

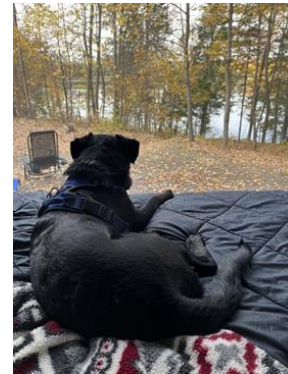
Northwoods Humane Society – Lisa Hall, Volunteer

About six weeks ago, I wrote about Chase and the challenges we faced with him. We even were giving thought to returning him to the Northwoods Humane Society. I was reminded of the “3 days, 3 weeks and 3 months” guidelines. Three days to decompress, three weeks to learn the routine and 3 months to feel at home. Chase has become a great family dog. Our family loves camping and we found that Chase also loves to camp.

Here is the story of Chase’s 1st camping trip!

Last week we took Chase on his first camping trip, and he loved it!

We went to a campground close to home, so he and I rode the SXS to the campground. When we got there, he was very excited, so we took him for a walk hoping to burn some energy. In all the excitement, he seemed to forget the basic training he had learned. So, I put the choke collar on him, and we went back to the basics. It didn’t take long for him to fall into step. After that he was fine walking around the campground for the rest of the trip.



We went for a few SXS rides, quite a few walks, and just chilled for a few days. He was very interested in all the comings and goings of the fellow campers. He really does love people. One evening there was a gentleman outside doing “camping things” a few sites down from ours. Chase was VERY interested in that and when I wouldn’t let him go over to say hi, he threw himself down on the ground – just like a toddler throwing a tantrum! LOL I waited out his tantrum, then put him in the camper.

We didn’t crate him at night, and he did great. He either slept on his dog bed or the couch. He tried sleeping with us one night, but was kind of restless, so we gently nudged him toward the edge of the bed, and eventually he jumped down and settled into his dog bed for the night. One thing Janelle Smedley taught me was to gently nudge him in the direction I want him to go but let HIM make the decision. That was an excellent piece of advice!

One night, the Northern Lights came out about 9:30 so we took a walk around the campground and then he settled in for the night. Since the day we brought him home he has slept through the night without a peep, and I am very thankful for that.

We’ve always had a pet door at our home so our dogs could come & go as they pleased to play or do their business. When we go camping, we worry about them getting enough time outside to do their business before bedtime. He ate, drank, and peed OK the first night, but didn’t poop, so we fretted. Thankfully the next morning he did his business and was fine the remaining time we were there.

All in all, the first camping trip was a resounding success, and we look forward to taking him with us as much as possible in the future.

He rocks every new adventure we expose him to, and his love of people is a bonus! We didn't think the dog we have today was possible four months ago. The time we put into training & making him feel safe and loved has certainly paid off.

We just adore him and look forward to many new adventures with him.

