



Making the Right Match

Some dogs and cats arrive at the shelter, have a vet check and a temperament assessment, and go to their new homes in less than a week. Others, like Floyd and Chloe, have a much harder time. It takes months or even years for them to find a permanent home. How can that be?

This is Floyd's story.

12/13/02: Arrived at The Little Guild after having been hit by a car.

12/15/02: Tail amputated due to the injury.

03/02/02: Adopted.

03/12/03: Returned because owner lost her job and had to move in with her mother, who had a cat-aggressive dog.

Floyd was in very poor shape. He was emaciated, and his coat was unkempt. It turned out that he had become diabetic and needed insulin shots twice a day as well as a special diet.

06/28/03: Adopted.

06/30/03: Returned because of aggression toward owner's kitten. (He had not been a problem with cats at the shelter.)

With frequent monitoring by the vet, his diabetes was brought under control. He no longer needed shots, just the special food.

12/20/03: Adopted by folks who understand that he might relapse and need daily injections. If so, they are willing to take on that responsibility. They say that he is very affectionate, a good lap cat, and likes to sleep next to their pillow.



Chloe

06/10/00: Chloe was found tied to a tree. She needed major grooming and was infested with hookworms.

06/17/00: Spayed.

07/22/00: Adopted.

08/15/00: Returned by heartbroken owners, who said she was wonderful with them and their three kids but was overly protective when other children came to

...continued on next page



visit. She would chase and nip in true shepherd fashion. She didn't harm anyone, but they were afraid that her behavior might escalate.

08/20/00: Adopted.

10/20/03: Returned. Owner's home had been fore-closed and he had no place for himself or the dog. He was devastated to have to part with her. She wasn't up-to-date on inoculations, had a serious skin infection, and her tail needed bandaging. She also needed x-rays and surgery for bladder stones. From that time on she had to be fed a pre-scription diet to avoid a recurrence of the stones.

12/21/03: Adopted by the same family who took Floyd. They say she is very loving, but sometimes they wish she had a little less energy. They take her jogging and play ball with her as much as time permits. Obedience class at Canine

Sports Center is on their list of activities for this spring.

A Note from the Director

I wish stories about pets like Floyd and Chloe were rare ones. They aren't. The Little Guild is too often reached only after a long and painful journey for far too many animals. They come to us cold and hungry, scared and confused, sick and injured, and often unsure if they have finally reached a safe place.

After several days of settling in to their clean, warm temporary home with nu-



trititious food, great veterinary care, gentle handling, and a lot of old-fashioned love, they begin to relax and revert to what they were always meant to be: loving companions. You deserve a great amount of credit for this miraculous change. The Little Guild of St Francis is supported entirely by your contributions. We have no grants from the government, nor do we have contracts with any agency to provide the care we give. It is your donations that feed and provide medical care for these cats and dogs that have no one else to care for them. You provide the warmth and shelter they need. You adopt them into your own homes. You save their lives, and you give them a brighter future. My great hope is that you and The Little Guild will continue to work together to provide for these beautiful animals long into the future. You have our heartfelt thanks for all the sup-

port you have given over the years. We are making an important difference in the lives of the homeless animals in our towns, but our work is far from finished. To learn more about how you can help, see inside back cover. —*Jim Lussier*

The Little Guild Newsletter

Published by

The Little Guild of Saint Francis
for the Welfare of Animals, Inc.

West Cornwall, Connecticut 06796

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www.littleguild.org

Editor: Natalia Zunino

Photographer: Victoria Beller-Smith

Typesetting/Layout: The Graphic Details

Printing: Moore & More Printing

LITTLE GUILD OF ST FRANCIS

RECENT DONORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the dogs and cats you have helped, we would like to thank you for your support of our shelter. You have made it possible for us to help these beautiful animals that have found themselves homeless through no fault of their own. Please know that we are very grateful for your support.

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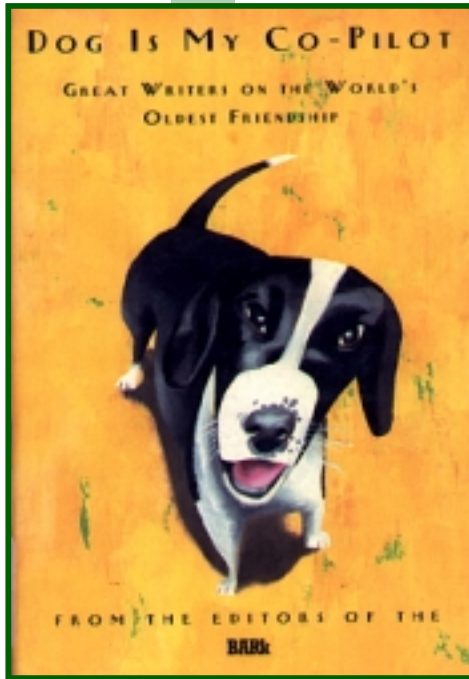
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News About Books



Dog Is My Co-Pilot: Great Writers on the World's Oldest Friendship, from the Editors of *The BARK*, (New York: Crown Publishers, 2003).

—Reviewed by Janice Benedict, Librarian

The pleasures of this collection are varied, surprising, and remarkably satisfying. We get to know a number of unique, charming, often eccentric pets, and through them, their human companions, known to us up to now merely as noted writers.

This collection of essays, stories, anecdotes, and sketches celebrates the ca-

nine relationships of authors as various as Alice Walker, Michael J. Rosen, Rick Bass, Erica Jong, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, and more than 30 others. The selections are divided into four groups: "Beginnings," mostly about the forming of the initial bond; "Pack," concerning personality; "Lessons," about what the writers have learned; and "Passages," which deals with "friendship, transformation, and loss." As different as the pieces are, they have in common a personal quality that will be appreciated by every reader who has ever loved and been loved by a dog.

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Newborn kittens and puppies stay at the shelter for at least three months. During that time they receive all appropriate medical care and then are spayed or neutered before going to their new homes. Their prospective adopters are encouraged to visit and play with them frequently during that period.

Visit our animals for adoption at www.littleguild.org



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