

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](http://www.rescueleague.org). Check out www.rescueleague.org for a complete list of animals available for adoption at the Animal Rescue League of NH. Please call them at 472-3647 if you are interested in any of these animals.

Mama Kitty (M.K.)



Hi my name is Mama Kitty. I am a 4 year old spayed female. I came from a group of 56 cats in one home so I am used to other animals being around. That being said, I really only tolerate my siblings and would much prefer to have your attention all to myself! A few of my siblings have tested positive for Feline Leukemia. I tested negative and have been quarantined for 12 weeks and retested negative so not to worry, I am a healthy girl! I should stay an indoor only kitty and would love to spend my days rolling around in sunbeams. I really enjoy your attention and will rub all over you. If you are looking for a sweet and confident cat I am definitely the girl for you!

Raiden



Hi my name is Raiden. I am a 5 year old neutered male. I was found as a stray. I like to be groomed and will need an owner willing to brush my long hair. I would do okay as an indoor or indoor/outdoor cat if you needed a hand in the garden or wanted me to protect your home. Come on in and meet me if you think I might be the PURRFECT match for you!

Buddy



Hi, my name is Buddy and I am a 3 year old neutered male Treeing Walker Coonhound. I have a high prey drive so electric fences just don't work for me because I love to chase small animals too much. So my new owners will always have to walk me on a leash and/or have a good fence. I am protective of my food so it would be best if my new home were one with children over 12 and no regularly visiting young children. I think my ideal home would be a quiet one without a lot of comings and goings. I am OK with other dogs but not with cats. I can be quite lovable but only when I am ready. They say I am rather independent. If I sound like the dog for you, come on in and meet with me.

Tucker



Hi, My name is Tucker and I am a 3 1/2 year old neutered male Lab. They say I am a bundle of energy and quite a handful to walk since I am so strong and I have never been to obedience classes. The folks at the shelter are looking for someone who is willing to take me on as a work in progress. I will need lots and lots of exercise and training so someone who is used to working with a big, happy, playful boy like me would be great. I get along with other dogs but I play very rough and am sometimes rude, but I don't mean to be. Come on in and see if I am the dog for you. NOTE: Tucker has been at the shelter for awhile since he had an injury to his leg which required Anterior Cruciate Ligament surgery (ACL). Though immediate recovery has already occurred (the first 6 weeks), full recovery is a few months away.

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). 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.

Jessica Janowski
Out-Patient Care Coordinator
Client Services
Veterinary Appointment Nurse