



Our First Year

2022 to 2023

Our intention was to start small, one dog or cat at a time, and to slowly grow.

Instead, in our first month of operation, we took in 27 beagles from the Envigo breeding facility in Virginia after it was shuttered following a federal investigation of animal welfare violations. These beagles, bred to be sold to laboratories, pulled at the heartstrings of many, and, though they didn't know it, made some history.

We were honored to help these dogs on to the next - much better - chapter of their lives!

That was a big rescue for a brand-new, very small, all-volunteer-run non-profit!

Since we hit the ground running, we just kept going: a request for help from a rescue on the East Coast brought us Hobbs, the broken beagle who had suffered cruel confinement for over four years.

In December **we drove north to rescue 12 beagles from a laboratory**, found ourselves stuck for days due to closed highways, and then finally drove them home in a blizzard over icy mountain roads.

I remember how surreal that drive felt. It was the middle of the night but weirdly light with the snow. Sometimes I was the only car on the road, and the beagles so quiet in the back, not knowing what was ahead for them. **Not knowing their lives were changing for the better.**

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat, nor gloom of night..."

When I think back over our first year and a half, I'm stunned by how much coffee has been consumed to keep us going. Cage to Couch runs on coffee.

I'm also surprised by how many lives we've saved. That makes me uncomfortable to write those words; saying "we've saved lives" feels like aggrandizement. Then I think of what would have happened to many of these dogs and cats if we hadn't taken them in and I know they wouldn't have survived. That definitely makes all those Starbucks receipts worth it.

When I say, "we," I most assuredly mean you and us, Cage to Couch. We are 100% dependent on the support of other like-minded individuals and organizations to save lives, and we wouldn't have saved any of those dogs or cats without your generosity.

While we're surprised by how much we were able to accomplish last year, we wanted to do so much more. There are animal testing laboratories across the United States, the vast majority of which are not releasing animals to us or to anyone. We want them all to answer our calls.

The shelters in Southern California are beyond capacity and forced to euthanize for space. We want to help take in more of the seniors and special medical needs and get them help and into loving homes.

It feels like we can't work fast enough or hard enough. **We feel a real sense of urgency** as there are so many innocent beings waiting for help, but, like all rescue organizations, even the large ones, we are constrained by time and manpower and resources and funding.

We have ideas and dreams, short-term and long-term goals, budgets and strategic plans, but mostly, **our plan is to do more and do better.**

In 2024 we want to contact more laboratories and convince them to release more research animals to us, to answer more pleas from shelters and give more dogs and cats their freedom rides from cages to waiting arms.

We want to save more lives and learn every lesson we can along the way, so we keep getting better at what we do... **so we can save more lives.**

Mary Pryor
President and Co-founder

Why We Do What We Do

OUR MISSION

Cage to Couch provides medical care and loving homes to rescued laboratory research survivors and others who have endured neglect, abandonment, abuse and cruelty, especially seniors and those with special medical needs.

Until the day when animals are no longer used for research and testing, we work to help as many as possible have the chance to live as beloved family members, and raise awareness about animal testing and alternatives to animal testing.

We advocate for cruelty-free purchasing choices and educate all to know that former research animals can have happily-ever-afters.

OUR VISION

We envision a more humane world where humans do not impose suffering on animals.

We strive to be a role model for turning compassion into action by fostering empathy and humane treatment for animals through rescue, education, and advocacy.

**“Unless someone
like you cares
a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going
to get better.
It’s not.”**

~Dr. Seuss

Our Core Values

Empathy and Compassion

We see and hear with empathy
We act with compassion

—

Passion, Courage, and Resolve

We act with swift and focused purpose, allowing room for mistakes,
while seeking continuous growth and understanding

—

Trust and Transparency

We do what we say we do

We take care of resources placed in our hands
through the generosity of others

We are open and honest in our goals, failures, and successes

—

Respect

We listen to learn

—

Community and Collaboration

We seek to include all who want to help animals live better lives
and we endeavor to collaborate
with other like-minded and serious organizations

—

Do More and Be Better

83

dogs saved

73

spays and neuters
and dental procedures

14


major surgeries
and medical treatment

6

kitties rescued

51 of the 83 dogs rescued are laboratory survivors. We, of course, wish that number was in the hundreds, but for a brand-new rescue, we feel like we could barely catch our breath between one rescue to the next.

The number of major surgeries and medical treatment is a fairly high percentage, again, especially for a very small rescue. We are only able to do, and to continue to do extensive medical care because of our relationship with our veterinarian who has been an incredible partner in our rescue operation. We are inclined to take the tough cases from the shelters because we work with a vet whom we trust, is an experienced and intuitive diagnostician and skilled surgeon, and whose heart is in rescue.



After months of effort working out the logistics during a tough time for importing dogs from overseas, one fine spring day we were finally able to bring home Mei from China.

This girl so needed our help: suffering from severe double ear infections and neglected chronic dry eye, Mei has endured a lot of pain in her three years, yet, she faces the world with the most upbeat and sweet personality.

Mei is an enthusiast and her joyful nature is infectious.

Our 2024 Goals

1

Fundraising Without Algorithms

- We'll be doing more events
- Creating our own events
- Developing more peer-to-peer fundraising opportunities
- Opening a merchandise store on our website
- Developing our sneakers donation program
- Developing other innovative methods of fundraising
- Moving away from the reliance on social media and the ever-changing algorithms and vagaries of fundraising on those platforms.

2

More Laboratory Rescues More shelter pulls of seniors and special medical needs

We will expand our contact of laboratories to a larger geographic area and our methods of contact.

We will, as funding allows, help with more animals suffering in the overcrowded Southern California shelter system. Our shelters are in crisis and we want to take in more of the seniors and those with special medical needs.

3


Classroom Outreach

Working with professional educators, we are creating educational programs for elementary school, middle school, and high school level that can be part of a humane education program.

4

More Robust Foster Orientation Program

We are working with our most experienced fosters to create a video-based foster orientation and training guide to include step-by-step instructions along with tips and advice. We are working with our most experienced fosters to create a video-based with suggestions with many "lessons learned" and tips for new fosters.



In July we headed out across the country to take in six little beagle boys from a laboratory.

This time, it was the heat that challenged us.

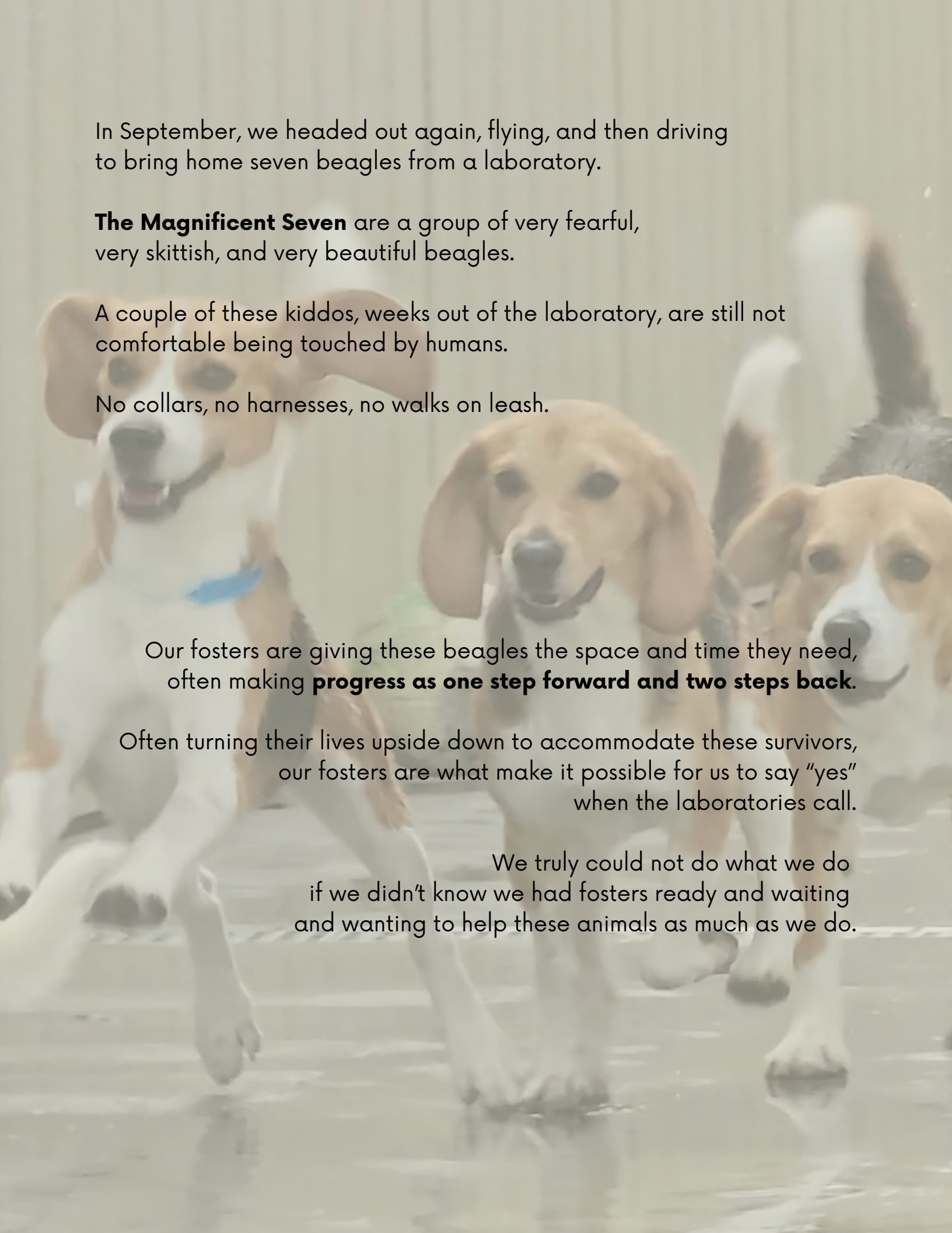
Traveling cross country with **six beagles who cannot yet be walked on leash and some who won't allow touch** in 100+ degree heat was almost as challenging as driving through a blizzard.

While on this rescue run, we were contacted by another rescue in Missouri about a very senior beagle gal who was blind and had just been diagnosed with diabetes.

So, we made a little detour across a few states and picked up this beauty - **this truly lovely, gentle soul named Kelly.**

We overnighted at Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah. Just a couple of gals with six beagle boys and Kelly.

A night to remember!

A group of beagles running on a wet surface, possibly a sidewalk or street. The dogs are in motion, with some water splashing around them. The background is a light-colored wall with vertical lines, possibly a fence or wall. The overall scene is bright and somewhat hazy, suggesting a sunny day.

In September, we headed out again, flying, and then driving to bring home seven beagles from a laboratory.

The Magnificent Seven are a group of very fearful, very skittish, and very beautiful beagles.

A couple of these kiddos, weeks out of the laboratory, are still not comfortable being touched by humans.

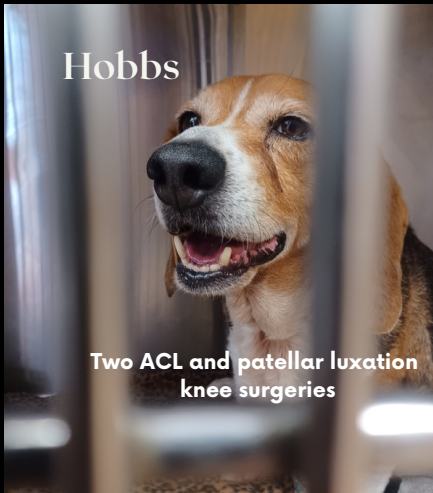
No collars, no harnesses, no walks on leash.

Our fosters are giving these beagles the space and time they need, often making **progress as one step forward and two steps back**.

Often turning their lives upside down to accommodate these survivors, our fosters are what make it possible for us to say “yes” when the laboratories call.

We truly could not do what we do if we didn't know we had fosters ready and waiting and wanting to help these animals as much as we do.

Medical and Surgical



Hobbs

Two ACL and patellar luxation knee surgeries



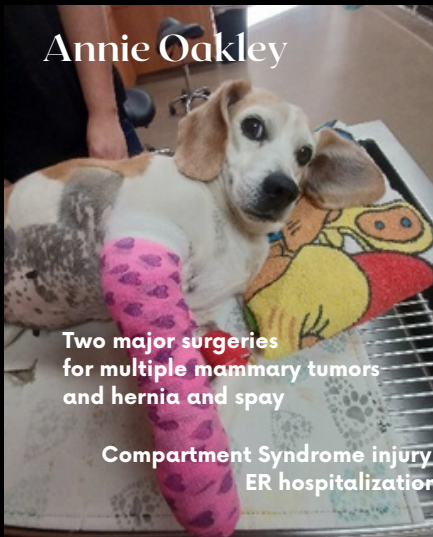
Rosie

3 surgeries for double cherry eye



Harry Styles

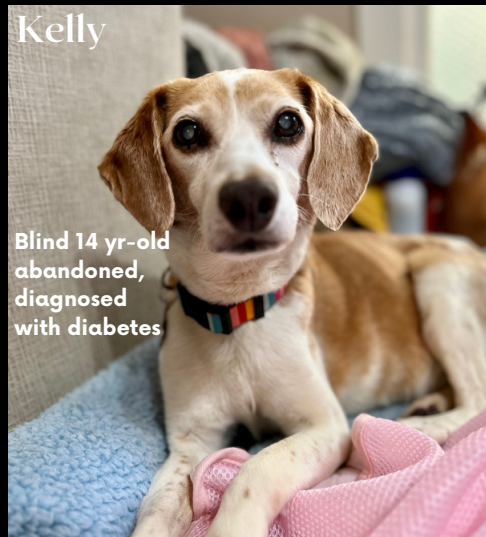
Two surgeries, one ACL and one patellar luxation surgery on one knee



Annie Oakley

Two major surgeries for multiple mammary tumors and hernia and spay

Compartment Syndrome injury, ER hospitalization



Kelly

Blind 14 yr-old abandoned, diagnosed with diabetes



Mei Belle

Hearing impaired 4-yr-old beagle with severe double ear infections requiring CT scan, possible ear canal removal, neglected chronic dry eye resulting in vision impairment



Penelope

Four-month-old puppy with fractured leg



Luna

7-week-old puppy with multiple fractures on face, including nose and jaw



Grace

Six-month-old puppy suffering with Parvo



A tiny little puppy with a fractured skull,

including a broken nose and jaw, Luna came into the shelter at about four weeks old on September 13th.

We didn't happen to check our email until it was almost too late as shelter medical staff had set a deadline for 4:00pm for a rescue to take her or they would euthanize her so she wouldn't suffer.

By the time we saw the email and lined up a foster, we couldn't get to the shelter in time from our HQ.

Our board member near the shelter was home with no car, but took a Lyft and picked up **Luna in the nick of time.**

We didn't think she'd survive the first night and for several days her prognosis was guarded.

An emergency CT scan showed multiple fractures of her skull and a badly broken jaw and nose.

Little Luna couldn't breathe through her nose and didn't know how to breathe through her mouth, and she panicked and fainted and didn't eat well because she couldn't breathe and eat at the same time.

Our vet and his incredible staff helped Luna through those first few weeks and today, our little Luna is 13 pounds!

Luna still has a lot in front of her: when she's bigger and stronger, we'll do another CT scan, and we are hopeful her nose and jaw can be surgically repaired.

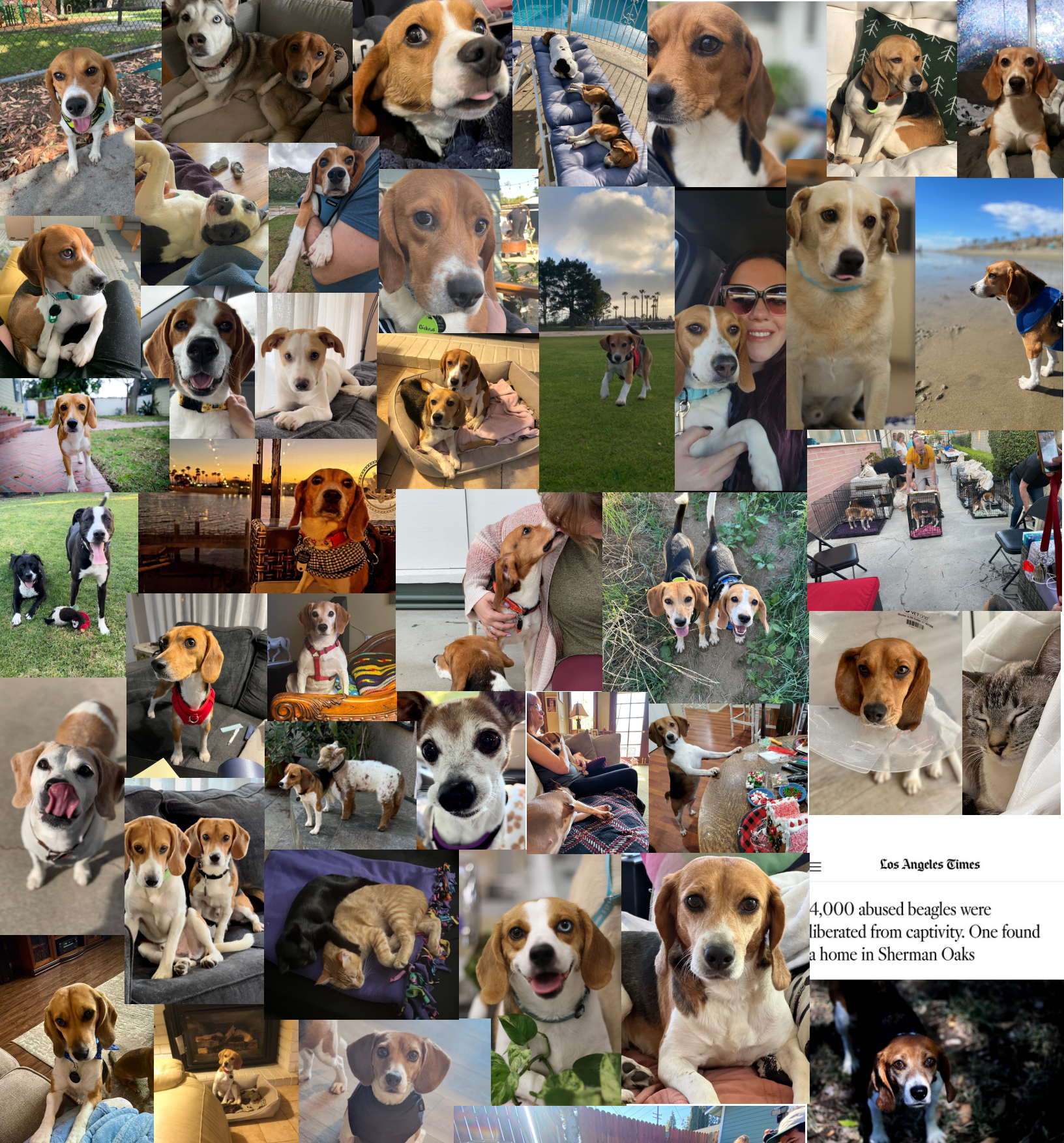
Partnerships



Mighty Mutts Dog Training



Dogs Etc. Enlightened Dog Training



it was a very good year

Los Angeles Times

4,000 abused beagles were liberated from captivity. One found a home in Sherman Oaks



Nancy, a beagle rescued from a dog breeding facility, has ended up in foster care at the home of Gary Smith and Kezia Jauron in Sherman Oaks. (Gary Coronado / Los Angeles Times)

BY ROBIN ABCARIAN | COLUMNIST
AUG. 24, 2022 3:05 AM PT



You would hardly guess that for most of her 5½ years, Nancy was kept in a cage at a notorious Virginia beagle breeding facility owned by Envigo, producing litter after litter of puppies destined for research laboratories around the



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“Some people talk to animals,
Not many listen, though.
That’s the problem.”

~A.A. Milne

Dr. Ash listens.



Thank You

We know we are privileged to work in rescue,
to spend our days helping those who are not able to help themselves,
nor speak for themselves.

We are very grateful for the support
of all who allow us to continue to save lives.

We promise you we will always strive to save more.