

Ellie officially joined our family on August 27th, 2015.

My husband and I had been on the lookout for the right dog to add to our already furry family. We already have two cats that rule our home, but had enough room for a dog who needed loving!

After a few initial discussions, we decided we wanted to look for a Dalmatian or a Pitbull Terrier., although we knew we were going to rescue, not buy, so our hearts were open to whatever dog felt right for us, we weren't strictly looking for Dals, and we thought it may be hard to find one in a shelter. Lo-and-behold, after doing some research, I stumbled upon the Dalmatian Rescue.

We initially inquired about Ellie and one other dog, not sure which one would be available, or even fit our family well. Although Ellie had less official training than the other dog, I'm happy to say that there isn't a dog out there that would have fit better into our "pack". Without even meeting her, we knew she was the right one. I spoke with her foster Dad, Mike (who continues to be a great resource for us, and did a great job with her while he had her. [We now refer to him as Uncle Mike.](#)) After a few conversations, we realized that this would be the little girl we would be taking into our home.

A couple days before we were going to pick her up, Mike called and let us know she may have a cancerous growth on her hip. We were a little sad, but it didn't deter us at all from staying on schedule to pick up our Ellie! It took about an hour drive, but I picked her up on the 27th, and we haven't looked back since!

Upon arriving home, we got her situated in her new area, complete with a nice new bed, water fountain, a plethora of toys (most are destroyed by now!) and some food and treats. She was a little tentative around my husband for awhile (as she is around all males it seems) but not aggressive at all. She was very submissive, and hid behind me for a little while. Every time he would raise his hand to pet her she would shy away; poor girl!

I'm happy to say, that after only a few days she has really warmed up to both of us. We still keep the cats separated from her when we aren't home, but they are making slow progress to becoming fast friends! She gets at least 2 walks a day, and she loves to play tug of war and fetch. She completed her first day of obedience school the following Saturday after we picked her up, and she really excels at her training, because she loves to please. She's so willing to learn and responds really well to positive reinforcement! So far her "sit" and "down" commands are going really well, and we're starting to work on her "stay" commands. She also had her first vet appointment, and we cleared her growth on her hip as just a reaction to a shot, so, no cancer! She did a great job at the vet, even though you could tell she was a little scared. We're so proud of how well she's doing so far, and even though we know there will be obstacles, we're so lucky and happy to have her in our family, that we know we'll tackle any issues together.

She rarely barks, listens well, is gentle around the cats, is very playful and silly, loves to be the center of attention, and hates to leave her mom's side. We can't thank you enough for helping us find Ellie, and we look forward to a lot of adventures for years to come!

Melissa and Travis

