

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

The Canine Condition, come, sit, stay. Welcome to the Canine Condition podcast. My name is Jacqueline Piñol. I am an actor, documentary filmmaker, and animal rescue advocate. The Canine Condition podcast is a platform to bring awareness to dog adoption and to provide all dog lovers and pet owners with information and resources on how to raise a healthy and well balanced dog. If you are thinking about getting your first dog, or just want to know where and how you can help a dog in need, this is also a place for you.

Do you like to go on road trips? We love it. There's just something so freeing, yet cozy about piling up with the dogs in the car and hitting the road. Nowadays, we're piling up with kids and dogs. Our next road trip is to the Grand Canyon and Sedona, and planning for it reminds me of the first time my hubby and I went with our two pugs and Dublin, our Great Dane pittie mix. We only had three dogs at the time. Here we were on the open road, getting further away from city noises and taking in the vast open land that is Arizona.

One of the stops we make to fuel up with gas and some fast food is in Kayenta, Arizona. When we stopped at the fast food place, I noticed my dogs are getting a little whiny looking out the window. I get out of the car. Sure enough, I see what they see, more dogs. These dogs were not other tourists' dogs. They were all freely roaming the parking lot near the trash cans. In the distance, I could see one dog limping and walking alongside the edge of the road as if he's waiting to cross the busy highway where 18 wheelers zoom by constantly.

Kayenta is a Navajo reservation land. The view of its beautiful sunsets and sunrises makes for a perfect postcard. It is dry, open landscape. In summertime, it is scorching hot. Passing through is no big deal. Living outside under that heat, for these dogs, must be torture. When you ask the locals who they belong to, they say no one, they belong to the highway. Before we left the fast food place, I took an entire bag of kibble from our car since I had packed extra for our trip. I spread it into small piles all along the side of the building. The dogs all rushed to the food.

I made sure to place the piles far from one another to prevent dog fights. Because clearly, they were all starving. I kept looking for the limping dog, but I couldn't find him. We had to leave. I don't know what happened to those dogs. My guest on the podcast today has firsthand experience saving dogs that live in or come from these abandoned and neglected scenarios. She has lived in Arizona for 30 years. After spending 20 years as an ER trauma nurse, she followed her passion for saving animals and founded 2DaRescue in 2012.

This nonprofit rescue organization's mission is to save as many dogs as they can in response to the growing number of beautiful pets suffering and being euthanized daily in county shelters and on the streets of Arizona and its bordering towns. 2DaRescue also aims to empower pet parents with resources, so families don't have to give up their pets during difficult times. It is such a pleasure to have Karen Franklin on this episode. Welcome to the podcast, Karen.

**Karen Franklin:**

Hi, thanks for having me.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Yes, I'm so excited that you could be here with me today. I want to start by letting our listeners know how you got involved and how you found it or why you found it, 2DaRescue. I know that becoming involved with rescue day in and day out can have its share of heartache, but is indeed very rewarding. What was that moment that the light bulb went off for you?

**Karen Franklin:**

Well, I had been volunteering with another rescue organization for about a year or so. Coming from a medical background, I felt that the needs of the animal medically were not being addressed well enough. I had explained my concerns to my ex-husband, who said, well, basically, he'd been listening to me for a while and he said, one day he just said, "Well, you don't like the way it is going, why don't you start your own rescue?" Not knowing what I was getting into, I was like being that's a great idea. Being my impulsive, energetic self, I just said, okay. Over a weekend, I wrote my articles and just like that, it started.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Oh my gosh, those husbands, I tell you, mine was like, "Hey, why don't you start a documentary because you're so passionate about this?" I'm like, "Okay," and here I am, five years into it. Careful with a wish for us.

**Karen Franklin:**

Exactly.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Because he thought I was going to be less involved in daily rescue if I went the film route. I'm sure, for you, he was thinking, well, she won't be as frustrated and have as much heartache if she starts her own rescue.

**Karen Franklin:**

Exactly, which is why I'm divorced now.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Karen, you're making me laugh. Can we just take that moment to laugh? It's so funny.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yes, absolutely.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Oh my goodness.

**Karen Franklin:**

No regrets. No regrets.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

No regrets.

**Karen Franklin:**

No, not at all.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

It all happens for a reason.

**Karen Franklin:**

Not at all.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Your rescue is located in Phoenix, Arizona, for our listeners who are not familiar with 2DaRescue. You service the inner city areas of Phoenix, but you're also expand out to other counties and outside of Arizona. I noticed that your website size, we know no boundaries when we can help a helpless dog who suffers. Given where you are geographically, let's talk about why you are faced with helping dogs, for example, from the Indian reservations.

**Karen Franklin:**

That's a great question. In Arizona, we're by the border of Mexico and we have an extreme amount of pit bulls and Chihuahuas. We want to help those breeds. Of course, I love both breeds, but a lot of our shelters are inundated with pit bulls and Chihuahuas. Trying to be well rounded, we look to rescue all breeds and we are at our all-breed rescue. I have a huge heart for the dogs in other areas like the Indian reservations in Mexico. The reason being is our dogs here in Arizona, sadly enough, our market is saturated with the breeds.

There's a lot of behavioral issues with those breeds as well. They're in our bred, there's poor breeding. The dogs end up wired wrong. I look to rescue outside of our area, because there's such great need in other areas. Our dogs here in Arizona, this sounds bad in a way, they at least get a humane euthanasia. The dogs in Mexico are run over, burned, raped. There's such horrific things going on. They don't get a humane euthanasia. This sounds extreme.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Yeah, it does.

**Karen Franklin:**

Realistically speaking, the dogs there definitely need rescue as well. We get different breeds over the borders. The abuse is just phenomenal. The suffering is phenomenal.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Yeah. There are a lot of people ... I was going to ask, actually, but you opened up the door for me to ask, why save dogs from border towns or, technically, another country when we have so many here? That's why. Because you're literally witnessing the type of abuse and neglect that's right at your doorstep pretty much, right?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yes, yeah. It's just four hours away. The rescuers, they're very poor. There's very few people that really care about dogs in Mexico, especially. They are poor themselves, and they give everything of themselves and the resources to the dogs that they help. It just tears at your heart, because you see they don't have anything and what they have, they share with animals there. It's heartbreaking. A lot of people say that we have so many dogs here, why help the dogs across the border? My answer to that is always, we do have more resources here. Maricopa County ships the dogs out of our state into the states that want Chihuahuas and Pitbulls. A lot of our dogs do get help elsewhere. The dogs in Mexico, they don't get anything but us.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

I got you, okay. Yeah, and that makes sense. I didn't know that. Maricopa does work with ... or the shelter in Maricopa County ...

**Karen Franklin:**

They do.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

... they work with other resources to get some of the influx of dogs out of there, instead of just euthanizing, right?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, they do. They do.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

I know you partner with the Maricopa County shelters and other counties as well, other shelters, are the shelters in Arizona always full? Is this just common knowledge that you are to assume they're always full?

**Karen Franklin:**

They are always full. They are always full. Right now, the East County shelter closed down because the conditions there were so horrific, that the disease was really bad. I mean, they were just always full of distemper, parvo. The conditions there were so critical that they had to close that shelter. There's talk of rebuilding it, but they say that the finances aren't there.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

That was going to be my question. Why do they close? Is it a city funded shelter and they just don't have the funds?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, yeah, especially during the pandemic right now. There's fewer people donating. When they see the conditions the dogs are in, I think sometimes that ... I think people just get burnt out in the whole process. Because they go in the shelters and they see the dogs really aren't getting good care and they're living in horrific conditions. I think they just want to zone it out and not deal with it.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Instead of adopting them from shelters, they just turn the other way. I mean, it's just too hard to look or be a part of that.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah. We have so many backyard breeders here in Arizona. A lot of the public will go to the backyard breeders because they don't want Chihuahuas and pit bulls. Then they turn to those breeders. My way of thinking is it's better to go to other places and get dogs that need help and that people will adopt, like other breeds that are in Mexico. Because I've gotten Maltese. I've gotten Huskies, German Shepherds, Rottweilers, you name it, from Mexico, and they need help. We don't have that here.

The families will turn to the backyard breeders and they will enable them, and then they get a sick puppy, they have parvo, they die, they're embarrassed to say they got it off of Craigslist or a backyard breeder or wherever. Then the cycle just continues. In my eyes, I try to help in different places. I try to

keep the public coming back to rescue to adopt because we have different breeds, we have puppies, we have all different breeds, sizes, ages. We've been successful in that respect, because they know they can come to me. I'll either find them the dog that they're looking for in rescue or we just have it, because we have a lot of different dogs from a lot of different places. They all need help.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

In the interview that you and I had, and for our listeners, you should know that Karen Franklin and 2DaRescue was one of the places I was fortunate enough to visit, and I got to interview her for our documentary series. Karen's heart really knows no boundaries. She has even helped me save a few dogs from Georgia, who got really wonderful homes. Karen, you shared with me back in that interview, that you like to help the fear-based dogs or those that need a little extra help and care in the behavior department. Because they can be rehabilitated and happily re-homed. Hence, your slogan, rescue, rehab, re-home. Tell me a little bit about that process and why you see the positive outcome of that investment in time and effort.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, so when I first started rescue, I went into it because I saw the medical need that the dogs weren't getting, the medical care that they needed. The deworming, the neck scarred flea and tick, they need to be ... The dogs that come from Mexico, I've learned that we have to test them for Heartworm and tick diseases. They're easy to treat. Heartworm is a little expensive. When people see that we take such good care of our dogs, they're more likely to donate to our cause, because they see the wonderful care and how much my heart goes into it.

They're more likely to donate. Last year, I think year number eight, we're going to year number nine, is the first year that I actually didn't put any of my own money into it that we actually broke even but we're starting to get the followers that see the good work that we do, and that really donate quite a bit of money into our rescue. They see that we look for good homes and quality homes. We don't just flip our dogs that sometimes they stay at my house for two, three months. That's not always comfortable. We're not going to withhold a great home for a dog.

When I first started, I thought it was more about the medical. Then I learned it's also about the behavioral. We had to rehabilitate them, and that is medically, mentally, cosmetically, whether it's getting them a great grooming and making them feel good and look good to the behavioral issues. I've learned that most of the issues are fear based. A lot of our aggressive dogs I learned that are just simply fearful. When we can empower them with some training, they turn into the most amazing well balanced dogs. Which is why I have a pack of 13 dogs at my house.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Wow.

**Karen Franklin:**

They go in and out the dog door. They play. Dogs that you've seen at, at our shelter, where they've been shut down, and we introduce a puppy into them and the power of pack. It is the power of the pack. The dogs learn more from each other than they do from us sometimes. In order to do that, we have a pack of dogs so the puppies engaged the older dogs, so the shutdown dogs to play. The older dogs become puppies again, maybe they've never played ever before and this is the first time that they're playing.

The puppies learned boundaries from the older dogs because they've lost their parents, like humans, and so they don't know boundaries, and the older dogs teach them boundaries. It is truly amazing, and

I'm so blessed. Being single, I mean, with a pack of dogs is amazing. It's also very difficult and trying. You're never on vacation. You're always committed. You're always working 24/7, but it's wonderful.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

You feel like it's worth the return with homing them ...

**Karen Franklin:**

Absolutely.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

... and seeing them rehabilitated. Your rescue had a facility at one point in your journey that would accommodate, of course, a greater number of dogs. Now you're a foster based rescue. Tell me what some of the positives? Or is it better to be foster rescue in your experience than facility since you had both?

**Karen Franklin:**

That's kind of a double-edged sword. That's a difficult question to answer. We started out foster-based and encountering the difficulties with the fosters. One foster lets them sleep in bed, the other foster is strict. When the dogs urinate in the house, they come to my house. When the dogs act out, they come to my house. The fearful dogs are a flight risk. After a couple of dogs getting lost and losing their lives because the fosters weren't careful enough, then I decided to get a building. When we got to building, my business partner and I were there 24/7.

We were there together, late night, midnight sometimes, and because you have to be present or find volunteers who are paid or tried to pay them when you don't have the money. It is so difficult any way that you do it. We went from foster-based to a building, because they thought that was a better idea. Then when we were driving downtown every day to our building and we're there late every night, we had another building, then I said they should be on property, so I bought property. Then the city made us close because the zoning wasn't commercial.

At one point, I said, they need to be in a home, not in a industrial building. I bought this wonderful horse property that you saw with a swimming pool and the yards. I've invested so much money and resources and time. Then the city made us closed because of zoning issues, not because of bark complaints, but because the zoning issues. Fighting that battle and staffing that place, I decided to go back to foster-based, and so here we are again. Some of our dogs are boarded and some of them are in foster. That seems to be the best balance. The boarding is expensive. The foster has its own set of issues.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Right. I think so, yeah. I think either way we go, we always have pros and cons. It's just outweighing what works better for you and the support that you get. I wanted to jump back to a question when you were mentioning the dogs in Mexico and how a lot of them have Heartworm. I've also seen that a lot of dogs or posts for dogs in Arizona, that they have valley fever. I don't actually know what that is. That's not Heartworm, right?

**Karen Franklin:**

No, no. Valley fever is predominantly in the southwest, where there's a lot of dirt and dust and the desert climate.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Is it deadly?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah. It's a spore that they inhale in the dirt. It's a fungal infection. On a windy day, and you're in the desert, they inhale it. People, being a nurse, I dealt with it with people. They inhale it and it settles in their lungs. You get a nodule in a chest x-ray and your doctor might say you either have valley fever or you have cancer. We need to make sure. They'll do a valley fever titer on a person versus ... If that's negative, then they'll look into possibly cancer of the lung. In a dog, it passes through the respiratory tract rather quickly, and it settles in bones, organs, the tissues.

Predominantly, bones in dogs, we see the most of. A dog will start limping one day. If we don't have a good history of an injury, then we do a valley fever titer, because there's so much valley fever. It is easy to treat. It's become relatively inexpensive.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

How do you treat it? Or how long does it take to heal?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah. You see, you treat it with fluconazole. In the old days, we used to have ketoconazole, that was really hard on the liver. We'd have a lot of liver toxicity or older dogs that couldn't metabolize the medication through their liver. They would have secondary liver problems, and they would oftentimes die of liver disease and not the diagnosis of valley fever. Now we have fluconazole, which is much easier on their liver with that, and the medication becoming less expensive. Typically, it might cost \$30 a month, which is really inexpensive.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Really, that can happen to any dog. It's not just because they are rescue dogs or have been abandoned, right?

**Karen Franklin:**

Oh, absolutely. Yeah, yeah, it doesn't matter what breed or whatever. You see it in a lot of places like new builds or where they're digging up a pool and there's a lot of dirt like the City of Maricopa where there's a lot of building going on and that's really in the desert, in the outskirts of the city where it's all desert. Then even on my property in Apache Junction, that was one of the reasons why I decided to close it, because no matter how much rock I brought in, the dogs would dig in the rock and the dirt. Then they would breathe in the dirt.

Then they would breathe in the spores that come with it. A lot of our dogs actually came up with valley fever like a year or two later. In fact, one dog, I actually paid for its workup and treatment because the husband have lost his eye in a work related injury and he couldn't afford the care. He wanted to give the dog back to me, and Banfield had misdiagnosed his valley fever. They did a titer and it was negative, but they never redid it. Then the dog was having trouble walking and it went into his spine. A year later, they kept medicating him and never rechecked it.

We paid for his workup. It's like \$600 for the whole workup with x-rays, labs, and everything. Then I bought him three months of medication and had him keep his dog because he really needed his dog. I

didn't need his dog. He needed to keep his dog. We just let him keep the dog and we paid for the treatment.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

That's wonderful. Yeah, sometimes I think it's always better if it's a good owner and they want to keep their dog and it's just a matter of finances. That rescues, really, I've seen do try to raise those funds and help these dogs stay with their families.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yes. In fact, we just took a dog in that I did her adoption today, like just a couple hours ago. The family actually brought the dog to the vet, had a catheter in her leg and they were ready to euthanize the dog because they couldn't afford the workup. It was a \$600 workup. My volunteer happened to walk in and they asked if they would release the dog to rescue, and the family said, yes. We took her in and did the treatment. She's barely one-year-old. She's an amazing dog. She was actually in my own home for about two-and-a-half weeks. Of course, you fall in love with them. She's just a great dog. Now she went to a home just today, and they adopted her and they're paying for her ongoing care.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

That's so great. She will be okay.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, she's already getting better. She was holding one leg up, and they thought she injured her leg. They didn't even think about valley fever while they live in Maricopa, the City of Maricopa, and they have two other dogs. I called them and I'm like, "You really have to worry about your other two dogs." People need to put landscaping in or put rock down. Even if you put rocks down, the dogs dig and they still dig underneath of it and bring up the dirt, which brings up the spores and the fungus which causes it.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

That's tough, because it's not like Heartworm where you can prevent it with like you can have a monthly prevention for Heartworm. With valley fever, you're just left to the elements and being careful, really, right?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, the problem with Heartworm, too, is we don't see it in the southwest. It's not a Southwest problem. We are a very transient state. People move to our state and they had never tested their dogs in other states like Georgia, for example, where our dogs came from. They never test them. They never treat them. Then they bring them to the Arizona, and because mosquitoes transmit the disease, our dogs, we're seeing more and more Heartworm in Arizona. It's not because it's predominantly an Arizona problem, but it's a problem that other people bring in.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Right. Like you were saying, the Mexico dogs. They have to get prevention or treatment right away to not spread it. What about the reservations on US land? When I was driving even out to you, we cross over towns in areas that have Indian reservation land and you see a lot of strays. I mean, it's very dry, open desert area.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, it is heartbreaking.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Do they not have enough resources on the Indian reservations for doggies? Why do the Indian reservation dogs need to be saved?

**Karen Franklin:**

Because it is a way of life, it's a way of upbringing. They don't have indoor dogs. Very few reservation dogs ever live inside. They always live outside. Their priority is not their dogs. You see a lot of families that don't even take proper care of their own children. It's heartbreaking to see their children suffer. When I was a pediatric ICU nurse, we used to get a lot of children off the reservation with abuse, neglect, sexual abuse. There's a lot of inbreeding, not to say that the reservations, there's wonderful reservations that have wonderful people and their history is so intact and it's a beautiful thing, but there's also many, many more poor reservations where the kids are not properly cared for.

It's very poor areas. The dogs are the last on the priority list. The dogs are oftentimes outside. They're not fed, they're wandering the streets. They don't have fences. The dogs are on the streets and they're being hit by cars just like Mexico. I had a good friend that used to go on the reservation. She taught on the reservation. One of them was a teacher and one of them was a bus driver. The bus driver would see dogs on the side of the road hit by cars and injured all the time. Then there's a lot of dirt at the Indian reservation. With that, you get all the tick diseases and then the valley fever, especially, lots of valley fever in the reservation. They're just poor. The dogs aren't fed and there's malnutrition. There's ticks.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Do they appreciate the help? Do they want the knowledge and the help that is offered when it is?

**Karen Franklin:**

Actually, no, not really. One of the first dog ... Not one of the first dogs, but one that really sticks out is a dog named Tahoe, and he was actually hit by a Tahoe, and I named him Tahoe.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

My gosh.

**Karen Franklin:**

He was laying on the porch of a home. My friend, who's a bus driver, actually asked me to come out. It was a large dog. He lives in Gold Canyon now, and I still talk to his family all the time. He had a very severe leg injury down to his tendon. The dog was going to die of infection. I couldn't get across to this woman. She's like, "No, it's my son's dog. He really likes the dog. I don't want you to take the dog." I said, "If you don't get them cured, the dog's going to die and your son's not going to have him anyway. Would you rather see the dog die and your son witness that? Or would you rather release him to my rescue where at least you could teach your son that he's doing something kind for the dog by releasing him to a rescue?" She ended up releasing him, thank goodness. I actually remember, I shoved a couple Tramadol down his throat in the car, because he was in so much pain. He was crying in pain. It was just heartbreaking. I was so afraid she wouldn't release them to me, but she did. We got him care. We took care of his leg and he still has his scar. He is able to walk on it, but it scarred. It's not quite right, but it's good and stable.

That's an example of their not educated. I didn't want to be disrespectful to her. I was nice to her. I didn't judge. It's just that their not educated. They have such hardships that the dog is just simply aren't priority.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Understandably. Animal welfare is not something on the list when they don't have education for their children or food on the table and lots of resources.

**Karen Franklin:**

In fact, we donate a lot of food to the dogs on the Indian reservation for the families to feed. We would give foods to the bus driver and to the teachers. Then another dog that comes to my mind is a teacher brought me a dog. He actually had valley fever, so bad that he was just a skeleton. The teacher asked me to take him. I actually said, "No, this dog is not going to live through the night, bring him to an emergency center." He wouldn't take no for an answer. This is when we had a building in Apache Junction.

My girlfriend and I turned him like an ICU patient and he just peed on himself. He was eating and I gave him some sub-q fluids and started him on fluconazole. I absolutely knew the dog had valley fever. The dog did have valley fever. I didn't even take him to the vet for three months. We just turned him and fed him and he kept getting better day by day. Seven months later, he was adopted to a family. He was completely recovered. I named him Schooler, because he was found at the school.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

That's cute.

**Karen Franklin:**

His name was Schooler. That's his name today. That was probably like five years ago. It was a heartwarming story. I, literally, didn't think this dog would make it through the night. Dogs are amazing. They have a will to live. It's amazing what they can overcome.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Given what you see day in and day out and knowing that your shelters are full and you have all these other communities where the dogs aren't even in the shelters yet needing your help, how can we get ahead of this problem of dog homelessness? What would you say to our listeners and what they can share with others that they know so we can maybe help improve the canine condition?

**Karen Franklin:**

I think it's lobbying and education, getting in front of legislature and lobbying. Then when people call me and they asked me to take our dog, I try to educate, educate, educate, and then I've learned a lot about training. For example, there were three people in the last two days that they wanted me to take their pit bulls, so I just said there's 10,000 dogs a year at least that are euthanized in our state, most of them being pit bulls, Chihuahuas, but predominantly pit bulls. I tell them, what can I do to help you keep your dogs? I just paid for spay and neuter on a couple.

They're expecting a baby and they have a male and a female in an apartment, and their dogs aren't altered. After talking to them, I just empowered them to keep their dogs. I paid for their spay and neuter. I told them what to buy as far as ... They were already crating him, which is wonderful, but they didn't know how much exercise they need, that pit bulls love to run next to a bicycle. It's so easy. The husband's buying a bicycle and the wife is using a prong collar in the one dog and walking it without it dislocating her shoulder. I'm like, "The dogs have to have exercise."

Our goal is not to walk your dog in a prong collar. Our goal is to walk your dog that's not going to be high energy or aggressive because it's not altered yet and with enough exercise and how to wean the dogs

into your pregnancy and having a baby without fearing that the dog is going to be aggressive." They are completely on board. They don't want to give their dogs up. They just don't know how to manage this, especially in an apartment, which is amazing. They're doing wonderful. She brought the dogs to the appointment. She's updated me, and she's working on training.

Then today, just another couple did the same thing. I'm not going to say I'm not the person that judges sometimes because I have in the past, but I learned that it's far more empowering to be kind to people and to empower them with education so that they could feel like they're doing their dogs justice and they're not giving them up, and they're proud of themselves, and they just need some support. I've learned to be a bigger, better person because of that, that you get more back when you're kinder and you're patient and you don't judge people.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Yeah, that's a beautiful message. Thank you. Thank you for that. Because I also like to encourage my listeners to volunteer and reach out to the organizations that I love and trust, what is your criteria or your rescues criteria for becoming a volunteer? How much commitment is it?

**Karen Franklin:**

I generally ask for two hours a week, and everybody could do something, whether it's fostering or some people network or just share our page or dogs on social media. It's as simple as doing something like that. A couple hours ago, I talked to a dad who has a 13-year-old that wants to help.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Oh, cool.

**Karen Franklin:**

A lot of places won't allow that to happen because she's too young. My best volunteer was 13 when she started with me, and she's 18 now, and she's an amazing young woman. She's going into veterinary medicine because of it. She's awesome at training. We're super close. There's something that anybody could do.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Absolutely.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah. I mean, I've had small children do a lemonade stand and raise some money or buy treats, or they have a donation box at school. Being creative. I've had people that didn't want to come down to the shelter, but they spent the day and it was a bunch of women that work for calls. They spent a day just baking treats for the dogs. Or if the kids are young, when I was in Apache Junction, I had a bunch of parents and the kid, they went and got lots of treats and toys for the dogs. Then they came and actually gave them to them, fed them to them, and played with them with the toys that they bought.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

That's nice.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah. There's always something that they can do.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

If people reach out to you, it's easy to find. You're flexible and you can find something that they are comfortable and able and willing to do for the rescue and for the dogs.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah. We do a lot of community service. I have a guy doing community service hours, he has 24 hours to do. He's been a huge help all week. He's enjoyed it too. Community service for school, community service for a speeding ticket. There's so many ways.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Right, or extracurricular activities. I know that there are schools that give credit if you donate your time or volunteer somewhere.

**Karen Franklin:**

Exactly.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

As a licensed organization, that's something that teens could look out during summer.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, yeah. This little girl is going to come and do hours, because she's doing her Bat Mitzvah. She has to do community service hours. Actually, what was really fun, as I told the dad that we have a dog that was in the meat trade that's from Thailand and his new owner is a writer and she's writing a series of books about him. It's called Newman's Tales. The little girl is going to come over and she's going to sit with my senior dog and just sit and read her a story. The dogs pick up on that awesome energy and they just want somebody to love them.

That gives the kids something to do. That's something that I do often that's really empowering for the kids when they're young. She could read, but maybe she can't walk a dog because the dog is bigger or the dog can't walk too far because she has a leg injury and an arthritis. Then she's going to play with the puppies and they need social skills. There's always something.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

This may be a rhetorical question, but is the rescue always in need of funding?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yes, yes, always.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

What are the best ways to help you raise money? What if people wanted to go to a specific dog or a specific area of the rescue, how does that work with your rescue?

**Karen Franklin:**

They could go to our page and they can designate funding for a specific dog. We make sure that that goes to that dog. Some people like to be in control of where their money goes. They could donate directly to a vet, they could donate to the spay and neuter clinic, they could just buy toys and send toys,

or we have an Amazon wish list. Some people could help our rescue without spending a dime and just signing up for our fries or Amazon awards. There's Amazon Smile.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Talk to us about that, Karen. I don't know if all of our listeners know about Amazon Smile or the Amazon wish list. How easy that is and that they're actually helping without even having to buy dog stuff sometimes?

**Karen Franklin:**

Exactly, yeah. It doesn't cost a dime. If you link your fries or your Amazon card to our rescue, so they could actually look up our nonprofit on it, it'll just say plug in the name of the rescue. Then it'll come up on Amazon Smile or fries awards. For every dollar, it's like pennies on the dollars, but it adds up. Every quarter, we get up close to \$500 from fries, just from people linking their fries card to our rescue.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

That's the same with Amazon, right? You can have your Amazon account and do Amazon Smile, it's the same thing, but it doesn't cost the person anything.

**Karen Franklin:**

It doesn't cost them anything at all, yeah. Or people could get onto Amazon and look at our wish list and then send their donation in a form of toys, so it's kind of fun. They could pick out toys for our puppies that we have right now. Or they could pick out, say, a special bed for an old dog that has arthritis, so she has an orthopedic bed. We've had people donate Kuranda beds. The Kuranda site has a area, too, where you could donate Kuranda beds to our rescue.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Those are the cots, right? Are those the little cots off the ground?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, the cots that are indestructible.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Those are fabulous. I have a couple of those.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, they are. Yeah, you know it, because you have dogs. You have pit bulls, yeah.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Yeah, I have pittie mixes and seniors.

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah, they rough, I know. When they get bored, they flip them over and start chewing on the very expensive legs of them.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Where can our listeners find and follow 2DaRescue to find all of the support that they can offer to you in the rescue?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yeah. We have a 2DaRescue Facebook page. We are also on Twitter, 2DaRescueLovesDogs, and Instagram. Then we have a website, it's 2DaRescue.org. The .org is the nonprofit part, of course, so 2DaRescue and it's number 2, D-A rescue.org.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Okay, perfect.

**Karen Franklin:**

Kind of a complicated name.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

I think it's so cute. I think it should be Karen to the rescue, because you are.

**Karen Franklin:**

We have Dog Trainer 2Da Rescue, too, now.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Really?

**Karen Franklin:**

We've expanded our services to training, so we have Dog Trainer 2Da Rescue.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

On Instagram?

**Karen Franklin:**

Yes, we have that on Instagram.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

Okay, great. I will have all those live links in the show notes for this episode, so our listeners can follow and offer support too 2DaRescue in Arizona. Our listeners should know that I am not getting paid to advocate for any one person or organization on this podcast. I choose to interview guests from organizations that I know are doing the good work for dogs and for people across America and beyond. 2DaRescue has the Canine Condition's seal of approval from me. Thank you, Karen, so much for sharing all this knowledge and the stories of 2DaRescue with us, giving us another option and incentive to reach out and help and make a difference in our world.

**Karen Franklin:**

Absolutely. Thank you for having us.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

All right. Take care, Karen.

**Karen Franklin:**

Thank you. You was well.

**Jacqueline Piñol:**

I have learned a very valuable lesson from canine companions and rescue organization founders. I have learned to ask for help. I look on social media or any place where reputable and safe dog rescues like 2DaRescue can help save homeless dogs. When I reach out, I say, how can I help you help these dogs? I try to offer something, even if it's a bag of dog food or some money towards the vet bills. Sometimes I start a fundraiser on my own social media, and \$1 at a time, my friends have come up with the funding that has helped save homeless dogs.

It takes a lot of little pieces to complete the puzzle. To all you out there who have helped me, thank you. Thank you for being a part of that puzzle. You made a big difference, even if you thought you were only doing something small. Three of those dogs I advocated for found wonderful homes with 2DaRescue. Here's to saving more Jakes, Charlies, and Reinas. Thank you for joining me on this episode. Please press subscribe on our channel and tell a friend. Until next time, hang on to those leashes.

The Canine Condition. Come. Sit. Stay.