



Chip's history is not known but he was rescued by SSR from a pound in Yorkshire a few days before he came to me. He had been picked up as a stray. Chip was in a terrible state - very underweight (under 10 kilos), huge bald patches due to skin condition (and I believe stress) and covered in scabs. His teeth are little brown stumps and we think they may have been filed down in the past. Sadly we suspect he was a bait dog, which would account for his scars and the aggression towards other dogs and his teeth being filed down.

The photos SSR put on Facebook of poor little Chip captured my heart. It was his expression of sheer anxiety and him being in such terribly poor condition and I just could not stop thinking about him.

Chip was initially thought to be a very young dog, described as 10 months old when I first saw his photo on SSR page. He looked so tiny. However, when we collected him, we took him to the vet for his vaccinations and the vet said he was a middle aged dog although difficult to be very accurate due to his lack of teeth.

After some serious thought about how we could provide a suitable home for another dog, I contacted one of my oldest and dearest friends, Fiona Shepherd, who is a founder member of SSR. After a lot of discussion with Fiona and her checking my home and lifestyle were suitable, we collected little Chip a couple of days later. Poor, poor wee soul that he was but despite everything, he was friendly and affectionate with my children and me. Chip had a very busy few weeks as we live in the country and he had to meet, horses, chickens, sheep and other livestock as well as learn that rabbits, squirrels, hedgehogs, birds etc are not just there for him to chase (a couple were lucky his teeth are practically non existent but no real harm done to anything!).

Chip was also aggressive towards other dogs and it took some time to build his confidence and train him to relax and behave when meeting new dogs. He can now play safely with up to 12 other dogs when at the stables visiting our young pony.





Rescued by Staffie Smiles - Fact File - CHIP



By Melanie Sinclair

Chip's physical condition was relatively easy to improve; good quality food, worming, exercise and security were all he needed. He was so afraid of being left when out walking, that he couldn't run around and stuck within feet of me for a long time. Even now, he is always catching my eye when we're out and about.

Where is he now?

Chip lives with Jane Lothian and her family she says, "I was very lucky to adopt Chip in February 2015." Chip is a very special dog to me. He is remarkable to have survived goodness knows what kind of cruelty and neglect in his past and his amazing love for people and strength of character has allowed him to forgive and trust enough for him to enjoy his life.

This morning, I was very proud of Chip when some semi-tame ducks wandered into the garden, his prey instinct is strong and he just couldn't resist going to chase them, however, he stopped and came back as soon as I called him. We also live next to a field of sheep at the moment and he has become desensitised and not once even attempted to go near them.

Favorite things:

Chip loves our pony, they seem to share similar playful personalities and I have to keep a close eye on them as they will run around the field together - only playing and both can initiate it but I don't want to risk any accidents so they are banned from this activity!



I am hoping that Chip's story might encourage people to see the potential for a dog who's in a terrible physical condition. I have always chosen to have animals in very poor condition in need of rescue - the young pony is the latest and maybe that's why she and chip seem to have such an unusual friendship. He is quite cocky though and does silly things like just running

under the horses if it's the shortest route - he hasn't been kicked yet as our horses are used to dogs and very tolerant with him being a town boy!

There really is nothing more rewarding than nursing and nurturing an animal back to good health and watching them enjoying life as they should be. What I have now is a handsome prince who has gone from under 10kilos to 17 kilos and although he's middle aged, most people we meet think he's a puppy. He is very playful and does have a cute puppy look about him. Chip is also a very brave dog and he makes us all laugh doing things like jumping in the air barking at fireworks and trying to chase horrendously loud, low flying jets that everyone else gets a fright with. He certainly is a small dog with a big personality. He has brought us so much love, fun and adventures and although there have been some issues, we would never be without our gorgeously, adorable little Chipster.



Rescued by Staffie Smiles - Fact File -

LEXI, INDY & TUBS

By Theresa Trotter



We adopted Lexi in 2014 and I wasn't keen on 'Staffies' at all, I was one of those people who would cross the street when I saw one! My partner had had 'Staffies' in the past and said they were fantastic dogs. So I agreed and Lexi arrived, she settled in straight away and loved going out for walks and playing in the garden with her toys. We let her off the lead after two weeks and she came back no problem, she cosied in and was a sook.

Unfortunately she took unwell after about 7 weeks and after various trips to the vet and the animal hospital she was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer that surrounded her heart, we decided it best to let her go, we were absolutely devastated. That wee Staffie had changed my mind about the breed in the short space of 8 weeks and then she was gone.



After a few weeks of having an empty house we got in touch with Staffie Smiles and adopted Indy. She was an insecure wee thing and had terrible separation anxiety, we stood outside in the freezing cold in the winter coming in and out every five minutes. Two weeks later she stopped howling while we were out, she knew we were coming home for her. She also had a little chewing issue, but quickly resolved.

Then Tubs arrived with us in December as his forever home had fallen through, we were fostering until he found a home. He was so scared and quiet and wouldn't come near anyone, he was petrified of men. I decided straight away he was staying. I had to keep him and let him know he would be loved and could trust people again. Two years we have had him now, he and Indy are the best of friends and love their walks.



We have a son who is 17 months old and both my staffies adore him and are very patient with him and love hoovering up his biscuit crumbs. It's not been an easy road for any of these rescue dogs but I honestly believe if you give them the love and respect they deserve you will get it back in abundance. Would never get another dog apart from a Staffie.



Janine Burns is a volunteer with Staffie Smiles Rescue and has a rescue dog through SSR. Andrea is her next door neighbour and friend. She got to know both Janine's dogs and asked her about fostering and helping with Rescue due to her having more time on her hands. Andrea has been very unwell over the last couple of years and who better to help her recuperate than a dog.

Deakin was in Rosewell kennels and Janine took her up to meet him and walk him, she brought him home for a couple of days to see how he would get on, but as soon as he walked through her door he moved in! After a week or so Andrea approached Janine and said that she couldn't bear to part with Deakin as it felt like he had always been part of the family. He looked it too. So another failed foster!



Where is he now?

Deakin is enjoying life with Andrea and regular fun with Janine and her dogs. He recently became a Hero! One afternoon Andrea was taking him for his walk through our woods which are opposite our houses. They were on his normal path and he started to pull Andrea in another direction, which was off the track. Andrea is not strong and he was pulling really hard, she had to let him go. He ran down a track and stood barking into what is a ditch that runs drainage water down it. He was very excited and barking and Andrea thought it was kids messing about but when she got to him she found a lady in the ditch in her electric wheelchair/scooter. She was stuck but thankfully not hurt physically. Andrea couldn't manage to free her on her own and called Janine who came across and they decided to call emergency services. The lady had 2 poodles with her and Deakin was very calm with them even though both dogs were very anxious and upset about their owner. She is very grateful to Deakin and fed him lots of treats when she got out the ditch. Andrea says "Deakin was totally fab!"

Deakin loves socialising and meeting people! He is representing Staffie Smiles Rescue at the Scottish SBT Club Champ Show in May.