

On the Positive Side: NM Dachshund Rescue provides for dogs in need

By Susan Boswell / For the Sun-News

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Each of us, at some time in our lives, has been in need of rescuing - when you had that flat tire on the freeway, when the garage door wouldn't open and your car was stuck inside as you were trying to get to an interview, when a traumatic event left you incapable of logical thought or action.

Hopefully you had family, loving friends or caring neighbors that came to your rescue - with a listening ear, a strong back, a place to crash for a few days or some sound advice.

Although we fervently wish there were no need for animal rescue groups, there is - and there are many of us standing ready for those in need. My first canine fosters came to me because the father of the family was going to war - and the wife and two small children had to go live with her mother. They couldn't take their two young beloved Dachshunds with them, so they reluctantly did the very best they could do - they relinquished the dogs to a breed-specific rescue group, where the volunteers knew and cherished that breed and would place those boys in loving homes. Those two were young, rambunctious and full of life. They taught me just how mischievous little boy dogs could be!

Since then I have had fosters come from loving and not so loving backgrounds. They seemed to find a sense of belonging with my pack, and blossomed through care, consistency, understanding, and kindness. What they brought to me, and how each changed me for the better is another story - a wonderful story.

The recent devastation in our economic lives has forced more good people to relinquish their beloved pets. People lost their livelihoods, their homes, their hope. When they come to the heart wrenching decision that they can no longer adequately care for their canine family member, they seek the best possible solution. New Mexico Dachshund Rescue (NMDR) believes it has been that solution and is honored to have these lives entrusted to it.

NMDR provides each rescue a foster home (safety, food, bed, love). It finances sterilization, inoculations and appropriate vet care/surgeries. NMDR's volunteers hold adoption days, do home visits and screenings, and carefully match the potential adopter with the perfect adoptee. Once a successful match is made, we smile - and sometimes weep - and feel absolutely wonderful for having been of service to dog and man.

Animal rescue organizations always need funding, foster homes, and forever homes - warm hearts, organizational wizards, transportation, webmasters. Your talents, whatever they may be, are urgently needed and gratefully, so very gratefully, accepted. The rewards are incomparable.

For information about NMDR, please contact adoption coordinator Virginia Smith at virginiasmith1@mac.com or the Southwest coordinator Lisa Shipman at dogsrus77@yahoo.com

Susan Boswell has been owned by Dachshunds since childhood, and has competed with them in obedience, rally and agility (and played with fly ball, tracking and lure coursing).