

REESIE'S STORY

Written by Terri Lynn Porterfield, Reesie's Project Outreach, Founder

Reesie along with several other animals were rescued from the county shelter by a local rescue organization after learning that these animals were slated for euthanasia. Liz Reid, one of the founders of Reesie's "Project Outreach," brought Reesie along with several other dogs in order to find them their "forever" homes.

Finding a home for "Reesie" however would soon prove to be a very difficult task. Reesie's was returned from several fosters for exhibiting unusual and at times very destructive behaviors. His displays included overprotective behaviors, particularly with females and children, his emotional state would escalate whenever he saw a crying child, he would growl at men with certain physical appearances and he always appeared restless and unsettled. He was adopted to a family who regrettably insisted that he be returned after having had him for only 6 months. They noted that Reesie was possessive over particular people, in particular females and that his destructive behaviors were unpredictable all except for one; each night around 7:00 pm like clockwork, he would become agitated, start pacing and began to whimper as if he were anticipating "something". This behavior escalated and he would become destructive as if he were using the destructive pattern as a way to calm himself down.

Reesie soon became the foster of Terri Porterfield, a prior member of the rescue shelter where Reesie had been originally sheltered. Concerns arose quickly. She wondered if Reesie had survived violence in his past due to the nature of his odd behaviors. Terri recalls taking Reesie for walks around the neighborhood and when he encountered certain men he would growl and shy away. Terri recalls another time while getting ready to walk Reesie a child at the daycare across the street started crying after falling on the ground, Reesie starting barking in the child's direction and was lunging while on leash heading in the daycare's direction as if he were trying to get off leash to the child. Terri also recalls the nighttime behavior where Reesie became extremely agitated and paced and cried at 7:00pm on the dot, nightly. Terri also observed Reesie rubbing his head a lot and crying. Thinking this may

have been an ear infection, she took Reesie to the vet only to discover that he was fine and they could not find anything that would prompt the behavior.

After speaking with Reesie's previous fosters and the adoptive family, Terri understood that the root of the issues could not be pin pointed to any current situations. However, everyone shared a similar concern that there was something in Reesie's past that was disturbing. Terri decided that more expertise was needed if Reesie was to ever have a chance at rehabilitation and finding a home.

Upon hearing Reesie's story, Ellen Broomfield of the local "Wash and Wag" Dog Wash in Culpeper, VA, connected Terri with two local reputable animal healer/ communicators, Sandy Rakowitz of One Heart Healing Center of Charlottesville, VA and Thayer Drew of Gordonsville, VA.

The information that emerged through these two incredibly gifted women was heartbreakingly painful and tragic. Sandy and Thayer worked independently of each other in order to properly assess the situation and to compare information. Remarkably, despite working apart, they both brought forth and communicated information on Reesie's behalf that was almost exactly the same. Each Communicator saw Reesie in a family with children, each saw fighting between the adult male and female and saw children crying. Each saw Reesie trying to intervene in order to control the emotional state of the family. In one instance they both received images of Reesie being clipped or kicked in the head by a boot and stated that as a result he had headaches.

The information that Reesie was relaying was both astonishing and heartbreaking. Although certain members from the rescue organization were skeptical and did not believe this information, Reesie's rescuers were certain that most of the story that unfolded from the Communicators was in fact true and correct since it correlated so closely with Reesie's behaviors.

Terri decided to take Reesie to the vet once more to investigate a reason for Reesie's whimpering and rubbing his head. Terri told the vet about the information relayed from Reesie about the clip of a boot to Reesie's head. Hearing this story sparked much curiosity from the vet. An x-ray was taken of Reesie's skull. Sure enough a hairline fracture that had already healed

was spotted. It was at the vet's office that Terri cried the first of many tears for Reesie and made a solemn vow that he would never suffer again at the hands of a human.

Terri decided to take Reesie's story public. The story would be coupled with the announcement of "The Reesie Project" a new program inspired by Reesie's story that she developed. Initially it was to be a program that would house animals of domestic violence and be run through the organization on which Terri was currently serving on the board of directors. But fate would soon have Terri facing a new direction.

Reesie's story soon caught the attention of the "late" Jeri Bradley. Jeri brought Reesie's story to the local television station and aired periodically.

During this time Terri's daughter Lindsey was working as an OBGYN tech at the local hospital and "Fate" decided to intervene. Lindsey's patient and the patient's mother saw the Reesie segment on the TV in their room. Lindsey walked into the room to check on this patient just in time to hear the mother of the patient gasp "Oh my god, I know that dog". Lindsey responded with surprise "Well the woman being interviewed is my mom."

Terri received a letter from this woman in fact "validating" Reesie's story as previously told to Terri by the Communicators and everyone's suspicions.

The imagery painted through the words of this letter depicted one horrific event after another from a man; stories came forth about the family, the female victim, the two children and of the valiant dog who also suffered trying to be the "savior".

This individual stated in the letter that she had been the one to set Reesie free but it was totally by accident. The family had moved and abandoned him in the backyard. She heard him barking and went to get him after she was sure the family had vacated the property. When she opened the gate Reesie jumped on her and knocked her out of the way and ran off, no doubt to find the family that he had been so loyally trying to protect.

Thus Reesie's "Project Outreach" was thus born and "celebrates" in the courageous brave spirit of this remarkable dog. RPO takes animal advocacy

to a new level by reaching out to both animals and humans in need. RPO is receiving positive public praise and exposure and gaining continual momentum through the hard work and efforts of its founders, Terri Porterfield, Liz Reid, Natalie Allio, Ken and DD Lecky. They have the assistance of a dedicated and compassionate Board of Directors along with an ever growing group of volunteers.

As for Reesie, he will forever remain with Terri. Reesie has also found a forever loving and inseparable bond within his namesake organization, his founding members and volunteers.

Reesie's emotional and physical state has improved tremendously! His destructive behaviors and his 7pm "pacing" have all gone away. He has also gained the much needed weight that he was unable to put on due to his restlessness. Terri uses the TTouch massage techniques taught by Sandy, which seems to have helped his headaches.

We are a young organization and welcome all who wish to work with us to continually create and empower this organization. There is no better time or better reason to volunteer!

Want to be part of this wonderful organization that is creating change in the lives of animals and humans? Volunteers, donations and support in any form are always welcome. Please visit our website! www.reesies.org

DEDICATION

This organization is lovingly dedicated to Reesie, a very courageous and highly spirited animal survivor of domestic violence who is the namesake, inspiration and creative driving force behind this organization and who serves as its' "Ambassador of Goodwill". We would also like to dedicate Reesie's story to Sandy Rakowitz of One Heart Healing Center and to Thayer Drew, Reesie's Communicators. It is through their remarkable gifts and compassionate work that Reesie was able to tell his story thus bringing the soul and spirit of this organization to life. He is always healing and he has learned to trust again. Thank you both so much for lovingly extending your gifts of healing and communication to Reesie.