

Riley

My husband and I adopted a cat almost two months ago. Actually, she adopted us. We both felt strongly that we would only get a pet from an animal shelter, and we wanted an adult instead of a kitten. I had been to the Chula Vista Animal Shelter a few times, for wishful looking, and was impressed with the facility. All the parts that I could see were clean, and the animals seemed healthy, so I knew that this was the right place to find our new family member.

When we went there the day after Christmas, we went to the cat section and picked out a few cats we wanted to interact with. Heather, an animal care assistant, took us into a couple of different rooms that were set up so a few cats could live and play together. They had quite a few cat condos, food, water, and litter boxes, and the cats seemed pretty comfortable and relaxed. We got to pet several friendly cats who we seriously considered adopting, but we couldn't make up our minds which one was the best. Heather was really helpful and friendly and knowledgeable about cats in general, and about the specific cats there.

As we were sitting and talking with Heather about the various cats' personalities, a cute two year old orange female cat that we had been considering jumped up onto my husband's lap and made herself at home. She stretched up and sniffed his chin, then she actually licked it. She had made our choice for us!

The next step was to fill out a short application form, and take it to the front counter. We were approved, thank goodness, and received a folder with our cat's medical records showing that she'd already been spayed, had all her shots, and was even micro chipped. They also gave us samples of food and pamphlets about cat care. They also gave us a long list of San Diego vets, so we could get a free vet's visit.

For the past couple of months we've been enjoying our new family member, who we named Riley. She's a real character, loving to throw her toy mouse up in the air and chase it wherever it lands. And whenever we sit down, she immediately jumps on our laps and gives us a ton of love. She'll stay there for a long time before she decides it's time to play or eat again. She has really good house manners too, not making any messes while we're out. I keep expecting to find evidence of wild partying or something, but there's never anything out of place.

We couldn't be happier with our choice, and Riley seems happy about her choice. We're so happy that we went to the Chula Vista Animal Shelter to find our new friend/family member.

Maren Millikin, Chula Vista

