

## **Rosie's Story: Feb 26, 2010**

Poor Rosie came to us on Friday, Feb. 26th, from the town of Paradise's Animal Control. She had been turned in as a stray, and it was plain to see that she was in terrible shape.

When we laid eyes on Rosie, the first thing that came to mind was "abused dog".

Somebody, somewhere should be ashamed of themselves - everyone who saw her on Friday was shocked at her poor physical AND psychological condition.

Rosie was/is emaciated, was covered in fleas, was in heat, and she was pooping out orange peels and tinfoil - she must have gotten into the garbage in an effort to stay alive.

Rosie is a medium-size dog who weighs only 32 pounds, and should weigh about 50 - these pictures don't do justice how malnourished she really is.

Rosie was terrified of people; we had to pick her up body and bones to get her in the car to take her to the vet clinic.

Though Rosie was extremely scared and hungry, she never growled - she'd just cower and back away if you tried to touch her.

The top two pictures were taken at the vet clinic before the accident. When she first got to the vet clinic prior to the accident, she just lay on the floor, looking tired and shut down; she still wasn't interested in us touching her, or in any of the other dogs who were at the clinic.

A few hours later, foster care was arranged, and four volunteers went back to the vet clinic to pick Rosie up. We were excited about starting her on the path to her new life. It was then that we named her Rosie, partly because we figured things would be coming up roses for her from now on in.

We spoke too soon. Tragically, Rosie - in all her terror - bolted away from us Friday evening on the way to her foster home when we were taking her out of the car. Within a minute or two of getting away from us, she ran into traffic, and was hit by a car badly in the head and chest.

We rushed Rosie back to the vet clinic with blood coming from her mouth, and it didn't appear as though she was going to live - her breathing wasn't good.

Rosie had been so starved that she must have been willing to eat anything - when she was xrayed after the accident, the vet found a large screw inside the poor girl's stomach!

We had to make a decision about whether to put Rosie down. Rosie was in excruciating pain, and the odds didn't look to be in her favour. However, we decided to give her the night; the vet clinic set her up with a pain patch, and an overnight nurse. There was nothing more we could do; we all went home to wait and pray.

We were, of course, deeply shaken by the night's events. It's bad enough for a healthy dog to get hit, but a dog who in as poor shape as Rosie . . . she has no padding on her bones. We were afraid that Rosie would never get to know a loving home before she died.

But Rosie *did* make it! She's still at St. John's Vet Hospital. However, her breathing stabilized over the weekend, and it looks now like she is going to be fine.

When Rosie's more stable, she will need to have surgery on her mouth to extract some broken teeth, and possibly fix her jaw.

Despite everything Rosie has been through, it looks like she is going to get her happy ending. We are committed to

seeing that she henceforth lives the life of a princess!

We'll keep you posted on her progress.