

Monica's Rescue – Pasco County FL to DeLand FL to West Virginia by Truck!

By Maggi Hall, Dr. Erin Holder's Mom

Often through horrors in one's life Angels are miraculously Created. Monica was just such an Angel. When rescued and brought to FloridaWild I discovered her to be one of the sweetest most humble dogs I'd ever met. It was love at first sight. I wrapped my arms around her and wept for all I knew she'd been through.

A mixture of everything – boxer, pit, shepherd, this and that – she was worn thin by abuse and overbreeding, malnourished and ill. Monica arrived at FloridaWild from Pasco County in relay by two devoted drivers. Seeing her I knew this adoption would be a long and difficult one. How wrong I was!

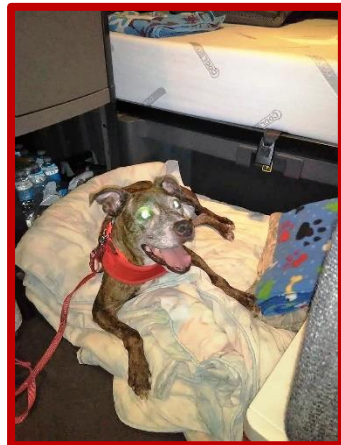
FloridaWild staff and veterinarians worked their compassion and care on Monica so the short time she had left would be as pain free as possible. But who would want a pet who was emaciated unhealthy, beaten down, with little time left? I decided I'd take her home if no one adopted her - after all what's "one more?" And of course, I had the best hospital to use!

Monica was placed on the adoption website. Within days God intervened as a vet tech in West Virginia saw her bio and contacted us stating emphatically: *"I want Monica."* I couldn't believe it!!! After checking Amanda's references, calling her veterinarian employer we were told she would be the perfect mom for our Monica. An adoption sight unseen and states away? What if she became ill? How would we get her there? But I knew in my heart Amanda was where Monica needed to be.

Once again, the rescue transports stood ready to assist. They were in contact with a truck driver whose route was the Eastern Seaboard. He offered to transport Monica, for free, the three days it would take.

The women, who lived in the Orlando area, drove to FloridaWild to take Monica back with them to await the truck driver's pickup the following morning. Monica sported a new collar, halter, and leash and stood somewhat confused as I snapped a dozen photos and kissed her good-bye between hugs, laughter, and tears. And then she was gone from my life.... Or so I thought.

The truck driver recorded his trip with this precious cargo via text and photos which were relayed to Amanda who waited with great anticipation.



Monica takes over the cab!

Monica rests on her special bed when not needing to be the "back seat driver."

Monica proudly stands in front of **HER** truck, the adventure a peaceful three-day journey.

When Monica arrived "HOME" the affectionate greeting changed her life forever....

Little did I realize and how thankful I became to learn that Amanda wanted to share Monica's life with me. Monica got the most ideal Mom ever and I made a new friend with a generous heart. The photo says it all as Monica receives what I believe to be the first loving embrace and kiss she'd ever felt. **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.**

Knowing Monica was given only a few months to live Amanda enveloped her in love, compassion, tender care, and outstanding medical treatment. Nothing was too good for Monica; she was spoiled rotten and in so doing Amanda "unleashed" – no pun intended – a monster. Though Amanda was told Monica was aggressive with other dogs, she fell into place with Amanda's menagerie though she decided to control the crowd and reign as Queen.

She became an "imp" - pulling blinds down, tearing up pillows, romping across furniture chasing imaginary squirrels, and in general laying waste to her new home. Amanda laughed, sent photos, and kept spoiling her.

Monica, it seemed, came into puppyhood – something she evidently missed from her earlier wretched life.

When Amanda took her for car rides, she'd stop at a fast food drive-thru and order Monica a couple of hamburgers. A special treat obviously! It didn't even phase Amanda when Monica needed to relieve herself while eating and pooped all over the back seat of the car amidst burgers! One tale after another Amanda shared with me. Together we laughed and shed tears of joy that Monica had been "reborn." **What had been a three-month expected life to live became a YEAR of gratitude and deep joy for both Amanda and Monica.**

Monica's gift of a full year ended too soon for Amanda. She found her one terrible morning having passed away while sleeping; a peaceful departure to the Rainbow Bridge. Though Amanda had half a dozen dogs there was and would be only **ONE MONICA.** Grief can last a lifetime for many pet owners; in this case it will for Amanda.

What we have to hold dear are the stories and photos of that beautiful spark of energy who was given – finally – a taste of the good life. Thank you, Amanda, for all you did for Monica. No one else could have assured her an entire year of being spoiled absolutely rotten. You both were blessed.

