



The Short Mugs Rescue Squad has 75 volunteers and fosters at this time



Betty is a happy 4-year-old rescued short mug



Poppy is a rescued 12-week-old Boston terrier

Short Mugs Rescue Squad

Saving French bulldogs one life at a time by putting these sweet, smushed faces in the right places

Written by Debbie McDaniel | Photography by Leah Smith



Xena is a rescued 18-month-old Boston terrier



Rescued 4-year-old Boston terrier-French bulldog mix named Stewart

Hope and Faith were a pair of French bulldog sisters left locked in an abandoned apartment. When found, they were starved and in desperate need of care. With lots of love and help, they were given a new chance at life. Both were adopted by the same family and now have wonderful, happy lives.

Helped and Loved

In August 2011, Short Mugs Rescue Squad (SMRS) opened their doors and took in their first French bulldog rescue. Courtney Pearce, founder and president of SMRS, has personally owned this breed for years. "I started SMRS after working with a national rescue. I saw the need, and wanted to have something on a smaller, local scale, where volunteers and the community could get involved." Since opening, over 207 dogs have come through the doors of this non-profit rescue organization. They have been helped, loved, and placed in forever homes. Their motto best sums up what SMRS is all about: "Placing smush faces in great places."

Breeds Behind the Mug

The French bulldog is a gentle breed that typically has a very happy-go-lucky attitude. Like many other companion dog breeds, they do require close contact with their people. They have fairly minimal exercise requirements, but they do need to be walked daily. Their calm nature makes them excellent choices for apartment dwellers, as does their usually sensible attitude toward barking. Courtney says, "As a flat-faced breed, it's important for owners to understand that French bulldogs simply cannot live outdoors."

Their bulk and compromised breathing system make it impossible for them to regulate temperature efficiently. "Many of these dogs come our way with problems that could have been easily prevented, such as heartworms," adds Courtney. "It is important for pet owners to really pay attention to their pup's overall health."

Though they focus primarily on French bulldogs, they also work to place English bulldogs, Boston terriers, and pugs in other reputable rescue groups. Dogs who need help come their way from a variety of sources including local animal shelters, owner surrenders, strays, commercial breeding kennels, import brokers, or private rescue groups.

When a rescued dog is first brought into the program, SMRS provides any necessary veterinary treatments. This could range from simple vaccines or spaying and neutering, to also seeing specialists for issues common to brachycephalic breeds such as breathing issues, skin allergies, or spinal injuries.

Short Mug Success Stories

The pet rescue is often forced to face difficult situations that come their way, but volunteers are thankful they can help provide a better life for those they have a chance to help.

Beau the Boston terrier was found shot and left in a ditch. When he arrived at the rescue, he was gravely ill and couldn't walk. He spent two weeks in the hospital receiving IV meds, blood and plasma transfusions, and lots of care. Courtney Pearce herself fostered Beau back to health for 18 months, and he now happily lives in a loving home in Houston.

Seymour, an older French bulldog, was brought to the rescue after having lived much of his life tied to a tractor with six feet of cord. With three different types of cancer, he lived two years in hospice, and was later adopted by his foster family, able to spend his last years in a loving home. SMRS created an online bucket list for Seymour that many of their supporters were able to participate in and track his journey toward rehabilitation.

How You Can Help

The SMRS has 75 volunteers and fosters at this time. "We're in desperate need of foster homes, because the more we have, the more dogs we can bring into the program, and the more dogs we can save," says Pearce.

Online fundraisers and local events are held throughout the year. Every new foster home receives a goodie bag from the rescue that includes a bed, collar, harness, leash, SMRS tag, toys, blanket, and treats, so these donations are always welcomed. Anyone can be a sponsor, which offers a great way for families to become involved with SMRS. **KM**

DEBBIE MCDANIEL is a writer with a family of three kids and four pets. They adore their rescue dog Bailey and three cats.



Short Mugs Rescue Squad has helped over 207 dogs since opening

Ways to Get Involved

Adopt

If this breed of dog is the right fit for your family, please consider giving the gift of a forever home to one who needs your love and help.

Foster

Foster homes are crucial. The more there are, the more dogs can be helped.

Donate

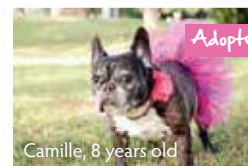
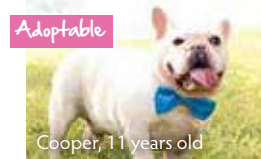
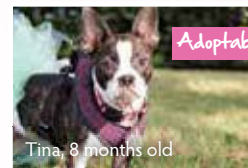
Donations and supplies such as toys, blankets, and treats are always needed and greatly appreciated. Becoming a monthly donor is an option too, and all gifts are tax deductible.

Sponsor

Each dog on the website has a link for sponsorship, which helps to cover the cost that adoption fees do not.

Volunteer

Visit shortmugsrescuesquad.org for ways to volunteer.



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