

Northwoods Humane Society - Vallie M. Szymanski, NHS Board Member

Mr. Spock, formally known as “Pumpkin” the Teenage Red Tabby was adopted from the NHS Shelter in early May 2020. Who could imagine the difference this long and lean red tabby would make in a home already inhabited by a pair of 10 year old sibling Black Rescue Cats and A pair of 10 year old adopted sibling Afghan Hounds (retired show dogs) all living the good life.

The first 6 weeks were a challenge, the black cats Whitney3 and Ronnie were not amused. Who was this intruder, running wild, eating their food, drinking their water and playing with THEIR toys? “Spock” needed to be “quarantined” at night to keep the peace and to allow the resident critters to regain their composure for the next day. We were lucky if the “teenager” slept until 6am - he usually demanded his release at 5AM!! The hounds (Ahkie and Kristah) were pretty “chill” and just watched all of the early morning activity, safe and sound on their special therapeutic dog beds - and Ahkie had his very special comfort pillow that he has had for 3 years since his arrival into this household.

Slowly but surely we eased Spock into “the fold” as he impressed the rest of his new family by his agile chipmunk and squirrel alerts and it wasn’t long before he had the black cats and the hounds enjoying the “show”. This particular activity usually lasts only 1-2 hours a day so we have the rest of the day AND night to provide him with lively entertainment.

He has established himself as a most welcoming host when anyone comes to visit. He especially enjoyed the time when NHS President Deanna Persson stopped by with a joint NHS task that EVERYONE got to work on. His supervision was key to the success of that project on that day!



He has established a flight path thru the house from his original guest room to his perch on his very own cat tree (don’t tell Whitney3 that) in the master bedroom. From that vantage point he gets to alert everyone to the rabbits and deer who visit the front yard in the early morning hours. The little darling still manages to wake us up 5am!

Everyone seemed to be getting along pretty well until about a 3 weeks ago when Spock decided that Ahkie’s special pillow should be his very own “bed”. The takeover started at 4am in the morning and all of sudden these two Afghan hounds were intimidated by a 9 pound cat who had the nerve to sleep on Ahkie’s special pillow...and he refused to leave it! The total takeover took about 2 weeks but Ahkie and Spock have learned how to “share” the pillow. It is quite amazing to watch how the two have of them have worked it out.

Princess Kristah, our resident “diva” Afghan hound tolerates him now but continues to quiz me with her eyes asking “Why, really? Another Cat? What were you thinking?” Whitney3 and Spock run and play together but Ronnie is not quite “there” yet so we continue the use of “squirt gun therapy” to thwart those daily cat fights.

All in all, the adoption and introduction of another animal into the fold has worked out well. Spock is a character and has added a much needed “silliness” to our household. We are glad he is here!!

Dates to Save:

September 4 – Dining with Dogs and Cats at Lynne’s Custom Meats on Highway 63 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

September 29 – October 6th - Art For Animals Plus – On-Line – www.kubarekauction.com

November 1 – Last day of Shoe Drive