

Turk Found his Forever Home too late to spend more than a Few Months in Total Bully Bliss

KNOW YOUR BREEDER

This is the story of a good Bully Boy named Turk, who was adopted by a long-time admirer of the breed, and who had no idea the dog he was taking into his heart would be gone from him in a matter of months due to a genetic condition that ended his life at 2 years of age. Here is Turk's story, told by his owner, a recent addition to the Bull Terrier Club of Dallas Volunteer ranks.

Turk's original owners purchased him from a national chain pet store, with locations in North Texas, and probably had no knowledge of the breeder who produced this dog that would not live out the normal life of a normal Bull Terrier.

When I got Turk things looked pretty positive, he and I hit it off from the start. He was a great companion and a great friend and we had a lot of fun times together.

The previous owners were in a situation you hear about often, they had purchased the dog, paid a lot of money, too much money for a dog from a pet store, they told me \$2400, they provided me with receipts and vet records and their reason for giving him up had to do with changes coming in their family. I had always wanted a Bull Terrier, and had even tried to adopt one through rescue, but was unsuccessful.

The original owners apparently did not know Turk was sick when I adopted him. The first sign of a problem was his never ending desire to drink water. This led me to investigate and after seeing multiple vets, and a dog radiologist, we discovered that Turk was experiencing kidney failure. The radiologist warned that Turk would only live about one year, but he also admitted he'd been wrong before once, so I began to prepare myself from that moment on which was in August of 2007.

I contacted the pet store and informed them of what happened and faxed over the medical results and all they could offer me was to get half my money back (half of \$2400), but in order to get the money back I would of had to return Turk for them to euthanize him. Obviously this was not a option, because I was completely in love. I notified the original owners and they even offered to give me some money back since they'd unknowingly sold me a sick dog. I respectfully declined their offer. (This past fall I was informed that many people have purchased sick dogs from this national chain and there is a lawsuit pending.)

Things began to change with his temperament around 4 months later, when I was in my last year of college at Texas Tech University, Turk became more aggressive with dogs he had previously been fine with and he began showing signs of aggression in general.

As his body got sicker he became more aggressive, basically there was always a risk that Turk might go "Crazy" as we called it. More and more, aggressive incidents happened to the point where no one else but me would deal with him or even be around him. By then Turk had become anemic due to the lack of white blood cells in his body. He was panting all the time, inside or out, and I could not watch him suffer.

The costs I incurred were many and all expensive. I went to countless vet visits, especially during the time when we were trying to diagnose his problem. The meds and the surgery were by far the most expensive cost I incurred while giving Turk a good ending to his short life. But the emotional price was the greatest cost to me.

Please repay this dedicated owner by acting responsibly when choosing your next Bull Terrier. Simply put ... Know Your Breeder.

Want to share your story? Email btcdallas@hotmail.com.

