

Gus 08-069

Gus has been a wonderful addition to our family. Sometimes it is hard to believe he has only been with us for 5 months.



We live in an area which has an arboretum with a walking path that starts right across the street from us. So I usually start my day by taking Gus for a nice long walk. He loves the arboretum and all of the animal noises and smells. My wife is a stay-at-home mom so she is around Gus most of the day. If the weather is good, she will take Gus to the local dog park. Gus has made a lot of friends there. It seems that every day around 4:00 is social hour and the usual dogs gather and run to their hearts content. Gus is one of the largest dogs there. It's usually funny to see him romp and play

and run with a dachshund or terrier. He doesn't care much for the Chihuahuas though – he's scared of them so if they are in the park we usually go to a nearby nature trail. There are a couple other Golden Retrievers who come to the park too.

In our neighborhood, we have a lot of dogs too. In fact, there is another "Gus." We initially thought about changing his name but we just couldn't do it – his name is part of him and it fits him perfectly. So the two Gus's normally meet up with each other on our morning walk.

Gus has been spoiled with all sorts of toys. His foster family sent several with him. Some of the stuffed animals tend to need repair but he loves them so much we can't part with them. When it comes to chew toys, he loves the Kong and also the Flossy Fist Ball which is a type of rope toy tied up into several knots forming a large ball. We have the largest one and he will take it and toss it up in the air, catch it, and then shake it around. He loves to play.



We also have two cats and Gus gets along with them fine. Our two children just adore Gus. I just asked my son what he would like to say and he says "tell them Gus is a wonderful dog." One of his tricks is to give a "high five."

Winter has been fun. Gus just loved to run back and forth in the yard and nose around in the snow looking for a ball. With the melting of the snow, the arboretum trail is again open but the dog park is mud. That will all change soon enough. For the past few weeks, Gus has been enrolled in training. We have 6 individualized sessions with a trainer in our area and also unlimited group sessions we can attend for 6 months. Gus already knew a lot when he started but he is learning even more.

Attached are two pictures. One is of Gus relaxing on his bed in front of the fireplace. Although the picture is of just him, there were times that the cats joined him on the bed. The other is of

Gus and our children outside in the snow. Gus is wearing his Land's End Snow Squall (HE LOVES wearing this when it was snowing or raining). I like this picture because of his face. His foster family said that Gus was the only dog they ever had who could "smile."