



Animal Tales

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2006

A Chance Encounter



At Northeast Animal Shelter, we find it's valuable to check back in from time to time with the forever families we've helped to create. When we heard this heart-warming story of two destined dogs and their owners, we had to share it with you.

It was a crisp October day and Lady, a Black Lab/German Shepherd mix, trotted happily down the sidewalk with her owner Lisa behind. Both watched as the wind tugged at the last few leaves of autumn clinging to their feeble branches. Lady stuck her nose into the air, catching a whiff of firewood as she approached Salem Common.

Lady remembered that day five years before when she sat patiently waiting at Northeast Animal Shelter for a kind human to come in and give her a forever home. She had been worried, thinking that at six years old it might be hard to find someone willing to take her in. But Lady's patience rewarded her when Lisa poked her head in the door and locked eyes with Lady, who wagged her tail in response. It was a match made in heaven.

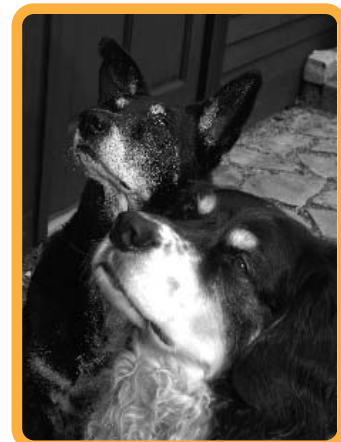
A few streets away Koty and his owner Dan walked quickly down the street, watching the few cars putter lazily by on their Sunday drives. Koty could see the Common in the distance, and the closer they got, the more his tail wagged at the thought of running and playing in the grass.

Koty was exhausted when he too arrived at the shelter five years ago. The little Border

Collie/Bernese Mountain Dog mix had a long journey from Nebraska, and decided to nap for a while. As part of Northeast Animal Shelter's *Puppies Across America* program, Koty had been chosen with many other puppies to be rescued from a high need area. Without Northeast Animal Shelter's help, Koty and his friends probably would have been put to sleep in a shelter because of overpopulation. We are so thankful to have rescued such a special puppy, and are happy to report the Puppies Across America program is still going strong, rescuing more puppies than ever all across the country. Koty wasn't napping long before Dan walked in and spotted just the puppy for him. Koty and Dan hit it off right away, and seemed to get closer each and every year.

As Lady and Lisa crossed into the park, Lady suddenly began straining hard at her leash and for an instant Lisa was afraid it would break! Jogging to keep up, Lisa followed Lady to where she met nose to nose with Koty. Lisa smiled watching the two dogs take each other

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Forgotten But Not Gone



Abbey lay under the limited shade of a car, trying to brace herself against the summer heat. She watched as people, bikes, and cars all passed her by, most without so much as a glance in her direction.

If she had the strength, this five year old cat would have called out with a meow, but the heat and her exhaustion had taken much of the breath and energy from her body. She knew she was near the end of her days, unless she could get some help.

Later that day Abby watched as a man, Melvin, got out of his car and glanced across the street at what looked like an odd shadow underneath a car. When he got a closer look, he realized it was a cat, but thought perhaps it was just a neighborhood pet napping in the shade.

The next day Melvin once again pulled into his driveway from work, and when he got out this time, immediately looked across the street. The cat was gone! Well, no doubt the cat moved on, or went home to a nice dinner with family Melvin thought. But just as he turned to go inside he noticed the same cat, this time sleeping under a different car. Again, Melvin thought this most likely was nothing to be alarmed about.

When day three arrived, Melvin drove faster than usual back to his house to see if he could spot the cat again. This time she lay under the same car. Melvin knew something was amiss. He got out of his car and began to walk toward the cat.

Abby watched as Melvin approached, but had not even enough strength to lift her head. She could barely keep her eyes open against the glaring sun. Just as he got close enough to touch her, Melvin turned and ran back into the house. Abby was sure she would never get the help she needed. She couldn't last more than another day, and Melvin was her last best hope.



Much to her surprise, Melvin emerged again, this time with a can of tuna. Abby ate voraciously from the tiny can, and when finished, she let Melvin carry her inside. He put her down on the cool tile in the bathroom and gave her plenty of water, and went into the

living room to call a friend of his, one of the staff at Northeast Animal Shelter.

Laurie from the shelter examined Abby and found she had a terrible infestation of fleas, crawling all around her delicate eyes, and parched lips. In addition, it looked like some of her teeth were missing and the few remaining were cracked, indications she may have even been kicked. Abby weighed just five pounds. It would take a lot to bring Abby back to health.

Laurie combed out all the mats in her fur, and bathed her in flea treatment, and fed her plenty of food. It was a long road uphill, after which Abby had gained two pounds and was free of the



mats and fleas that infested her body. She was healthy enough to take to the veterinarian.

At the office, the veterinarian told Laurie at least one of Abby's teeth was missing and the three around it were definitely cracked. A cruel individual had indeed kicked her.

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Pet Tips

Here are some tips every pet owner should know about summer care for your cat or dog.

- NEVER leave your pet in the car. Even though there can be a breeze outside, the temperature in the car can rapidly rise while you are away, making it dangerous for your pet to stay there.
- Check your pet's water dish several times a day during the summer months. Just like you, your pet will need plenty of hydration to stay healthy in the heat.
- If you are transporting an animal, always bring enough water, so that he/she does not attempt to drink from contaminated puddles outside.



Our New Look *Inside and Out*



Every dog and cat needs a good grooming once in a while. After 30 years, we decided it was time for a little grooming of our own. **Northeast Animal Shelter is pleased to show you our new logo** – just a little sprucing up on the outside to reflect our hard work and big heart on the inside.



While the design creates a strong new image for our organization – as you can see the roof over the word “Shelter” – it reflects that our passion and our mission remain unchanged: providing refuge for cats and dogs in need, and finding them safe, forever homes.

The new colors we’ve chosen pair a fresh green with a sunset orange. We feel these earth tones represent the origins of our canine and feline friends ... nature!

Our new look will support the shelter in updating all our resources.

Forgotten But Not Gone *(continued from page 2)*

Now healthy enough to withstand anesthesia, Laurie allowed the veterinarian to do his important work. Several hours passed. Laurie began to get impatient, hoping to see Abby well again. Just then the door opened and the veterinarian emerged with Abby in hand. Abby’s wounds have been tended to, and she had almost completed her journey to full health, all she needed now was a forever family.

Laurie brought Abby to the shelter, where the staff smiled at her near miraculous recovery from an emaciated feline living on the streets with a flea infestation to a healthy, happy cat ready to be adopted.

Just a short time passed before Ellen Casey and her two children, Kevin and Emily, came into the shelter. They spotted a beautiful black and white cat sitting patiently in her crate... it was Abby!

That day the Casey family took Abby home. They now tell us that Abby is very happy in her new environment, and can be found almost always on one of the windowsills of their sunny home, or in the laps of her new family.

We are also pleased to announce a total remodel and expansion of our website. Please take a look at www.northeastanimalshelter.org.

Check back on the site often and you’ll see multiple resources for current pet owners and potential adopters, a donation page and a new useful section on pet care tips. Most importantly we’re proud to offer easier access to our dogs and cats that are available for adoption, including many more photos!

As our organization grows, we want to offer all our donors the opportunity to access information as quickly and conveniently as possible.

Our improved website will increase the number of people able to view the animals we have, thus making it possible to get our animals in need to forever homes faster than ever before!

As Northeast Animal Shelter moves forward to improve and upgrade our services and facilities, we know that we could not have done it without the dedication and support of our donors.

The shelter thanks you on behalf of the entire staff, for helping us continue to grow and flourish over the years as one of America’s most important shelters for cats and dogs in need.

Things We Need



Canned dog/cat food



Dry food for adult cats or dogs/Nutro® brand (from pet supply stores)



Safe, chewable dog and puppy toys (hard rubber or Nylabones™, fleece, vinyl, or latex)



Safe cat/kitten toys, especially those with catnip



Liquid laundry detergent



Liquid or powdered bleach



Paper towels



Jars of all-meat baby food for orphaned puppies and kittens



Trash bags (13 and 55 gallon sizes)



Polaroid film (for OneStep camera)



First Class Postage Stamps – 39¢ & 24¢

A Chance Encounter *(continued from page 1)*

in, tails wagging. It was love at first sight.

Both Lisa and Dan knew there was something special between their two loving canines.

In the months that followed, all four returned often to the Common where Lady and Koty would chase each other, stopping only to give each other wet dog kisses.

Lisa and Dan would sit on a nearby bench and talk about everything under the sun. With each day the four became closer, more and more like a family.

Eventually Lady and Koty's forever homes combined! Dan and Lisa decided to get married. They had found a historic home in Salem big enough to fit all of them. It was like a dream come true for Lady and Koty to see each other every day.

The wedding was held at The House of the Seven Gables, across the street from their new house. Both Koty and Lady wagged their tails while they watched their forever family celebrate for all to see.

Lisa tells us that Koty and Lady are now just as happy as ever. They often go to the beach to play, and each and every night they sleep together on the same dog bed. Northeast Animal Shelter is proud to have played a part in not one but two matches, providing a loving forever home for everyone!

Pet Tips

Unfortunately, not all dogs can get along as well as Lady and Koty did at first. Here are some helpful hints for introducing a new dog to a home with an existing dog.

- Introduce the dogs OFF THE PROPERTY at first. Walk them side by side to avoid confrontation.
- Once they have met off the property allow them to play in a fenced in area. When they are finished, let the new dog into the house first, so the other does not have a chance to get territorial.
- Feed your dogs separately at first, avoiding the opportunity for them to fight over food. DO NOT allow the dogs to compete for your attention. Give each dog equal attention and time to know they are loved and important in your life.

MAIL BOX



Dear Northeast Animal Shelter,
"I had been to many shelters for that 'gut reaction'. I searched for 5 months before I found Nolin... I am so grateful that you found him and gave him a chance at having a new life."

- Winchester, MA



Dear Shelter Staff,

"We are truly blessed to have this gentle, beautiful dog [Joseph] with us. He's been at my side ever since we left the shelter yesterday, so sweet and eager to please. Thanks so much for all everyone involved with this adoption have done for us."

- Massachusetts

Hello friends of the Northeast Animal Shelter,

"Thank you so much for all your help with Rojito's medical expenses... I really appreciate that you could step in to help. Rojito is a big love... I feel very lucky to have found him."

- Portland, ME

