

Sometimes it takes a whole village to save a dog...

By JANE NORTHROP
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All's well that ends well in the story about a dog that was lost in Pacifica and seen wandering around a Pacific Manor neighborhood.

Kerry Van Arkel of San Mateo was looking for a dog for her family. After researching various rescue organizations, she was captivated by a profile of a dog on Petfinder.com available through an organization called Asians For Humans, Animals and Nature. She saw a photo of a dog called "Na Na" who had lived its whole two- to three-year life in a cage in Taiwan, hardly ever seeing daylight. The dog was brought over to the United States to be adopted by a Pacifica family.

But the dog and her intended owner were not a good match. The dog got away from its new family in the Pacific Manor district on Dec. 15, only three days after adoption. On Christmas Eve, Van Arkel contacted Vicky Ho Lynn, executive director of Asians for Humans, Animals and Nature to ask about the dog. When she learned the dog had escaped in Pacifica, and that the intended owner had a change of heart about keeping the dog, she took it upon herself to try and bring the dog back to safety.

Na Na wandered around the Pacific Manor neighborhood for a month. Van Arkel put up flyers in the neighborhood offering a reward for the dog's capture. She took out an ad in the Pacifica Tribune. She visited residents door to door, introduced herself and let everyone know she was interested in giving the dog a good home. Neighborhood kids did their part. They rode around on bikes keeping an eye out for Na Na. In her search, Van Arkel met a few neighbors who were experienced dog rescuers who were willing to help trap the dog. They had seen her, but they couldn't get



Tribune Photo by Becca Northrop

Here are the people who played a role in the rescue of Na Na, renamed Hannah, left to right, Michelle Kunz, Aaron and Adam Van Arkel, Paige Germen, founder of Asians for Humans, Animals and Nature Vicky Lynn, Julia Lai, Kerry Van Arkel with Hannah, Judy Richardson, Nick Mitchell and Don Richardson. Not pictured, a neighbor whose first name is Apple.

near her. Catching Na Na seemed impossible. Without a history of much love and affection from humans, Na Na instinctively hid.

But finally Van Arkel heard from a neighbor whose own dog had inadvertently frightened Na Na. The lost dog was hiding deep in his backyard shrubs. He was able to capture the dog, which was filthy and loaded with ticks. Van Arkel brought her back home and renamed her Hannah.

"Although there are many dogs in great need of a home, I chose this dog after reading her story and seeing her picture. Little did I know, she was lost at the time. I just wanted to let you know that during this search I had many misgivings. After all, I had never even met this dog and I found myself volunteering to lead the search

in a neighborhood that was unfamiliar to me. If not for the neighbors in the Pacific Manor area, who gave me access and offered encouragement, I might have given up. My thanks to those involved who devoted their time and energy so we could bring Hannah home," she said.

Hannah is now a member of the Van Arkel family, joining Kerry, her husband, Dick, sons, Adam, 5, and Aaron, 4, and their terrier, Sadie. They are quietly introducing Hannah to more and more playful activities as she becomes more comfortable with them.

"Hannah is adjusting to her new home. She is shy and sweet and gentle and we adore her. Some things really are worth waiting for! I also want to extend my thanks to the people that do this everyday. Asians for Humans, Animals and Nature is a non-profit corporation that is dedicated to reduce animal suffering and they are always looking for volunteers to foster animals and assist with pre-qualifying applicants," she said.