

Second Chance takes in Cocker Spaniels that need new homes, provide medical care, training for behavioral issues and find them a loving home. Founded in 2003, Second Chance has found homes for over 550 adoptable dogs and offered Sanctuary homes for over 60 non-adoptable



Gigi with her cone recovering from her first surgery

Cocker Spaniels. Most of the dogs come in from shelters and some are owner relinquishments. More and more dogs are ending up at the shelters with untreated medical conditions that we would not have seen several years ago. When we first started, the dogs that needed expensive surgeries were in the minority. Last year we spent an average of \$800 on every dog we rescued. Second Chance is completely donor funded. We have no paid staff.

Gigi is a good example of what we typically see. Like most adult female dogs who have not been spayed, at 9 years old Gigi had multiple mammary tumors. It took two surgeries to remove her entire mammary chain on either side before she was ready for adoption. Debi, her foster from Los Alamos took great care of her during her recovery. Then Gigi met Daphne and fell in love. Her world is now complete with Daphne and her new family in Arroyo Grande.

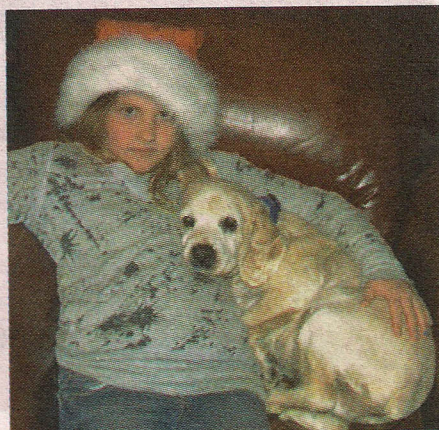
One of our most important programs is our Sanctuary Program. We find permanent foster home where the family provides a safe, loving home for the life of the dog and we take care

of all the medical bills. This allows us to be a no-kill organization by providing for dogs who are considered unadoptable because they are elderly or have chronic illnesses, dogs like Duster. Duster was adopted out of the Camarillo shelter then returned the next day. The family said he was too "nervous". So we pulled him to see what we could do with this "nervous" boy. It turned out that they had shaved him down and he was just shivering from the cold. We popped a fleece jacket on him and voila, no more shivering.

The first thing he did was crawl into the laps of the kids in his foster home for a good snuggle. We took him in for a vet exam and he was diagnosed with heart rhythm problems in both the upper and lower chambers of his heart and he has frequent seizures.

Duster is a gentle soul who needs lots of love and affection. We were able to find him a home in Carpinteria with a Rosalind who adores him. She will give him a wonderful life full of love and beach walks.

Doing dog rescue, means be able to



Duster snuggling with his favorite foster mom

see the potential in a dog that everyone else has given up on. In early December of last year we learned of a

very sick young cocker in the Modesto shelter. This under-a-year-old little girl looked like a burn victim. She was being tormented by Demodex, parasitic mites, which attack dogs with compromised immune systems. The first veterinarian she saw suggested she was beyond saving and should be euthanized. Many of us agreed doubting she could be saved. Joann Reagan was, however, determined to give her a chance and asked our transport specialist Jim, to bring her to Joann's home in Placerville. Jim was concerned Phoebe would not even survive the two hour drive. We were all concerned about the effort and expense which would be needed and questioned Joann's decision. She insisted this was "what rescue is all about" and dove into the situation with determination. This was not an easy fix but Phoebe was game no matter what came her way. She endured therapeutic baths every two days. About a week into her treatment a two inch gash spontaneously opened

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to the bone on her front leg requiring stitches. Everyone thought this was a lost cause except Phoebe and Joann.

Then slowly the corner began to be turned, Phoebe's puppy-like personality began to appear. Second Chance supporters stepped

up to cover the mounting medical costs. We began to recognize more than ever the dedication and wisdom Joann brings to our group. At Phoebe last exam, it was official, those dreadful mites are gone and she is close to being ready to go home to her lucky new family. Joann's local veterinary clinic has named Phoebe "Hero of the Year" for her dramatic recovery. We are proud to say Joann is a Second



Joann Reagan with Phoebe who is all healed up and never felt better in her life

Chance volunteer.

Our job does not stop with championing needy dogs. We find that helping the community brings a lot of satis-

faction too. One of our volunteers, Amy was asked by her Veterinarian if she would please contact another client who owned a cocker spaniel, as he was battling brain cancer and he needed help with his beloved Cocker Spaniel, Molly.

Molly stayed with Amy during Patrick's many brain surgeries, returning Molly to Patrick when he was able. In August, Patrick underwent yet another major brain surgery; unfortunately he did not bounce back as quickly as before. Amy would take Molly over about once a week for a visit until Patrick realized that it was time for us to find her a forever home as he knew he could no longer care for her. His wish was that Molly go to a forever home that was loving, would treat her like a princess, take her for walks, and play with her. Molly was posted on our website and we immediately started getting responses. We felt that Tom and Laura from San

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diately started getting responses. We felt that Tom and Laura from San Diego were an excellent choice for Molly. They were looking for two dogs so Molly would have a sibling. They picked out two possibilities for Molly and let Molly pick the one she wanted. Cooper, a one year old boy was her choice and off they both went to their new forever home in San Diego.

We have no doubt that Molly and Cooper are going to have a fantastic life and will be a wonderful part of Tom and Laura's family. Patrick has also found a sense of peace, knowing that Molly is safe and is in the best loving home we could have hoped for. It was a positive outcome all around.

Once a year, Second Chance Cocker Rescues holds a reunion picnic. If you have not joined us before, this is your chance to have tons of Cocker fun in the sun. Food's great, people are wonderful and the Cockers are amazing! This year we will be meeting at Rincon Beach on May 12th. You can get more info

and reserve lunch on our website SecondChanceCockerRescue.org.

Now that the Royal couple William and Kate has a Cocker Spaniel, maybe they will come back to Carpinteria and drop on by. Last year their visit corresponded to our picnic and they were at the Polo Fields while we were at Toro Canyon Park having fun with our Cocker Spaniels.

So who is invited? Everyone! Adopters, supporters, the Cocker lovin' public and what the heck, bring your friends and family too. Let's show off our dogs!

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