

Pico has found a home. It's time to celebrate!!!

If you are one of our community that watch our website, follow our blog or Facebook page –all we have to do is say Pico and you smile, you know who Pico is and the question everyone asks is "Has he got a home yet?"



Pico came to Clackamas County Dog Services on July 2, 2011 and today we can happily answer with a resounding **"Yes!"**

Five months and some change, Pico rode out of the shelter like the proverbial cowboy into our sunset, his new beginning . . . tail wagging *the whole way*.



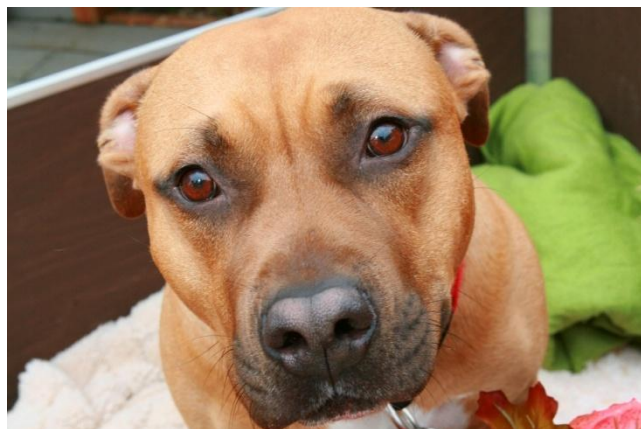
Why would it take so long for a dog to be adopted, some would ask? . . . A dog that the staff and volunteers at CCDS had come to love and always referred to as an "awesome dog" and that "He has us wrapped around his paw"?

getting to know the gentle soul underneath.

Beefy with a large head and neck, Pico was often referred to as the Gentle Giant. Smart, quiet, clean and eager to please, Pico did what some other dogs cannot.... He held on.



Shelters like CCDS may provide such things as clean blankets and kennels, fresh food and water, treats, stuffed Kongs, Bully Sticks and volunteers armed with clickers, but sometimes no amount of love and care can keep a dog happy within four walls. Eventually, some will crash. In a building that can house 51 dogs, Pico waited for his forever home to come his way. From Stray to Star, Pico didn't let what can sometimes be a noisy and stressful environment deter his focus.... a home of his own! Pico stayed the course and would often be found lounging on his kennel floor, a model citizen in a sometimes chaotic world.



Pico's turn came when he caught a husband's and wife's eye one day and quickly what was an interest in this quiet and gentle dog grew into something more. The husband and wife became

shelter regulars, knowing the staff's names and routines, always returning to visit their buddy Pico and shower him with treats and affection.

While they may have chosen Pico, all who know Pico know that he truly chose them. The normally quiet dog began to bark in his kennel when “his” people left, eager for them to return. The normally stoic dog lit up at the sight of their faces, knowing that their visits were special, meant just for him.



Today, Pico has left our building, but not our hearts. While completing his adoption Pico eagerly stood in the lobby one last time, nose pressed to the glass. It's almost as if Pico knew what was out there waiting for him, a whole world to explore and a dedicated family who would show it to him.



As the staff member who did his Intake when he first came to the shelter, I felt especially privileged to help complete his adoption and see him on his way. As I bent down to give him one more hug, Pico climbed in my lap showering me in kisses. I'd like to think it was him saying thank you.

Not just thank me, thank all of us. The staff, the volunteers, the public. Everyone was in his corner and because Pico didn't give up, neither did anyone else. Pico truly is and always will be a Shelter favorite and we all wish him the best in his new life and new family.

Pico, ham it up this Holiday buddy. Warm yourself by the fire, sleep under that Christmas Tree and know we are all glad we got to help you on your way. Knowing that you are home is a gift to all of us here and we thank you for letting us take part in your journey to get there.



*Elena Fasilis, Clackamas County Animal Care Specialist
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