

# Felipe



Dear San Antonio Humane Society,

Felipe, the Chihuahua/rat terrier mix our family brought home from the shelter now hardly resembles the skinny, frightened canine we brought home back in January. It is amazing what a difference a loving home can make in the life of an animal, as well as the people he loves.

Named Radar at Humane Society because of his radar-like ears, Felipe was found in late December 2009 by a Good Samaritan, wandering at the intersection of I-10 and Callaghan, and brought into the shelter. Where he was before that remains a mystery. Our family had been considering adding a dog to our two-cat household and met Felipe at the Humane Society just a few days after he was brought in. After spending time with this shaking, thin dog, we saw his potential and decided he would be a good addition to our home. His brown eyes seemed to light up, and his tail would wag when he saw us on a subsequent visit before we took him home. Also, he passed the "cat test" the Humane Society gave him, although sadly, the test cat did not.

Since arriving at our home, Felipe (we decided to give him a dignified Spanish name as a nod to his Chihuahua roots) has been a loving companion to our family and a fierce protector of our home. We no longer need a doorbell, as Felipe will bark

the second someone sets foot on our porch. I call it our K-9 security system. Begrudgingly accepted by our two felines, Felipe only occasionally plays "Chase the Cat", although not in a mean-spirited way. Nevertheless, the three animals will often curl up close together and take a nap. Felipe loves to take walks, was already house trained, and has attained a healthy weight. He adores the companionship of his people, and prefers to be inside the house with us. For example, as I am writing this, Felipe is asleep at my feet under the desk. Additionally, he always wistfully watches through the window as we drive away when we have to be out, and is without fail waiting at the door joyously upon our return.

Recently, Fiona, one of our two cats, was outside sunning herself in the backyard when she decided to hide under our storage shed. When we came out to bring her in, she was hidden under the shed so well that we were about to put Lost Cat signs up in the neighborhood. Finally, I brought Felipe outside and asked him if he saw Fiona under the shed. Felipe stuck his head under the shed, looked, and then whined at me. Then I looked under the shed again and saw the cat. In conclusion, the cat could hide from the people, but not the dog.

I'm not sure how we went so long without having a dog. These past few months have showed us exactly what we have been missing. It had been over 30 years since I had a dog as a child in Louisiana, a beloved pet we lost so suddenly and tragically that my family got only cats after that. Thank you, San Antonio Humane Society, for giving my family the special gift of love that Felipe has brought into our lives.

Sincerely,  
Alice