

## From Julie Schuessler: Cody



"First, I would like to say that our adoption experience with your organization was WONDERFUL. Both my husband and I have volunteered with another large shelter in the Ft. Worth area for many years, so we have a very good understanding of what it takes to create an exceptional environment - and you do that without a doubt. Our adoption story includes the memory of our beloved Bradley, a Keeshond we adopted from the Humane Society of North Texas 12 years ago. Sadly, Bradley passed away on Oct. 23, 2007 of cancer at only 11 years of age. He was taken from us way too soon. Before Bradley passed away, I would spend time alone with him in our yard and we would "talk". I told him I would miss him and that he should come back if at all possible. I told him I would look for him in a shelter. I jokingly asked if he did would he please come back as a mix breed (so he would live longer), with shorter hair (his coat was thick and needed constant brushing and he got hot in Texas), and to not be quite so barky (he annoyed the neighbors at times). I laughed with him about this - thinking that if anyone heard me, they would think I was crazy...About 6 months after his passing, I started to visit different shelters just to "check". I would take my son along and explain to him about the plight of homeless animals and the overpopulation problem. He completely understood that we adopt our animals, we don't "buy" them. Since my son had only experienced older animals and never had a puppy, he had to learn that puppies use their mouths, jump and sometimes steal his beloved stuffed puppy dog. I exposed my son to MANY different animals in different shelters. I knew we had to wait until he understood how to have good manners with any type of dog. Plus, I knew it had to be the right dog with the right temperament. I also knew we still had 2 dogs at home, a 16 year old Chow mix and a 7 year old sheltie mix and we "really" didn't need a 3rd dog....On Oct. 23, 2008 I had a doctor's appointment right off of Fredericksburg road. I joked with my friends that I would just "stop by" the Humane Society on the way home. I had held off for a year and had seen MANY dogs and had not adopted, so I wasn't too worried. After my appointment, I stopped by the shelter and browsed. As I always did, I started with the older dogs first, then made my way to the puppy parlor. "Mystery" was in a bottom cage. As I walked by, I was attracted to him immediately. He was very friendly and responsive, so I took him into a bonding room. It was an immediate attraction that I had not had with ANY of the other dogs I had seen. I took pictures of him with my iphone to show my husband. I knew this was a great dog with a great temperament, but I also knew we didn't "need" a 3rd dog. I knew I had to come back the next day with the family to see if it was a good fit. I had to put "Mystery" back into his cage knowing that he could be adopted before my return. After explaining to my husband that I knew we didn't need a 3rd dog, but that this was a great fit for our family, he agreed to return the next day and take a look. We returned on Friday, Oct. 24 and it was love at first sight! As much as my husband tried to avoid it, he knew Cody was a great dog with a great temperament. We adopted him. As I filled out the paperwork, I realized that Bradley had passed away around this date - I couldn't remember the exact date of his passing, so at the next visit to our vet, I asked. Yep - Bradley passed away on Oct. 23, 2007. I found Cody on Oct. 23, 2008. Interestingly enough Cody is such a mix that no one has been able to tell me what he is (hence his shelter name of Mystery), he has much shorter hair than Bradley and we marvel at that fact that Cody hardly EVER barks.....Coincidence????? I guess that just depends on what you believe. Let's just say Cody is a gift from above. Thanks for all you do!"