

## *Maddie*



My name is Ralph and this is Maddie (photo). I had stopped by the San Antonio Humane Society to visit with the dogs. About two weeks prior I had been laid off from my job and had plenty of time. I had started telling friends that my days off were Monday through Sunday. To be honest, I had hoped that this trip to visit with some of the dogs would cheer me up.

While at the Humane Society, I asked to see a little beagle mix puppy who jumped up on the grating as soon as I passed her crate. When she and I were in the petting room (I like to call it the "Getting to Know Each Other Room"), I saw how lovable she was but was concerned about the cost associated with caring for a pet. I then said a little prayer and decided that if she and I were meant to be together I would get a sign. I decided that if she were to be mine (or if I were to be hers) I would call her Maddie. She was a little playful and rough around the edges to be a Madison or a Madeleine. I called out the name Maddie and her ears perked up and she ran into my lap. I was right then that I decided that we were meant for each other. As we walked together to the adoption center she was playful and loving with everyone she passed. The other patrons asked me how long I had had her. "Minutes," I said, but perhaps it had been forever.

Maddie makes me smile and laugh every day. She reminds me to take some time to take a walk and not take life so seriously. Maddie has been a small gift in my life that I have learned to treasure and she lavishes her love upon me each day.

Thank you for this opportunity to share and thank you for Maddie.