

# Valentine's Newsletter



## Looch: A Bittersweet Love Story

*This year we dedicate our Valentine's newsletter to Looch, an outreach dog. Here is his story.*

As with many of the dogs we care for, we found Looch by accident when visiting a dog next door. A very large Rottie, Looch was chained to a fence in a backyard with no grass, a leaky doghouse and not much evidence of food or water. We approached the owners and explained what RSVP is about and they agreed to let us help. That was five years ago. During those five years very little changed in his life. Our efforts to educate the owners on the need for daily fresh water, nutritious food, and exercise went unheeded. His food and water bowls were ten feet from the back door next to a faucet! Several teenagers



and two adults lived there so there were at least four possibilities for this small task. He seemed to be a gentle giant even though he was a bit food aggressive due to, I'm sure, his lack of regular meals. We visited Looch three times a week, provided flea and tick preventative, a new dog house, straw in the winter (because they would not bring him in no matter how cold it was), and

treats and toys to break up the boredom. We raked poop away from his area because the flies would chew his ears in the summer if we didn't keep it clean. We became his best friends.

Last fall Looch's owners agreed to relinquish him to our group. I guess they were tired of him, as well as of us. As fate would have it a few years



ago one of our outreach volunteers had a fortuitous connection with a wonderful shelter/sanctuary in up-state NY. The owner loves senior dogs, especially senior Rotties. She agreed to take Looch, and we were beyond ecstatic to think that our big Rottie boy was finally going to be free from his circle of dirt after so many years! On a beautiful October day in 2014 Looch got his freedom ride to the sanctuary where he IMMEDIATELY connected with the owner, Shari, and became her shadow. He followed her everywhere - finally off that heavy chain. He slept for the first time on a soft

bed in a heated kennel. He seemed thrilled with his new life. When we



saw how he bonded with Shari we sighed in happiness and relief. Looch's contented new life had begun.

It wasn't long before Shari noticed that Looch would often regurgitate his water but thought, as did we, that it was because he drank so much so fast, worried that his bowl would be empty or disappear as was the case before he got there. Then he started to regurgitate his food and lose weight. Shari took him to a specialist who diagnosed him with Mega esophagus, a weakening in the esophagus that collects food and water rather than transporting it to the stomach. This condition is not uncommon in dogs who have been tied with heavy chains for a long period of time. There is no cure but it can be managed in different ways. We hoped for the best. Unfortunately, after this diagnosis other

health issues came to light and we found out he was a very sick dog. He spent some time in a veterinary hospital. Looch was in kidney failure and had lesions on his brain, and began to have seizures. Shari went to the hospital to bring him home. Our hearts broke when we learned of his passing. He had spent a total of nine wonderful weeks in Shari's care. Then he was gone.

The bright spot in Looch's story is that he knew unconditional love and freedom for the short time he was with Shari. He died in her arms with her whispering his name in his ear. We are forever grateful to her for taking him and giving him the life he should have known before. We hope he felt a lifetime's worth of love in those nine weeks, if that could even be possible.

Shari's last communication to us before the seizures took his life included these lines: "Whenever he was loose in the kennel he was right next to me. I truly believe he wanted to come back here before leaving us. The ride back from the hospital in New Jersey is something I will never forget. He was smiling and once again, taking everything in. He was a wonderful dog and I will never forget him. Thank you for letting me have him. I truly feel blessed for having known him."

Please help RSVP continue its efforts to make life better for chained dogs whose stories are not unlike Looch's. Please keep Looch in your thoughts. I know we do.

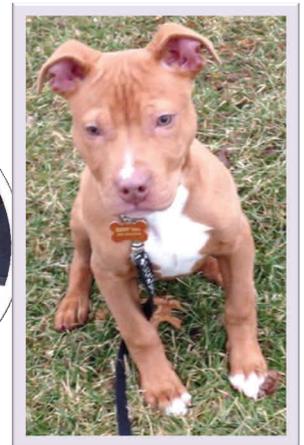
## ADOPTABLE PETS



**MYLES** (5yrs old) and **MAX** (3yrs old) are sweet Chihuahuas who need a home together! Prefer adoptive family to have older children (8+). They are neutered, vaccinated, and ready for a home!



**TOBY** is a 2 year old boy who loves people and is a real purr machine! Vaccinated, tested, and neutered. Adopter or foster needed!



Meet **KORINA** and **MURRAY**! These beautiful pups are 3 months old and as smart as can be! They are very sweet and social too! Both will be fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered before adoption.

Meet more adoptable pets  
at [www.rsvpinc.org](http://www.rsvpinc.org)

2nd Annual 'Pitty's Day'  
Parade and Fundraiser  
SATURDAY MARCH 7th from  
2pm to 6pm at Buckley's Irish  
Pub in Center Moriches



### SUPPLIES NEEDED!

- Dog Food (wet & dry)
- Cat Food (wet & dry)
- Rawhides/Bully Sticks
- Dog & Cat Toys/Treats
- Blankets & Towels
- Cat Shelters & Dog Houses
- Heavy Duty 20ft Cable Tie-outs
- Flea & Tick Preventatives (Advantix/Advantage)
- Stainless Steel Bowls
- Foldable Crates/Outdoor Pens
- Cat Litter/Cat Pans

Please email us at [info@rsvpinc.org](mailto:info@rsvpinc.org) or call (631) 533-2PET to schedule a pick up.