

LOVE. PROTECT. ADOPT.

This month's Love.Protect.Adopt features a Q&A with Nicole, who adopted Kona from the Burbank Animal Shelter



Nicole and Andy,
Kona (former BAS dog) and Matata (rescued kitty)

Why are you passionate about the concept to Love. Protect. and Adopt. animals:

I'm passionate about this program because all animals deserve a second chance, a new home, and unconditional love. When I was going to college in Georgia, I wanted to adopt a cat. There was a huge stray problem in Savannah, so adopting from a shelter was as hard as adopting a baby. They didn't want animals to be put back out on the streets, so they did not adopt to college students because our lives were "unstable". I got denied and was heartbroken.

Later that year, I was walking down the street, and a white cat started following me. She rubbed on my legs and purred... then she sat in front of me and just stared into my eyes. She chose me. So, I scooped her up and brought her home. Luna became my best friend. She traveled home to New Jersey with me and then made the big move to California. Sadly, Luna earned her wings on Oct. 12, 2013. My heart was broken, a piece of me was missing, and the house felt empty. A week later, I knew I wanted to give another animal the life I gave her. I didn't feel like I could adopt another cat so easily, so I asked Andy if we could get a dog. I visited the VBAS website and scanned through pages of dogs.... then I came to Kona's profile. He was mourning the loss of his owner and it was then I realized, we could help each other heal from losing our companions.

What was it like adopting Kona from the Burbank Animal Shelter:

Adopting Kona was very exciting. We walked through the shelter and pet and looked at some other dogs, but when I got to Kona's cage, he just sat and looked at me. We took him in the yard to play and I fell in love. He didn't pay much attention to us then, but he was sweet and had energy. All of the volunteers were so happy and excited that we came specifically to look at him and then were even more elated when I said we were going to take him. All of the volunteers were so amazing! They found us toys and leashes to take home with us to get us started. Animal Control also did a great job screening us to make sure we could handle a dog like Kona. They even helped us get him in the car. You can tell that the shelter takes a lot of pride in their cleanliness, ensuring their animals are healthy, and that placing them in the perfect home is top priority.

What was it like introducing a cat and a dog in your home:

A short while after we adopted Kona, a friend that works for Kitt Crusaders posted that he was fostering a young male cat that needed a forever home. I saw a picture and instantly fell in love. Andy was not too sure about it, but we took Kona to meet the cat. We kept him on the leash just in case he lunged, but Kona didn't bark or try to go after him at all. Matata hissed a few times, but eventually would lay with his back to Kona. When we brought the cat back to our house, I wanted to separate them for a while since I knew Kona would be territorial in his own house, but Matata was having none of that. He wanted to explore. So, Andy guarded the dog, and I guarded the cat. There were a few hisses and boops on the nose, but for the most part, they were fine. Today, they are buddies. Matata is constantly playing with the dog's tail. They even lay down together. As far as introducing a dog and cat, we had it EASY!

What do you want people to really remember from this Love. Protect. Adopt. Campaign:

The most important thing to remember is that you're helping a needy animal. Animals that end up in shelters have no idea why, and I believe that their hearts break just like ours do. But, once adopted, they KNOW they've been rescued. You can tell they are grateful. Kona looked like he had a permanent smile for a few days after we brought him home. He was happy and he felt safe again. A loving home is the best gift we can ever give them. I also believe that your new furry family member has chosen to love, protect, and adopt you, as well.

