

Hope brings joy at holidays with Paws 4 You adoption

By: CHARLOTTE MILLER
cmiller@islandernews.com

There was a void in the Rombeiro family. Their dog of 12 years had died from bone cancer and the whole family missed her. Lexie had been a part of their lives, there when Kelli, 7, and Katie, 10, had been born. Twelve years was a lifetime for the Rombeiro girls.

"We missed Lexie, but after a while, it got to the point that we were ready to bring a dog back into our family," said Lori Rombeiro.

Having lived on Key Biscayne, they were familiar with Chris Mack, board member of the Paws 4 You Rescue organization, and the www.paws4you.org website.

Paws 4 You Rescue is a non profit, all-volunteer organization that rescues sick, injured, lost or abandoned dogs from being euthanized. The organization gives animals a safe environment and professional medical care and offers adoption services. Once Paws 4 You Rescue commits to helping an animal, volunteers seek the best quality treatment available. Dogs stay at veterinary clinics, boarding facilities and foster homes until they are ready for adoption.

In addition to over-viewing the organization, the Paws 4 You website profiles adoptable dogs. Mack and other volunteers also bring adoptable dogs to the PetSmart store across from the Falls Shopping Center in South Miami.

When the Rombeiro family began to think seriously about adoption, they started visiting www.paws4you.org, which kept bringing their attention to one dog in particular – a 3-year-old beagle the rescue had named Daisy. And one day, they walked into PetSmart, and



Photo courtesy Paws 4 You

Kelli and Katie Rombeiro with their adopted dog Hope.

there was Daisy in her cage.

"We didn't even look at other dogs," said Rombeiro. "We knew she belonged with us."

Paws 4 You offers a foster situation, giving potential families a chance to bring a dog back if it is not a good match.

"She instantly blended with our family," said Rombeiro. "We knew before we got home that this was not a foster situation."

Daisy, who the Rombeiro family renamed Hope, had her age going against her. At 3, her chances of adoption were growing slim.

"We thought Hope was a fitting name. We needed her as much as she needed us."

At Thanksgiving Lexie was remembered fondly, and the whole family gave thanks for Hope. "She has brought a lot of joy into our family."



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