



Potter League

Enriching Lives

Booster's Journey Home

As with people, the lives of animals can sometimes unfold into fantastic odysseys. And as they journey from one chapter to the next, they change the lives of those they meet. Such was the case with a little Jack Russell terrier who stayed with us briefly on his voyage home. His saga began in North Carolina where he was born into the saddest of circumstances, a backyard breeding facility. He was rescued as a puppy by a tender-hearted young woman who named him "Jumping Jack Rooster," after Rooster Cogburn, John Wayne's character in "True Grit." Living up to his namesake, he grew into a feisty, smart and gutsy animal, all qualities he would need as his life developed.



Two years after Rooster was rescued, the young woman married. That brought big changes for Rooster, for he was not allowed to move into the couple's new apartment. Heartbroken, the woman took Rooster to live with her 87 year old great grandmother, Essie. Essie lived on a small farm on Roan Mountain, near the Appalachian Trail. She adored Rooster and he became a country dog, living with chickens, ducks, cats and a Great Pyrenees named Annie. It was a good life and Essie's great-granddaughter visited frequently. But as time passed, the granddaughter noticed that Rooster was losing weight. She realized that Essie, now 94 years of age, was having difficulty caring for her animals. She was even forgetting to feed Rooster.

Essie's family made the painful decision to bring Rooster to the local animal shelter. As it turned out, that particular humane society was our "sister" shelter in Spruce Pine, N.C. Rooster spent two weeks there, much of the time in the office, because the Director had fallen for him instantly. Rooster was exceptionally quiet and well-behaved; she loved his quirky personality, his energy and his courage. But he was also a little sad, homesick and missing his friend, Annie. "It just was not fair that Rooster had been loved and been a good dog for eight years and then ended up in a shelter," the Director told us. She convinced us to bring Rooster to Rhode Island in one of our *Fetching Friends* air transport missions.

As Rooster settled into life at the Potter League, we all became acquainted. He readily gave and received affection from everyone he met. He understood basic commands and displayed some of that terrier self-confidence that we knew so well. He enjoyed the company of other dogs, but most of all, he wanted to be someone's companion.

During this time and three hundred miles to the north, on an island off the coast of Maine, Lewis Haskell and his wife, Ida, were dealing with the loss of their beloved yellow Lab. Lewis asked his friend Sam to help him find a new dog. Sam's daughter, Susan, living in Bristol, RI, went to the Potter League website. There, she discovered the photo of a sad-eyed Jack Russell with the unlikely name of "Rooster." She headed over for an introduction. Upon hearing that Rooster had been surrendered by an elderly woman in North Carolina, Susan just knew that this would be a perfect match for Lewis and Ida." And so, 'Operation Rooster' was initiated.



Early the next morning, Susan's husband David packed up Rooster and made the five hour drive to Rockland, Maine to catch the ferry to the little island community of North Haven. Susan explained, "David spent the hour and ten minute ferry ride in weary anticipation, anxious that everything would go smoothly." He need not have worried. As he and Rooster walked off the ferry, Lewis and his wife were waiting by their truck. Without a word, Lewis opened his car door. Rooster looked at him and jumped right in.

"Oh boy, what a lovely dog," was Lewis Haskell's immediate reaction. As David told us, "The joy on Mr. Haskell's face and the contented look on Rooster's was all you needed to know that this was a match made in heaven."

"Dogs, I think, have an instinct for knowing who likes them," said Mr. Haskell. It's no surprise, then, that Rooster took to Lewis and Ida right away. The little Jack Russell is now named "Booster," because, as Mr. Haskell explained, "He is such a boost to us. He is one smart dog. We think he's wonderful." Booster's nine year odyssey is complete. He has found home.

Your monthly gifts make happy endings like Booster's a reality! Thank you!

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