

THE MIA FOUNDATION

The Mia Foundation was developed to give animals with birth defects a fighting chance.



BY SUE ROGERS, FOUNDER OF THE MIA FOUNDATION

My precious Mia was born with a cleft palate. Mia had several surgeries, all of which had failed. Although she was taken to the top universities and to the top veterinarians, she was given little hope of survival. I was told that euthanasia was best. I refused to give up on her and vowed to fight for her as long as she continued to fight. She was given a chance at life, and even though her life was short-lived, she lived it to the fullest. She had to face many medical obstacles on her journey here, but she never let it overpower her love for life. Mia has inspired over 11,000 people from all over the world and continues to create miracles every day.

Sadly, Mia passed away from pneumonia on April 11th, 2012, just two months shy of her 2nd birthday. Her legacy lives on through The Mia Foundation which was created in her honor.

The Mia Foundation was developed to give animals born with birth defects a fighting chance. Mia was given a chance, and in return, gave so much love, hope, and inspiration to people all around the world. I have come to realize that Mia was sent here to help us all in whatever way possible. She was brought to this earth to show us courage and unconditional love. She was here to bring loving, caring people together from all over the world and to teach

us all to never give up, no matter what obstacles we may face. She taught us to be brave, to be strong, and to smile in the face of adversity. Most importantly, she taught us to love!

Since her death, Mia's story has inspired people to adopt animals with birth defects that may have otherwise been overlooked or not given a chance at life and love. Mia has educated thousands of people from all walks of life on how to care for a special needs animal. Because of her strength, determination, love, and her will to live, she has enriched the lives of countless individuals. She had a zest for life unlike any I have ever seen. Her tiny paw left a huge

imprint on so very many hearts. Mia has shown us all that miracles really do exist. She changed the world with just one smile!

One of our success stories is Little Max who was born with severe scoliosis. It was suggested that he be euthanized at birth. His breeder just couldn't take his life after seeing how hard he fought, and so he came to live with us at The Mia Foundation. When Max arrived at 6 weeks old, he could barely walk, but we worked his little legs and tried straightening his back several times a day and within a week he was not only walking, but running!

Although we continued his physical therapy, as Max grew, his spine was getting progressively worse. And then a new symptom occurred. We noticed that when people he didn't know held him, he would have a panic attack. These attacks became so bad that he was rushed to the vet several times and had to be sedated and given oxygen. My vet told me that we would lose Max during one of these attacks and I should consider euthanizing him. I decided to get my own oxygen tank to treat him immediately when I saw an attack coming on. The oxygen did wonders for

him and he came out of these attacks much sooner when I administered the oxygen at the first sign of an attack.

We saw two specialists in Rochester that both informed me that Max's condition was terminal. So, I brought him to Cornell University and they told me the same thing. They said that Max's bones would eventually crush his internal organs. We started searching for other vets around the country to take on Max's case because what I saw was a happy, healthy little puppy that just happened to have a curved spine, a puppy that deserved at least a chance. He could walk and run, wag his tail and play like any other puppy his age. Max has never shown any signs of pain.

We found a vet in Philadelphia that specialized in birth defects and genetic disorders that wanted to see Max. I was so hopeful that we had finally found someone willing to help him. When they finally called us into a room, we were once again told that nothing could be done. They said it was the worst case of scoliosis they had ever seen and also said that he was terminal and that I should consider euthanasia. They also said that Max only had one

functioning lung and his ribs were severely deformed as well as his spine.

We left there and I promised Max that I would never give up on him as long as he was happy and pain free. Max is 6 months old now. We never hold Max, for fear of pushing on his lung and causing a panic attack, but we have plenty of cuddle time on the floor and in bed. Max and his oxygen tank go everywhere with us. He must be monitored at all times so the oxygen can be administered if he needs it. The panic attacks are getting less frequent because we are more aware now as to what causes them.

We have decided to just let Max finish growing and see what happens. He is a funny little dog with quite the personality. None of the vets thought he would live this long, yet he is still here and doing very well. I don't know what the future holds for him, but I do know that we should not be so quick to euthanize these animals. If they are happy and not suffering then they deserve a chance at a happy life. They give back so much more than people realize. Max was the first animal taken in by The Mia Foundation and he has found his forever home right here with us.



PHOTO BY FLYIN FUR PET PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO BY FLYIN FUR PET PHOTOGRAPHY

Marcy



Another rescue is Marcy who was found on a "Free Ad" on Craigslist in Florida. We were told that she had a cleft palate and a cleft lip. The Mia Foundation sent a volunteer to go get her. She was tube fed and cared for by our volunteer until she was able to come to The Mia Foundation in New York. We knew she had a cleft lip, but we sent her to a specialist to determine if her palate was also affected. It turned out that she only had a cleft lip. She began eating on her own and was adopted in September 2012 and is living a happy, healthy life. Marcy is a perfect example of why cleft palate babies should be given a chance!!



For more information or to contact:

[www.facebook.com/pages/
Love-for-Mia-cleft-palate-chihuahua](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Love-for-Mia-cleft-palate-chihuahua)

www.facebook.com/TheMiaFoundation

www.themiasfoundation.com