

An Angel for Rufus

Written by Heidi Berghorn Frisby

A nice family adopted Rufus from a rescue in 2015, when he was about 3 years old; his history prior to that is unknown. He was a beloved family member until a year and a half later, when his human mom and brother were killed in a tragic car accident. The surviving family was unable to care for him and he ended up living in someone's garage, virtually alone, for several months. By the time my friend Gregg somehow came across him at the beginning of 2017, Rufus was understandably stressed and suffered from separation anxiety.



Gregg, a single man and business owner who had recently lost his older GSD, decided he and Rufus would henceforth be inseparable. They were together all the time! Rufus accompanied him to the office daily. As he began to shed his stress and open up and trust, it became clear that Rufus was a very strong-willed boy, exhibiting some aggressive traits. Gregg took it in stride. They were always training, creating a greater bond. Gregg was determined to not let life fail this dog anymore. Rufus adopted the office staff as his pack. If for some reason he was left home - a rarity - he was missed by his "co-workers." Gregg was very proud of his new buddy. He would often say how very lucky he was to have Rufus in his life and by his side. And Rufus was definitely lucky to have Gregg - as he was a big handful on many levels!

All was going well for Rufus until Gregg was unexpectedly diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. A few months later, he realized he was losing the battle. He got his affairs in order, but the one remaining and heartbreaking task was to find his boy a new home. That's where I stepped in and offered to help. GSRNC was the very first place I contacted, and I was generously allowed to courtesy-post Rufus on their site. I also posted him at a handful of other rescues and on social media sites, and he was 'shared' hundreds of times over! Many people inquired about him, but none had the right feel. Several people wanted an "attack dog." Two others wanted a "protection dog" for their newborn infants! I was disheartened. I wanted to ensure that Rufus was not passed around ever again.



Out of the blue, an angel appeared! Jill had spontaneously logged on to the GSRNC website while mourning the loss of her own GSD. It was the first place she looked - and the first place I had posted Rufus. She came to meet him the following day, and knew they were



meant to be together. Gregg, a very different person than Jill, approved of her and thought Rufus would fare well with a woman's touch. A week later, after two more get-togethers, Rufus went to live with Jill. He was anxious initially but is now well-adjusted and thriving with his new chihuahua sister, Zoey. Rufus and Jill, just like Rufus and Gregg and probably others before them, filled an empty place in each other's lives that they really needed.

My friend Gregg, you did well by your boy. You can truly rest in peace.