## Boosie



All right folks, this is a long one, and rightfully so! The decision to adopt Angel (now Boosie) from the San Antonio Humane Society wasn't a decision Susan and her family took lightly. The young Pit Bull mix had been adopted and returned twice before. Though our staff knew he had a golden sweet and gooey center, his restrictions and reactivity towards other pets made it difficult to place him with the right family. Though their adoption application was initially denied due to

Angel's restrictions, after a lengthy meet, greet, and training session with our dog trainer, an exception was made for Susan and her family to adopt... and it sounds (and looks) like it was the right choice!

"I really can't express to you what he has done for me and my whole family."

When Susan and her boyfriend, Shane, first met Angel, they were not visiting the San Antonio Humane Society to adopt, but to donate. After a long and difficult passing of their own rescued Pit Bull, Butch, they finally felt ready to donate their beloved pet's belongings to the needy dogs at the SAHS. And for old times' sake, they decided to visit and walk a few dogs at the shelter.

"We looked at every animal, and read all their stories. Boosie was the last dog we had visited and after reading his bio and watching the large amount of people walking by make comments on how 'bad' he seemed or how 'mean' he looked, we took him out to play. He was so rambunctious, distracted, displayed a lot of excitement and aggression towards other dogs, but he was [also] sweet and lovable, and reminded Shane a lot of a young Butch he had raised. We discussed Boosie a lot that night...

When I woke up [the next day] I wanted to bring Boosie some special treats and have a little visit with him. He was much calmer... Trying to surprise Shane, I attempted to adopt Boosie that day, but that's when I was first denied for having a 15-year-old in the house.

(Note: some adoptable dogs at the SAHS may have age restrictions due to their reactivity, high activity, or other relevant history.)

I decided to e-mail the SAHS pleading my case and telling them our story. I wanted to stress that we knew exactly what we were getting into, and wanted to have a chance to take Boosie.

I think I visited two more times the following week, and then I met Jenna, the SAHS Dog Trainer, who scheduled an intro with me and my son, and it went great. Jenna taught us a lot of training techniques, shared some stories of him and her

concerns, but thankfully, in the end, she gave us her approval to try and proceed forward [with the adoption].

On Mother's Day, we went to officially adopt him. The adoption counselor went over his entire history with us, and I won't deny that it definitely concerned me... but Shane was completely confident about this adoption. I asked him why he wanted him so bad and he said 'Because no one else does.' We were all in, no turning back, and that day completely changed our lives.

From the minute we came home [with Boosie], you could see how comfortable he was. He was high energy the entire day and night, but he showed so much love to us the first day too. I think the many visits I had made to the San Antonio Humane Society helped him to trust us since he kind of knew me at that point. We researched his breed extensively and also took a training class with Jenna. Just a little bit of knowledge and understanding was all this boy needed! He is WITHOUT A DOUBT the most amazing, perfect little guy I have ever known.

We walk him regularly. Jenna gave us great pointers to walk him and he caught on like a champ. We are still working on the pulling aspect, but it's almost nonexistent at this point. He's shown no aggression or any other type of alarming behavior to anyone. We even made it through a PetSmart visit! He has to be snuggled up with us when we are just lounging around. He loves car rides, and for some reason, always knows when I am coming home and will sit by our door for an hour waiting on me. After that, it's a minimum twenty minutes of straight puppy time of loving on him, play wrestling, and fetch.

The trust between us and Boosie has been such a beautiful thing. To see how comfortable he is-I can tell you that at least once a day we ask 'How can anyone ever return this perfect baby?'

I think the restrictions that were put in place [for Boosie] were needed and the right thing to do because it would ensure the family to adopt him would do their research and fight for him! Because he's more than worth it. He's so photogenic, he loves to lay with his legs laid out straight, and he has to be in whatever room I am in (except mornings when he'd rather sleep in). He hates blow dryers, and is

not very fond of other animals, but during our walks, he's gone from freaking out when he saw an animal to ignoring them all together.

The dog we met at the SAHS is not the dog we have today. He's the smartest little guy with nothing but love to give (love I will most definitely take)! We came by the SAHS since his adoption to donate dog food, but it was more of an excuse to bring him by so everyone could see: he was home!

I could talk about him all day. Thank you to everyone there at the SAHS for supporting this adoption and having our back. You have changed our lives."

-Susan