

# The Relevance of **RESCUE**

**Rescue...** it's a word we hear quite often today. It means to bring (someone or something) out of danger, attack, harm's way; to deliver or save.

There are those who rescue fellow human beings from themselves, such as psychologists, psychiatrists, ministers, rabbis and the like.

Firefighters, police officers, and the armed forces rescue us from dangerous situations. They are willing to put themselves in harm's way in order to save lives.

Oskar Schindler, the unlikeliest of role models, was a sentimentalist who loved the simplicity of doing good. After earning millions as a war profiteer he ended up spending his last pfennig and risking his life to rescue 1,300 Jews. Toward the end of his life he became all-consumed with the idea that he should have done more. He could have rescued more people. Saved more lives.

**“Perhaps the most relevant regret in one's life is experiencing a sense of remorse for not doing all that we could when it mattered most.”**

*I.M. Trunk*

Animal rescuers sacrifice one of life's most precious commodities... *time...* to save as many animals' lives as possible.

Two-thirds of Americans live with an animal, and according to a 2011 Harris poll, 90 percent of pet owners think of their dogs and cats as members of the family. In a survey by the American Animal Hospital Association, 40 percent of married female dog owners reported that they received more emotional support from their pet than from their husband or kids.

Why then do 7.6 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year? ***Of those, 2.7 million are euthanized.***

The good news is approximately 2.7 million shelter animals are adopted each year.

About twice as many animals enter shelters as strays compared to the number that are relinquished by their owners. *Statistics by ASPCA.*

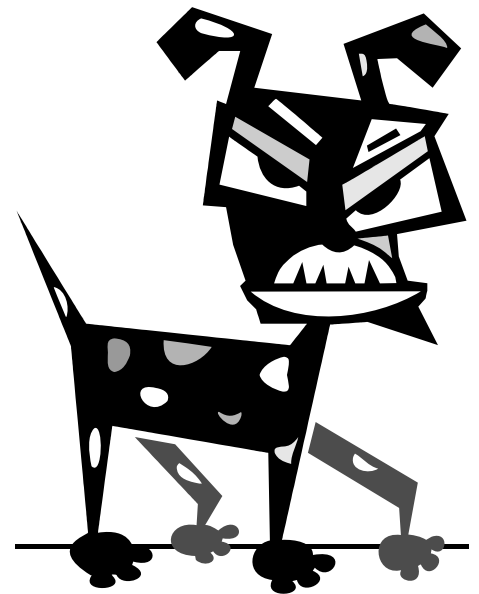
*Corrine Henn reports in an article written for onegreenplanet.org, “Despite the fact that nearly 62 percent of Americans have a pet, there are still more than 70 million homeless dogs and cats living in the U.S. Of these 70 million needy animals, only around six to eight*

million enter shelters each year. Although they only take in a fraction of America's homeless animals, these shelters are mostly packed to capacity and strapped trying to function with limited funds. Regardless of this wealth of pets looking for loving homes, only around 20 percent of Americans adopt their dogs from shelters.”

**So where are the other 74 % coming from? Well, breeders.**

Dr. Sarah Skinner thinks that people purchasing purebred pets often believe that doing so confers status, prestige, sophistication, or that alleged purebreds are somehow superior to mixed breed dogs. She points out that “mixed breed dog” is the correct medical term for the PT Barnum fad referred to as “Designer Dogs.”

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Before you buy a  
**“Designer Dog”**

Visit a Shelter and  
**Rescue Instead!**

**SAVE A LIFE!**

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## The Relevance of **RESCUE**

“There is only one qualification necessary to call oneself a breeder,” states Dr. Skinner. “And that’s access to a fertile male and female animal. Period.”

SPA encourages those interested in adopting a particular breed to visit local shelters and *Petfinder.org* to search for a rescued purebred. You’ll be adopting a dog or cat who has been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, dewormed and tested for a fraction of the fee consumers pay to breeders to purchase a designer dog with little to none of the above.

**Most importantly, you’ll be saving a life.**



**HARRISON** was dumped on a busy street corner with a sign around his neck that said, “*I guess I will have to eat grass.*” Dumping animals is against the law. SPA received a call asking for our assistance. Harrison is a 2-year-old ginger tabby. He is an absolute character and a joy to be around! Interested in adopting Harrison? Fill out an online Adoption Application at: [spaohio.org](http://spaohio.org).



## Choosing the Right Pet for your family

### *Making that lifetime commitment*

Society for the Protection of Animals (aka SPA OHIO) would like to thank you for deciding to adopt a rescued pet. We are passionate advocates for the dogs and cats in our care—and for rescue in general—and we commend you for taking the time to learn more about unwanted pets in the United States and what we can all do to help.

Adopting from SPA OHIO gains you entrance to a pretty special group of folks. The only thing we love more than successfully placing one of our rescued cats or dogs is receiving joyful updates detailing how spoiled the animals we’ve rescued are in their new homes.

SPA OHIO is a small (*but mighty*) non-profit rescue comprised of unpaid, dedicated volunteers.

SPA’s rescued cats reside in what is commonly referred to as *The Cathouse*, which consists of large rooms with ramps, windows, sofas, toys, scratching posts, music, and lots of one-on-one care. SPA volunteers are very familiar with each of these cats’ personalities, a few having lived in *The Cathouse* for as long as 12 years. You see, SPA isn’t solely a rescue... we’re a sanctuary, providing ongoing care for cats and dogs who remain unadopted for the rest of their lives. We are truly no-kill.

We’ll help you figure out the best fit for your household, which will greatly increase chances for success!

Each pet is different in terms of care, feeding, behavior, cost, housing and demands on your time. If you know what you’re getting into, you’ll be more likely to have a happy animal, a good relationship with your pet, and an easier time dealing with any challenges that might arise.

What type of animal is the best fit for your home? Will you be able to live with pet hair, a litter box or the occasional wear-and-tear caused by pets?

If you have children, how will having a pet affect them? Will everyone in your home welcome a new pet?

If you rent, do you have permission from the property owner?

How much space do you have inside and outside your home? Will you need a fenced yard?

How much time do you have to spend with a pet?

What is your activity level? Are you sedentary or physically active?

Do you have the financial resources if your pet has a medical crisis and has high veterinary bills?

Do you have someone who can be a secondary caregiver if you are away from home? If not, how will you provide care for your pet when you travel?

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# Choosing the Right Pet for your family

So why does SPA ask so many questions? **Consider why pets are surrendered in the first place.**

Among the top five reasons that people give up their pets, three are common to both dogs and cats:  
1) landlord issues, 2) moving, and 3) the cost of pet care.

For dogs, the other most common reasons include lack of time and inadequate facilities. For cats, it's allergies and occasionally, litter box issues, which can often be remedied with a little time and patience.

Too many animals lose their homes because their owners weren't prepared to invest the necessary money and time to properly care for a pet. They weren't ready to make a lifelong commitment. In other cases, families and pets are mismatched.

When you decide that you are ready to adopt a new friend, we'll ask you to complete our screening process, which helps to ensure safe and successful adoptions.

## The Adoption Process

The first step is filling out an SPA online Adoption Questionnaire at: [www.spaohio.org](http://www.spaohio.org).

We'll then have a conversation with you to determine your needs and preferences, find out about your daily schedule, and talk about your previous experience with pets.

We'll call your veterinarian to ensure that your previous pets have been spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

For renters, we'll check with your landlord to ensure that pets are permitted without restrictions.

Lastly, we'll personally deliver your new pet to your home to meet your family and you in person and answer any questions you may have.

We'll sign an SPA Adoption Contract at this time: your promise to provide proper care, plenty of love, and to return your newly adopted pet to SPA should you no longer be able to provide care at any time in the future.



**RYLAN** is a beautiful, 5-year-old yellow lab mix who is eager to find his very own forever home.

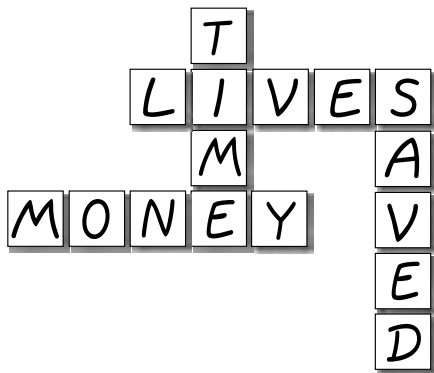
Rylan is housetrained and doesn't chew. He doesn't need to be crated, ever, even when left alone. He is up-to-date on everything and loves to play ball and knows sit, down, and stay.

It becomes immediately apparent that Rylan is a very intelligent fellow, but there are a couple of concerns. He dislikes cats and he would do best as an only dog. He requires a fenced-in-yard.

Adoption Application at:

**spaohio.org**

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**What does  
it take  
to save a  
discarded  
animal's life**

SPA volunteers invest our time because we feel that each of the animals we've rescued is worthy of a healthy, happy life.

The beginning step of each animal's rescue is across the threshold into

the veterinarian's office, where they receive SPA's complete medical package including: testing, vaccines, worming, spay/neuter, and flea and heartworm preventative. For most of these animals it is their first visit to a vet's office.

On the occasion that a rescued animal requires specialized medical care or life-saving surgery, SPA obtains that care by holding special fundraisers. We don't euthanize animals who require more than what is considered usual and customary medical care.

SPA relieves overcrowded animal shelters by placing the cats and dogs we've rescued in approved foster homes, while actively promoting their adoptions at SPA Adoption Events and on our web pages:

• [Petfinder.org](http://Petfinder.org) • [spaohio.org](http://spaohio.org)  
• **SPA OHIO** (on Facebook)



***“Rescued animals have so much love to share.”***  
*Kathy Bondra*

Kathy, Pi, Daisy and Dr. John Bondra

# LIFE OF PI *by Kathy Bondra*

John and I began adopting rescued dogs and cats seventeen years ago, and have been very blessed with their faithful companionship.

From Jerry, our seventeen-year-old cat who still has plenty of miles left in him, to Pi, our most recent puppy adoption through SPA. We have given four cats and three dogs a place to make their home.

Each came with a unique story. Each required a period of adjustment while we all got use to each other. It’s important to create an environment where they feel safe.

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***To love an animal is to accept the responsibility of bonding with them along with sharing the basic needs of food and shelter.***

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To undo the effects of abandonment takes time, loving patience, and mindfulness that we all co-exist.

Given a chance these animals have so much love to share, and we can truly attest to that.

After the passing of our beloved twelve-year-old rescued Shepherd/Rotty, “Max”, his companion, a lab mix named “Daisy” went into a depression.

Thinking that a new companion may help, we let SPA know that we were interested in rescuing a friend for Daisy. SPA is thorough in helping to find a pet that will adapt well to your home. They listened to our needs: a female who would get along with both cats and other dogs, and get along fine on a farm.

We received a call in March asking if we would like to meet “Pi”, a then recently rescued, lively female who



*did you know?*



*SPA spends between \$20,000 - \$30,000 annually for veterinary care of the animals we’ve rescued.*

**TIME + DONATIONS = LIVES SAVED**

they felt would get along well with Daisy. SPA foster homes were full so they were boarding Pi at Westview Animal Hospital, a state of the art veterinary facility. As I witnessed, she was getting plenty of TLC while being boarded there. She captured our hearts instantly. SPA makes sure all of the animals they have rescued are up-to-date medically before they are adopted to their new, forever families.

Adopting a rescue pet is a win-win situation. And it is one remedy to pet cruelty and abandonment, as well as life-saving. Life is a gift, let’s continue to share it!

**SPA rescued “Pi” on Pi Day, which is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) around the world.**

**She had been lying near a road with no nearby houses for over three days.**