

# Willow

First conversations about Willow, before a foster commitment:

I am definitely thinking that having Willow might actually help me by entertaining Neko. Is she real excitable, or more playful with dogs, and calm with people? I love Husky's that talk. Neko is a Husky mix, but short haired, and long legged, and he doesn't talk. There is nothing that has made my life happier over the last few years than our fostering.

I'm also wondering how shy she is? We have had two Husky's, one was from Montana Creek, that I had to keep attached to a long leash in the backyard. That was the only way to get close to them, and get them into the house. They both warmed up to us in the house, and relaxed a lot, but it just took a lot for them to let someone touch them, and they wouldn't voluntarily get close. Once they were in the house, they seemed to enjoy attention, and I think having the other dogs close by reassured them. They both came a long way. The Montana Creek was pretty attached to us after 3 months, and I think would have stayed with us, but we never tested him. I'm hoping to someday see him on the trail!

Willow is really enjoying life except for our wanting to pet her. She is a little more willing to have Carl pet her than me. He spent more time with her at first. She is coming in the back door better, but gets a treat for it. She is really into all our dog routines; walks, treats, etc. I tried taking her skijoring by herself Saturday, and she was not so enthusiastic as when she is with Neko. I eventually turned around, and had to hook the lead to her collar to get her past a moose that was off the trail. She seemed kind of afraid of it. She is really into all our dog toys, the bones and rawhide chews. She acts interested in some of the others, but can't quite bring herself to try them.