



Based on a true story!

I lay down on the dense concrete floor. I shake chills running down my spine. My eyelids close halfway, I still stare out through the plastic door. The images are a blur but I still make out the looks of depression on the other dog's faces. I hear the sound of footsteps echoing throughout the kennels. I lift my head up one more time, I look right then left. I lay my head back down with all my hope drained and I slowly fall asleep knowing when I wake up I'll still be imprisoned, locked away in this lonely, dark corner.

My body slowly begins to rise. I slowly walk to my door, my insides awakening. I stand in the bright rays of the sun. My fur lifts up to the cleanse of the new day. I imagine the grassy backyard, the new toys awaiting my presence, and my new owners loving me till I cross the Rainbow Bridge. I pace around my cage waiting for my meal. I join in and bark with all the other dogs. I watch as the teenagers walk by each cage dumping a pile of food in every kennel. I watch their eyes light up with fear as the barks grow into growls. Millie stops in front of me, giving me a bowl of kibble and a few rubs. I wag my tail with glee so happy to feel a human's hand on my rough fur.

Millie was there. The time I got my freedom. I remember that night like it was yesterday. I had seen my door open after feeding time. When they dimmed the lights, I pushed open my door and wandered around. I stepped up to the other cages sniffing at the slumbering dogs swept away in their dreams of their paradise. I heard Millie's keys unlocking the door to the outside. I ran around the corner, far away from my cage. I bolted towards the front door. Millie quickly closed the hardwood door blocking my only path. She grabbed my blue collar. And took me back to my undersized cage. I gave her a small sniffing, whine. Sadness crossed her face as she slowly closed the door. "Oh Leo soon enough you'll get your forever family I just know it." Whispered Millie and Millie was absolutely right.

I rest in front of the door. Watching people slowly but surely walking by. I soon notice Millie heading my way with a thin little leash. "Leo someone's here to see you." Millie proclaims I jump up and wag my tail all around. As we are walking down the hallway I begin to worry. How would this family treat me? Are they nice? Millie pulls me along into a small room barely bigger than my cage. A small family sits inside. They are seated on the plastic seats against the wall. I start jumping around and they start laughing in joy playing with me and rubbing my back. I notice two kids in the corner both look about the same age. One of them with long thick hair reaches out to pet me and I enjoy this little moment. I jump around my slobber flings from place to place, everyone laughing. Millie and the family talk for a little while. After a few minutes Millie takes me back to my cage. I was confused about what had just happened. But there is a big smile on Millie's face, "Be right back, stay." Millie says in a firm but kind voice. Time flew by, before I knew it Millie was standing in front of my cage with the same leash. She clipped it to my blue collar and we set off through the front door. Just beyond it was the family waiting with smiles on their faces. Millie hands the leash away. "Here's your new family member, he's a blast, have fun with him." Millie kneels down and whispers in my ear, "I love you, never forget that." As the family slowly walks away I turn back and see a tear falling down her cheek. I step into the sun and breathe in the fresh air. My tail gives a tiny wag. Finally, the waiting is over.

