

**From:** [Martin Varney](#)  
**To:** [Daily Telegraph - Photos](#)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 01, 2011 11:13 AM  
**Subject:** Benson

Re Your Story Daily Telegraph Friday 30th September page 13.

Having lost the last of our two Rhodesian Ridgeback early in 2011 we made the decision that if we did get another dog it would be a rescue animal. As I did not want to go through the puppy stage again and we wanted to give a second chance to one of the many animals in need.

My partner Carol-Ann was reading the Sunday Telegraph one Sunday in March and she was attracted to one of the animals featured in your publication.

She went on line to look at that dog when she was on the site Rocky's K9 Rescue she was drawn to "Benson" on the site a cross Staffie / Ridgeback.

Everyone loved him, Merna Karam who runs the volunteers rescue centre said the local Council made an unusual gift of a dog coat to Benson and have also enquired after him with regard to his new home.

After finding about him -he had been beaten abused, shot with paint ball gun and had been starved,- overall he had a very bad start to life. We went to Rocky's K9 Rescue shelter at Canley Vale and brought Benson home for a trial.

He is now living the dream on the Northern Beaches, 3 different beds, two yards fully fenced and secure to run around in, 3 meals a day, walks in local park, drive in the 4 wheel drive. He also allows us to feed our other friends the Kookaburras and will sit patiently waiting for a little snack.

As we have travelled over the last 12 years with our previous dogs he is scheduled for his first on many trips to go to Queensland via Coffs Harbour (dogs are allowed on the Beaches) later in the year.

Having had pedigree animals for the last 20+ years we are overwhelmed at the joy of giving this wonderful and loveable dog a second chance at life. We are ever so grateful and appreciative to the people at Rocky's K9 Rescue who saved Benson and many other animal lovers who care for these animals when they fall on hard times.

Martin Varney