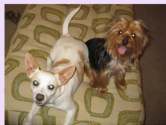


From Kathryn: Palomina



"I can truly say that our family has adopted Hula into our hearts, not just our home."

My husband and I got our first dog, Leilani (Hawaiian for flower from Heaven), in May of 2008. We could tell that she really enjoyed playing with other dogs so we wanted to find her a sister. On our second trip to the Humane Society, we found Palomina. We wanted both dogs to have Hawaiian names so we changed hers to Hula. She seemed too good to be true. She had been surrendered only 30 minutes before we arrived, she came with veterinarian records, and she was in great health. She had been born within six days of Leilani. As with any adopted dog, we were prepared for the worst.

But, by that evening after we had brought her home, we were shocked with the opposite! Hula exhibited signs of being potty trained, and she and Leilani played together until they both fell asleep on my husband while he was studying. Hula went into her crate without a complaint and woke to eat her breakfast the next morning as if it were simply another day in paradise. Hula never acted homesick, and she has been submissive and playful with our smaller dog since the day they met at the Humane Society playground. Hula has changed our lives by showing us how happy both she and Leilani are every day. They are so energetic when we come home, and they play together all day as if they were sisters separated at birth. Hula also brings added security. She was meek for the first few days in our home, and when she is around only my husband and me, she is the most docile baby.

But I recently came to appreciate Hula's self-appointed role as protector of our home when a strange man knocked on the door. My husband was not home when I answered the door to this stranger. He made his way in my house, but before I could panic, Hula started a low snarl and pulled her gums up to show some fierce teeth. The transformation from her everyday playful attitude was like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde! The man, obviously threatened, left my house with only \$4. I credit Hula with keeping me safe that afternoon. She is my 17-pound hero! I am a firm believer that everything happens for a reason. I think Hula came to our family to save me that day and for many days to come. After being with us for only a month, Hula has learned to sit and not to bark at our friends. When we babysat for a friend's 16-month-old one night, Hula not only didn't growl, she also seemed to know that this little stranger demanded special care. She followed the baby around the house when he wandered away and alerted us when he started crawling. Hula and Leilani copy-cat each other just like the 7-year-old little girls that they are. Leilani always has done a little dance, as we call it, after she goes potty. Hula picked up on this dance and took it to a new level. She makes it last much longer, and she kicks up her feet until she almost flips! It is adorable. Now the two dogs compete to one-up each other. We have our own little "Dancing with the Stars at Potty Time." My only regret is that we couldn't have had Hula as a member of our family from the day she was born. She is such a blessing. She and Leilani have a very special bond that will carry them into their old age.

I can truly say that our family has adopted Hula into our hearts, not just our home."