

What is 135 pounds, looks like a Muppet, and has covered our homes and hearts in drool? Meet Jellybean (formerly Lou). Beans, as we call her, has brought a tremendous amount of love, life, and laughter (and did I mention drool?) to our household.

I want to say that it was love at first sight, but the truth is that you can put any big, fluffy dog in front of me and I'll fall in love. That's just my default mode. This was more than that. Of course, we were immediately enamored with her gigantic size and her endless fluff, but then, she looked into my soul with her big brown eyes. She needed me and knew that I needed her. That is the moment is when I fell head over heels. I like to believe that we both did.

Beans seemed happy and comfortable in our home – her new home – from day one. She bonded with her new friends and looked to them to show her the way which, as it turns out, is eat, poop, sleep, repeat. She's a natural.

The last six weeks have been a whirlwind of hugs, brushing, training, and more hugs. Even though she's generally a good listener and well-mannered, Beans keeps us endlessly entertained with her "bull in a china shop" antics, like:

- Jumping on the door and locking my husband out of the house
- Blasting through our not-quite-big-enough-for-her doggie door like the Kool-Aid Man (we invested in the Extra Large model after that)
- Proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that she is not going to be a running partner (we have a 27-minute mile "run" together under our belts to prove that)
- Scaring the bejesus out of neighbors walking by when she jumps up and puts her paws on the fence, but they always end up giving her love
- Someone stole a new mug in a paper bag from the kitchen counter and, while I can't prove it was her, where could the mug have gone? Who else had access or motive? Who else could reach the counter? Draw your own conclusions.

The volunteers at HANR have been an amazing resource for us from the beginning, providing tips, expertise, and training help. More than that, though, they have welcomed us into their newfie community, which we are so thrilled to now be a part of.

