



This is the story of how Pedro joined my family on July 5, 2021.

I was at a music fraternity meeting in June 2021 when colleague Jeannine Holt (Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado state director) mentioned she was needing to find a home for a blue heeler mix. My ears perked up as the blue heeler on my dog therapy group was an amazing dog and I've been fond of the breed ever since. When I asked Jeanine what the dog's gender was, she replied "a male", and I was even more interested. At that time, my family had two (unrelated) female dogs that missed their older male canine who died six months earlier. I knew another female would be wrong for the pack, but a male could potentially fit in well. Jeannine showed me a picture and I asked about the dog's personality. At that time, the dog's name was "Peanut" and I learned it was flown to Denver from San Antoniou by a volunteer pilot. "Peanut" had been fostered by a person in a townhouse with a small yard until the dog could be moved to live with Chris Iles who would give it some Dog Whisperer guidance: exercise and boundaries along with love as first foster home had given. After the music meeting, I told my husband, Greg, about the dog and we thought about it. He was headed out of town in a few days, so it gave me more time to consider "Peanut". I waffled in my decision to meet the dog; first wanting to, then cancelling the appointment, then changing my mind again. "Peanut" came to my fenced backyard to meet my two female dogs, mixed breeds also rescued from Texas. The meeting went well with Chris' careful watch and I learned Chris had changed the

dog's name to "Pedro" to mirror its Texas roots. I guarded my heart with "Pedro" as I didn't want to get too emotionally attached at the first meeting when Greg was unable to attend. The meet-and-greet lasted under 30 minutes. I called my husband and talked about "Pedro"; Greg thought the dog sounded great and was anxious to meet "Pedro". Several days later, I called Jeannine to make another appointment for "Pedro" to come back when Greg had returned home. Chris brought "Pedro" back to our backyard. This second visit and Greg's presence made a huge difference for me. Our two female dogs really liked Pedro, and Pedro really liked them. Greg liked Pedro, and so did I. When Chris and Pedro left, Greg and I talked about adding Pedro to our family. Greg said, "of course we need to adopt him!" and that was all it took to convince me that we should. I called Jeannine and said we wanted to adopt Pedro. We agreed to wait until after the 4th of July in case our neighborhood had fireworks that would frighten Pedro. On July 5th, Greg and I drove to Chris' house and picked up Pedro. He fit right into our pack and has been an amazing dog since Day 1. For the past three years, Pedro has been an integral member of the Sandstrom Family and canine pack. We go to the dog park every day, and sometimes twice a day. Pedro loves to run, sniff, and play. He is "Mr. Personality" to people; always hoping to get petted and loves dog treats. He is the most loyal dog I have ever had and a great hiking buddy. When my husband, Greg, died in March 2023, my dog pack became my constant companions and family. I can't imagine life without them! I am so grateful to all the Dalmatian Rescue volunteers who helped "Peanut" move from San Antoniou to Denver. Thank you to the many volunteers who rescued "Peanut" from the San Antoniou animal shelter, gave him a foster home with love, coordinated his flight to Denver, Dog Whisperer Chris Iles who instilled Pedro with manners, and to Jeannine Holt for mentioning "Peanut" at our meeting. Pedro is an amazing dog who constantly gives joy and unconditional love. My heart is totally smitten!

Jane Sandstrom, Colorado Springs









