

## Farve Update: 01/19/2009



I adopted a senior dog, named Farve (11 y.o.), May, 2008. He arrived trained in basic obedience and ready to join the household. He became quick friends with Nala (shitzu rescue), Samantha (14 y.o. cat), and my two roommates, Jenny & Joe. He is a joy! We love him!



Farve volunteers with me at a local nursing home. He has an intuitive connection with the residents. His face is expressive and he responds to people's tone and facial expressions. People with pain, and decreased strength and range of motion reach for him and walk towards him, even if moving is painful. He is patient and quiet with those who need it and excited and

persistent with others; he always knows just what the person needs and adjusts his behavior and energy level to meet their needs! People frequently remark on how intelligent and sweet he is.



I was nervous about adopting an older dog; what if he didn't live long? Or, required more health care than I could afford? As soon as I met him I knew he was the right dog for my household.



At first, he had difficulty climbing into the jeep/on the couch, and walking up/down the stairs. He became fatigued after 10-15 minutes of a leisure walk, or 2-3 minutes of playing with dogs at the dog park. Over the summer, he steadily built his activity tolerance, stamina, and strength. He is now very playful and has no difficulty with stairs and climbing

on/off a variety of heights and surfaces. He seeks puppies out at the dog park and likes playing with them; he also is a referee/mediator at the dog park, in a very gentle, calm, assertive way.



Farve has helped my other rescue dog Nala immensely! She had poor social and toileting skills (messed next to her food bowl), many fears, and had no idea how to play/interact with dogs, cats, and people. She now plays fetch and tug-of-war and knows her basic obedience skills, she learned well from his example. He will alert me when she needs to go out to the toilet; even if she looks like she is resting comfortably (she no longer has accidents).



Samantha, the cat, passed away from cancer at 14 years old in November.

Farve and Nala both seemed sad for the loss. However, we now have two kittens, who have adjusted well to the family. At first, Farve licked the kittens to clean their bottoms and tummies; they now can clean themselves. However, they continue to follow Farve around, sleep next to him, and play with his tail. Sometimes he will rub their tummy with his muzzle! They love it! ~ Heather B.



*On behalf of the Bleier household: We love Farve! Thank you so much for choosing us for him. We want to encourage other people to consider an older pet/rescue. We would not trade Farve for any dog in the world and appreciate every day we have with him!*

*Heather~ owner  
Jenny~ roommate  
Joe~ roommate  
Nala~ shitzu  
Chloe~ peach kitten  
Shilo~ dark kitten*