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JERSEY JOURNAL



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Still no bike lanes in Blvd. East plan



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REENA ROSE SIBAYAN JOURNAL PHOTO

NJ rescue dogs to play the field in Puppy Bowl



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ANIMAL PLANET PHOTO

GETTY IMAGES

Lease deal with Hoboken buys time, but what's the long-term plan for NY Waterway ferries?

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ADRIFT

PUPPY BOWL 2023: MEET THE NJ RESCUE DOGS

BY AMY KUPERINSKY
NJ ADVANCE MEDIA

Cathy Larsen was on her way from Alabama to pick up a transport of rescue dogs when she met a puppy from West Virginia.

The dog, named Asiago, would soon become her latest "foster failure."

"My daughter fell in love with him," she says of the 11-month-old basset hound with searching eyes who came from a backyard breeder.

Asiago is one of six dogs from New Jersey rescue groups competing in Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl 2023, aka Puppy Bowl XIX, on Super Bowl Sunday.

Here's an introduction to the hound and other Jersey pups playing for the Lombarky Trophy, along with information on how to tune in.

ASIAGO

Larsen serves on the board of Tri-State Basset Hound Rescue in Deepwater, the group Asiago represents in the Puppy Bowl.

She's owned basset hounds since 1996 and has been volunteering for years at the rescue, which is devoted to both basset hounds and basset hound mixes. She had another Tri-State rescue dog, Lily, in the Puppy Bowl eight years ago.

"They're a great breed if anyone is looking for a family dog," Larsen, transport coordinator for the rescue, tells NJ Advance Media. "They're happy and silly. They are stubborn, but they are very loving."

Asiago, who was about 7 months old when the Puppy Bowl



ASIAGO

was filmed in October in Glens Falls, New York, is playing for Team Fluff, designated by a blue handkerchief tied around his neck.

The dog lets out a deep, resonating bark.

"That's him talking," Larsen says.



POE, LEFT (aka Yoda), and Walker from A Second Chance for Ziva, a rescue group in Chatham. The littermates are playing for Team Ruff.



ANIMAL PLANET PHOTOS

PLAYING THE FIELD: Counterclockwise from top left: Myrtle, Effie and Barnaby from MatchDog Rescue represent Team Ruff and Team Fluff.

BARNABY, EFFIE AND MYRTLE

Waterford Township's MatchDog Rescue is participating in the Puppy Bowl for the third year.

At the 2023 Puppy Bowl, the rescue group will be represented by three dogs from Texas — Myrtle, Effie and Barnaby.

The event is "great publicity for us," says MatchDog volunteer Nina Marcos.

"The bigger win overall is just

for all rescues," she says of the event, which only recruits rescue dogs to be players in the Super Bowl broadcast.

The three MatchDog puppies represent both teams Ruff and Fluff.

Myrtle, a Chihuahua mix, will wear orange for Team Ruff. She was one of eight puppies born in May to a 9-pound mother with a fractured pelvis.

These days, Myrtle — whose name is now Jessie — lives with her sister in New Jersey. Her owner is a MatchDog volunteer.

Barnaby, a Schnauzer mix playing for Team Fluff, was a Texas foster found on the street. Like Myrtle, he's about 8 months old. Renamed Asher, the dog lives in Jennersville, Pennsylvania with a therapist who helps people with trauma. He accompanies her to work and lives alongside several non-human siblings and eight chickens.

Effie, another Team Ruff player, is a 7-month-old terrier mix who was surrendered to a high-kill Texas shelter and fostered in the state before she came to MatchDog.

POE AND WALKER

The two dogs playing for A Second Chance for Ziva, a Chatham rescue, have had quite the journey together in their young lives.

Poe and Walker, pitbull-shepherd-Labrador mixes, come from a litter of 10 puppies in Oklahoma.

Their mother was rescued from a high-kill shelter, sending them on a path to survival and the Puppy Bowl. They played in the game — sporting orange together on Team Ruff — when they were 4 months old, says Erin Camporin, co-founder of A Second Chance for Ziva, who fostered one of their littermates.

Poe's real name? Yoda. For the purposes of the Puppy Bowl, he was temporarily renamed Poe. No brands or intellectual property allowed — "Star Wars" included.

WATCH/STREAM PUPPY BOWL

Puppy Bowl 2023, aka Puppy Bowl XIX, airs Sunday at 2 p.m. on Animal Planet.

The show will stream on Discovery+; see discovery.com/shows/puppy-bowl.

WEATHER TODAY

51°/33°



Sunny and mild today. For the full forecast, see Page 22.

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