

SEPTEMBER 2026

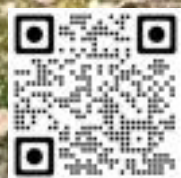
THE PAW[®]

MAGAZINE

WEATHERING
THE STORM

Preparing Today.
Protecting Tomorrow.
Healing Together.

Diva - Rescued 2020



www.WPP.dog

THE PAW[®] MAGAZINE

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SEPTEMBER 2026

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ELEVATING ANIMAL WELFARE WITH ACTION

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Responsible Dog Ownership Month

Elvis - Rescued 2022

A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER...

As pet owners, we hope we'll never face an emergency, but hope alone isn't a plan. This month, we invite you to take a few simple steps to prepare before the unexpected happens. From assembling an emergency go bag to updating your pet's identification, reviewing your emergency contacts, and creating a family evacuation plan, every action you take today helps protect the animals who depend on you tomorrow. Preparation isn't about expecting the worst—it's about showing the pets we love that they'll never face life's challenges alone.

At Wounded Paw Project®, we've seen how resilience grows through preparation, compassion, and the unwavering bond between people and their pets. Whether you're planning ahead, helping a neighbor, or offering patience to a dog finding its confidence again, your actions truly make a difference. We hope this issue inspires you to be ready, remain hopeful, and always stand beside the animals who need us most. Thank you for helping us **Be The Voice For The Voiceless®**.

With gratitude and determination,
Ernesto P. Hernandez III
Founder of Wounded Paw Project®



Millie - Rescued 2017

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Weathering the Storm Together

Preparing Today to Protect the Dogs We Love

Emergencies rarely arrive on schedule. A hurricane can change direction, a wildfire can spread quickly, a severe storm can knock out power, or an evacuation order can suddenly turn an ordinary day into a race to get everyone to safety.

For dog owners, preparing for an emergency means planning for more than ourselves. Our dogs depend on us to know where they will go, what they will need, and how we will keep them safe when normal routines disappear.

The good news is that preparedness does not have to be complicated. A few thoughtful decisions made today can make an uncertain situation easier to navigate tomorrow.



Kane - Rescued 2018



Rosie - Rescued 2009

Jazmine - Rescued 2017

Daisy - Rescued 2008

Start With a Plan

Before an emergency occurs, think through what you would do if you had to leave home quickly.

Identify where you could go with your dog. Consider family or friends outside your immediate area as well as pet-friendly lodging options. Keep important addresses and telephone numbers somewhere accessible even if your phone loses power

or internet service becomes unreliable.

Make sure everyone in your household understands the plan. Decide who will be responsible for gathering the dogs, medications, emergency supplies, leashes, carriers, and other necessities.

When every person knows their role, there are fewer decisions to make during an already stressful situation.

Make Identification a Priority

Emergencies can create unfamiliar environments, open doors, damaged fences, loud noises, and disrupted routines—all of which can increase the possibility of a dog becoming separated from their family.

Check your dog's identification now rather than waiting for an emergency.

Make sure collar tags contain current contact information, and verify that the contact information associated with your dog's microchip is accurate.

Keep recent photographs of your dog on your phone as well. Include clear images of their face, body, coat markings, and other identifying features.



Lola - Rescued 2023

Prepare for Several Days Away From Home

An emergency evacuation may last much longer than expected.

Your dog's emergency supplies should include several days of food and water, necessary medications, bowls, leashes, waste bags, basic first-aid supplies, and copies of important records.

Comfort matters, too.

A familiar blanket, small toy, or other safe item from home may provide reassurance when everything around your dog suddenly feels unfamiliar.

Keep these supplies together in an easily accessible location so you aren't searching for them when time matters.

Practice Before You Need the Plan

An emergency plan becomes much more useful when you've practiced it.

Occasionally walk through what you would do if you needed to leave home quickly. Can you locate your dog's leash immediately? Where are medications stored? Can everyone safely get into the vehicle? Is the emergency bag easy to reach?

You don't need to turn the exercise into something frightening or stressful. Think of it as a household safety check.

Each practice run gives you an opportunity to discover something that could be improved before a real emergency happens.

Remember the Emotional Impact

Dogs may react differently when their surroundings and routines suddenly change.

Some may become restless or vocal. Others may become withdrawn, hesitant, or unusually attached to their people. A normally confident dog may struggle in an unfamiliar environment.

Whenever possible, maintain familiar routines such as regular meals, walks, bathroom breaks, and quiet rest periods.

Patience is important. Your calm presence can provide reassurance while your dog adjusts to circumstances they don't understand.

Recovery Doesn't End When the Storm Does

Returning home doesn't always mean everything immediately returns to normal.

Your neighborhood may look or smell different. Fences or familiar landmarks may have changed. Household routines may still be disrupted.

Give your dog time to readjust.

Return gradually to familiar routines and watch for changes in behavior that continue after the immediate emergency has passed. If you are concerned about your dog's health or behavior, contact your veterinarian or an appropriate qualified professional for guidance.

Recovery can take time—for people and dogs alike.

Preparedness Is an Act of Love

We cannot prevent every storm, emergency, or unexpected event.

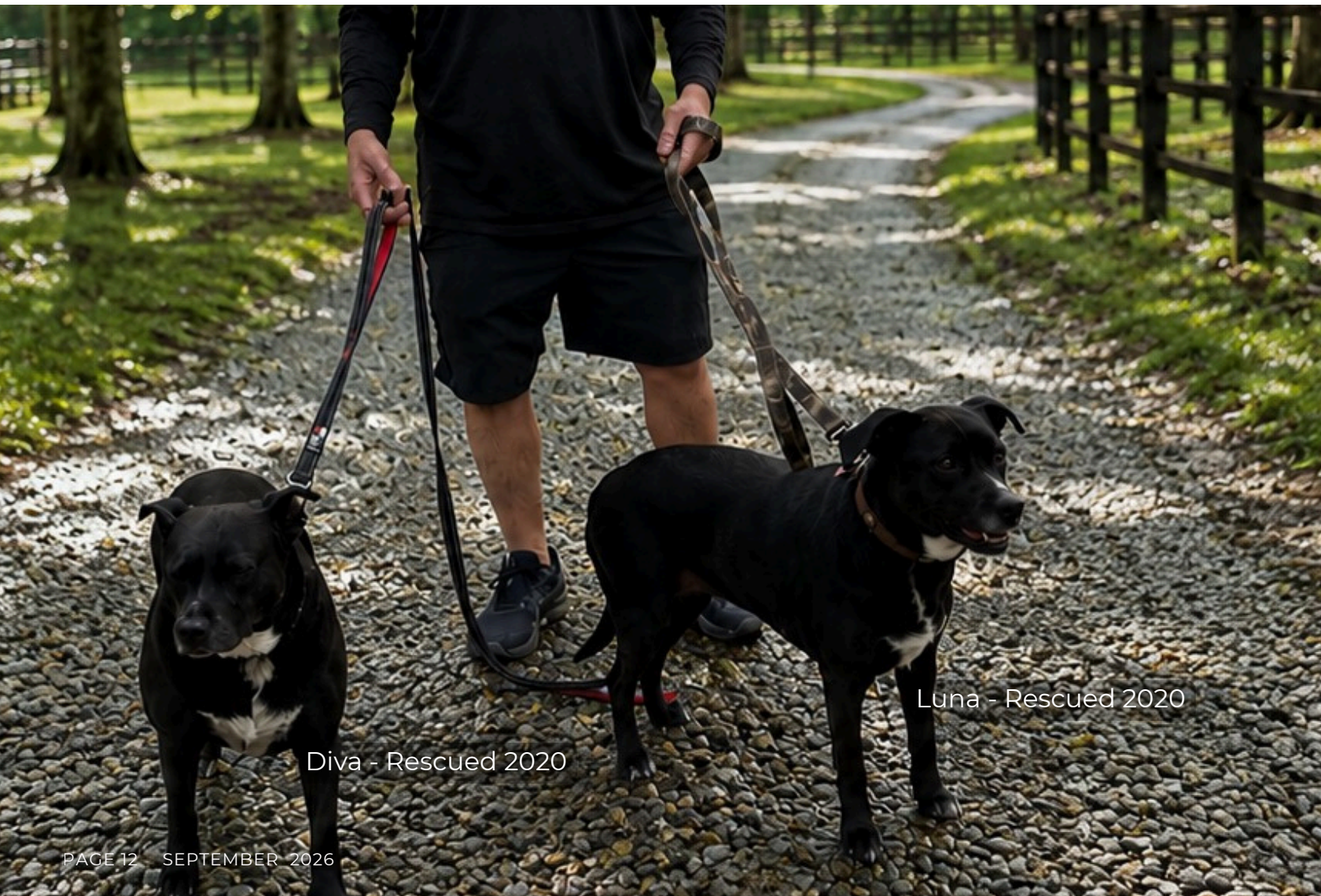
But we can decide how prepared we will be when one arrives.

Updating an identification tag, packing medications, creating an evacuation plan, or setting aside emergency supplies may feel like small tasks today.

During an emergency, those small preparations can become extraordinarily important.

The dogs who share our lives trust us to make the decisions they cannot make for themselves.

Preparing today is one more way we can protect them tomorrow—and ensure that whatever the forecast brings, we are ready to weather the storm together.



Diva - Rescued 2020

Luna - Rescued 2020

***Our mission is stronger
because of partners like
you. Together, we are
creating safer futures for
animals in need.***





Jazmine - Rescued 2017



Lola - Rescued 2023



BUILD YOUR DOG'S EMERGENCY GO BAG

WHAT TO PACK BEFORE YOU NEED TO LEAVE

When an emergency forces you to leave home quickly, there may be little time to gather everything your dog needs. A

prepared emergency go bag keeps essential supplies together in one easy-to-grab place.



The goal isn't to prepare for every possible situation. It's to make sure you have the basics your dog will need if you have to leave home unexpectedly or spend several days away.

Once assembled, store the bag somewhere easy to reach and make checking it part of

your regular preparedness routine.

Food and Water

Pack several days of your dog's regular food in a secure, waterproof container or sealed bags. Sudden dietary changes can be difficult for some dogs, particularly during an already stressful

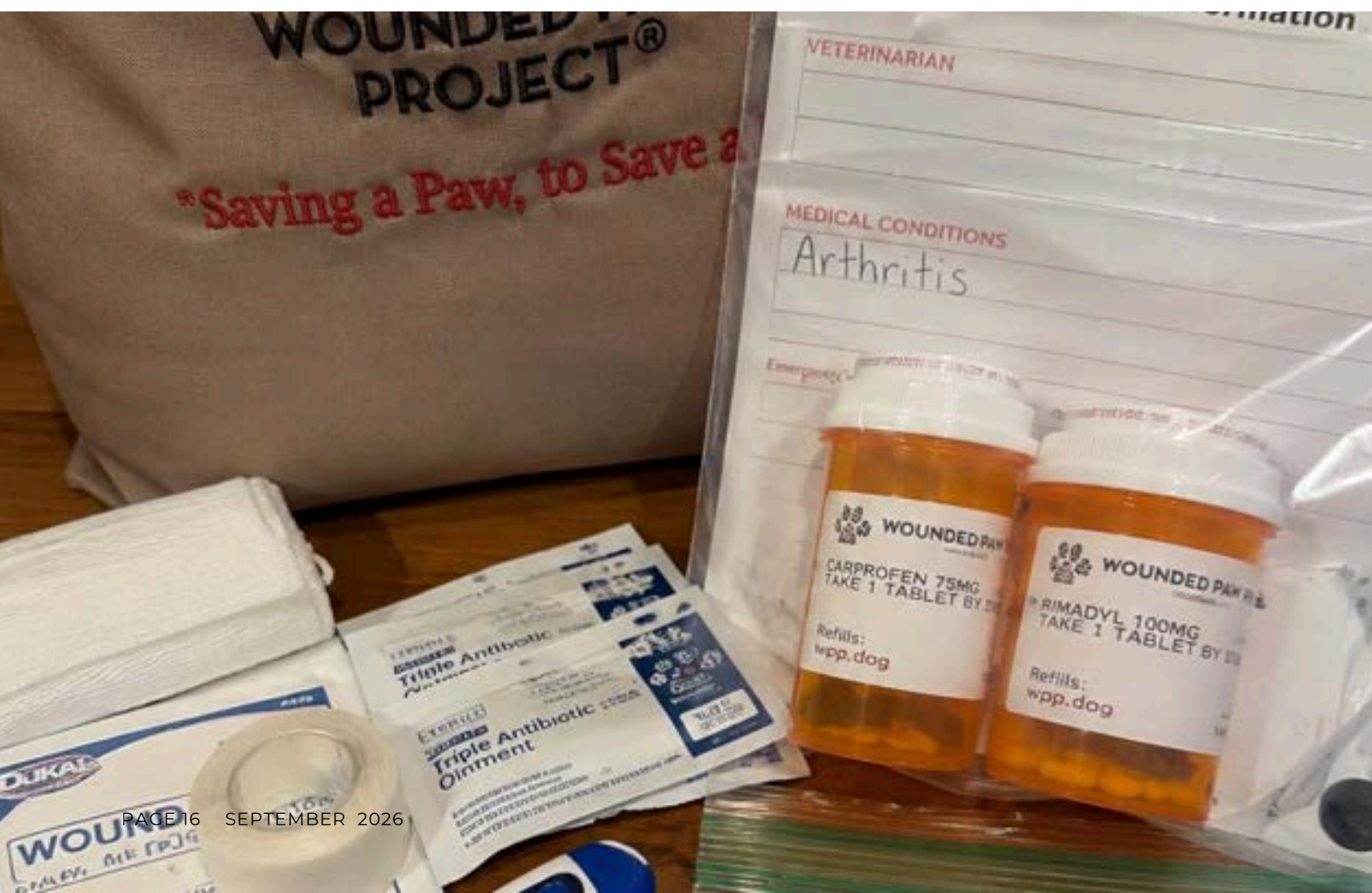
situation.

Include bottled water along with portable food and water bowls. Collapsible bowls can save space and are convenient when traveling.

Check your supplies periodically and replace food and water before they expire.

Medications and Health Information

If your dog takes medication, include an appropriate emergency supply whenever possible and keep a current list of medications, dosages, and instructions with your records.



Your go bag should also contain copies of important veterinary information, including vaccination records and your veterinarian's contact information.

Consider storing digital copies of these records on your phone or in secure cloud storage as an additional backup.

Never change your dog's medication or dosage without guidance from your veterinarian.

Identification and Important Records

Make sure your dog wears current identification and verify that their microchip registration information is up to date.

Keep copies of important information in your emergency kit, including your contact information, an emergency contact outside your household, veterinary information, and any records you may need while away from home.

Recent photographs of your dog are also important. Keep clear pictures showing their face, body, and distinctive markings in case you become separated.

Leashes and Safety Supplies

Pack a sturdy spare leash and collar or harness appropriate for your dog. Even dogs who normally

respond reliably may behave differently when frightened or surrounded by unfamiliar sights, sounds, people, and animals.

Include waste bags, a flashlight, basic first-aid supplies, and any other everyday safety items your dog regularly requires.

If your dog uses a crate or carrier, make sure it is accessible and that you can transport it quickly if needed.

Don't Forget Comfort

Emergency preparedness isn't only about physical necessities.

A familiar blanket, towel, or favorite safe toy can bring a little piece of home into an unfamiliar environment. Familiar scents and objects may help provide reassurance when routines have suddenly changed.

Choose something practical that can remain packed or be added quickly when you leave.

Personalize the Bag for Your Dog

Every dog is different, so a useful emergency kit should reflect the dog who will actually use it.

Consider age, size, medical needs, mobility, feeding requirements,

behavior, and any other individual needs when deciding what belongs in the bag.

A senior dog may require different supplies than a young adult dog. A dog with a medical condition may need additional records or equipment. A dog who becomes anxious in unfamiliar surroundings may benefit from familiar items recommended as part of their normal care.

Your emergency bag should be as individual as your dog.

Check It Regularly

A go bag isn't something to assemble once and forget.

Set a reminder to review it periodically. Check expiration dates, replace old food and water, verify medication supplies, update veterinary records, confirm emergency contacts, and make sure identification information remains current.

It's also worth checking whether your dog's needs have changed since you originally packed the bag.

A few minutes of maintenance can keep your emergency supplies ready when you need them most.



Daisy - Rescued 2024

Pack Today. Worry Less Tomorrow.

Preparing an emergency go bag is a simple action that can make an overwhelming situation more manageable.

You may never need to grab it because of a major emergency—and that's exactly what we hope. But if the day comes when you need to leave home quickly, you won't have to decide what to pack while trying to manage everything else.

You'll already have taken care of one very important member of the family.

PET EMERGENCY GO BAG CHECKLIST

Pack it. Store it. Review it every six months.

Goal: 3 days of supplies per dog; 7 days when space allows.

FOOD & WATER

- ☐ Food in sealed bags
- ☐ Bottled water
- ☐ Collapsible bowls
- ☐ Treats

RECORDS

- ☐ Vaccination records
- ☐ Rabies certificate
- ☐ Microchip details
- ☐ Current photo
- ☐ Vet + emergency contacts

GEAR

- ☐ Leash + backup leash
- ☐ Harness + collar
- ☐ ID tags
- ☐ Waste bags
- ☐ Towel or blanket

COMFORT

- ☐ Favorite toy
- ☐ Familiar blanket
- ☐ Chew item
- ☐ Shirt with your scent

MEDICAL

- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Dosage list
- ☐ Pet first-aid kit
- ☐ Gloves + gauze
- ☐ Saline + tape

EXTRAS

- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Phone charger
- ☐ Can opener
- ☐ Cleaning wipes
- ☐ Seasonal supplies

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Dog name: _____ Microchip #: _____

Veterinarian: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency contact: _____ Phone: _____

Medications / allergies: _____

REVIEW DATES: ____ / ____ / ____ Next review: ____ / ____ / ____

The PAW® | Wounded Paw Project®



SADIE

SAYS

PACK BACON. SKIP PANIC.

Every emergency kit should include the essentials—but if you ask your dog, bacon definitely belongs at the top of the list. While we can't promise bacon solves every problem, being prepared can help keep every member of the family a little calmer when the unexpected happens.



Helping Dogs Feel Safe Again After the Storm

The storm may have passed. The power may be back on. You may even be home again.

But for your dog, the experience may not feel over.

Emergencies can bring unfamiliar sounds, sudden changes in routine, evacuation, new surroundings, and heightened activity.

Once immediate danger has passed, some dogs may need additional time and support before life feels familiar again.

Recovery begins by recognizing what your dog is telling you and giving them the time, space, and reassurance they need.

Stress Can Look Different in Every Dog

Dogs don't all respond to stressful experiences in the same way.

Some may pace, pant, vocalize, hide, become unusually clingy, or have difficulty settling. Others may show changes in appetite, sleep, play, or interest in activities they normally enjoy.

Pay attention to changes from your dog's usual behavior rather than

expecting one particular response.

A change doesn't necessarily mean something is seriously wrong. It may simply be your dog's way of adjusting to an experience they didn't understand.

Rebuild the Familiar

Routine can provide predictability after a period of uncertainty.

When circumstances allow, begin returning to familiar meal times, walks, bathroom breaks, bedtime routines, and other everyday activities.

You don't have to restore everything at once. Start with the parts of the day your dog knows best.

Even simple rituals—
hearing the familiar sound



of a food bowl, settling into a favorite bed, or taking the usual morning walk—can help life begin to feel recognizable again.

Create a Quiet Place to Decompress

After an emergency, home itself may be busier or different than usual. Repairs, visitors, unusual noises, displaced belongings, or changes to the environment can add another layer of stimulation.

Give your dog access to a comfortable place where they can rest without being disturbed.

This might be a favorite bed, crate, quiet bedroom, or familiar corner of the house.

Allow your dog to choose when to rest and when to rejoin household activity whenever it is safe to do so. Sometimes healing begins with something as simple as having a peaceful place to sleep.

Let Your Dog Set the Pace

It can be tempting to encourage a dog to "get back to normal" quickly.

Instead, watch their body language and allow confidence to return gradually.

A dog who seems hesitant

about going outside, entering a vehicle, approaching an unfamiliar object, or returning to a particular location may need additional time.

Use patience, calm encouragement, and positive experiences rather than forcing interactions.

Progress may happen in small steps—and small steps still count.

Your Calm Matters, Too

Dogs often take cues from the people around them.

During recovery, try to keep your interactions predictable and reassuring. Speak calmly, maintain familiar routines where possible, and give your dog opportunities for quiet companionship.

You don't need to constantly entertain or reassure them. Sometimes sitting nearby, taking a peaceful walk, or simply sharing the same room provides the stability they need.

Your presence can become one of the most familiar parts of an unfamiliar situation.

Know When to Ask for Help

Many temporary changes may improve as routines return and dogs have time to adjust. But persistent or significant changes deserve attention.

Contact your veterinarian if you are concerned about changes in your dog's appetite, sleep, mobility, behavior, physical health, or overall well-being.

Your veterinarian can help determine whether a medical issue may be contributing to the change and, when appropriate, recommend additional behavioral support.

Seeking help is part of responsible care.

Healing Doesn't Follow a Schedule

Recovery isn't always a straight line.

A dog may seem confident one day and more cautious the next. A sound, smell, weather event, or change in routine may temporarily bring back uncertainty.

That doesn't erase the progress already made.

Continue providing consistency, patience, appropriate enrichment, and opportunities for your dog to make safe choices.

Over time, those ordinary moments can help rebuild confidence and trust.

A Safe Place to Begin Again

Preparing for emergencies helps protect dogs during the storm. Compassionate care helps them find their footing afterward.

Healing may happen during a quiet walk, in a favorite sleeping spot, beside a trusted person, or simply through the return of familiar routines.

We may not be able to explain to our dogs why their world suddenly changed.

But we can show them something just as important:

They are safe. They are cared for. And they don't have to find their way forward alone.

SEPTEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP MONTH

Every September, Responsible Dog Ownership Month reminds us that caring for a dog goes far beyond providing food, water, and shelter. Responsible ownership is built through the everyday choices that help our dogs remain safe, healthy, and connected to the people they trust.



Daisy - Rescued 2008

One of our most important responsibilities is planning for situations we hope never happen. Keep your dog's identification tags current, verify microchip information, include your dog in household emergency plans, and maintain an emergency go bag with essential supplies.

Everyday safety matters, too. Regularly inspect leashes, collars, harnesses, gates, and fencing. Even a well-trained dog can respond unexpectedly when frightened, injured, distracted, or placed in unfamiliar surroundings.

Regular veterinary care, appropriate exercise, good nutrition, positive training, and mental enrichment all contribute to a dog's well-

being.

Just as important is knowing your individual dog. Pay attention to changes in appetite, energy, mobility, sleep, or behavior, and discuss concerns with your veterinarian. Learn your dog's body language and recognize when they may need activity,

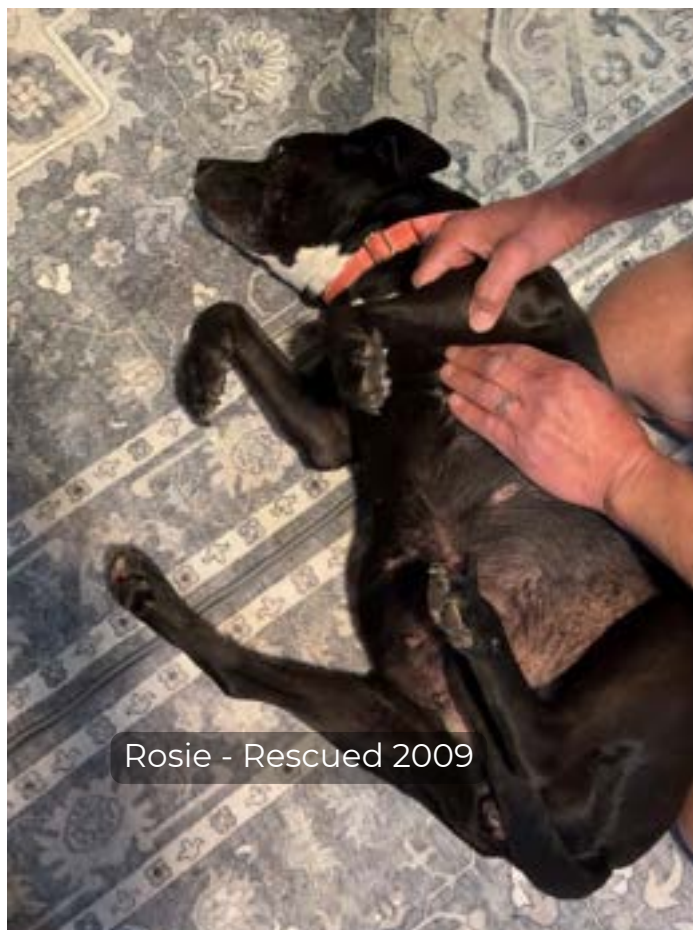


Diva - Rescued 2020

companionship, rest, or space.

As dogs age, their needs change. Responsible ownership means adapting our care throughout every stage of their lives.

Responsible dog ownership isn't defined by one perfect decision.



Rosie - Rescued 2009

It's the identification tag you remember to update. The veterinary appointment you schedule. The emergency supplies you refresh. The leash you inspect before a walk. The extra time you give your dog to sniff and explore. The moment you notice they need a little reassurance—or simply some space.

This September, choose one thing you can do to make your dog's life safer, healthier, or happier. Then choose another.

Because responsible dog ownership isn't something we celebrate only during one month.

It's something we practice every day.

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WOULD NEVER RECOVER
IF YOU LEFT.**



This is what a second chance looks like.

The ride that changes everything.



Kane didn't always know what freedom felt like.
He came to Wounded Paw Project from Washington, D.C.,
having survived a life no dog should know.
Today, what you see in the mirror isn't his past-it's his future.
Vehicle donations help make journeys like this possible.
They support rescue, rehabilitation, and the road forward
for dogs like Kane-and the people who walk beside them.
Turn your vehicle into a second chance.
woundedpawproject.org/vehicle-donations

From shelter to riding shotgun.

