

FINNEY'S SILENT WORLD

By Arndt P., Rachel D. & Trish K.

Davey/Finch was surrendered to GSRNC for a second time. At the time, he was known to be very sweet and was diagnosed with extreme anxiety and hemophilia, a genetic blood disorder which prevents his blood from clotting.



Once in his foster home he displayed some behaviors which made them wonder if he had a hearing problem. A trip to U.C. Davis confirmed that Davey was deaf and was probably born that way. His foster parents quickly realized that his deafness probably led to a misunderstanding of the cause of his anxiety. With the support of his veterinarian and GSRNC, Rachel and



Arndt weaned him off his 'calming' medications. This turned out to have been the right move because he proved to be calm and

healthy without the aid of drugs and with attention to helping him better understand what was going on.

His fosters, Rachel and Arndt, soon fell in love and decided to make him an official member of the family. Once his adoption was finalized, they re-named him Finney, combining his two names and giving a nod to Rachel's Finnish roots.

Although deaf, Finney does seem to hear certain frequencies to some extent. He barks when an alarm goes off but sleeps undisturbed while loud workout music blasts through the house. His family has also learned to communicate with him using hand signals (although he has to be facing the right direction to see them)

Finney is a very sweet and mellow dog most of the time but does worry about being left behind. He wanders between his favorite spots in the house and has to check on his people several times a day to make sure they didn't slip out and leave him behind. They hear his

"click, click, click" on the wooden floor and know he's looking for them. It helps him if someone stomps on the floor so he feels the vibration and knows he's not alone.

Finney has learned to love his walks. In the beginning, he didn't seem to know what to do, taking care of business quickly and heading for home. Eventually, he learned to cherish his outside time; exploring his neighborhood and sniffing everything along the way. He's even been able to graduate to some off-leash adventures. On quiet trails he has the opportunity to explore with more freedom. He especially loves running in the water; splashing in a creek after lots of rain, or playing at the beach. Although he enjoys checking out his surrounding, he always keeps one eye on his people so he knows where they are at all times.



Finney has found the perfect home where he is completely cherished by his family. The feeling, it seems, is mutual.