

Catching Up with the Victory Dogs • Meet Guardian Angel Cat Roxy

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Open House

At home with Lisa Edelstein
and her dogs • Page 22



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Open House, Open Heart

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*Lisa Edelstein, star of TV's House M.D.,
shares the stories of the rescued animals
who have touched her life*

Story by Theresa Celebran Jones
Photographs by Grace Chon



Shazam steals the show with his joyful demeanor.

As for Wolf E, she says, "Within about a year, I had him walking and running. He needed to reroute all of his neuromuscular signals and relearn things. Somehow being in a loving home around another dog, safe, he was able to recover." Despite his condition, Wolf E lived to be 18 years old.

The era of Shazam and Kapow

Before Wolf E passed on, Lisa met Shazam at an adoption event in October 2008 and decided she needed to give him a home.

"Shazam was a mess," she explains. "He was really underweight, and his hair is grey so everyone thought he was old, but he was actually only a year, and he was sick. I adopted him at 4:30 that afternoon, but he had to go straight into the hospital." Shazam was in the hospital for a month before he was able to come home and join the family.

After Wolf E passed away, Shazam needed a companion. Lisa found Kapow in October 2009 at a shelter that had less than favorable conditions. "I couldn't leave him," she says. "I literally adopted Kapow just to get him out of there. He had been in shelters and cages for three months at that point, so he was really traumatized."

Lisa has a natural gift in communicating with special-needs animals. She understands the emotional component of the recovery process and has always been attentive to her dogs' needs in this area. Both Shazam and Kapow have thrived under her care and seem to have made full recoveries. Lisa enjoys walks with them twice daily and ensures that they're well cared for by a trusted friend while she's traveling.

Today, Shazam and Kapow are basking in the spotlight. During our photo shoot, Kapow is a natural model, posing for the camera at every click of the shutter. But Shazam steals the show with his joyful demeanor.

For Lisa, the bond she shares with these animals runs deep. "Animals will change your life in ways that are so unexpected and so wonderful," she says.

Theresa Celebran Jones is a writer and mom based in Los Angeles. She writes about motherhood at i-mami.com and is also a regular blogger for Hyphen magazine.

Grace Chon is a Los Angeles-based commercial photographer specializing in pets and their people. Find her work at shinepetphotos.com.

Hair and makeup: Amber Kerns for SoloArtists.com.

She first formed a relationship with Sandwich when her roommate took her in as a puppy. Then, at four months old, Sandwich was hit by a car. Her roommate was unable to care for Sandwich after the accident.

"This girl just couldn't handle it," Lisa says. "Not everybody has the tools to handle that kind of tragedy. And for whatever reason, I could step into that role. So I took over the care of this animal." Ultimately, she decided to lose the roommate and keep Sandwich.

The accident left Sandwich in bad shape. "She had a shattered pelvis, a shattered femur, and a pin in her leg. I found an amazing doctor who did an enormous amount of surgery on her," she says.

Several months after Lisa took over Sandwich's care, she met Wolf E. She visited a neighbor and saw a dog lying in the courtyard. Lisa sensed something was wrong. "I was like, 'Can I borrow him?' So I borrowed him. The next day I called [the neighbor] and said, 'Do you mind if I just keep this dog?'"

As it turned out, Wolf E was unable to walk. "He was having seizures all day long, whenever he got excited about anything. He had depth perception problems and brain damage," she says.

Lisa remained patient and caring with both dogs. And because of her optimism, her animals have lived long, happy lives. Lisa says Sandwich "lived until she was 13 years old, despite the fact that many other vets had told me to put her down. And she was an incredible friend."