

Let's Adopt a Dog!

written and illustrated by
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Dedicated to Sophie, my first rescue
and my inspiration for animal activism and care





My name is Claire, and today is a really exciting day because today is adoption day!

Mom and Dad said it is up to my brother and me to pick out which dog we want to adopt.



This is my big brother, Owen.

“Are you ready to meet all the dogs today?” he asks. I can tell he is as excited as I am to finally get a pet.

“Absolutely!” I respond



Owen volunteers at this shelter, so he knows all about the dogs here. Every weekend he comes here to help take care of and play with the dogs so they can get adopted.



When we first walk in, there is a group of people around one of the kennels. Inside is a puppy!
"I want this one, he is so cute and tiny!" I tell my brother.



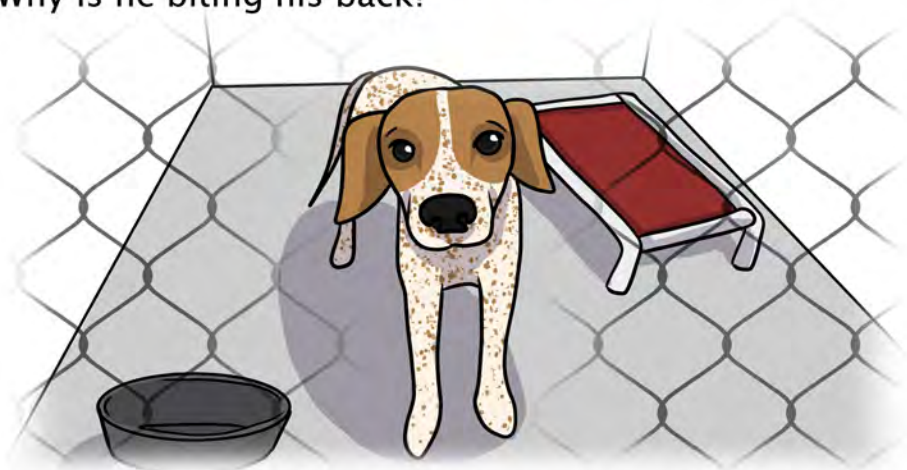
"Yes, he is very cute," Owen says. "But how about we look at the rest of the dogs before deciding? There are other dogs that need homes too."



"Let's meet everyone else and see who we connect with."
And so, we started our search for the best dog for us to pick, stopping at each kennel one-by-one.



Next to the puppy is a spotted dog who is biting his back. His eyes are puffy like he has been crying and looks sad. "Why is he biting his back?"



Owen responds, "This is Rusty. He is stressed because he is a dog that is full of energy. Being in the shelter limits how much he can run around and play."



Rusty would do best with a family that is active and goes on lots of adventures.



“I thought every dog had their own kennel, why are these two together?” I ask confused.



“Dogs are usually put together when they are a bonded pair,” explains Owen. “Matilda and Sasha are sisters, and they have only had each other to depend on since they were little.”



Matilda and Sasha would do best with a family that is wanting two dogs. They can't be separated, so they have to be adopted together.



The next dog we see has a face so white, it looks like she got into some white paint. I ask Owen, "Is she old?"



"Yes," he answers. "Betty has been here the longest out of anyone. It's hard for senior dogs to get adopted because sometimes people only want to get a puppy."



Betty would do best with a family that understands that old age doesn't make a dog less loveable.



“Aren’t those types of dogs mean?” I ask nervously when I see the strong looking dog in the next kennel.



Owen shakes his head. “Some breeds are labeled as scary, but that isn’t true. Casper here is calm and sweet, he took care of his elderly owner before he came here.”



Casper would do best with a family he can protect and be lazy with.



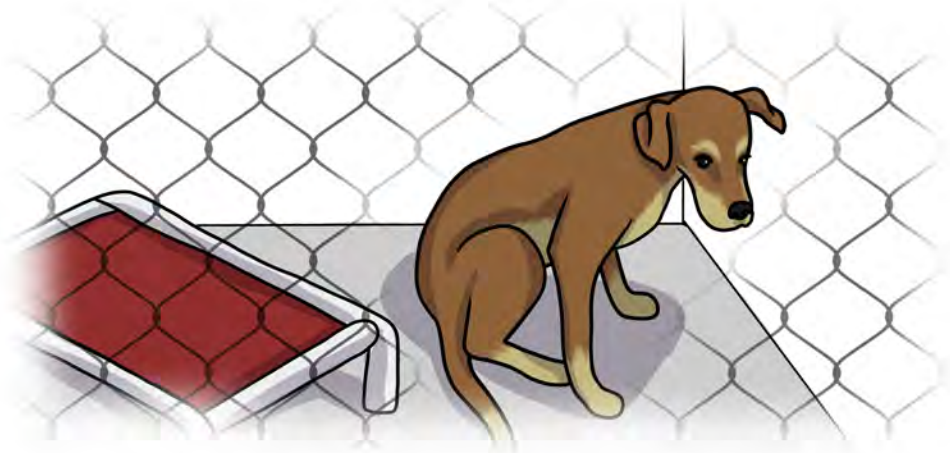
When we walk by the next kennel, I am surprised to see a dog with long, floppy ears and only one eye. "What happened to his eye?"



"It got really hurt and he couldn't use it anymore. When Sheldon was a stray, he got bullied by the other dogs."



Sheldon would do best with a family that doesn't have any other pets because he is so shy now.



The last dog we see is sitting in the back corner of his kennel. "He looks so scared, why is he hiding back there?"



"Bruno's last owners didn't treat him nicely, so he was rescued and brought here. Now he is scared of loud noises."



Bruno would do best with a family that is extra gentle and helps him feel safe when there are loud noises like thunderstorms and fireworks.



“Now that we’ve met everyone, who do you think we should take home with us?” Owens asks me.

“They were all so unique, I can’t imagine picking just one!”



Owen looks back at all the kennels we just passed. He is making the face he always makes when he is thinking really hard, then says, “Let’s think about what kind of things our family likes to do and see who we match with!”



“Well,” I brainstorm out loud. “I like to play outside on my jungle gym in the backyard.”



You are on a soccer team, and you like to practice a lot at home.



Mommy always go for a run in the mornings,



and Daddy likes to take all of us camping.”



Owen smiles and nods, "Looks like our family is pretty active. I think we should get someone who can keep up with us!"

And with that, I know we both agree who we should adopt today.



I think our family would do best with Rusty.



The End.

