FEATHER SOUND NEWS

Serving the Tampa Bay Area, Florida

THORRE: A DOG'S TALE

Thorre

They didn't want him. Why they got him was no longer their concern. The promise of care and comfort was readily forgotten as the "adorable little puppy" grew into a poorly handled, poorly trained… mutt.

Now his name is Thorre. A bit of a play on spelling but a name in reverence to the power of the folktale god of thunder, Thor.

Slightly under a year old, unneutered and under fed, Thorre was loaded in the family pick-up truck and driven far into the country… and dropped.

Before being hit by a high-speed traveler on the nearby truck route, before being shot by a livestock farmer in the name of trespass, I happened to be traveling the same road when Thorre was abandoned.

I always go through the usual routines of notifying local animal control, all vets and other rescues, checking for a microchip, but weeks of inquiries led to the 'dead-end' wished upon this sweet, golden dog.

My area has many 'cur' types and although predominantly thought of as hunting or livestock dogs, many make excellent pets. As a Black Mouth Cur, Thorre is resilient, with few health challenges even after his neglect. Although initially difficult to handle, he settled eagerly. By the time he began regular veterinary appointments he was leash trained, stopped jumping to potentially knock someone over, and took his meals like a gentleman.

I don't assume to know why an animal has been abandoned. Some are stolen, dropped off by disgruntled neighbors or family members in misguided attempts to solve a problematic situation. Others are found wandering, picked up by well-meaning passers-by who move the animal to a 'better' location. In this day and age there are so many things that can be done to rid one of an unwanted pet without endangering that individual or others who may happen upon them. Shelters, veterinarians, and rescuers may not have all the answers, nor are they able to help every 'stray' who comes to their door, but any chance is better than none.

Once we acknowledged Thorre was not missed, our doors opened to a new member. Vet work, neutering, deworming and many, many good meals, we watched Thorre revel in his lessons, romp with the youth he still held and turn into quite a handsome fellow!

Thorre has been with our forever-home rescue sanctuary since 2016. He has never bitten anyone, gets along with horses, other dogs, cats and wildlife, he even has a favorite rooster! He travels well, does not mind medical appointments, is a good eater, healthy, nice-looking and kind. One might think these are perfect ingredients for a good pet or farm companion. There are no excuses for abandonment, yet it happens globally. To think twice when acquiring a pet or working animal might save some from being discovered on the side of the road, ended by an unsuspecting motorist.

Adoption is such a great idea with many shelters nationwide intent on finding new and wonderful, safe homes for lives who did not fit where they began. We chose to be a forever-home sanctuary upon our inception as a 501(C)(3) non-profit in 2010 so that the critters who were sent our way, would never have to look again for a

place to eat, keep cool or warm, and to be loved. We do help various outside adoptions, but our home here means that many more new families can look elsewhere for that special pet who will enhance their lives and those of the animal.

Although the majority of our residents are equine, our doors and hearts have been opened to a variety of birds and fowl, rabbits, pigs, dogs or cats. Whether you have a favorite species or would simply like to learn more about us while we help those in need, please visit our website: www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG. To make a donation through PayPal Charities, use the link on our site. Or for Zelle, send to info@EquestrianSpirits.ORG.

Gracious thanks to animal lovers everywhere. (863) 368-0775

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