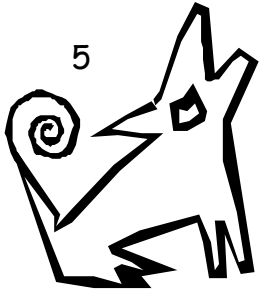


THE TAIL OF NATASHA



Hi name is Natasha. I adopted my family about ten years ago after they saw some of my "cousins" at a home and garden show in Denver. A friend of my

adopted family, Joan, had recently lost her companion, so my family decided she needed to see these "cute dogs". So they called Eileen Gregory and went to Payton to see us. Joan fell in love with the Klee Kai and got one of my cousins. was still too young to be adopted, a second trip was necessary to pick up Kipnik. When Joan and my family went to pick up Kipnik, I had just arrived from Alaska. I turned on my charm, laid my head on their shoulders, showed them my one blue eye and one brown eye, and in general won their hearts by looking so sweet. Did I fool them; I'm really an IMP! But, I thought they were up to the task of handling me so I allowed them to adopt me.

When I arrived to my new home in Denver, I learned that my new household already had 2 dogs and 2 cats. At first, I was kind of scared of all my new brothers and sister. One dog was BIG, a Great Pyrenees-Golden mix named Toque who weighed 90 pounds, and the other dog was a Sheltie named Chip. The 2 cats were named Shadow and Samantha. I soon became very happy with my family. When I was really small, one of the jobs I took on with much gusto was cleaning Toque's ears and mouth. It was so much fun sticking my head clear into his mouth to get the job done. I think my family was sometimes worried because I would stick it in too far. Sometimes, I could get Chip help me clean Toque's ears. I would be on one side and he would be on the other. I liked this because I would get done faster! I also taught Chip a chase game. We would run through the house at top speed. We go so fast, we would lose track of who was the "chaser" and who was the "chasee". It was great fun and it made my mothers laugh. I wasn't sure what to do with the cats, so I ignored Samantha because she was a bit too arrogant for my liking. But, Shadow, I would drag him around by the scruff of the neck. Don't worry, I never hurt him. This was fun for a while until I got tired of this because Shadow would just let me drag him and then he would just get up, shake his fur, and saunter off. I wasn't scaring him a bit! Darn!

Sadly, over time my family changed. First the BIG dog went to the dog doctor

and never came back. Next, Kipnik's mother died of breast cancer. It seems that my family and Joan had decided that when Kip's mother died, she would come to live with us. I liked that idea. Kip had visited us a lot and I liked her. Then, my chase partner, Chip, left us too. Eventually, so did Shadow, the cat. I miss them all, including aunt Joan.

My family now consists of me, Kipnik, Samantha and of course my adopted parents. Kipnik is more sociable and friendly towards people than I am. I am friendly, but only after I get to know someone. However, I talk to everyone. So, Kip will let you pet her and I will carry on a "conversation". My favorite pastime is to lay in the bay window in the front room and survey my neighborhood and bark at any dog that ventures into my territory. On the other hand, Kip's favorite pastime is to keep the squirrels out of the backyard. My family feeds the birds, so the squirrels try to get their food. Kip is the bird's best friend by chasing off these pesky squirrels. This seems to be a never ending job and much too much work for me. I only occasionally will help Kip. A couple times, together we have been quick enough to catch a squirrel. My family has not been very happy when this happened, especially the time I brought it into the house! I have been unable to teach Kip the chase game, so sometimes I will just run through the house by myself and sometimes one of my mom's will chase me.

Kip's new family was an adjustment for her. She was used to living in a condo with no yard, being walked in the park, and having access to food all day. Since she became a part of my family, she has access to a doggie door, doesn't need to be walked so often, and she only eats at meal time. If there is any food available, I will eat it, so my family doesn't leave any food out. Kip was also very possessive of her mother, Joan, since she was the only dog in the household, but there was a cat. So, when she came to live with us, she tried to become possessive of my family. I didn't think that this was nice. She wouldn't even let me into the bedroom at night. I knew this wasn't right, so my family would make Kip let me into the bedroom and to get on the bed. Soon Kip learned that this was OK so now we sleep side-by-side on the bed.

In the last couple of years, Kip has lost a lot of her hair. She doesn't feel bad but she really looks funny. My family was not happy because Kip had beautiful soft hair. So they took her to

the doctor and had many tests done. After spending A LOT of money, they found out that her adrenal glands were overactive. She now takes Melatonin and Amitriptyline and her hair is slowly growing back. However, she still looks like a little waif that nobody cares about. But I know this isn't true because my family cares about all of us very much. ** Update 10-19-06 ~ Despite having to stop the treatment as it was damaging her liver, her hair is finally growing back in for unknown reasons.

I like my adopted family and am very happy, and I know that Kipnik would say the same thing. Samantha, the cat, would also be in agreement if she weren't such a twit. But you know, some days even she lets me clear her ears.

Life is good.

Sandra
Berry and
Rebecca
Sloan
Members
Since



August 1996

Published in the December 2003
AKKAOA NL
Reprint permission granted on 10-19-
2006

AKKAOA © 2006