

July 28, 2015

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When Lucy came in to the Burleson Animal Shelter in December 2014, as a stray, she had burns on her back and a bite to her throat that had turned in to an abscess. She went through two rounds of antibiotics, but the medication didn't clear the infection. Thanks to monetary donations to the shelter's Medical Fund, the 1-year-old brindle Pit Bull Terrier mix found her forever home in March 2015 with Jay Davis and Casey Kelley.

"When I saw Lucy's picture on the Burleson Animal Shelter website, I immediately told Jay that we needed to adopt her," Casey said. "Something about her gave me this overwhelming need to rescue her. The burns, the abscess, and the fact that her breed is so misunderstood . . . I worried that no one would give her a chance. After everything she had been through Lucy still had so much love to give."

Jay visited Lucy often at the animal shelter, so when March rolled around and Lucy still wasn't adopted, Casey said she and Jay agreed that they would adopt her.

"Jay and I had adopted two other rescue pups, Loki and Lyra, before we adopted Lucy," Casey said. "Loki, a male Pit Bull/Boxer mix, was between six months and a year old in 2012 when we found him on the streets. Loki was skinny and badly mangled. Lyra, a female Rottweiler mix, was born at the Burleson Animal Shelter Dec. 6, 2013. We adopted her in January 2014."

Casey and Jay knew they had their hands full with three pups, one house, and each puppy with its own issues.

"For about the first month and a half Loki and Lucy couldn't even be in the same room together," Casey said. "However, Lyra took to Lucy so well that they became best buds and sisters instantly. Lyra had finally found someone to keep up with her and Lucy was excited to have someone to follow around. After long nights, early mornings, scrapes and cuts, bruises and tears Loki and Lucy finally found common ground."

Jay and Casey had spent the month walking Loki and Lucy together so that they could be next to each other, but not fighting for common territory. The break they

had been looking for came when Casey and Jay decided to take a risk and take Loki and Lucy into the backyard after a walk.

“Jay and I held our breath as they approached each other. It may sound strange, but it was almost as if Lucy knew how hard this had been on everyone and she wanted to stay so bad, so she made the decision to give in and submit to Loki. She laid down in front of him and let him sniff her. It was the most humbling thing I had seen in a long time,” Casey said. “As humans we have pride and ego and oftentimes let that get in the way, but all Lucy wanted was a family to love her, and now she did.”

Now that they have all been together for almost five months, the three four-legged siblings fight like...well, siblings, but it has been worth it.

“I can honestly say that Lucy has brought so much into our lives. She has taught Loki patience and understanding, she has given Lyra the young active playmate that she was missing, and she reminded both Jay and I that there is no better love in the entire world than from a pup that knows it’s been saved,” Casey said. “To anyone who is considering adopting, please know that although these pups may come with baggage, may be “damaged,” and will require your patience and unconditional love daily, the return is incredible. Every day I walk into the house to three dogs jumping over each other to love on me. When I’m having a bad day or struggling with something emotionally they are all there by my feet kissing and snuggling me and reassuring me that it will be ok.

“Every day is an adventure with them! They have their own personalities and quirks and it has been so much fun to watch them grow with each other. I can’t thank the Burleson Animal Shelter enough for bringing such love into our lives. I hope that everyone is lucky enough to experience the love of a saved pup. It is absolutely life changing.”

The Burleson Animal Shelter’s Medical Fund consists of donations that are used to pay veterinarian bills for animals that are sick or injured, like Lucy. The shelter sees eight-10 cases a month and they include wounds, upper respiratory infections, and skin allergies, to name a few. The shelter does not have a veterinarian on staff, but they do have a veterinarian who is available and will stop by the shelter to examine and treat sick or injured animals. Being able to provide that medical care to a lost pet gives the staff a chance to try to find the dog’s owner. Money that is donated can help save the lives of many animals.

For more information about donations, please call the Burleson Animal Shelter at 817-426-9283 or email animalshelter@burlson.tx.com. The shelter, located at 775 SE John Jones Dr., is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.