

# Our Two New Best Friends

These days everyone knows of a person who came down the escalator to announce his candidacy for President of the United States, but our two best friends came down the escalator at Raleigh Durham Airport on February 5, 2024. They are less controversial, and I am sure they will be our best friends for life. Now, to tell you how this all came about.

Our daughter who lives in Williamsburg, Virginia was talking with a neighbor. He mentioned his daughter (Wendy) is always busy working on her farm in San Juan, Port Rico. She has a love for animals, especially if they are homeless. Along with her ten dogs, Wendy has a son she home schools and allows her ten dogs who are of various sizes from eight to forty pounds run freely on the twenty-acre farm. Her Dad knew Wendy wanted to find loving homes for these animals because they all needed attention and love. This immediately sparked our daughter's interest, and she phoned us and asked if we would be interested in a dog because she knew we had been looking for a small dog for a long time. We immediately said "yes" but was not clear how this could happened with us living in Goldsboro, North Caroline. At the last minute, Wendy asked if we would take two dogs because they were brother and sister and extremely attached? We took about two minutes to say yes after all there were two of us and that would mean we each would have a dog to love.

So, on February 5, 2024, a husband and his wife came down the airport escalator each carrying a small maltase dog. The couple had volunteered to bring the dogs from San Juan

to Raleigh on their return trip home to Cary. Unbeknown to us, Jet Blue Airlines has a program called "Flight Angels" that provides free air travel for animals that can be placed under your seat.

From that moment. I believe my husband and I have had a much fuller life. As you age and you are confronted with your friends moving away to be closer to family, moving into assisted living or even passing away, a small part of your life is affected, and it is not always easy. These two dogs have filled that void in so many ways. After we knew we were truly going to have two dogs, we went shopping for a dog house (not just any ordinary house but one that would match the wood tables in our living room and look like a piece of furniture), food, dog bowls, shampoo, wipes for cleaning their eyes, dog beds, and I even knitted Afghan's (one pink and one blue) for each dog. **We were ready!** Now to tell you about our two best friends.

Osa is eight pounds of joy. Any time you come home she will be at the door waiting for you. She will be on three legs and the other leg will be waving at you as she jumps around so excited to see you. One would think we had been gone all day when we were gone 30 minutes. She has a small whine that tells you to hurry up and get her food in her bowl. She sits in the sink when she is having a bath with her brown eyes fixed on you that say, "when will this be over?". Around nine at night she will lay on her blanket in the TV room with her head on a pillow, she is often propping her head up when she sleeps and one eye trained on you so she will know when you are ready, she will be two step behind you ready to follow you. Probably not a surprise, she has a wardrobe that has a hooded parka for cold weather, a turtleneck sweater for those windy days, a raincoat, and heavy wool jacket all which she

does not like to wear. She is feminine all the way running after her brother and playing catch me if you can. She gives unconditional love.

Now Chewy is very different. He is ten pounds and very quiet and laid back. He is the protector of his sister. When he spots a stranger, you would think he was a 50 pound bulldog. Ready always to keep his sister safe and even let's her eat from his bowl. He is afraid of the dark and stairs at times or maybe he knows I will pick him up and carry him up or down the stairs. He loves to sleep and many times you will find him building a nest. He takes his front paws and fluffs the blanket to make his nest for sleeping. When he first came to our home, he slept every night in the expensive doghouse because he felt safe. After nine months he started to sleep with his sister at the bottom of our bed feeling safe and secure. He is the first one up in the morning full of pep and energy that lasts about an hour. He likes the outdoors and has taught himself how to walk along the bricks that outlines the flower beds. He gives us love and makes our life so rich with his easy-going ways. His love is never ending.

I can remember thinking to myself, how can people talk so much about their pet? Well, my opinion has changed on that issue, when Osa and Chewy came down the escalator it changed our lives forever. We often talk about our companions any time someone listens. Our two new friends changed our lives and made us feel loved, valued, and important every day.