



Mars, a 100+ day shelter dog, won't let being hard of hearing stop him from his search for a loving family

Operation Kindness, a North Texas animal welfare non-profit wants to help a deaf, eleven-month-old dog find a loving home



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Carrollton, Texas) – January 16, 2025, marked the 100th day [Mars](#) — a 37-pound male, mixed breed dog — has been in [Operation Kindness](#)' care. His shiny white coat, floppy ears and wagging tail make him seem like any other happy dog, but what makes him truly unique is his optimistic attitude despite his deafness. Mars was transferred to Operation Kindness from Dallas Animal Services in October for intensive medical treatment of parvovirus — a potentially fatal disease for puppies— where he received round-the-clock care in the [Rees-Jones Foundation Medical Wing](#). Amid his treatment and at just eight-months-old, veterinary staff discovered Mars was deaf.

Mars might not be able to hear, but that doesn't stop him from being a joyful and affectionate pup. He loves treats — crunchy, soft, chewy — it doesn't matter to him as long as it's food! However, what really fills his heart with love is people. Mars enjoys bonding with humans and is a loyal dog sure to follow you through all of life's journeys. He loves receiving pets and is the ultimate cuddle buddy after a long day. Mars is also a storyteller; he loves to communicate through soft playful barks and happy howls.

“We have prioritized teaching him hand signs for cues, as well as working on reducing any startle response when touched since that is how we get his attention,” said Erin Fletcher, an animal behavior manager at Operation Kindness. “He has responded well to positive reinforcement training and is food motivated.”

Deaf dogs are unique and primarily use visual cues for training and communication. Training resources — like [Deaf Dogs Rock](#) — are free, widely accessible online and can help you and your deaf pet learn ways to better understand one another.

Mars is available for a seven-day trial adoption through Operation Kindness' [Foster First program](#). This program gives Mars and potential new owner time to ensure it's a great match before finalizing the adoption. If interested in fostering through the Foster First Program, come to Operation Kindness' [Carrolton](#).

Interviews available upon request.

B-roll is available [here](#)

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About Operation Kindness

Operation Kindness, a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization, operates a lifesaving animal shelter and programs to assist people and pets. Founded in 1976, Operation Kindness is a pioneer in Texas for assisting animals in need of veterinary care, companionship and, most of all, a home.

In addition to pet adoptions and lifesaving medical care, Operation Kindness' programs provide foster care for vulnerable animals, behavior and training support for pet parents, affordable veterinary services for community pets, a pet food pantry, volunteer opportunities and professional training. To learn more about Operation Kindness, please visit their website at www.operationkindness.org.

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