

Why do we only rescue senior dogs?

In the dog rescue world, the odds are stacked against older dogs.

Research shows that **age is the single most important factor that determines whether a dog gets adopted.**

Usually, puppies win and seniors lose. Yes, puppies are cute and cuddly. But they also nip, potty on your rug, chew your shoes...

Senior dogs have 'been there and done that.' Now, they just want **to love and lounge.**

Everyday, Citizen Canine Rescue staff experience the joy and reward in caring for our senior dogs. Our senior Citizen Canines are nurtured as much as we are nurtured by them.

Contact us at:

citizencaninerescue@citizencaninerescue.org

CITIZEN CANINE SENIOR DOG RESCUE
LA GRANGE PARK, IL, 60526
PHONE: 312-919-6038



Citizen Canine Senior Dog Rescue

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for senior dogs and enrich the life of the people who embrace them.

We help senior dogs find their happily-ever-after home through rescue, placement and protection.

RESCUE

Senior Citizen Canines come to us through:

- Transfer partners (e.g. shelters)
- Owners surrendered
- Strays

PLACEMENT

Our dogs come home with either a foster parent/family or Citizen Canine Rescue staff while we find them their happily-ever-after home.

PROTECTION

Citizen Canine Rescue vigorously vetts all fosters and potential adopters to ensure that all senior Citizen Canines who pass through our doors are cherished and safe.

Board of Directors:

Karina Reyes
Founder, President & CEO

Miriam Gardner-Ryan
Co-Founder & Vice President

Julian Gomez
Board Member

Our History



Born from a passion for animals, dogs specifically, founder Karina Reyes and co-founder Miriam Gardner-Ryan made use of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and created a vital senior dog rescue in the Chicagoland area. Citizen Canine Senior Dog Rescue is a foster-based organization that depends on foster families to care for senior dogs while happily-ever-after homes are found for them. [Fostering](#) is an opportunity to save a life and change your life as well.

Our logo was designed and illustrated by Ryan Garcia. The name invokes the classic film, "Citizen Kane" to capture two important ideals of the rescue. 'Citizen' serves as a reminder that senior dogs are as much citizens of the universe as their puppy siblings. As "elders", they deserve dignity and respect.

For the 'Kane' origin of 'Canine', in the movie, Citizen Kane wanted love from the world. So do our Senior Citizen Canines. However, unlike Kane, who never had much love to give, senior dogs have it in spades.

As Citizen Canine Rescue grows, so does its recognition. Recently, Schwab Charitable gifted us with a monetary award. In addition, Citizen Canine Rescue received an unsolicited vote of confidence with a generous donation from the [KONG Company](#).

Acknowledgement of our work also came from [Channel7 ABC News](#), who invited us to participate in its annual Hispanic Heritage month special, "[Our Chicago: Nuestras Historias](#)," hosted by Stacey Baca from the Channel7 Chicago Eyewitness News team. They did a segment on Citizen Canine Rescue about who we are and how our rescue got started. You also get to meet Weezy and Lexi, who have since found their own happily-ever-after homes! Check out our segment in the special [here!](#)

Our Progress & Need

Our Actions

Since founding Citizen Canine Rescue in 2020, we have:

- Rescued 100+ senior dogs
- Placed ~90% of these dogs in happily-ever-after homes;
- Cared for the other ~10% of these dogs through our hospice program
- Grew our foster and volunteer families
- Catered to the needs of senior citizens and veterans, who are dog owners, as well as people with disabilities who are dog owners
- Established relationships with local and national rescue organizations
- Promoted La Grange Park in representing it as the home base of our rescue

Our Need\$

- **FUNDING FOR:**
- Medical assessment of any conditions - nonexistent, mild, severe, hospice
- Treatment of any new or existing medical conditions
- Purchase of supplies; including bed, toys, food, water bowls, leashes, collars and support equipment such as ramps
- Vaccinations
- Dental exam and treatment
- Microchipping of each dog
- Behavioral intervention with trainers, as needed



Karina & Miriam with Citizen Canine Rescue's first ever rescue. Meet Senior Citizen Canine, Rosie!

While stressful and exhausting, we can meet the practical demands of our work. And though not easily, we are even able to manage the emotional toll of repeatedly witnessing pain and suffering. However, nothing makes us question the viability of our work like the financial obstacles we face daily. Recently we were unable to keep our doors open to dogs in need owed to 2 consecutive months of \$5000+ vet bills. At this rate, and without further support, shutdowns are inevitable.

happily-ever-afters

Hear from our adopters



"I feel that I was blessed to be able to adopt Finn. She is so sweet and well behaved, I just love her."
- Tina Arrotti



"Since coming home, her personality has grown each day and more independent, too. Jesse loves to bark at the driveway alarm when someone comes to the house. She has an Irish Wolfhound for a brother, 2 neutered cats, a mommy cat that surprised us with 5 kittens and over 80 chickens!"
- Jeanie Hutton

"Rosie commandeered the love seat in the living room and my first reaction was, 'no this isn't going to happen'. By the second night it was all hers!"
- Scott Saacke



Adopting Lexi Into Our Family - Tom & Ryoko Fujikawa

It's been less than a month since we adopted Lexi from Citizen Canine Senior Dog Rescue, and she has quickly become an integral part of our family. We have fostered a number of pugs over the years and adopted four adorable puggies as



our own. Ever since we lost our beloved Betty-Boo in November of last year, we have been wanting a companion for her brother, Bogie. We wanted to match him up with another elderly dog, and we found such a wonderful match in Lexi.

When Lexi first came to us, she was very quiet and shy. She is functionally blind, which made her un-derstandably anxious in a new environment. It didn't take her long to find her way around the house (bumping into walls along the way – sort of like a four-legged slow-moving version of a Roomba). She also found her voice – and then some! At first, we were concerned she may have a vocal issue because she made no sound, but she now yips, yaps and barks with the best of them – especially when she's hungry! Mama home-cooks a yummy nutritious meal for the puggies every night, so it's no wonder that she gets eager at dinner time.

While Lexi has some health issues, we are accustomed to dealing with such things as Bogie is also blind and, frankly, we enjoy taking care of these little guys. They need all the TLC they can get and we are happy to provide it! Lexi and Bogie are slowly, but surely, getting accustomed to one another, only knowing where the other is when they bump into one another. Bogie wants to be the Alpha dog, but always loses out to the girls. It's no different with Lexi; she has a strong will and Bogie knows it. Confidentially, Bogie prefers younger ladies, but we think he's starting to accept his age - not to mention his position on the totem-pole, which is under Mama and Lexi, but a step above Papa!

We are still learning Lexi's quirks, likes, and dislikes. One thing is for sure, Lexi likes to sleep. We were surprised to see she prefers to sleep on the bare floor rather than the new fluffy bed we got for her. Unlike Bogie, who is spoiled rotten and needs the fluffiest bed to sleep on (or Mama's lap, of course), Lexi sleeps anywhere. As long as she's happy, she sleeps whenever and wherever she wants.

Having fostered many older pugs, we are keenly aware of the difficulties with finding forever homes for these lovable and affectionate beings. We are happy to have Lexi in our family and we will do all we can to make her life as joyful as possible. Many thanks to Citizen Canine Senior Dog Rescue for taking such good care of Lexi until we were able to unite with her!



Lexi (left) & Bogie (right)

TO DONATE:



PAYPAL



VENMO



ZELLE

Citizen Canine Rescue		1234
502 Dover Ave		DATE
Orange Park, IL 60526		\$
MEMO		DOLLARS
000000000	000000000	1234

PAYABLE TO CITIZEN
CANINE RESCUE