

WITH LOVE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING

Myron, our blind dog, is a celebrity. He has a Facebook site with 5000 friends, has been featured in international newspapers and magazines, and receives fan mail from all over the world for his courage and charity work. His

videos on YouTube have gone viral, too. But things didn't look good for Myron when he started out, and they didn't get better for quite a while.

Myron's mother, probably a Border Collie Boxer mix, was dumped in Guildford, malnourished and pregnant.

A kind family took her in and let her have her litter in their home, and she had eight beautiful puppies. Luckily, all the puppies were adopted just before the family had to send them to a shelter:

I chose the little one with cross-eyes because I was afraid no one else would want him. But he was only six weeks old when we learnt that most of the puppies, including Myron, were blind, due to their mother's malnourishment. One by one the puppies were euthanased. But our encouraging vet believed that I could manage with a blind dog, and thankfully Myron was saved . . . but only to develop glaucoma a few months later! This time the vet said his eyes had to be removed, and to pay for the operation Terry, my generous husband, agreed to halt our home renovations at a time when we needed a new roof.

So Terry, Myron and I lived under a green tarp for two years until we could afford to finish the job. Was Myron worth it? Of course! But he wasn't out of the woods yet.

Next he developed allergies. Soon he needed treating every three weeks with a special serum developed by Sydney University. But it works, thank goodness, and keeps him comfortable. As if that wasn't enough, Myron then developed epilepsy, which was almost too much for us to bear at first. But Myron has such a joy for life, we just had to do everything we could to keep him going. He now needs to take twelve pills each day to control his seizures, but he is such a happy boy; despite his blindness, he has learnt to

fetch tennis balls and Frisbees, has a repertoire of wonderful tricks (which include impersonating a frog!), and loves his community service work. He has become a great four-legged fundraiser for the RSPCA and the cystic fibrosis cause.

Myron also brings incredible happiness to the elderly and the disabled people he visits. They seem to relate so well to him because, like them, he doesn't have just one disability to deal with – he needs to

take loads of different pills every day too! These people love and admire that Myron is still so happy, despite his health issues. And through his work, he's made some famous friends he likes to show off about too – he's had his picture taken with Kamahl, John Paul Young, Laine Beachly, Ita Buttrose, Ray Martin and Metallica, to name just a few of his mates.

I think Myron has inspired a following because he helps people understand that no matter what problems or illnesses you have to cope with, you can have joy in your life too. Myron teaches us that true happiness comes from helping others, no matter how bad your own situation might be. With love you can do anything. And we love you, Myron.

Raquel, New South Wales

Pet Rescue's Amazing Dog Stories is published by Penguin Group and available at good bookstores. www.petrescue.com.au

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HOW I MET MY PET

URBAN ANIMAL'S WRITING CONTEST

Many of our readers have been busy writing and we've received some great entries for our last competition. Entries for the subject "How I Met My Pet" have now closed and the winner will be announced and their winning entry be published in our March edition.



We can now announce our writing competition for 2012.

Submissions are invited for this short story contest which is open to everyone who is a legal resident of Australia. Entries should be pet-centric and written from the human point of view. The theme for this contest is "The Most Embarrassing Thing My Pet Has Ever Done".

Your entry should not exceed 1,000 words and cannot contain any instances of cruelty or abuse. Entries will be judged by Urban Animal editors and staff and based on literary merit and technical proficiency. By participating in the contest, entrants must certify that their work is original and has not been previously published or won any prior award. Entries must not infringe on the rights of a third party—including copyright, trademarks or rights of privacy and publicity.

Urban Animal reserves the right to reject entries that are not in the theme of the competition and/or contain offensive, or inappropriate content. The decision of Urban Animal judges is final relating to matters of the contest.

For full details of the contest and rules please go to www.urbananimal.net/writingcomp

The cut-off date for submissions is 1 November, 2012 and entries received after this date will not be eligible.

The winner will have their entry published in Urban Animal (at a date to be solely at the discretion of Urban Animal) and will be notified by email and/or phone.