



SOSD WOOFLETTER

An inhouse publication of events & happenings at SOSD

2016 | ISSUE 1



FEATURE STORY

THE PITTER PATTER OF PAWS AND LITTLE FEET

There are few things as joyful and innocent as children and pets. Kaya's adopter and SOSD volunteer Lucinda tells us what it's like juggling the responsibilities of being a parent to her twins and fur baby.





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WE COULDN'T IMAGINE OUR FAMILY WITHOUT KAYA!

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In early June of last year, my family expanded considerably! My husband and I were already parents to SOSD rescue Kaya. However, we knew our lives were about to change drastically — we were expecting twins!

Even before my twins were born, we chatted with close friends who had human and fur babies to get their advice on how to prepare Kaya and ourselves for this change. It sounded like so much work in the first few months to juggle two newborns and a dog. I was worried we wouldn't have time for Kaya. However, she is our fur baby and a part of our family, so we knew we had to make plans for her care. We arranged to have a friend come stay with Kaya when we went to the hospital for the labour and delivery. Then, in the first months when we had family stay with us to help out with the babies, we made sure to explain to them ahead of time that we needed help making sure Kaya got three daily walks, two meals a day, and lots of affection. My dad is a big dog lover, so he took on a lot of the Kaya duties in the early days when Ryan and I were exhausted and sleep-deprived.

Although we lined up help, we wanted to ease Kaya into the transition and get her used to the babies. So whenever we took them out for a stroller walk, we always made sure to take Kaya with us. Another thing to think about was our annual trip back to the US to visit our families. We were worried about Kaya's past runaway incident from her caretakers' home (you may remember reading about it here in the Woofsletter!). We knew we wanted to hire a helper to assist with the upkeep of our home, so we made some financial calculations and decided we could afford to hire someone before our trip back home. That gave us the peace of mind to know that Kaya would be in our own home while we were away. She would also have a bit of time to get to know this person before we left for our holiday.

Even with all of our careful planning and arrangements, there was still a period of time where Kaya was unsure and shy around our new babies and all of the family visitors. However, with time and patience on our part, she grew to love our children just as much as she loves us. It has been incredibly sweet to see our babies start to notice her as they have grown. Now, they greet her with giggles and smiles every morning, and she greets them with toe licks. We couldn't imagine our family without Kaya!

MISSION: DELIVER LOGAN

What does being a transport volunteer entail? SOSD volunteer Mark recounts a hilarious incident involving our king of mischief, Logan.



It all started innocently enough.
A WhatsApp message was broadcast by the Shelter 2IC.



HI ALL. NEW TRANSPORT.

Tuesday, 18.11.
From SRC to Amber vet to SRC.
Dog: Logan
Review tick fever
Without cage
App at 2:30pm



One of the regular transporters had declined, so I thought, “Hmmm, if I could do this after my Tuesday pack walk... it would fit perfectly.” So I offered to do the job and was accepted.

When the day came, I went to get Logan from his pen. On the way to section 15/16 of the shelter, I checked my waist pouch for the treats, rummaging around the bag with my index finger to push the pieces to the center for easier access. As I got to the pen I pulled out a beef-strip treat as an introductory offer to Logan (we’d not met before). As I put the beef strip through the fence, Logan snapped at it and my Index Finger as well. IT WAS LIKE A DEATH GRIP! My mind raced. Do I try to pull my finger out with brute force and risk losing the first phalanx or beguile him with another treat from my other hand, but I could then have the other finger in his vice-like bite! Thankfully I still had fast-enough reflexes and Logan got his second treat and I didn’t almost lose my other finger. Phew!



Our volunteers transporting the dogs for an event

As a precaution I also walked Logan in the carpark hoping he'd do all his number 1 and number 2 before I put him in the car (remember, without cage, in the message). Predictably Logan did his number 1, and a bit further down the road, took the posture for his number 2. As the discharge progressed, Logan started moving forward but instead of going in a straight line, he went to his right and eventually came back to where he started! You guessed it: he stepped on his own deposits. Oh boy?! Just stay calm, go back to SRC for a wash down.

Wash down completed, Logan got into the car quite enthusiastically. I had laid out in the backseat a double-folded bedsheet just in case. Well done! Having observed Logan in the preceding 10 minutes and noticing his active personality, I decided I needed to tie the end of his leash to the back headrest so that he wouldn't have the run of the car as I was going solo. Good move!

"Hey man, where are we going? Are we there yet? Hey, what's this leash doing? Hey, hey, this leash... hey, can you loosen this leash? Hey I said, 'can you do something about this leash, it's cramping my style!'" "No, Logan, you stay in the back like a good boy, and we'll get there in no time, y'hear?" Back and forth Logan went, left and right, this way and that. He wasn't used to being restrained like this. So he decided to lie down and take it easy. Good boy, Logan!

Before I even reached the TPE Flyover, I hear this heavy scratching noise from the backseat. OMG! Logan is really trying to make himself comfortable — he's digging into the leather seat to make a depression so that he can curl up nicely in the seat! No! NO, LOGAN, NO! Hey! No! Well, there was nothing else I could do but pray that the double-layer bedsheet was tough enough to withstand his claws! So I just ignored him. If I had stopped the car, we would never get to the vet. (This was not known to me yet at this point, but the picture will emerge later in this adventure!)

So we continued down the road, and as I neared the exit for Bedok North Road, I noticed it'd become really quiet in the back. REALLY REALLY QUIET! What on earth is going on? I looked in the rearview mirror — no Logan. I turned around and did a quick scan — NO LOGAN! What was that bit of movement I caught at the corner of my eye? It was Logan's tail! Phew! At least he's still in the car and he's quiet. But why was he so quiet? Was he up to something? No odours, so maybe not a problem.

I took the exit to Bedok, and happily cruised towards the next turn. Then I noticed this heavy breathing next to my left ear! Oh noooo! It's Mr Logan and he's broken loose from his collar! Now, he's standing with his front legs on the center pedestal between the front seats and waiting for a chance to leap into the front! NO! LOGAN NO! BACK! It was futile! I only had one option. I stuck my left arm out to the left seat to form a barrier to stop Logan from leaping into the front seat. It seemed like a canine version of Jurassic Park at that point in time. We needed to turn right onto Bedok North Avenue 1 soon but I was in the center lane. Remember: this was lunch hour, and traffic was heavy. I couldn't turn the signal on to change lane and ignore the menacing black neck and head with heavy breathing off my left ear. So I missed the turn. Off we went on a diversion. Now, I'm not familiar with this neck (pun not intended) of the woods. So that diversion was probably longer than it should have been.

Eventually, we got near Burnfoot Terrace. Then I recalled reading a WhatsApp message that warned of the threat of an LTA Enforcement Officer jumping out from hiding should anyone stop along the road with the double yellow lines in front of Amber Vet. Ohhhh boy! My car nearly got bombed by Logan's number 2; I might have a hole in my leather rear seat; I don't know if we came too close to other cars while I was fighting Jurassic Park along Bedok North Road, and now I faced the prospect of an LTA citation for stopping along double yellow lines in front of Amber Vet. Why, oh why... why me?

I stopped, applied the parking brake, shifted to Park, and it was all clear! No LTA Officer around... yet! I had to move fast now. I got out of the car... and suddenly there was this black flash making a dash for freedom, jumping through the gap between the front seats, leaping onto the now-empty driver's seat, and pushing his snout into the gap because of the open door. I slammed the door shut. All this happened in a nano-second. But, of course! Volunteer transporters have been warned time and again about lightning-fast escapes! Now I know because I almost saw one!

I came over to the curbside, opened the back door just a little, and reached in to free the leash from the anchor at the back headrest. Remember I said earlier it was a good move to tie down his leash? Not such a hot idea anymore. I needed three arms, one to work the leash loose, one to fight back the jaws of Jurassic Park, and one to hold the door to only the slightest of opening. Done!

Finally Logan got out of the car, but properly on a leash, although without his radar collar because he's a descendent of Houdini's pet dog. We went up to the door of the vet practice. The door was locked, clinic was closed, it was lunch hour! Oooh no again! Quick look around: any LTA officers leaping out from the nearby fire hydrant, from anywhere? Safe for now.

Click, click, phew! The vet's technician was now unlocking the door, and the clinic was opening up. "Hi, this is Logan, y'all know about him? Well, he's all yours! Bye!"

Message back to Shelter 2IC read, "My adventure — Deliver Logan — completed at 1428 hrs."

On Sunday, 23 November, a new WhatsApp message broadcast on SOSD's Transporters' chat group read:

” **HI ALL.
NEW TRANSPORT.**

Tuesday, 25.11

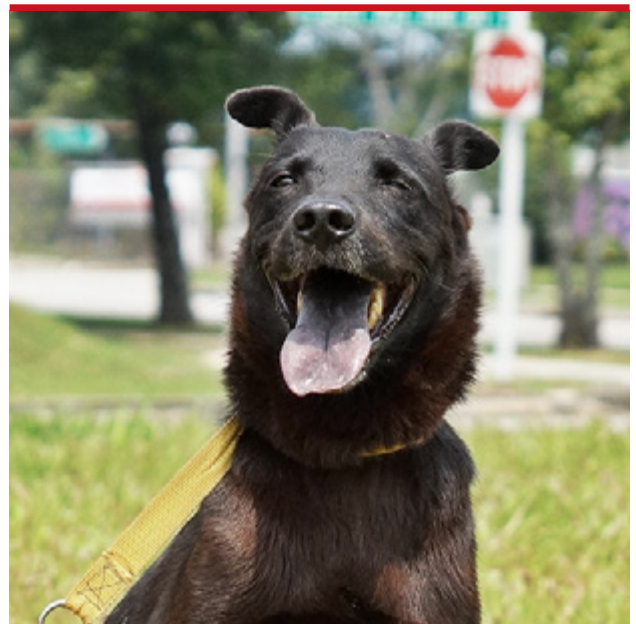
1 way transport from SRC to Amber vet

Dog: Logan

Review tick fever

Without cage

App at 2:30 pm ”



HEALTH IN FOCUS

CUT THE PUDGE

It is important to monitor your dog's health if they are deemed to be overweight, as the extra weight could have dire medical consequences for the dog's health in the long run. Routine physical checks on the dog's body should be conducted by feeling around its ribcage and spine; if you are unable to feel the ribcage (because it's all hidden by fat!), your dog might be overweight.

It is important to bring our pet dogs for regular health assessments by the veterinarian, to ensure the dog's weight is optimal for its age. Obesity in dogs can be life-threatening as they might suffer from numerous conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, lung disorders, high blood pressure, immune disorder and cancerous tumours. However, the most alarming fact is that overweight dogs have a shorter life expectancy and pass on at a younger age.

There are a few ways to combat obesity in dogs, and one of those ways would be to get your pet dog up and going for regular walks in the evening to ensure that it gets sufficient exercise to burn off those extra pounds.

Another cause for obesity in dogs would be the food that they consume on a regular basis. Using a dog food calculator (available online) can help to effectively calculate how many calories the dog should consume in a day for its age and size.

There is a misconception that pet food that promotes weight maintenance is similar to that for weight loss. Most pet food is specially formulated to help with weight maintenance, which does not equate to weight loss. To effectively control the dog's weight, the pet owner must be informed of the amount of calories in each serving of dog food, and calories do need to be calculated. The veterinarian may recommend specific dietary requirements if the dog is found to be severely overweight.

As a rule of thumb, a dog should be fed two to four small portions of food in a day. Therefore, it is important on the part of pet owners to consistently weigh and monitor the overall progress of the pet dog in sticking to a healthy regime. Having an overweight dog is not cute as it can lead to more ill consequences than good in future.

This chubby beauty is Meatloaf, one of our beloved furkids who has since been adopted.



DOGS FOR ADOPTION



GINNY
2 YEARS OLD
FEMALE

Ginny was given up as her owner kept too many dogs in a HDB flat, and was ordered by AVA to rehome some of them. This petite girl was wary and timid when she first arrived at our shelter, but it only took two weeks for the inner social butterfly within to emerge. Ginny is incredibly affectionate now, and often loves showering volunteers with lots of cuddles and kisses.

Ginny is HDB-approved.

SANDY
2 YEARS OLD
FEMALE

Sandy used to call a warehouse home, until the management demanded her removal. At that time, she had just given birth to a litter of puppies, which soon perished after her milk supply dwindled prematurely. Concerned workers who loved her wrote in asking for help, and she was brought in to our shelter. It took a few months before she emerged from her shell, but this girl has quickly charmed everyone with her bubbly personality and penchant for muddy puddles!

Sandy is not HDB-approved.



If you are keen to adopt either Ginny or Sandy, please sign up [here](#).

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

THE ANIMALSPIRIT

Lynnette shares the bountiful, meaningful rewards she has reaped since she started volunteering three years ago.

It started out with a YouTube video about a stray dog called “Ol Boy”, found dying on the streets and taken in by SOSD’s President, Dr Siew, to fulfil Ol Boy’s wish to die in a home.

I was in tears and I remember my concerned colleagues wondering what had happened to me, only to find out I was crying over a dead dog!

That same day, I dropped an email to SOSD, not knowing this would eventually take up a good part of my life! I joined the rehoming team and in the past three years, it has grown from a handful of volunteers to a big team of dedicated and passionate people. This volunteering journey has taught me many intangible skills, helped me better manage my time and have better control over other aspects of my life. It is a commitment to the dogs, and to the like-minded people who work together for this common cause. It has also become so much a part of my lifestyle.

One of the hardest things about volunteering is coping with the death of a dog. The pain never seems to diminish every single time this happens.

We also do sometimes have to deal with nasty encounters and people, but through this we learn to make the best out of the worst situations and keep our focus on doing what is best for the dogs that we rescue. Along the way, I have met the kindest of people — volunteers, fosterers, adopters, and rescuers to name a few — but the dogs are the ones that really impress upon me.

Monty Roberts, a horse trainer, once wrote: “Each of us should be aware that for every grain of negative within the human community, there is a mountain of positive waiting for us among animals.”

The joy in seeing a dog recover from an illness or injury, find a place to finally call home, and transforming from being terrified to enjoying human touch, makes everything that we do worthwhile.

One of the most rewarding things for me is having my foster dog, Cody, who suffers from diabetes, recover from ketoacidosis, which is life-threatening. It was a race against time to get his blood glucose under control and now, months later, he is a healthy, happy boy who loves to play with my other dogs and cat. Cody requires twice-daily insulin injections and even though his condition is lifelong, he can live a normal life.

Cody has yet to find someone to adopt him, but for now, we are his family and he is our champ!



UPCOMING EVENTS

UNDER ONE WOOF

SOSD Flag Day 2016: Under One Woof

SOSD Flag Day 2016 is here again! SOSD's Flag Day is our largest annual fundraiser, filled with activities, fun, and of course, lots of cuddly and lovable doggies!

Last year, 700 of you hit the streets to help collect donations. As the impending end of our lease looms near, we urgently need funds to build a new shelter. Therefore, this year, we request your help to join us again! We aim to hit 1,500 collectors, so help spread the word!

Sign up at [here](#) and receive a free t-shirt!

DATE

28 FEB '16

VENUE

SCAPE YOUTH PARK

113 Somerset Road, S(238165)
Diagonally opposite Orchard Cineleisure

TIME

9AM-6PM

SHENTONISTA X SOSD

BLAINE
MALE
9 MONTHS

