



Ruff Patch Rescue

Ruff Patch Rescue was founded in 2008 by Stacie Ward because of her passion for animals and belief that all of them should have a loving home. Growing up around family farms in Minnesota instilled a love in Stacie for animals, big and small.

Stacie moved to Utah in 2006 with her St. Bernard, Rambo, to pursue a career in the veterinary field with the idea that she could dedicate her working life to helping animals. It wasn't long before she began to feel that she could do more. After finding a chicken roaming the neighborhood Stacie was able to house it for a few days before finding it a safe home on a non-kill farm. Within a few weeks Stacie was housing dogs and cats while filing for a non profit business license to establish her very own animal rescue.

Late in 2008 Stacie became a full fledged rescue and was able to place numerous cats and dogs into loving homes, and Ruff Patch began to grow. Working through a series of foster homes with a network of dedicated and passionate volunteers, a strong business plan began to take place which lead to a surge in adoptions. Numerous families jumped on board to help Stacie out and her unique outlook and strong support team allowed her to give dogs and cats a natural family environment which would serve as a socialization process for the animals. Allowing the pets to interact with adults, children and other animals alike is a key part in the analyzing of the adoptable pets and a key factor in helping Stacie find the right pet for the right family.

In the Fall of 2009 Stacie took another large leap forward by setting up weekend adoption events, which she holds throughout various business locations in the Salt Lake Valley. These events brought more attention to the animals and the adoption rate increased greatly. It was this more aggressive approach that allowed Stacie to adopt out over 100 pets in 2009 and has Ruff Patch on pace to adopt far more in 2010.

2009 also saw greater notoriety for Ruff Patch as Stacie was recognized with a High 5 award by KSL's morning news show. The award is presented to individuals who take it upon themselves to make a difference throughout their community without asking for anything in return. Along with the award Stacie could be seen on a short news clip which highlighted exactly how she went about her business.

Perhaps one of Stacie's greatest accomplishments is not what she has done, as much as how she chooses to do it. Ruff Patch is one of the few rescues that makes it a point to save the most needy dogs. Stacie hand selects dogs and cats that tend to be labeled unadoptable. Up to 90% of the adoptables through Ruff Patch are taken directly from the Euthanasia list at local shelters. This means that Ruff Patch generally pays a greater cost in medical bills and grooming fees than many other shelters. Stacie founded Ruff Patch with the belief that all animals deserve a chance at a happy home and she sticks by that belief. Recently Ruff Patch was able to save a malnourished and beaten Boxer named Jack. His leg was badly deteriorated and had to be amputated which would cost more than \$2,000. Many shelters would simply have euthenized Jack but Stacie pushed hard to raise money and Ruff Patch footed the bill. After a successful surgery and many weeks of rehabilitation, Jack is now an extremely happy and healthy dog and ready to be adopted. And that is exactly what Ruff Patch Rescue is all about.