

Parma Animal Shelter Helps the Satos Find Loving Homes

By Amandah Blackwell

January 21, 2013

Katie Rivera, niece of Parma Animal Control Officer Julie Kocik, has been visiting Puerto Rico for the past two to three years taking her son to visit family and friends. Three years ago Katie became aware of the place known as "Dead Dog Beach." She was horrified and appalled to learn that animal control officers had been seizing animals from their homes in Puerto Rico's housing project, throwing them over a cliff to die and collecting a bounty of \$65.00 for each one. Katie also learned that home owners will Taser the dogs if they don't go to the beach. Some residents try to help the dogs by building shelters, but they're usually torn down. Food is left on the beach for the dogs, but children shoo the dogs away from it. But all was not lost. On her last trip, Katie was able to bring back two [Satos](#) dogs, Tony and Tina, and four puppies, two of which, Claudia and Frank have been adopted. On Sunday, January 20, 2013, Claudia and Frank were reunited at the Parma Animal Shelter for a TV interview featured on [Channel 5 News](#).

Corazón (Cory), formerly known as Claudia, was adopted by Carol (PAS volunteer) and Dave Iosue of South Hills in Old Brooklyn. Carol found out about the puppies when she went into the Parma Animal Shelter on a Friday. Another PAS volunteer wanted to adopt Cory, but the adoption fell through. Carol took this as a sign that she and her husband Dave were meant to adopt Cory. "I saw Claudia and she stole my heart," said Carol. Corazón means heart in Spanish, which is how Cory got her new name. Carol and Dave have two other dogs in addition to Cory. Augie is a 15-year-old male doxie-mix, who followed their neighbor home, and Schatzie, a 5-year-old Schnauzer-terrier mix, whom they rescued from an Amish puppy mill.

Jennifer and Mark West of Parma and their three children, John, 9, Ella, 8, and Evan, 5, adopted Diego, formerly known as Frank, as a way to fill the void after their two and a half year old dog was brutally run over on Snow Road. Jennifer saw pictures of the Satos puppies, and she and her husband Mark, who always had shelter dogs, decided to adopt Diego. The children love Diego, Ella says, "He's cute. I love him because he kisses me every night. "He's lovely, soft and warm and cuddly," says John. Evan says, "I like it when he licks me." Diego has been a welcome addition and is helping the family heal from the loss of their beloved dog Alex.



The dogs and puppies that Katie brought back to Ohio are lucky. Their fate could have been one of starvation and malnutrition-related illnesses. The dogs could have been burned with hot water which residents throw at them to chase them away. They could have been living in alleyways, under cars, and between refuse cans because owners toss them out when they begin to mature. Thanks to the compassion and kindness of Katie, Carol and Dave Iosue, and Jennifer and Mark West, Cory (Claudia) and Diego (Frank) can sleep comfortably at night, eat, and receive lots of love and attention for the rest of their lives.