**Dog Shot in Face by New York City Police Officer**

**Celebrates Four-Year Anniversary of Shooting with**

**Campaign to Raise Funds for
Dogs at High Risk of Euthanasia**

**Nebraska-Based Animal Rescue Organization**

 **Named for STAR, Dog Shot in NYC, Hopes to Secure $4,000 in Donations in August**

**Lincoln, Neb. (July 26, 2016)** – The STAR Project, a Nebraska- based nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing animals at high-risk of unnecessary euthanasia and dispelling breed stereotypes, is honoring the four-year anniversary of the shooting of a homeless dog in Manhattan with a goal of raising $4,000 to rescue animals at high risk of euthanasia from shelters across the country during the month of August.

“STAR is a very lucky dog. She survived horrific injuries to advocate for other animals in need,” said Jenn Sanchez, president of The STAR Project. “Unfortunately, many animal shelters across the United States still euthanize pets for space, correctable behaviors or simply due to their breed. We started The STAR Project to save as many of these pets as we can and are hoping to raise $4,000 in August to save approximately eight dogs’ lives.”

STAR was living on the streets of New York City with her master, a homeless man. When he suffered a seizure, she tried to protect him. The police office was startled and fired his gun, shooting her in the face. Video of the shooting went viral, viewed on YouTube more than 1.4 million times. STAR survived the shooting and was placed into a rehabilitation center before being adopted by a family in Nebraska.

The STAR Project was started in 2015 in STAR’s honor. It costs approximately $500 to rescue a dog from a shelter, including transportation of the animal from the shelter to a foster home, food, training, toys and medical care. If the dog is in need of severe medical help, the cost to save the dog can be even higher.

To help The STAR Project meet their goal of $4,000 in donations in August to save approximately eight dogs, please visit http://www.thestarprojectinc.org/.

**About The STAR Project**

The STAR Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing change to the lives of animals who are at risk for unnecessary euthanasia, have suffered abuse and neglect, deemed special needs, rapidly deteriorating in the shelter or facing breed discrimination. The STAR Project provides foster homes, medical care and training to dogs as they await forever homes. Named for Star, a dog who survived being shot by a police officer on the streets of New York City, The STAR Project offers help and advocacy to animals nationwide. Learn more about The STAR Project at <http://www.thestarprojectinc.org/>

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