



NORTHEAST ANIMAL SHELTER'S

animal tales

One Puppy's Gift

Ceilidh [kay-lee] was a vocal, four-month-old puppy who arrived at the Northeast Animal Shelter through our Puppies Across America Program. She was rescued from rural West Virginia where she and a littermate wandered the countryside with their stray dog mother. The people in that community called rescue workers to save Ceilidh's life after they witnessed both her mother and littermate get hit by cars on a major road.

Ceilidh was coaxed out of the woods and put into a foster home, where she was nurtured and loved. After a month, the pup was healthy and trusting of people and ready for adoption. She was loaded onto a minivan with other pups from similar backgrounds and brought to NEAS.

At NEAS, Ceilidh was overlooked by most adopters because she was a little older than the other puppies. But Giulia, an NEAS adoption counselor, noticed something different about her. She saw something in the way the pup watched people passing by her cage. The alert little dog seemed to ponder what was going on around her. Since Giulia's family had been looking for a second dog for a while, they all went to the shelter to meet and adopt this special puppy.

When Ceilidh went to her new home, it became apparent that the pup was bright and resourceful. But her most remarkable virtue was not revealed until a year after her adoption.

One day, during naptime, Ceilidh jolted out of her sleep and began to bark and whine, licking 4-year-old Emma's arm. Giulia called Ceilidh away from her daughter's bed but the dog would not come. Instead she looked more and more frantic, barking and staring at Giulia, jumping on and off the bed, acting like a complete nuisance. Initially Giulia was annoyed and worried about waking Emma. She pulled Ceilidh off the bed and closed her out of the bedroom. But Ceilidh scratched at the door until it was opened and raced back to Emma's side to lick the little girl's arm. At this point it dawned on Giulia that perhaps the dog was perceiving something humans cannot. Since Emma's seizure disorder had been recently diagnosed, Giulia sat by her little girl and watched for telling signs. Fifteen minutes after the dog first



started her strange behavior, the little girl began show outward signs of seizure activity. Ceilidh's warning gave Giulia the opportunity to witness the seizure from its beginning and prepare to administer the medication used to stop the seizure so that the little girl would not be harmed.

Since that episode, Ceilidh follows Emma everywhere. She curls up on the couch next to Emma at story time, she stands by the tub at bathtime, and she walks by the stroller. She is a dog who has fully embraced her responsibility of alerting her companion in case of danger. She is the dream come true of a little girl who is proud and deserving of this dog's devotion. Ceilidh takes her work seriously, so her family makes sure she gets time off to pursue other interests. She attends doggie daycare for a half

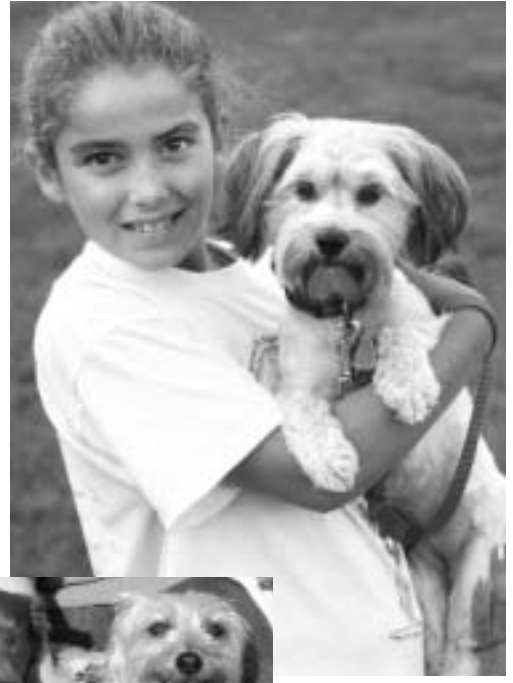
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The Funny Bone



"Cats don't eat, they dine." - Ann Taylor

One Big Happy Ending!!!



What happens when you take 75 dogs from Puerto Rico, their adoptive families, yummy food, happy faces, hugs and licks? You have a Save a Sato reunion!

Imagine being a street dog in Puerto Rico, scavenging for food and unable to trust all humans. Then imagine being taken in, treated well in someone's home for a short time, and then transported to Northeast Animal Shelter. It must be confusing for a dog, but the happy endings abound. That's what our Save a Sato reunion is all about ... happy endings.

For the past eight years, Northeast Animal Shelter has been working with Save a Sato, an organization in Puerto Rico comprised of wonderful, caring, brave people who, day after day, rescue street dogs from horrible situations. Our Shelter can help because lots of Boston-area families want small- and medium-sized dogs as pets, but there aren't many available for adoption. In Puerto Rico, the lucky dogs are given a much-needed bath, basic medical care, and their first bit of tender-loving-care. They are then flown to our Shelter where they get adopted by the perfect family.

"Sato" means "mutt" or "street dog" in Spanish. Thousands of these dogs wander throughout the streets of Puerto Rico. They are abandoned, abused and neglected. When Save a Sato heard about our Shelter in 1995, they hoped and prayed that we could help. Now, eight years later, we have worked with them to save thousands of dogs. So our Save a Sato reunion is a very special experience for all who have been involved. The rescuers from Puerto Rico come and see the fruits of their labors — and get hugs from humans and licks from their little dog friends. It's a heartwarming, emotional event, and everyone — rescuers, our staff, and adopters — goes home feeling just a little bit warmer for their part in a happy ending.

Here are a few stories about some of our party-goers:

◆ Steve, Joyce, and Kerry adopted Maxwell. Steve says that



Max is the "best thing that ever happened to me — next to Joyce!" Max was found huddled in a

covered with ticks. He now has "steak every night."

◆ Dudley was adopted by Erin in April of 2002. He was the second sato in the house. The first one, Hannah, was adopted two years ago. Dudley loves to sleep. He sleeps on his back on the bed or in a chair. You have to lift him up and carry him outside. Dudley has gained a lot of weight since he was adopted, probably because Erin keeps trying to teach him to catch things (like food) the way Hannah does. But Dudley always misses, so he gets fat by the constant practice.

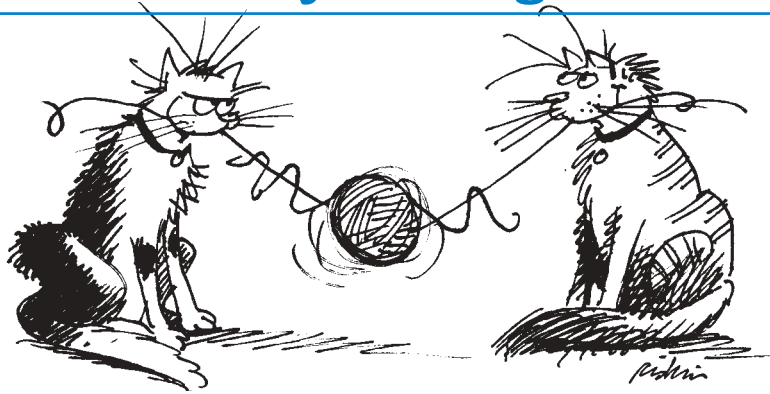
◆ Stan's adopters say he has come a long way since they first got him. He is still a bit shy, but he's very sweet and gets along well with his other canine housemate. Stan's adopters wanted to come to the reunion specifically to thank all the rescuers for bringing him into their lives.

◆ And one of the pups was reunited with his mom. He's now bigger than she is, but you can definitely see the family resemblance!

◆ Then there's Rico. His adopters say he is absolutely the best behaved dog they have ever had. He doesn't bark, he doesn't destroy things, he doesn't fight, and he is clean in the house.... But they are going to have to get him his own calendar to keep track of his schedule, as he had play group the same day of his reunion!

By the end of the evening there wasn't one dry eye, and we got to see our happy dogs with happy adoptive families. That's what this work is all about ... happy endings!

Two Cats Just Might Be Better Than One!



Think about how much you love your cat. And think about how you could help another cat by adopting a new family member. Worried about how your resident cat will react to a new sibling? Concerned about whether a new cat would rock the boat? Here are some ideas to consider as you contemplate whether to take the plunge.

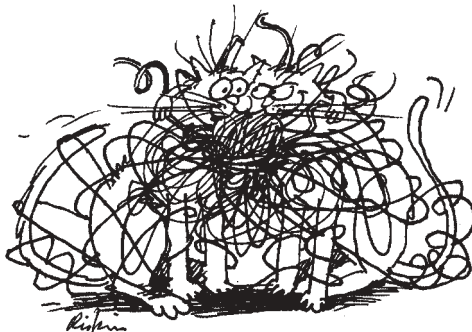
First you need to determine your motivation for getting another cat. Maybe your cat is just fine as an only cat. Or maybe you want to save a life. Just be sure of what your intentions are and consider your cat's needs in the process.

Next, it is important to look at all angles as you go through this decision making process. How large is your home? Does it allow enough room for you to separate two cats? You may have to provide separate quarters for a while as you slowly integrate the new cat into the resident cat's area.



Also, think about whether you have ever seen your cat with other cats before. How did he react? And how does your cat react to change, in general?

The above questions can help you to make a decision about whether to move forward on adopting. If you do decide to adopt a second cat, then consider the introduction process. You will need to take some time to introduce your cat to a



new cat in order to prevent problems from developing.

Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Confine the new cat to one room with its own litter box, food, water, and a bed.
- ◆ Feed the resident cat and the newcomer near either side of the door to this room. This will help start things out right by associating something enjoyable (eating) with each other's presence.
- ◆ Switch sleeping blankets between the pets so they have a chance to become accustomed to each other's scent. Also put the scented blankets underneath the food dishes.

Once the new cat is using the litter box and eating regularly while confined, let him have free time in the house while the other cat is confined. This switch provides another way for the cats to experience each other's scent without a face-to-face meeting. It also allows the newcomer to become familiar with its new surroundings without being frightened by another cat.

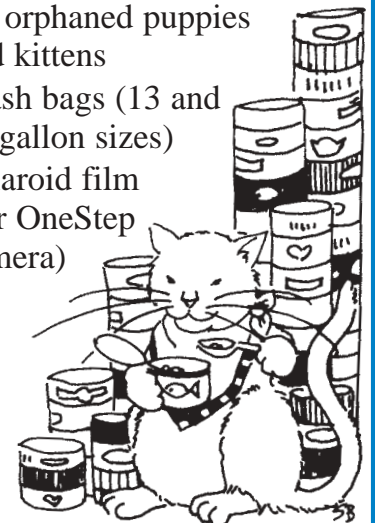
It is better to introduce the cats to each other so gradually that neither becomes afraid or aggressive. You can expect mild forms of these behaviors, but don't give

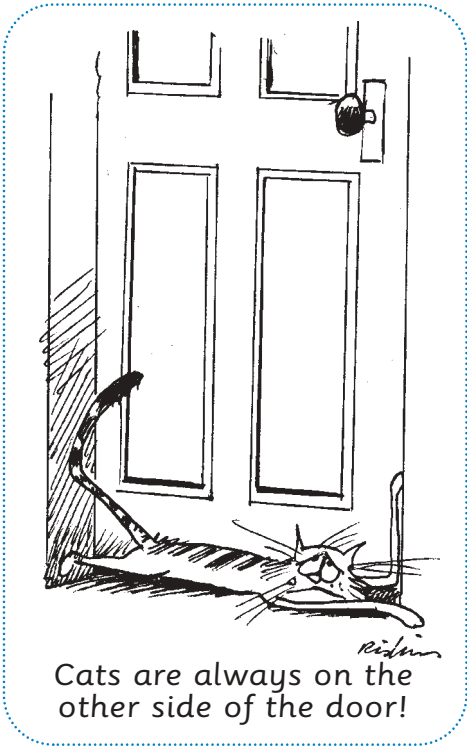
them an opportunity to intensify. If either cat becomes fearful or aggressive, separate them and try again later. Expect hissing, spitting, and growling. If a fight breaks out, do not interfere directly. Instead throw a blanket or towel over each cat, and separate them until they calm down. It would be best to only do supervised visits until they are accustomed to each other. And be sure to keep them separate when you are not home. Remember that successful introductions require time and patience.

And remember that getting a new cat can be a wonderful, gratifying experience if you take it slowly and don't force things. Good luck!

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)





Cats are always on the other side of the door!

One Puppy's Gift *(continued from front page)*

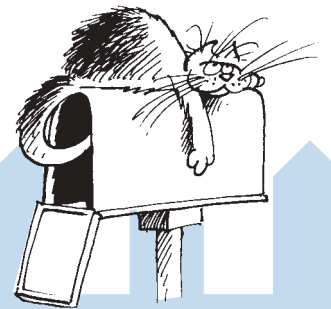
day each week and on her daily lunch break she visits the blueberry bushes, chews on marrow bones, or plays a game of catch-me-if-you-can with Giulia.

Today, Giulia says, "We are so grateful that Ceilidh is with us so that Emma will have a warning when her epilepsy acts up. This allows Emma to engage in all the normal activities of a child her age."

Isn't it extraordinary that a dog who had to overcome such hardships early in her life—losing her dog family, hiding out in the woods to survive, living off berries like a black bear—should travel so far to make a difference for her young human companion? Isn't it amazing that an unwanted stray should become so in tune with people that she can potentially save a girl's life? It is truly remarkable that somewhere along the journey to preserve her own self, this special dog developed the gift of giving life to a little girl's dreams.



MAIL BOX



Here's Nutmeg, our wonderful cat we got from you ...
-North Reading, MA

Thank you for being so kind to the voiceless.
-Haverhill, MA

"Duke" looked at us, licked our fingers and it was love. He's a friendly, happy very indulged beagle mix and we love him lots. Keep up the great work!
--Reading, MA

