

## Ludlow “Luddy” vom Beeblehof

Some of you may recall how Luddy the male standard Dachshund came into my life. He was such a pitiful and tragic little creature. He had been hit by a car or truck. He had a broken left hind leg, that could not be surgically repaired,. He was emaciated, heartworm positive and had many other health issues including allergies and a skin disease. In short, he was a mess. But, somehow, the people at the Animal Shelter fell in love with him and did everything in their power to save the 14-pound little black and tan Dachshund, from being euthanised. Workers took elaborate measures to ensure his safety and survival and prevent him from being gassed to death. There is something about Luddy – he is so vulnerable and full of love. Everyone is somehow drawn to him . He has a certain charisma. He is also uncannily manipulative and wily. The Shelter workers desperately wanted to see him adopted into a forever home.

Well, my friend Lou, now infamous for doing “whatever it takes” to save an animal’s life begged me to adopt the little Dachshund. I will never forget meeting him. He was so funny looking (homely?) and shaking in terror in Lou’s arms. He had suffered greatly and had no idea what was in store for him. Lou handed him to me, and I just held the little guy in my arms, speaking to him softly and gently. He shook for a little while longer and finally calmed down. We looked into each other’s eyes – and bonded. I could not help but love him!

Lou and I introduced him to our other Dachshunds, Phoebe and Coco. We let them out together in the backyard – Luddy on a leash. They became fast friends. Then I introduced him to the other “big” dogs – all of which sniffed him and seemed to regard him as no threat at all to their pack “hierarchy. They seemed to accept him as they would a “puppy” even though Luddy was probably about two years old. Luddy slept with us and the other “bedroom” dogs and adjusted rapidly and easily. In fact, it was not long at all until he asserted his authority and “took charge.

Luddy has a powerful presence and voice literally and figuratively. For a small dog, he is very dynamic and magnetic. The female Dachshunds adore him – as do we. Oscar and Oliver look to Luddy as a father figure. Actually, they worship him.

Luddy is in and out of mischief on a regular basis. He loves to chase squirrels which are of about equal in size to him. He is very well socialized and acclimated to people. He loves going for walks and rides in the car with his family. All of his walks and rides are preceded by a happy, resounding howl, which sounds very similar to the crowing of a rooster.

Luddy has come a long way from those bleak, frightening, and painful days at the Shelter. He sleeps on our California King Size bed surrounded by soft pillows, receives regular grooming, never ending playtime, constant companionship by humans and his

canine siblings, exercise and swim time in his back yard and pond (shallow end only!). and sunning himself. His new life is spent in well-earned peace and happiness. He is surrounded by love and lives in well-deserved joy.