

Could YOU...

Rescue ME?



Dog of the month

Felix

After being abandoned as a puppy, Felix was lucky to be rescued by Saving Suffering Strays. He is now six years old and still looking a forever home – could this be with you?

At a glance...

Breed/type: Crossbreed
Age: 6 years
Sex: Male
Route to rescue: Abandoned in a factory as a pup
Live with another dog? Yes
With cats? Not tested
With children? Yes
Favourite thing: Second helpings
Rescue: Saving Suffering Strays
Where: Derbyshire
Contact details: adoptions@savingsufferingstrays.com
www.savingsufferingstrays.com

Insight...

In 2013, a litter of puppies was abandoned in a squalid metal factory in Sarajevo. They were left with no food or water and they quickly deteriorated. Felix was one of these puppies and when Milena from Saving Suffering Strays found him and his siblings, they were in a semi-comatose near-death state. She took them to her apartment and slowly nursed them back to health.

Felix was taken to a kennel with his siblings where he settled well. Despite local and international adoption appeals, nobody came forward for Felix, so two years ago, he was moved from the local kennel for rehabilitation.

He arrived in a very nervous state, having become institutionalised from his long stay in kennels. Milena and the team worked with him and gained

some of his attention back to socialising with people. He is a smart dog who loves to play and is very sociable with other dogs, never having shown any signs of aggression.

Felix arrived at Just For Dogs, Derbyshire, in September this year. He is still very nervous and gets stressed if he needs to be carried for a vet appointment, but the team is working to rid him of that fear too. He has not been tested with cats, but is good with children aged eight and over.

Felix is looking for a family that will be patient with the fears he still has. His family will need to be prepared to invest time in basic training on and off the lead and be willing to take things slowly, as he will need time to trust them.

Felix needs a good-sized garden and lots of love, as eventually he will be brave enough to respond to that love and give so much more back in return. This loving boy has been waiting over 2,200 days to find the security and love of a family – could you be his perfect match and offer him the forever home he deserves? 🐾



6x Halti All-in-one Lead £18.99
www.purrfectlyyappy.com/products/halti-all-in-one-lead-in-black?variant=34004695826
To work with the harnesses.



20x Beco Dog Bowl £6.99

www.purrfectlyyappy.com/products/beco-dog-bowl-in-natural?variant=25076159049
These will be used in the Forever Centre once it is fully financed.

The wish list...
...Saving Suffering Strays would love these things to help the dogs in its care



4x Caldex Single Feeder Stand with Bowl £21.99

www.purrfectlyyappy.com/collections/dog-bowl/products/caldex-single-feeder-stand-with-bowl
These would make it more comfortable for the older dogs to eat.



6x Extreme Kong (Large) £11.99

www.purrfectlyyappy.com/products/extreme-kong-large?variant=24987407881
To keep the dogs stimulated and prevent boredom.



6x Red Dingo No Pull Harness (in medium, large and extra-large)

www.purrfectlyyappy.com/products/red-dingo-no-pull-padded-dog-harness?variant=17617077272687
For training and socialising dogs prior to rehoming.



6x Beco Rubber Bone Dog Toy (Large) £12.99

www.purrfectlyyappy.com/products/beco-rubber-bone-dog-toy?variant=24944858505

10x Animology Prebiotic Multi-Vit+ Supplement £11.99

www.purrfectlyyappy.com/products/animology-prebiotic-multi-vit-supplement
To support dogs who arrive in rescue in a malnourished condition.



If you would like to order anything to help Saving Suffering Strays, visit www.savingsufferingstrays.com

We need homes, too!

If Felix isn't right for you, Saving Suffering Strays has these dogs who are also desperate for a new home. Email adoptions@savingsufferingstrays.com for more information.



Jack

Breed/type: A blind crossbreed
Sex: Male **Age:** 4 years
Favourite thing: Walkies
Can live with another dog? Yes
With cats? Not tested
With children? Yes
Location: UK



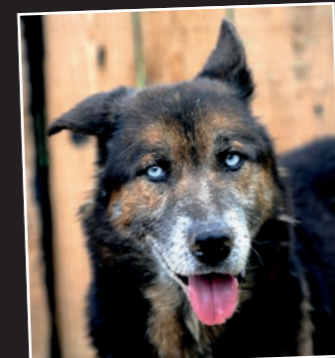
Amber

Breed/type: Crossbreed
Sex: Female
Age: 5 years
Favourite thing: To have a home
Can live with another dog? Yes
With cats? Not tested
With children? Yes
Location: UK



Pepsi

Breed/type: Collie cross
Sex: Female
Age: 4 years
Favourite thing: Having her photo taken
Can live with another dog? Yes
With cats? No
With children? No
Location: Derbyshire



Seb

Breed/type: German Shepherd Dog
Sex: Male **Age:** 9 years
Favourite thing: Dinner time
Can live with another dog? No
With cats? No
With children? No
Location: Sarajevo

Saving Suffering Strays

Saving Suffering Strays started in post-war Sarajevo and has rehomed over 1,000 dogs to date.

Nominated by film-maker Maria Slough

Maria writes:

It was September 2017 when my friend, actor and animal advocate Peter Egan invited me and veterinary surgeon Roger Bralow to Sarajevo, to meet Milena Malesevic. I was to direct a short film about her work – a five-minute information piece about rescuing dogs in Bosnia. A simple enough job.

It was gone 10pm when Milena met us at the airport the night we arrived and she rushed us to her flat on the 12th floor of a war-torn apartment block in the city centre. A pile of puppies spilled out of the door, and alone on the balcony, in quarantine, we found Sunni, rescued from the streets and barely breathing. Roger went to work immediately and did what he could to stabilise the little black and white puppy. Over the next few days, Milena helped nurse her until she was out of the woods.

The situation in Bosnia is a shocking one and it took us unawares. We visited killing stations and filmed undercover; we witnessed dogs that were starving sleeping next to the carcasses of those that hadn't made it. We watched at night as these beautiful sentient beings came out of the shadows, searching for food, for a chance to survive. It is these dogs that Milena is dedicated to saving.

We learnt that the 'business' of stray dogs is a lucrative one, a hotbed for corruption, and genuine rescuers like Milena are rare. So, our five-minute film became a half-hour documentary and premiered at the EU in January 2018 on the work of this incredible lone rescuer, Milena.

There was something about Milena that touched my heart. Her dedication over the last two decades to saving the strays of Sarajevo overwhelmed me. She seemed so alone, dwarfed by the enormity of the cruelty that the dogs of Bosnia are subjected to. Her bravery and stoicism shone through, but most of all her genuine unwavering dedication, against the odds, to save as many dogs as she could.

Earlier this year, Roger and I were reunited with the little black puppy from the balcony in Sarajevo. She made a full recovery and is now living life to the full with her new family, enjoying regular beach walks. It is the combination of bravery and vulnerability that Milena carries with her, plus the unwavering allegiance that the UK based group of women, who work around the clock on a volunteer basis to support the work that Milena does, that makes this small team so inspiring.



At a glance...

- Location:** Sarajevo, Bosnia and the UK
- Date founded:** 2010
- Current number of dogs:** 100
- Longest-stay resident:** 6-year-old Lizzie
- Number of dogs rehomed:** Over 1,000
- Website:** www.savingsufferingstrays.com
- Email:** enquiries@savingsufferingstrays.com

Milena Malasevic started rescuing dogs in post-war Sarajevo in 1998. Her first rescue dog was Bobbi and they were companions for 18 years. As the post-war situation for homeless dogs – misplaced through no fault of their own – escalated, lone rescuer Milena was compelled to help.

For many years, Milena ran her rescue operation from her small flat on the 12th floor of a war-torn apartment block in Sarajevo with the help of local private kennels. In 2010, a group of women in the UK became aware of the extreme and often dangerous challenges that Milena faced daily in her efforts to rescue dogs from the streets and the notorious public killing stations, and they set up Saving Suffering Strays as a UK-based not-for-profit organisation.

SSS has now applied for charity status and has a UK-based board of proposed trustees in place, which includes their patron actor and animal advocate Peter Egan, film-maker Maria Slough and UK vet Roger Bralow. All heads of department including finance, adoptions and social media are in the UK and are entirely volunteer based. SSS has formed a working partnership with Derby-based charity Just for Dogs, who help rehome the dogs with UK families.

The team at Saving Suffering Strays believes that every dog deserves a home, and their rehoming process is very thorough.



SSS often deals with severe abuse cases or malnourishment, so every dog's rehabilitation journey is different and can be very challenging. Kindness, love and patience will usually win through in most cases, but for the few dogs that are unable to recover from the horrors of their past, SSS offers lifetime care.

SSS has recently launched a campaign to finance the creation of a small centre in Bosnia, which will be known as The Forever

Centre. This is led by the Buy a Brick campaign where, for a £3 donation, a brick is bought for the new centre and can be dedicated to a current or former companion animal.

This centre will provide a lifetime's sanctuary for those who need it, and will also have a puppy facility for sick and abandoned puppies, often thrown out like garbage at only a few days old. The centre will also enable SSS to work with local support groups to bring people and dogs together.

Hero's happy ending

Alone and scared, beautiful Hero spent his days tied up in a village while the local children stoned him for fun on a daily basis. He was starved, tortured and left to die.

When Milena came to rescue him, Hero was near death, ribs protruding with sores all over this body. Yet despite this life of abject cruelty at the hands of the people around him, Hero still had love to give and immediately attached himself to Milena, becoming a loyal companion while she lovingly nursed him back to health. His right eye had blown and had to be removed, and he appeared to have little vision in his left.

Leading UK eye specialist Dr David Williams confirmed a retinal disorder in Hero's remaining eye. Although Hero is almost completely blind, his ability to make sense of the world through his acute sense of smell and superb intelligence enabled him to settle into a foster home.

On arrival in the UK, Hero went into foster care with Sue Olsen, founder of Olsen Animal Trust. He quickly scent-mapped their home and became attached to all the family, both two-legged and four-. After three months of fostering, the Olsen family decided to give Hero a forever home themselves.



Can you help?

There are several ways that you can help Saving Suffering Strays...

Volunteer

Saving Suffering Strays needs volunteers to help with social media, fundraising and home-checks for adoptions. The roles can be fulfilled remotely and you will be welcomed into the small, friendly group. To find out more, email enquiries@savingsufferingstrays.com

Foster homes

SSS needs experienced foster homes that can help socialise the more nervous dogs in the rescue's care. When a dog has been badly abused or neglected, a kennel environment is unsuitable for them.

If you can open up your heart to a dog in need and share your family life with them, helping to get them ready for their forever home, then email adoptions@savingsufferingstrays.com

Sponsor a dog

SSS has rescued more than 25 dogs that require lifetime care. By donating £52, your funds will provide a safe environment, food and vaccinations for one month for one dog. You can find out more at www.savingsufferingstrays.com or yahoo.co.uk

Buy a Brick appeal

SSS is currently fundraising to build a new centre to house the dogs in its care in Bosnia. You can buy a brick for £3 and dedicate it to any pet you choose. There will be a virtual memorial wall on the SSS website and a printed book of all the memorial bricks will be available once the centre is open. You can buy a brick via the website at www.savingsufferingstrays.com