

## The One & Only Oscar Willie Wilde

There will never be another like him. There may be others who look somewhat like him. But my little Tweenie Dachshund, Oscar Willie Wilde is a nonpareil. He is unparalleled in the amount of sweet love and affection he displays toward people and other animals. He is feisty and friendly at the same time. He loves any kind of game and is highly intelligent and intuitive. A red doxie with black shading, he has a winning combination of sweetness, moxie and good manners. Yes, he is a “licker”, but that adds to his charm and appeal. He is very playful and trusting and just a tad insecure.

When I first met Oscar, he seemed a fairly “ordinary” little doxie man. He was about three years old and had been surrendered by his family for some reason we have yet to comprehend. He was frail and frightened and unsure of himself. His eyes were dull and sad. Why had he been deserted by his family? I will probably never know the answer to this question. I do know that Oscar was shy and frightened at the Shelter where his owners had surrendered him. He looked at all potential adopters as friends, but it was clear he was waiting to be reclaimed by his real family. Many months after we adopted him, I do believe – as happy as he is – that Oscar longs to be reunited with his other family.

That Oscar is an angel I have no doubt. There is not a fiber of malice or ill will in his entire being. He brings joy (and his multitude of squeaky toys and balls) to everyone with whom he comes into contact. If he is for any reason, frightened or intimidated, he simply rolls over in submission and pleads with his eyes for a gentle and sympathetic petting of his belly.

Much of the sadness has gone from Oscar’s eyes. Whereas they were listless and lifeless, they now sparkle with life and merriment. He is remarkably happy and well-adjusted to his canine siblings – large and small. He chases squirrels, ducks, geese, turtles, frogs and other critters with great energy and enthusiasm. I have personally witnessed him climb trees in pursuit of a squirrel. He is wily, persistent, strong and agile considering his small size and diminutive stature.

Oscar is best friends with Oliver (our chocolate and tan mini-Dachshund). The two share a unique bond (besides their size and similar coloration). They retrieve sticks, Frisbees and balls together without every fighting. They huddle and cuddle together. They sleep entwined in a small Dachshund fur ball in our bed. The “hang out” together and are inseparable.

Oliver and Oscar will be taking their Animal Assisted Therapy test so that they can become certified by the Delta Society and become “official” AAT dogs. They are beautiful, gentle, loving, playful and well-behaved. I can’t imagine more wonderful Therapy Dogs. What a team they’ll make visiting patients in hospitals and Hospice Care Centers, working with special needs children and adults- in short, bringing comfort, pleasure and healing to those in need of help!