

## The Puppy Size...

"Danielle keeps repeating it over and over again. We've been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all of this," the mother told the volunteer.

"What is it she keeps asking for?" the volunteer asked.

"Puppy size!" replied the mother.

"Well, we have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for."

"I know...we have seen most of them," the mom said in frustration. Just then Danielle came walking into the office. "Well, did you find one?" asked her mom.

"No, not this time," Danielle said with sadness in her voice. "Can we come back on the weekend?"

The two women looked at each other, shook their heads and laughed.

"You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there's always a supply," the volunteer said.

Danielle took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. "Don't worry, I'll find one this weekend," she said.

Over the next few days both mom and dad had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. "It's this weekend or we're not looking any more," Dad finally said in frustration. "We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size either," Mom added.

Sure enough, they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now Danielle knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs. Tired of the routine, mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted. Danielle walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one. One by one she said, "Sorry, you're not the one."

It was the last cage on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer.

"Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one! I know it!" she screamed with joy. "It's the puppy size!"

"But it's the same size as all the other puppies you held over the last few weeks," Mom said.

"No not size ---- the sighs. When I held him in my arms, he sighed," she said. "Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is, you told me love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sigh!"

The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug the child, she did a little of both.

"Mom, every time you hold me, I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other, you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms," she said. Then holding the puppy up close to her face she said, "Mom, he loves me. I heard the sighs of his heart!"

# SPOTLIGHT ON:

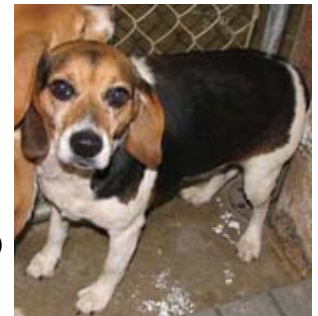


#2092 Grady (Russian Blue, Manx *Mixed*)

"Hello. My name is Grady and I'm a sweet kitty who owner had to turn him in. The neighbor didn't like me and said he was going to get rid of me. I don't know what he was planning on doing to me, and they didn't either, so they thought it best if I come out here where I'd be safe. I'm only about a year old and I'm housebroken. Just waiting for a new home." December Adoption Fee: \$50

#101 Maddie (Beagle)

"Hi. I'm Maddie and I'm one of the many dogs here at the animal shelter who is waiting for our owners to show up. From what I hear though, they usually don't come and we're stuck here hoping to be adopted before our time runs out. I'm a very sweet, fat little girl and I'm hoping I'm one of the lucky ones who will find a new family." December Adoption Fee: \$60



#260 Becca (Tabby - Grey)

"Hello. My name is Becca and I'm a little tabby kitty out at the shelter waiting for my new family to come get me. Well, actually there are lots of us here. But I'm really hoping I'm the one you'll like, so that you can adopt me and let me go home with you. I'm sure you'll love me if you meet me." December Adoption Fee: \$50

#89 Houston (Boxer *Mixed*)

"Hey, look at me! Hey! I'm down here! Yeah, here I am. I didn't think you were ever gonna find me. I mean, I know I'm just a pup, but I'm kinda hard to miss. I mean how can you miss a cute little face like mine?" December Adoption Fee: \$60



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# SPOTLIGHT ON:



#256 Angel (Siamese)

"Hello. My name is Angel and I'm one of five cats whose owner brought us here and turned us in. He said he just simply had too many cats and needed to downsize. So unfortunately, we had to come out here to stay til they can find new homes for us. I hope it doesn't take long cause this place is getting full pretty fast." December Adoption Fee: \$50

#57 Sallie (Yellow Lab, Golden Retriever *Mixed*)

"Hi. My name is Sallie and I'm a beautiful lab mix who was picked up down on Waddy Road. I'm about two years old and I've done all the growing I'll be doing. I'm kinda big though so I probably shouldn't go to a house with small kids. I get kinda excited and might jump on them. All I need is some obedience training and I'll be a great dog for someone." December Adoption Fee: \$60



#213 Tommy (Domestic Short Hair - orange and white)

"Hi. I'm Tommy and I'm one of four kittens that were part of a big litter. Somebody found us down on Waddy Road. Our owner probably dumped us there. That's what people do when they don't want their pets anymore. We're only about seven weeks old and we're looking forward to going home." December Adoption Fee: \$50

#50 Parker (Jack Russell Terrier)

"Hello. My name is Parker and I'm just one of the many dogs out here at the shelter waiting for our owners to come claim us. That usually doesn't happen though. Dogs here rarely ever get claimed, so we just hope we can get adopted before our time runs out. So please come visit and take one of us home." December Adoption Fee: \$60



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Check out our adoptable pets at  
[www.andersonhumane.org](http://www.andersonhumane.org) or at our  
Adoption Center at 1410 Versailles Road

**Parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents...please visit  
our website to find out about upcoming holiday events  
you might be interested in participating in!**

Please remember that our adoption fee for dogs is only \$95 and our adoption fee for cats is only \$75, and that **INCLUDES** the spay/neuter and vaccinations! That's like paying for the veterinary fees and getting the pet for **FREE!** In addition, to promote our Home 4 The Holidays campaign, we'll also be offering a \$25 discount off all adoption fees during December. This is made possible by generous donors such as yourself who are sponsoring our pets in hopes of finding a home for them.

## A Rescue Dog's Christmas Poem



'Tis the night before Christmas and all through the town,  
Every shelter is full - we are lost but not found,  
Our numbers are hung on our kennels so bare,  
We hope every minute that someone will care,  
They'll come to adopt us and give us the call,  
"Come here, Max and Sparkie - come fetch your new ball!!"  
But now we sit here and think of the days..  
We were treated so fondly - we had cute, baby ways,  
Once we were little, then we grew and we grew -  
Now we're no longer young and we're no longer new.  
So out the back door we were thrown like the trash,  
They reacted so quickly - why were they so rash?  
We "jump on the children;," "don't come when they call",  
We "bark when they leave us", climb over the wall.  
We should have been neutered, we should have been spayed,  
Now we suffer the consequence of the errors THEY made.  
If only they'd trained us, if only we knew...  
We'd have done what they asked us and worshipped them, too.  
We were left in the backyard, or worse -let to roam-  
Now we're tired and lonely and out of a home.  
They dropped us off here and they kissed us good-bye...  
"Maybe someone else will give you a try."  
So now here we are, all confused and alone...  
In a shelter with others who long for a home.  
The kind workers come through with a meal and a pat,  
with so many to care for, they can't stay to chat,  
They move to the next kennel, giving each of us cheer...  
We know that they wonder how long we'll be here.  
We lay down to sleep and sweet dreams fill our heads..  
Of a home filled with love and our own cozy beds.  
Then we wake to see sad eyes, brimming with tears ---  
Our friends filled with emptiness, worry, and fear.  
If you can't adopt us and there's no room at the Inn --  
Could you help with the bills and fill our food bin?  
We count on your kindness each day of the year --  
Can you give more than hope to everyone here?  
Please make a donation to pay for the heat...  
And help get us something special to eat.  
The shelter that cares for us wants us to live,  
And more of us will, if more people will give.