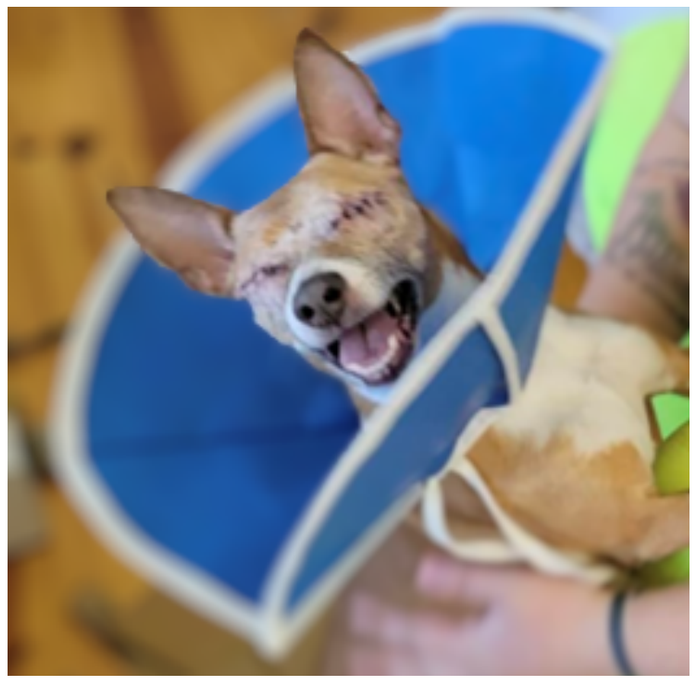
# LEXI
## The Wonder Dog



When I first saw Lexi's adoption picture I couldn't stop thinking about her. What kind of dog has their eyes removed and is that happy?

Lexi was abused as a puppy and was, at best, neglected her entire adult life. Her eye loss was preventable, but she received no veterinary care and ended up blind. While living with her foster family it was determined that her eyes were causing her pain and needed to be removed. Shortly after surgery, Lexi joined our family.



Here's what we expected adopting a 13 year old blind dog would be like. I thought Lexi would run into walls and furniture regularly. I bought a gate for our staircase because there was no way she could go up and down unsupervised. I thought I would have to make a scent map of our house every week so she could pair essential oil smells with areas of the house. I was pretty sure she didn't know how to play with other dogs and I was confident she wouldn't like taking walks. I mean, she's blind. Walks would be scary.

Over the last two months we have learned that that Lexi is very abled. In fact, in many ways, she is more abled than my two sighted dogs. Her favorite thing to do is play fetch. And get this… she runs when she hears the ball leave your hand. Not when it lands in the grass. If that's not impressive enough, Lexi had our entire house memorized in 3 days and she can navigate the staircase as well as a sighted dog. She also loves to go on walks and has memorized the sidewalks and anticipates when they are damaged and she must step up and down. She has learned the commands: sit, come, lay down, last time, all done and is now house and crate trained. I was right about her not knowing how to play with other dogs but, in the last few weeks, she has started to greet my female dog with constant kisses and tail wags.

Instead of feeling sorry for Lexi, we have learned to honor and appreciate her disability. Her blindness makes her the inquisitive, persistent, and brave pup we adore.

**Written by Trisha Comstock**