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Great Salem Area Woman's Club
A Short Story

The Life of Gizmo

I was a little fifteen pound Shitzu, and lived in a country setting with my owners Ed and Nancy. I started my life with a young couple, and then they decided to have a baby. I must admit I was very jealous because they paid more attention to the baby then they did to me.

I didn't know how to handle the situation so I suppose I wasn't a very good boy because I started doing things that I shouldn't have done. So to make this part of my story short, I wound up at the animal shelter. It was quite an experience. They put me in a cage, and I just sat there thinking I guess It didn't pay to be a bad boy. Then Ed showed up, and I heard him talking about me to the girl in charge. He said he would like to take me home with him. My heart started to beat fast, and I got so excited I started to pee in my cage. Then my heart sank. The girl said I had to spend the night here to make sure I wasn't a biter. Now I could only hope that Ed would return for me the next day.

Well, I made it through the night/ It was about 11:00 in the morning when a woman came in and said she was here to inquire about me. At first I got a little worried because I thought Es was coming, but then she mentioned his name. Ed and Nancy were whom I was going to spend the rest of my life with.

Although I was a little disappointed that Ed didn't come for me, Nancy was okay too. She hugged me and kissed me like we were old buddies. She took me to my new home. It was a really nice small cottage on Canobie Lake. She Kept me on a leash, I suppose she thought I would run away, and she didn't want that to happen. I was in the house for maybe 1 hour when she had a sink full of warm water and dog shampoo. up I went on to the countertop, and then plop, right into the sink. She gave me a good washing and used the blow dryer to finish me. I

must admit it really felt good. My coat was nice and shiny, but my toenails needed to be cut. Oh dear. she didn't have a clipper, and I don't think she really wanted to try this, so she called the veterinarian and made an appointment for me. I was getting later in the day and she spoke to me not knowing that I understood and said Ed would be home shortly so in the meantime we would watch TV together.

Just about an hour passed when Ed came through the doors. He was so happy to see me, and so was I to see him. He had a bag of things for me: dog food, treats, hair brush and of course toys. I thought I was in heaven. Ed had his favorite recliner, and it didn't take me long to figure out that he would share it with me. as soon as he reclined I would jump up and lay on the footrest. They called me the upside down dog because I usually wound up on my back with all fours up in the air. This was such a great place to be. That night when we went to bed I realized that I was something special because they let me pick my spot in the bed first and then they got into bed. I usually started out between the two pillows and would actually work my way down to the foot of the bed where I had more room. the next morning and insisted that I'd be on a leash, but I didn't mind as long as I was with it. We walked around the perimeter while he kept telling me That I was a good boy. That really made me feel good and of course when he came to meal time I ate twice a day, I was really spoiled. I had my dog food and always had some table scraps and I always had a digital freshwater. Well, it was time to go to the doctor's office. That really didn't bother me too much although I must admit I didn't like to get shots. they liked me at the doctor's office, a couple of days have passed and Ed decided to let me go out by myself. I'm not sure he was a little nervous about this, but I listened to him when he talked and I wasn't about to give up this home, so I did exactly what I was told to do. I walked around for a while, did my business and scratched on the door to let him know that I was ready to come in. The minute I came in I got a treat, and he again praised me for being a good dog. As time went on I expanded my time outdoors and found some children next door. It was love at first sight. They let me into their house and gave me treats and played with me. I became part of the family too

but I always came home and scratched at the door. Don't misunderstand me, I'm not putting Nancy out of the picture but I was really Ed's dog. We played tug of war with the piece of rope Ed was always coming home with new toys for me. I had toys that I took outside and some that would stay inside. I loved going for a ride in his truck and I got to know a lot of people and got familiar with different places that we will go to. The Bagel Shop was my favorite because someone would always bring me out a piece of turkey breast, what a life I had!

I soon became the neighborhood dog, no one complained that I wasn't on a leash although there was a leash law in Windham. As a matter of fact, I became friends with everyone on the dead end street. but when I heard either Ed or Nancy calling my name to come home I made sure I was there in 5 minutes or less. I liked it best when the two of them walked down the street with me not on a leash. One yard had a water fountain on it and I would always stop for a drink. I Almost wasn't tall enough to reach my hind legs. I really had to stretch. I would walk through the yards and try to remember not to pee in everyone's yards. After all, I didn't do anything in our front yard, I always went across the street to the woods.

I'll never forget the day I ate something that looked like pizza that I found in the woods. I should have known better but I came home with part of it in my mouth. oh my goodness, was I ever sick. They had to rush me to the hospital where they gave me some medication. They wanted to keep me overnight just to be sure even though some X-rays showed nothing wrong. The next day I felt a lot better and Ed and Nancy came to get me. It was great to see them, my tail was going a mile a minute, they said I had to be quiet for a day or two in order to be fine. I knew what that meant, the leash! My life was going along just fine, I had everything I wanted when all of a sudden I heard Nancy on the phone. It was Peter next door with the kids, she talked for a while and then said congratulations. She got off the phone and told me that they bought a puppy for their kids. well let me tell you I wasn't one bit happy about this situation. as far as I was concerned I belonged to those kids too. For goodness sake, I even had sleepovers with them.

Well, they brought the puppy home and introduced her to me. They named her star, I must admit she was a pretty little black Belgian Sheepdog. Well I had a terrible time adjusting to this new change, as a matter of fact it took me a long time before I would even go over and lie on their doorstep let alone go inside their house. But as time went on, I accepted that I was second to Star as far as they were concerned. But don't think they forgot about me. The kids still played with me and I was always included in their picnics.

I almost forgot to tell you about Pattie, The Boston Terrier that belonged to our neighbor on the other side of us. We played together all the time. He was never on a leash as well. He was a little faster than me, and I would give up before him. When Ed and Nancy babysat for him he would stay at our house. We would drive them crazy running around our little brown cottage, not a lot of floor space in this place. As time went on Star grew to about 70 pounds. She had the prettiest shiny black hair that the kids would brush everyday. She would only be left off the leash if one of them was with her. I guess she wasn't as lucky as Pattie and I were. She always wanted to play with me, but she was so much bigger than us. As Star was growing up she would go to doggy day care here in town.

Then one day I just wasn't feeling too good, so Nancy took me to the vet. They took an x-ray and found out that I had something on my spleen. They operated and found cancer. They managed to get everything out, and in a couple of days I was feeling okay again. But then things started to go downhill, I didn't have any energy and I lost control of my hind end. They both rushed me back to the hospital and I had suffered a stroke. It was decided that it was best to put me to sleep so that I would not suffer.

I'll end my story by telling you that I'm in Doggy Heaven, where I can watch over Ed and Nancy. They still talk about me, and I like that. They have decided that they aren't going to get another dog, at least for the time being. Well, thanks for reading about me, and hope that all of you dog lovers give your dog a life like I had.

Signing off now. So long, and have a great day!

