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RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

The Pound Press Express



Timid Dog Gains Trust, Then Home

Story by John Welsh
Public Information Chief

Even dedicated volunteer Barbara Djordjevic had her doubts.

The dog just was so timid, so scared, so untrusting.

But Barbara and Banning Animal Shelter employees kept hoping the Chow Chow-Golden Retriever mix would eventually warm up to them after his Sept. 9th arrival.

Animal Control Officer Sara Herra recovered the dog as a stray and he was one of those types that hide in the back corner of their kennel run in sad misery. He had to live alone, too, because other dogs would bully him.

Adoption Counselor Brandy Baker tried to coax him to the front of the kennel run. Senior Behaviorist Teryn Hartnett tried to engage the dog using her skills. Behaviorist Kristi Slane used her training too.

But Kristi, who floats between shelters, realized that this dog would need extra special, daily work. She encouraged the Banning Shelter staff to bring out Barbara, the Banning volunteer miracle worker. It was Barbara's special touch that helped reduce the Chow Chow's fears.

Then Teryn witnessed something amazing. On Thursday, Oct. 1, a man walked past the dog's kennel. The dog leaned up against the kennel fence, almost pushing through it.

It was as if the dog was saying, *PLEASE PET ME.*

That man eventually adopted the dog, thrilling Barbara and all the Banning employees. He went home today!

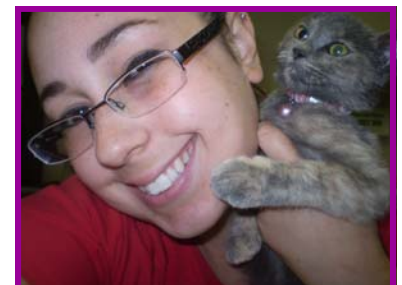
— *With special reporting from Senior Behaviorist Teryn Hartnett*



Clockwise from top: Volunteer Barbara Djordjevic bonds with the Chow Chow-Golden Retriever mix; The dog shows off his golden coat; Registered Veterinary Technician Katherine Groves gives the dog a kiss before she takes him for his neuter surgery; Senior Behaviorist Teryn Hartnett provides the former fearful dog love — then gets some love in return; The Lopez family take home their new family member.

Photos by John Welsh, Public Information Chief; Lopez family photo by Banning Shelter Animal Care Technician Candy Weil

The Pound Press Express is an online flash newsletter published weekly — and sometimes more! — by the Riverside County Department of Animal Services. It is sent via e-mail to anyone who would like to receive it. Want to be added to the e-mail list? Have a story idea? Did you adopt from us and you want to let us know how much you love your pet? Please e-mail Public Information Chief John Welsh at jjwelsh@co.riverside.ca.us



Why is Veterinary Technician Emily Vialpando smiling about this cat? Find out in a future Pound Press Express!