

LUDDY (AKA LUDLOW)

Luddy vom Beeblehof is a handsome, healthy male Dachshund who benignly and benevolently rules not only over our large dogs, but also in fact, over our entire family. He is a small standard sized Dachshund weighing in at about 19 pounds. His coat glistens, and his eyes twinkle. He constantly vocalizes and expresses his views on just about any person or subject, and he is VERY opinionated! He loves life and is absolutely fearless. Well, maybe not absolutely fearless. He fears only one human being – our veterinarian (well, actually ANY veterinarian!) He loudly expresses his profound distress and despair over any contact with a vet. He loves to play, and he thoroughly enjoys his meals. Most of all, he loves being the center of attention. He is at the center of his universe and views life accordingly. However, life for little Luddy wasn't always this good!

We don't really know where Luddy began his life. When we learned of his plight, Luddy was about one and a half years old. He was an emaciated and extremely frail black and tan Dachshund who had been surrendered to a local Shelter. He was heartworm positive, had a severely fractured left hind leg, and a number of other health issues. In spite of the fact that he received instant as well as constant medical attention, his leg never healed properly and he basically walks on three legs.) Although it was highly improbable that this little dog would get adopted, several members of the Shelter staff fell in love with him and did their best to hide him in a special area so that he would not be euthanized. I am still not quite sure why they loved Luddy so much, nor do I understand what exactly makes Luddy so special, endearing and lovable, but he is. Luddy was in desperate need of help. The Shelter workers thought so, and so did I.

When my friend and colleague, Lou, called me to ask me if I could possibly adopt Luddy, she was sobbing. She knew he would be put to sleep. He was already living on borrowed time. I agreed to take him in, and she delivered him to Norm and me. He was the funniest looking dog I have ever seen, but so sweet and fragile as he shivered in Lou's arms. Norm and I fell in love with him, and have never regretted our decision to adopt him – not even for a millisecond.

The other dogs in his group accepted Luddy immediately. Because of his size and personality, they treated him as they would have treated a puppy. He was friendly, good-natured and eager to please. He was confident and had high self-esteem from the get-go. His ego has only grown increasingly powerful as the years have passed. He loves all the dogs and every human being he has met to date. He is pampered and adored and is thoroughly enjoying his life as the male companion to our female Dachshunds. Most recently, he is reveling in his new role as "Dad" to our new mini-Dachshund, Oliver.