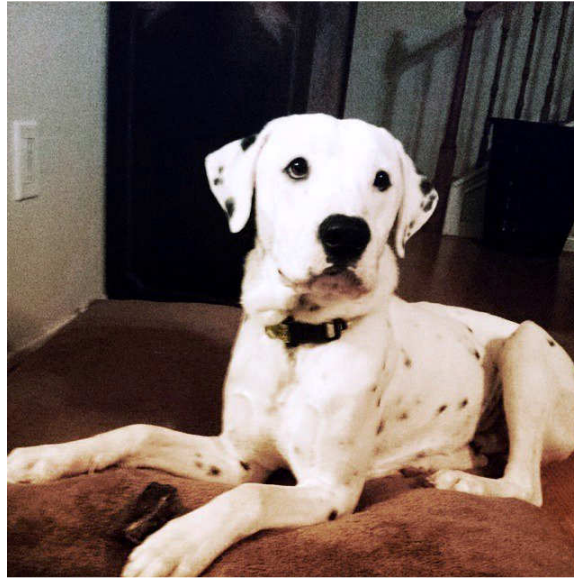


# Rio



## Rio's New Beginning

Rio, the deaf Dalmatian mix, officially joined our family on January 21, 2015. We first met Rio several months prior at Boneyard's Bar and Dog Park while visiting with a few of our previous foster dogs. Rio's foster parent, Natalie, who helps train our high-energy, high-anxiety, and highly intelligent puppy, Mishka, happened to be there with a few of her dogs. Rio was among this pack.

Kate and I were curious about Rio, and how he managed without his hearing. We immediately took to his calm and caring personality, and were fascinated with his ability to understand sign language. Part of Mishka's training is working on helping her anxiety, and Natalie mentioned in passing that Rio would be a great way to deflect some of Mishka's energy with his couch potato personality. After the first home visit, we knew right away it would be a perfect match.

From the first day, Rio and Mishka have been inseparable. After several foster dogs that did nothing but increase the insane levels of existing energy, Rio was a breath of fresh air. Don't get me wrong, Rio still loves to play. He and Mishka love to chase squirrels together, splash in our sometimes flooded back yard, play tug of war, fight dragons, and do other dog things. However, unlike any of our previous foster dogs, he doesn't jump all over the couches or run up and down the stairs to play... he's more of a gentle giant. At the end of the day, he's the first to jump in bed and settle down, he likes to cuddle up next to us and Mishka, and he's even sweet to our cats!

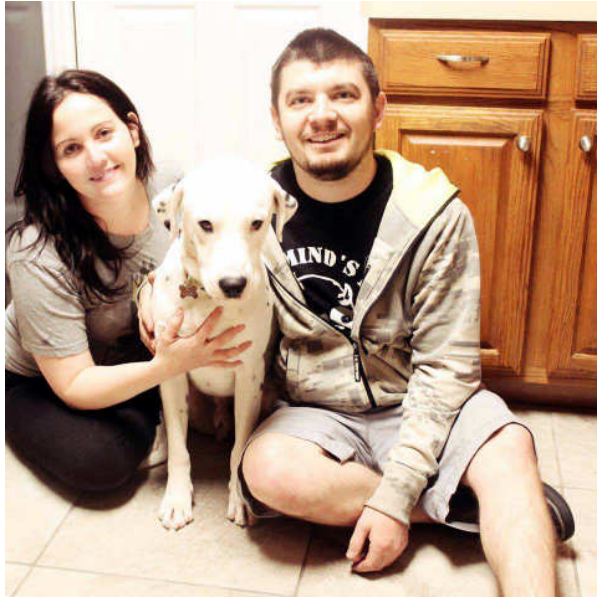
Meeting new people was never our Mishka's strong suit. Rio is exactly the opposite, he loves to get as much loving from as many people as he can find. Now Mishka is right there with him, fighting for attention – *jealousy has won the battle against fear.*

Rio shows us more love each day. He's still learning the ropes, but you can tell he's eager to please. He'll follow us around the house waiting for us to give him a job... as long as it's not cleaning. Rio will hide under the table as soon as you take the broom out. Vacuums, on the other hand, are not a problem. I suppose some things don't pose as much of a threat when they don't make scary noises. This bravery has helped our Mishka conquer some of her fears already.

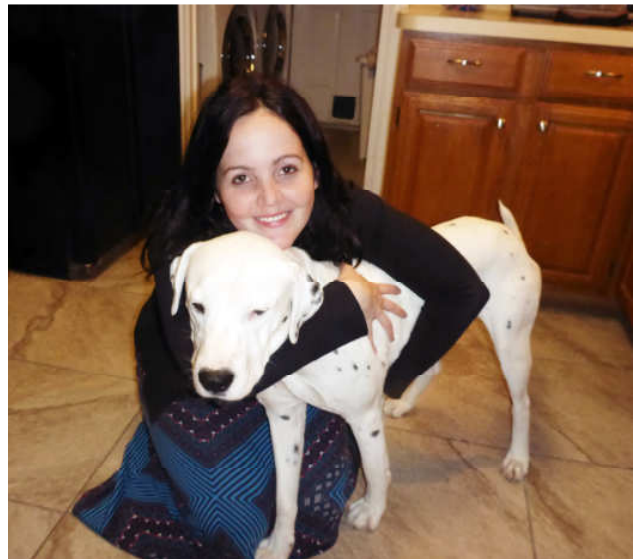
All in all, Rio is a great dog. One of the primary reasons we adopted him was to find our dog, Mishka, a companion to help her become a less anxious, more socialized dog, but in the end he

has already given us so much more. We look forward to providing for Rio for the rest of his life, and to all of the love and loyalty he will undoubtedly return.

**Kate W. & Chason D.**  
Humble, TX



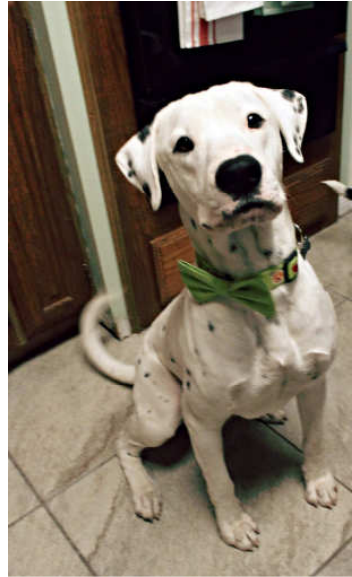
My new Mom and Dad!!



Mom loves me... and I LOVE her, too!



This is where I went to obedience school! 😊



Don't I look great in this bow tie?



I love my new sister, too! ☺