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Doctor Slaton — to the Rescue!

By Carole Raphaele Davis
Photo by Elle Wittelsbach

Among local animal rescuers in the Los Angeles area, Doctor Daniel Slaton of Westlake Village Animal Hospital has a reputation. "Take him to Doctor Slaton," they say. "He's rescue-friendly and he'll fix him up."

Too many animals are surrendered to shelters because of medical problems and sadly, those who need medical attention have little chance of being adopted. Few people want to start off a relationship with a new pet who needs to go directly to the hospital. Dr. Slaton, who graduated from Ross veterinary school in St. Kitts in 2003, wanted to build a reputation by helping out with rescue groups. He helps small rescue organizations that pull animals from the shelters' kill list by offering a reduced rate.

Dr. Slaton has a rescued dog of his own, a little Chihuahua who had been attacked by another dog. "She was brought in by a local rescue. She had broken ribs and a large abscess and I fixed her up," said Dr. Slaton, continuing, "I'm not a big Chi fan but I sort of fell in love with her. I named her Beanz, like a little coffee bean." He also has an English Mastiff he named Disco, acquired eleven years ago from a breeder. "That was

before I realized how many unwanted dogs were available," he said.

Asked if there is a particular medical rescue case that stands out in his mind, he told me about a five month-old puppy—a Chihuahua mix that was an abuse case. The dog was paraparetic which means he couldn't use his rear legs. "I was asked if I could do spinal surgery because he had a fractured spine—a vertebral fracture," said Dr. Slaton. "It was his only chance."

Thanks to Doctor Slaton, that little dog got his chance—he's in recovery now and is beginning to walk. Soon, he will be ready for adoption into a loving home. 🐾

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