

Puppy Love

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Excitement was in the air on this day before Christmas. Laurie's excited children quickly got in the car, buckled their seatbelts and their mom drove away. Artie asked if they could stop by the mall and see Santa again. "No, not enough time," mom replied. "But if we get the Christmas party decoration home and put up in time, we may stop by Santa's Village." A few minutes later, Laurie noticed a car up ahead pull off the roadway, stop in the grass, and threw two objects onto the grass. As Laurie drove past the scene, the car sped off in the opposite direction. In the rearview mirror, Laurie noticed that the two discarded items were moving. The unidentified objects were actually two smaller sized dogs, one, a longer haired tan Yorkie mix and the other, a bit larger white mix.

"Mom!" Millie yelled, "there are two doggies back there." "I know" Laurie confirmed. "I don't have time to go back..." she paused for a moment. She knew she must go back and help them. By the time she got back, both dogs were wondering around in every direction. Cars were speeding by and within a split second one of the dogs was hit a glancing blow. Laura told Artie and Millie to stay in the car while she checked on the dogs.

Laurie approached the whimpering Yorkie lying in the grass. "Hi boy", she greeted the dog. The injured dog tried to get up but fell back down. Laurie knew they had to get



These beautiful siblings, Riley and Rocky, live in North Carolina with their amazing mom and dad.

the little dog to a vet. She scooped up the dog and returned to the car. "Look mom!" Artie noticed. "Another dog is coming up to the car." "Ummm..." she thought a moment, "we'll take this one too."

Minutes later they arrived at the closest vet office hoping they didn't close early for Christmas Eve. There was a light rain falling. Laurie hadn't noticed a car had pulled in right behind them. They entered the front door, and a few moments later a receptionist came out and asked how she could help them. Laurie explained that they had found this little dog on the road after it had been hit by a car. "I am so lucky you are still open," Laurie said gratefully. "Well, we were supposed to close about 30 minutes ago," the receptionist replied. "Oh, sorry we are keeping you," Laurie apologized. "Don't worry about it. The other staff has left for the day, so it's just me, the vet tech and the doctor," she said.

The receptionist took the little Yorkie into an examination room. The vet took a quick look at the little dog and decided to do x-rays and blood work right away. He explained he would give the little dog something for pain. The vet tech took the little dog to another back room. Laurie, Artie and Millie returned to the now empty waiting room where the second leashed dog Laurie rescued was patiently waiting.

"Well, we have some good news. It looks like he is going to be ok after some recovery time. He has a broken leg, an infection, and some bruising. Everything considered, he is one lucky dog," the vet explained. "We also checked for a microchip and there wasn't one." Unfortunately, this time of year a lot of people will dump their dogs around here," the vet sighed. "Yes," Laurie agreed, "we saw a car stop and throw him and another dog out of the car and leave." "I was afraid of that," the vet said shaking his head from side to side.

There was a brief moment of silence and everyone looked at each other. "Mom," both Artie and Millie asked almost in unison, "can we keep him?" Laurie thought for a moment, with reasons why they couldn't keep one or both dogs. "In the slight chance they are someone else's dogs that were stolen or picked up and dumped, you could foster them for a while and if no responsible owner is found then you could keep them or foster them until a new home or a rescue group could be found," the vet offered. "Please Mom," Millie asked. "Please, please, please. It could be our Christmas present," Artie added. "I guess we could keep them and see if the owner can be found," Laurie decided as she looked at Artie and Millie. "But if an owner shows up who is really missing them, they will have to go to that home, ok?" "All right," Artie replied. "It could be our Christmas present to them."

"We should call him Lucky," Millie offered. "Yes," Artie agreed, "and we could call the other doggie OK because he was ok when we found him." "Sounds great," the vet smiled. "We will check the other dog for a microchip and anything obvious. The Yorkie is bandaged up and we will send some meds home with him and instructions on how to care for him. You can bring him back in a couple of days for a follow-up."

Laurie smiled for a moment and then a reality check set in "I don't know how we are going to pay for all this," she thought to herself and frowned. She sat down and thought about how she doesn't have the money at the moment for all of this, especially considering what the bill was going to

be for the injured Yorkie. The receptionist was finishing up some paperwork as Laurie approached. "Ummm ..." she hesitated, "I was wondering about the bill for all of this ..."

"Oh, I completely forgot to tell you the receptionist interrupted, "that man that came in after you has paid for everything including the follow-ups." "What?" Laurie asked, confused. "I don't understand." "He said that his dog was hit by a car on Christmas Eve a few years ago and nobody stopped to help him," the receptionist explained. "The poor dog ran out the front door when someone had broken in to their house. Hours later, he found his dog beside the road, still barely alive. He brought him in here, but too much time had passed and his dog passed away moments after they arrived. In fact, he told me today that the spot where you rescued this dog from is just a few feet away from where his dog was hit. Every Christmas Eve afternoon he revisits that spot to put a flower beside the road where his dog was hit. He was on his way to do that when he saw you pick up the injured Yorkie, but you left before he could catch up to you."

"Wow, I don't know what to say," Laurie sighed. "When he left," the receptionist added, "he said simply to tell you Merry Christmas." Moments later, the bandaged Yorkie and the second rescued dog appeared, ready to go home. The vet tech explained the medications and went over the care instructions for the Yorkie. "See you next time for your follow-up," the receptionist said. "Merry Christmas." "Thank you so much," Laurie said gratefully. "Merry Christmas to you too."

"All right guys, are we ready to go home?" Laurie asked Artie, Millie, and the two dogs, Lucky and OK. Everyone headed out the front door. The rain had stopped and the skies cleared. When they reached the car, Artie looked up and smiled. "Look Mom," he said excited, "there's a rainbow!" "Wow," Millie delighted, "that is a big rainbow." "Yes, it is," Laurie said in wonderment. "I'm thinking that Rainbow up there is for that kind man who paid for our doggies care..." Laurie paused a moment and then smiled.

Adapted from *Lucky Rescue* by RL Williams

