

Animal Rescuer Redefines What It Takes to Adopt

Game Changer Cheryl Salvati has been rescuing animals since she was 11, but it wasn't until 2012 that she devoted her life to rescuing dogs full-time.



The image shows a YouTube video player thumbnail. At the top left, there is a small circular profile picture of Cheryl Salvati and a dog, with the text 'Starting and Managing Your Own Full-Time Animal Rescue With Cheryl...'. To the right of this is a 'Copy link' icon. The main title of the video is 'Starting and Managing Your Own Full-Time Animal Rescue' in large white text on a teal background. Below the title, it says 'WITH CHERYL SALVATI'. In the bottom left corner, it says 'Watch on YouTube'. In the bottom right corner, it says 'healthy pets | with Dr. Karen Becker'. The central part of the thumbnail features a large red play button icon over a photograph of Cheryl Salvati, a woman with blonde hair, smiling and wearing a blue quilted jacket over a blue t-shirt with a dog graphic.

- Cheryl Salvati was nominated for a Healthy Pets Game Changer Award by Cheryl M.; her rescue — Rompin Paws Rescue in Arlington, Washington — finds a home for, on average, one dog a day
- Not only does Rompin Paws rescue dogs and find them loving homes, but they also educate new pet guardians on how to feed fresh, species-appropriate nutrition
- Animals that would otherwise have a miserable — or no — future are therefore able to extend their health span and longevity, living their healthiest, happiest lives possible
- Rompin Paws takes their time finding the best matches for their pups and working with potential adopters on how to transition their dogs off kibble and feed a healthier diet
- Cheryl wants to spread the word that rescue dogs need extra love and attention — and they deserve to be doted on by their “emotional support humans”

From the time she was just 11 years old, Cheryl Salvati was rescuing animals, but it wasn't until 2012 that she devoted her life to rescuing dogs full-time. After volunteering at animal rescue organizations for decades, Salvati received an opportunity to own and manage her own rescue organization.

"I said OK, and it's been fabulous. I'm so glad that I became a full-time rescuer. This has been my life dream since I was 11," Cheryl said. Cheryl was nominated for a Healthy Pets Game Changer Award by Cheryl M., and her rescue – Rompin Paws Rescue in Arlington, Washington – finds a home for, on average, one dog a day.

Helping Dogs Live Their Healthiest Lives

Not only does Rompin Paws rescue dogs and find them loving homes, but they also educate new pet guardians on how to feed fresh, species-appropriate nutrition. Animals that would otherwise have a miserable – or no – future are therefore able to extend their health span and longevity, living their healthiest, happiest lives possible. Cheryl explained:

"We have approximately 30 dogs at any given time, 15 at the rescue and roughly 15 in foster care ... A lot of them come to us sick, abused, starved. And we bring them back to optimal health using human-grade food, raw diet ... And we then teach our adopters how to continue their health care, continue their rescue, keep them on a vital path, so that the animals live the longest healthiest lives they can.

... We are known for being different from other rescues with the way we approach things. Some people aren't happy about that. Others just love it. And that's how people find us, word of mouth. So we're adopting on average a dog a day."

Rompin Paws takes their time finding the best matches for their pups and working with potential adopters on how to transition their dogs off kibble and feed a healthier diet. "We take the time to educate them, slow down the process. We send them a feeding guide. It recommends your [Dr. Becker's] book. We let them know that a lot of what we have learned and what we're passing on comes from your teachings, your blog site," Cheryl said.

Rompin Paws spends a couple of hours with potential adopters showing them how to prepare healthy food for their new pup to ensure they'll continue once they're home. "So it could take a week or two weeks before they actually get the dog, to be sure they are on board with everything," Cheryl said.

Providing 'Emotional Support Humans' for Dogs

Rescue dogs need extra love and attention – and they deserve to be doted on, Cheryl explained.

"What we're seeking are support humans – emotional support humans – for these dogs. And we won't give a dog to another person until we have secured that knowledge that that person understands they are continuing the dog's rescue. There's nothing better in the world than that feeling of knowing we successfully committed to that animal and we found someone else that's committing to it as well."

At Rompin Paws, the mission isn't only about getting dogs adopted as quickly as possible – it's about finding dogs the right home, where their guardians will continue their emotional support process for the rest of their life, while providing proper nourishment, love, care and protection. The satisfaction of placing an animal in their new forever home is what Cheryl loves most about the vital work she's doing:

"The satisfaction I get, knowing that I take an animal that's been abused, beaten up, starved or just dumped because nobody wants them anymore. And we bring that animal about to full health, let them know that humans are good people. There are good humans out there that will take care of them."

And then taking that time to find the right home, the right match for that dog. But letting people know that dogs are not commodities, they are living beings. They deserve to be doted on."

Cheryl also wants to spread the word that animals are a lifetime commitment, deserving of love and respect:

"What I want everybody to understand is that the animals are a commitment. They're not throwaways. They're not something you get as a toy for your children, and then when you're tired of it, you throw it away, you dump it on the side of the road, or you take it to the shelter."

People need to understand that this is a living being that has feelings, emotions and thoughts, and dumping that animal is not OK, just like dumping a human being would not be OK.

That's what I want people to understand. If you cannot commit to this animal for life, don't get it. If you can and you can love this animal to the day it dies and take very good care of it, that's what I want people to know is respect."

If you'd like to contribute to this wonderful cause, you can find Rompin Paws Rescue at their website <https://www.rompinpawsrescue.com>. They're also on [Facebook](#) and Instagram, and maintain an Amazon wish list for the little things they need every day. You can also contact Cheryl directly at Csalvati123@gmail.com.

By fulfilling her life's mission to help dogs and running Rompin Paws Rescue, dogs in need are getting a second chance at life – and their new guardians are learning valuable information about animal nutrition that will hopefully continue for generations to come.