

MEET MOE AND LU

The two tiny Danny & Ron rescues are **ERYNN BALLARD'S** best friends.

Erynn Ballard is a Canadian jumper and member of the Canadian Equestrian Team. She is one of only four Canadians to win the coveted Maclay championship. A favorite among her peers and fans alike, Erynn is having a great year, winning numerous grand prix as well as the Martha Jolicoeur Leading Lady Rider Award last year.

I GREW UP WITH DOGS in a German Shepherd and Labrador kind of family, so we always had big dogs growing up. But my lifestyle would not suit a big dog, so small dogs are a part of our lives. They're easy to travel with. You can put them in cars, on airplanes, or take them into hotels. My first small dog was Ohno. He became paralyzed when he was four and went through surgery to get his mobility back. He died at 14, so essentially he lived handicapped for ten years of his life. He was such a strong personality. Your first dog is like your first love. I didn't think that any other dog would ever replace him or fill the void.

When I knew I wanted a puppy again, I knew I wanted a rescue. Moe, a female, was available, and she was perfect in every way. She house trained immediately, and she is the most loyal dog that ever existed. I never felt like I was comparing her to Ohno. While there are a lot of similarities between the two, she's so much her own person; she never lived in his shadow. I don't know what my life would be without her.

I first saw Moe on the Danny & Ron's Rescue Facebook page and contacted



Erynn Ballard with Moe and Lu

Kim Tudor. Apparently, Carolina Animal Control got six puppies from a hoarder, and one was a pregnant female that they sent to Danny and Ron to have the puppies and prepare them for adoption.

I got Moe at the beginning of the winter of COVID in Wellington, Florida. I've never been away from home in Canada as long as I was in 2020. I started to behave like a crazy person. I wouldn't leave Moe alone. If I went out to dinner, I had a time limit because Moe was alone. I'd make sure my garage door was closed 28 times before leaving. I decided that the best solution to Moe being alone was to get another dog, and that's how I ended up with Lu.

She was one of a litter of four that was born at the rescue. She was the runt, and I had talked to Kim about her. Then my

mom sent me a message, "You know what, Danny and Ron have a new litter of small Chihuahuas." So I adopted Lu. I don't even know if she weighs six pounds. My boyfriend weighs about 300 pounds, and to see the two of them together; they're such an unlikely pair. I always tell them that they're soul mates. She's a dog that's a little nervous and hard to handle, so she can't really be off the leash. But she loves to go on walks, and she is good at the barn.

Lu ran away from the farm last year. I don't know how this little dog ever survived Wellington. We had search parties out for her, and eventually, I called a psychic in England, Becky Willoughby, who is used by many dog owners here. We've used her quite

a few times, and nearly everybody has a success story. We all have her on speed dial. She kept saying to me, "She's in a big field with water and horses." And I thought, great, we're in the middle of Wellington with fields and horses, and she doesn't come when she's called. She is quite nervous with people. That's surprising because both my dogs had exactly the same upbringing since the day they were born. Well, the psychic called her to go home, and she showed up.

I think now people want to rescue dogs, certainly in my group of friends. These dogs sort of find you. Danny and Ron provide an incredible service. Everybody I know has a success story about them. In most stables you go to, there are more dogs than horses. What would we do without them?

EQ + CONTACT INFO | PAGE 94