



At Mutts with Friends all dogs are considered worthy of a rescue space. Although we don't actively seek out the more needy dogs, they do tend to land on our doorstep, so we extend our help and love to the neglected, unloved and abused. In some cases the dogs that come into our care have never experienced human kindness and therefore take some time to build up enough trust so that we can start to rehabilitate them.

Many dogs have passed through our hands that have been written off as 'too damaged', but with patience, love and gentle handling the results have been amazing and these dogs have been rehomed and are now living the wonderful lives they deserve.

For example:

A Staffie was brought to us from a Swindon pound. He had been rescued from a gang living rough. He had suffered cigarette burns, punches and knife attacks, but amazingly he is an adorable, calm and gentle dog that now lives with a family which provides a home to 4 cats, 2 dogs and various small furry animals!

In another case, 3 collies were brought to us after being rescued from Ireland. Along with 5 other dogs that we know about, they were subjected to life in a dark shed and were beaten and starved. It took a long time for us to be able gain their trust as the only human contact they had known was abusive. A year later these dogs are all in loving homes, with owners that have been prepared to put in the work needed to introduce them to everyday living, such as roads, houses, traffic and food!

It goes to show that dogs really are a man's best friend, if only everybody gave them the love and respect they deserve.



Among the 20 rescue dogs in our care, we have some wonderful dogs all with very different stories requiring different levels of attention.

Hope is a little Staffie girl, she is approximately 14 months old, and is suffering with a skin condition called mange. Hope's skin is very thickened, very scaly, with open sores and her feet bleed. All of this is being addressed at the moment with special shampoos and washes that kill the mites. The mites are really difficult to kill as they live right inside the skin and it can take a long long time eradicate them. She will need several skin scrapes before she gets the all clear and that won't happen until her coat grows back. This is starting to happen, she's having baths every 5 days with Aludex, and a lime wash every 3 days. Her nails were so long that they were curling under her paws and digging into her pads giving her very sore feet. Her ears are still infected which is being treated. She was also suffering from an eye infection which has now cleared up. Even with all this ongoing treatment, she is a really sweet natured girl, and once the treatment is finished, she will be ready to be rehomed. Hope is a very friendly little girl and it's very sad that she has been allowed to get into this state.

Ranger is a lurcher type, he's a lovely lad. He came to us all bent over which made us think he had damage to his spine. During a visit to the vets, they had a good look at him, did x-rays and luckily enough discovered that his skeleton was fine, but his muscles were very tight. The vets think that he's grown up in a crate which was too small for him, so he was hunched over all the time. His hamstrings were so tight he couldn't move his legs very well. Almost from day one, we've taken him to Chapel Farm Rehabilitation in Pensford, where Clair Hucker and her team have done a fantastic job, and have actually taught him to walk again properly. Without this, he would have had a very uncomfortable life. He is now a happy, friendly dog, and ready to be rehomed. We are looking for a home with an active family, as he loves his walks and he is very bouncy, so maybe a home with older children. But on the whole he would make a lovely family pet.

We run fundraising events throughout the year to help fund the treatments.