

Our Adoption Story by Amanda, Allan & Ash Musgrave

Life was strange without a four-legged friend in our home but we didn't want to rush in bringing a new companion into our lives.

We discovered a fantastic adoption centre in Wortley (S.R.G.T) and decided as a family to visit.

We were welcomed with open arms and shown around the kennels. We were amazed by how many greyhound dogs were there and obviously oblivious as to what happened to them after racing. All of these dogs needed a loving forever home and from that instant I knew I wanted our family to be a part of that. Week in, week out we all visited SRGT on a regular basis and became good friends with the owners, workers and dedicated volunteers who give up their time and love to care for these fantastic dogs. Deep down we were realising that eventually we too would want to give one of these greyhounds a forever home but the thought of going through the pain of eventually losing him/her was still too strong as we were still overcome with grief of losing our beloved Jack Russell cross, Jess, who was a massive part of our family.

After helping out for 4 months, Christmas was approaching and we had decided that, as a family, we would visit on Christmas Day and walk the dogs who were still in kennels and try to make their day special too. The week before Christmas 2013, myself and my son-Ash- went to the farm to help out. As we walked through the kennels we saw a large, black dog on his own by the name of Tommy (Cushie Tommie). He came to the bars and placed his head in the palm of my hand, his eyes looked straight into mine and I knew instantly I had fallen in love with this dog. My son went into the kennel and sat with him, his head on his lap, he began to fall asleep. As soon as Ash moved, he got up and tried to follow so we decided to take him for a walk. He was so gentle and walked beautifully on the lead, leaning right into our sides for comfort and re-assurance. I knew I would have to convince my husband that this was the dog for us as he is exceptionally big, but extremely handsome.

My husband then came up to the farm with us but unfortunately he wasn't as convinced as we were, even after walking him. This proved quite tricky as myself and my son loved him. We never gave up and continued to plead our case, of which I'm sure my husband, Allan, was fed up of hearing by now.

Christmas Eve 2013 came and myself and my son, Ash, went to the farm to see Tommy and the other greyhounds. While walking him I sent Allan a message and asked 'Are you sure we can't reserve Tommy???' of which after what seemed like forever, I received a message back saying 'Green ONLY !' This confused me but then it clicked, green meant we could put a green 'R' for reserved on his kennel. Well, we were overjoyed and started to scream and jump around like lunatics, causing everyone at the farm to turn around and stare at us. This was it, our very own Re-homed dog! We ran back to the farm and my son picked up the green pen and marked his kennel straight away while I burst into tears. It felt so right.

On Christmas Day 2013 we changed the green 'R' to red which meant he was definitely ours and on 27th December 2013, Tommy came home. From this date we have never looked back. He has brought so much love and laughter into our lives. Yes, it was hard work at first, he didn't know how to play or climb the stairs but with time he has become a truly, magnificent dog who adores us all in return. He is still quite nervous of people he doesn't know, but I'm sure in time this will work itself out. We can already see a massive change in him from when he first came home to now as he is gaining confidence and trust with us. Tommy is a very happy, settled and quirky dog who always greets us excitably with a very waggy tail. He has grown a very strong bond with my son, Ash, and he loves him in return. We still visit SRGT every week and volunteer, it has become part of our lives and I wouldn't change it for the world. They say we adopt the dogs, but in this case I would say, Tommy definitely adopted us.