

# Ontario Coalition Against BSL

The story of Sarge, a dog destined to be destroyed because of BSL who found his way to the arms of an angel named Andrea...

Sarge was turned into the SPCA in Gatineau as a stray in 2014. Poor Sarge, a little white “pit bull” type dog, was emaciated, refused to eat or drink, was completely terrified, and totally shut down, so badly that the shelter couldn’t even assess him. The only thing that they were certain about was that he had been failed, miserably, by the “humans” in his life. Lucky for Sarge, a local Ottawa rescue, Sit With Me, contacted a wonderful woman named Andrea, asking if she could take in an urgent dog. Even though she already had 3 rescue dogs at her house, she said yes as she wanted to give Sarge a chance.

Sarge was freed from the shelter on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and was estimated to be approximately 3 years old. Nobody could tell how long he had been in this condition, but all that really mattered was that he would never be put in that position again. Andrea brought Sarge home, not sure about exactly how it would go for a few reasons. One of her dogs, Coco, who needs a proper introduction to dogs, immediately took him under her wing. One of her other dogs, Birdie, who can take days to weeks to accept a dog never so much as growled at him. Karma, her other dog, immediately took to him and comforted him as best as she could. They knew that Sarge needed them.

For the first 3 days at home, Sarge hid everywhere he could so that he could try to feel safe. He had to be hand fed, as he was still just too shut down to even eat. Each time that Andrea put his leash on him, he would pee in the house, absolutely petrified of everything including fast movements and loud noises. Poor Sarge just had no idea how to be a dog. Andrea was still unsure of what his temperament would be, but one thing was clear – he was absolutely terrified of people. She knew that this dog would need a lot of time, and a lot of patience.

Over time, Sarge started to come out of his shell, a shell that he still sheds today. He started getting on the couch, playing with his sisters, taking treats, and even sleeping on a dog bed that wasn’t in the corner. About a year after Sarge came into Andrea’s life, she met her partner, Sheila. The first time that Sheila met him she was afraid of him. Much to Andrea’s delight it took only moments for Sarge to win her heart, and almost instantly they developed a very special bond. Sheila became Sarge’s most trusted human, and she has helped Andrea build his confidence and further learn to trust and love.

Today, Sarge has come into his own, and is a wonderful, loving, and healthy dog. He still cautiously approaches very calm people, and to Andrea and Sheila’s delight sometimes will not pull away when they put out their hand for a smell. While he is still skittish, the difference in Sarge from the day he came home to today is remarkable. He is a brand new dog, who finally knows how to be a dog. Andrea and Sheila can easily approach him to pet him and give him affection without him running away. He plays and frolics at the private dog park with his sisters, and especially loves driving Karma crazy with his playful nature and zest for life!

Sarge is happy and healthy and his moms would confirm with you that Sarge doesn’t have an aggressive bone in his body, even after a horrible past that they believe included the most disgusting forms of animal cruelty. He loves his life, and is always close to Sheila’s side. He loves to wear his jammies, he even seeks out affection from his family now and eats bones all on his own! He loves dinner time and entertains Andrea and Sheila each night that it’s time to eat. He loves taking walks,

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loves belly rubs, loves all animals and all humans. This is all because of the love and patience shown by his wonderful moms, who adore him to the end of the earth.

Sarge is a very lucky boy, who now loves to give soft gentle kisses to his friends. His life could have turned out so differently if he hadn't been given the chance that he so deserved. Sickeningly, this dog who was petrified, and failed to the extreme by the disgusting neglect of human beings, some of whom to this day think that it is ok to do this to dogs typed as "pit bulls" because the law allows it, could have lost his life due to nothing more than Ontario's BSL. Think of how much love the world would have missed out on had Sarge not been saved...

A huge thank you to Andrea and Sheila for sharing Sarge's story with us and for being his absolute savior. Oh, by the way, Andrea INSTANTLY foster failed with him, just as she had with her other dogs

😊 Will you stand up for dogs like Sarge and his sisters? Will you be their voice and demand that Bill 147 be moved forward to committee consultations so that BSL can finally, FINALLY, be a nightmare of Ontario's past? If you don't, then who will?