



Our 7 year old female lab came to us 9 months ago overweight, anxious and lonely. She was not aggressive towards people at all. Brookline staff members interviewed us and matched us with a dog that has become a wonderful companion at our stage in life. We were told about her anxiety issues especially about car rides and uncarpeted floors. We were told that it could take up to 3 months for her to fully adjust to us and her new home and that a trainer of some sort would help us.

Over the course of the winter we put down area rugs and gradually coaxed her into other rooms without carpets. We made several soft bed areas around the house because her favorite spot was a sofa. We moved the beds to places like a crate and an office corner. We met with a personal trainer at our home and at 2 parks to work on commands and her desire to bolt uncontrollably towards other dogs. The trainer brought 1 or 2 of her own dogs and we practiced approaching other dogs slowly. We did car rides as much as possible to go to parks for walks. We began feeding her 1/2 cooked vegetables and 1/2 kibble, 2 times a day. She responded well in training to kibble as treats. She lost about 13 pounds over the winter and loves the new homemade ground turkey and vegetables that she gets several times a week.

Over time she has become extremely affectionate, loves being brushed, still loves the sofa with sheets, and best of all loves riding in cars in the back seat on the hammock made of and old quilt and has made several new dog friends to visit. We can walk her on a leash, literally holding it with one finger. She has been introduced to swimming in shallow water and gets more courageous each time we go there for a walk. She "talks" to us now too about what she wants and has been a good "alert" dog without being aggressive towards strangers.

We highly recommend the network of people who work for Brookline Lab Rescue. They are thorough and conscientious about their interviews and placements for the dogs and for their new home placements.

