

December 2015



Pet's Names: Murphy (white), Layla (brown) and Rosie (black)

Proud Parents: Donna and George

Ages: The girls are sisters - litter mates - and are 9 1/2 years old

Breeds: They are lab mixes - we think with Chow because of Rosie's coat and Layla's spotted tongue

Our Personalities: Layla is the alpha female. She is a nurturing and patient leader and only uses her status when it is necessary. She is a talker (also a Chow characteristic) and always has something to say about every situation. She is not shy to make her perspective known. Rosie is calm but confident. She is a people pet and loves to meet new people. She is very gentle and loves to roll in the snow. Murphy is shy and always on guard, but once she trusts you, she is a friend for life. She is very playful and loves to run around and bark at the roaming deer.

Our Favorite Toys: The girls love plush toys. Our backyard has been called the stuffed toy graveyard because of all the stuffed animals and things laying around.

Our Favorite Games: Their favorite game is tag. When I get home from work they are excited and energized. They will greet me, then start chasing each other around the house. Layla will grab a toy or shoe, and the game is on as two dogs chase the one with the object, then end up just chasing each other.

What We Like: Walks!! They like to walk regardless of conditions, terrain or obstacles. We try and walk at least three miles every day.

Our Special Talents: Layla is a thief. She started stealing shoes and relocating them throughout the house. She never chewed them, but just moved them. She then moved to other items such as baby clothes and kids' toys. She is stealth! Rosie's special talent is finding wildlife. I keep a bottle of peroxide handy because I know at some point she will come in smelling of skunk! Murphy's talent is jumping. Her leaps are measured vertically in feet - we have to watch when she is excited because she will jump onto our back!

The girls' mom tells us how she came to have them: *"The girls' story is more of rescue than adoption. The girls' mother was a stray that lived in my sister-in-law's (Jackie's) neighborhood in a rural Texas town. She had a litter of nine puppies under Jackie's porch. Also an animal lover, Jackie cared for the mom and puppies. We had lost my husband's dog of 16 years (Casey) to cancer, and my dog, Gordie, was getting older and very lonely since Casey had died. We resisted repeated requests to consider a puppy or two because we were not quite ready and were building a house. After three months, Jackie was getting desperate and didn't want to surrender them to the local shelter, so we decided to take two of the puppies, and a co-worker of my husband wanted one. We drove to St. Louis, Missouri and met Jackie, took the three puppies, and drove home in one day! A few months later, the co-worker decided she did not want the puppy and returned her to us. That was Murphy. The three girls have been together pretty much since birth. They each have very distinct personalities, likes and dislikes, and different relationships with my husband and me. They seem to defy what is published in the literature about raising litter mates and we are very garteful for the happiness, love and joy they have brought to our lives."*

November 2015



Pet's Name: Mocha

Proud Parents: Amy and Linda

Age: 10

Breed: Dilute Calico, DSH

My Personality: I'm a very confident and curious girl. I love to hang out with my people, and I like attention. I'm also quite a lap cat, when I want to be.

My Favorite Toy: My toy mice, soft balls, my mouse on an elastic string, and cloth bags of catnip.

My Favorite Game: I play hide and seek with my mice. I can also play ball when I'm in the mood.

What I Like: Attention and petting; watching chipmunks, birds and rabbits; being with people.

My Special Talent: I'm really good at jumping onto high places. I also like to jump into the asparagus fern when my people aren't looking. I'm a great talker and have quite a repertoire of sounds that I use frequently. If I find that I have been left alone in a room, I will call out until someone answers me to let me know where they are.

Miss Mocha tells us how she came to be with her people: "I was brought to the Huron Valley Humane Society under circumstances that are not quite clear to me. I was two years old and was either found and turned in or given up for adoption. At any rate, I wasn't happy to be there. I was so unhappy that is caused my fur to look grey and dry - "a grey haystack" my people said. As you can see

from my picture, I am actually a very pretty dilute calico. Amy and Linda were looking for a new cat to adopt after their cat, Jenny, died. They looked at the pictures of available cats at HVHS and made a list of the ones they would like to see. I was the first one they were shown. When the volunteer took me out of the cage and handed me to Amy, I laid my head against her. Who could resist that?? They didn't need to look at any other cats! I went home with them. When we got home, they gave me food and some treats. They left the bag of treats sealed up on the kitchen counter. At about 6am the next morning, I jumped on Amy's bed with the treat bag in my mouth. I knew I needed someone with opposable thumbs to open the bag! What a smart cat!!"

October 2015



Pet's Name: Jack

Proud Parents: Chrissy and Michael

Age: 6

Breed: Rat & Fox Terrier mix

My Personality: My mom and dad say I'm the sweetest dog in the world, but my mom also calls

September 2015

me a princess. I've gotten used to my very predictable lifestyle - which is 80% sleeping curled up next to someone, 10% eating, and 10% chewing bones/chasing balls. Mom and dad say I'm in for a shock when my sister shows up but they've been talking about this "sister" for 9 months and she's still nowhere to be found. My mom must be eating a lot of treats though because her belly has gotten pretty big...

My Favorite Toy: I love to play fetch with my Kong toys but I'm in love with Otter. He's the only stuffed animal I didn't shred to pieces within 5 minutes of receiving.

My Favorite Game: When my dad throws the ball and I go get it. I'll bring it back to him but then I make him wrestle me for it.

What I Like: Food. Sleep. My mom. Gnawing on bones for hours at a time, even when there hasn't been anything left on the bone in months.

My Special Talent: Sensing the presence of the FedEx/UPS truck before they even turn onto our street. My enthusiasm for completely freaking out when I see them is unphased by the fact that they come multiple times a week and have never tried to break into the house.

Jack tells us his own adoption story: "My mom was about to graduate from college in NY and was moving to Michigan for graduate school. She knew she wanted a rat terrier but couldn't find any for adoption in NY so she and my grandma drove 14 hours round trip to Ohio to adopt me. I moved to Ann Arbor with my mom a month later and then a few months later my mom met my dad. I was skeptical of this new guy at first but now I don't even remember what it was like without him. Also, I got to be the ring bearer in their wedding so that was pretty sweet."



Pet's Names: Candy and Pelo

(Note: Our sweet friend Pelo just passed away - she will be missed!)

Proud Parents: Dani and Phil

Ages: Candy is 12, Pelo was 13+

Breeds: Candy- domestic short hair, Pelo- likely Norwegian Forest Cat

Our Personalities: Both girls are very social, especially Pelo. Candy needs to warm up to you but then will start rubbing on you for attention. Pelo is a very chill kitty, and could spend all day on your lap or belly if you wanted. She was raised with dogs and can be very canine at times by greeting you at the door, begging for food, and drooling. Candy is a cat, through and through and very aware of her surroundings. She knows when we are packing up to go on a trip (she will hide) or when we are not feeling well (she'll cuddle up next to you more). She is very energetic and loves to pounce on bugs and run from window to window to look at all the birds and squirrels but will sit next to you on the couch or chair just to be around you.

Our Favorite Toys: Candy's favorite "toy" is the window where she can watch the birds and squirrels. Pelo likes pillows and laps to sleep on.

Our Favorite Games: Candy likes playing hide-and-seek when it is time to go into the carrier for a trip (she once found a hole in the wall and got under the bathtub). Pelo's favorite thing to do is sleep on bellies and beg like a dog for treats and food.

What We Like: Candy likes to go outside and eat grass and bounce on bugs. Pelo likes to eat treats and sleep.

Our Special Talents: Pelo's special talent is that she tolerates vet visits, shots and medicines really well. She is diabetic and requires insulin injections every day but does not mind them. Candy's special talent is that she will cuddle with you when you aren't feeling well.

Dani tells us how she got her kitties: "While living in Indiana, Dani adopted Candy from a local shelter in 2004, she is Dani's first cat. Pelo came to Dani a few years later when a family member was no longer able to care for her, she had been a stray prior to that. Phil got all three of us girls when he married Dani in 2015."

August 2015



Pet's Name: Cody

Proud Parents: Dale and Bev

Age: 13 years 5 months

Breed: Labrador Retriever

My Personality: Very laid back. Nothing bothers him including our young cats trying to groom his ears. He rarely barks while we are home but several of the delivery people have told me that I never have to worry about someone trying to break into the house when we are not at home given how aggressive he gets when they come to the door to drop off a box.

My Favorite Toy: Any toy that makes a noise.

My Favorite Game: Dropping my tennis ball in front of the lawn mower.

What I Like: Walking, eating, and chewing on a raw hide.

My Special Talent: Knowing that when a car comes down our street when we are out for a walk, I need to sit down until the car passes.

Cody's dad tells us how Cody came to be with him: "Cody was adopted out of a rescue at 14 months of age and has been acting like a well behaved older adult dog ever since. He learned many good behaviors because he loves treats. He has never had to be crated in the house. He will be very hard to replace in terms of his personality and behavior."

July 2015



Pet's Name: Rooi Els (A small community village located on the eastern shore of False Bay, South Africa, named after a scented, flowering tree that grows along the shore)

Proud Parents: Lisa and David

Age: 1.5 year old

Breed: Havanese

My Personality: Loving, boisterous, and very smart.

My Favorite Toy: Either my fox, or that special occasion with a plastic water bottle - love how they roll and make lots of noise.

My Favorite Game: Retrieving fox.

What I Like: Walks and not being alone.

My Special Talent: Dancing and agility.

Roo's mom tells us her adoption story: "Our daughter researched dogs that were "hypoallergenic" because we have a sensitive human living in the same house. She found a litter of Havanese with 2 of the 4 left to be adopted. The breeder was located fairly close, so we quickly arranged a time to meet the two little pups, and, of course, we fell in love. The one we thought we wanted was adopted before we made it back home. However, we jumped at the opportunity to get the 2nd pup, which as it turned out was a match made in heaven. We adore our little girl! We realized later that Roo actually picked us on that first visit. When we first arrived, Roo came directly over to greet us. She was and still is very adventurous, courageous and willing!"

June 2015



Pet's Names: Auggie and Bella

Proud Parents: Deb and Keith

Ages: Auggie is 9 and Bella is 13

Breeds: Both are "pure breed Humane Society dogs." They are rescue animals. Bella claims Bouvier, Lab and German Shepard as her legacy. Auggie is clearly Beagle with a touch of Dachsund, and maybe Jack Russell Terrier.

Our Personalities: Bella is a bit reserved, even in her youth. Loves to catch balls and play chase, although not so much now with her age and arthritis. Auggie demands attention and affection, and loves food.

Our Favorite Toys: Bella loves balls and chew toys that squeak. Auggie likes dog games with food as a reward.

What We Like: Bella loves her ears rubbed, and Auggie is keen on belly rubs.

Our Special Talents: Auggie is a great watch dog and barks at the mailman daily along with the UPS guy. She seems to have unlimited capacity for food. Bella is very mellow and calm and must have a minimum of two walks a day or she is extremely agitated.

The girls' owner tells their adoption stories: "Bella joined our family shortly after my daughter graduated college and moved out of state. It's true she was a replacement for her! She was with her litter mates at a local pet store adoption day, and the smallest of the litter - hard to believe she was only 5 lbs when she came home with us, as she is now 80 lbs. Auggie was adopted by my daughter after she graduated law school. However, the extremely long hours demanded of a young lawyer made it impossible for her to give Auggie the attention needed, so Auggie came to live with us as an 18 month old puppy. Luckily we had Bella, who was able to teach Auggie what it means to be a good dog."

May 2015



Pet's Names: Hailey (in front), Zoe (back left) and Ella (back right)

Proud Parents: Kelly and Jeff

Ages: Hailey is 13-1/2, Zoe is 8 and Ella is 6-1/2

Breeds: Hailey is a yellow lab, Zoe is a "silver lab" (a mix of chocolate lab and weimaraner), and Ella is a Chihuahua/Jack Russell terrier mix

Our Personalities: Hailey is the best behaved girl we've ever known. She is friendly and aims to please. As she has gotten older, she is occasionally a bit lazy but she is still often very playful with us and even with her canine "sisters." Zoe is incredibly sweet and needs human affection all the time. She also has a lot of energy. It's a bit like living with Tigger from Whinnie the Pooh series because she might inadvertently bowl you over as she runs to greet you. Ella is very smart and occasionally a bit devious. She knows how to get her way. She is also a quintessential lap dog and very cuddly.

Our Favorite Toys: Hailey has a couple of blankets that she loves to use for games of keep away and tug-of-war. The girls also have a large number of stuffed animal toys and an old penguin is a big favorite.

Our Favorite Games: Playing the "blanket game" when Zoe and Ella chase and bark at Hailey while Hailey runs around the house with her favorite blankets.

What We Like: Treats - especially when they are put in a hard rubber Kong toy; trips to Northern Michigan to swim in the Crystal River and Lake Michigan; having our tummies tickled; family time.

Our Special Talents: Despite being the only non-lab, Ella is probably the best retriever of the bunch. Zoe is a super fast runner and likes to jog with her mother. Hailey can make anyone fall in love with her by being so sweet.

The girls' mom relates their adoption stories: "We already owned a small dog and wanted the kids to grow up with a big cuddly labrador retriever. We decided to search for a yellow lab and found Hailey at a breeder not far from here. Hailey eventually found herself in need of a canine sibling and we had heard about the so called silver labrador mix. We researched this type of dog and were thrilled to find Zoe at a breeder's farm in Dexter. Although we adore our labs, we missed having a small dog around. Jeff had had a chihuahua-terrier mix as a kid and we decided to try to find a similar dog for our family. An extensive internet search led us to a rescue in Muskegon where little Ella was even cuter in person than in her photos."

A sad note: our friend Hailey passed away just a couple of weeks ago. She was a very sweet girl, and will be missed by all that knew her.

April 2015



Pet's Name: Sport

Proud Parents: Joe, Sharon and Aliya

Age: 6 1/2 years

Breed: Lab/Rottweiler/Retriever mix

Sport's parents give us their adoption story: "We went to the Huron Valley Humane Society to adopt a puppy and a kitten for our family. The preferred dog was a Papillion or something similar. You can see from his picture that we did not find a Papillion or even a reasonable facsimile. Sharon says Joe wanted a big dog you could thump on the back and throw tennis balls and Frisbees to, but the real story is that she fell in love with his quiet demeanor and floppy ears. Well, that was the one and only time we saw a quiet demeanor in Sport. And our cute little puppy grew into a big goofy dog within, it seemed like, one month. Furthermore, even though Sport is 3/4 retriever, he doesn't retrieve balls or Frisbees, sniffing the ground like a Bloodhound and jumping on every person he encounters being his primary recreations (everyone who meets our 70 pound adult Lab mix still exclaims, "Oh, a puppy"). But for all the insane things he's gotten into and eaten (a piece of nylon rope, a fresh head of cauliflower, a refrigerator lightbulb - really, we think he might be part goat!), we couldn't love the big knucklehead more. Oh, and the cat we adopted? Sweet, affectionate, and low maintenance. Go figure, huh?"

March 2015



Pet's Name: Rosie

Proud Parent: Kerin

Age: 8 months mischievous

Breed: Goldendoodle

My Personality: Sweet but mischievous.

My Favorite Toy: Anything off the counter or any paper products.

My Favorite Game: Playing fetch with a squeaky toy.

What I Like: Walks, chasing squirrels and rabbits.

My Special Talent: I sit stay and down stay really well, even outside on walks.

Rosie's mom tells how she got Rosie: "Came special delivery from Illinois - a friend found the puppies and the rest is history."

February 2015



Pet's Name: Luke

Proud Parents: Tom and Kristin

Age: 2

Breed: Llewelyn Setter

My Personality: Sweet and Serious. I play hard, and I work hard.

My Favorite Toy: Anyone's shoe.

My Favorite Game: Chase.

What I Like: Birds, squirrels, deer, neighborhood kitty, getting on furniture/beds when not supposed to.

My Special Talent: Bird hunting, hogging beds, stalking deer, being sweet.

Tom and Kristin tell how Luke came to be with them: "Three months after losing our 14 year old setter, Kristin found herself nursing an injured moth back to health and trying to make it a family pet. At that point Tom acquiesced to getting another dog. We found Luke on a Kentucky breeder's web site (Mountain View Kennels). Before we knew it he flew up from Kentucky at age 4 months. The rest is history! He is an awesome boy!"