

## 09-120SN Outlaw

<b>Foster Home: LR</b>				
<b>Status:</b> Adopted!		<b>Age:</b> 5 Yrs.	<b>Weight:</b> 86 lbs	<b>Color:</b> Red
<b>Mix:</b> No	<b>Housetrained:</b> Mostly	<b>Crate Trained:</b> Not sure, doesn't need one		
<b>Good w/ Children:</b> Yes		<b>Good w/ Seniors:</b> Yes		
<b>Good w/ Dogs:</b> Yes		<b>Good w/ Cats:</b> Yes		
<b>Special Needs:</b> Canine Uveitis and probable Progressive Retinal Atrophy leading to blindness within 1 to 2 yrs.				
<b>Reason for Surrender:</b> Too many dogs				

August 16, 2010



This is Outlaw's final update. The family he met fell in love with him and has adopted him. I could end it there but, I think he deserves more for his final update. When I talked my husband into taking Outlaw in, promising he would be out by Christmas, we had no idea what we were in for. As we think about the past 9 months with Outlaw, my husband kiddingly told me I didn't say Christmas of what year he would be gone. :-). When he came to use we thought we were getting a young, healthy, male Golden. Without many waiting families, he should be adopted in no time! Well there was the pottying in the house at first and every time we thought that was done, he'd do it again. Then we discovered the Uveitis and PRA. Not everyone wants a dog that is going blind and could possibly have to have his eyes

removed one day. It would take a very special family to want him in spite of his impending blindness.

I'm happy to say that Outlaw has found that very special family. They fell in love with him right away and are thrilled to have him as part of their family. He has an older Golden brother to be his "guide dog" when his sight is gone and a little sister his age to play with too. There are also cats, maybe felines have to be half brothers and sisters? He gets along great with all of them. It's like he's always lived there.

On Outlaw's first night at his new home, he decided to take a swim in their pool! The pool has a liner. Dog claws + pool liner = possible disaster. His new dad jumped in to get him out of the pool while his new mom went for the camera and they both had a good laugh.

The pictures are of him after his swim and with his new older brother. I miss Outlaw a lot but I know he has a wonderful home with people that love him.





**August 8, 2010**

Well, it is with very mixed emotions that I write this email. We met with a family today for Outlaw. They came down with their dogs. The wife had said that after talking to her vet about his medical expenses and future care, she was hoping that she would just know when she met Outlaw if he was right for them. She said just before she left, yup, she knew. They are excited to add him to their family and all the dogs got along wonderfully, like they had been together forever. There was no fussing at all. They are planning to come down next weekend to pick him up.

I noticed, last night, that Outlaw's eyes were red around the outside of them. I'll call his ophthalmologist tomorrow to see what they think and probably take him to to get checked. I think it is probably his meds and the vet did warn me that he could have a reaction to the drops. We may need to change his drops. Then he will be ready to go.

His new mom \*sniff\* \*sniff\* said she thinks it is going to be a very looooong week for her waiting for Outlaw to come and a very short week for me as I gear up to say good bye. She is right about that! I sure am going to miss this big lug. That gives us a week for all of his adoring fans to come by and say goodbye to him. I'll take him in to my vet so they can say goodbye too. Everyone will miss this guy. I told his new family that they really are getting a very nice dog. I think my Chihuahua will miss him too. They always play together.

His new mom and dad plan to take him to out to visit their new house as it is being built so he can become familiar with the new surroundings before losing his sight. They are really special people and see the wonderful dog that Outlaw is and not just a dog that is going blind.

**June 23, 2010**

I have started to do some reading on living with blind dogs in an effort to prepare and be able to share information with a potential adoptive home. Right now, Outlaw seems to be adjusting well. Sometimes when the vision finally goes completely, they can get depressed and more aggressive. We discussed that and she said usually the aggression just intensifies in an already aggressive dog. I'm hoping that won't be an issue with Outlaw. He's not generally an aggressive dog, he's pretty mellow. He was at the parade with 10 or 11 other dogs and did very well.

We had another interesting incident while out on a walk recently. Outlaw, the Chihuahua and I were out on our usual walking route and he started pulling towards someones yard. We walk by this house whenever we walk so it wasn't anything new but he kept pulling towards this yard. I couldn't figure out what he saw at first and then noticed a wooden bench in the yard. It's always been there but that day he very much wanted to go meet that bench! I'm guessing he couldn't tell what it was and thought maybe it was another dog. It was about the right size for another Golden type dog. Silly Outlaw! We did manage to get past the bench but, he REALLY wanted to go meet that bench. I was very glad I had his no pull harness on. He's a strong guy.

I'm trying to teach him STOP! If he should ever get out of the fence, once his sight is gone, a word to make him stand still and wait for someone to come get him, could save his life.

There is a lot of great information out there on the web about living with a blind dog. It can be hard when they first lose their sight. Some dogs will curl up in a corner and shake. That is usually the dogs that have sudden blindness, but even they seem to come around and adjust very well and live long happy lives. I think one of the hardest things about this is to stay positive for them. They do pick up on our emotions. I often feel bad for him that he is losing his sight at such a young age but, all the message boards I've been reading say the same thing.

We need to stay positive to help them. Right now it isn't bad. He still has light vision and he's a pretty content guy. I have a big, old soccer ball out in the yard for him that is easy for him to see. He plays with that sometimes. I am thinking about starting to scent his tennis balls so they will be easier for him to find. I'll have to think about scents, though, because if he is still with me, we will need different scents for different things and they should be consistent so he knows them and can rely on them being the same.

### June 15, 2010



Outlaw went back to see his ophthalmologist yesterday. She is just excellent and is very good with Outlaw. She always answers all my questions and takes her time with us. Unfortunately, Outlaw did have some inflammation in one of his eyes which suggests he has developed Canine Uveitis. The possibility of eventually having to have his eyes removed is very real. She could not see more thinning of the retina. She said she would not be able to see much change until he is almost blind. Right now, Outlaw seems to be adjusting well. He's pretty mellow. He was at the parade with 10 or 11 other dogs and did very well. Other than the vision going, there isn't a lot new with him. He will have to be in a home with a fence so he can't accidentally wander off.

Because of the inflammation in the eye, the vet prescribed eye drops for him. Outlaw is a pretty mellow guy but he HATES having his head held still. The checkups, for him, are torture, as is ear cleaning time. He has to have one drop in each eye 2x a day.

### May 25, 2010

Outlaw got to be in a parade! I was a little worried about taking him with all the noise, people and dogs but, he did great! He was good with the other dogs and he LOVED the people. He got lots of pets and everybody loved him. He wore his adopt me bandanna. He was such a good boy! There were about 12 of us that walked in the parade for GRRoW.

Outlaw continues to be a big, goofy, happy guy. He goes in soon for another eye exam to see if either of the diseases is progressing. It's hard for me to tell because I am with him every day but the incident we had with my husband and there was another time he growled at somebody make me think that his eyes are getting worse. I have been doing some reading on living with blind dogs and there are some very good tips and ideas on the internet. It would be great if Outlaw could find his forever home before his sight is gone so he could map his environment. It is really amazing how well they can get around once they've learned their environment both inside and out. Before I take him in, though, he HAS to have a bath!! He loves to roll around out in the yard. I don't know what he is rolling in but he is stinky. Kinda like the horses. As soon as I am done brushing them or bathing them, they go roll! Ah well. At least they were clean for a minute or two.



The picture is Outlaw with our little Long Haired Chihuahua. They are good buds and are often together. She follows him all over the house and often lays by him. She will get him to play with her and sometimes, he will pounce at her to get her to play. Last night they were goofing around and Ginger was on the couch. Outlaw bounded up onto the couch after her. I think sometimes he thinks HE'S a Chihuahua and Ginger thinks SHE is a Golden! They do make me laugh. Maybe I should put a mirror in front of them. . . . :-)

In the meantime, while we're looking for his forever home, he is safe and happy here and welcome as long as it takes. He's a very sweet boy but it is a BIG commitment to take on a dog that is going blind and who may need to have his eyes removed.



#### **May 4, 2010**

Outlaw continues to be a great dog. He loves to be outside and sometimes, when I let him out, he will go wander for a while, do his business and come lay down near the house, just enjoying being outside in the fresh air. I'm sure there are lots of neat smells that come drifting through from the lake. The lake is just 1/2 block away and our old Black Lab used to stand out in the yard and just sniff towards the lake. I miss him.

Our other foster was just adopted last night so the house is quieter today. We had a rather odd incident last night with Outlaw. My husband had gone off to take a shower and all the dogs were sleeping throughout the downstairs. I was sitting at my computer, which is in the living room. All of a sudden there was growling and barking and all the dogs started in. I'm sitting there wondering what in the world was going on. I asked my husband what happened and he said Outlaw was growling at him!! We were shocked. Outlaw has only growled at us when we try to work on other dogs, either grooming or working on injuries or something. He must think we are hurting them or something so we always keep him in another room if we have to work on a dog. It's always a really soft growl; too, this was a much fiercer growl and bark. More like a watchdog kind of thing. I asked him what he did and he said nothing, he just came out of the bathroom. Well, the bathroom is off of the kitchen. The lights were off in the kitchen and bathroom except for a small light that I leave on for a nightlight. With Outlaw's diminishing eyesight, he must have been taken by surprise when my hubby came out of the bathroom and not recognized him. He was in his pajamas and robe but his robe was hanging so it might have looked scary to Outlaw. Once he talked to him, he was fine. This is the first time something like this has happened. I told my husband that we are going to have to be more aware of situations like this because of his eyesight and talk to him more. So far, he has been fine even in the dimly lit rooms and outside but obviously we are going to have to start watching these areas and make sure he knows we're there.

Outlaw goes in for another checkup next month to see if either of his eye diseases is progressing. I honestly can't tell. I'm with him every day and so far he acts the same to me except for the incident last night. He's still a sweet boy and usually follows me from room to room. He loves to roll in the grass and he still goes after the all you can eat wood buffet out in our yard. I have to watch him and if he won't leave the wood alone, I take him back inside. He loves to play with our long haired Chihuahua. I think she will miss him a lot when he is adopted. They're pretty good buddies. Everybody who meets this guy likes him. He's just a big goofy guy who can't get enough attention. One of his nicknames, at our house, is Curly. He has a curly coat.

#### **April 7, 2010**

Outlaw is a great dog. He's happy and easy going. Not much bothers him and he LOVES, LOVES attention. He can't get enough petting. He likes to play ball even though he can't always follow it real well. Sometimes he does better than others. I discovered, recently, that he likes to play soccer. We had an old soccer ball laying around in the yard from our Golden and I kicked it one day and Outlaw ran after it. The soccer ball is easy for him to see too! The tennis balls get to be about the color of the grass and dirt after the dogs have played with them a bit so they can be hard for him to find and



follow. We have a red Jolly Ball and he likes that too and it's easier for him to see. He loves to go on walks and walks very nicely with the no pull harness.

He seems to pick things up quickly. He was an outside dog before he came to me so I can't imagine that he had his paws wiped often. Now that it's been raining and it's muddy outside, I wipe paws before they come back in. The first time I wiped his paws, he didn't know what was going on but, he is so easygoing it didn't bother him at all. The second time I got the towel to wipe his paws, he lifted a paw for me. Now he will always lift his back paw when he sees me grab the towel. What a good boy!!

He knows where he gets fed. Everybody gets fed in a different room. Outlaw eats in "his" room, which is my husband's office. At soon as he hears the food hit his dish, he runs to his room and waits for his meal! He isn't crazy about being locked up but, when we leave we put him in his room with a toy just in case he has an accident while we're gone. We call him in there and he comes, hesitates to make sure we REALLY want him to go in his room, and then he goes in. He goes over to his bed and stays there while we shut the door. He has never had an accident in his room even when we've been gone for up to 8 hrs.

Outlaw is going to make the right family a wonderful companion even after he loses his sight. I've done some reading on blind dogs and they can live very long, happy lives. He is adjusting well to the loss of vision. At the clinic, when they tested him, they turned off the lights and he could not find me in the room. When he is in our yard at night, you would never know he has a problem. He must know our yard well enough to get around without a problem. He will often go into the darkest areas of the yard and I have not seen him bump into anything yet. He does sniff a lot but I can't believe how well he does. I would not believe his dim vision was so bad if I had not seen it for myself.

Someone is going to get a wonderful companion in Outlaw, in spite of his physical limitations. The picture is Outlaw helping us play Rummikub last weekend. :-)

**March 23, 2010**



We just got a shock last week when we went to get Outlaw's eyes checked. I've thought, off and on, since I've had Outlaw, that he was not seeing quite right. He can see but he would do things that made me wonder if he was seeing right. The signs were so subtle, however, that I kept thinking it was my imagination or I was being paranoid so I didn't say anything. My grown kids started mentioning it as well lately so I got permission to get him checked out at the local specialty clinic. He has two different and separate things going on with his eyes. One thing is canine Uveitis. I've dealt with Equine Uveitis in two of my horses so have some idea what it is. There are cysts in his eyes, some have popped. There can also be inflammation. If there is inflammation, it can become painful. If that happens they can treat with drops, if that isn't enough, they can add other drops. If that doesn't work and the inflammation continues, there is a possibility that he would need his eyes removed to stop the pain. He will need a home with someone who lives near a specialty clinic and is committed to taking him in for regular exams to make sure there is no inflammation and, if there is, that it is treated. His forever home will also have to realize that the possibility exists that he may have to have his eyes removed at some point.

The second issue with his eyes is a thinning of the retina. This is a genetic disease and nothing can be done about it. It will take his eyesight within the next year or two. It is not painful. If they are correct about his condition, and she was pretty sure she was, he will be blind by the time he is 6. The vet did a very thorough exam shining lights in his eyes as she looked at them. He was very good for the exam, even though he didn't like it. When she was finished, she put a stool and wastebasket out in the middle of the room and turned off the

light. Outlaw was by her. I was on the other side of the room. She told me to call him, which I did. I called him and was clapping for him and he could not find me. He tried but he couldn't see the obstacles in the room. We could see them and dog's eyes are better in the dark than ours. I was shocked! I had no idea he had lost that much vision in the dark. He navigates our yard very well even at night. He has adapted very well to this loss. Even after his diagnosis, when I watched him outside in the yard, I couldn't tell he had trouble seeing.

I was very impressed with the Dr. we saw at the clinic. She gave us a very detailed written report with prognosis and information on helping and living with a blind dog. From my reading so far, on some of the websites, blind dogs live very happy long lives. A home with another dog could be helpful for him. Another dog could act as a "seeing eye dog" for him. There is a website with lots of tips on living with a blind dog.

Outlaw also still potties inside every now and then. It's not often and I think it is mostly marking behavior. He does seem to want out a lot so someone who isn't gone for long periods of time would be best for him so they can let him out often. When he is let out often, he does pretty well. So, his forever home will have to be o.k. with a big, goofy, lovable guy who may pee in the house every now and then and will eventually be blind.

Outlaw may have some problems but he is still a very good dog. He goes to his room when we tell him to. He likes to be outside and he LOVES attention. He'll stand there and let you pet him until your arm falls off! He has a good recall and comes most of the time when you call him. He will need a fenced yard so that he doesn't wander off when he loses his sight. He has lots of love to give the right person.

### **March 12, 2010**

Not much new with Outlaw. He continues to be a big sweet moose of a dog. He loves attention; he loves playing with my long haired Chihuahua and will often pounce at her to get her to play. I think he misses Kiera; he used to like to play with her outside. Even the Great Dane is gone right now for a while. The house is feeling rather empty right now with only 3 dogs in it. :-)



Outlaw is ready to look for his forever home. He is going to need a special family that won't mind his sporadic accidents. I think they are mostly marking but he does want to go out fairly often during the day. He loves being around people and can't get enough petting. He'll sit as long as you'll pet!

He will probably never win an agility award or an award for most graceful dog but he's a great guy. He loves tennis balls and will take a tennis ball and drop it and then chase it. It's pretty funny to watch him as he amuses himself with his tennis balls. I'm sure he will make someone a wonderful companion.

### **February 12, 2010**

Outlaw is still with us. He has had accidents in the house off and on. I was hoping being neutered would stop them but it hasn't completely so we're still working on it.

He loves to go outside and eat the snow, roll in it and rub his head in it. He has an ear infection right now. His ears are very fuzzy and his ear canals are on the small side. Between his propensity to roll in the snow and all the hair in his ears, it's the perfect setup for an ear infection. He has some drops for his ears and I have to clean them every other day while he's on the drops. He does NOT appreciate having his ears cleaned. When I had his ear checked I also had him rechecked for a urinary tract infection and that came back clear. One thing the vet did say, though, is that his gravity was off a bit. That just means that he is taking in more fluids than he needs. He figured it is, at least in part, due to the fact that he likes to eat snow. He has more in his bladder than what you think so could also contribute to his need to go out more. At least he usually tells me when he needs

out. He doesn't bark, he just paces and goes to the door. He'll even nose the door hanger bells I left on there from Christmas.

Outlaw is a big, goofy, lovable guy. He loves to play and he loves to eat poopsicles. What is it with dogs and poopsicles??? Yuck! He likes to chase balls outside and he likes to play with Kiera, too. He's an easygoing dog that could probably fit into just about any household. He loves attention and can't get enough petting.

### **January 16, 2010**



Outlaw is such a goofy dog. If he wants something my long haired Chihuahua has, he will pounce at her like a cat. If he wants to play, he will pounce around the house like a cat. He likes to run after my other foster and grab her tail. He'll play fetch but doesn't like to give the ball back. He is also easily distracted by squirrels and snow; so much snow to eat. He loves to go outside and eat the snow. He also likes to roll in the snow. He is good inside for the most part but did eat my flip flops and one of my slippers. In his room and on his half of the house, he is good and hasn't bothered anything. When we leave, though, we do put him in his room just to be safe.

Outlaw is good with older kids but he is so big, and anything but graceful, he might knock little kids over. My son and his wife just had a baby 9 days ago and they came over for dinner last night. Outlaw was a little too interested in the baby. He wasn't being mean; he just wanted to constantly sniff her. We finally put him in his room until they left. Our other foster was fine with her and didn't bother her at all. She did bark once when the baby cried and our Chihuahua didn't seem to care about her either. I wouldn't recommend Outlaw to a home with little kids or a baby. Of course, someone was with the baby all the time.

Outlaw is a big goofy, moose of a dog. He's very lovable and sweet. He has had some accidents in the house and we aren't sure what is going on with that. He was tested for a urinary tract infection and that came back negative. He will go for a week or more with no accidents and then, all of a sudden, he'll have another accident. He seems to be able to hold it when he is in his room but when he is out with me during the day, he will want out several times. He will go to the door when he wants out and if I don't let him out right away, he will pace. If he keeps pacing, I figure he needs to go out. He usually does go potty right away when I let him out. He loves to be brushed but isn't thrilled with having his feet messed with and doesn't like to hold his head still. For a dog that was kept outside in a kennel, he has adapted very well to a house.

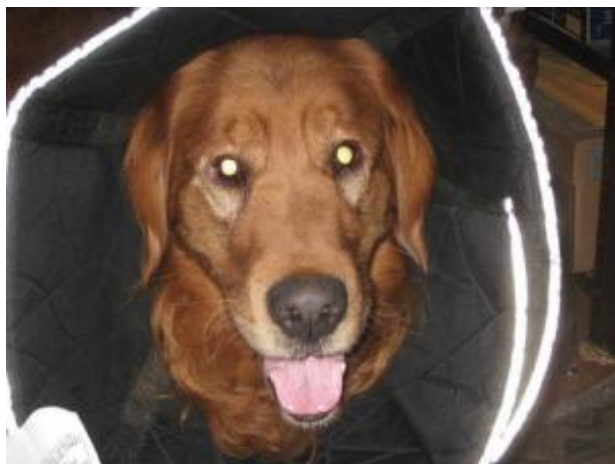


Outlaw likes to go for walks but pulls pretty hard on leash. I have been using a no pull harness with him and it works great. The family that gets Outlaw is getting a really sweet dog.

### **January 2, 2010**

Outlaw is a great dog! He is a big, goofy moose of a dog and so lovable. He can't get enough attention and petting. He is an attention sponge! He and my other foster Golden love to run around the yard and play. He chases her and grabs her tail and she lays down. They run around like crazy all over the yard, in and out of the trees. I'm always afraid they're going to smack into a tree they go so fast. They'll sometimes run at each other and jump and smack into each other. They are so funny to watch!

Inside, Outlaw is doing pretty good. He still has some issues with marking now and then. He's doing better and should be ready to look for his forever home soon. Some family is going to be very lucky to get a call to meet this guy! He is probably one of the most playful fosters I have had. He likes to chase my long haired Chihuahua through the house. He pounces like a cat at her! If she has a toy he wants or if he wants to play, he'll pounce at her and then they get to running through the living room and into the Christmas tree. He also wags his tail on the tree and has the bottom of it all smushed and the lights falling off. Ah, well, it needs to come down soon anyway, I guess he's just helping. :-)



Another funny thing he does is, he'll go over to the wood bucket and grab a piece of kindling and take off with it and go chew it. One night my husband was putting the wood in the fireplace and outlaw grabbed a piece from the fireplace and took off. At least it wasn't lit. :-)

Outlaw has a huge head and looks like a big teddy bear. He's not graceful but he's a big lovable, playful goof of a dog that you just can't help but love. He does pull on a leash but when I used a no pull harness on him, he did great and was a dream to walk. The harness works great and he doesn't mind it at all. Stay tuned for the further adventures of Outlaw.

### **December 2, 2009**

I believe in my last chapter on Outlaw he was sequestered away from everyone else because there was some fussing. We took them outside and tired all but our long haired Chihuahua with him and he was o.k. We let them all go and run together and they were fine. They ran all over the yard chasing each other and marking. :-) Outlaw does like to play fetch although doesn't always follow the ball well so does better if you throw low. He also doesn't always bring it back but sometimes does. He plays well with my other foster and my daughter's Great Dane, I'm not sure how he'd react to my Chihuahua's play growling so haven't left them together to run in the yard yet.

He had a rough week last week. He was neutered and had surgery on both eyes. Poor guy. He had a small tumor removed from one lower eyelid and an entropion fixed on the other. He is wearing a cone until they are healed. The day after Thanksgiving, we had our dinner and everyone came over. I noticed toward the end of the day that he had gotten his stitches out. I took him in Saturday morning and the vet that did the surgery wasn't in til Monday. He would be o.k. til then. I dropped him off Monday morning with no breakfast, just in case he had to be put under again and re-repaired. The vet looked at him in-between appointments and said the repair itself was holding so the wound was superficial and didn't need to be restitched. He thinks he'll heal up fine but, would like to see him in 2 weeks.



Outlaw also tested positive for Lyme's and Anaplasmosis. He is on meds for this and will be staying with us until his meds are done in another 2 weeks. Outlaw was an outside dog but has made the transition from outside dog to inside dog very well. He has only marked a couple of times before he was neutered and one of those was because our Chihuahua had pottied inside. He has really been a good boy and has learned to come in and out very well.

Outlaw is a big boy at 85 lbs and has a huge head. My husband says he's a big teddy bear and a moose so he calls him teddy moose. He's not the most agile dog we've ever had but he's a sweet boy.

**November 17, 2009**



Outlaw came to our house Sunday, the 15th of November. He is a big boy and loves to be petted. He had his vet appointment on Monday and was scheduled for a neuter on Tuesday but the vet found a couple of issues with his eyes that we will take care of when he has his neuter. He was going to go to a clinic for his neuter but we don't want to have to put him out twice so will be going to the vet to get his neuter and both eyes fixed at the same time. The first opening is Tuesday.

Outlaw got a bath Monday night and was a very good boy. He wasn't crazy about the idea but he sat very well for it. He smelled so nice when he was done! He also seems to like being brushed and will stand very nicely for it. He even stretches out his back leg so you can get under it! He knows sit and comes to his name. He likes to play fetch but doesn't drop the ball, or maybe I haven't found his word yet. He'll fetch the ball and come back to you but you have to take the ball away from him. He lets you take it away and has a gentle mouth.

Outlaw has been outside all his life so we have made big changes for him and he is adapting very well to them. At first he was afraid to come inside but with a little coaxing he followed us in. Now, he goes in and out like he's done it all his life. He hasn't marked inside yet which is good since he isn't neutered yet.

We tried to introduce dogs last night and it was a mixed bag. Outlaw and Magnum are fine. They both sniffed each other and went their separate ways. With the girls it was a different story. Outlaw sniffs them much more intently and more "head on" which can unnerve them. He tried to mount Kiera and I think that scared her. Our long haired Chihuahua growls at him. I think he is just so big and intense that she is not comfortable with him. She did that with another one of our big male fosters although he was neutered. They did eventually get along very well. Right now, my dogs have half the house and Outlaw the other half. We'll keep working at getting them together. There was no aggression from Outlaw at all. I think he's just a little too "male" for the girls right now. Things may change after his neuter too. For now, we'll go slowly. Safety is our main concern! He has also sniffed one of our cats. She was just sitting. He didn't seem too concerned about her but, as I said, she was just sitting. I'm not sure what his reaction would be if she were to take off running.

We gave Outlaw a nice soft velux blanket to lay on last night and "his" room is my husband's office. My husband was in there with him and noticed, after while, that Outlaw was shredding the blanket! It wasn't a great blanket, anyway but he was shredding big pieces off of it so he lost his blanket! He is lying on a donated dog bed today, though and seems to enjoy that. So far he hasn't tried to eat it. He has not been destructive inside at all other than the blanket.

Outlaw shouldn't be in foster care for too long. He seems to be a very happy, healthy boy. He's a great big teddy bear just waiting to be loved.

**November 15, 2009**

Outlaw came into GRRoW.