

Brewski's Foster Mom

Interview by Alexandra Richardson

Brewski is one of Lucky Dog Animal Rescue's (LDAR) most famous boys – he's been around for a while, which is surprising considering that this handsome Siberian Husky/ German Shepherd Mix is one of the sweetest and most loyal, affectionate, loving dogs you could hope to meet. He is 1.5 years old, and weighs 55 lbs. We caught up with Brewski's foster mother Sheila to learn all about her experience fostering Brewski.

"Brewski is extremely affectionate toward me (I live by myself). He is sometimes shy with new men he meets, but warms up to them quickly when he gets to know them," she says of the sweet dog. She also said that since coming to her loving, home-y environment, he has made vast improvements when it comes to meeting new people: "He is much, much better now with getting to know strangers than he was when I first started fostering him. In the beginning, he was very shy and would bark at a new male in the house every time the man stood up or walked into a different room. Now he gets used to them quickly and rarely barks except when he first meets them."

Sheila has been fostering with LDAR for 3.5 years, and has been fostering dogs for 6.5. She estimates that she has fostered about 120 -130 dogs in that time. She also has her own dog, Roscoe who is an older dog. An older, calmer more experienced dog is often beneficial for newly adopted dogs, as they show the newer dog how to learn the ropes and settle in.

"Brewski loves [Roscoe] and tries to play with sometimes,

but Roscoe is older and not interested in playing with him," she explains.

She has also picked up many tricks along the way for dealing with challenges that may arise. When adopting a dog, challenges can include housetraining, shyness, reactivity to other dogs and people, reactivity to a leash, reactivity to other dogs and people when on a leash, separation anxiety, destructive behaviors, escape – artist tendencies, and not getting along with other dogs at the park. Some ways she has dealt with these problems are, "PATIENCE; giving the dog time to settle in and adjust to new surroundings at his/her own pace; letting the dog

learn to be comfortable in new surroundings by modeling behavior after my dog; not panicking when problems come up, PATIENCE; being vigilant in watching each dog's behavior every second they are with me/in my home, until I get to know them (to avoid housetraining accidents or destructive behaviors); consistent rewarding of good housetraining habits; making sure the dog gets adequate exercise; realizing that I am smarter than the dog and taking advantage of the training resources offered by Lucky Dog when necessary; being ultra-vigilant to make sure the dog does not escape or get lost, being flexible and patient, and realizing that the poor dog would not be alive had LDAR not chosen them and I had not been willing to foster; and PATIENCE."

And there are added benefits, in addition to the new friend you are making. "[Fostering dogs] is probably the most rewarding things I've ever done," she says, "

“Because if I don’t foster, that’s one less poor dog who will make it out of the shelter alive! Fostering may be challenging at times, but knowing that I am responsible for saving that poor dog’s life makes it all worthwhile. Any of the challenges seem terribly insignificant and selfish compared to that.”

The experience of fostering sweet Brewski has been a positive experience. He loves playing fetch, catching balls, playing with other dogs, or just looking out the window to watch the world go by. He also loves being petted and stroked and getting attention. His favorite things to do with his foster family are to play fetch at the park or at the house, or just sit on the couch and watch TV with his people. He also loves to do his tricks for treats!

And the experience of being in a real home has really brought out the best in Brewski. He is becoming less shy, and is more lovable and playful sides have really come out. Sheila says of the experience, “Like with each foster dog, I have learned a lot by fostering Brewski. I have learned how best to acclimate a shy dog to new situations, and how much progress a shy dog can make when he is exposed to new situations in a positive way, so that he creates positive associations with the things (i.e., men) of which he is afraid.”

When asked if she would recommend fostering to other people, she says, “Absolutely. It is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.”

inserted the work card into the slot, and slid through the closing doors. His normal day job was over, but now the real labor began.

His feet slapped on the pavement as he reached the crosswalk right as 10 seconds were left—he couldn’t miss the bus to the Water District. Boss had gotten a lead on the possible incident, and it was entirely possible that whoever intentionally sabotaged the sewer system would be there tonight.

Right at the corner of the street parallel to his work building, he could make out the faint blur of a white creature traveling at top speed—Winston’s coat surely flapped with exhilaration.

I didn’t like running anyway, Boss thought to himself, *He likes running here on his own.*

“HELLO,” Winston barked to him while they waited together at the bus stop.

Boss knelt down, careful not to stain the dust of the sidewalk on his knees, “Hey, buddy. Are you ready?”

Winston bobbed his snout, “*DO YOU THINK WE’LL FIND THE CULPRIT?*”

He promptly placed his hands on his hips, “It depends. Mr. K, the lemonade stand man, has kept me informed on what the people in the post office are saying. They’re noticing on their daily routes that the Water District hasn’t nearly been affected by the contamination, which is entirely strange.”

“*ISN’T THAT WHERE THE LEAK IS MEANT TO BE?*” Winston probed.

“Those are my thoughts exactly. And that’s why we’re going to see some people I know. Hopefully we can understand why all the other Districts are being affected, and why the Water District is not.

Boss and Winston sat amongst the surrounding passengers of the hour long bus ride to the Water District. On their slow journey to the western side of Topper, Boss pulled out a thin, spiral bound notebook, inked in dark green.

Tales of Tails: Volume III

Fictional Stories By Amana Abdurrezak

Right as five o’clock rolled around, Boss snatched his card from the edge of the cubicle’s table. With a head start, he sprinted to the door,

“Look here, boy,” Boss whispered, “You see this newspaper clipping, beside my handwriting?”

Winston’s eyes darted across the page, trying to make sense of the words. The man running for mayor, James Wellington, continued to tell the people that he blamed the current mayor for inaction. Mr. Wellington would—as long as he was reelected—promise it would be the first problem handled.

“He seems like a good man,” Boss said, “But why doesn’t he just help now? And why isn’t the mayor doing anything about it?”

Winston barked, “*FISHY!*”

Boss’ head perked up, nose crinkling. The faint aroma of dying fish smacked him in the face. Not only was he hit with the off putting scent, the bus’ passengers were appalled as well. Some covered their nostrils with jacket collars, some took a deep breath, and others just bore it.

“That’s nauseating.” Boss muttered from beneath his notebook.

They were only five minutes away from the Water District when they finally reached the Water District’s bus stop. To their surprise, Quo Road, the District’s main street was an entire wasteland as newspapers tumbled by unread; the entire district stood in shades of morose gray, rather than the boisterous city it usually was.

“Last stop,” the Bus Driver called, twisting his head back to look at Boss and Winston, “Are you getting off?”

Boss jumped up and strode to the front of the aisle. He was surprised to see the building to his right, where he was hoping to visit a friend, had not light in the window. “What happened? Where did everyone go?”

“They all evacuated just this morning. That new candidate, the one who’s running, suggested they all leave the city because the contamination was going to reach them soon.” The bus driver tipped his blue hat in the direction of the lake at

the edge of the road. “You could see it over there now.”

Boss’ eyebrows furrowed, “How could Mr. Wellington know? He isn’t mayor yet! He shouldn’t have knowledge to this stuff.”

Winston barked, “*SEE THE LAKE, LET’S SEE THE LAKE.*”

Boss glanced at the lake, “Do you mind driving a few feet to the lake? Just so we can see the damage done?”

“No harm, no foul. It shouldn’t be a problem.”

They sat at the front row, eyes centered on the lake outlined in metal fencing. As they inched closer, the results were incredulous. The lake was contaminated not only with trash that sat as far as they could see, but the water was entirely gone; deserted, parched, and filthy.

“What is going on?” The Bus Driver’s mouth dropped. He pushed his sunglasses off, parked the bus, and joined Winston and Boss. “How could it be contaminated so quickly? Where’s the water?”

“*FISHY!*” Winston barked.

“You’re right, something isn’t right here, Winston.” Boss tapped his chin, unsure of the next move. Someone knew that eventually, there would be people to investigate.

Boss twisted around to look at the deserted street once again. At the corner of his eyes, he caught a few words that immediately widened his eyes.

Wellington Towers.



Word Search:

SNOWMAN
SNOWFLAKE
COLD
SLED
DOG
CHASE
WALK
RUN
CHEW
TOY
FOOD

U	A	D	G	Q	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	P	P	X
P	S	I	I	T	W	L	L	O	G	F	P	Z	V	M
V	W	V	L	W	Q	Y	P	A	R	L	P	H	G	E
W	N	A	H	M	S	N	D	Q	E	A	A	W	N	G
X	H	D	P	Z	Y	E	Y	W	G	L	P	T	O	Y
C	J	Z	X	C	L	R	M	A	F	O	O	D	H	G
X	B	K	T	S	H	K	F	E	I	L	R	Z	X	C
M	D	W	T	I	N	E	C	H	Q	J	U	U	M	H
A	I	F	G	Q	B	M	W	I	K	S	N	Z	S	A
X	H	B	M	O	X	I	N	A	R	Q	U	G	Y	S
M	Q	K	J	Y	W	Z	C	O	L	D	D	E	B	E
X	R	N	E	C	T	A	P	Z	W	D	B	W	D	S
W	F	V	V	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	G	X
S	N	D	U	A	L	T	Y	X	L	B	L	E	Y	D
J	J	E	S	T	J	L	R	Q	N	X	E	K	O	F

How can you help?

By volunteering! You can do so much just by caring for the dogs we have here. They all are patiently waiting for owners and meanwhile could use a little TLC. By offering to help with house visits, transportation, and walks, the dogs will have tons of fun while feeling cared for! Email Carrie Fallon at [carrief](mailto:carrief@luckydoganimalrescue.org) at ([@](mailto:carrief@luckydoganimalrescue.org)) luckydoganimalrescue dot (.) org for more information on how to help!

We are always looking for kids to help out! Some ways you can help our lucky pups:

- Have a donation drive at your school. Collect old blankets, towels and toys for our pups in the shelter.
- Have a bake sale and raise money so we can give our pups the treatments they need to stay healthy.
- Come and help out at events or transports! We are always in need of help cleaning cages at transports, setting up water bowls, and videoing the dogs.
- We would love help promoting our dogs on social media too! If you are good with Twitter, Pinterest or Facebook, we would love your help!

