

## Tarabelle and Me

I feel big brown eyes watching me as I make my way up the driveway to my house. I feel a cold nose sniffing and snorting around my feet. I hear sounds of pitiful whining as I eat my dinner.. That is how it is at my house. It has been like that ever since I got my cute but annoying dog Tarabelle two years ago.

Do you know those dogs you see on TV, the ones they show in cages with large, brown, sad eyes that need a home? Well our dog was once one of those before we rescued her from a shelter in Alabama. She is soft brown, tan, black, and white with brown polka dot paws. She is medium size and is a mix of beagle, Australian shepherd, basenji, and more she is very cute, smart, and active but she can be very, very, frustrating.

It is soooooo annoying when she runs into my room and tries to eat everything. She steals my stuffed animals, socks and mittens and then tries to destroy them. I also find it very distracting when Tarabelle sniffs me and puts her head in my lap as I eat my dinner at night. Sometimes she jumps up on the table and tries to grab my food right off my plate!

Other times I will go outside in the cold bitter winter and I will be more than happy to have Tara come out with me to play and get some exercise. Then I get disappointed and angry when she comes sprinting towards me and rips my blue mittens and my striped hat off my head and hands and runs off with them. She runs away so fast I can't possibly catch her.

All these faults make me feel irritated, disappointed, and frustrated. But she has many wonderful things about her too. I love how she is always willing to go outside with me. She doesn't necessarily play with me but it is funny to watch her run all around in circles like a merry-go-round. I do like how I can throw a ball or a rope for her to play with. At night she is so calm and relaxed and I enjoy patting her or scratching her under her furry chin.

I have never regretted having her come into my life though. She has taught me lots of things like to be responsible and patient. She has also taught me how an animal with a disability can still do almost all the things that a dog without a disability does. I might have not mentioned before but my dog is also deaf. Even though she can't hear she stills

jumps, runs, plays, eats, and drinks like any other dog. This is why I always make sure to be patient with her and keep her safe.

I am very grateful that Tarabelle came into my life. I might get mad at her sometimes but at the end of the day I forgive her and I think we are happy to have each other.

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