

# Ontario Coalition Against BSL

This is the tale of Cali, a dog from the Baldwin Animal Center in Los Angeles, California.

Cali was picked up as a stray on the streets of Los Angeles. Absolutely terrified in this strange new environment, sadly she was originally deemed as “unadoptable”. Thankfully, the shelter wanted to give her a chance, and they took her in, gave her an intake number, and named her “Eleven”.

One day, a photo was received by a couple in Alberta of this terrified pup, with a message asking “can you help her?”. As time is CRITICAL in so many of these shelters that are full of unwanted, or disposed of animals, her savior, who we will call William, made the decision to go to California with the full support of his wife, who we will call Melissa, and together they decided that this dog deserved a chance and was coming home with them. William made multiple phone calls confirming with Baldwin Animal Center that he was coming for her, what his ETA was, and agreed to a private adoption. Williams beloved dog, Okee, made the journey with him.

Upon William’s arrival to the shelter, his heart melted as he met this scared, but beautiful little soul. Next, Baldwin Animal Center completed all the vetting and Eleven was given all her shots and spayed. William paid the adoption fees and he renamed her “Cali” after California. Poor Cali was totally catatonic and needed to be carried out to the truck. She was in a frozen state of fear, unwanted by a family for her whole life before William and Melissa came to her rescue. Okee, being the incredible dog that she was, stepped in and took Cali under her wing. She became like a mother to Cali, nursing all of her fears, helping her to decompress, and teaching her how to trust again in a quiet, safe, and loving environment.

Cali slowly started to learn that she was safe, and as the layers of fear were peeled back, she started to blossom and grow. Cali quickly learned to not fear her new family, and soon grew into a happy dog full of love. She is a homebody, and enjoys spending time with her furry siblings, Jewel and Bandit (sadly Okee has since gone to the rainbow bridge – RIP sweet girl!). Every night she curls up next to her mom as close as she can get, snuggled and safe against Melissa’s chest. Although Cali still has some fears of strangers and unfamiliar situations, her nightmares have ended and she has blossomed into the dog that she deserves to be. She has been in her forever home for 2.5 years now, and has a life and world where she can live in peace, all thanks to the Baldwin Animal Center, who never gave up on her! Thank you to her family for sharing her story, and for sharing the photos of transformation of her beautiful soul!

The worst part of Cali’s story? If she had been in Ontario, she would never have been given the chance that she so deserved because of BSL. Have you contacted your MPP yet to get their support for Bill 147? Will you speak up to save dogs like Cali??