

Michelle Sargis

Michelle Sargis started volunteering with Dog Star as a handler in July 2015. Two years later, her resume includes screener, handler and transporter! Michelle was inspired by the dedicated volunteers who connected her to her own rescue dogs – a mother/daughter Beagle combo and a male Beagle/Yorkie mix.

“Our lives are forever changed in the most heartwarming ways. I felt the gift of these treasures should be paid forward and that is what I am doing with Dog Star. For me, there has always been a connection with dogs and working with people is something I have been doing for many years. Connecting good people with great dogs is a nice fit!”

Michelle has many memorable DSR experiences from her first placement, Melanie (aka Missy), who was adopted by a young motivated couple as their first dog to Magic who had spent years neglected in a crate. Magic’s new “Mom” waited several weeks while she recovered from an injury before being transported up north. Michelle knew the owner would cherish Magic forever.

“Roscoe (aka Archer), was my most unusual placement. He went home with four recent college grads! The roommates lived in a dog friendly apartment and showed up at an adoption event to meet Archer. One roommate worked at night so there would always be someone at home to hang out with him. That is a whole lot of love!”

Michelle is married with three adult children and a ten month old granddaughter. A few years ago, she quit her desk job to pursue her passion of working with dogs. She’s now living the dream as a dog trainer and a volunteer for DSR. She also assists instructors at Tails-U-Win in Manchester, where she developed an interest in nose work and recently became a judge for USCSS (United States Canine Scent Sports). “I love this sport! Nose work is a great way to bond with your dog, build their confidence and exercise their minds.”

When Michelle isn’t working with dogs, she’s watching them. “The Iditarod (dog sled race) has become a hobby for me. I have been to Alaska, with my sister, several times to watch the Iditarod. While traveling to some of the race checkpoints, we have met dozens of mushers and their dog teams. The mushers love to share their passion and their knowledge. People from all over the world (vets, trainers, pilots, handlers), volunteer their time to help organize the race. We will be going again in 2018!”