

FROM SKELETON TO SUPERMAN

The story of Deedee (formerly Diesel).

Late last November, a few weeks after losing our much loved 15 year old Labrador Sherry, I was asked by NBR to foster a very sickly 3year old male brindle Boxer, Diesel who weighed only 22 Kg, had an undersized heart & most of his large intestine missing due to infection & removal of the same in his second year of life.

His history was of frequent hospitalisation, failure to gain or maintain weight, allegedly snapping at a small child & being kept outside in a run day & night. I accepted the challenge – after all I was only going to foster him short term. So, if he did not get on with my 12 year old Labrador, Hope, or with aged Boxer Oscar, who came to me from NBR 2 years ago, it would not be a long term issue.

En route to meet Janine & Martin Tree & collect Diesel from them, they called me & warned me to prepare for a shock when I saw the dog. They were right to do so. I have never seen such a depressed, frightened, ill, underweight dog. My first thought was that he had neither the strength nor will to live.

Less than 2 hours after a successful introduction to Hope & Oscar on arrival back at home, Deedee (as he was renamed) had transformed into a stump-wagging, cheerful, curious lad, looking to me for leadership & reassurance that he had not actually died & gone to 'dog heaven'. The change was awesome & gave me hope that he could get well.

The next few months were tough work – 5 meals a day & then down to 4, all of fresh lean chicken with boiled rice. However, NBR managed to pull off the 'sting of 2009' as by Christmas I asked them if I could keep Deedee permanently & NBR of course agreed! Deedee by the beginning of 2010 had also gained weight to almost 25Kg. Today he is a healthy 31Kg, undergoing obedience training & thriving. Around 120 chickens have been cooked for him along with several sacks of rice & thankfully now he has successfully transitioned onto Nature Diet. The only medication now required is a daily probiotic to assist with stability in his undersized digestive tract.

Thank you NBR for arranging such a successful blind date!

With our best wishes,

Deedee, Oscar, Hope & Liz Cox.

May 2010.