



Sioux Empire
Pit Rescue

Happy New Year!

January 2012

<http://pitrescue.weebly.com>

Who We Are

An all volunteer 501(C3) rescue group in Sioux Falls South Dakota, Sioux Empires mission is to promote responsible Pit Bull ownership, provide breed education, combat pet overpopulation, and find qualified homes for sound Pit Bull dogs in South Dakota as well as in other states.

Adopting a Pit Bull

As for adopting a Pit Bull, they are wonderful dogs for the right family! Pit Bulls are very intelligent and they need a structured home that will teach them how to be well mannered and socialized. Pit Bulls are not a type of dog you adopt to ignore and leave on the end of a chain. Pit Bulls are great in families with kids. They are rough and tumble type dogs that are not easily scared or hurt-making them a great jungle gym. Pit Bulls love their owners with a heart and devotion unlike any other breed and with this kind of admiration comes great responsibility! To know the love of a Pit Bull is like none other and families that are responsible, committed owners know their dogs are well worth it!

We DO NOT make same sex-placements or place Pit Bulls in multiple dog homes. We might place a Pit Bull in a home with a compatible dog of the opposite sex, but we ask our adopters to follow certain safety measures - never leave the dogs unsupervised, always monitor roughhousing, avoid triggers that could cause conflicts such as bones, toys, etc. We also ask that the dogs we place NOT be taken to dog parks. Dogs are adopted as inside family members only!

Salsa ... Waiting for Her Forever Home

Miss Salsa, currently our longest member of Sioux Empire Pit Rescue, has been patiently awaiting her family to find her since May 2011. She's shared her foster home with numerous others that have come and gone, but somehow hasn't been as lucky as the rest of them. She takes it all in stride and is certainly adored by her foster family. That wasn't always the case however.

Salsa was found by Animal Control in Kansas City, MO. Her body was merely a skeleton covered in fur. She weighed right around 30 pounds when she was taken in. Within 2 weeks time Salsa had gained enough weight that she was ready to take on the world and find a new home. The beautiful copper colored girl was a bit apprehensive when she arrived at SEPR, but we promised her we would care for her until the right family came along.

Unfortunately, Salsa was probably not socialized properly as a pup and can be a bit rough while playing. She also doesn't want any other animal taking her food or treats from her. It's hard for her to trust after she has obviously not known where her next meal would come from.

The bond that has been built between foster family and Salsa has grown. She has learned about trust, about what to expect, and about unacceptable behavior. This by no means makes her perfect, but it does make her easier to handle. She is a true pit bull and does become quite anxious and excited when another animal is near. We call that a work in progress, but in the meantime, we believe



that she would be the perfect candidate for being the only pet in the house.

The little red-nose pit bull is wonderful with humans of any size or gender and only wants to be by your side, or right on top of you.

The little adventure seeker loves to be outside with you where she can run and play, carry around toys, and chase her treat ball. She is excellent to take in the car, and has absolutely no qualms about being in her crate when home alone. She does fairly good on a leash, but even better while wearing her gentle leader. Salsa, and the rest of the group continue to share her story through SEPR's website (www.pitrescue.weebly.com) and Facebook page. Salsa even has her own blog so you can follow the adventures of Salsa Ann.

Every dog has his/her day. Salsa's ready for hers!

Stephanie O'Brien, SEPR Volunteer

Come visit us and our available dogs the first Saturday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. at Petco in Sioux Falls!

In Memory of SEPR Founder, Kathy Spade



Kathy Spade originally volunteered with another local rescue and could always be counted on to be at adoption events at Petco. Rachael and I both shared our passion for pit bulls with Kathy. Kathy saw the great need for another pit bull rescue, and several years later she persuaded Rachael and Robin to help with the new rescue. Kathy founded Sioux Empire Pit bull Rescue in 2007 and it

has been growing ever since. Kathy was a very loving person and had a hard time saying “no” to pit bulls around the country in need. It was not uncommon for Rachael and Robin to receive calls, text messages or emails from Kathy asking if they could take another dog in need. She was always willing to open her home and her heart to help re-home the dogs she loved.

Kathy did whatever she could for the rescue throughout her illness. She used her sewing skills to make seasonal bandanas for the dogs to wear at adoption events and donated handmade items to the first annual SEPR poker run. Kathy suffered several strokes over the past year that inhibited her ability to attend fundraising and adoption events, but she was there in spirit.

Kathy, as you look upon us from the Rainbow Bridge, please give us the strength and courage to continue to rescue pit bulls in your honor. We miss you.

Order Your 2012

Sioux Empire Pit Rescue Calendar



Sioux Falls, SD and surrounding areas \$10; Out of town \$10 + \$5 shipping (Be sure to include your shipping address when making your on-line PayPal payment.)

Calendars will be available for pick up January 7th at Sioux Falls Petco 1 to 4 p.m. Calendars are also being sold at [All Animal Pet Hospital](#), [Globe University](#), and [Paw and Reflect Pet Grooming](#). Click here to order your calendar today: <http://pitrescue.weebly.com/2012-calendar-contest.html>.

SEPR 2011 Recap of Adoptions and Events

Wow! 2011 was a big year for SEPR. We are happy to announce that 34 deserving pit bulls found forever homes through our program. This is more than double the dogs that were adopted in 2010. It is astounding the amount of fantastic families that traveled as far as 8 hours away to adopt one of our amazing dogs!

SEPR foster homes have also doubled in amount this previous year. We have truly found some dedicated families that have devoted their homes and time to help our mission. Our foster families have continued to educate themselves on how to handle our continual rotation of new dogs throughout the year. We love the great attitudes of “how do we tackle this new issue” rather than throwing in the towel. Without our foster homes the SEPR program would cease to exist. We thank all our foster homes from the bottoms of our hearts.

SEPR has expanded to a new easy online form version for our adoption/volunteer/foster paperwork thanks to Sharon with PBRC who donated her time to help get these new and impressive tools up and running. Because of our new online forms SEPR has also obtained some fun and fresh volunteers willing to pitch in with any task! As our organization continues to grow we are thrilled at the outreach of people wanting to contribute and lend a helping hand. SEPR’s Facebook page has continued to grow throughout the year and we were fortunate enough to also find a volunteer to start a twitter page as well!

2011 had some very successful fundraising events as well. The annual Sioux Empire Poker Run was again a success and we look forward to some new venues and options for our next year’s Poker Run. Also, the 2010 SEPR calendars sold so quickly last January that we decided to triple the amount for sale with our 2011 calendars (contact us today as you can still buy one for \$10). SEPR had an incredible and creative “Portraits in the Park with your Pooch” fun picture day with all of your dogs, and Ace Nyberg’s fun outdoor Halloween adoption event with our dogs! Both activities were a hit and we hope to continue the tradition with both venues.

2012 is sure to be just as exciting and fun! We are excited to continue to work towards our mission of promoting responsible pit bull ownership, provide breed education, combat the pet population, and find qualified homes for sound pit bulls. Make sure you watch for some new and exciting SEPR events coming down the road - from our family to yours we hope your New Year is bright and look forward to our upcoming year!

How You Can Help the Animals

Many times we hear people say, "I wish I could help, but ...".

Here are some ways that anyone can help:

- Adopt a rescued animal.
- Can't adopt, foster.
- Can't foster, volunteer.
- Can't volunteer, donate.
- Can't donate, educate.

You see, helping doesn't always mean you have to adopt an animal. Educating others on the importance of adopting from a rescue or shelter or making sure their current pets are spay or neutered can be priceless. I've seen it happen. You don't have to be an animal fanatic and you don't have to cram it down everyone's throat. Making people aware of the current pet overpopulation in our country, letting them know that more times than not, if they don't adopt, they are supporting puppy mills and the horrible lives that those dogs endure so that you can take a cute puppy home.

Teach people by example the proper way to be a responsible pet owner. Always have your dog on a leash when out in public. This is true of every breed not just pit bulls. Care for your dog by providing proper food, shelter, and training. Anyone can love a dog, but responsible people care for a dog.

Stephanie O'Brien, SEPR Volunteer



SEPR pitching in to help with the Missouri 500 dog fighting case.

Abbie Adopted by Her Forever Family and Brother Named Marley

Abbie joined our family on September 17th and has been an amazing addition to our family ever sense. She is so loveable and just wants to make us happy. She has a big brother Marley who she loves being around and trying to convince him to play. She has really brought the pup back in Marley. They are great company for each other as we are at work even though we are quite sure they sleep the entire day in the front window waiting for us to return home.

Abbie has learned to sit, stay, shake, kiss and fetch all in this short amount of time and she loves to show that off! She defiantly still has puppy in her and forgets her manners at times as we are still teaching her that when people come to visit they don't need her to jump on them. Abbie is always by our side and when she isn't we wonder what she is up to, most of the time she is just sitting in the front window taking a little nap. We did just find out a few weeks ago that she really enjoys playing chase in the backyard with Marley in the snow.

She came from wonderful foster parents Jim and Terie who took wonderful care of her. She is the biggest sweetheart and we don't know what we would do



without her so I can only imagine that they miss her as much as we would.

We are so thankful that we found such a sweetheart for a dog and we should have known that by the cute little heart on the side of her face!

*God Bless!
Josh & Lindsey*

Do's and Don'ts for Children and Dogs

Written by: Victoria Stilwell

- Even if you know the dog, always ask permission to pet it from the owner first.
- Even when you have permission, don't invade the dog's body space. Allow the dog to come up to you and sniff the top of your closed fist (palm down). If the dog doesn't want to come and greet you, respect that and leave it alone. Don't approach a dog from behind. Don't pet a dog directly on the top of its head. This could be threatening for the dog because the top of its head can be very sensitive, so it is best to pet on the back or chest.
- Never stare at a dog and never put your face close to a dog's face. Remember to look at the dog briefly and then look away, look at the dog, and look away. These are calming signals and you are telling the dog that you are no threat.
- Do not tease a dog.
- Do not touch a dog that has been tied up or left at the end of a chain in a yard, outside a store or behind a fence.
- Do not touch a dog while it is eating. You wouldn't want a dog to come and take what you are eating, so respect that its food is its food and you should not go near it.
- Don't scream and run away from a dog. If a strange dog comes up to you and you are scared, fold your arms, stand still, look away, and completely ignore it until it loses interest in you and goes away. The more boring you can be the less the dog will want to interact with you
- Remember that a dog is an animal and not a cuddly toy. Some dogs don't like being hugged. Be gentle with any dog and do not engage in rough play.

More SEPR 2011 Happy Endings in Forever Homes

2011 was a good year for the rescued dogs at SEPR. Thirty-four dogs were adopted into their forever homes. Here are some of their pictures!



Abe 3/5/2011



Aspen 12/10/2011



Cricket 3/19/2011



Crusoe 11/19/2011



Ava 5/21/2011

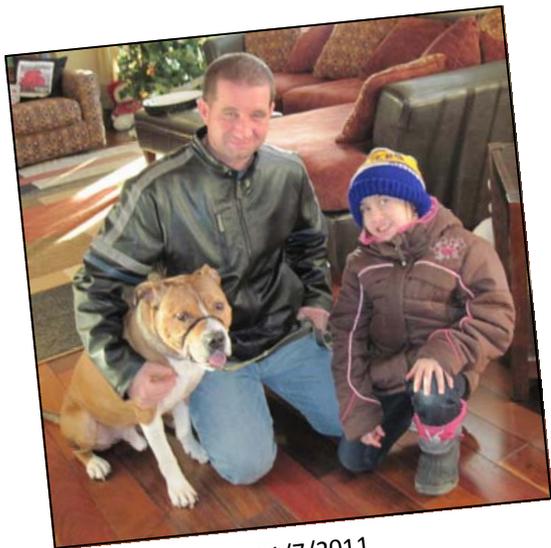


Bozzly 10/25/2011



Cesar 4/27/2011

More SEPR 2011 Happy Endings in Forever Homes



CJ 1/7/2011



Jersey 1/20/2011



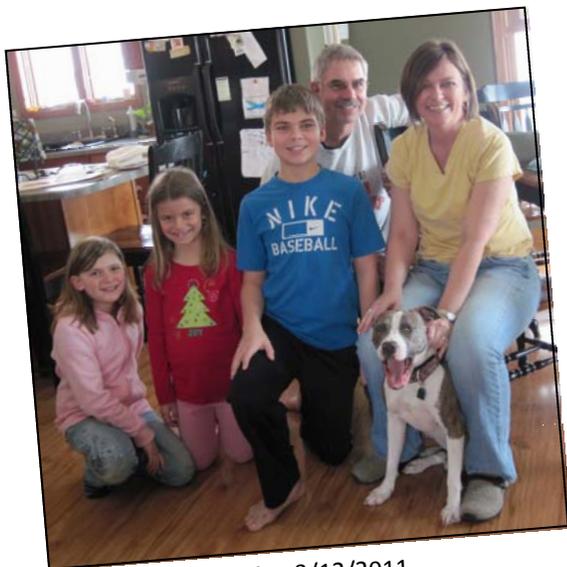
Asia 10/23/2011



Tinker Bell 5/20/2011



Scooby 2/18/2011



Jasmine 3/12/2011



Drea 4/4/2011

More SEPR 2011 Happy Endings in Forever Homes



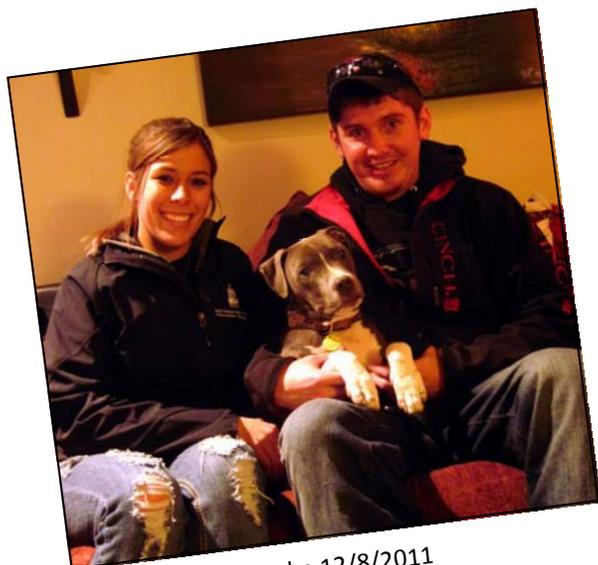
June Bug 3/20/2011



Tux 12/3/2011



Wilbur 5/13/2011



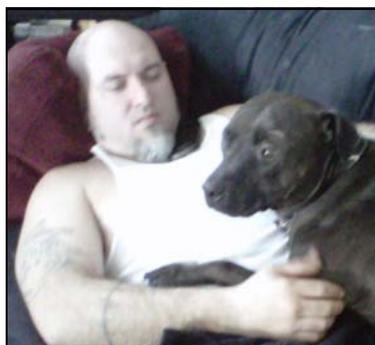
Pumba 12/8/2011



Michaels 1/27/2011



Kane 10/15/2011



Guinness 2/1/2011



Sara 3/5/2011

More SEPR 2011 Happy Endings in Forever Homes



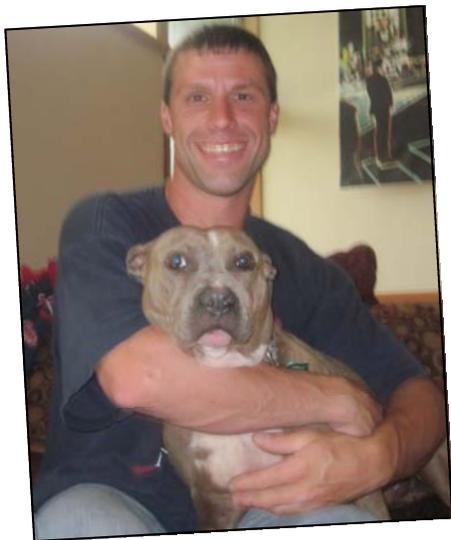
Jewell 7/6/2011



Blue Blaze 7/22/2011



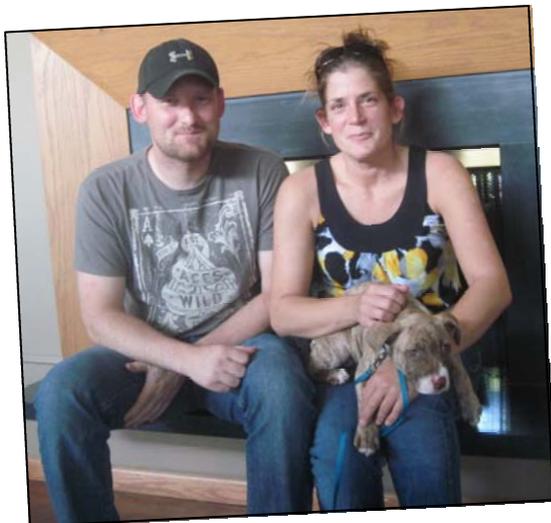
Max 8/6/2011



Indigo 6/17/2011



Isabella 9/17/2011



Martini 6/16/2011



Bixby 7/23/2011

More SEPR 2011 Happy Endings in Forever Homes



Revelie 9/3/2011



Sinatra 8/28/2011



Rossi 6/21/2011



Petunia 9/3/2011

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's adoptions successful!
Please remember there are many more who need a home.
Visit us at <http://pitrescue.weebly.com> to see more dogs available.
Don't forget about Salsa's blog at <http://pitrescue.weebly.com/pit-blog.html>
she really wants to find a family to call her own!