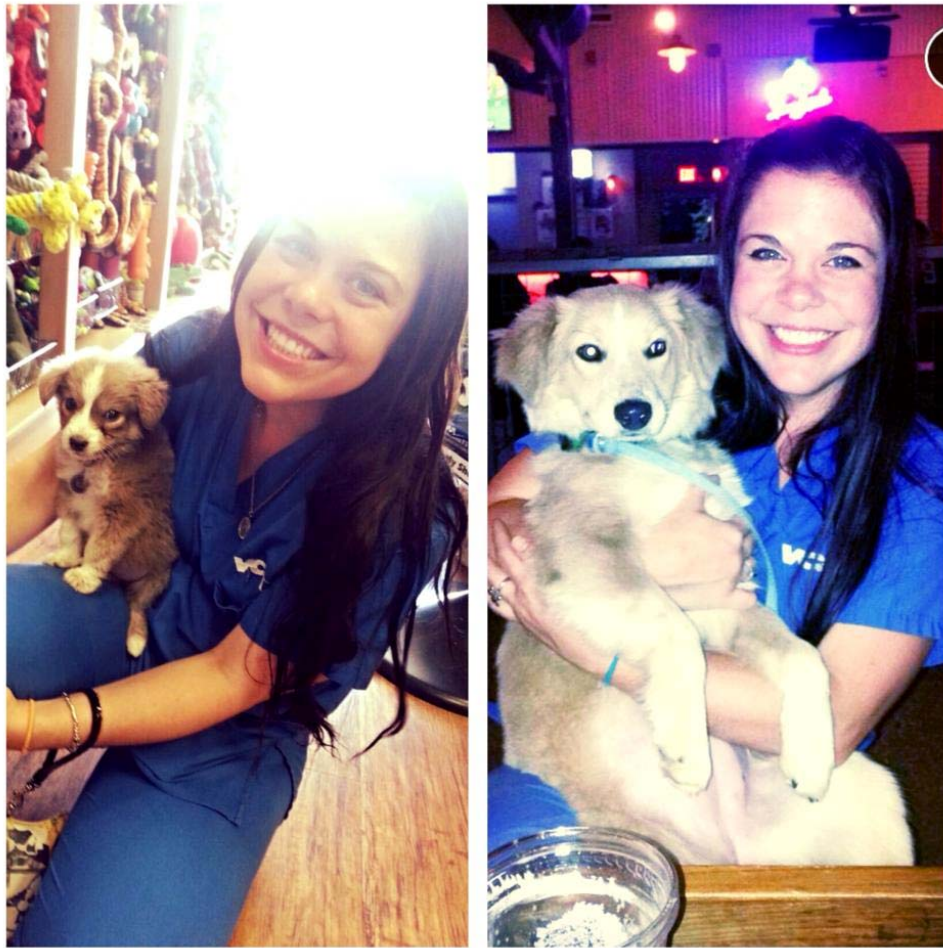


# Josie



When I met Josie at the San Antonio Humane Society, she was two months old and weighed only 2 pounds, while her brothers were four times her size. Although old enough for adoption, she needed to go into foster care to figure out why she was of such tiny stature. She wasn't my foster pup for long before it was determined that she had a liver shunt, which kept her liver from properly detoxifying her blood, which kept her body from receiving the nutrients she needed to grow. In addition to her shunt, her abdomen was full of unexplainable free-floating fluid. Because she was so small and far from the picture of good health, it was assumed she didn't have much longer to live. Knowing this, I gladly kept her in my home, prepared to give her the best life she could have, no matter how short or long it might be.

I worried about her constantly, though. She seemed to decline-- stumbling after eating, not getting any bigger, constantly pale gums, seemed to always run a fever. But I loved her and knew this little girl wasn't going anywhere without a fight.

Her diet changed from processed kibble to boiled chicken and vegetables, I gave her vitamins and minerals to help detoxify her blood, she ate tiny meals seven times a day, and we prayed. I prayed, my family prayed, my friends prayed. Everyone that met Josie could see something special in her and wanted her to win the fight.

After a lot of worrying and tears and prayers, something changed. Her body started growing and her fluid-filled stomach started shrinking. She began gaining a pound a week. She was bigger every time I looked at her!

At her final ultrasound, there was absolutely no trace of a liver shunt. Liver shunts are not typically resolved on their own, but her liver and all her other organs were perfectly healthy, and her bloodwork was perfectly normal. She was cleared! She was finally a normal puppy!

Of course, she's never been normal to me. She will always be my miracle, and I am thankful for her life every single day.

Today she is 7 months old and weighs 23 pounds. I never planned on adopting a puppy, but Josie stole my heart and has been an inspiration every single day. If a two pound puppy can beat all the odds, then so can we.





