

Reggie

When we first moved from Ann Arbor, Michigan to New York City, we had no pets other than five parakeets. The apartment to which we moved in the city did not allow pets.

Within a year of our relocation, we moved to an apartment in the Turtle Bay area of New York that permitted its tenants to have pets including cats and dogs. We were thrilled. We adopted our first dog, a large Yorkshire Terrier named Jasper. Jasper was a puppy mill dog that had been surrendered by his owners to a pet shop in the hope that they would be able to find a home for him. We felt sorry for the boy and adopted him. He was large boned and overweight, but we embraced him and welcomed him into our home. We provided him with loving care, exercise and regular veterinary visits. He lost weight and was healthy and happy living with us in New York.

We loved our Jasper, but we both worked long hours and would arrive home only to find him sleeping by our front door as though he had spent his entire day waiting for us to come home. We knew he was lonely and missed us. We made the decision to try and find a dog that would be a compatible friend, playmate and sibling to him. We found Reggie, also a puppy mill dog that was frail, undersized and had various health issues that needed to be addressed.

Reggie had never been properly cared for by his previous owners, and his teeth and gums were in terrible condition. We concentrated on his dental care and oral hygiene. We socialized and obedience trained both of our Yorkies. They became very well behaved and attached to one another. We took them with us everywhere as they were so small and sociable, and they were easily transportable.

We walked our little Yorkies in our neighborhood by the United Nations and all over New York throughout the seasons. We thoroughly enjoyed our walks and time together. We loved that Jasper and Reggie got along so well together and kept each other happy while we were away at work. They also loved traveling and accompanying us on errands.

We made frequent weekend car trips to New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New England. The little dogs went everywhere we could take them with us. We so enjoyed their friendship, loyalty and companionship. They truly enriched our lives. We also met and befriended many other fellow dog and/or animal lovers during our walks through the city and Central Park.

Jasper and Reggie were the first dogs we enjoyed and experienced in our lives as a married couple. We cherished each of the special days we shared with one another. Through our relationship with them, we learned so much about commitment, responsibility, caring for and respecting other living creatures. They lived with us in New York and moved with us to our new home in Los Angeles in 1979.