

A Non-profit Canine Rescue

PO Box 125
Radium Springs, NM 88054
EIN 46-5280773



2 Hearts 4 Paws Refuge is a dog rescue owned by myself, Susan Peterson, and my sister Debra Peterson. We have a “barn” with 14 indoor/outdoor kennels and Deb and I live on the property which consists of 5 acres. We have several fenced “play” yards, and smaller outdoor kennels so the dogs are always in and out of the barn. Deb and I take care of the animals, maintenance of the barn and yards, vet care, etc... while our sister Sharon Rios is our major supporter and cheerleader! She does the fundraisers to keep us going, and whatever else we need she will find a way.

We all grew up here in Las Cruces. I started out by being a volunteer at Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary when it first started. I would help feed, walk dogs, and clean yards and kennels. Then I started saving dogs on my own so quit at Safe Haven! I dreamed of someday having a big barn with kennels and finally in 2011 Deb and I decided to build it in honor of our Great-nephew Ukiah. It started out as a place for our dogs to stay so that Deb and I could go somewhere together! We had one trip.....and then started to fill the barn with rescues! In 2014 we decided to apply for a 501c3 and be a non-profit rescue. We chose 2 Hearts 4 Paws Refuge as our official name, received our non-profit status, and off we went! We joined up with Petsmart Charities and started doing adoptions once a month at Petsmart. However, some of the dogs we were saving were not quite “adoptable” for various reasons. Some were older, several were from

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bad situations, others had "issues" like Guy who hated men. Serena, one of our Pitties, was possibly a "bait" dog-she is covered in scars and hates other dogs. Most of them were scared of everyone and loved and trusted only us! Then we started taking in dogs whose owners had gone into assisted living or nursing homes or had passed away. But we have also had several very successful adoptions.

Before APA had a facility where they could keep dogs, we would "board" their dogs who were undergoing Heartworm treatment. We try to help the community also by helping with vet bills, medicine, donating dog houses, helping build kennels and fencing, and free boarding for people who have emergencies and cannot afford to pay.

We currently have 35 dogs! Some live in the barn, some live with Deb, and the rest live with me! It truly is a labor of love! Most of them will remain here for the rest of their lives. And as one leaves us, there is always another waiting to take their place.