



Sly

My introduction to Sly began on a sunny Sunday August afternoon when my door bell rang. At the door sat this beautiful Newfoundland with a card tied with trailing blue ribbons lying on the floor in front of him. A bit of leash could be seen leading to a figure (obscured by a small tree) which said, "Read the card." I invited both Sly and his Rescue advocate at the end of the leash, my friend Nancy Kubel, to come in.

The card read as follows: "Hello, my name is Sly and I am looking for my new home. I hope I am in the right place. I have to find my new home because the people at my first home stopped loving me and told me to go away. I don't know why they stopped

loving me. I tried to be very good and not do anything bad. I never barked very much and I never dug up my yard and I never let them see me crying. I did not want them to know how sad and lonely I was in the pen at the back of the



yard. I think they must have been very important people because they always said they had better things to do than take care of me. Anyway, a nice lady in Branson heard me crying one day and took me away from there. She hugged me and promised me a home where I would be loved again and would never be afraid or sad or lonely. And then that night a pretty little Newfie angel wearing funny white pants came down from heaven and told me she knew where I should go because I was needed there. It has taken me a while to get here because while her directions were good, she said I had to stop at every McDonald's I saw and eat French Fries! I hope I'm not too late to be your Newfie boy and take care of you."

Sly and Nancy came in the family room where he promptly lay on my feet and Nancy left to run some errands. When she returned I got the full story. She and my daughter had conspired to find me another Newfie because Sadie (another rescue girl) had died unexpectedly in June leaving Charmin' Carmen (my 10 year old Newfie girl) alone without a buddy for the first time in her life. Carmen had been sad without Sadie, not eating very well

and the neuropathy of her spine getting worse. If you could resist the message of this card and the sweetness of Sly's face and manner you have no heart. Sly captured me immediately and is now named Sweet Sly.

He had many health issues, in fact, was near death, when rescued. He was placed with a foster family, Donna and Chad Brown, in Highlandville, MO for several months. He needed treatment for Ehrlichiosis (tick-borne disease), heartworm, round worms and yeast-infected ears. Sweet Sly has now been my companion for a month and we're still dealing with the yeast-infected ears and trying to put some weight on him. The weight is easier to achieve. He has had another round of treatment for round worms, been neutered and had his toe nails clipped so great strides have been made in restoring him to health.

Sadly, he never learned to play with toys or other animals. Carmen has tried to play but he isn't ready for that yet. Just this week he has summoned the courage to lie on the area rug in the family room with Carmen only a foot away from him. Every day he is gaining in confidence. He is very smart, has learned all the household routines, and seeks repeated affection which I provide in abundance. He was so abused that it is going to take a very long time for him to not show fear. If he is uncertain about anything he makes himself as flat as possible on the floor as if to say, "please don't hit or kick me." I shudder to imagine what he went through for 5 years at his previous home in Branson. He follows me from room to room and has beds throughout the house to sleep on. Everyone who sees him when we go to the vet exclaims about how beautiful he is and he is sweet to them as well--gets along with other animals--and has become a favorite at the vet's office since we are there every two weeks. It's a joy to see how happy he is and watch him run.

Sweet Sly and I want to thank Tri-Lakes Animal Shelter, Heart of America Newfoundland Rescue (Jocelyn Hawley and Mary Rich), Chad and Nancy Brown and Nancy Kubel for all working together to save his life and find him a loving home. It is great to be able to say that Charmin' Carmen has also perked up, is eating better and seems happy again, too. I have lived with Newfoundland dogs for 35 years (two of whom were rescues before Sly) and have to say that Sweet Sly is a winner when it comes to love. He is a true teacher of humility and forgiveness when you think about his suffering for years, and the fact that he still loves unconditionally with his whole heart. The three of us share our lives together on a farm in the Rogersville area with joy. Maybe you will be lucky to have a wonderful Newfie in your life to keep you balanced and loved. Support rescue whenever you can.

Pat W.

October 8, 2009