

## Chicago Court Case Dog Dolly Finally Finds Her Forever Home: An Abused Mother Becomes a Star, a CGC and Now a Beloved Companion



Photo Courtesy of Safe Humane Chicago

Best Friends' lead Community Training Partner in Chicago and Safe Humane trainer Janice Triptow likes to say "it takes a village." Chicago Court Case Dog Dolly is an ambassador for a village success. After enduring abuse for the first couple of years of her life, she made her way through a long stay at Chicago Animal Care and Control (ACC), went to Chicago Canine Rescue Foundation (CCRF, where Triptow is president), appeared in several high-profile public events, worked in a prison program with Mixed-Up Mutts, and ended 2010 with Canine Good Citizenship (CGC) and a foster home. She's now turned her foster dad into a "foster failure." Tim adopted Dolly!

A three-year-old, beige-and-white pit-bull-terrier-type dog, Dolly arrived at Chicago ACC in October 2009, a victim of cruelty rescued by savvy police officers. Shortly after, she gave birth to a litter. She was a good mom who allowed people access to her puppies; all the puppies were adopted. In the meantime, Chicago's Court Case Dog Program was implemented with partners Safe Humane Chicago and Best Friends' Community Training Partners Program and, of course, Chicago ACC. Dolly was the first dog listed on the spreadsheet of Court Case Dogs assessed. After about six months at ACC, Dolly was transferred to CCRF, a Best Friends Network Charity.

Dolly became something of a celebrity. She led the opening parade at Chicago City Clerk del Valle's Dog Day on the Green with grand marshal John Garcia and an entourage of volunteers and even the Cook County Sheriff's Animal Crimes Team. And she was showcased at a Chicago White Sox game as part of the "Sox for Strays" program, including being filmed in a public service announcement with White Sox star pitcher Mark Buehrle and his fabulous wife Jamie, promoting adoption and Chicago's Court Case Dog Program.



Still shot from Public Service Announcement

Meanwhile, Dolly went to basic obedience classes with CCRF staff and volunteers to keep her socialized and exposed and work some on manners. She even worked with the boys at Safe Humane Chicago's Lifetime Bonds program at the Illinois Youth Center, a detention center for 13- to 17-year-old boys, where selected boys work with shelter dogs.

But Dolly needed consistent work on her doggie etiquette, and she tended to grab and not let go of "her things," especially her tennis balls. She could not get the 24/7-type feedback in a shelter that she could get in foster care. Triptow points out that "shelters can only do so much. We need people to step up and open their homes and hearts to reach these dogs who have lived such large portions of their lives in kennel facilities."

The Court Case Dog Program team looked around for resources to help Dolly learn better etiquette. The solution was Mixed-Up Mutts (MUM), a rescue and training center in northwest Indiana that finds troubled dogs in the Chicago and northwest Indiana area and takes them to the Westville Correctional Facility to be placed into their award-winning Prison Tails program. They routinely take dogs fostered by yet another partner, Friends of Chicago ACC. Program Coordinator Kathleen Budrean, who also works closely with Friends and CCRF, hooked everybody up while making another “small world” observation: MUM coordinator Regan attended Best Friends’ No More Homeless Pets Conference in Las Vegas last October.

So off Dolly went to the Westville Correctional Facility. She was partnered with an offender who is a certified dog handler for a program of 4-8 weeks of 24-hours-a-day care, attention, and obedience training of assigned dogs. During her time there, Dolly went from grabbing and not letting go of her toys and being reactive with other dogs to learning to relax and playing with more than one dog at a time in the dog park at the facility. And one of her proudest accomplishments: she became a CGC.

Dolly is the first Chicago Court Case Dog to earn a CGC certificate. Dolly, you rock!

Back at CCRF, a foster home became available for CGC Dolly. What a celebration that was! CCRF staff and volunteers did lots of preparation with a foster dad who really wanted to continue working with her. The only problem is, Tim said she was the perfect house guest. No issues.

A sweetheart from the start, Dolly loves to play fetch and go on walks -- she walks well on a leash. She is very social and entertaining with a bright, happy disposition. Her tail is a barometer of her emotions. And she has a signature relaxed-belly-to-the-ground-all-four-paws-out position that she’ll give when settling after play or exercise. She wiggled and snuggled her way right into Tim’s heart.



Photo Courtesy of Safe Humane Chicago

In an email to Dolly’s extended Chicago family on the night of her adoption, Kathleen sent a series of pictures: Dolly kissing Tim, Tim giving Dolly belly rubs, Dolly and Tim hugging, and the family portrait you see at the beginning of this story: “I’m sure you are all as happy as I am, possibly shedding a tear, over the life Dolly once led, the cages she’s lived in and the fact that she finally, finally, finally gets to live the life she deserves in a warm, loving home all her own.”

Chicago loves Court-Case-Dog and pittie ambassador Dolly and all the organizations and individuals who have helped her and others find the good life! It’s a village culminating in Tim and Dolly’s home together. “Moving forward, anyone is welcome to come and see her; and I will make myself and/or Dolly available to promote her story, create awareness, or anything else CCRF thinks would be helpful in getting more dogs saved, adopted.” Thank you, Tim! The village is here for you and Dolly!

