

# Mike and Ike's Rescue and Adoption Page

This section of our website has been created in honor of two very special dogs, Mike and Ike (please read their story at the end of this page). The following animals are searching for loving homes just as Mike and Ike were. These animals are available through adoption at the **Animal Rescue League of NH**. Check out [www.rescueleague.org](http://www.rescueleague.org) for a complete list of animals available for adoption at the Animal Rescue League of NH.

**Nikko**



Hi, My name is Nikko and I am looking for a new home. My owner is in the National Guard and I have to stay home alone a lot so they decided to let me find a new home. Let me tell you about myself. I love to play fetch, go running with someone, ride in cars, and yes, believe it or not, I love to have a bath.

I really like to be near my people so I give them lots of kisses. Most of all I love to have my belly rubbed. I am also very smart - I know lots of commands like Sit, Stay, Down, Leave it, Heel, Potty, No Bark, Off and lots more. I am very friendly and need lots of exercise. I am not very fond of cats but I do like other dogs. The folks at the shelter say I am quite strong so they are hoping to find me a family who knows about Pit Bulls and whose insurance company will allow me to live in their home. I get too excited around small kids so older kids would get along with me the best. I love to give hugs too so please come in and talk to an adoption counselor to see if you could be the one I hug.



## **Eliza**



Eliza is a 4 year old spayed female who came to the shelter as a stray. She is a sweet, friendly girl who is a bit overweight. Since she has a possible skin allergy, she will have to be fed a high quality food especially for weight loss. Like most of her breed, she should have a home without cats or other small animals. Huskies are also known escape artists so she should have a fenced yard (not electric fence). Eliza is very social and would love to meet you. Come in and ask an adoption counselor about her.

## **Skyler**



Hi my name is Skyler. I am a 6 year old Russian Blue neutered male. I was brought to the shelter due to owner allergies/asthma. I am a declawed boy so I must stay an indoor only kitty. I am an affectionate boy who enjoys being pet but I do not like to be picked up. I will hop on your lap sometimes. I would like to go to a canine-free home as I really do not get along with dogs. I am hoping to find a home committed to helping me with a new diet and exercise routine as I am becoming a bit round. If you are looking for a cat with a personality than I might be the kitty for you! I am available at the Animal Rescue League of NH. Please call 472-3647 for more information on me.

# Mike and Ike's Journey

In March 2006, Mrs. Sutherland, a long-time and well-loved client at MVH called us in desperate sorrow. She had been diagnosed with a very severe illness and needed to immediately give up her two beloved Pekingese dogs, Mike and Ike. She felt her only choice was to euthanize since their health concerns would prevent either from being adopted.

Dr. Chmiel, Mike and Ike's veterinarian for many years, assured Mrs. Sutherland that the staff of Merrimack Veterinary Hospital would take over their care and do everything they could to place them in loving homes, despite their health concerns. As patient care coordinator, I met with their owner when she surrendered them to us. I was touched deeply by the love she held for those dogs, the pain she felt having to let them go, and her anxiety about their uncertain future.

We all acknowledged that Mike and Ike would need to be adopted separately. We felt each had health concerns significant enough to prevent their adoption into the same family. Mike had a serious seizure disorder but was the healthier of the two. It took TWO MONTHS but we found him a fantastic family with new owner, Patty. He now has a very active lifestyle including daily car rides (often visiting with doggie friends) and helping to take care of the horses in the barn.

However, we found Ike much more challenging to place. He had chronic skin problems caused by year-round food and environmental allergies (even to human dander!) and he often got oily, smelly, itchy skin because of it. Through the dedicated care by literally all of the doctors and nursing staff at the hospital, careful grooming by Sherri (Ike's life-long groomer at MVH), and the constant watch and daily medicating by all of the loving kennel staff, Ike's skin and coat began to look better and better with each passing month. However, we were still unable to find the "right" home for this high-maintenance little dog.

For help I placed a call to Julie, the president of an excellent dog rescue organization called "New England Doglift" ([www.newenglanddoglift.com](http://www.newenglanddoglift.com)). Julie immediately offered to put a picture of Ike on their petfinder website to see if we could generate more exposure for him. They even forwarded all of the applications to me so I could continue the long process of weeding through the inquiries. I passed on quite a few good homes because none of them were "right" for Ike. He needed more time and veterinary care than most could give.

Throughout all of this, Mrs. Sutherland called me weekly to check on Ike. Many of these calls were tear-filled with worry that we would give up and euthanize him. I promised Mrs. Sutherland that we would keep searching as long as Ike was physically and mentally sound enough to keep going.

After a number of visits by hopeful new owners that fell through, Debi came along and it was apparently "love at first sight" for both of them. Ike could be very picky about his dog friends (which had prevented a few adoptions) but

fortunately got along graciously with all three of her dogs! So after nearly SIX MONTHS of waiting, Ike finally found his second home and has been a much beloved member of Debi's family ever since.

Ike is now a frequent visitor to many nursing homes and even gets to visit with the Sutherland family on occasion. This long process was emotional but a wonderful success story for Mike, Ike, Mrs. Sutherland, Patty, Debi, and the whole MVH staff. It brought all of us together in a way that has enriched us all. So in creating this rescue and adoption page on the MVH website, we decided to dedicate it to two of our favorite adoptees, Mike and Ike.

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