

Murphy

(originally Keifer)

b. 1998



Murphy – our first day

Bella, an earlier BDCH re-home, set up teaching Murphy the best tricks and games which included chasing after (and even better – finding) tennis balls. Later Murphy improvised and replaced tennis balls with pine cones. He had a knack of smelling them hundreds of metres away. He would raise his nose, find his own path, and only his wagging tail would give away his success.

We collected Murphy from the BCDH on 4th June 2000 little appreciating how much we were blessed on that day.

Keifer, as he was known, had been tied up to a post in Wales and then abandoned. Although 18-24 months old he weighed less than 20kgs.

I cuddled him throughout our journey home. Later whilst eating our lunch he sat in front of us ; clearly exhausted he quite literally fell asleep sitting up and only woke as he fell over. During our first night I woke to find him sitting besides my side of the bed looking at me. It was as though he could not believe he was loved and would be looked after.



Murphy and Bella, June 2000

He regularly came with me to the allotment ; I wonder how many beds are now sprouting pine trees ... he never gave up dropping a pine cone at my feet waiting for it to be thrown for him to chase. This game could last for hours. He never tired. I also discovered that Murphy loved fresh peas. One year I had gathered my pea crop, laid it on the path, only to discover that Murphy had enjoyed a feast ! He never lost his love of fresh peas and continued to help me with the harvest right through to this summer. He was also passionate about carrot and broccoli.



Murphy was always a happy, gentle, placid friend. He was also determined – and never lost his aversion to being kept out of a room.

In our early years together my husband and I often blamed each other for leaving open the bedroom door – we would come home to see Murphy proud atop the bed looking out the window.

And then we saw what happened.

We had closed the door – but the handle would go down and Murphy would walk in. Yes, he could work door handles! Even more impressive was Murphy's ability to work the child-gate which we had across our kitchen opening. He had studied our action – and then caught on film to prove it to us - Murphy gently squeezing the handle in his mouth before pushing through. He could also untie rope or leads. We had our own Houdini.



Murphy always loved balls

After Bella passed away in early 2007 Murphy became subdued, much quieter and introverted; we sought another friend sooner than expected.



Murphy and Mosto, May 2007

Mosto was a much more challenging dog who had been very badly abused; but Murphy remained gentle throughout and slowly slowly Mosto learned not to fear.

Although abandoned as a young dog Murphy was obedient and well-behaved although we never taught him. There wasn't an ounce of malice in him. Children and adults-alike loved to stroke him – his fur was so smooth and his ears were like soft velvet.

Loving and trusting throughout his life he particularly liked to have his head and ears rubbed ; always wagging his tail - even when visiting the vet; later when he lost much of his hearing he always sought out our company. We often said Murphy was the dog to clone – he was one of a kind...a truly beautiful spirit.

He was much loved and will be very sorely missed. We were so fortunate to share our lives with him for more than fifteen years.



Murphy, November 2015