

Northwoods Humane Society – Lisa Hall, Volunteer

It's been 12 weeks since we adopted our dog, Chase, from the Northwoods Humane Society, so I thought I would give you an update. After a VERY rocky start, he is settling in beautifully. About a month after we got him, we puppy-proofed the entryway and he mastered the pet doors, so now he has access to a 700 sq. ft. kennel anytime he wants, except at night as we still crate him. This was a game changer with his high energy level! With this setup, we don't have to crate him anymore when we're gone. We can put him in the entryway and have cameras set up inside & outside to keep an eye on him. At night, we take him out to go potty and then he walks right into



his crate with a treat, and we don't hear a peep out of him for a solid 8 hours, which I'm thankful for!

Janelle Smedley came to the house & gave me some great tips on how to handle the puppy biting, crawling on us, leash training, and impulse control (he had NONE). Thank God he's made a LOT of progress in all four areas over these last few months. He is still a HORRIBLE thief and we have to put everything up high or block it off, otherwise it ends up in the kennel. Unfortunately, keep away is still his favorite game. LOL

Because Chase still has a lot of energy, we've also trained him on the Instant Fencing system, so that gives him even more space to run & play. He can go to the kennel anytime he wants, but he's only on the Instant Fence collar if one of us is outside with him. He loves it!

He does pretty well in the car (though he's not too sure about being harnessed/seat belted in), loves the side by side vehicle, pays no attention to the loud noises in the neighborhood and is fine sitting near the campfire. We've found he loves people and people love him, so next on our list is to see how he does in the camper.

He loves his Kong Ball, stuffed animals, and is learning to play frisbee. I bought him a kiddie pool and within 10 minutes that thing was never going to hold water-it's his favorite toy. He likes both nyla & marrow bones, so we have a stash of those, along with a pile of stuffed animals & balls in a toybox for him. He gets bored quickly with his toys, so we rotate them out frequently. Sometimes we just throw all the toys in a pile and let him choose what to play with.

I think it might have been a female that had him previously, because he preferred my husband (I think that was also due to Mark working with him @ the shelter!) over me, and was wary around me for quite some time. I learned that when I wanted to pet him, I had to come from underneath instead of the top of his head. There were days I needed a break from him and/or he needed a timeout, but I just kept working with him and incorporated the training into our everyday lives (and lots of treats). More than once, I

also had to remind myself of the 3 day/3 week/3 month guide and that helped a lot!  
Three Days to decompress - Three Weeks to learn your routine – Three Months to start to feel at home!

Now Chase cuddles with me on the couch, we play outside a lot, and he goes in the car and/or side by side with me whenever possible.

All in all, he really is turning out to be a lil' sweetheart and I had my doubts 12 weeks ago. We just had to give him a chance and put in the time to train him and make him feel safe, comfortable, and loved.

We absolutely adore him! 😊 Thank you.