

## **Emmy's story**

*Many of us often believe that because a dog acts overly shy, it must have been abused.*

*As a shelter assistant worker, I too believed this to be the case until I met Emmy, a very shy unsocial Alaskan husky mix that came to our shelter at about 3-4 months old. Knowing her story, that she lived with her mother, and littermates below someone's house for the first few months of her life, with no human contact, I began to understand why she had NO need for people, she didn't understand them.*

*A couple of her littermates were quickly adopted, leaving only Emmy and her sister in the shelter. She and her sister would sit in the back of their large kennel at the shelter, and shy away, or run to the other side of the kennel when people approached. Needless to say, they didn't get many lookers with that reaction. It would take a lot of patience to help them learn to trust, learn to be a dog, and eventually a family pet.*

*After a few days, Emmy and her sister, who I only called "Sis" would allow us to come in and sit with them, they would approach very cautiously then run away. After a week of this with Emmy, she would finally come to sit in my lap, "Sis" never did, she would only sniff then run, and allow an occasional scratch of the ears. ("Sis" was taken in by Alaska Dog and Puppy Rescue, who puts puppies in foster homes to help them learn about family life.)*

*It has been almost a year now since we took Emmy home, she was to be the companion for Crosby, our dog who had just lost his buddy to cancer.*

*Crosby was excited to see Emmy, however Emmy was not sure about Crosby, she quickly hid under the table and would not come out the first night. By morning, she was a bit more curious and came out for a scratch, we attempted a short walk around our 5 acres, but each new "being" was a challenge. She would run from our cats, she wanted nothing to do with the horses in the paddock, and when a neighbor came over, she bolted to the woods.*

*As time went by she became more comfortable with her new home, and even became more aggressive in playing with Crosby, her mentor. I truly believe that having another dog was beneficial to her. They needed each other, Crosby needed a friend, and she needed a confidant. Everything he would do she would eventually do, like riding in the truck, I always thought every dog loves to ride in a truck, not Emmy! Go into the Animal Food Store, not Emmy! Go for a walk, not Emmy!*

*We have come a long way, but we still have to be patient with her, in new surroundings outside her home territory, and remember, her life began differently than most puppies.*



*Crosby and Emmy after about 2 days*



*Crosby and Emmy in the truck*