

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

On The Positive Side

By Frank Bryce / For the Sun-News

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We hear so many wonderful stories about companion animals that are no longer with us, that have lived full and rich lives contributing to families. The memory of Suzy, a totally loving and wonderful cocker spaniel during my own grade school years has never been forgotten a half century later.

It occurs to me that these wonderful years have to start sometime, somehow and somewhere, with a desire and commitment by an individual, family or concerned group. Recent events involving these elements made a beginning for just such a wonderful journey, for a young family and a very fortunate dog named Charlie.

I became aware of Charlie, a border collie mix, through the tireless efforts of the "Dogs Deserve Better" rescue folks in Hobbs, N.M. Charlie had several strikes against him for getting a good home. He had spent much of his life on the end of a chain and had been assessed as aggressive with other dogs. To compound his situation Charlie had been diagnosed with a possible pre-cancerous lesion on his nose.

However, nobody gave up on Charlie. As a first positive step, the rescue group got Charlie veterinary care. The second positive step was getting Charlie into the adoption program of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. There it was discovered that Charlie was an absolute lover, smart as a whip, and eager to join a proper, loving home. The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico advertised Charlie locally, took him to off-site events, and told everybody all about this wonderful dog.

The third, final and crucial step on the positive side happened when a young family, Katherine and Eric, came to see Charlie at the foster site. It was love, love, love at first sight. These folks adopted Charlie and took him home to the north valley.

A few weeks later Charlie came back for a visit to show off his new family. Did he ever strut his stuff, so well-behaved, trained and mannerly! He was grinning from nose to tail about someone's taking that third step.

Now, what does this have to do with you? You can take that first step in a number of ways: adopt a companion animal that needs a home, get involved in addressing pet overpopulation, support organizations working on these issues. Better yet, support all of these financially and politically.

It is a first step you will never regret; you can begin the journey of a lifetime.

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