

# Beatrice our Blessed Voyager

## by Terry Duke

In late June of 2013 our local animal control office was notified of a dog that had been hit by a car and was injured. For two weeks they tried to catch her but couldn't. On the fourth of July MARF received a call from a citizen that had caught her, but she had gotten away again. Our holiday was marred not only by the torrential rains, but the knowledge that this injured dog was out in it. My heart was lost to her before I ever saw her furry face. On the afternoon of July 6, 2013 her first picture and a simple post 'We have her!' brought an unusual joy to my heart. I felt connected to her somehow. 'Our little terrier girl' was named Beatrice, which means "blessed voyager". That was almost prophetic, because this little girl has been blessed to have come through her voyage to end up in her forever home loved and treasured by her owners.

She was immediately transported to the veterinarian. It was decided early on that complete amputation would be the best route for her future. She also suffered damage to her left hip and to her lower jaw as well as some minor damage to her left hip. She was kept at the clinic for the following ten days until she was determined to be strong

enough to undergo the first of multiple surgeries including the removal of several large mammary tumors and extraction of damaged teeth.



Following her amputation I brought her home. She was barely able to walk and still very malnourished. We immediately began physical therapy exercises. She had horrible painful ear infections, particularly in her right ear. Two weeks following her amputation she returned for additional surgeries including spay. After 2 months of therapy, she began showing odd symptoms of lethargy and weight gain and heavy breathing and was taken in for a check-up. She was found to have heartworms! Her first test had resulted in a false negative. After enduring so much now she had to go through heartworm treatment as well.

Shortly thereafter, Beatrice was adopted to her furever home and is a wonderful beloved three-legged family member to a family that loves her back. Successful animal rescue is more than just fostering those that can be easily placed into homes...it often requires much love and determination from foster homes that involves patiently attending to the physical and emotional healing of the animals. MARF is certainly one of those great volunteer organizations!

