

Joe Sebek is a Mobile Mutts volunteer. In an effort to make more people aware of how important and satisfying it is to adopt rescue dogs, Joe has decided to write periodic stories about these wonderful fur babies. His first story is personal.



August 2017 - Mobile Mutt dogs are transported from Georgia, Kentucky & Tennessee to either the Elgin, Illinois area or to Minnesota. Volunteers drive different legs of the rescue and dogs are passed along to the next group of transporters.

Leo was found abandoned in Kentucky. He was taken to a shelter, but like too many shelters in the south, it was a kill shelter. He was rescued by Mobile Mutts before being euthanized, and was taken to a vet where he was given a check-up, got his current shots and was neutered. A foster took care of him until he was ready to be transported to his foster home in Minnesota.

I joined Mobile Mutts about 2 & ½ years ago. During one of my first transports, I had already tethered a dog in as my co-pilot. As I was helping other drivers get the dogs moved, one dog jumped up on me and started licking my face. I told Kathy, the other driver, that I wanted to trade co-pilots. This is how I came to have Leo, supposedly a Golden mix, as my co-pilot. On the drive from Kankakee to Tinley Park, Leo either laid his head on my lap and stared at me with his big brown eyes or he was giving me kisses on the side of my face. We parted company in Tinley Park, but not before a teary good-bye.

When I got home, I told my wife, Dana, about Leo and raised the possibility of adopting him. Dana was not sure about it at the time. I called the agency that was going to foster Leo and got the adoption papers. Later that week, I was having back surgery. Before they wheeled me away to the operating room, without telling her what they were, I asked Dana to review the papers that I handed her. While she was not very happy with me about surprising her with these papers, Dana agreed to do the adoption. After a home inspection by a Mobile Mutt representative, we were approved. Leo made the reverse transport from Minnesota to Tinley Park, where we were reunited.



Leo was renamed Bogart and was brought into our home. Initially, he was uncomfortable with his new surroundings. He did a lot of growling at both Dana & me and also at Bailey, our Beagle. For a while, it appeared that Bogart would be an adoption failure. With quite a bit of work and love, Bogart started to adjust to his new life. During this time, we also discovered that he was not a Golden mix. He is a Finnish Spitz. Bogart has become a very loving and loveable boy. He welcomed his younger "sister", Bacall (a Golden) into our home over a year ago. He has assumed the role of protector for his two sisters when they are outside and he loves to jump up on my chair and sit with me. He still doesn't like to be brushed. This brought about an interesting development recently. He was in the garden and got several burrs attached to his fur. We had to have a groomer shave him to get all of them out. A few days later, when he went out before bed, he had a brief encounter with a skunk. Since he had recently been shaved, it was easy for us to give him a bath. Life around here would not be the same without our Bogart.



To receive more information on Mobile Mutts, please go to either [mobile-mutts.org](http://mobile-mutts.org) or [www.mobilemuttsrescue.org](http://www.mobilemuttsrescue.org).