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22 in 22

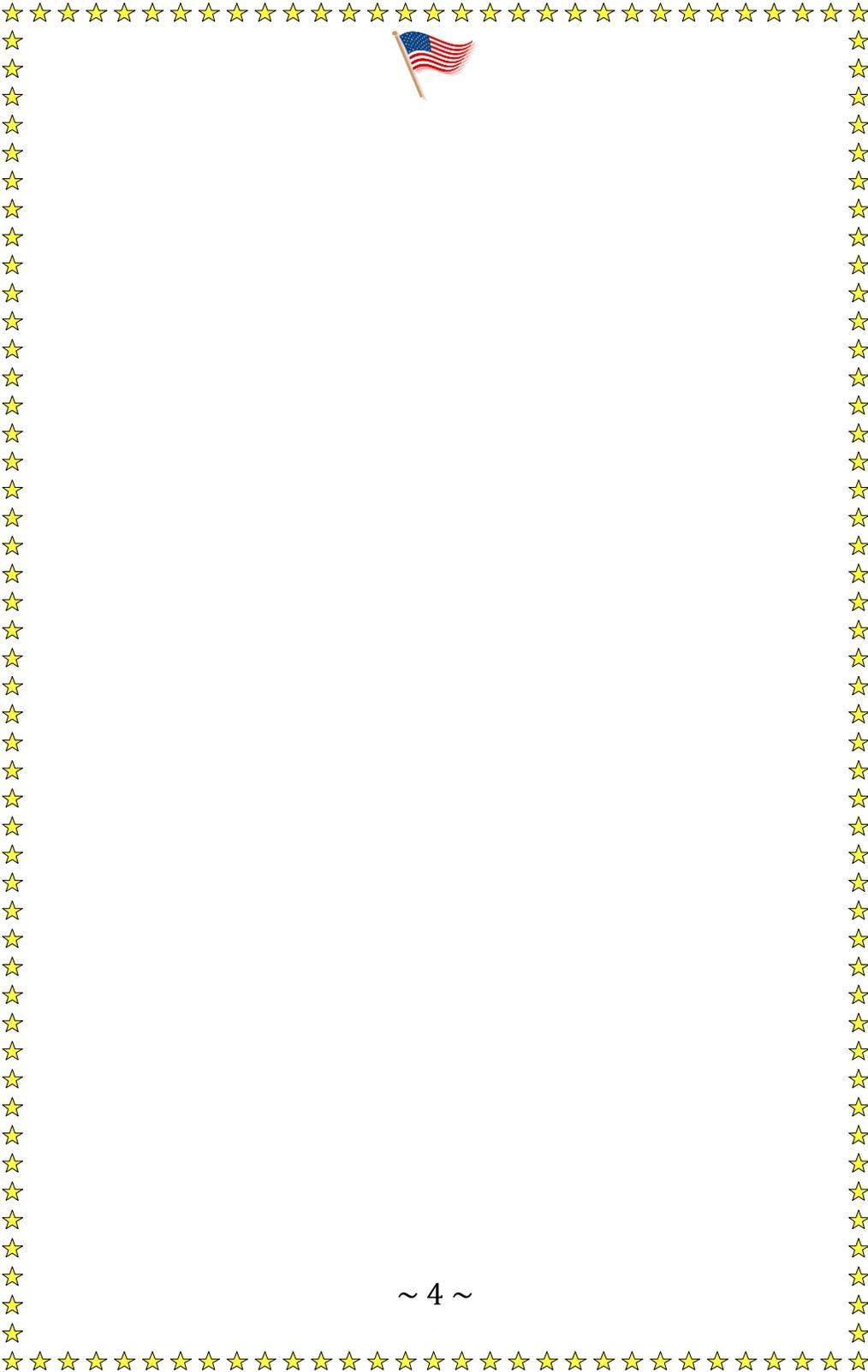
## DEDICATION

*To all our military veterans who selflessly  
give their service and lives for our freedom.  
Let us never forget their sacrifices*



*~Our deepest gratitude & respects*

*Joel Rockey – One Last Treat  
Zach Skow – Marley's Mutts  
Melissa Borden – The Devoted Barn*



## FOREWORD

Statistics show that veteran suicides have reached as high as 22 per day in recent years. Recently, that number has dropped to 20 per day, but any number is still too many.

One Last Treat, along with Marley's Mutts Dog Rescue and The Devoted Barn have created the *22 in 22 Campaign* where we rescue 22 shelter animals in 22 days to create awareness of this horrific statistic. Our goal is to save lives – both human and fur and to help give veterans a purpose where they feel they have none.

As a veteran, I was always aware of the grim statistics surrounding veteran suicide. I realized that a certain percentage of veterans getting out of the service lost the value they held on their very own life, and many would choose to end it all.

At one point in my life, I thought I had been the best possible version of myself, but it is with constant service to others that I realized that was not true. Thankfully, I was fortunate enough to find my passion after service as fast as I did and that was to continue to be of service to others. My mission for the *22 in 22 Campaign* is to take a negative situation and find a way to create value and awareness through service. Not only for veterans, but for the shelter dogs as well. Many veterans adopt, foster &/or volunteer



their time for this program and I hope this momentum will continue and carry on for many years to come. We've gained many incredible family members over the past two years, since the inception of this program, and we are confident there will be many more to come.

~Joel Rockey,  
Founder, One Last Treat

22 in 22

June 13, 2017

DAY 1

BRUTUS



~ 7 ~



Brutus, at age ten, was rescued from the Ridgecrest Animal Shelter in Ridgecrest, California. He was the perfect candidate to begin the mission of rescuing 22 dogs in 22 days.

Brutus immediately became part of One Last Treat's 'Vet Friend Till the End' program and was adopted in California by Wayne who is a USAF – VFTE veteran.

Thank you Wayne, for your service.



22 in 22

June 14, 2017

DAY 2

MR. BURNS





Mr. Burns, rescued from Kern County Animal Services was in pretty bad shape when we pulled him from the shelter in Bakersfield, CA. This ancient little man was blind, deaf and had some pretty severe arthritis. Now a resident of Marley's Mutts, he will live out his last chapter in hospice, receiving the most love and attention he's probably ever received. He will know compassion and dignity in his final days, which is all any of us desire.

*"I've loved you all my life. Please don't throw me away because I'm old. Keep me beside you until I'm ready to leave this body behind."*



22 in 22

June 15, 2017

DAY 3

TONY DANZA



~ 11 ~



“*Hold me closer Tiny Dancer!*” Tony Danza was rescued from Kern County Animals Services in Bakersfield, CA on Day 3 and became part of the One Last Treat gang. Just barely entering his senior years, he still has plenty of life left in him and is patiently waiting to be adopted. He has a few tumors on his chest, but is a very well behaved and affectionate gentleman. He is looking for the perfect companion and we’re confident he’ll find his “Vet Friend Till the End” companion. No matter what, he’ll let you know *Who’s The Boss!*



22 in 22

June 16, 2017

DAY 4

Mr. BENNETT



~ 13 ~



Mr. Bennett was rescued from Shafter Animal Control in Shafter, CA on Day 4 and quickly signed up with Marley's Mutts to find his fur-ever home. Fortunately, this handsome little man didn't have to wait long. He was quickly snatched up, packed his bags and took off on a 14-hour plane ride to go live out his inner Eskimo in Alaska.

*"The dog is a gentleman; I hope to go to his heaven, not man's."*

*~ Mark Twain*



22 in 22

June 17, 2017

DAY 5

AVA



~ 15 ~



Ava, a little Cocker Spaniel, was rescued from the Ridgecrest Animal Shelter in Bakersfield, CA. She joined the One Last Treat family, but was adopted her first day out of the shelter and is now living her best life.

*“Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well.”*

*~ -Bonnie Wilcox*



22 in 22

June 18, 2017

DAY 6

MARGE



~ 17 ~



Large Marge was rescued from Shafter Animal Control on Day 6 of 22 in 22. This little Chihuahua quickly found her person through One Last Treat and was adopted along with her boyfriend, Little Red (*see day 12*) to begin her happily fur-ever after in the Great Lake state of Michigan!



*“The poor dog, in life the firmest friend. The first to welcome, foremost to defend.” ~ Lord Byron*

22 in 22

June 19, 2017

DAY 7

PATCHES



~ 19 ~



Patches found himself a resident of Kern County Animal Services after his dad died and there was no one to take care of him. Being a senior dog in a shelter, he had little to no chance of being adopted. He has his good days and not so good days as was fighting kennel cough when he was rescued and he has some arthritis that flares up at times. Once he got of the shelter, he joined the Marley's Mutts family and you can see a new light in his eyes that wasn't there before. There's no doubt he misses his dad and doesn't understand how he came to be here, but we are confident he will find a new fur-ever home and live out his days with dignity and knowing only love and compassion.



*"Petting, scratching, and cuddling a dog could be as soothing to the mind and heart as deep meditation and almost as good for the soul as prayer." ~Dean Koontz*

22 in 22

June 20, 2017

DAY 8

HAPPY



~ 21 ~



Happy, *who is Pop's doppelganger*, is a little senior Chihuahua rescued from Kern County Animal Services. He made the trek across the county with One Last Treat and currently resides in his fur-ever foster in Ohio.

♪ *Can you feel the love tonight....*” ♪



22 in 22

June 21, 2017

DAY 9

4 DOBERMAN PUPPIES



~ 23 ~



On June 20<sup>th</sup>, four orphaned Doberman puppies were brought to Kern County Animal Services. Legally if puppies are under 8 weeks old without their mama, they will be euthanized. These puppies had either been stolen or abandoned, so Marley's Mutts stepped right up and rescued them from the shelter and immediately got them into a foster home and they have since been adopted.

Fast forward four months:  
Recently the adopters checked in and we were able to learn about the puppies' progress.

Annie is doing great in her new home. She and her fur-brother Arlo quickly became BFFs.



22 in 22

Billy the Kid is doing great with the whole family and as you can see has grown by leaps and bounds!



Doc Holiday (now known as Bowie) has fit right in with the whole family. Seems pretty content even at the vet!



~ 25 ~



And Jesse James (now named Nuno), has grown and thrived so much, they sent us a picture next to his original glamour shot. Little guy grew like a weed!



**Marley's Mutts for life!**



22 in 22

**June 22 & June 23, 2017**

**Day 10 & Day 11**

**SELMA & PATTY**



~ 27 ~



Selma & Patty were rescued from Downey Animal Shelter for Day 11 & 12 of 22 in 22. Their owner had passed away and sadly there was no contingency plan to take care of these golden girls. Thankfully One Last Treat stepped up to rewrite their ending. They made the trek from California to Michigan and became members of the “Vet Friend Till the End” program. They are now living their best lives as Betty & Mabel with their Vet Friend.



THE ROAD TO MY  
♥ HEART  
IS PAVED WITH  
*paw prints*

22 in 22

June 24, 2017

DAY 12

LITTLE RED



~ 29 ~



Little Red was found as a stray on streets of Bakersfield, CA. It was this little Chihuahua's lucky day as he packed his kerchief and headed east with the One Last Treat team and Marge (*see Day 6*). Once in Michigan, Little Red and Marge found their fur-ever home and he's living like a king in their canine dream paw-to-paw.



22 in 22

June 25 2017

DAY 13

AALEY



~ 31 ~



Aaley is a meat trade dog survivor. She and Saffron (*see Day 14*) were rescued from a slaughter house in China by Animal Hope & Wellness Foundation. 13 was definitely Aaley's lucky number as she was Day 13 of the 22 in 22 program. This was the day she became part of the Marley's Mutts family. She and Saffron went on to be part of Marley's Mutt's Pawsitive Change Inmate Canine Training program. She passed the program with flying colors and has since been adopted and is living the life of a queen!

*"You won't change the world by saving an animal, but you will change that animal's world."*



22 in 22

June 26, 2017

DAY 14

SAFFRON



~ 33 ~



Saffron, along with Aaley (*see Day 13*) is a meat trade dog survivor. These two girls were rescued from a slaughter house in China by Animal Hope & Wellness Foundation. Saffron, aka Saffy, is a 2-to-3 year terrier mutt who endured hell, but you would never know it. She is a happy, outgoing, very personable pup. By all rights, she should hate humans, but she is loving life and the people she's around.

She, along with Aaley headed into Marley's Mutts Pawsitive Change Inmate Canine Training Program and no doubt could understand these men more than many of us. After graduating the program, she has been adopted and living the life of a princess in her fur-ever home.



22 in 22

June 27, 2017

DAY 15

MR. SMITHERS



~ 35 ~



Mr. Smithers was rescued from the Downey Animal Care Center just south of Los Angeles on Day 15. Mr. Smithers is a little blind Chihuahua who joined up with One Last Treat and headed back to Michigan where he found fur-ever home.



22 in 22

June 28, 2017

DAY 16

MAUDE



~ 37 ~



Ms. Maude, is a fat little senior Chihuahua lady, rescued from the Ridgecrest Animal Shelter. Our amazing West Coast One Last Treat scooped her up and she was adopted as part of the “Vet Friend Till the End” program. She’ll know nothing but love and comfort the rest of her days.



*“You can’t change a dog’s past, but you could rewrite his future.”*

22 in 22

June 29, 2017

DAY 17

WONDER WOMAN



~ 39 ~



Day 17 by far, was the hardest rescue we've ever done. Wonder Woman was rescued from Kern County Animal Shelter. This gorgeous lady was about 13 years old, but sadly had been neglected all her life. On top of the neglect, she then developed a huge cancerous tumor on one of her front legs and was dumped in the streets. We knew she was facing her final days, so we decided the best gift we could give her would be to rescue her and give her a bucket list day. And so we did. Left in the shelter she would have continued to shut down and live in darkness. Even with all her health issues – her tumor, the deformity in her other front leg, her blindness, we knew we could give her some light and by giving that to her, she gave it back to us 100 times over.

This lucky lady got to spend the last of her days with three handsome men who spoiled her any way and every way they could. She visited the Wizard of Paws and had a spectacular spa day – mani/pedi, oatmeal scrub, and facial – the works. She walked out of there with some pep in her step and a fancy red bow around her neck.

Next up was a road trip with the boys! First they treated her to a meal fit for a queen. This lovely lady thoroughly enjoyed a triple cheeseburger and a nap in the sun. And then off to the park where she basked in the sun some more and received all the love and attention from the guys. Next she went with the guys to meet and greet the dogs at Animal Hope and Wellness who were rescued from the meat trade

22 in 22

in China. After a long love-filled day, Wonder Woman returned home with the guys, tired but at peace.

Left in the shelter, she would have been overcome with darkness, fear and loneliness. We found out more about ourselves because of her. We helped a stranger, this broken down dog at the shelter, but what she gave us in return cannot be measured. We gave her a day where she knew nothing but light and love and comfort and dignity.

What we gave her in death was just as valuable as what we gave her in life. No words were exchanged, but her spirit told us she was ready to go. As hard as it was, we were ready to respect that it was her time.

May there always be a bit of Wonder Woman in all of us. Life isn't always sunshine and rainbows, but we made sure to give her a day full of love and sunshine so when she passed over the rainbow bridge, she did so escorted with love, compassion and dignity.

*“Why? Because I looked into a Dog’s eyes and have seen a soul as real as mine.”*

***RIP Wonder Woman - 2017***



22 in 22

June 30, 2017

DAY 18 (1/2)

LUCY



~ 43 ~



Day 18 was a double down day. Two dogs won the lottery on opposite sides of the country.

Lucy a sweet old Beagle was rescued by The Devoted Barn and soon after became part of the One Last Treat team. She was plagued with some health issues and ended up having emergency surgery to save her life. She is currently living in her fur-ever foster (fail) home with OLT's first lady, Mary.

To quote Mary, *"You had me at aroo, baby girl!"*



22 in 22

June 30, 2017

DAY 18 (2/2)

**KRACKERS**



~ 45 ~



Krackers was also rescued on Day 18 from the Downey Animal Care Center just south of Los Angeles, CA. Krackers was just one of those older dogs who deserved a new home and to live out the rest of his days with love and dignity.

He's a happy little guy - short and stout, and pretty independent. He's happy to do his own thing but definitely likes random kisses and pets when he's in the mood. He became part of the Marley's Mutts family and is waiting to find the perfect human to cuddle with.

*"You can't buy love, but you can rescue it."*

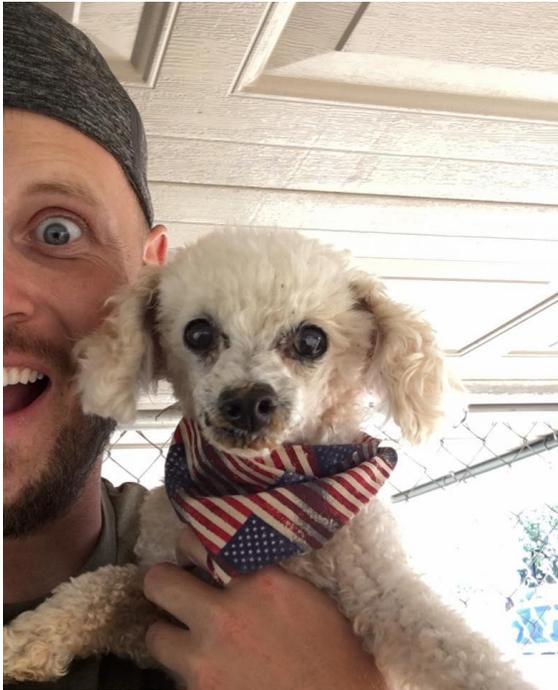
dogs leave  
paw prints   
on your heart

22 in 22

July 01, 2017

DAY 19

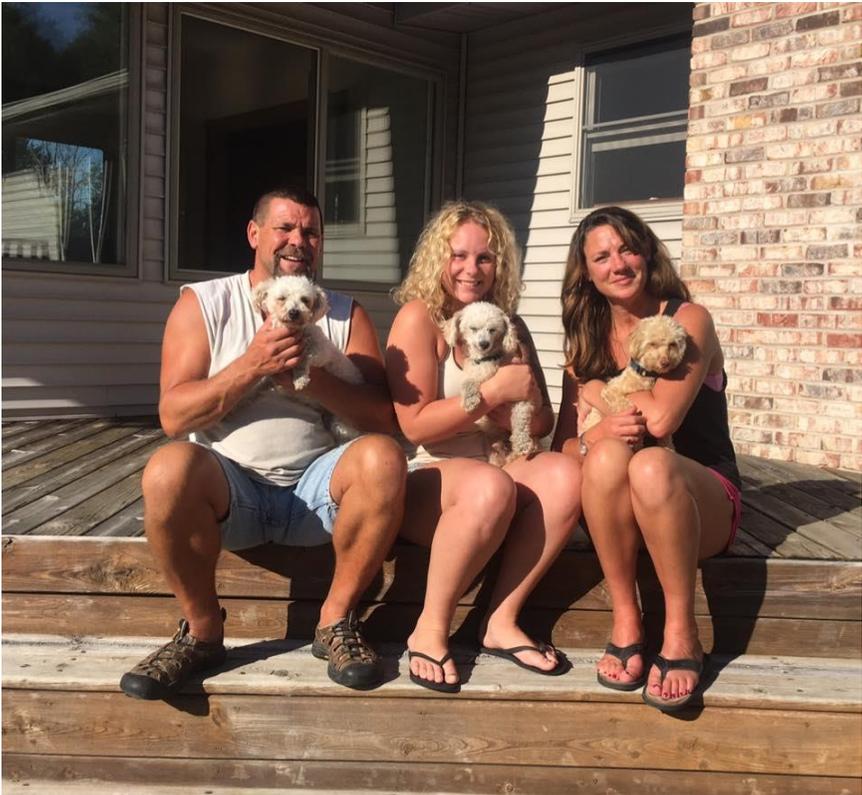
ARCHIE



~ 47 ~



Archie, a feisty little mini-poodle was rescued from Kern County Animal Shelter on Day 19! He quickly became a member of the One Last Treat pack and made the trek to Michigan and found a home right away. He's a little bossy, but with that cute face, who can resist? Here he is with his fur-ever family and siblings living happily fur-ever after!



22 in 22

July 02, 2017

DAY 20

SQUEAK



~ 49 ~



Our little nugget Squeak is the youngest of our 22 in 22 cast. What started out as a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in a campground in Michigan, turned tragic when his mom ran away, most likely scared off by the fireworks. The Devoted Barn was called in to help find her but sadly found her after she had been killed on the highway – hit by a car. The Devoted Barn, without hesitation, took care of Mom and also rescued this little pup and gave him the care he needed to survive without his mama.

Squeak, now known as Indiana Capone Jones, is now living the life of luxury. Here he is pictured with the daughter of one of The Devoted Barn volunteers whom he now shares a home with. Thankfully this little nugget dodged a death sentence of his own and will live a long and happy, healthy life.



22 in 22

July 03, 2017

DAY 21

WEAVER





This sweet boy Weaver was rescued from Monroe County Animal Shelter by The Devoted Barn. He is about 2 years old and extremely shy. He is so handsome with the most beautiful, soulful eyes.

Weaver is currently residing at The Devoted Barn where he's learning how to trust other animals as well as humans. He doesn't seem to mind other dogs or cats, just a bit shy when meeting new people. He has just started going out for group play. He's quite timid still will follow a volunteer around at a close distance.

When he's ready, Weaver will need a family with patience and time to work with him to show him he is loved and help him to feel safe and secure. In the meantime, he's getting the best of love and care living at The Devoted Barn.



*"We don't always need advice. Sometimes all we need is a hand to hold, an ear to listen and a heart that understands. Sometimes, all we need is a dog."*

22 in 22

July 04, 2017

DAY 22

FRAN



~ 53 ~



Ms. Fran has the distinct honor of being the 22<sup>nd</sup> dog rescued for this year's 22 in 22 campaign. Fran was rescued from the Monroe County Animal Shelter by The Devoted Barn on behalf of One Last Treat. This beautiful German Shepard is currently waiting for her fur-ever homes (*sans cats*). She's still pretty active for an older lady, but definitely needs a home that understands the breed. We would love to find her a vet friend and have her become part of the "Vet Friend Till the End" program.



22 in 22

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FREE OLD FASHIONED BBQ**

**HONORING #22IN22 FOR VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS**



**July 4, 2017 ~ Noon - 3pm**

**The Devoted Barn, 6227 N. Dixie Hwy., Newport, MI 48166**

**3 Rescues join forces...In an effort to Bring Awareness  
to Suicide Among Veterans!**

**Joel Rockey from One Last Treat  
Zach Skow from Marley's Mutts  
Melissa Borden from The Devoted Barn**

**Join Joel, Melissa and the community for good food, good  
music and good memories!**

**Honoring all who served!**

~ 55 ~



**About One Last Treat:**

One Last Treat™ was founded in 2016 by three military veterans who realized they still had desire and a passion to continue to serve after their military careers ended. The organization’s mission is to provide comfort, compassion and ‘one last treat’ to those animals who are all too often overlooked because they are labeled severely at-risk and/or ‘soon-to-be-passing.’ It became their mission to rescue senior animals; provide a safe and loving environment so they could live out the rest of their lives with compassion and dignity and unconditional love. The desire is to allow these animals to live out their final days with love and dignity – something many of them have never known – and ultimately bring to light the fact that there *is* such a thing as ‘too late’ for these animals and many more like them. No one should die alone and lonely. One Last Treat goes to lengths to pursue this mission with love, honor, respect and integrity. Some of these animals may have been someone’s beloved pet at one time. Some may have been strays or simply living in horrific situations. Maybe their owner died, or just didn’t want them anymore. We will never know their stories, but we can determine their futures. No one – human or animal - deserves to simply be disposed of. [www.onelasttreat.org](http://www.onelasttreat.org)

**About Marley’s Mutts:**

Marley’s Mutts is a non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates, trains and re-homes death row dogs from Kern County’s high-kill animal shelters. In addition, we utilize the rescued dogs to transform people’s lives. Through the power of the human-canine bond, we empower dogs and people to live healthy, happy and productive lives. Kern County’s shelters are bursting at the seams and register some of the highest euthanasia rates in the country. We are committed to these shelter dogs simply because they have NO ONE and are closest to

death. These dogs are at the shelter because they have been abandoned, lost, neglected, discarded or abused and many of them have no way out but RESCUE. These dogs are without family, love or representation and we aim to save as many as we can. We are their rescuers, their voice and their future. [www.marleymutt.org](http://www.marleymutt.org)

**About The Devoted Barn:**

The Devoted Barn is an animal rescue and rehabilitation facility in Newport, Michigan. Animals from all kinds from cruelty, neglect, and large scale hoarding cases have a chance to find comfort and solace and the opportunity of a new life after spending time at the barn. Animals that are unowned and/or have a need for urgent medical attention get the treatment and love they need and deserve. In addition to these cases, there is also have a large feral dog program in place. These animals come to The Devoted Barn to heal both physically and emotionally. They learn to trust and love again, and some experience that for the first time in their lives. . In addition to helping the animals, their mission is to teach compassion and empathy to others through working with the animals. The Devoted Barn is a place where broken animals and broken people mingle and truly help each other. It is a true safe haven. [www.thedevotedbarn.com](http://www.thedevotedbarn.com)



