

Commitment Is What Transforms A Promise Into Reality.

words by Anna Cooke
photography by Rodrigo Gaya/WorldRedEye.com
headline is a quote by Abraham Lincoln



What motivates someone to volunteer for a shelter or a rescue group? Even more compelling — what is the motivation behind developing a rescue organization? It's a ton of work — with plenty of heartache. And if you're really doing it for the dogs, the money isn't exactly good either.

As a child growing up in South Beach, Jamie Robinson suffered from severe depression, and her service dog *Demian* helped her cope with the debilitating disease. It was a troubling time for Jamie, and the dog changed her life. When she was 18, Jamie determined that one day, her life would be devoted to animals, especially dogs.

During Jimmy Carter's administration (1977–1981), while working for CBS as a photographer and videographer, Jamie became the first female videographer for the White House. She traveled the world with the President on Air Force One. After her White House gig, Jamie was hired by ABC and worked on projects for the 20/20 television show. As an

accomplished artist, her work has been exhibited in galleries across the country and Europe.

World-weary after such a heady career, Jamie was finally able to return to Miami. But, it wasn't to retire. The single mother with a five-year-old daughter in tow, moved from New York City to Miami to care for Jamie's mother. "She was very ill at the time, and after being told she had one year to live, ended up living another three years," said Jamie.

She continued her photography, working freelance for the Miami Herald, and opened a studio, photographing mostly models. Miami is known for many things — the arts, the culture, the traffic, the tourism and the diversity of its population. It is also fast becoming known as an area that has an extreme street dog problem — homeless dogs as a result of people dumping them. Jamie began bringing some of those homeless dogs home to care for. She lived in an apartment and was being fined for keeping dogs.

In 2004, when the opportunity presented itself, Jamie purchased a home on an acre of land with the idea that she would save as many dogs as she could handle without being harassed by a landlord. But, the



"I cannot comprehend the level of cruelty so many of these dogs have had to endure."—Jamie Robinson.

location was zoned residential and she was denied a kennel license. Interestingly, though, it was zoned for puppies. "I can pretty much keep as many puppies as I can physically handle," she said.

Jamie eventually closed her studio and has since devoted her life to rescuing, caring for and adopting out the dogs she's taken in from the streets. Through a partnership with MDAS, she also pulls dogs from the shelter. *AllieMae*, a Mastiff, was one of the first dogs she pulled from MDAS. "She was heartworm positive and weighed only 65 pounds," Jamie said. That was four years ago. The big dog is now best friends with another one of Jamie's dogs, a Chihuahua named *Chiwee*. "She was just diagnosed with cancer, so we'll make sure she receives the best care and love to keep her comfortable."

Jamie's Rescue, a 501(c)3 non-profit, was officially established in 2007, even though she had been running a rescue since 2004. "I couldn't accept donations until we became a 501(c)3. So prior to that, everything I did for the dogs came out of my own pocket."

Jamie says that she has placed thousands of dogs and puppies in safe, loving homes since 2004. Rachel, her daughter, moved back to South Beach from Los Angeles to help her run the rescue group. "Rachel has helped me a lot with the rescue. She adds a

whole new dimension. She's my event coordinator and social media person," said Jamie.

Jamie's Rescue mostly takes in puppies that are found in boxes, dumped on the side of the road. Specializing in litters of puppies, the fenced-in sanctuary is cage-free. "I basically live in a giant dog house. There is no furniture. Everything is for the dogs. I have one room to myself in the entire house," said Jamie.

She feeds the dogs organic food and gives them lots of love. The dogs are trained before being adopted out. "I won't adopt to anyone who is going to crate the dog," she told us. "It's not necessary. You can put up a baby gate and work on the dog's boundaries."

Jamie works with MDAS on abuse cases, housing confiscated dogs. She keeps records for those cases, working with law enforcement during an investigation. Up at 5:00 a.m. every morning, her days are non-stop from feeding the dogs, to vet visits, reviewing adoption applications and appointments with potential adopters. In addition to help from her daughter, Jamie pays a vet tech/trainer to assist. Additionally, there are three other board members who volunteer and help underwrite some of the rescue group's ongoing



Rachel Robinson (l) and her mom Jamie (r).

larger medical expenses. The need for funding is a never-ending story.

The problem with taking in puppies is the potential threat of canine parvovirus (CPV) infection and the expense of treating it. Most deaths from CPV usually occur within 48 to 72 hours following the onset of clinical signs.

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Two new drugs can mean the difference between life and death for puppies who are affected with parvovirus and whose owners can't afford in-clinic veterinary care.

Colorado State University Veterinary School has announced a new protocol for treating puppies with the deadly virus if their owners can't afford in-clinic care. It includes the at-home use of two drugs recently released by Pfizer Animal Health that are designed to treat nausea and dehydration caused by parvo.

Standard veterinary care can cost upwards of \$3,000 and includes hospitalization, IV fluids, antibiotics, and close monitoring. The new Pfizer drugs cost owners only about \$200–\$300, CSU reports.

"We still recommend inpatient care as the best practice, but in some cases that simply isn't financially possible," says Dr. Lauren Sullivan of CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital's critical-care unit. Sullivan reported that a recent study conducted by CSU and funded by Pfizer showed that the parvo-infected dogs treated with the drugs have an 85 percent survival rate, while 90 percent of dogs treated as inpatients survive. Without any care, the virus is "almost always fatal," CSU says.

Parvo is spread through feces of infected dogs and typically affects the gastrointestinal tract and circulatory system, suppressing the immune system. A vaccine is available, but puppies are not fully protected against the virus until 7 to 10 days after they've had all three injections (initial vaccine and two booster shots).

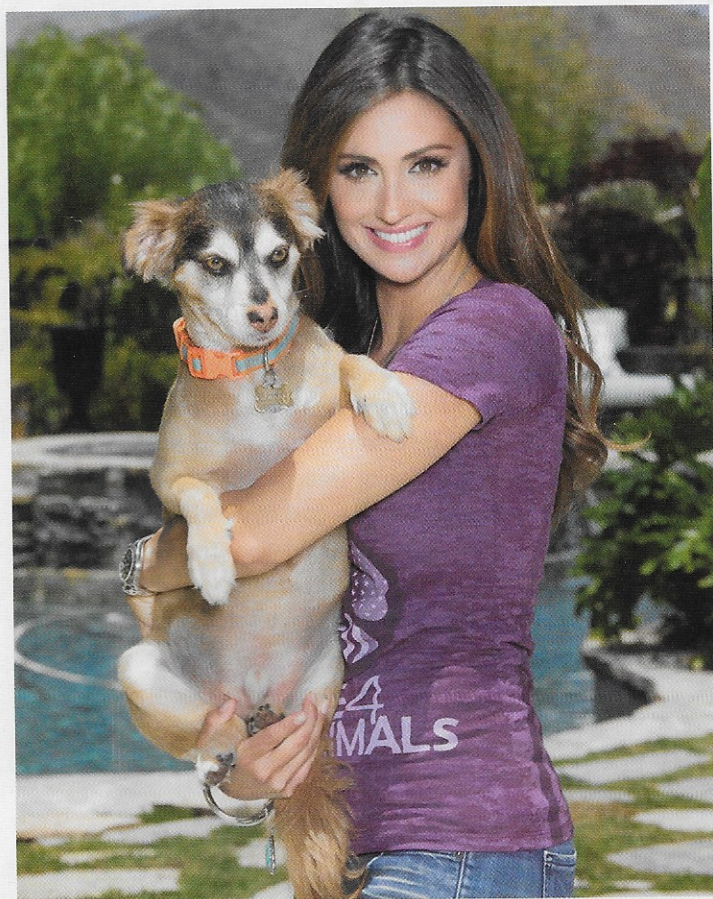
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RESCUE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Jamie's Rescue

Jamie Robinson, Founder

After becoming the first woman photographer for CBS news, serving as the White House photographer during the Jimmy Carter Administration, and then back to NYC working with Barbara Walters, Jamie decided to follow her passion to help homeless animals. She opened Jamie's Rescue in 2007 when she moved to Miami. She focuses on death row dogs taken from Miami-Dade Animal Services, pregnant dogs and puppies. Most of these rescues come from dogs dropped on the side of the road, discarded in abandoned houses or left at her door. Working virtually single-handedly, Jamie rescues approximately 350 puppies and 100 adult dogs per year. Many are flea infested and suffering from anemia when they arrive; parvo, ringworm and distemper are not uncommon. All are accepted, nurtured back to health, and spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Vet bills are astronomical and any help is appreciated. Visit jamiesrescue.com.



ANIMAL WELFARE SPOKESPERSON OF THE YEAR

Katie Cleary

Katie Cleary is a woman of many talents, be it model, actress, filmmaker or philanthropist. She soon realized she preferred to focus on using the media to benefit animal welfare. Katie founded the animal welfare organization, Peace 4 Animals, in 2012 and was the creator and Executive Producer of the Award-Winning Documentary, *Give Me Shelter*. The film raises awareness for the most important animal welfare issues worldwide and shines a spotlight on those who dedicate their lives to rescuing animals. She is a leader in the animal welfare community of LA and internationally. As if she wasn't busy enough, Katie is also Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *WorldAnimalNews.com* (WAN). WAN highlights the latest breaking animal welfare issues happening around the globe. Her goal is to create positive change by protecting the planet and its precious species, so we can all live in peace together. She hopes to one day open the Peace 4 Animals Reserve to Rescue & Rehabilitate Endangered Species in South Africa.

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