

## Nova and Nitch's story by Skye Ryan



Nova – Our first fur baby. We adopted her from the RSPCA nearly 3 ½ years ago. We had just sold our unit and were waiting for our house to settle, and we just wanted to ‘start’ looking for a dog. We found her on our first visit. Being such a little cutie, she never actually spent that much time in the pound as the staff kept taking her home for the night! She was 4 months old when she came home with us.

She's definitely the boss of our two – and she tells Nitch all the time. If she wants his bed, she'll give a little bark, he goes to investigate and she does the switch. She is definitely my partner's dog – I barely get a look in when he's home. She is always happy – her tail never stops wagging. She's a Staffie cross and has a lot of power behind her – 25kg of pure muscle.

And she will throw all of it at you for love. She loves life, loves to be loved and loves to love. She is fearless and curious, and has a lot of scars to prove it.

Nitch – He is our Foster Fail! He came to us from YAPS 3 years ago this Christmas. We were only supposed to foster him for 2 weeks over Christmas, but by day 3, we had adopted him as our second fur baby. He was 10 months old. I could see all he wanted was to be loved, but only on his terms. He had already been returned to YAPS 2 or 3 times previous. Nitch has massive trust issues with men, and it took A LOT of time and patience on our behalf for him to get used to my partner. He would be the only one to feed him and every night they would go on a walk together for about a month. Even now, if he puts on a pair of work boots and a big hat, Nitch will go hide. I honestly don't think anyone would've been able to love him like we do. He was definitely waiting for us to rescue him. While they had him in YAPS, he was treated for rickets; he came to us with patches of fur missing and a weak bladder. We had to teach him how to go to the toilet and he had to wear a nappy for a little while.



Being a Kelpie cross, he's ready to go pretty much any time of the day! He wakes up at 4.30 every morning, (I know, 'cos he gives me a little nudge!), but then goes and waits patiently until we are ready. His favourite thing is our Sunday cuddles – Every Sunday we get up, feed the dogs and put an old sheet on the bed. They wait very patiently at the end of the bed until we are ready (you always have to get in before they do, otherwise you don't fit back in!) and they jump up and find their spots – Nitch takes a Tetris-like position in between the two of us and Nova curls up in a tight little ball in between my partners legs. This is the ONLY day that Nitch will sleep in, and it's very hard to get him out! He is also an amazing judge of character. If he likes you, he'll let you know. If he doesn't, there's probably a good reason behind it!

Nova and Nitch are two very different dogs, they don't snuggle together and they enjoy their own space, but they'd be totally lost without each other as they do work as a team. And we'd be totally lost without them. They make us complete.