

# The Merits of an Older Rescue Dog—Missy's Story!

Kirsty and her husband were already the happy owners of a rescue dog Otis, but felt a second dog would fit well with their life-style. Kirsty began searching the internet for an ideal companion.

Missy was found straying on the motorway, and was moved to rescue by RDR, from where she was homed.

This is the story in Kirsty's own words:

"We had been thinking about getting another dog for a while. I was looking for a little girl, but she had to be ok with other dogs and not mind being left at times. I started searching on the internet for dog rescues and I found the Dog Rescue Pages website. I intended to just look in the South, but the site was having some problems and the rescues were not broken into areas. We'd never have seen Missy otherwise, and I am still amazed that I found her.

We had been looking for an oldie as I am not so keen on puppies and with Otis being older we felt he would have struggled. You can teach old dogs new tricks so I thought that any problems an older dog had would be easier to deal with than toilet training from scratch and those puppy teeth and chewing!! I saw photos that had been posted by Missy's foster home and I just went gooey at her little face. I looked and realised where she

was, a long way from us, so rather disappointed I left it.

However I couldn't get her out of my head, and kept going back to her page. I enquired whether she had been homed. Lucky for me she hadn't, so I spoke to my husband Paul, and showed him the pictures. The ones of her on her walk melted Paul's heart and he said phone them.



Missy in her foster home

I was so nervous and worried I'd come over all wrong, first with the rescue themselves and then with her foster carer. But they managed to see through the nerves and we were offered a home-check.

Again I was so nervous during the home-check, but it went well and we passed!

Missy's foster home kept us informed of her progress all the way and everyone made me fully aware of all Missy's traits, good or bad.

We travelled North on a Saturday, trying not to get our hopes up in case Otis and Missy didn't hit it off. I was an absolute bag of nerves again and thought that they would say we could not take her because I was acting so weird and jittery.

But it went so well that Missy came home with us!

It has now been one fabulous, wonderful, amazing year. I miss her if I am away from her for even a minute. Paul says she is delightful, a real character (and she has him wrapped around her little finger). We are both besotted. She has been through so much but she wants to give love still. She had already had mammary tumours removed, and had another lump removed just after she came to live with us. We were told she had a heart murmur and then we were worried that the lumps might be cancerous, but we decided straight away that even if she was with us for a short time we would make it wonderful. Thankfully she is very fit and well!

Missy is excited over everything. She loves her walks and food and chasing the ball. She has taken over the bed and sofa. She flutters her eyelashes and gets everything. She bosses Otis about. She brings us so much joy I cannot put it into words. My sister-in-law adopted a puppy not long after we got Missy, and it was such a struggle with the house-training and all that puppy bounce.

Missy at home!



*We knew we had made the right decision in adopting an older dog, and have never once regretted it. And when you know it's the one, it's never too far to travel!*

## Do you have a skill

We are always looking for new fundraising ideas, and quality items to sell via Ebay or at events. If you make or create something that you



Do you knit, sew or make cards?

## we could use?

would like to donate for this worthy cause please let us know. If the items are large we can sometimes arrange transport.