

## 09-001 Buddy

<b>Foster Home:</b> TB			
<b>Status:</b> Medical hold	<b>Age:</b> 12 years	<b>Weight:</b> 65 lbs.	<b>Color:</b> Gold
<b>Mix:</b> No	<b>Houstrained:</b> No	<b>Crate Trained:</b> No	
<b>Good w/ Children:</b> Yes		<b>Good w/ Seniors:</b> Unknown	
<b>Good w/ Dogs:</b> Yes		<b>Good w/ Cats:</b> Yes	
<b>Special Needs:</b>			

### June 19, 2010

Buddy has become my "forever foster." The board had decided his age and other issues make placement for him improbable. I am happy to be able to give him a better life for as long as he is with us. Though Buddy is in good health for his age, housebreaking just isn't something he is capable of learning. With warmer weather these days, he is needing to drink more water which leads to frequent trips outside. Not much else is new. He sure enjoys his walks. We had a nervous moment a few days ago. He saw a neighbor dog free in its yard and got so excited he broke the plastic quick clip on the around-the-waist lead I use when I walk multiple dogs. He broke free before I could catch him. Fortunately there was nothing but sniffing. And I stopped the other dog's owner from grabbing Buddy's collar. I won't be using that lead on him anymore--it's a plain leather lead on this guy from now on! A lesson to me. We've had a few storms lately and he gets nervous. But I find it helpful to put kibble in a toy he has to roll around to get it out. Good distraction. That also works to break the repetitive circling.

### March 4, 2010

Buddy's been here over a year. A little bit whiter in the face but the same Buddy. He just had another check up. His blood work results showed that his kidney and liver are doing well. His urine sample was "too dilute" according to the vet, and she expressed concern he might be drinking too much (possible diabetes). I was surprised, because I dispense water frequently but in small amounts to reduce "accidents." Buddy doesn't get the chance to down a large amount of water. One additional check-up result: the vets detected a heart murmur. I'm not sure if this is something new, or if it just wasn't detected before. Not much else has changed with Mr. Pee-Buddy. Still having the occasional accident. He still circle-paces. But he loves his daily walks. I try to give him as good a life as I can.

If you would love to adopt a senior and don't mind an occasional accident please contact [placement@grrow.org](mailto:placement@grrow.org)



### November 27, 2009

Buddy has been with me quite some time now, going on 11 months. As frustrating as it has been sometimes, he has also taught me a lot. I wish I could say there has been a dramatic improvement in his issues in the past few months, but there hasn't been. I'm resigned to the fact that some behaviors just get too established to completely get rid of. He was an outdoor dog for almost 12 years.

Housebreaking is really a management issue now. I give him small bowls of water, get him out as often as I can, and get him



on walks to really empty his bladder, especially before going to work in the morning. I have noticed that when he does have accidents, it's usually on weekends, which I attribute to the daily routine being different. Last Saturday I was out doing yard work, and even after being outside with me for most of the afternoon, he came in and peed all over the family room. Some days I swear he has two bladders!

Another ingrained behavior he continues to show is repetitive circling, again, something that stems from a lack of a stimulating environment for most of his life. But in talking to a colleague of mine at UW-Madison who is in tune with animal behavior research, she says that stereotypes (abnormal repetitive behaviors) tend to get "hard wired" into the brain, and usually can't be fixed. In fact trying to eliminate them can cause more harm. As distressing to us as they are to watch, they don't really cause any harm to the animal. Another thing I have come to realize about him is that his obsession with food is really not a matter of resource guarding, but that he generally never learned "impulse control." If he sees something he wants, whether it's an old food wrapper we find on our walk, or a bag of potatoes in the kitchen pantry, he can't seem to help himself. The other night I took him for a car ride since I had grocery shopping to do. I had to stop the car on the way home, because he insisted on climbing in the hatchback to get at the groceries. Something my dogs would never do (at least with me in the car!) Also, he has developed a bad habit of barking when he wants to come in from outside, something the neighbors aren't too pleased about. I'm trying to teach him that "quiet" will get me to open the door, but trying to keep peace with the neighbors (especially when I have a loud beagle as well), takes precedence.

One final note, he came along to a vet visit I had with one of my dogs today. I was able to get a weight on him. He's up to 63 pounds. That's up about 5 pounds from the summer, which I'm glad to see, because one has to be concerned about nutrient absorption problems in senior dogs. He's still a little thin, but surprisingly healthy for a dog his age.

### **September 27, 2009**

Buddy has three things he really loves: walks, being brushed, and EATING TOMATOES OUT OF MY GARDEN!! Even the green ones. I keep finding half eaten green tomatoes around my backyard, and I have to keep chasing Buddy out of my raised bed tomato garden. He just pushes over the plastic chicken-wire type fencing to get to them. I also had a little problem with the groceries I bought today. I set down the bag in the kitchen and went into the family room to let everybody outside. Sneaky boy Buddy doubled back behind me and grabbed a loaf of bread and took it into the living room. He wolfed down 2/3 of the loaf (including the plastic wrapping) before I could get the rest away from him. Boy, was he fast! Probably just wanting to make a sandwich to go with those tomatoes...Good thing the bread was on sale.

### **September 14, 2009**

I have had Buddy now for over 9 months. I am finally able to report some good news - Buddy is doing much better on the housebreaking issue. He is down to about one accident a week. Considering how things used to be, that is a major accomplishment. We did have a set back, though with crate training. One morning I went to let him out only to find splatters of blood outside his crate. A bar was broken out, and two other bars were bent (see photo). I looked at his paws and his mouth to find the source of the blood. Only sometime later in the day, the reason for the blood was discovered--a back tooth in his water bowl. So while Buddy is still fed in his crate, I don't keep him in the crate anymore.

I have had a little concern lately about some resource guarding he has displayed. He gave a little growl when a friend of mine moved with his foot a kibble-containing toy Buddy was working on. There haven't been any new incidents like that. He can be a funny guy, though. When we are on walks, sometimes he finds a "treasure" he doesn't want to part with (like McDonald's shake cup or a candy bar wrapper). I normally let him carry it the whole walk, but I can easily trade it away from him with a salmon treat when we get home.



### **August 5, 2009**

Things have been going pretty well with Buddy. He hasn't had any "accidents" in the house this week, and was accident free while Nick was taking care of him for me last week. He loves to go on walks, and is an excellent walker. The three things he loves most are feeding time, walks, and being brushed. When we are outside in the backyard, sometimes he gets a spurt of energy and runs around like a crazy puppy. He also loves going in the car. But inside the house, he still paces in circles. When he starts doing that, I put him in his crate with a peanut butter filled toy. He's a good old fella. He was 11 1/2 when he was taken into GRROW, so he must be about 12 by now.

### **June 11, 2009**

Buddy is doing better in terms of crate training, so that is the way I am managing the urinating problem. I have to put up with some barking at times, but usually it doesn't last too long, and he is quiet through the night. But I would like to focus on something different in this update. I want to put in something positive for a change. He is a great walk companion. He loves to walk--and he never pulls. He has a cute way of taking part of the leash in his mouth as we're getting ready to go out. Also, he is very good about sitting at the front door and waiting to be released before going out the door. I took him with me to the vet this week, as I had an appointment for my Tilly. Buddy weighed in at about 58 pounds. I am a little concerned that he is quite thin, and despite getting generously fed a high quality food, I can't seem to get him to put on any weight. I will be checking in with my vet to get some suggestions.

### **May 20, 2009**

I know this update is a little overdue, but I was caught in the tsunami of the end of the college semester. There has not been much change. I am still dealing with both housetraining and the pacing issues. I have a theory that one of the reasons the housetraining is still problematic is because I have a hard tile floor in the family room. Dogs learn to associate going potty with a particular surface, and he was an outdoor kennel dog his whole life. He was probably not used to going on grass. My indoor floor is too similar to what he was going potty on his whole life. I am not sure what to do about this. Maybe I can experiment by putting some cheap throw rugs down. I also find I have to carefully monitor the water bowl, and only let him have a little at a time. Now on to the pacing. It is less intense, but not totally gone. He's almost done with his bottle of amytryptiline. I don't plan on getting a refill. I'm going to try to work with the behavior from another angle. I recently started reading the book by Temple Grandin entitled "Animals Make us Human." I highly recommend this book to anyone involved in rescue, and pet owners who want the best life for their pets. The focus of the book is what animals need for a quality life. While it deals with many different types of animals, the second chapter is devoted to dogs. In brief, she describes several important emotional needs, including SEEKING, and PLAY that need to be stimulated from an early age. The author, who happens to be autistic, presents some very interesting research on what are known as stereotypes, or abnormal repetitive behaviors (ARBs). What she describes applies perfectly to what I have observed in Buddy. His pacing is an ingrained behavior that probably resulted from growing up in a kennel--a relatively barren environment. It is well known that an enriched environment is critical for correct neural development. The same thing often happens in wild animals raised in captivity, deprived of the ability to express their normal behaviors. So my hope is to reduce the ARB I see in Buddy by giving him lots of walks, and providing him with interactive toys, which I change out every few days. Again, Grandin's book is a MUST READ for people who care about animals. It will also change your thinking about "dominance" and pack behavior.

### **April 29, 2009**

The "accidents" are down to a few per week, without belly bands, which is a definite sign of improvement. But we still have a ways to go. I am trying to manage his water intake--only allowing a little in the dish at a time (otherwise he guzzles). He eats in the crate, and will spend an hour or so in the crate if I give him a long-lasting treat like a filled kong. He has developed a new irritating behavior of barking when he wants something (out of the crate, coming inside from outside, etc). It is most annoying when he starts barking at the break of dawn, an hour before my alarm goes off. So that's another area we are working on. He's been on amytryptiline for a few weeks, but it doesn't seem to be making a difference in terms of his habitual circling. However, with better weather now, I can exercise him more vigorously. He likes to run alongside my bike. He has the energy rivaling my 19 month old Golden. But a good run helps him settle down, especially at night. He still seems a little underweight despite getting fed about 1.5 times what my dogs get. But he seems very energetic and healthy. If there was someone who wouldn't mind a few indoor accidents and could work with him and exercise him a lot, he might be getting close to ready for adoption.

#### **April 4, 2009**

Recovery from neuter surgery went well. And we have some good news to report in terms of house training. The past week has been accident free (YAY!), even without the belly bands. Well, until this morning. But things are definitely improving. We cannot find a medical reason for his slow house training. His prostate was checked, and it was normal. His thyroid was checked, and it was normal. I think the neutering has been the biggest factor in reducing his peeing, coupled with finding my other male foster a home. Another bit of good news is that he has been spending some time in his crate on his own. I have found him in there sleeping a few times. Another new development is that he has picked up a bad habit from my brother's beagle (whom I'm taking care of). Buddy barks early in the morning. ad his bark is loud and deep. The two of them usually start their ruckus about a half hour before my alarm goes off. He also barks when he wants to come in the house or when he wants attention. Finally, we've been treating him with a medication (amytrptyline) that is supposed to short circuit his compulsive circling. Nothing to report yet.

#### **March 4, 2009**

Buddy has been the most challenging foster I have had in a long time. Normally, I like fostering seniors, but Buddy is really an 11 year old puppy that has no manners. He will jump high into the air to grab food or a toy out of my hand. If he steals something he shouldn't have, he keeps a tight grip on it, though I can usually use a treat or exchange something to get it. We're STILL working on crate training and housebreaking. Some days I fear he'll never "get it." The belly bands have helped reduce accidents, but I had to make a belly band that I could put the absorbent pads inside, as he likes to eat them. And lately, he has figured out how to get the belly bands off. He can usually go all night without an accident; but then he may piddle after being left 1-2 hours. The vet recently suggested we check his prostate to see if an enlarged prostrate may make him feel like he has to go more often. We may have that checked out, but I still think it's more of a behavioral issue. He recently finished his month of antibiotics to treat for Lyme's, and we had his urine rechecked. The results came back good, so we'll schedule a neuter surgery asap.



#### **January 25, 2009**

Buddy's neuter surgery had been scheduled for this past week, but it had to be postponed due to medical issues. Pre-surgical tests revealed protein, blood, and bilirubin in his urine. He also tested positive for Lyme disease (although he his asymptomatic). The vet wants to treat him for a month with doxycycline. We are still struggling with housebreaking. The belly bands help limit the amount of urine I have to mop up each day in my family room, but twice he has somehow gotten the poise pad from inside the belly band and eaten it! He has to pee very frequently. I'm changing pads a lot even when he's going outside about every 2-3 hours (when I'm home). It's getting a little frustrating. Crate training is coming along slowly. He eats in the crate

and gets super good treats in there (like liver). So far, he can stay in there a few minutes at a time. We have to take it slowly because he will bite at the metal bars if he wants out. Buddy has a tendency to play a bit rough, jumping and mouthing, when he gets exuberant. We are working on that, too. He's starting to show interest in chasing the tennis ball, although he won't bring it back yet. A second ball is necessary to keep the game going. Finally, despite a DAP (dog appeasing pheromone) collar and rescue remedy, he's still not setting in the house even after exercise. Hopefully, the weather will warm up enough we can increase his exercise more and maybe that will help.

### **January 10, 2009**

Buddy came into our foster home Thursday night (1/8). He had been living in a garage. He rode well in the car, and seems to enjoy car rides. The first night he stayed in my kitchen behind baby gates. Although he was restless, he stayed behind the gates. He has since learned to push through them. The first few days have been quite an adjustment for him. He has been pretty stressed, which isn't surprising. After being let out to go potty Friday morning, he did not want to come back in. When I approached him with a leash, he shied away from me. He seemed nervous about me even reaching toward his collar. I was finally able to lure him into the house with a bowl of food. He gets along OK so far with my dogs, and now can stay in the family room. He paces a lot, though and just can't seem to settle down. He is pretty attention demanding when he's with me, and I'm lucky if I can get him to sit. There have been a few problems with him marking, but it's not been a bad as I anticipated. We have a vet appointment on Tuesday for a checkup. I wanted to give him a few days to settle in before subjecting him to any additional stresses. In the meantime, we got him in for a weight, and on my vet's recommendation, he's being given fenbendazole for a deworming. This guy's going to be a little work but he has potential.

### **January 8, 2008**

Buddy 09-001 came into GRRoW on 1/8/2009

