

## Dreams by Lexi S.

Ruff Ruff!! Marruffff! Help Me! Take me home with you! Please!

Hi, I'm Dog. At least that's what the cats and other dogs call me. I've lived on the streets all my life. My whole family died in a fire. I made it out by...well, I can't really remember. It happened when I was a pup, just 3-months old. Now I eat scraps of leftovers and bugs. I wander around town and find warm nooks to sleep in. I chase squirrels just like other dogs. Sometimes people bring me toys. I have a secret toy stash in a statue in the town square. I'm a yellow lab with ragged fur and brown eyes. My hair is short and soft. I have a fast tail and silky ears and I LOVE the mud! The mud makes my hair brown and still. I always wash the mud off in the town lake. I love chasing the geese in the lake but for some reason they always fly away from me. My real home is a dump near the Roosevelt Apartments on Main Street. A little girl named Carna sometimes brings me canned chicken. I'm a wanderer. That brings me to our story.

"Mommy, Mommy! Look, it's a puppy!" Squealed the little girl. "Oh Hi There, Ruff Ruff' (that's dog language for hello). Oh Darn, here comes Animal Control again. Don't worry, this happens a lot. I just RUN!! "We've got you this time!" yells the dog catcher. Or, maybe not....see ya! Phew, I got away again. Thank goodness! A new record speed!

"Oh how glorious are all these smells? Hey Dog, come have a trash off with me" calls Ben from across the street. Ben is my best friend. At trash off is a thing where we dig in the trash and find food and other stuff. We mostly find food though. "Here I come Ben" as I go running across the street to the dumpster. HONK HONK!! SMASH!! There's my body lying silent and motionless. I'm dead. I was hit by a bus. Oh hi God!!

A couple of years later I'm alive again! But where am I? "Hi there puppy/" a voice booms from a big man. Hmmmmm that definitely isn't the gentle voice of God. On one side of me are 8 other puppies all my size. On the other side there is a tall slim black lab. She is my mother for the next 8-week. I get to play with my puppy siblings and snuggle with my Mama. Then I have to move out. I go to live with a little girl named Lily. I'm now black, soft and shiny and I have a beautiful pink collar. The little girl calls me "Daisy". The first thing I did with Lily is fall fast asleep on her lap in the car. When we got home we played and snuggled all day long. She showed me off to all of her friends. It was amazing!! I got tons of belly rubs from these kids. They all have unique smells (some of them a little sweaty and stinky). We play outside every day. Lily taught me how to nudge a soccer ball with my nose. It's really fun! This is the life I always dreamed of! A very special life!