

REELTIME ANIMAL RESCUE'S COMPASSION EDUCATION: CONNECT & INSPIRE PRESENTER



ATHENA NIELIPINSKI - FISHY'S FRIENDS RESCUE

Hi, my name is Athena, and I'm the proud Founder of Fishy's Friends Rescue. Our story began with a dog named Fishy, an unforgettable stray from the streets of Lawton, Oklahoma. With a battered food bowl in his mouth and a quiet plea for help in his eyes, Fishy wandered the neighborhoods like a ghost. He was seen by many, talked about by some, but truly understood by very few.

For six emotional weeks, I chased every lead, every sighting, armed with sardines, a to-go bag, and a heart full of determination. I'd call out, "Fishy, Fishy, Fishy," hoping he'd recognize safety in my voice. Slowly, cautiously, he began to trust. And finally, after weeks of near-misses and heartbreak, I was able to wrap him in the care he had always deserved. That moment didn't just save his life, it redefined mine.

In early 2024, Fishy's Friends Rescue was born, inspired by his strength and the countless other dogs still waiting to be seen. We are a foster-based organization devoted to helping dogs who have endured hardship, neglect, or abandonment, who may have been forgotten, but whose stories matter. Our mission is to give those animals the second chance they so deeply deserve.

Today, Fishy is no longer the stray clutching a bowl. He is the heart of our rescue, the face of resilience, trust, and healing. His journey proves that with compassion, patience, and a little faith, even the most broken spirits can rediscover love and safety.

I would love for you to meet Fishy through the Compassion Education: CONNECT & Inspire program and hear his incredible story firsthand. His journey, and the mission behind our rescue, can help plant seeds of empathy, hope, and action in the next generation.

Together, we can create a future where every animal has a chance to move from hopeless... to home.