

A Party with a Sad Ending



He was a beautiful white shepherd/husky mix, one that was full of life and had a continuously happy, smiling face, even though he had spent the first 11 months of his life chained to a fence in the slums of New York, whipped and starved.

Party was lucky and found himself in a New York City Shelter, where a young woman with a huge heart and a fondness for shepherds decided to rescue him. Party had been featured on Petfinders and it seemed there was no home for him. His days were numbered when his savior came to retrieve him.

This kind angel of a person isn't an official rescue, in fact she's new to the rescue arena but she has placed a few lucky dogs in wonderful homes. The young woman was well on her way to becoming a legitimate rescue and with time and experience probably could have made a difference in a number of dogs' lives. But who knows now...

This rescuer took pity on Party and rescued him She had him vetted and groomed; and then began to look for a proper home. He was happy and playful as adolescent pups are - but not mean or aggressive. Party spent his days interacting with the German Shepherds owned by the rescuer, and with her 5-year-old daughter. Everyone loved Party - the doorman, friends, and even people on the street. Party was fun! And frisky and a very lucky dog. Party knew he was lucky and was grateful to no longer be chained or starved or whipped, and he showered his foster mom and her family with love - like only a dog can do.

Foster Mom began to put the word out about this special dog and soon a woman on the opposite coast emailed her and inquired about adopting Party. Foster Mom tried to screen this potential adopter as well as she knew how - but the woman was sneaky. She painted a picture for the Foster Mom of a PERFECT home for Party. Only hindsight really portrays how sneaky and deceptive this woman truly was...there was nothing to indicate through the emails or phone calls that anything was amiss.

The potential adopter in Oregon promised Party a life of leisure on several well-fenced acres, with canine companions and a life full of love. This woman told Foster Mom how loved Party would be and how he would have the best toys and the nicest place to live. She indicated several times that she was a woman of means and Foster Mom found nothing in their emails to indicate anything was amiss. If only she had known the truth.

So - off Party went - to a party of his own. He was shipped via Delta Dash - COD. His airfare was a little over \$200 - a small price to pay for a lifetime of love and devotion from a formerly abused and neglected dog. Foster Mom didn't ask for reimbursement of the vetting or grooming or even the shipping crate, she just wanted Party to have a good life. She was sad to see him go - but truly felt he was going to his own little piece of heaven...little did she know.



The post adoption phone calls from the new owner indicated nothing out of the ordinary... "Party was happy and playing in the backyard with her other dogs and they all loved him". Sounds like a match made in heaven - right?

Then...

Foster Mom wanted to advertise the match made in heaven on a wolfdog email list - but was told by the adopter that she didn't want to get kicked off of the list - because it was obvious that Party was not a wolfdog, but she was willing to lie and say he was a wolfdog. Foster Mom had never advertised him as such - only as a husky/shepherd mixed dog because that's what he was - Party was not a wolfdog. Foster Mom was a little confused by this - but she didn't know the rules of that list and so just dismissed it...after all Party was happy and well loved. Right?

Or was he?

A few days later Foster Mom decided to call and check on Party and was told Party was no party at all - that he was growly and obviously not working out. Foster Mom offered to pay to ship him back to her immediately, or to have a family friend who lived less than 60 miles away from the adopter retrieve him. She hung up on Foster Mom. Foster Mom called back several times that day and each time the line was disconnected - she dismissed it as phone problems. So she emailed the adopter and the response was not good.

Emails started to come demanding money from Foster Mom. Adopter stated that the airline had demanded that she pay \$500 to retrieve Party - a far cry from the little over \$200 that was on the Foster Mom's receipt. When Foster Mom returned the emails - they remained unanswered.

Then Foster Mom began to worry.

Low and behold the adopter joined a new wolfdog email list - a list where Foster Mom is a member. In her introduction, the adopter told the list about her 2 new wolfdog puppies and another domestic dog she owns... but there was no mention of Party. Foster Mom contacted the list owner and told her Party's

story, and how even though this is a participation list she was going to remain silent to see if the adopter would say anything about Party. Meanwhile I was contacted to try to help sort this situation out. Foster Mom and I spoke on the phone and emailed several times passing information about Party and shelter lists in Oregon and general rescue knowledge.

Then...

The adopter emailed the new list again and stated she had yet another new wolfdog puppy...but again no mention of Party. Now Party's adopter had THREE wolfdog puppies - and our hearts were sinking. Where WAS Party?

Some mild questioning about the 3 new wolfdogs on-list caused the adopter to leave the list abruptly. No rhyme or reason - except perhaps she thought she'd been discovered. But before she left she did disclose that she was still working on her fencing, that it's not complete, and she is not of means, other than meager - and so many other things that didn't add up to anything like what she had told Foster Mom.

Foster Mom became frantic.

Then...

Foster Mom and I begin emailing and calling the shelters in Oregon. I emailed pictures of possible Party's - but alas they were not him. Finally a dog matching Party's description was found on a shelter list - not far from the adopter's home. Foster Mom called the shelter - but the woman she needed to talk to was in a meeting. We waited...Finally the woman from the shelter called Foster Mom back.... The dog was not Party. Foster Mom explained in detail the about the rescue, Party, and the adoption. The Shelter Woman gasped and asked her to repeat the woman's name that had adopted Party.

Then...

Shelter Woman said that they had taken in a stray three weeks previous from an area close to the shelter. This dog WAS Party and before they could scan him for his microchip and get him home to his Foster Mom, the adopter came in and signed his death warrant...relinquishment papers. She didn't want Party any longer, he was too much trouble. As is common with owner turn ins, Party was not scanned for a chip and Foster Mom never knew of his dire situation.

Party became available for adoption almost immediately, but no one came for him. After several days it was noticed that Party was somewhat aggressive with his pen mates and was temperament tested. No one knew that Party had issues he was working on, no one knew that Party had been beaten before his rescue. Party didn't pass his temperament test because of his issues...because he had been abused.



Party was killed on April 19, 2002, on his rescuer's birthday. What a terrible belated birthday gift when she found out. Party had a home to return to when the adoption didn't work out. There was no reason for Party to die. Party's adopter decided he wasn't worth it and instead disposed of him. Party - who was so full of life and so happy and smiled so much - ISN'T anymore. Party isn't suffering and for a brief time he knew kindness and love...something many shelter dogs never know. Party's Foster Mom is devastated and asked me to write Party's story as a tribute to Party - so that perhaps in his death other animals might be saved.

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