



# MUTTVILLE

senior dog rescue

MID-YEAR  
2020

## A LIFELINE OF LOVE AND JOY

*I hope you're safe and healthy. My heart goes out to everyone who has suffered from this devastating pandemic.*

*When quarantine first began, we knew we would be faced with competing challenges: many dogs would be homeless, affected by people's illness and economic hardships. And our operations had to completely change. As you'll see, we didn't miss a step—within 48 hours of the Shelter in Place order, we had placed 91 dogs in foster!*

*Through it all, there has been one steadfast source of love and comfort—our dogs. How many times have you heard someone say that their dog kept them sane during lockdown? It has been gratifying to see people realize how important animals are and how much better they make our lives—and inspiring to see so many people step up to help the seniors!*

*When you despair that you're unable to help beyond staying at home or staying masked, remember: as a Muttville supporter, you are helping dogs who desperately need you. And you are giving a lifeline to so many people.*

*Thank you for bringing love and companionship to people who sorely need it and for giving deserving senior dogs a second chance.*

*Sherri Franklin*

Sherri Franklin  
CEO, MUTTVILLE

## GRATITUDE REPORT

### THAT WAS THEN.

There were many highlights at the beginning of 2020: 30 adoptions the very first week, and the arrival of the biggest dog we'd ever rescued, a 146-pound mastiff named Watson! A family of Muttville supporters, the O'Donnells, offered to sponsor every adoption in February, in honor of their beloved rescue Yorkie, Eli. It was a huge success—with 120 adoptions!



*Above: Pre-COVID, working at HQ had its own special challenges. Below: Watson, our biggest boy, with his foster brother.*



### THIS IS NOW.

The Shelter in Place order on March 16 meant that just about everything needed to change—and fast. Lives were at stake. The systems we developed, which you'll read about on the next page, were ground-breaking. We quickly resumed saving lives, not only rescuing dogs from all over the state, but guiding other shelters around the country in creating their own new protocols.



# SAVING LIVES DURING LOCKDOWN

Following the Shelter in Place order, headquarters—our shelter, office, way station, event site, and more—closed, and most staff began working at home. At first, we could not have the help of a crucial resource, our beloved volunteers. Our well-oiled machine needed to be retooled overnight. We had to make it work. Here's what we did.

## FOSTERS AND ADOPTIONS

The most immediate concern after lockdown was finding suitable places for our dogs, who could no longer stay at HQ. With quick work by the team and an overwhelming response from new and old fosters, we had 91 dogs in foster homes within 48 hours. During the first six months of 2020, 240 foster families welcomed 589 foster dogs.

**463**  
adoptions  
through June

Without events, fosters also became an even bigger part of adoptions. Meet-and-greets have to happen virtually and hand-offs executed safely, per safe-distancing instructions.

## VET CARE

The best medical attention for our dogs is paramount. With our clinic forced to close, we needed to find care for new and fostered dogs. Our most urgent cases went to local partner clinics not required to shelter in place, and we held video appointments for the rest. The clinic is back open (with human clients staying curbside), but protocols are ever-changing as the pandemic continues.



Above: Meet and greet with foster, adoption manager and potential adopter.

**“Directly because of Muttville’s work, the public is now adopting senior dogs throughout the country in a way none of us thought possible a decade ago.”**

– Ariana Luchsinger, SFACC Operations Manager

Say hi to Minnie Mouse,  
Muttville’s  
**8000th**  
rescued senior!



In the midst of the pandemic, we welcomed our 8000th dog, this little three-legged terrier from Santa Barbara!

## STAYING IN TOUCH

We know how important the mutts are to so many people. We wanted to help lift spirits with virtual mutt love. Our “Mutts and Margaritas” party included special guest celebrity chef Ryan Scott.



We launched a newsletter, “News While the Mutts Work from Home,” that got a lot of people smiling. “These updates brighten my day. Thank you!” wrote a fan.



Above: A little Netflix and chilling from the WFH newsletter.

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Muttville is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and has received the highest ratings possible from both GuideStar and Charity Navigator, the leading nonprofit evaluator organizations. Our Tax ID is 26-0416747.

