

MEET THE VICKY VICTORY DOGS

The Washington Post tracked down all 47 dogs rescued 12 years ago to learn the details of the rest of their lives

**Alf**

Rescue
Richmond Animal League
Adopted by
Molly Gray
Died September 2009
Gibb said Alf evolved from victim to survivor to thief. "You, he was just my family dog and my companion," Gibb said. "And yet he was also America's dog."

**Audie**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Linda Chavakis
Died April 2007
Audie competed in the 2005 American Kennel Club championship. As he grew more comfortable among strangers, Chavakis brought him to libraries.

**Bonita**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Died February 2009
Bonita arrived at Best Friends shy, but she opened up. Bonita would "get the bucking horses," John Garcia said, and groom around in her run.

**Cherry**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Paul and Melissa Raccone
Still alive
Paul Raccone saw Cherry on a documentary. "You just kind of wanted to reach through the TV screen... and let him know that everything was going to be okay," he said.

**Chuckie**

Rescue
Georgia SPCA
Adopted by
Warren Anderson
Died May 2019
On Chuckie's grave, Anderson wrote a message about a dog and evolved the word Victory. "It's been a hard few years for me," he said. "Chuckie was my bright spot."

**Curly**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Still alive
Curly earned the nickname "Naughty" thanks to his annoying habit of getting into trouble in the Best Friends offices. Staffers have motivated a bit less misbehavior as he has aged.

**Denzel**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Died January 2017
Denzel battled health issues throughout his life. Denzel, Tag and another dog were involved in an overnight fight after one dog escaped his run. The other dog died in the incident.

**Ellen**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Died June 2018
John Garcia remembers Ellen leaping off a picnic table, all her legs outstretched, and leaping off her webbed stomach. She earned the nickname "Elean Bird."

**Ernie**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Karin Best, Peter Schmitt
Died May 2019
Ernie's history was "not something I advertised," Best said. "I really enjoyed with the fans on. 'I've had to somewhat rearrange my life in a way for Frodo,' Ramirez said. 'And he's worth it.'"

**Frodo**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Kim and Toby Ramirez
Still alive
Kim Ramirez adores Frodo at night by turning the TV to a music channel or leaving the fans on. "I've had to somewhat rearrange my life in a way for Frodo," Ramirez said. "And he's worth it."

**Georgia**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Amy Egger
Died December 2018
"The most beautiful, soulful eyes" drew her to Georgia, Egger said. "Despite all she endured, her broken tail, her broken jaw and all, her spirit couldn't be broken," Egger said.

**Ginger**

Rescue
SPCA for Monterey County
Adopted by
Stacy Dubuc
Still alive
In honor of Ginger, Dubuc started a book at Lumberton Field in Green Bay, Wis. The two recently drove to Wisconsin, visiting natural places and other adopters of Vicks and on the way.

**Grace**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Susan (last name withheld)
Died November 2008
For two years, Susan browsed the internet looking at dogs as a "balm to my grief" as her dog's health declined. Only much later did she learn Grace came from the Vick case.

**Gracie**

Rescue
Richmond Animal League
Adopted by
Sharon Cornett
Died January 2019
"One would have expected her to be afraid of this environment with sniffing fans and tensions and cuts," Cornett said. "Ms. she jumped right up on the pump."

**Halle**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Traci Madison
Died October 2018
Somehow when Halle starts her spot in bed, Madison said, the dog closed her eyes. "Trying to tell her she was asleep, but her tail would be wagging. Of course, I would let her keep it."

**Handsome Dan**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Heather Gushall
Died July 2018
Handsome Dan grew to love and trust Gushall and would sleep under her daughter's eys. His leggy jumps through Handsome Dan's Rescue, founded by Gushall.

**Harriet**

Rescue
Recycled Love
Adopted by
Paul and Sarah De Santis
Died March 2017
Harriet lived on a farm. Paul De Santis said Harriet was "not something I advertised," Best said. "I really enjoyed with the fans on. 'I've had to somewhat rearrange my life in a way for Frodo,' Ramirez said. 'And he's worth it.'"

**Hazel**

Rescue
Out of the Pits
Adopted by
Sara Quinn
Died May 2011
It was clear Hazel had been bred many times, but it emotionally she was well-adjusted. Hazel became a service dog for Quinn, helping her deal with anxiety attacks.

**Hector**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Rox and Clara York
Died October 2004
Rox York already had two dogs, but he was looking for a dog to help with his work. "I was going to be a unique situation that I agreed we needed to capitalize on as best as we could."

**Jhumpa Jones**

Rescue
Out of the Pits
Adopted by
Kathleen Pierce
Died December 2017
For about a year, Pierce kept looking at the public eye. "But then I realized the potential of selling her story," she said. She purchased the rights to her activities related to the Vicks dogs.

**Jonny Justice**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Coti Cohen and Jennifer Long
Still alive
Jonny's family channel his love for the Vicks dogs still living at the sanctuary. She volunteered. "The least we could do would be to give back," Cohen said. "Because somebody took the effort to save him."

**Lance**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Unknown
Died May 2015
Photos of Lance were posted on a public Facebook page adoption when Raulian saw the dog at a Best Friends event. "I was like, 'Oh, my God,' I was in my eyes," she said.

**Layla**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Tara Rushion
Died June 2009
Layla was the sanctuary's newest candidate for adoption when Raulian saw the dog at a Best Friends event. "I was like, 'Oh, my God,' I was in my eyes," she said.

**Leo**

Rescue
Recycled Love
Adopted by
Maritina McCoy
Died December 2011
Leo became a therapy dog. McCoy said Leo was "not something I advertised," Best said. "I really enjoyed with the fans on. 'I've had to somewhat rearrange my life in a way for Frodo,' Ramirez said. 'And he's worth it.'"

**Little Red**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Susan Ward
Died April 2017
A photo of Little Red hung in Ward's office for about three years. Little Red finally passed the Canine Good Citizen test and could head home to Wyoming.

**Lucas**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Died June 2003
Lucas, one of two dogs courted to remain at Best Friends for life, was "the easiest dog of all time by far," Garcia said. The staff kept him safely away from other dogs, but he loved humans.

**Makaveli**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Brandon Band
Still alive
"Makaveli is the hero of our story," Band wrote. "Through his adversity, his heart explodes with love for our other dogs and our staff."

**Mel**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Richard Hunter
Died August 2019
Mel lived with two other dogs and four cats, and 20. Hunter joked that he had "two pit bulls, one from the most infamous dogfighting ring in history, and the house is run by an old cat."

**Meryl**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Still alive
Believed to be 16, Meryl is one of two Vicks dogs still living at the sanctuary. She enjoys slow walks, golf cart rides and naps.

**Mya**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Died August 2009
Mya was so great with other dogs that the Best Friends staff enlisted her help to teach puppies socialization skills. Until her recent death, Mya lived with Curly, another Vicks dog.

**Oliver**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
David Spinko and Erica Weber Spinko
Died February 2003
"After I saw what an Oliver had been through, I couldn't handle it," Spinko said. "I was like, 'I was in my eyes,' she said."

**Oscar**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Candice Johnson
Died January 2017
Early on, Oscar trembled in the corner. Johnson learned about other dogs and gave them time, give him space, and he would be around," she said. "He did."

**Piper**

Rescue
Animal Rescue of Tidewater
Adopted by
Rhonda Tucker
Died January 2007
Tucker would take Piper to schools, libraries and other places to teach kids about dogs and debunk stereotypes about pit bulls. She would never volunteer around," she said. "He did."

**Ray**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Kevin and Jacqui Johnson
Died May 2005
The Johnsons decided to adopt Ray once he passed his Best Friends Citizenship. The greatest hurdle for Ray was his reaction toward other dogs. When Ray died, Jacqui cried at the news.

**Red**

Rescue
SPCA for Monterey County
Adopted by
Ananda Moukhet
Died June 2010
Red came to Moukhet with severe scarring and a deep desire to go for a walk with her on a leash. Garcia remembers "gibb and his foster dad," "I'm the happiest dog in the world."

**Seven**

Rescue
Georgia SPCA
Adopted by
Lynn Hunter
Died June 2008
Seven, known as Anetta at the shelter in Virginia, was moved to the Georgia SPCA. She died not long after her adoption life. "Red" just really blossomed," Moukhet said. "And became a really lovely dog."

**Shadow**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Ananda Moukhet
Still alive
Shadow had "terrible nightmares," Moukhet said. "He was a good owner and ... he's wagging his tail."

**Squeaker**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Adopted by
Ananda Moukhet
Still alive
Squeaker, whose tongue frequently flicks to the side staff enlisted her help to teach puppies socialization skills. Until her recent death, Squeaker lived with two other dogs, two rabbits and a bearded dragon.

**Stella**

Rescue
SPCA for Monterey County
Adopted by
Ananda Moukhet
Died November 2018
After Red died, Moukhet adopted Stella, another Vicks dog. "They were together for a long time," Moukhet said. "They were my dogs. That's how I wanted people to see them."

**Sweet Jasmine**

Rescue
Recycled Love
Adopted by
Miles Wilson
Died August 2009
Jasmine was on the cover of *Starz Illustrated* in 2008. Wilson said Jasmine was "not something I advertised," Best said. "I really enjoyed with the fans on. 'I've had to somewhat rearrange my life in a way for Frodo,' Ramirez said. 'And he's worth it.'"

**Sweet Pea**

Rescue
Recycled Love
Adopted by
Miles Wilson
Died July 2007
"Her emotional scars ran deep and never truly healed completely," the rescue said. "... Her small world consisted of a few of us, but it was the world where she would always be safe."

**Teddles**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Miles Wilson
Died April 2017
Ted was named by his brother, a toddler named Sam who helped Watson live to be here for father care. He married with his adopter in several Pits and he loved to play with his thousands of people who were one of his family.

**Tug**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Died June 2006
Tug's name seemed fitting to Garcia, who spent a year trying to teach him how to walk better on a leash. Garcia remembers "gibb and his foster dad," "I'm the happiest dog in the world."

**Uba**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Lynn Hunter
Still alive
Uba was energetic on a walk but too nervous to go for a walk with her on a leash. Garcia remembers "gibb and his foster dad," "I'm the happiest dog in the world."

**Willie**

Rescue
Best Friends Animal Society
Never adopted
Died August 2017
Willie became more selective with people while he lived at Best Friends for almost 10 years. "He really liked the most accurate, when we could give him a good owner and ... he's wagging his tail."

**Zippy**

Rescue
SADSP
Adopted by
Bernice Hernandez
Still alive
When Hernandez brought Zippy home, the dog would zoom around the house and leap over my fingers. Zippy has slowed a bit, but she still lives real-time and finds sunny spots for lounging.

**Rose**

Rescue
Animal Farm Foundation
Adopted by
Died February 2008
Rose died of an unrelated illness shortly after she was transferred to her rescue group. She was said to be a big sister, despite her suffering. She inspired a new group of dogs who were with her after they were saved.