



We first met Rain this past spring and immediately fell in love. No More Homeless Pets KC found Rain unhealthy, malnourished, and chained in an individual's backyard. Kudos to NMHPKC for providing Rain with her first temporary home! NMHPKC nursed her to health and gave her lots of love and attention. Several months later Rain came to live with us, her second temporary home.

The only information that we and NMHPKC could gather about Rain was her age (9 years) and her immediate living conditions. Despite this lack of knowledge we knew that she could eventually be happy and polite living in a home. We made it our mission to begin the process of teaching her how to do so. We began teaching, and continue to teach her, to perform reliable sit, down, stay, leave it, and wait commands. She also walks comfortably on a leash. Rain currently does this obedience around our pets (dogs, cat, and rats!). We've also taken her in public to work on the behaviors she has learned. Rain enjoys walks around the neighborhood, checking out dogs and strangers along the way.

Unfortunately, due to Rain's previous experiences or lack thereof, Rain may never be reliable off leash around other dogs, cats, or small children, (although the later has not been tested.) However, Rain does reliably do all of the obedience and even seems to enjoy doing the obedience around dogs, cats, and strangers. This is likely due to the methods we have used to train Rain. Certainly, the use of intimidation and aversive procedures would not improve matters. Instead, we continue to try to make experiences with dogs, cats, and children pleasant each day and each day we see improvement.

While Rain may not be great in a home with cats and small children, she would flourish in a home of adults or one of adults and older children. Whoever found it in their heart to give Rain a third, this time permanent home, should expect to give her a structured, consistent environment and most of all lots of belly rubs! In return this lucky person or family should expect to receive a happy, wiggly, snuggly forever friend. Rain has a way of exuding such a positive, new, and enlightened sense of energy despite the horrific life we, as humans, gave her the first years of her life. We look at her every day and see how an individual can find peace and love in their hearts no matter what the world has dealt them. She is an inspiration for us all.

Sincerely,

Sean Savage, BS, CDBC, CPDT and Kristyn Savage, BS, CPDT
www.caninecurriculum.com