

Dottie & Parker's story by Dave Barton

Both were rescue puppies.

Dottie came to us when she was four months old. Along with her brothers and sisters, she were dumped and taken in by the loving staff at the Airport Vet clinic, now Ulysses Vets.

Dottie is a staffie cross blue heeler and her many traits of both breeds shine on a daily basis!! Her loving kind nature, her protectiveness and her stubbornness shine and bring a smile from us when we get home from work. She is the only dog I know who will actively hug you and hold on until she has had enough. Dottie has grown up with my step-daughter, (eight years old), and they have a bond that's very unique, particularly when we send both dogs in each school morning to wake her up. Dottie is the ALPHA dog in the household and when Parker oversteps the mark when playing, she reminds him of who's still the boss.

Parker came to us a rescue pup from Thursday Island. His breed is unknown so we call him liquorice allsorts due to this. Along with his twin brother Peter, he was found dumped under a tree and rescued. We, (when I say 'we' I mean 'I'), wanted another dog to keep Dottie company as we both work crazy hours, however my wife was a firm "NO". But our friend who fosters dogs until they find a forever home brought both pups around for a play date with Dottie and Carmen fell in love with Parker. He has been with us ever since.

He is now 16 months old and is a naughty teenager. He was that small when we got him. He couldn't drink out of the water bucket we have for Dottie; 16 months later he is taller than Dottie and weighs just on 52kg!!!!

Both dogs I trust 100%. They are safe around my wife and stepdaughter. This is really important to me as I know both dogs have been dumped and abused before we got them. They adore my family and both are particularly fond of my step-daughter as they have a very unique bond. They are very protective of my daughter when they play in the yard and the park on our daily runs.

We treat our dogs as family and they are our fur kids. They are treated more like kids than pets, but they know the boundaries and don't over step the mark, although at night when they both decide to hop up on the bed, we play a nightly game of "petris" to make sure they are both comfy.

