

MIA'S STORY



WHEN THE URGENT PLEA WENT OUT FROM THE QUINTE HUMANE SOCIETY to save the life of this older, sad looking Chesapeake Bay Retriever, how could I resist. Something told me that this beautiful girl needed to be rescued and given another chance. After some coordinating, a transport was set to meet between Barry's Bay and Belleville.

As I laid my eyes on this sad dog, I knew that the drive was worth it. My daughter and I quickly named her Mama Mia, which turned out to be a very fitting name.

We arrived back at the cottage, were greeted by the pack and Mia started to show signs of life. Within 24 hours she showed us that not only was she very well mannered, but that she was determined to "save us" all from drowning. Her determination to bring us back to shore when we were out swimming was comical. After a few days her strength returned and her muscles started to sing with "puppy song."

This was no "old dog" as the pound had described, but a young girl (3 1/2 years), full of energy, happy and very loyal. Her relentless retrieving of sticks, balls, ropes, and kids from the lake was a sight to behold. Watching her made my heart soar.

Sadly on August 19th after complications developed following a routine spaying, Mama Mia passed away. Heroic efforts by Dr. Ann Rankin and her assistant Kim, Algonquin East Animal Clinic, were futile and Mia's heart failed. Post mortem investigation revealed the possibility of a hidden congenital defect or rat poison ingested weeks ago (possibly during her stay at Quinte), as the likely cause of death.

Mia was with us for 3 weeks. In that time she blossomed into the amazing dog she must have been, before she became a stray in Belleville. Our time was filled with action packed, doggy fun with a foster family that loved her dearly and a forever home that couldn't wait to meet her.

We are going to miss you Mama Mia and will think of you often. Our efforts to save a life, even if for such a short time, will continue. You are an example of the great joy that HART brings to so many beings; human and canine alike.

CHERYL ~ HART VOLUNTEER AND FOSTER PARENT