

Matty Continued

But our Matty girl was also a blessing to Adidas, whose name was changed to Eli. When Eli arrived in our home, he acted old despite only being just over two years old. Matty taught Eli how to play, they cuddled, they did everything together. Matty would clean his ears and chew on his tags. Eli would beg for pets from her. They had a game of stealing toys from each other, or Matty would try to annoy her brother while squeaking a stuffed toy over and over on his head. They would tag-team together and sneak food off the counter and enjoy the spoils of their work together.

These two pups were now part of a military family and got to go on a lot of adventures. Thankfully they were amazing travelers. Since Ohio, they've moved to Georgia, Texas, Oklahoma, Delaware, Alaska, and then back to Texas. They traveled to Colorado and Virginia multiple times as well. Matty loved Texas because of the heat, and Eli loved Alaska because of the cold.

Matty got herself into a lot of trouble: eating Christmas not once but twice, peeing on my mother-in-law's bed, digging up my azalea bushes, licking a toad in Georgia (with unfavorable results!), raiding the pantry and strewing hot cocoa mix, powdered sugar, flour, rice, and pasta all throughout the house. While some of those stories didn't exactly bring laughter at the time, they leave me flooded with a million memories to hold onto, and now a smile on my face with tears streaming down my cheeks.

Sadly, our girl was diagnosed with bladder cancer in March. She held on fierce and fought hard, but eventually we knew it was time to say goodbye. Our last night with our girl, she slept between my husband and I. Our hope was to comfort her and let her know she was loved, but I think she was doing the same thing for us.

Our hearts ache fiercely for our Matty girl. Though the last few months were quieter as she slept most days on our pillows on the bed, there is a noticeable silence without her here. It's amazing how they find their way into our hearts, and how such little things like sitting in the office and seeing the empty sunbeam on the floor by my feet makes my heart ache.

All this to say, thank you. Thank you for providing a safe place for our Matty girl and Eli to call home while awaiting their permanent home with us. Thank you for taking the time to help us with Matty and then matching us up with Eli. Thank you for being the place that you are. As for Eli, everyone that sees him is amazed that he is as old as he is – for which we have Matty to thank.