

The Forever Fosters

By Lillian Frazier

Occasionally, TVGRR gets dogs who come into our program who are too ill, or have other conditions which render them un-adoptable. TVGRR is committed to these dogs as well as those that we are able to find new forever homes for. These dogs just find their forever homes with our foster parents. TVGRR continues to cover all medical expenses for these dogs until the time comes when the dogs need us to help them to the bridge. We currently have three such dogs in our program. We would like to share their stories with you.



My name is Nathan. I was sent to the shelter as a stray dog. I got excited when my human came to pick me up, but then I found out that I was not going home. He decided to leave me there. I am 12 years old. Then a lady came to my cage to see me. She called me beautiful and patted me on the head, she told me that she would be back for me. The next day there she was to pick me up, just like she promised. She took me out of the shelter and helped me into her car. I live with her now. She lets me live inside!! I had never done that before. She taught me how to walk up things called stairs. I was a bit leery of them at first, but now I can go up and down with no problem. Mom tells me not to follow her up sometimes because she is coming right back and she knows my back hurts sometimes. I have arthritis. She gives me pills now that seem to make it feel better though, so sometimes I just go up anyway even though I wind up walking right back down with her. Mom found a lump on my side that she was worried about, so she took me to the vet. The vet stuck something sharp in it, she frowned and felt my belly. Then they put me on a table and took X-rays of me and saw that my spleen is big, and there were some other balls or something in my abdomen. Doctor told mom that I probably have cancer. Mom took me home and hugged me and told me that it was okay and I could stay with her as long as I want.



My name is Linus. I came out of the shelter too. I was really skinny when I came out so I was protective of my food at dinner time. The other dogs made me nervous so sometimes I would fight with them. Mom called me unpredictable. She said she knew how to figure me out, but she was afraid that someone else might not be able to. She decided I should not get adopted, but she let me stay with her. Last year they found out I had cancer. They did surgery to get rid of it, but they didn't get it all, so it is going to come back. TVGRR said that it was okay for me to keep living with mom until the cancer gets too painful for me. I am now four years old. I have been with mom and dad since I was two.



My name is Polly. My mom and I were taken to the shelter by our owners. I was only 14 weeks old. When the shelter spayed me they found out my jaw doesn't work so well. They think someone kicked me when I was really little. My jaw is offset and I can only open my mouth about an inch, and as you can see my tongue hangs out the side. TVGRR sent me to see a specialty surgeon and he couldn't figure out why my jaw won't open. There was talk about my "quality of life". They are afraid I will never be able to be outside, since it is hard for me to pant to cool myself. I will also need special dental care every year because the only food I can eat is soft canned food. Mom thinks it is also pretty funny to watch me drink water. She says I can stay with her until my "quality of life" is too compromised. It costs mom two dollars a day to feed me.

These three babies live with me. They are not the first forever fosters TVGRR has had, and I am certain they will not be the last. If you would like to help TVGRR with the expenses we incur for these dogs. I encourage you to make donations to our SHARE fund.