

## Dixie



### My success story--

Since I was a little girl, having a puppy was a dream I hoped would become a reality. It was number one on my Christmas list for many years, but my mom's bad experiences with dogs as a child (and the fact that she already had 3 kids to take care of) rendered our dogged pursuit of a canine companion fruitless. We owned cats and rabbits, roosters, ducks, and chickens, fish and mice, but a dog remained the unreachable holy grail of pet ownership.

I, the little girl who wanted a puppy, grew into a dental student who wanted a puppy (and a distraction from the difficulties of professional school). Wanting to find the perfect match, I searched online and in the classifieds as well as several shelters for the best dog in town. The day I saw my Dixie (originally called "Tigeress" at the Humane Society), I knew she was the one. I called my husband immediately and let him meet her. He was so impressed by her gentle spirit and the fact that she didn't even jump on us, even though she was only a puppy.

We found out later that our gentle, sweet little 4 month old puppy wasn't jumping because she'd been spayed the day before, but it was too late by then—our hearts were bound.

Dixie has been a joy since the first day we brought her home. She learns so quickly and has picked up lots of tricks, like playing dead and taking a bow—for some reason, though, she is still quite confused by the springing sound a doorstop makes when her paw hits it. She wakes us up in the morning by yawning loudly and then pretending it's some happy accident that we are woken by the noise.

We don't have to worry about taking her anywhere because she is an omega dog—happy to lie down and roll over in submission to any other dog, from Great Danes to Chihuahuas.

We really love our Dixie dog. She makes every day more fun.

(And by the way, my mom loves her, too.)

Written by Lauren