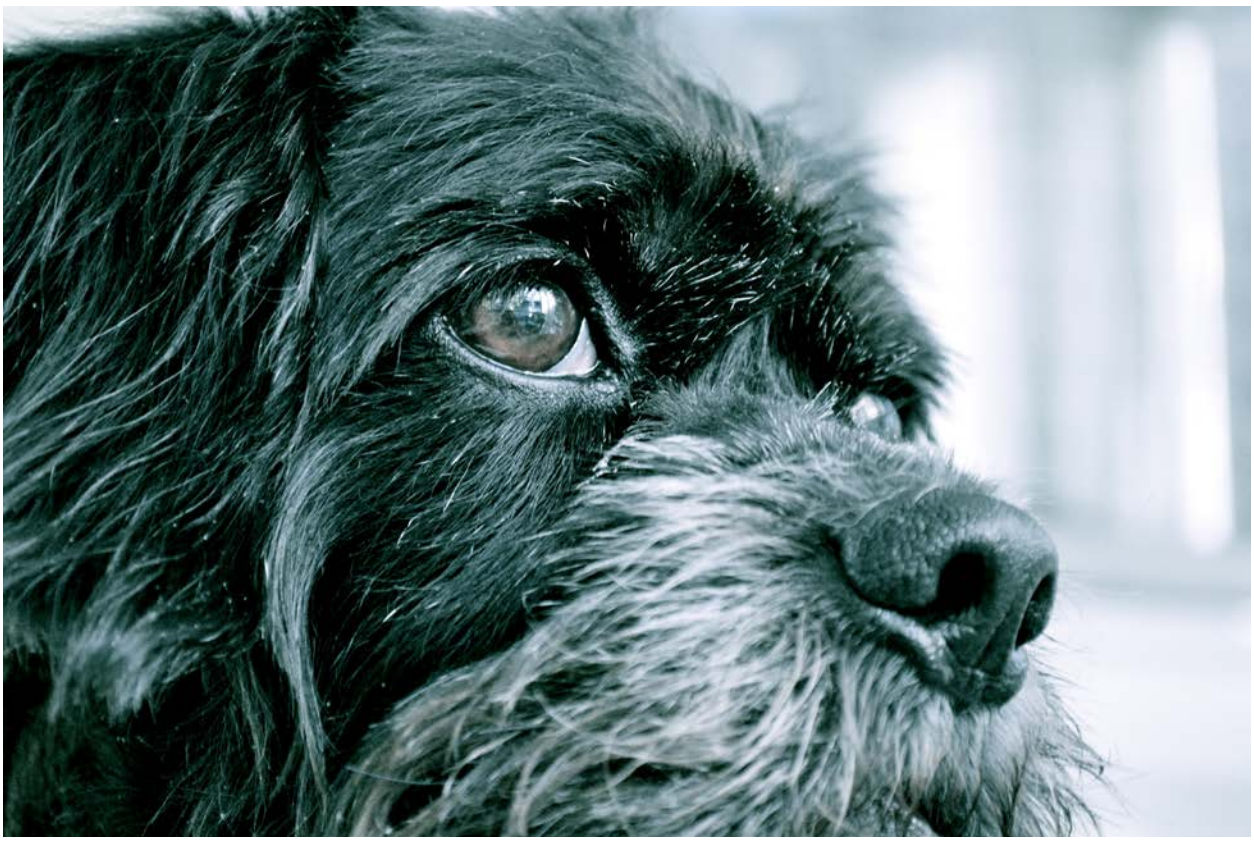
# Meet Sam Parsons

Dawn Parsons' rescue with an old soul.



What is your pet's name and how old is he? Sam Parsons, about 9 years old. He is a shih tzu, schnauzer, rescue lovey mix.

How did Sam come to join your life? Seven years ago, I posted a profile on Petfinder.com (think Match.com for dogs and humans) to find a rescue. I had meetings with a few other dogs but they weren't right for me or I wasn't right for them. On a Monday morning I received a call from the Wyandotte County Humane Society. They had a match for me! Fortunately, I had a light day so I went right over. The dog books I had read counseled me to meet a new dog at their level, so sat on the floor. As soon as they brought Sam out he walked right into my lap and looked up at me with his soulful eyes. Love at first sight! I adopted him immediately.

Wyandotte County Humane Society at the time was a kill shelter. I later learned that Sam was on doggie death row; the shelter had scheduled him for destruction, a euphemism for dog murder, on Wednesday, just two days after I adopted him. He is a death row exoneree! Sam enriches our lives in so many ways. I would encourage anyone thinking about getting a dog to consider adopting a rescue. I love this quote about rescue dogs,

*saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever*. Before I adopt3ed him, Sam had a hard life. I am so glad he picked me because he is the best loved dog.

What are Sam's favorite snacks? Sam loves pumpkin pie dog treats from the Brookside Barkery. Yes, even dogs get in on the fall pumpkin craziness. Bacon is his favorite human snack. Duh. What dog doesn't like bacon?



Tell us about Sam's personality. Sam is an extremely chill dog. I love his calm presence.



What are Sam's favorite toys? Sam is a squeaky ball connoisseur. If it squeaks he loves it. However, Kong brand tennis balls are by far and away his favorite. We must have a hundred of them around the house! Despite his love for Kong balls Sam does not like to play fetch. When we throw the ball, Sam retrieves it and walks away. We have come up with a game we call "wall ball". We get about three balls. We throw one against the side of the house, garage or when it is snowy, a closet door. Sam grabs the ball once it bounces off the wall. As soon as it is in his mouth we throw another one. He immediately drops the one in his mouth to get the new ball and on and on. The rhythmic 'thwack' against the wall is oddly soothing to me.



Sam playing wall ball

Does Sam have any fun quirks? Sam engages in what we call "fleece management." At any given time, he has about three fleece blankets in different areas of our house. During fleece management he drags all of his blankets to a specific location. He then spends a ridiculous amount of time arranging and rearranging the blankets until they are just perfect. Once he is satisfied with the pile he retrieves a few balls and hangs out.

