

June 2010

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We have adopted seven seniors since 2004. All are “lap dogs” weighing 15 pounds or less. We currently have four senior dogs: two poodles, a Chihuahua and a Chihuahua mix.

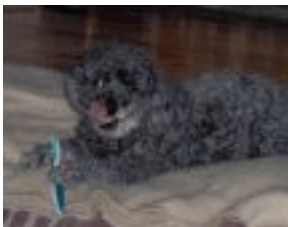


- 1) Masy was our first senior adoption. She was approximately 10 years old when she adopted us. No one knew Masy’s story. She seemed to be a Lhasa Apso mix, found wandering the streets; she needed extensive dental work, and had not been spayed. Adopted and returned three times! Fourth time a charm with us! I was waiting for a sign that she liked me enough to give humans another chance. Went to the car to retrieve my purse and she hopped right in. We became absolute best friends! Unfortunately after only a year, she was diagnosed with leukemia and died shortly after. My heart was broken and I questioned my ability to adopt another senior.

. . . but then came . . .

- 2) Coca and Simone, formerly know as Jenny and Sissy of the “Artesia Poodles”, were 11 and 7 when we found them. They came from a hoarding situation. Coca had been a mama many times and, at the end of her life, no one wanted to adopt her. She was obese and had numerous mammary tumors, plus she had suffered some type of serious hip injury. Simone had never left her mother and had no social skills. Simone was diabetic and subject to pancreatitis, and eventually lost her sight. Neither had been spayed. They spent most of their days in a crate and had been in foster care for over a year.

We brought these two girls into our home and found amazing love and affection with them for almost five years.



During the time she spent with us, Coca got back to her fighting weight and I truly believe had a second “puppyhood”. She loved to “talk”, ride and brush her teeth, and never walked anywhere she could run, bad hip and all.



Simone was our “million dollar” baby with the medications and doctor visits. But she such a loving, precious dog once she got over her fears. Everyone always asked how we taught her to “hug”. But it just came naturally.

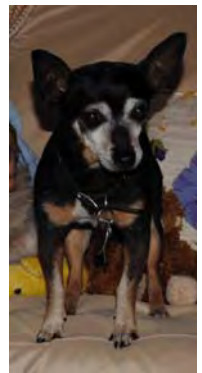
We lost Coca in May 2009 and Simone just recently in March. Again, the heartbreak and pain was so difficult, I wondered if I could keep doing this.

- 3) We weren't looking for another dog when we learned about Mia, a precious terrier-Chihuahua mix. She was kept in foster care for several months and did not pass the socialization requirements to be placed for adoption, plus she has a heart murmur. After we learned about her, we spent some time with her at the shelter, and it didn't take long until we knew we wanted to take her home!!



Two years later, a little bit of work, and a lotta love, and Mia is still with us. She barks to be put on the sofa -- little legs are too short and too old for jumping. She is still a bit of a grouch at times, but there is lots of love in those big, brown eyes. I love seeing her tail wag when I get home at the end of the day.

- 4) Petit is a male Chihuahua, between 12 and 14 years old, who was out of time. A wonderful woman who works diligently at kill shelters to find homes for all the babies sentenced to euthanasia, called us to take in Petit. I thought, oh no, four dogs?! However, we couldn't say no and Petit has become my "velcro" dog in the year and a half since he came to live with us. I have never been the recipient of such unqualified adoration! You can't help but love him back in bushels!



- 5) Violet was found starved and abandoned, near death on a mesa east of Albuquerque. She is a 12+ miniature poodle mix. According to Almost Home New Mexico, "She was old, matted, dirty, emaciated, dehydrated, had an infection, couldn't hear very well, and we thought possibly blind. Who would do this to such an old companion?" Her rescue mom couldn't bear to have her put down, although Violet's many health problems and near starvation seemed to dictate no other out. Violet had severe dental issues with bad teeth and huge oral-nasal fistula, hearing and vision problems, and a genetic heart defect.



I happened across her photo on the internet two months after losing Coca and I knew I had to save this loving, beautiful girl. Once we took care of the dental issues, her weight filled out, and as for the bad heart, don't tell her, because she thinks it works just fine! She has been a little lonely since Simone died, they had become good pals. Another senior baby so full of love, I wonder how blessed I can be. (The photo at left is her "after" photo.)

- 6) Two months ago our vet called us about a 14+ apricot toy poodle someone found running the streets and brought into the clinic. The exam showed no teeth, totally blind in one eye, partially blind in the other, partially deaf, knee caps are shot, and he has a heart murmur. The doc determined he needed to be placed in hospice care. My husband called me to see what I thought. Again I thought, how many dogs can we really care for, but as my friend said, all of our dogs are so small it's really like having one or two.



So now we have added Lítill Hundur to our pack. Like all the others, he is so sweet and loving. And quite sassy for his age! He is smallest of the pack, but has the biggest attitude. Nothing slows him down!

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For anyone thinking about rescuing seniors, but nervous about their age and health issues, all we can say is that bringing these “old babies” into our lives has been the best thing we have ever done -- for ourselves certainly, and hopefully for them as well.

They are all housebroken and well-behaved, and since they are older, there is very little “drama”, on the contrary – lots of naps.

We have found our seniors to be so full of love, give us so much and ask for so little in return, it is a heartbreak and a wonder to me that anyone could have let them go!