

## MY MANY TEARS EXPERIENCE

BY

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### DAISY AND GRACE MTAR RESCUE DOGS

Hello my name is Janette and I have been kindly asked to write about my experience of adopting 'ex-breeding dogs'.

First of all I want to express my utmost respect and utter thanks to Sylvia and her dedicated teams at the centre and all around the country. I am filled with such emotion when I think of Many Tears dedication to these dogs.

Well, it started for us August 2011. My partner and I adopted a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel from another adoption centre, and he was in a dreadful state, no hair on his back end, thin, riddled with fleas etc. We adopted him as our work situation now allowed one of us to be home every day. We took advice from our vet, the local adoption coordinator and even an animal behaviourist – to ensure 'Charlie' had the best we could offer and we needed to learn to understand him. Now I am not going to write how easy it was, as a business women my life is strategically planned and everything in our home runs with a degree of precision. Boy, it was not easy; we thought he needed tiring out so we walked him 3 times a day, yet he was still up at night, scraping up the vinyl floor (this is when the behaviourist advised us as to what WE were doing wrong). So after some gentle boundaries and in his case use of the crate at night, Charlie began to settle and after couple more weeks began to blossom and quickly did not need to use the crate at night.

December 2011, we had a discussion one evening and as Charlie was now very settle and we had all adjusted to each other, was it now time to get a companion for him.

We contacted our local coordinator (where Charlie had come from) she had a little pup, but when introduced to Charlie he was too playful, so we thought some more about this situation and realised that Charlie loves other cavs – when out walking he is straight up to any cav owners (I sometimes think he would go home with them if given the chance!).

So where do you go for another cav? – Let's try cav rescue. Very nice lady said none available. Let's try a breeder, only had puppies, and Charlie not a fan of puppies, what do we do. One Saturday night I googled 'cavaliers for sale' and a website called 'preloved' came up so I had a look. I saw all these unwanted dogs, with various owners stories and then requesting lots of money, I thought this can't be right, you can't look after your dog anymore due to personal circumstances yet you want £400+?? Surely you should go to your local rescue centre and hand your dog in and then the centre will search and check suitable adopters? **(That is my opinion only)**.

Anyway whilst sat very tearfully looking at all these photos of unwanted dogs, I came across a cavalier called 'Jason' and a link to 'Many Tears' – after reading all the invaluable information provided on the Many Tears website. My partner and I did some more research and reconfirmed our time and ability to adopt one of MTAR dogs.

After Christmas we saw a poor little sole on the website, looking terribly sorry for herself called 'January' – she was in foster care in Weston-super-Mare. We checked all the centres criteria did we fit the bill to adopt? We completed the form and as we had a wedding to attend at the end of February and would be away for 3 days, the centre suggested we wait until end of Feb and resubmit our form. I has gutted, poor little January, I watched that website like a hawk, morning noon and night!

Early Feb she was moved to another foster carer 'Tony' in Reading, I kept watching until after the wedding and then sent the adoption form back. Within 24 hours I had a telephone call from 'Tony' he asked me some questions and confirmed my situation and then he told me about 'January' We arranged for me, my partner and Charlie all to visit him and introduce us to January.

I was apprehensive on the drive, we really did not know what to expect. I had been speaking lots to Tony, until we went up at the weekend. I had worked myself up so much and panicked myself; I was asking myself a whole host of questions:

*Could I manage this?*

*Do I know enough?*

*What the worst that could happen?*

*Will she does like us?*

*Will she trash the house?*

*Will she make a mess?*

*Will she bark all the time and be disruptive?*

These were just a few of the worries I had. So we stepped out of the car and Tony was standing on his drive smiling at us, I just burst into tears, so much so, I made Tony cry! So after a strong coffee I composed myself and met January. My heart just melted, she come up to me had a little sniff, wagged her tail, and hopped on to my lap. She was still in a bad state, she had been shaved down to her skin and she smelt despite Tony bathing and grooming her.

After taking up Tony's afternoon and his hospitality we all went home – January included. It was a long drive home and she cowered down. Once home we put her on a lead and sat in the garden, she climbed on my lap and cuddled in.

January got a new name – Daisy (pretty as a flower) and we took it one day at a time. I had arranged to take the week of work and I just let her do what she wanted, and all she wanted was to be held and cuddled, and, all of my above worries – well, I could not have been more wrong. Yes she was nervous, but, with support and a routine she fitted in to the household quicker than Charlie.

*I did manage – be structured*

*I know enough, but ask for support from experts if you need it – you are not on your own*

*The worst that happen – she got a tummy upset and had diarrhoea – had to through away the rug!*

*She loves us!*

*She did not trash the house; she sits on the sofa and watches TV  
No mess – I took her out every couple of hours and said ‘wee-wees’ she learnt very quickly what this meant  
And finally – no she does not bark, she squeaks with excitement!*

Daisy has been with us for 4 months and had grown into a beautiful, cuddly and very loving little dog. She loves to go to the pub for a bag of crisps, she loves Charlie and she wags her tail so hard, one day it will fall off! – All this from an ‘ex breeding dog!’

So don’t be put off – do your homework, a rescued dog has worked for us – so much so we now have our third. Another cavalier from MTAR.

She was on website as Lovely and she was at the rescue centre, I presume not enough fosterer’s to take her home yet and prepare for adoption.

We drove down to Carmarthen and one of the kennel staff introduced us to her. I thought Daisy was nervous, Lovely just laid down and was shaking. We sat quietly with her for half an hour or so and also Daisy and Charlie met her; they just looked at her stuck on the floor.

We were then introduced to Cheryl and Noel, they live near MTAR they take in foster dogs and prepare them for adopters like me. We spoke for some time with them and said we would like to reserve Lovely. With this in mind Cheryl said she would take Lovely home to foster as she was looking very nervous in the kennels and it was later discovered that she was not eating or toileting enough. Lovely was due to be spayed in a couple of days and we could collect her a week later. We kept in contact, Cheryl and Noel gave me regular updates on her progress. We informed Cheryl that we wanted to rename her ‘Grace’.

A week later we collected Gracie. We got home and we could not believe the difference! We thought this is a different dog to the one in kennels. She was inquisitive, waggy tailed and quite confident, she made herself at home within 48 hours!

So less than a year ago, working 60+ hours a week in a demanding Management role – to now working part time and having 3 rescue cavalier king Charles spaniels And 2 of them MTAR ‘ex breeding dogs’! So, to summarise and things to consider:

Have you got the time?  
How much will it cost (vets bills and food)  
What breed of dog would be best suited?  
Do I want to give a loving home to an ‘ex breeding dog’?

I would only go to MTAR now. The change I have seen in Daisy and Grace are amazing. Yes it has been difficult at times but the rewards are definitely worth it. On my experience I will certainly recommend an ‘ex breeding dog’. My cavaliers are content and enjoying the good life, which is what they deserve.