've formed a pact to pay it forward, to share the lessons he's teaching me about being a dog, and to spread that understanding to dogs like him and their humans. Inspired by Kai's presence, the Life of Kai project is set to launch this October after nine years of growth. Our mission is simple but powerful: to spread happiness among dogs, their guardians, and their homes.

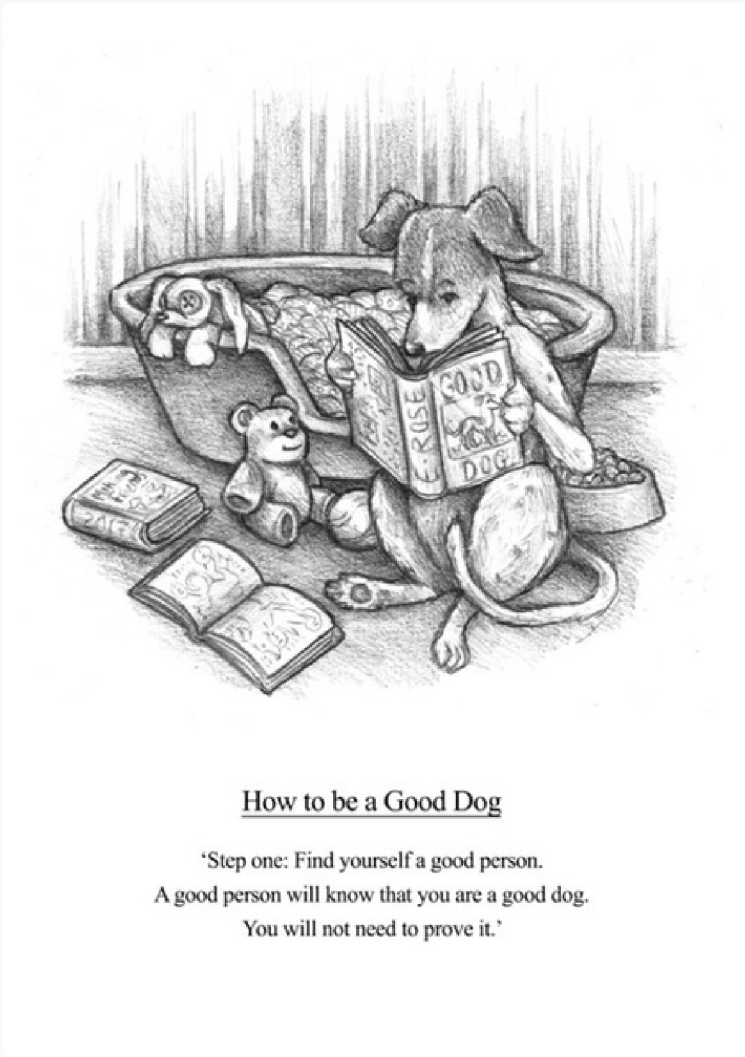
In the end, this journey with Kai has taught me that every dog, regardless of appearance or background, has a unique and beautiful story to tell. It's a story of resilience, compassion, and the unbreakable bond between humans and their furry companions. Together, we're forging a path toward happier, healthier lives for all dogs.

"We are all
different. Don't
judge,
understand
instead."

ROY T. BENNETT



How to be a good dog



How to be a Good Dog

'Step one: Find yourself a good person.
A good person will know that you are a good dog.
You will not need to prove it.'

Life of Kai's goal is to help find good people for dogs.

"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others, cannot keep it from themselves"

JAMES MATTHEW BARRIE

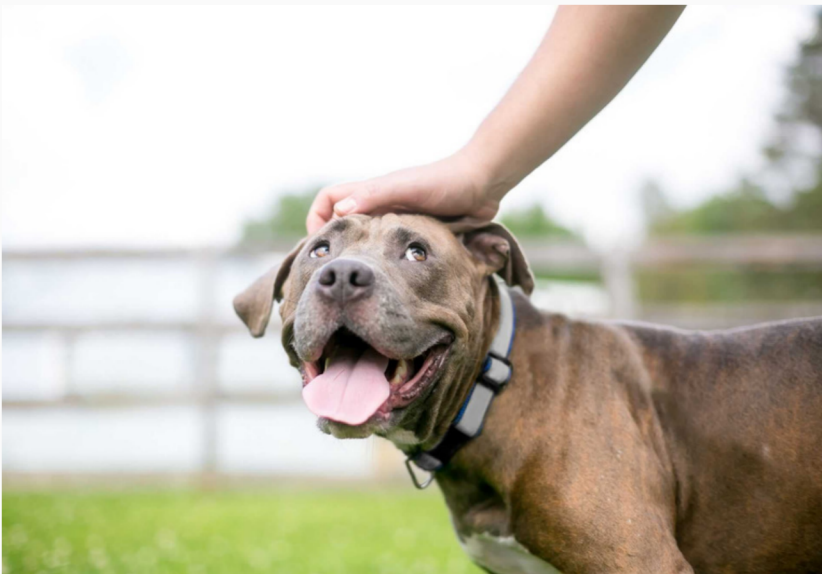
I am a good dog!



October

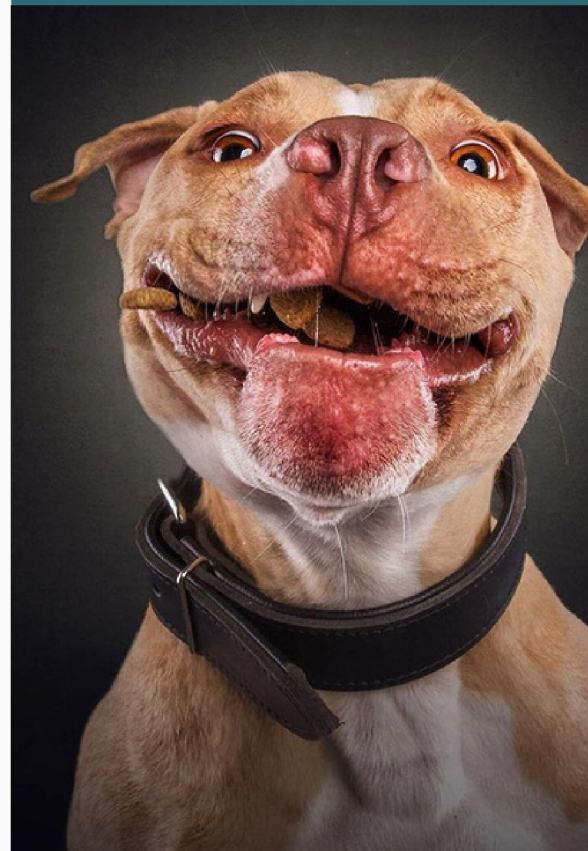
National Pitbull Awareness Month - Oct

- Education and advocacy can save the lives of countless "pit bulls" by negating the fear and bias spread by the media and eliminating breed bans.
- Pit bull's pass rate on the American Temperament Test is 82.3%, making it one of the top five most stable breeds.
- To learn more, please visit Animal Farm Foundation <https://animalfarmfoundation.org/about/>
- Animal Farm Foundation supports banning dog breed restrictions in policies or laws. These restrictions exclude dogs based on how they look but at a deeper level also exclude the guardians of the dogs often based on race or class. All breed-specific policies and laws can be traced to racism, classism, and ableism.
- Learn to be a better advocate. <https://animalfarmfoundation.org/howtoadvocate/>



"Kindness is
Free,
Sprinkle it
Everywhere"

UNKNOWN



FOSTER FIRST

Helping pets in need doesn't always mean adopting a dog or even donating money. Fostering a dog is a wonderful way to support overcrowded shelters and get a pup ready for finding her loving home.

- Collaborate with schools, youth groups, or scouting organizations to introduce the concept of animal fostering. Offer educational presentations, workshops, or activities that teach children and young adults about responsible pet care, the benefits of fostering, and the importance of empathy and compassion towards animals. Younger generations are often passionate about animal welfare and can become enthusiastic advocates for fostering.
- Leverage the power of social media platforms to spread the message about animal fostering. Create engaging and shareable content, such as fostering success stories, fostering tips, or "Foster Pet of the Week" features.
- Provide guidance and support to individuals who are interested in fostering. Offer to answer their questions, share your experiences, or provide practical advice on selecting the right foster animal, managing introductions with existing pets, or dealing with common challenges. Being a resource and mentor can help alleviate concerns and encourage more people to take the leap into fostering.
- Reach out to local newspapers, radio stations, or television channels to pitch stories about animal fostering. Highlight successful foster stories, showcase the impact of fostering on animal welfare in your community, or share information about upcoming fostering events.
- Create brochures, flyers, or infographics that explain the process of fostering, address frequently asked questions, and outline the benefits of fostering for both animals and individuals. Distribute these materials at local veterinary clinics, pet supply stores, community centers, or other relevant locations.
- Host events or workshops focused on fostering awareness. Invite guest speakers, such as experienced foster caregivers or representatives from animal welfare organizations, to share their knowledge and insights. Use these events to educate attendees about the benefits of fostering, dispel common myths, and provide practical information on how to get involved.
- Partner with local animal shelters, rescue groups, or foster-based organizations to promote fostering. Volunteer your time and skills to help with their foster programs, share their foster animals' profiles on social media, or participate in adoption events. By working closely with these organizations, you can leverage their resources and networks to reach a broader audience.
- Share your personal experiences as a foster caregiver and the positive impact it has had on both your life and the animals you have fostered. Use social media platforms, blogs, or local community forums to tell heartwarming stories, share pictures, and highlight the rewarding aspects of fostering. Personal stories can be incredibly persuasive and inspire others to consider fostering.

"We can change the world and make it a better place."

NELSON MANDELA

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