

move and Sadie's uncertain future. "I think the next stop would've been the Humane Society," Strauss reckons.

"I really wanted to rescue a dog," Strauss insists. "I didn't want a dog from a breeder or a pet store. I wanted a dog that *needed* a home."

Luckily for Sadie—and Robinson and Strauss—it was love at first sight. "We took her on the spot," says Strauss.

"Sadie gets us out more. Sometimes we'll take her out on walks together. We've definitely been able to meet more people in the neighborhood."

—Erica Strauss

treats are blueberries and carrots.

Strauss is just as fond of Sadie and is grateful that she kept Robinson company following her surgery. "Sadie would hang out with her. Jewel had to walk Sadie, so that motivated her to get up," says Strauss, theorizing that Robinson's recuperation might have taken longer without Sadie in the picture.

Strauss remembers, however, that Robinson was a little hesitant about recuperating with a

dog in the house. "She was worried a dog would be a burden," says Strauss.

Adopting an older dog worked to their advantage. "She's so easy," Strauss insists. "She came to us trained. She has very good manners. We didn't have to train her or leash train her. I think she worked out well with what we needed."

These days, roughly a year and a half later, Sadie is beginning to slow down. Robinson observes: "She's getting older and wants to spend more and more time alone, and we want more and more of her time."

The couple thinks a new dog might help motivate Sadie, as well as relieve some of the pressure for her to be a companion when what she really needs is solitude. In the meantime, Sadie will still be called upon, for her contributions didn't end once Robinson recovered.

"Sadie gets us out more," says Strauss. "Sometimes we'll take her out on walks together. We've definitely been able to meet more people in the neighborhood. There are a lot of really nice dog people."

And a lot of really nice dogs also in need of homes. (See sidebar on Page 27.)

—Will O'Bryan

SERPENT AND THE RAINBOW

One queer Portland man finds true love has a forked tongue

With her mocha tints and black spots, Shiva Isabella is long on looks—about 2 feet long. And her queer companion, Chad Carver of Northeast Portland, couldn't be happier.



Chad Carver communes with Shiva Isabella

"I feel I'm most connected with snakes, in being able to identify with an animal," says Carver, to whom pagan spirituality is an important part of life. "I admire them greatly. They're very free spirited. They're very independent,

one's idea of warm and cuddly, Carver is delighted and insists he and Shiva Isabella share a special bond. "I'm in love with my

Though a snake might not be everyone's idea of warm and cuddly, Chad Carver is delighted and insists he and Shiva Isabella share a special bond.

very sensual creatures."

Carver got his snake when the original owner, a friend of his, needed to get rid of her. "I adopted her," Carver says proudly. "I always wanted a snake." He notes that while his snake came to him with the Isabella moniker, he added the Shiva.

Though a snake might not be every-

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