



HAPPY HOPE will be featured in a film for Purina.

Freeburg Dog to Be Filmed by Purina

Purina Farms launched its Pawsitive Connections: Stories of Commitment, Triumph and Unconditional Love campaign in mid January. The purpose of the campaign was to collect inspirational stories about people and their pets. Eight stories were recently chosen to be filmed by Switzerfilm who will be producing a video series based on the winning stories that will play in the Purina Farms Visitor Center theater throughout 2018.

Freeburg resident Lauren Kramer-Theuerkauf submitted an essay about her rescued Dachshund, Hope. Her essay has been selected as one of the winning entries. "I am so excited to share Hope's story with Purina,"

said Kramer-Theuerkauf. "This is a wonderful opportunity to shed light on how amazing differently-abled animals are."

A film crew from Switzerfilm will be coming to Kramer-Theuerkauf's residence to conduct an interview as well as obtain footage of Hope. Kramer-Theuerkauf's essay is featured below.

"The product of a backyard breeder, Hope was born without eyes and is completely deaf. Since the breeder saw no use for Hope, he planned to destroy her. Thankfully, his wife stepped in and claimed Hope as her dog. The wife passed away several years later, and the breeder dumped Hope at a shelter with a

choke chain around her neck.

"I discovered Hope on the Dachshund Rescue North America's website and instantly fell in love. My heart ached as I stared at Hope's eyeless sockets. She would never get to see the world around her. Something inside of me kept saying, 'If you don't adopt her, no one will.'"

"At first glance, Hope appeared to be broken. I could certainly relate. I had recently lost my grandmother to Mantel Cell Lymphoma. The disease had made her weak, yet she was anything but frail. Doctors had only given her four months to live. She completely surprised everyone by living for three more years.

"Losing my grandmother was devastating. My heart physically hurt for months after her passing. I spent most nights crying myself to sleep. She was my best friend.

Continues Activities

The next project in the works

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“Then Hope came into my
life. I thought that she would
need special accommodations
due to her disabilities. She com-
pletely shattered my misconcep-
tions.

“Hope learned the layout of
my house in a week. She then
climbed the basement stairs with
ease. I was beyond amazed when
she began barking at the back
door when she wanted to go out-
side. Hope’s incredible spirit and
courage reminded me of my
grandmother.

“Nothing holds Hope back
from living an amazing life. She
starts every morning with a wag-
ging tail and plenty of kisses to
share. Hope smiles whenever she
feels the warmth of the sun and
is always ready for a belly rub.

“Her love of life inspired me
to live again. She proved to me
that neither one of us were bro-
ken. Every day she inspires me
(and over 6,000 Instagram fol-
lowers) to rise and face whatever
challenges that the day may
bring. She has opened my eyes,
and now I see that being differ-
ently-abled does not mean
disabled.”

Don't wait to contribute.

Clay Mason

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