

Swirl



On October 18, 2018, we had to say goodbye way too soon to our 12-year-old Dalmatian, Winnie to an illness. Her departure left a huge hole in our family. Our eight-year-old cattle dog, Luna, missed her but was doing ok. Over time the emptiness grew so we starting to look for an addition to our family. I was wanting another Dalmatian but really felt adamant about adopting. We had been looking around and submitted a few applications. I was inquiring about a Dalmatian near me, when the coordinator Sandy at Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado reached out to me to see if I would consider a black and white mixed breed named Swirl. We talked and it sounded like she needed us as much as we needed her. We put in an application and we were accepted. We knew that she was heartworm positive and would need treatment, was an ordered surrender and had captured the hearts of the coordinator and foster parents.

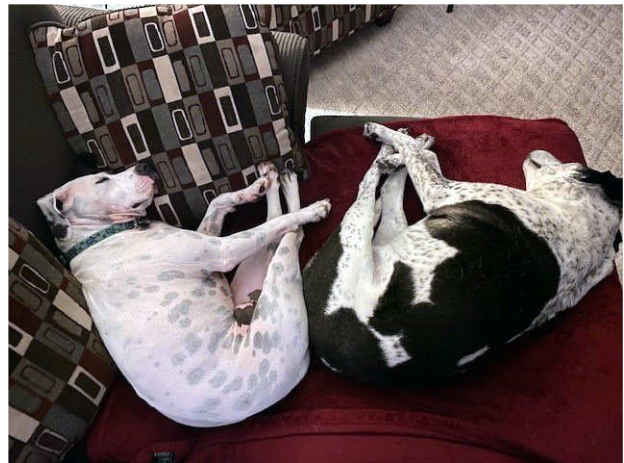
So, on October 18, 2019, one year to the date we lost our beloved Winnie, we drove from Cleveland, OH to somewhere in IN to meet the foster parents so we could get our new baby. We decided to keep her name. It fit her. She was full of energy. After getting all the information and Swirl's belongings, Swirl jumped in the back of the car with me and snuggled up like she was home. We drove 3 hours home and returned home at midnight. My son and his girlfriend were waiting for us, excited to meet Swirl. They had our other dog Luna in the backyard waiting on an introduction. We were a bit nervous on the meeting. That lasted 10 seconds. They were having a blast chasing and playing with each other. Swirl acclimated to our family immediately. She is the sweetest dog that it is hard to imagine the life she endured before us. She went to visit her grandma and grandpa with her sister Luna when we were traveling for Thanksgiving. She acted like she had been a part of our family for years and was spoiled by grandma and grandpa.

It has been 11 months since she has become part of our family. She is now heartworm free and can run around and play as hard as she wants. It was a challenge to keep the girls calm while she was in treatment. We love to see her experience new things such as swimming, which was her diving off the end of the dock in a flash. Thankfully, she could swim and liked it. My son did jump in just in case she needed rescuing. The amount of love and affection she shows is amazing, given her start in life. Looking at how

Luna and Swirl interact with each other, it was clear how much Luna was missing Winnie. Those two are peas in a pod, always together. Swirl is now keeping her 10-year-old sister young! We are a complete family again with the addition of Swirl.



Swirl and Luna hanging out on the dog bed... "We just barely fit, maybe a slightly bigger bed is in order, Mom?"



Now this is more like it... we have room to spread out!