



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Small dog needs a "Maxi" home

Maxi's article illustrates the plight of thousands of amazing dogs.

Three-year old Maxi is a beautiful swirling blond and white colored Shih Tzu who loves everyone and tummy rubs! He was abandoned filthy and matted and tied to a fence. Finding Maxi in this inhumane way was double troubling because he is blind.

Today, describing Maxi as appreciative and sweet is an understatement! He has the usual Shih Tzu temperament that adores people, children and other dogs. He loves life and shows it by spinning in happy joyous circles. He also loves kitties but he has trouble finding and following them.

"Maxi is an excellent house pet!" said his foster mother, Sonja. "He is trustworthy in the house and barks for potty breaks. He is well-mannered and sleeps from 10 p.m-7 a.m. before heading outside for tinkle time with my Australian Cattle Dog, Ben."

Don't mistake Maxi's blindness for being 'physically impaired'. He needs to get outside

because of his enthusiastic love of life and exploration using his nose and excellent hearing.

Maxi has emerged from his once shy shell, where he was a very slow walker, to now breaking into a trot while on leash. When Sonja drops the leash, the little one wanders where he pleases, pokes around and follows scents within the safe confines of her fenced yard. He is so happy that he does "zoomies in the meadow," running around and around until he wears himself out!

"This handsome Shih Tzu is thrilled to have a playmate in my Ben," said Sonja, "Maxi has to 'find' and figure out which end of Ben is which, before jumping on Ben's head to start a game. Yesterday, I was in the lawn chair reading and Maxi was on a long leash. Ben was next to my chair. Maxi discovered Ben and bounced up and down in his excitement to play. When Ben reached out and 'touched' Maxi with his paw, it thrilled Maxi to no end, because he could 'play' back. Maxi stood up on his back feet and batted for Ben's head! It is obviously a fun game of 'hit and miss' and I get very little reading done watching them play.

Benjamin is less than ideal as Maxi's 'Seeing Eye Dog' because he is larger than Maxi and walks too fast. Sometimes when Maxi is trying to 'find' Ben, he walks right under Ben's tummy and out his other side, not even realizing it and keeps on looking.

Maxi and Ben are great friends, so I tether them together, so Maxi won't get lost. As a cattle dog, it is right up Ben's 'line of work'! When I have to run into the house, I ask Ben to 'Sit! Stay!' on Maxi's tether and Ben does.

Inside, Ben steals Maxi's toys from Maxi's pen and tears them up. So the three of us made an emergency visit to a pet store for Maxi to reFURbish his supply!

When I picked Maxi up to foster, I lined the crate with his favorite blanket and toys for his ride home. Yesterday, I tethered his harness to the ring in the back of the Jeep and he surprised me by putting his feet up on the wheel-well so he could 'see' out the window!

Then he came and put his front feet on the console, close to my arm, and sat there like any sighted dog looking out the window. What is that about? He is

totally blind! His actions confuse my brain!

Maxi relishes being held like a baby, and for afternoon naps, he burrows under his big pillow. When I come back to look in on him, I never know which end will be sticking out, but being blind, I guess he doesn't either!

I would love to keep this upside down cuddle bug, but I know he is perfect for another family and re-homing this treasure leaves me open to rescue and foster another deserving dog.

Older dogs are the best to adopt. They appreciate and love you for saving (and feeding) them. I hope that Maxi's future fur-ever home has another small dog who loves playing and can teach him the rules of their home! In other words, be his 'guide dog'. And when he gets it will run his happy ending article! Contact Sonja, Ben and Maxi: theposse@sonic.net

Benefits of Adopting Adult Pets

They have developed wonderful and unique personalities.

They appreciate that you 'saved' them and are devoted



Photo by Mr. "Angel Scribe"

Sonja and her cattle dog, Ben, with their current foster, Maxi, who is in need of a very special home.

to you because they remember what life was like before your love and home.

Our family discovered that the adult cats we adopted ended up as our gift! The felines loved us the minute they knew they were safe and cared for. Their bond to us was deep.

As we age it behooves us to adopt an adult pet so that if we pass first then the pet is not young and ends up in a shelter. Sadly these wonderful animals are then passed up by humans looking for a puppy or kitten because they have no idea of the treasure they just walked by!

It makes you feel good to

have something furry to love that loves you back!

Report a puppy mill! Humane Society's Hotline. 1-877-645-5847

Humane Society for Neuter/ Spay Assistance Program. (541) 942-2789

Share your wonderful pet's story. angelscribe@msn.com

Archived Tips 'n' Tales: www.AngelScribe.com

Adopt Loving Pets www.PetFinder.com

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