

# APOLLO 10-088

February 25, 2011



We adopted Apollo at Christmas time and were thrilled with his gentle and quiet demeanor. This was important to us as our 88-year-old mother lives with us and we were concerned about a large dog jumping on her. Our 15-year-old retriever/Newfy mix had to be put down in September and we were missing the presence of a gentle giant. It took Apollo one day to begin to feel at

ease with us as he began to shred every soft toy and string toy we had from Hunter. We soon learned that shag rugs were considered a toy and a rag lasted 5 minutes.

It is now the middle of February and he has been really good about his counter surfing. He also stays upstairs and even though the doors are open he does not go down to the “grandmother apartment.” The family that raised him did a wonderful job with beginning obedience and those little extras. We have discovered that if we want some “quiet” or have guests or a party, after greeting everyone, he loves to go into the garage and sleep in our van.

We also think he is going to be great at the lake and taking baths because he always tries to drink out of the hose in the shower at the lake. At home he is not permitted in the bedrooms or bathrooms and he sleeps right outside our room on his bed guarding that we don't leave without him.

At 13 months, Apollo has two levels of activity. The first is play, play, play and the second is sleep, sleep, sleep. He will usually sleep either at my



feet in the sunroom while I am working or in the den with my husband when he is at the computer.

His favorite toys are the football he brought with him that he very gently squeezes and sounds like a crying rabbit. The second is a bone that we buy that is filled with

peanut butter or beef. He will only chew the bones that have the wide top. Those that are narrow like a tibula he leaves for the critters outside. He does like a Kong that he rolls around when he wants a treat. The trainer said he “likes people and socializing with dogs better than treats as he is easily distracted by what is going on around him.”

Apollo is wonderful walking and does an outstanding “heel” when we have him on leash. Since we are in the middle of the country, have many acres and live on a dead end street, and Apollo stays in the yard, he is often off leash. We have had him to “advanced obedience” classes and while he is not at the top of his class, he will do a wonderful “sit, down, stay, circle, and we are working on come with distractions.” These are all done outside and off leash. He is just starting to ignore the barking of our neighbor’s dogs when we are doing the training exercises.



Snow, did I mention snow? He is awesome in the snow. He romps, runs, hops, dives, sleeps, yes, sleeps in and loves the snow. He will slide down a hill face first and burries himself as deep as he can in the snowpiles along the drive. He also has two lab “buddies” across the street who go for runs in the fields with us when we go cross country skiing. This is his special treat!!! Another dog, another dog, yeah, yeah, yeah!!!



Did we tell you about how he watches dogs on TV when he sees them. He watched almost the entire Westminster Dog Show...no barking...intent eye contact and interest.

Apollo is wonderful and an awesome addition to our family. I hope the owner who had to give him up knows that he is well cared for and loved. We think the owner used to wear a housecoat

because on his intake it said he pulls sleeves and he does not do that with my husband or myself. However, when mom is around and in her housecoat, he will tug on the sleeve and try to go underneath the hem. So, some memories are still with him. Thank you to that family and the wonderful job they did nurturing such a wonderful golden.

Keep watching for additions as we are sure there are more surprises out there for us as Apollo begins his teens.