

Eleanor Skinner and Shadow



It is estimated that at some point during 2023 Shadow turned 8 years old and he has been in my family for 6 years. My brother was his first owner and got him from a rescue outside of San Antonio, Texas. At the time his children were young and they had a family dog that was perfect for them, but was having health issues. He was looking for a mature young dog that was gentle with kids and that their current family dog could teach, so Shadow was recommended. Turns out Shadow is extremely intelligent and instead of being taught by their family dog, he started teaching all the bad and sneaky behavior. They became well known for gallivanting around

the neighborhood to say “hi” to anyone around and beg for pets or treats. After 2 years of Shadow getting to know everyone in the neighborhood, he came to stay with me while my brother underwent a home renovation that left him without a backyard. A month into my dog sitting duties I called my brother to inform him that I was keeping Shadow, due to his mischievous nature it was a quick approval of this idea from him and his family.



Shadow and I quickly started working on finding outlets for his intelligence that didn't cause his people stress. We became part of Pet Partners in Dallas, TX during COVID so while we were able to get through all the training, we didn't get a chance to participate in visits due to the lockdowns until we moved to Denver almost 3 years ago. We are regulars at JeffComm Dispatch Center and the Arvada Library Reading Program. Due to his calm demeanor and active use of

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his eyebrows he is the most elusive beggar and has convinced timid people to give him love.



Outside of “work” Shadow enjoys being in the mountains. He is a big fan of hiking, paddleboarding and hunting down the best ray of sun to soak up, but nothing brings out the zoomies like snow activities. He is a dog that is unmotivated to balls, but he will go crazy for a snowball. Last year I got a pair of backcountry skis so he can join me and he is ecstatic to get geared up and runs full speed

beside me when we finally get to go downhill. In early December we got the chance to play with snowmobiles. His joy in getting to full out sprint in the snow and not having to stop and look back to see if I have been able to keep up is palpable. An added benefit is that since we are riding in meadows when he is ready for a break he can stay on the high ground and watch the activity while relaxing in the sun.



A fun fact about his name, he came to our family with it and we never changed it. When I first took ownership of him, I also owned a black dog and people were often very confused, but the name Shadow fits him perfectly! He is either half a step behind, beside or in front of me or he is looking for the smallest and darkest spot inside to take a nap.

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