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Every animal is worthy of a home

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pet pals



The couple that adopted a female puppy at the adoption drive by Humane Animal Society, Coimbatore

In every batch of rescued or adoptable animals, some do not find the loving homes they deserve, for reasons that have no logical basis. Often, the colour of their fur coats affects their adoptability. Dogs with brindle coats and cats with tortoise-shell patterns are the common victims of this prejudice against multicoloured fur coats. While these animals are just as beautiful and loyal as their siblings with more uniform fur coats, they end up remaining on the streets or in shelters. Aishwarya, who rescues and re-homes several orphaned kittens is baffled that her current rescue (a kitten with a tortoise-shell fur pattern) received fewer expressions of interest than her earlier kittens. "It must be because of her colour", she says. "But she's very sweet and well-behaved". Animals with black fur coats are also avoided by some for superstitious reasons. Rescuers now post pictures of their successful adoptions on sites like Facebook to show that black-coloured animals are not harbingers of bad luck, and that the families who opened their homes to them are delighted with their decision.

Female pups and kittens often fall victim to prejudices and are often the last ones in their litters to find homes, if at all they do. They are viewed as 'risky' by people who worry that they might reproduce. However, spaying them with a reputed vet at the right age eliminates this risk. Mini Vasudevan, founder of Humane Animal Society organised an adoption camp for orphaned puppies and has this to say about a family that adopted a female pup at the camp – "Bhanumathy and Balakrishnan had no particular breed in mind, no unusual requirements. It didn't seem to bother them a bit that they were taking home a female Indian pup - that too the last one to be adopted in that batch! Five months have passed and Sweetie shares her forever home happily with this couple!"

Increasingly, people looking to adopt animals are disregarding labels such as looks, gender and breed. Dusky, a rescued Indian puppy, waited 6 long months to be adopted, on account of a large bald patch on his forehead. Today, he has found a loving home with a family that admires him for his cheerful and affectionate personality, signalling a positive trend in the world of animal welfare – one that says 'yes' to a pup or a kitten in need as the one factor they all have in common is their ability to return the love they receive. *(For further feedback email to metropetpassion@gmail.com with your city and number).*

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