

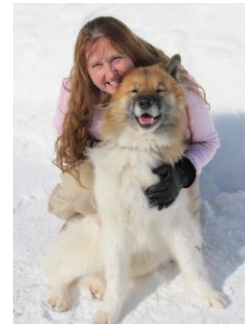
Angel's Story



Lee County Animal Control first met Angel, a six month old husky mix puppy, on a hot July day in 2011. She was chained up on a front porch with no water or shelter from the hot sun. She was prone to trembling, possibly caused by neglect and/or abuse. Fortunately, after a week in the custody of Animal Control the trembling had subsided and we were able to begin the search for the perfect family to adopt Angel.

Soon after, Helmet and Eula Schmidt entered Angel's life – formally adopting her on July 29, 2011. But Angel's troubles were far from over. Angel struggled to recover from her spay procedure, which was initially attributed to the anesthetic given during surgery. By January of 2012 she was still not well, so the Schmidt's took her to the veterinary for a consultation. Test results confirmed she has a pancreas deficiency. Fate placed Angel with just the right owners, as Helmet had also been diagnosed with a pancreas deficiency! Despite an initial suggestion from the Vet that the best course of action may be to put Angel down, the Schmidt's made a decision to begin medication and B-12 shots to stabilize her condition. Along with the medication (which she will need for the rest of her life) Angel is on a low fiber and low fat diet. In addition to medication and diet changes, Angel needed strength training to overcome muscle damage she potentially suffered at the hands of her previous owner. She began a swimming regimen to regain her strength per the veterinarian's suggestion.

Thanks to the Schmidt's loving care Angel's condition is stabilized and she is flourishing in her new home. Today she weighs 56 pounds and is full of energy and life! She has successfully completed dog training with her Dad. In her spare time she enjoys participating in "Steps for Strays", going for rides and taking walks. Her favorite toy is a box because she LOVES ripping them apart, earning her the nickname "Rippy". She enjoys her fenced in yard, her big futon bed made out of hay/straw so that she is off the ground in the winter. In the summer she has a kiddie pool, water sprinkler and garden hose that she loves to play in.



Animal Control Supervisor Teri Zinke is grateful to have the Schmidt's in Angel's life. *"She was meant for the Schmidt's household as they have the compassion, patience and capacity to care for "special needs" people and pets. Angel may have been put to sleep if the Schmidt's had decided not to take on such a big responsibility. With the love, attention, and vet care they have given "Angel" she has been transformed into a healthy, happy, beautiful dog. The love Angel gives back to the Schmidt's confirms this was a good fit for everyone involved. This is truly Angel's "forever home."*

The Schmidt's are also grateful to the Animal Control staff. *"We would like to thank Barry and Teri for their dedication to animal welfare in Lee County. They are clearly passionate about the welfare of the animals they save, going above and beyond their job responsibilities to find families willing to adopt animals in need, and then following up to ensure it is the perfect "forever home". Angel is a great addition to our family. We cannot imagine a day without her in our lives. We are so grateful that Animal Control put us together."*

