



Lap-Letter

Emma's Story: How One Foster Pup Changed Everything

When Maria Medina agreed to foster for Lap Dog Rescue, her first time fostering, she didn't expect it to change the course of her life. But one little pup named Emma did just that.



Emma's Lap Dog Adoption Photo.
Photo by Helga Carter

Emma came to Lap Dog Rescue of New Mexico (LDRNM) during a time when shelters were overwhelmed—especially in the months following COVID-19, when many pet owners surrendered animals they had adopted during lockdowns. Maria couldn't quite explain what compelled her to say yes to fostering that day. "It was just a feeling I had," she said. "I needed to shine a light on fostering because so many pups were at the shelter."

Bringing Emma home was an emotional leap. Maria remembers being unsure and nervous during the car ride, wondering how her own dogs would react. "But when they met her, they were gentle and welcoming," she recalled. "That's when I realized they understood this little pup needed us. It made me see that this was meant to be."

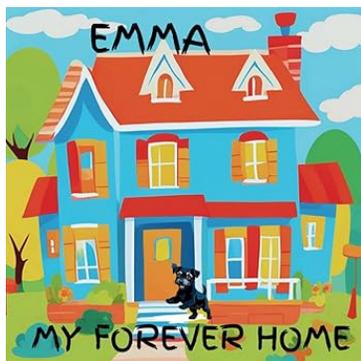
That experience became the heart of Maria's first book, *Emma, My Forever Home*, which tells the story of that very first foster. The book, part of her new Foster Series, is a testament to the life-changing impact of rescue and fostering—for both the animal and the human.

"Fostering gave me so much respect for people in rescue," she said. "It literally can mean life or death for a pup... Rescue groups and fosters see the beauty in them and how they can blossom. All they need is a second chance."

Writing the book was both cathartic and challenging. "I had so many stories about Emma, and I had to fit them into a 20+ page book," Maria explained. Ultimately, she chose to focus on Emma's journey to finding her forever home—a chapter she believes best shines a light on the power of fostering.

(cont.)

Emma's Story, cont.



Emma, My Forever Home is available for purchase at www.Amazon.com.

Maria remains in touch with Emma's adoptive family and finds joy in knowing she's thriving. "Seeing how loved she is made it all worth it," she said.

As a foster with Lap Dog Rescue of New Mexico, Maria has witnessed the dedication of volunteers and the vital role foster homes play.

She chose to donate a portion of the proceeds from Emma to LDRNM. "It was my way of saying thank you," she said. "They do so much to help pups in need, especially those with medical issues."

Maria hopes Emma's story will inspire others to foster. "Even if you only foster once, you're giving a pup a second chance," she said. "It may break your heart in the most wonderful way."

She's now working on future books in The Foster Series, each supporting a different rescue. She's also creating a kitten-themed coloring book and writing about her beloved dogs, Sammy and Snuggles.

5 Tips for Flying with Dogs

Traveling with your dog? Whether it's for vacation or a forever home, here are five quick tips for a smooth flight:

- Check airline policies ahead of time for pet size, fees, and carrier rules.
- Use an approved carrier that fits under the seat and is comfortable.
- Practice beforehand by letting your pup spend time in the carrier.
- Pack essentials like treats, a collapsible bowl, puppy pads, and a favorite toy.
- Plan potty breaks and arrive early to find relief areas.

Happy travels from all of us at LDRNM!

To learn more about our current adoptables, programs, and to donate to Lap Dog Rescue of New Mexico, please visit us at www.lapdogrescue.org.

Lap Dog Rescue of New Mexico Partners with Southwest Airlines to Expand Adoption Reach

Lap Dog Rescue of New Mexico (LDRNM) is excited to announce a new partnership with Southwest Airlines to help transport rescued dogs to approved adopters across the country. This initiative, made possible through Southwest's Animal Transport Team (SWATT), connects dogs with loving homes beyond New Mexico's borders.

SWATT volunteers—affectionately known as Flight Angels—escort rescue dogs in-cabin on commercial flights, ensuring they travel safely and comfortably.

"This partnership is a potential game-changer," said Brian Spence, Board President of LDRNM. "It allows us to reach more families eager to give our pups the homes they deserve."

By expanding its adoption network, LDRNM is addressing the growing demand for small-breed rescues in other regions and can help more dogs get their second chance. LDRNM is deeply grateful to Southwest Airlines and the SWATT team for their commitment to animal welfare and rescue partnerships.