

# BLUE JEANS and Rubber boots

by Susan Schaefer



We have a 2 year old in our house. In August, our boy, Chace was 2 years old, which in dog years means he is now an adult.

Early in 2019, I made the decision that this was THE year that I was going to get a new puppy. Cheyenne was a super dog but he had been gone for over 10 years and I really missed that part of my life. We had a planned trip to Europe that fall, so after getting back from Italy, followed by a quick trip to Sask. we picked up our mini aussie puppy.

As I cuddled him and Jeff drove us out of the breeder's farmyard, Chace began to wail. It was amazing what high pitch sounds could come out of that chubby little body. Jeff white knuckled the steering wheel, and said "Oh My God, what have we done!!" I think he was kidding?

The first night we put him in his little fenced area in the living room and he slept well. All was good. The second night, I heard a thump, thump, thump in the bedroom and to my surprise he had escaped his little pen and was standing in the bedroom, his tale gleefully thumping, saying let's play.

After a couple of weeks, we found that we were way in over our heads. I remember talking to my mom about this and she said, "They are just like kids. When you first bring them home, you can't stand them, but after awhile you get use to having them around." Gee thanks mom.

Chace was running amuck. I was stressed and afraid that I had made a colossal mistake. Jeff said "We don't make mistakes. Either we send him back, or we make it right." We decided to make it right.

We called in a professional dog trainer, Mick Howland. Mick spent the first 10 minutes with Chace at the front door; as his training had already begun. Within a few minutes Jeff and I both turned to each other and said. "Whose dog is that?" Chace was calm, he was listening and he was eager to please. Over the next few weeks Mick helped us with Chace's basic training and ours as well. We were starting to communicate with this little boy and he was eager to learn.

Fast forward two years; he antics makes us laugh throughout the day. He is brilliant, loyal, sensitive, sweet, caring...



on and on. And as our neighbours say, "He is the cutest dog on our block." Well that goes without saying.

He is our fashion aficionado, he tells us when it's bedtime and he keeps us on track with our meals. He enjoys gardening and wakes us up with kisses each morning. He keeps us moving with walks, hide n seek and endless zoomies.

He keeps us living in the present. He doesn't care about yesterday or tomorrow.

Now my floors are always dirty, there are toys spread all over the house and we are never alone in the bathroom. And you know what? I wouldn't have it any other way.



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