

Madeira (Maddy) Donahue

We rescued Maddy in January 2008, a year after Riley. Recovered from a puppy mill, she was estimated to be 18 months old and already had 1 litter. To prevent her from barking, the puppy mill lashed her muzzle closed with wire causing a permanent scar and damaging her jaw. For months after we rescued her, she never barked or made a sound.



A mini-Australian Shephard, Maddy was a tri-color on the smaller side with one blue and one brown eye. Having only ever known life in a cage in a puppy mill, stairs were a complete mystery to her and she had to learn how to climb them. She also would cower at mealtimes, expecting to be overcome by other dogs.

But she was curious about her new life and we knew she would blossom. As she indeed did. Once she learned she could bark again, she was only too glad to inform us of her opinions on everything under the sun. And it wasn't long before she was eating standing full up and even next to Riley (which we were counselled by the rescue folks would never happen). She looked to Riley for cues, what to do next. There was a psychic connection. If he got up in one room, she immediately got up even if she was in another room. Robbin would come to say that Maddy was "Riley's dog."

Games were beyond her understanding and she had no prey drive. So while Riley would be racing around the yard chasing a ball and running in circles, Maddy would position herself in the center and just bark at Riley. Yet, should there be any petting going on, Maddy would bound down the steps and body slam her brother out of the way so as to get closer to the lovings.



Which always amazed us, with all the severe treatment in the puppy mill she endured, Maddy unconditionally loved people. And any visitor to the house would soon get subjected to the full Maddy cuteness factor, which of course could not be resisted.



Once Riley passed, Maddy stepped in as lead dog. She would sit with Robbin in the early mornings and they would think about all the great things they were going to do that day. She monitored our comings and goings. And religiously reminded us about her mealtimes, lest we forget. She also took over Riley's job of reminding Mark to go to bed. She would come to the home office doorway and look in, requesting permission to enter. When granted she would prance over and perform the "time to stop working and go to bed" dance.



While we both had older children of our own, we did not have children together, so Maddy was our baby girl. And we missed her terribly when she had to leave. Hoping Robbin has met her at the Rainbow Bridge also.

