

The Story of Mugsy

So many people meet Mugsy today and say, “if I could get a dog like Mugsy, I would adopt him”. The truth about Mugsy is that he was, by no means, the perfect dog when he came to our family. He had been picked up by animal control as a stray, knew nothing about being a companion dog. He had NO manners. He was wild and uncontrollable but it was not his fault. Mugsy had been done no favors in life. Over hyper, over stimulated, resource guarding and at one point even attacked my smaller dog. That is when I realized I had to do something big or take him back to the shelter. I decided I would give him all I had. After a fabulous training session, we determined that Mugsy was not an aggressive dog, just confused and desperately needed direction and leadership. I spent every day, ALL day with him. We both learned together. He needed a leader and I had to learn to be that leader!

Adopting a dog like Mugsy is not for everyone but the payoff for my family has been so worth it. Mugsy has my whole heart and my total commitment for life, but it did not come easily. I learned that being a responsible pet owner was not always easy.

I hope by telling the story of Mugsy, to open eyes of people so they consider adopting a dog that needs you. Puppies get adopted so easily because they are adorable but soon become unruly adolescents if not given the proper care, training and boundaries. Our shelters are full of dogs from 7 months to 2 years that are unruly, out of control and “not adoptable”, due to no fault of their own. You can be a mentor, leader and companion for a dog who has never been given a chance. I promise you they will give back more than they take. I am so happy that I made the commitment to Mugsy. He and I have become quite the team. Our friends are not quite sure who is the luckiest one, Mugsy or me!