

FROM STREETS TO TREATS A DOG STORY

Written by Bel Richardson

Why is phonics important to learn?

The English language seems like it is full of a lot of crazy pronunciations and spelling. While a small amount of English must be rote learned due to exceptions from rules, much of it can be decoded using phonics. When you know phonics, you are like a detective following clues to solve a mystery. In this series, we use only words that your little reader will be able to break down into standard phonemes. This will build reading confidence while strengthening their phonics foundation.

Is this the right level for my little reader?

If your reader can decode about 90% of the words in this book independently, this will be an appropriate platform to begin their study of phonics. By understanding a majority of the words, a reader can use context to decode new terms. If a reader breezes through, you might need to take them up another level. If this level is still a bit too tricky for them, get your reader to try some of the earlier levels first. Challenges can be good, but too much too quickly could overwhelm your reader. Take things slow and steady. Enjoy the books and the journey together!

How can I be a good learning buddy for my reader?

If you are helping somebody to read this book, there are plenty of ways that you can go about it. Do the initial exercises together before you begin to read so that you have both experienced the isolated sounds and discussed them. If the reader gets stuck, cover up all but the first phoneme in the word so that the sound can be isolated again. Slowly move along and reveal more phonemes. Once they can say each individual part of the word, you can focus on blending. Say the words so that they can hear them, and get them to repeat it out aloud several times. To consolidate knowledge after you finish a page, talk about what happened and what is in the picture. Then, try saying some of the words on the page and see if the reader can identify them. Get the reader doing this as well, saying words which you need to find. Above all, you should be patient. Create a safe place to make mistakes so that the reader is willing to give things a go.

Special Words

This book has some special words that you should take your reader through before you begin. Many special words are those that we use in day-to-day conversation. Unfortunately, a lot of their phonetic structures do not conform to rules that your reader has learned. These words can be frustrating and confusing, but they are also a part of natural reading, writing, and conversation.

**the, to, so, has, of, love, we, months, she, do, some, put, me, be, learned,
people, anymore, healthy, words, come**

Say each word to your reader a few times so that they can get used to its sound. Get them to repeat it back to you. Afterwards, see if your reader can think of any words that rhyme with this sound in order to help lock in how to pronounce it. Finally, think of some basic sentences that use this word. For example, if the word is 'the' you can create basic sentences with a subject, verb, and object: "The hat is on the table."



My name is Bel. This is my dog, Laika. I named her after the first animal in orbit.



The Laika that went to space came from the street. So did my dog.



Now, Laika has toys, nice food, and a lot of love. It was not always like that for her.

We got Laika at a few months old. Up until then, she was a street dog.

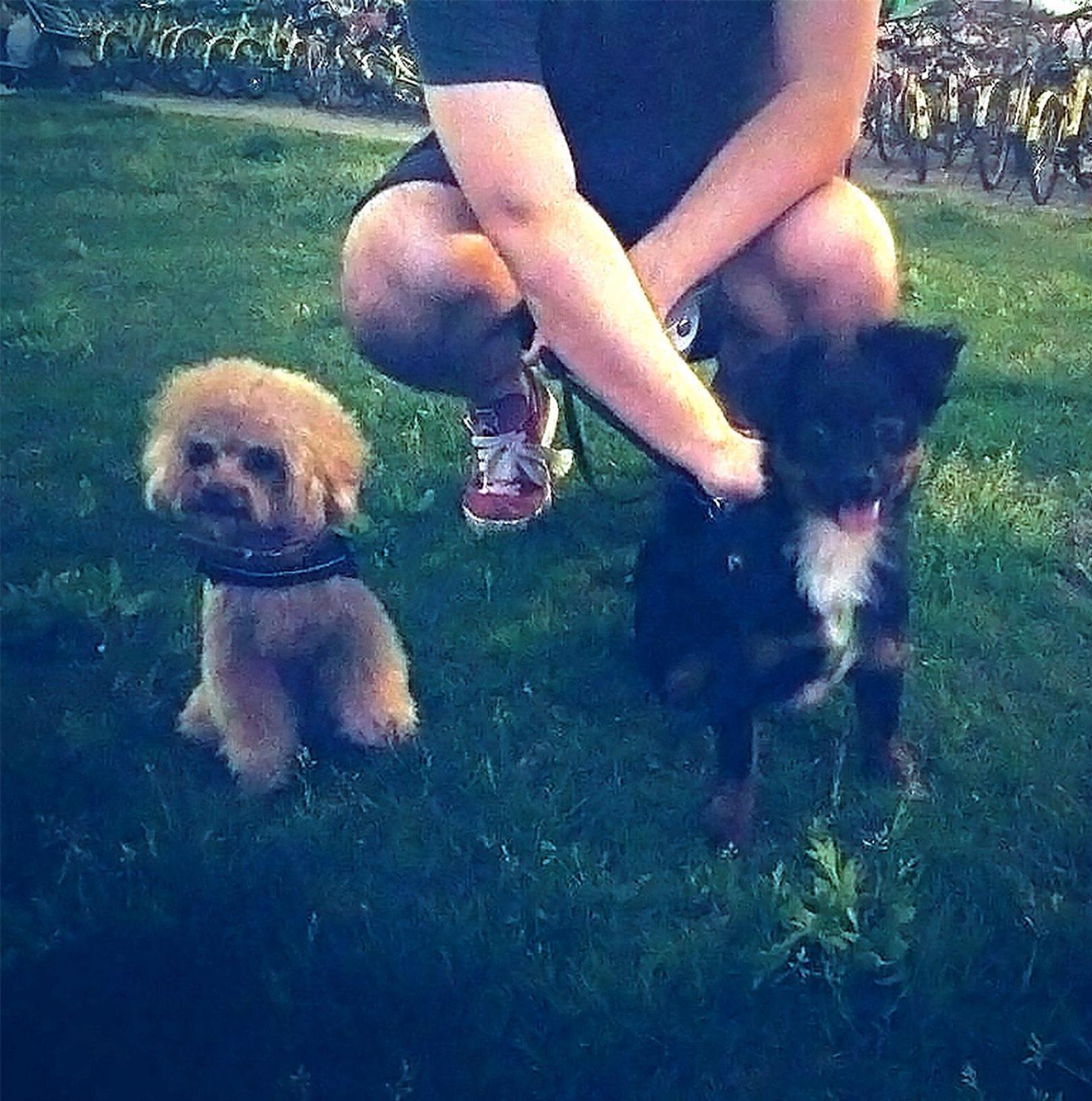




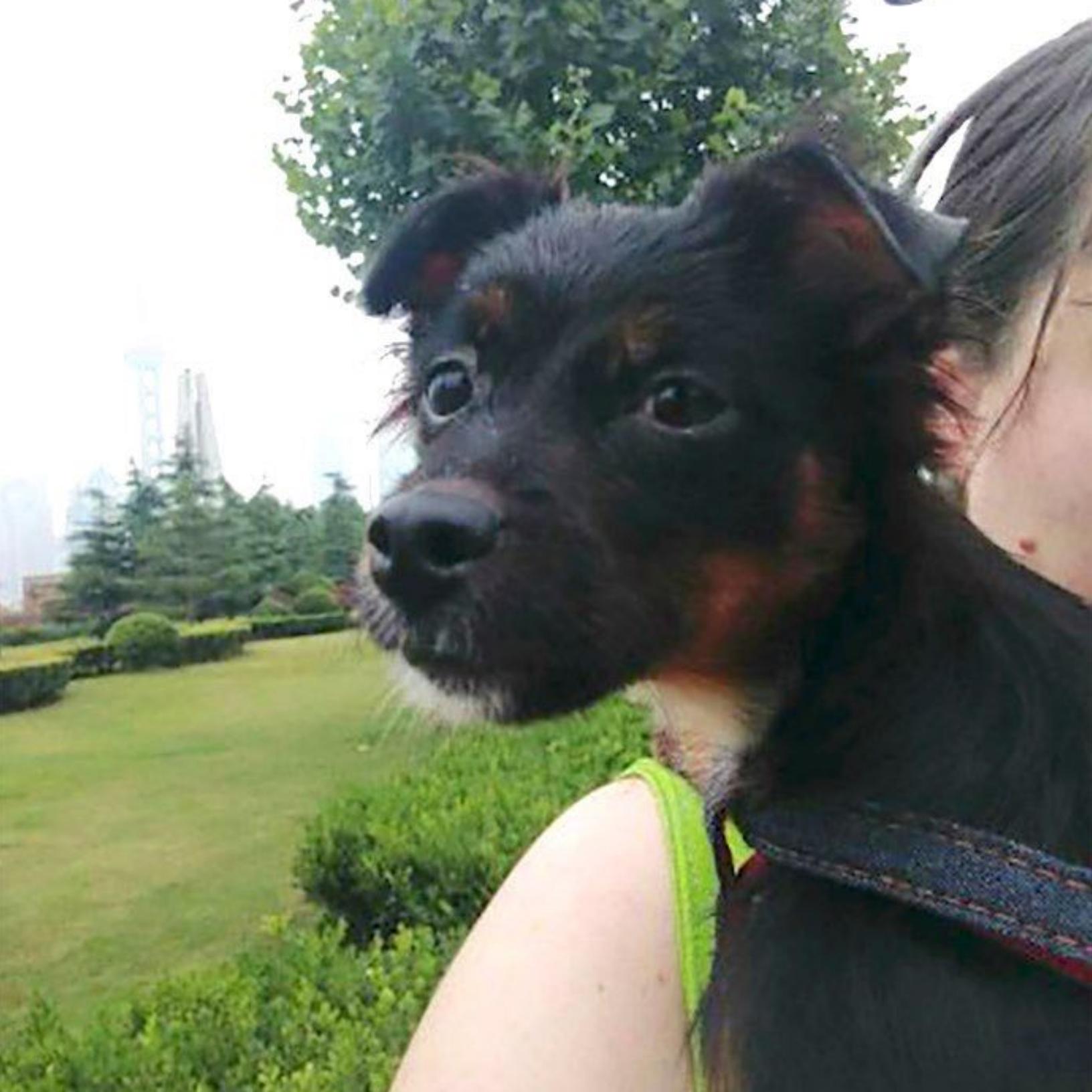
Street dogs do not have a place to stay. Street dogs do not have toys, nice food or a lot of love. It is a hard life as a street dog.



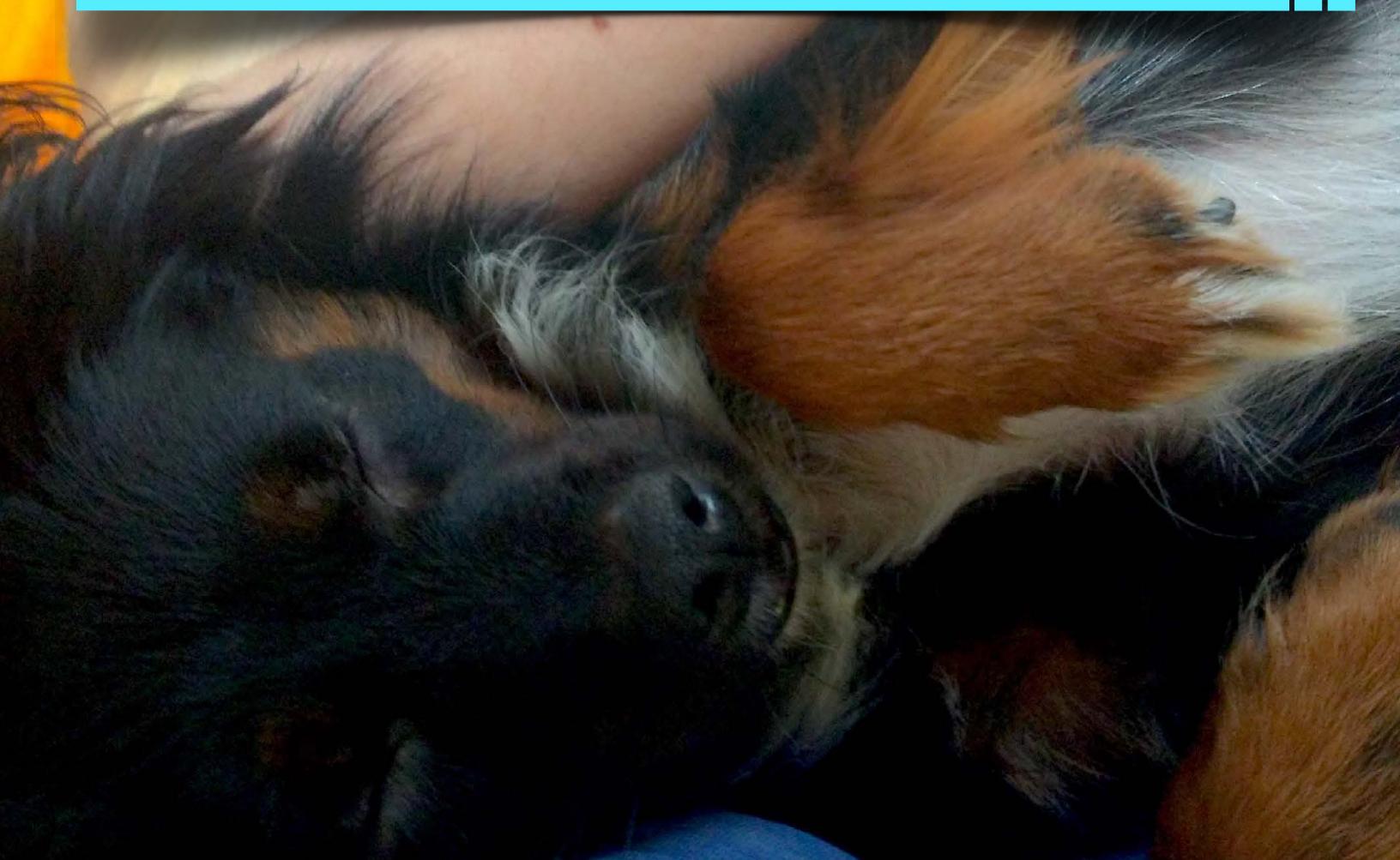
A man found Laika on a street. This man looks for homes for street animals. Some homes are for a little while. Some homes are for good.

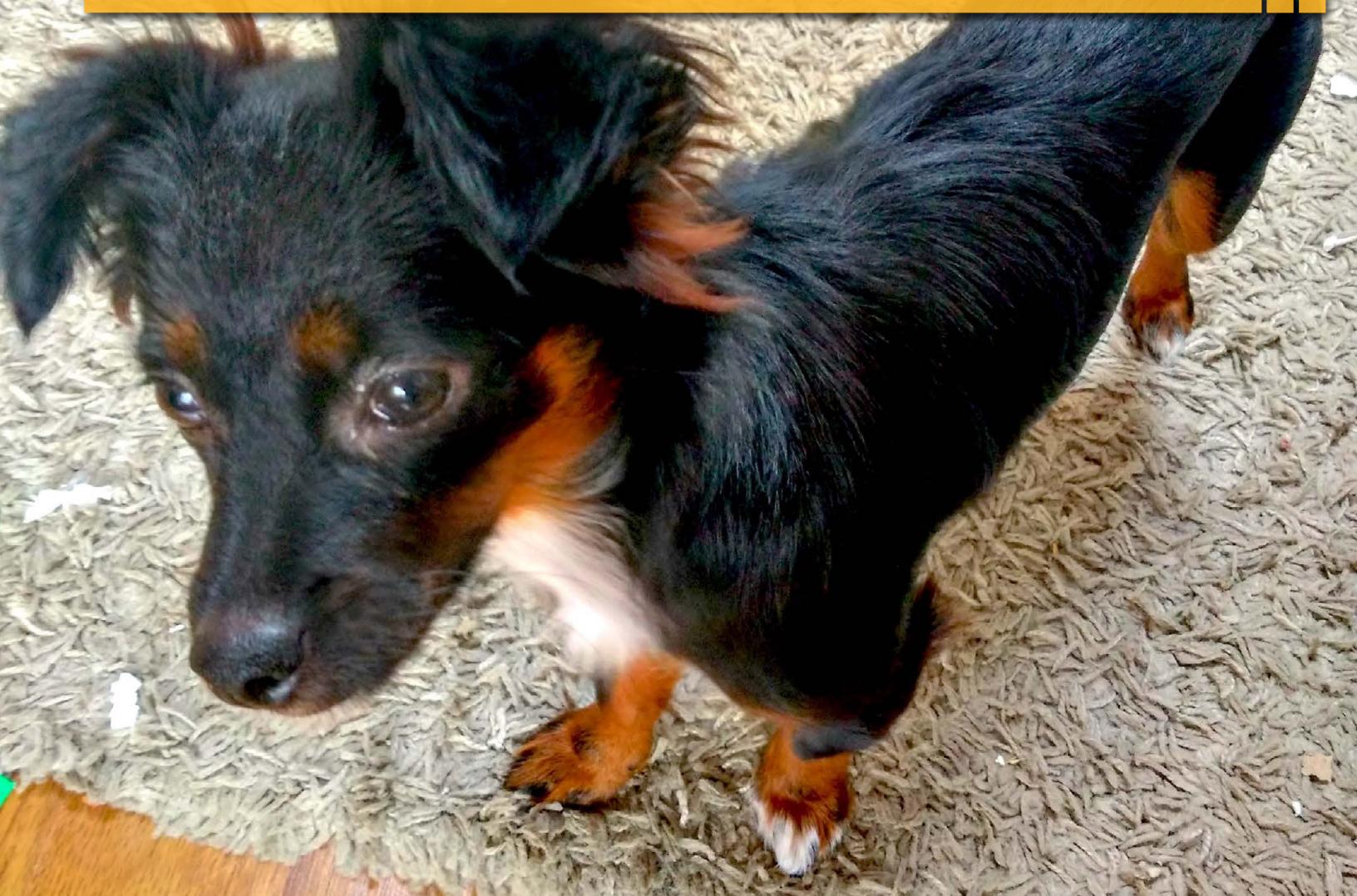


I wanted to look after a dog. I wanted to just look after a dog for a little while until the man found a home for her for good.



The man put her in my arms. Right away, Laika licked my face and gave me a big, puppy smile. I did not want us to be together for a little while. I wanted us to be together for good.





At first, Laika needed a lot of care.
She was very skinny. She was missing
fur in places from stress. She drank
everything and peed everywhere!





Laika started to trust us very quickly. She ate good food and slowly grew back her fur.



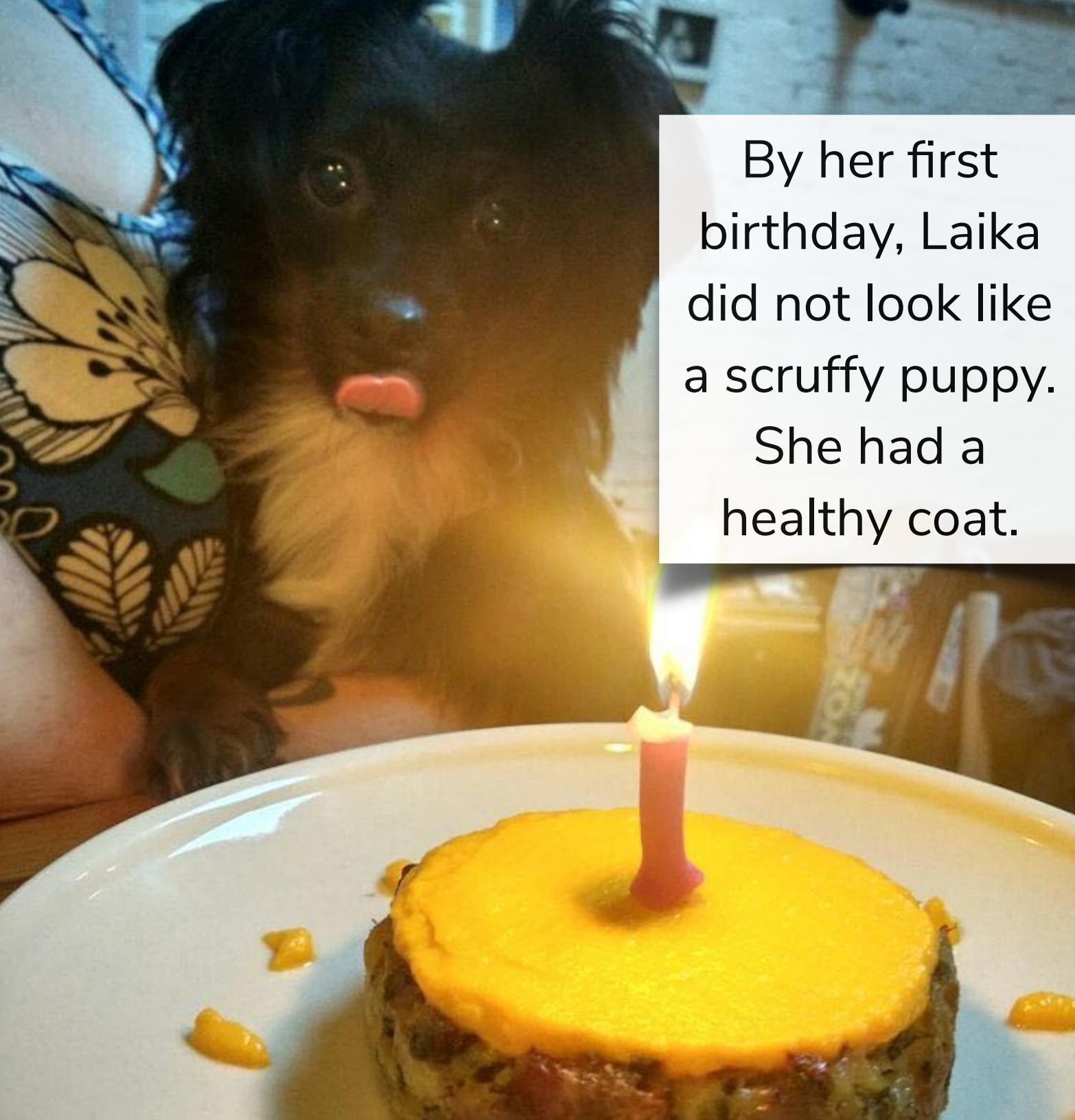
She loved to play. She loved tug-o-war very much. She took her best toy Sneaky Squirrel all over our house.

Laika learned how to act around new people and dogs. She learned to sit, stay, and how to cross the road.





She learned how to do
dog puzzles to get treats!
She was a big fan of treats.

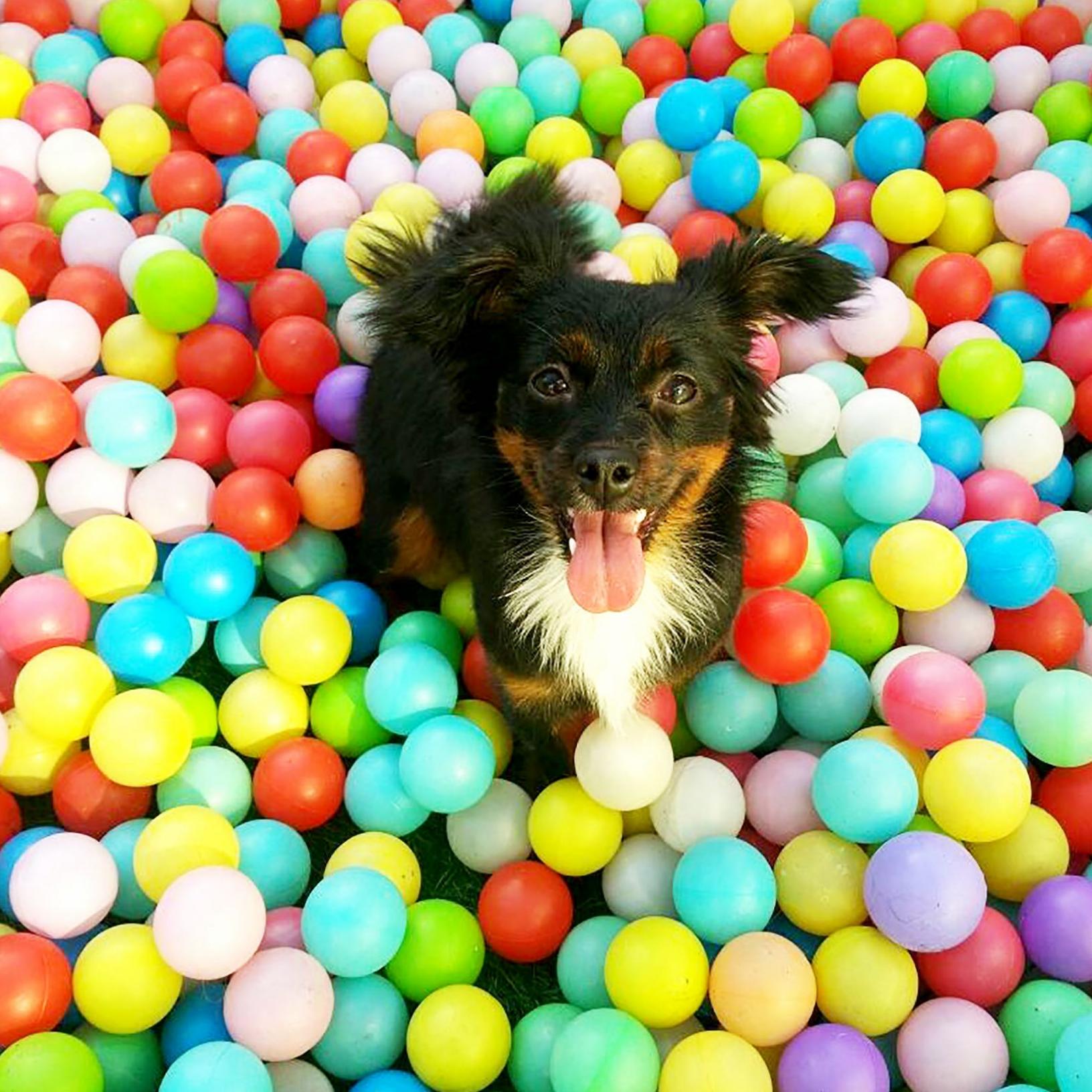


By her first
birthday, Laika
did not look like
a scruffy puppy.
She had a
healthy coat.



She had learned the
meanings of some words like,
'walk', 'treat', and 'good girl'.

Now, Laika is a very happy puppy.
She has come a long way from a
street dog. It is fantastic to see what
love and care can do for an animal.





I'M FREE! HERE'S HOW...

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