

## Berties Story



Some dogs just really steal your heart, right from the word go. That's what happened with our boy Bertie, he's a very special little boy.

Bertie was found wandering the streets, very thin, scared and having suffered an almost fatal road traffic accident. He made his way to a 'pound' where he was seen by the vet there and needed an emergency operation to save his life. It was touch and go as to whether or not the gorgeous little lad would survive, and apparently, every day the vet's staffs was surprised he had made it through the night. They came in every morning to a waggily tailed happy go lucky little chap!

So after having survived being alone on the streets, and a terrible accident, Bertie soon made his way back to the pound to wait and see if his Mum and Dad were going to come back and take him home. But they never came. Bertie had 1 day left to find somebody to call his own.

How someone could not try and find their beloved friend is beyond me, and I think it was beyond Bertie too, as he didn't know what was happening or where he was going next, he was a lonely lad to say the least. You see, Bertie, was suffering from a life long illness, that needed treatment, that he had obviously not been receiving. Some days, he could barely even see the kind people treating him! Bertie has a condition called Dry Eye, which left untreated, is very uncomfortable, and leads to ulcers in the eye, which eventually perforate, leaving the dog blind. However as Bertie had been in a terrible accident, this hadn't been picked up; it was thought that his 'bad' eye was a result of the trauma.

In the meantime, a small blurry picture of the unclaimed skinny ill red Staffy was being circulated to local, and not so local rescues, desperately trying to find him a rescue space, and that's where we came in. I asked RDR if we could possibly help, and it was decided that if he could be buddies with my 2 rescue staffs, 1 of which is previously a RDR dog herself, then he could come and stay with me until RDR could find him a loving forever home.  
So Bertie came to stay.

Within 2 days my other half was asking if he could stay and by the third, neither of us, or my 11 year old son, could imagine ever being without him! It was as if it were meant to be.

Anyway, 4 weeks later, and Bertie now only has 1 eye. Our vet picked up on his Dry Eye, and got him on treatment to make him more comfortable straight away, but unfortunately, the eye that was showing signs of being in a bad way, perforated on Easter Sunday, so a trip to the vets and an over night stay, and our Bertie, is now 1 eye less. We worried sick, even though our vet had warned this may happen, but he came back absolutely fine, and maybe a little happier, now that he wasn't having to cope with his nasty eye anymore.

He's now pottering about just fine, but has the occasional bump. This is due to his remaining eye sometimes being clouded with the oily substance that the tear duct makes. His problem is that his tear duct isn't making the watery part of the tear as it should, which mix with this oil like a normal dog's eye should. This means that his eye sometimes gets very sticky and impaired. We can't help but to sometimes get upset over this, however...Bertie doesn't, he just carries on regardless, wagging his tail and sniffing around till he finds our outstretched hand and comes for his favourite thing in the world...cuddles!

He hasn't an ounce of malice in him, he's the perfect house dog, and we just cant believe how wonderful dogs like these end up in such a terrible situation, so its thank god to rescues like Rotherham Dog Rescue, that somebody cares and tries to help, and although we cant help them all...we can do our best, and when somebody like Bertie touches your life, it makes all the tough times working in rescue, seem very worth while.

Bertie may eventually lose his other eye, which we are striving to look after for as long as possible with regular trips to the vets and constant medication, and we will cross that bridge when we come to it. I'm sure we will shed a few tears again, and work hard to help him become accustomed to being blind, but he's more than worth it.

Bertie is one of those very special dogs.

