

IN DEFENSE OF THE DOGS

Sarah Gates

It's Monday morning and Sarah's alarm goes off at 4:30 am. As a Senior Associate who manages complex discovery projects for clients nation-wide, Sarah inevitably has a busy work week ahead of her. But before that begins, Sarah takes care of the little things- Zoe, Mr. Burns, Houdini and Ginger, her four Chihuahua rescue dogs.

Sarah began working with the rescue group Animal Advocates Alliance in 2009. The non-profit rescues animals from high-kill shelters, provides them with veterinary and foster care, and eventually places the animals in loving, forever-homes. For months she spent every other Saturday at the Baldwin Park Animal Shelter helping photograph dogs and cats in order to match them up with potential adopters and the wider rescue community. When she wasn't doing networking at the shelter, Sarah was often volunteering her weekends at mobile adoption events.

Sarah soon began fostering dogs herself, spending hours training and socializing them to ensure a smooth transition from the shelter to a permanent family home. She estimates that Animal Advocates has saved thousands of dogs with the help of volunteers like herself.

As pet adoptions slowed with the economy, Sarah found it was getting harder to place some of her foster Chihuahuas. The toughest cases like the older dogs, or dogs with medical problems, found a permanent home with her.

Sarah is a passionate champion for the cause of shelter dogs. Every day she tries to help dispel the myth that shelters are full of uncontrollable, mangy mutts. In fact, shelters have many beautiful mixed-breeds, but also plenty of pretty purebreds. Most animals find themselves behind bars not because of behavior problems, but because a tragedy in the owner's life meant they had to give up their pet. Sarah urges everyone to adopt: "They are the best, most grateful dogs in the world!"

Sarah couldn't be more proud of her adorable Chihuahua family and her work with Animal Advocates Alliance. Today she works as a Volunteer Coordinator for the group, handling volunteer communications and helping to organize groups for mobile adoption events.

For more information about Animal Advocates Alliance: www.animaladvocatesalliance.org

About Sarah Gates:

As a Senior Associate at Wroten & Associates, Sarah Gates defends focuses on the defense of elder abuse and neglect claims; the defense of negligence and malpractice claims in the long term care setting; and the provision of ancillary services to long-term care providers such as restraining orders, and the development of litigation guidelines and best practices.

Ms. Gates graduated from California State University San Bernardino with a Business Administration degree, and obtained her Juris Doctor from the Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles. While at Southwestern, she was active in the Moot Court Honors Program, competing in the National Labor and Employment Law competition in New York City, and the International Information and Technology Competition in Chicago. Ms. Gates also was a member of the Moot Court Board of Governors. She was admitted to the California State Bar and to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California in 2003.

To learn more about Wroten & Associates, Inc. visit www.wrotenlaw.com . Contact Sarah directly at sgates@wrotenlaw.com