

# Amanda Smith-Sinner Story



He made me feel **WANTED**.  
He **CHOSE** to be my Dad.  
He has **always LOVED** me.



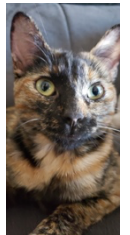
You all know him as PDD Roger Smith, but I have ALWAYS known him as my Dad. The word "step" was never in either of our vocabularies. When I was a child, we always wanted adoption, however we had barriers that prevented it.

It wasn't until my husband adopted our daughter Aubré (on my birthday! It was the best birthday gift ever!) that we were told there is such a thing as adult adoption! That Christmas, I gifted my Dad the adoption forms and asked him to make it official. The road to adoption can be difficult, but there's so much light at the end of it.



In honor and celebration of my adoption, we chose to donate to a non-profit animal adoption organization. A motion was made and passed by our Military Order of the Devil Dog (MODD) Corsair Pound 99 that they would match our donation and join us in celebration. I wanted to help bring awareness to other options outside of certified service animals and here is why:

As many of us do, I struggle with severe PTSD. About 5 years ago I went to an adoption event held by the Southern Arizona Cat Rescue. There I found my cat Teagan. She was 8 months old and so snuggly and sweet. Even though cats cannot be legally trained and certified service animals they still can be emotionally supporting. Teagan brings me back to the present when I am having an episode (she's basically my grounding rod) by sitting with me, lovingly brushing her cheek on me, and purring. All of this with zero training as an emotional support or therapy animal. She just knows and senses it naturally. I accredit most of this behavior to the foster volunteers at Southern Arizona Cat Rescue and how they care for and love their cats and kittens before they are adopted out.



Therefore, we used our raised funds to purchase items that the Southern Arizona Cat Rescue (SACR) need. You can experience the love and affection of these wonderful animals too, and maybe even adopt one for yourself! They are opening a lounge in Tucson soon. Please visit their website for more information at <https://sacatrescue.org>. A big thank you to SACR for all you do and for this small furry angel (who I named Teagan) that you allowed me adopt.



Thank you to the Corsair Pound 99 for celebrating this momentous occasion by donating to SACR, and to those who were present to give our donations in person.

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In closing, I am extremely grateful, blessed, and thankful for my Dad. Not only for raising me, but accepting, loving, and agreeing to adopt me. He has made me the happiest daughter.

Woof woof, 🐾

PDD Amanda Smith-Sinner

AZ Pack & Corsair Pound 99 Mad Dog

