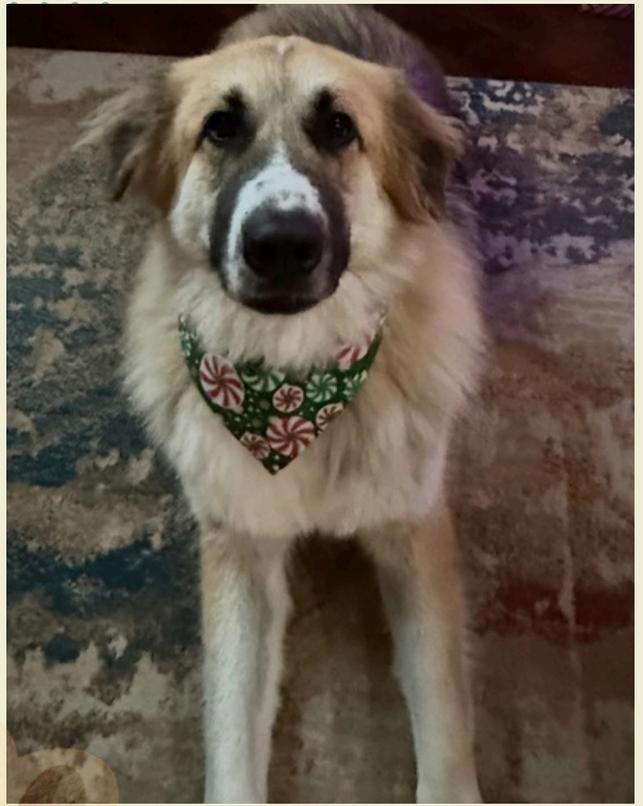


KEVIN: THE DOG WITH THE FUR, THE FRECKLES, AND THE BIGGEST HEART

Kevin's journey—from being found abandoned on a beach in Galveston to becoming a cherished member of the Ream family—is a story about patience, fit, and the kind of connection that can't be forced. It's also a reminder that sometimes the dog you least expect is the one you need the most.



THE ROAD TO KEVIN

When Sharlette and Peter Ream suddenly lost their dog Harley to cancer, it was absolutely heartbreaking, particularly for their remaining dog, Finn, who had never known life without another dog in the house. It soon became clear that Finn needed a buddy again, so Sharlette and Peter began their search.

One day, Peter was looking on a pet finder site when he saw a picture of Kevin, a Great Pyrenees/German Shepherd mix that captured his heart. He showed the picture to Sharlette, who wasn't exactly enthusiastic about the possibility of adopting Kevin, and for one simple reason.

"It was clear from the photos that Kevin had very long, very full, luxurious fur," Sharlette remembers. "My initial reaction was, 'We can't handle that much fur!'"

"When I saw his big brown eyes and his little freckles, I knew I wanted to help him find his forever home."

So, the hunt for Finn's new buddy continued. They took Finn to meet a few dogs that were available for adoption, but nothing clicked, either for the humans or for Finn.

But throughout this time, Peter never gave up on Kevin. He just had a feeling he was the right dog for their family. Eventually, Sharlette agreed they could meet him, though she was expecting the same outcome as had happened with all the other dogs—a polite, no.

The day of the meeting, they started the introductions slowly, taking Finn and Kevin for a walk along with Kevin's foster parents, Alysa Shalloup and Daniel Wright.

During this time, Peter and Sharlette learned more about Kevin's story—he had been found abandoned on a beach in Galveston and eventually brought to the Montgomery County Animal Shelter, where Alysa volunteered.

Alysa recalls, "When I saw him sitting in the shelter kennel with his big brown eyes and his little freckles, I knew I wanted to bring him home and help him find his forever family."

Since Kevin and Finn's introduction seemed to be going well, the next step was a visit to an empty dog park. The two dogs immediately started playing, something Finn hadn't done with previous introductions.

“With the other dogs, Finn wasn’t interested in them at all,” Sharlette remembers. “He didn’t want to go near them. He didn’t want to play with them—nothing. But with Kevin, they instantly started to play.”

At that point, Sharlette threw in the towel and realized Kevin was the right dog for both Peter and Finn.

“Maybe not for me with the amount of fur he was bringing,” Sharlette affectionately admits, “but at the time it was very apparent that Kevin and Finn were a good match.”



So, the paperwork was finalized, and thanks to Friends of Faye, an animal rescue organization in the Woodlands, Texas, Kevin became part of Sharlette, Peter, and Finn’s family.

TIME TO ADJUST

Sharlette and Peter knew Kevin was coming to them with severe separation anxiety as a result of being abandoned. He had also proven to be a skilled escape artist, having chewed his way out of multiple crates of varying degrees of security.

Helping Kevin adjust to his new environment required a lot of patience and love, and it even cost the Reams part of a fence and a few chewed-up window blinds!

But Sharlette and Peter worked with Kevin, leaving him alone for gradually longer periods of time and always returning, despite Kevin’s worst fears. Eventually, Kevin reached a point where he could be left for several hours without incident, though Sharlette and Peter are still greeted by a very excited dog when they return home.

“I think it took Kevin a little longer than a normal adoption to feel like ours was his home,” Sharlette says. “But he has finally gotten there. He’s feeling more comfortable and confident that he’s not going to be abandoned again.”

Despite the separation anxiety, Kevin quickly settled into being part of Sharlette, Peter, and Finn’s family, and now he brings joy into their lives every day.

The Rule of Three

- 3 Days to Decompress
- 3 Weeks to Learn Your Schedule & Expectations
- 3 Months to Fully Integrate

LIFE WITH KEVIN

One of Sharlette’s favorite characteristics of Kevin is that he is very sweet and loving.

“If you walk anywhere in his vicinity, he will roll over on his back for a belly rub,” Sharlette says. “If he even hears footsteps moving toward him, he rolls over for a belly rub.”

Kevin’s story is a reminder that when adopting a pet, it’s important to give them time to adjust to their new environment.

Remember the “Rule of Three”—on average, it takes a rescued or adopted animal:

- 3 days to decompress,
- 3 weeks to adjust to your schedule and learn your expectations, and
- 3 months to fully integrate into their new life.

By giving Kevin the time he needed to adjust to his new home, along with consistent assurance that he was loved and safe and

wouldn't be abandoned again, Sharlette and Peter helped Kevin overcome his separation anxiety.

With patience and understanding, what began as uncertainty grew into trust—and eventually, into family.

“We were the right family for him, and he was the right dog for us. Honestly, we rescued each other.”



A LOT OF FUR, A LOT OF LOVE, AND ZERO REGRETS

Despite the extra fur, Sharlette is happy she let Peter and Finn have their way.

“Kevin makes our lives better because his goofy, silly, clumsy personality makes us smile every single day,” Sharlette says. “But also, our lives are better because we've given him a better life. We were the right family for him, and he was the right dog for us. Honestly, we rescued each other.”

Alysa is also thrilled to see how well Kevin has fit in with his new family. “I couldn't have dreamed of a better home for Kevin. And getting Sharlette's updates and photos with his brother, Finn, light up my day! While saying 'goodbye' to a foster is always hard, stories like Kevin's make it all worthwhile.”

Kevin now sleeps where he belongs, plays with his best friend, and greets every day knowing he's home. And honestly, that's the greatest success story of all.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF FAYE

Friends of Faye is a nonprofit animal rescue organization based in The Woodlands, Texas, dedicated to helping dogs in need find safe, loving forever homes. Working in partnership with local shelters and a network of foster families, Friends of Faye focuses on thoughtful, responsible placements that prioritize each dog's unique needs. Through rescue, foster care, and adoption support, the organization is committed to giving animals a second chance—and helping families find the right fit for life.

Friends of Faye describes rescue as a lifestyle and community effort, aiming to offer support where it's most needed—whether through fostering, vet assistance, or helping animals transition into forever homes.

To learn more about adopting or fostering an animal, check out our website or visit us on social media.