

Palis Post of August 2005

Palisadian Anne Cohen Rescues Sadie and

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Animals in April.)

(Niki Sri-Kumar, a junior at Harvard-Westlake, has been interning for the Palisadian-Post this summer. The Palisadian was Volunteer of the Month at Voice for the

Voice for the Animals, the Venice-based dog and cat adoption organization, often gets calls on its hotline from people who can't or won't keep their pets any longer.

The organization received one such call about a year ago from a woman who said that if her dog, Sadie, was not picked up in 15 minutes, she was going to take it to the pound. At the request of VFTA, Palisades resident Anne Cohen took in Sadie, who was 11 years

old and overweight, as soon as the dog was picked up from the pound. Sadie's nails were so long that they had grown into the pads of her feet, and she had been so badly cared for that she only had one eye. Moreover, she was so obese that she could barely stand up, and her hair was dry and coarse.

"I would try to take her for a walk, and she would be exhausted after five minutes," Cohen recalls. "Now she goes on two walks a day, one for 45 minutes, and one for 30 minutes."

Placed on a strict diet, Sadie lost 28 pounds, and she now has "a beautiful coat of fur," Cohen says. "It's like a plush toy, and she looks half her age. Most of my neighbors can't believe that it is the same dog; I can't believe that it's the same dog."

Three months ago the founder of Voice for the Animals, Melya Kaplan, rescued an elderly black cocker spaniel mix named Zack off the streets of downtown L.A. The dog was very sweet and playful but had terminal kidney failure, and the veterinarian gave him only a few weeks to live. Nevertheless, Cohen took him in, and three months later he is still with her.

"He doesn't know that he's sick," Cohen says. "He doesn't look sick. He loves to run and chase squirrels. My two dogs are medical miracles, both of them."

Cohen, who lives with her son on Haverford, also has three cats that she rescued, one of which

was trapped in the intersection of Via de la Paz and De Pauw when she picked it up. "I never intended to have such a menagerie," she says. "It just sort of happened."

Voice for the Animals is a volunteer organization dedicated to serving the needs of animals in the Los Angeles community.

"Unfortunately, we do not have our own facilities so we cannot house animals," said Melya Kaplan, founder of VFTA. "We depend upon the goodwill of fostering volunteers and on low-cost boarding facilities, until animals are found a good home."



Palisadian Anne Cohen at home with her two rescued dogs, Zack (left) and Sadie. Photo: Nikila Sri-Kumar