

Dogs

By: Miranda N.

Aaron is 27 and works at his father's pet shop and has since he was 24. He has been saving up to get this dog they have at the pet shop. One day his father said "Aaron we have sold all the pets." Normally people would think this is a good thing meaning that all the dogs have homes, but that also means that the dog he had been saving up for had been sold. For the next couple of years he continues to save up hoping to find a new dog that he wanted.

A few years later the person who adopted the dog brought the dog back. Aaron didn't care why she back he just new he wanted the dog. As soon as he adopted her he knew exactly what to call her, Maddy. He thought that Maddy might get lonely when he wasn't there so he and Maddy walked among the kennels looking for a friend. Then Maddy stopped and whimpered at one of the kennels like she wanted to be in there with him. Aaron said "I would also like to adopt this one, please." When Aaron got home later that evening he decided to name the other dog Max.

Aaron remembered he needed to go and get supplies for the dogs. So he went out to buy supplies for them. When he returned he was expected to have only two dogs but instead he had twelve dogs waiting for him! The dog Maddy was whimpering at must have been the father. So now he had twelve puppies that are crosses between a german shepard (Maddy) and a chocolate lab (Max). Sadly he could only keep one of the dogs puppies. He had to foster the rest of the puppies until the were old enough to leave their mother.

As the puppies grew up Aaron found that they all had a lot of the same interests. These ranged anywhere from favorite tree to favorite toys to favorite sleeping position. Then sadly came the day they had to leave.

He had grown so attached to the puppies that he couldn't give them up, but he couldn't afford to keep them so he had to give them up. He chose one that was playful, cuddly, loving, and always curled up on his lap rather than with his siblings. He decided to name his new dog Bud. He gave the rest to his father to put up for adoption. He was really disappointed that he had to give up most of the puppies. Every day he has gone back to visit the puppies to see if they have homes yet. Slowly one by one the puppies were adopted to new homes, except for one. His father decided to keep one of the puppies as a store mascot. He named him Michell.

Aaron went to visit Michell every single day and he sometimes he even brought his own puppy along to play with brother. Michell and Bud had a great time together. They play fought, curled up, and even ate together. One day Aaron noticed that Michell stopped using her hind legs then a couple hours later Bud stopped using his hind legs as well. Aaron said "I think that he might be connected in a special way." So his father called all the people that adopted the

puppies and sure enough they were all not using their hind legs. His father said "I have no clue about how to treat these puppies." All they can do is wait for the puppies to get better.

They contacted the people who adopted the dogs and said "Meet us at the local vet with your dogs tomorrow at 9am." The next day they were all there the vet confirmed that it was some form of a genetic disease. Degenerative Myelopathy was the doctor's diagnosis. He said, "This is where there is a problem with the lower spinal cord causing the dogs not to use their hind legs and if left untreated can lead to full on paralysis in the dog's legs and eventually lead to death."

Aaron said, "What's the cure?"

The doctor said, "Well there is no cure, but their physical treatment and fitted assistive equipment. Even with this they can only live for about 3 years." So the other owners all managed to afford treatment for the dogs. Aaron was willing to pay for both Bud and Michell's treatment. His father gave Aaron a raise to help pay for the dogs treatments.

Every day Aaron took the puppies to the vet's for their physical therapy and each time



they came back with wheels supporting their hind legs.

Aaron wanted the dogs to have as best a life as possible so he walked them every day, played with them, and fed them good food. Eventually the dogs died one by one. They were all buried under one tree, their favorite tree. Aaron went to the dog's grave every day because he just couldn't let them go. This went on for about a week until he went back one day and heard a faint yelp. He rushed to find a shovel and dug up the grave.

Aaron said to his father, "I think that the dogs are alive!" His father just stared at him with disbelief and said "What?" Aaron knew he heard him but still said "The dogs are alive!" What will happen next? Will the dogs live a full life? To find out read the sequel Cats.