



Revisiting Colorado Pug Rescue By William Given

We recently seized the opportunity to revisit Joan Powers with Colorado Pug Rescue (CPR). This organization has a rich history. The founding of Colorado Pug Rescue goes back to the year 1995 when pug-loving members of the Rocky Mountain Pug Dog Club had a brilliant idea. With a shared concern for both the health and welfare of Pugs, these men and women came together to form an organization that would devote itself solely to rescue and re-homing of pugs in Colorado and the surrounding area.

After thoroughly researching the breed and looking for the right dog, Joan got her first pug puppy six years ago. She was smitten; the two bonded quickly and became inseparable. Joan's passion for the breed and her desire to help led her to Colorado Pug Rescue. With CPR now for five years, Joan is on the Board of Directors and the fundraising committee, and is a foster mother for one hospice pug that will likely be with her until he crosses over the rainbow bridge.

When CPR was founded 17 years ago there were only five to ten dogs being fostered at any given time. Last year, the group averaged 40 dogs in foster care. This year, with the continued downturn in the economy, CPR has grown to have about 60 pugs living in foster homes at any given time. We decided to revisit Colorado Pug Rescue because of the sheer number of dogs they are currently caring for. This is way more than most rescues we know and they really need help finding loving homes for these sweet and gentle dogs.

Last year approximately 150 Pugs were taken in by CPR and 130 were adopted out and into forever homes. More and more of the incoming dogs are coming from homes where the families cannot afford the medical care or the surgery their pug needs and deserves. During the first two months of this year only 10 pugs had found their forever home and they will likely take in even more dogs this year.

Too many people do not understand the true cost of rescue. It is taxing emotionally, physically and of course financially. The volunteers of CPR make sure that not only the dogs' lives are healthier and happier but that the lives of the adopting families are happier by finding good matches for their lifestyle and home situation. Finding a loving pug the right home makes it all worth it.

There are many expenses associated with rescuing and re-homing dogs. Last year CPR incurred approximately \$62,000 in veterinary expenses. The adoption fees are not nearly enough to pay for all of the group's veterinary expenses and operating costs.

"Monetary contributions are extremely important and allow us to meet our most immediate needs first, whether they are paying vet bills, which is most often the case, or rescuing a dog from a shelter," Joan said. What you may not know is that there are other ways to give and contribute to the success of Colorado Pug Rescue that are very important to them. Donating items as simple and inexpensive as a few dog toys or a bag of dog food help to reduce the costs of operating a rescue.

We have compiled a short list of items and services for you to consider donating to Colorado Pug Rescue. A CPR "wish list" if you will, these are items that the group is in constant need of:

- Prescription dog food, canned and dry. This can be expensive but is necessary to manage health conditions such as bladder problems and diabetes for foster and hospice pugs.
- Cosequin DS is needed to help senior dogs with joint issues so they can enjoy a higher quality of life with reduced pain and increased mobility.

- Silent auction items and they need not be animal related. These items will be auctioned off at the annual **Pugs in the Park** event to raise funds for veterinary care. The group accepts donations for the silent auction year-round.

- Office supplies such as letter-size copy paper (white or colored), business envelopes (#10 size), stamps and printer cartridges. Donations of these items cover some of the operating expenses so the group can devote as much funding as possible to veterinary care.

- Volunteering is another great way to show your support for Colorado Pug Rescue and volunteers are always welcome. "Our group is an all-volunteer organization and we really need someone with website design expertise to help us develop a new CPR website," Joan said. They could also use the assistance of experienced dog trainers to assist foster and adoptive parents in correcting behavior issues which some pugs have when coming into rescue.

- Other volunteer opportunities include assisting with the transportation of dogs to adoption events, performing pre-adoption home visits and organizing or assisting with fundraising events and adoption fairs.

- You could provide foster care for a pug waiting to find a forever family. Too often what a breed rescue group needs more than anything are good qualified foster homes, such is the case for Colorado Pug Rescue. "We always need more foster homes and our ability to take in pugs is in direct relation to the number of foster homes available," Joan stated. CPR currently has about 60 foster families but could really use 25 more. Some of the foster families are so committed to the rescue that they foster one dog after another without a break. Every pug that is fostered is made more adoptable and easier to place in a forever home with a loving family thanks to the foster family's efforts given to care for, train and socialize them.

- Should you have the room in your heart and in your home, you could consider adopting one of the wonderful dogs needing a forever home. Your pug will likely do everything he can to make you feel as though you are the most important person in his world. He will greatly enrich your life.

Pugs in the Park is CPR's largest fundraising event. The annual event draws about 750 people and an amazing 400 dogs. There are games and contests with prizes, vendors and much more. "We have

a variety of fundraising events aside from Pugs in the Park and we welcome good ideas when it comes to holding fundraising events," Joan said. She also expressed her appreciation for any individual or business that would like to sponsor a fundraiser on their behalf.

Pros of the Breed

Pugs have been bred for centuries to be lap dogs and to keep people company and they fulfill their role very well. They want to be with you all the time, even to the point that they will follow you into the bathroom. They are true companions.

Cons of the Breed

While their trademarked smooshed-in face is awfully cute, it too comes at a cost. Pugs are brachiocephalic dogs, meaning dogs with short noses. Because of this flat face, they may have elongated palates and suffer some breathing problems or even snore. They tend to be very sensitive to heat, humidity, cold and strenuous exercise.

The pugs eyes are very large, soft and solicitous in expression according to the breed standard. The fact is that they are prone to eye problems. About 50 percent of all pugs will need eye medication at some point in their life.

Special needs dogs

CPR has several seniors and special needs dogs who need very special homes. Among them are Savannah, a lovely 8-year-old female who is blind and Sandy, a beautiful 6-year-old female who is blind in one eye. She requires eye drops and glucosamine daily. If you have the right home for one of these ladies, please give CPR a call.

Thank you

Joan, CPR and Mile High Dog would like express their sincere appreciation to Dr. David Schulman at Animal Health Care Specialists for tirelessly donating his time and practice to helping CPR with veterinary care for their rescued pugs. CPR relies on Dr. Schulman and a team of other veterinarians to give these dogs the medical care they deserve.

For more information on adopting, fostering, donating, volunteering or sponsoring fundraising events, please call 303-659-9689 or visit www.copugrescue.org. The opportunity to assist in making Colorado Pug Rescue successful in their mission is yours. Rest assured knowing that your efforts will be very much appreciated.

Adoptable Pugs - These and other great dogs are looking for forever homes



Cosmo
7-year-old male



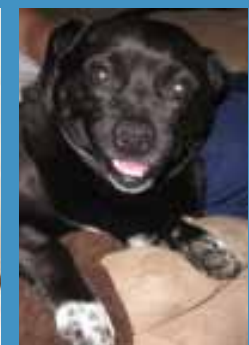
Sandy (blind)
8-year-old female



Hercules & Yoda (blind pair)
8 & 9-year-old males



Suki (needs anx. meds)
6-year-old female



Ancho (pug mix)
4-year-old male

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