



Foster Mama Susan ~ Cassie - a Chiweenie (Chihuahua/Dachshund mix), was brought to a very high kill shelter in Texas by her owner. She stated that Cassie was pregnant. And she said that Cassie had been screaming for two days and "we still ain't got no puppies". She was told that Cassie needed to be taken to a vet immediately. The woman stated "We ain't got no money for no vet!" The shelter manager told her she has two choices....1 - take the dog to the vet or 2 - sign her over to the shelter. If she didn't do either of those things, charges would be brought against her for failure to provide veterinary care. She signed Cassie over.

Cassie was in sad shape. You could see the puppy that was caught in the birth canal. Cassie was very stressed and in so much pain. Her gums were as white as a sheet. She was immediately taken to the vet. They performed an emergency C-section on her. Sadly, none of the puppies survived. Because the puppies were septic, Cassie's abdomen had to be flushed too. After her ordeal, Cassie was placed in our care to recover as our medical foster - a job we take very seriously and love dearly. She was one very sick dog and we were not sure she would pull through. She spent the next several days lying on a heating pad with my husband. If he was not available, she would snuggle up with the resident Bull Mastiff. It was a

good month before she was totally recovered.

We found that Cassie was a wonderful, happy little dog. She was crate trained, although we did not crate her anymore as she had proven herself totally reliable in the house. She was sweet to everyone and very lovable. She loved tennis balls, but was not obsessive. She got all silly when she played. She was a snuggle bunny at TV time. Cassie walked well on a leash and loved to ride in the car. Cassie got along well with other dogs, large and small.

Cassie was microchipped and updated on all her vaccinations. It was at this time we found out that Cassie was heartworm positive. The shelter does not have the funds to treat heartworm positive dogs. Cassie was listed on Petfinder and returned to the shelter. I would drop Cassie off in the adoption hall every morning and pick her up every evening. Cassie sat and waited for someone to take an interest in her. Of course we knew she was a wonderful dog, but no one seemed to be giving her the time of day. Cassie's time was running out. The number of dogs coming into the shelter was staggering. Room had to be made for those incoming dogs.

My husband and I were planning a 6 month trip to Cape Cod in our RV. We worried that no one would adopt our sweet little Cassie. We searched for rescue groups in New England, where the adoption rates are much higher, that could take "Dixie" dogs. We contacted Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society County in Springfield, MA. They said they would be happy to take some dogs. Then our heart sank when we found out one of the requirements was that they had to be heartworm negative to be accepted. We went about and made plans to bring them 4 other dogs that met their requirements. At least we could save them.

The time drew closer and closer to leave and still Cassie waited for a forever home. We were so worried. We couldn't leave her. We wouldn't leave her. We knew what would happen. We decided to take Cassie with us too. So, on May 9th, we loaded up 5 foster dogs and our personal dog and headed to New England. We dropped 4 fosters off in Springfield. Then we went on to Cape Cod with our dog and Cassie.

Once we were settled on the Cape, I contacted Friends of Falmouth Dogs to see if they would do a courtesy listing for Cassie on their website. I explained to Kathy Long the circumstances of Cassie's arrival. Not only did she say that she would list Cassie for us, but she also offered to sponsor Cassie's heartworm treatment! I couldn't believe it! We couldn't even get the medication needed to treat heartworms in Texas, much less the funding.

Kathy made an appointment for Cassie to see Dr. Bartlett at South Cape Veterinary Clinic. Cassie's first meeting was to assess her chances of a successful treatment. Then she was scheduled for the first in a series of three injections. The first round of injections is always hardest on the dog. The first few days after the injection, Cassie did not feel well at all. But she continually improved. In the meantime, Friends of Falmouth Dogs listed Cassie for adoption. She was also featured in the newspaper.

Several people were interested in Cassie. We took Cassie on a couple of home visits. It seemed a match made in heaven when Bob showed up with his big ol' lab. Cassie looked like a "mini-me" of the larger dog, both dogs being black with the same amount white on their chests, with just a little bit of white on their toes too. They were so cute together. They got along great. A sleepover was scheduled. Everyone in the household loved Cassie. Cassie was scheduled for her second and third injections. Bob and his family didn't want to wait to see if everything came out okay. They loved her no matter what. Bob agreed to finish up Cassie's medical treatments. The adoption was finalized. Cassie found her forever home. Oh & Bob's big ol lab was also named Cassie! So it's Big Cassie and Little Cassie. Two peas in a pod. :)

And here's an email I got from Bob ~ 'We hit the jackpot with New Cass. Original Cass has adapted to New Cass even better than I was ever expecting. New Cass is so damn happy every day that we're all victims of her positivity. I'm pretty sure I look forward to her morning belly rub more than she does. Life has a funny way of rewarding us (any species). We all won here!'

♥xo...Volunteer, Foster, Donate, Adopt...xo♥