

## A Note About Navajo

The most recent addition to our family of twenty-two rescue canines is Navajo, a magnificent black & sable ambassador of the breed weighing in at about 67 pounds. Yes, he is rather a small and petite representative of his breed. But his small stature belies his robust and powerful nature and charisma.. . He is a perfect example of his breed. He is built to endure –and to work hard.. He is extremely clever, intelligent and resourceful. He is a thinking dog and analyses the circumstances in which he finds himself. He also has a wonderful sense of humor. Good-natured, happy-go-lucky, he makes me laugh every day. Chasing and catching mallards, geese, herons and egrets in our pond along with the gophers, squirrels and rabbits on our property pose unique challenges for and require much ingenuity on the part for this working dog who once lived in a zero lot line back yard and has spent many years in and out of the SPCA in Houston because his owners would not or could not interact with him and kept him tethered in their yard all alone and without any stimulation. When Navajo consistently found a way to escape from his bleak existence, he did. Navajo comes from Animal Control in South Pasadena, Texas, the SPCA, and via Texas Alaskan Malamute Rescue Association in Houston, Texas. He was a dog that had originally been adopted from the SPCA and left to live outdoors alone in his tiny back yard.

I cannot understand how people fail to recognize the power and intelligence of these "working" dogs and not recognize how childlike, curious, inquisitive and intelligent they are. They easily grow bored and become unintentionally destructive when they are left all alone without attention, stimulation or interaction – especially in a small back yard unattended. Talk about a latch-key child! These are essentially latch key dogs. They simply should not be adopted to those unversed, unaware and unfamiliar with their intelligence, need for social interaction, need to work and exercise, cleverness and resilience. They require affection, attention and direction. They want and need to play with and please their human guardians. Navajo, like other Alaskan Malamutes is very intelligent, highly intuitive and independent.

He is magnificent in soul and spirit. As he is physically beautiful he, like a magnet, attracts the attention and admiration of numerous people wherever he goes. He has accompanied us to many places including the local outdoor malls and such stores as PetSmart and Petco where pets are welcome as “shoppers” and guests. He is well-mannered, gentle, quiet and well behaved. He craves affection and loves being a member of our family. He is a social creature who loves everyone he knows and meets. We are so happy to have him daily in our midst. His presences truly enrich our lives! I'll continue to keep you posted as to his progress!