

Sunday Column – A Good Boy
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We see it far too often...dogs who come into the shelter with embedded collars. It is hard to comprehend just how a pet owner could fail to notice his puppy outgrowing a collar, especially, as this collar opens a gaping wound in his pup's neck.

George found his way into Columbus Animal Care and Control on August 9. Thanks to the dedication of Anna-Claire Daniels of the Animal SOS Foundation, George was given the veterinary care he needed to begin healing his outward wounds. He is now moving on to bigger and better things.

George is now available for adoption at PAWS Humane and until the big day comes Dave and I have the honor of fostering him. We want him to have a normal family life while he awaits his "forever" home.

George is a shy but happy guy. He loves toys and playing with our little Tinker. He's about 1 ½ years old and 45 pounds. He looks like he may have a little beagle mixed up with something or other. He doesn't say a peep though. He is very quiet.

The very first night I brought George home we could tell that he must have been accustomed to being an outside dog. He could very well have lived his life on the end of a chain or in a kennel with little human attention. This would at least partially explain the embedded collar.

Yet, George is as polite as any dog you would want to meet. Some neglected dogs can be a little wild. Not George. He looks to Dave and me for direction at every turn. He asks for nothing.

I tend to spoil my foster dogs and let them up on the furniture and on the bed. Very rarely does a dog turn down this invitation. I had to pick George up to put him on the bed and found out he is completely inept at jumping off the bed. Since then we've opted for a blanket on the floor next to the bed for safety reasons.

On any given evening Dave and I will watch an episode of our latest favorite TV series on Netflix. We have a big screen TV on the wall and it was clear that George had never seen such a thing. As the human figures began to move across the screen he seemed transfixed, not knowing quite what to make of it.

Hopefully, George's inner wounds are healing along with the outer ones. He will tremble when he isn't sure what he is supposed to do. We give him gentle direction and he is able to move through it fairly quickly. George is a living lesson in forgiveness. He is a good example of why I am a dog person.

Bobbi Yeo lives in Opelika, AL. She is the CEO of PAWS Humane in Columbus, GA, an animal shelter and veterinary clinic offering low-cost spay/neuter and other services to the public. Email her at byeo@pawshumane.org with your comments and story ideas.