

## Rhea, a girl's best friend

After losing my beloved family dog Maggie after 15 years, I had been waiting for the right time to begin looking into adopting a dog of my own. Finally, at age 24, conditions were perfect and I began the hunt. Rhea -- a mix of husky, retriever, and border collie -- came to me via the Angels Among Us animal rescue based in Connecticut. She, her mother, and 3 of her brothers and sisters, were rescued from a kill shelter in TN and transported up to foster care in the Angels Among Us network. After selecting Rhea -- or Rheabear as she has come to be known with her fluffy black coat and bear cub like appearance -- I went through a thorough screening process by the adoption agency to make sure I would provide a loving forever-home. Finally, at just 8 weeks old, I was able to bring this angel home. Of course there were some qualms, considering I had never met her and was not sure if it was to be a perfect match. But as soon as I held her in my arms, I knew it was to be a life-long love affair! Now she is 15 months old and as sweet as ever. The husky in her loves frolicking in the snow, while the collie makes sure to keep everyone in line when we go for hikes. She is the best companion a girl could have hoped for and makes me laugh and smile every single day. I only hope she feels the same love from me!

*Joanna Falcone*

