



NORTHEAST ANIMAL SHELTER'S

animal tales

Good Things Come to Those Who Wait

“Koda is absolutely wonderful. She is the quietest, most obedient dog I have ever known.” Ken says this about his new companion, Koda, a Newfoundland-Labrador retriever mix.

Poor Koda wasn't always the perfect angel. She came to us from a family who said she was too much to handle, had too much energy, and they felt they needed to crate her in the basement or tie her outside as a means of controlling her. They only had her for 6 months.

When Koda came to the Shelter we all felt so sad for her. We knew that she was just a teenager and had excess energy. She hadn't been taught the rules and she was simply being a dog with no boundaries. With some work on the part of our Shelter staff, she learned about good dog behavior and off she went to her new home.



The Funny Bone



Cool Cat

Some dogs are just unlucky. Every once in a while we will get a dog who, through no fault of her own, keeps being returned to the Shelter. These dogs are often very adoptable but somehow life interferes with their ability to succeed with a family. Koda was one of those unlucky ones.

But one day a couple came to the Shelter. They fell in love with Koda and were thrilled to give her a second chance. After she left our Shelter for her new home, we were very hopeful for Koda's future. But during the next few years, the family rapidly expanded to two children under 3 years of age, and the mother was pregnant with twins. In addition to the new little humans, they had also brought another dog into the household.

Life was chaotic, but the biggest problem was the new dog, who was constantly fighting with Koda. As the intensity

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Summertime and the Living... Isn't Always Easy with Pets

A hhhh. Summertime. Warm weather, sun, singing birds ... but if you have a dog or cat, summertime might present some challenges.

On those muggy, hot summer days, your poor dog and cat may just lie around with barely enough energy to pick their heads up. Of course, they should always have enough water to drink. And the best gift you could give them would be air conditioning. But if you don't have air conditioning to help them over the hump, you will have to get creative as you try to help them stay cool.

If your cat is an indoor cat, you could choose a window with very sturdy screening and build a little shelf for her to lie on. That way, she can get some air while enjoying the nature show before her. You might also help the air movement along by directing a fan toward her perch.

For dogs, you might consider purchasing a cheap kiddie pool and putting a few inches of water in it. A hot pup would be very grateful to have his very own cooling zone. Just be sure to let him shake like crazy before he goes into the house.

If you take your dog in the car for a ride, do not leave him in the car while you run into the convenience store for a quick item. It takes a matter of minutes for a dog to get heat stroke when trapped in a hot car. Leave him home until the weather cools down.

After months and months of being cooped up in the house, when summer comes it changes things for pet owners — the windows are flung open. For a dog used to muffled outdoor sounds, this new world can be very, very interesting. The result may be indiscriminate barking.



One remedy may be to mask the outdoor sounds by turning on fans or the stereo. Or you might consider buying a white noise machine, which covers up those little sounds that just aren't important enough to bark about. It will help your dog to relax and will unfray your nerves a bit, too. If you have a cat in your family, we are sure she will appreciate your efforts, as well.

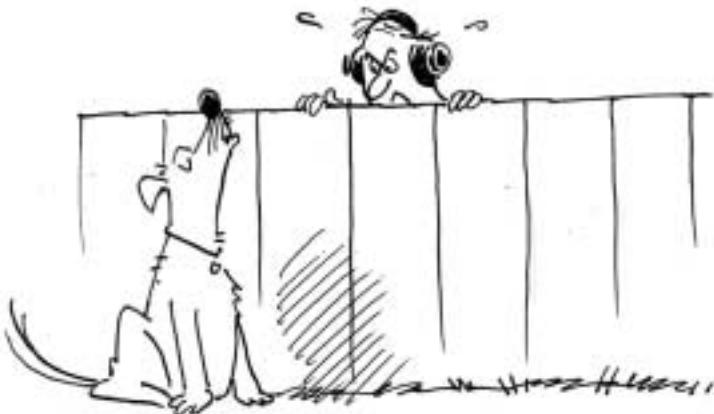
No matter what pets you have, be careful about allowing them in the yard if you have fertilized your lawn. Be sure to read the package labels and even try to locate a type of fertilizer that isn't toxic to pets. There are so many perils in the yard from ant traps to mouse and rat poison. To avoid a tragedy, make your yard — and any area your pet has access to — a chemical-free zone.

Part of summer living with pets also includes the fact that neighbors suddenly seem much closer. Between open windows and people spending more time in their yards, it can definitely be a cozier existence. Being a good neighbor and great pet owner means being very aware of how sound carries, especially over water. Your dog's barking may not bother you because it's a part of your life. But it may drive your neighbor absolutely crazy. Or, if you have a cat you allow outdoors, her wanderings into your neighbor's garden may not seem like an issue.

Make a practice of asking your neighbors if your pets are bothering them. When you are out at work or at a movie for an evening, you don't know what goes on in your house. For all you know, Scruffy is howling the entire time you are gone. Or the cat and dog may be noisily running up and down the halls of your apartment while your downstairs neighbor hears every toenail as it hits the floor. That old familiar saying, "When the cat's away, the mice will play" may be very true!

Also consider that what is a cute bark to you may be a roar to your neighbor. Or that a 5:30 AM dog romp in the yard does not make your sleepy neighbor happy. Assure your neighbors that you are interested in knowing what bothers them and encourage them to tell you.

So enjoy your summer, stay cool, keep your pets safe, and be considerate!



The Cat Who Thinks He is a Dog

So often people joke about the differences between cats and dogs. They say cats quietly run the world by being aloof and mysterious, doing things their own way. Yes, there are lots of cats who do fit this description, but there are also cats who don't. So before you decide that cats aren't for you because of what you **think** you know about cats, read on.

We would like to have you meet Bowser ... the cat.

Two winters ago, on a freezing cold night, Angela was on her way home from working a long day at the Shelter. As she approached her neighborhood, a man waved her down, knowing that she is an "animal person." He explained that he had a cat he was trying to help.



Earlier in the day, out of the corner of his eye, the man had seen something thrown from a window of a nearby apartment building. He had heard a noise sounding like a cry and later found a skinny, hungry cat in his yard. He then realized that this poor cat must have been the "thing" that had been pitched from the window. With no proof, he wasn't able to report the incident as an eyewitness, but he did help the skinny, starving cat by giving him scraps of food until he could find Angela.

Angela met the cat and couldn't believe how friendly he was! She quickly bundled him up and took him back to the Shelter where he would have a warm bed and plenty of nutritional food to fill his empty tummy. She named him Bowie.

Bowie first went to the veterinarian to make sure that he didn't have any broken bones. He then went to foster care where he could be fattened up before adoption. His foster mother told us that Bowie loved to sit and snuggle and loved hanging out with people. She kept saying, "You can't miss him because he really makes himself known. He's just like a dog!" So Bowie quickly became Bowser.

When Bowser came back to the Shelter all ready for adoption, Erik and Lauren arrived soon after. Erik wanted a "guy" cat — the kind that was "cool and interactive." It didn't take long for Erik to adopt his "guy" cat!

Now, months later, Erik describes Bowser as "the coolest cat." Bowser watches football with Erik and his friends but he especially loves baseball. Whenever a game comes on the TV, Bowser runs into the room, jumps on the couch and lies on his back with the guys. He also runs around the house and chases and retrieves things like a dog does. He's a happy, fun loving "guy" cat.

Bowser is definitely the personality kid and Erik and Lauren have a million funny Bowser stories. We think Bowser might have gone to dog school!

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 – 37¢ & 23¢



Good Things Come... *(continued from page 1)*

escalated, the concern over Koda's safety increased. Finally, after a brutal dog fight that left both dogs injured, the family made the sad decision to keep the difficult dog and give the more adoptable dog up for adoption. Koda, after four years in the same home, came back to the Shelter again.

Our little friend arrived looking like a scary mess. Her face was shaved and she had four staples across her muzzle and four more on the inside of her cheek, which required constant medication and care. But while the wounds would heal, it was even more heartbreaking to see that Koda was terribly depressed. She had just left her familiar world and was not sure what was happening to her. It must have been very confusing and frightening for her.

Meanwhile, Ken had lost his beloved beagle, Max in February. His girlfriend, Lynn said that Ken was lost without Max. He missed having a dog and a hiking companion. So in May, Ken decided to come to Northeast Animal Shelter to meet a dog he had read about on our web site. When they arrived at the Shelter, Ken was immediately drawn to Koda.

There was something about the dog he couldn't ignore. And very quickly Koda became Ken's lucky new companion.

The first two days at Ken's house were difficult for Koda. "She was so depressed. She didn't wag her tail at all. She was like a zombie." Ken said. But slowly Koda warmed up to Ken and now you can't separate the two of them.

Ken says, "I just can't imagine anyone saying she was too hard to handle. Her temperament is just like Max's." And now that she knows that she belongs with Ken, she wags her tail when talked to, and jumps and squeals when she sees Lynn and her dog, Angel, Koda's best new dog friend.

The best part of the story is that Ken is a very avid hiker and Koda is his constant companion on the trails. Before adopting Koda, Ken had her hips X-rayed to make sure she could handle serious hiking. Now Koda goes canoeing and hiking with Ken and even went on a recent overnight backpacking trip in the Berkshires! She has her own backpack and gets to be with her favorite person on earth all the time! It took a while but we are convinced that Koda has found her forever home.

MAIL BOX

*Friends at the Northeast
Animal Shelter,*

*Thank you for the work
you unselfishly do each
and every day.*

Lynn, MA



*Max is so playful
and loving, we couldn't
have made a
better choice.*

Stoneham, MA



To everyone at NEAS,

*...Jessie is a wonderful companion, playmate,
comforter - all I hoped for and more!*

*...I am very grateful for all you do for
the pets and people you bring together!*

Newburyport, MA