

Wiloby conquers his new life

Exactly one week ago we picked up Wiloby (who we have since renamed Willy). Everything went smoothly on site and was very well organised. While we waited for Willy to arrive, we had a nice chat with Mrs Adrio and the other lovely people who wanted to take delivery of a dog or cat from Aegina.

My husband carried Wiloby in his arms all the way to the car park and he willingly put up with it, was completely relaxed and content. He spent the two-hour journey home sleeping blissfully on my lap on a cosy blanket. We took a short break to have a wee if necessary, but Willy was very anxious because of all the noises from the motorway and he seemed to be a bit cold. So we continued home, where we introduced him to our 8-year-old Chihuahua Bobby on neutral ground.

He wasn't too keen at first. Everything was exciting and new for Willy, so we let him settle in and sniff around.

Within the first few days, he quickly felt at home and found his permanent place on the couch and in his cosy dog house in the living room.

On New Year's Eve, he was completely unimpressed by the banging and slept next to me, snuggled up to me, while Bobby barked and crawled downstairs.

The opportunity to retreat to another floor proved to be worth its weight in gold for our older dog. The situation is also new to him and he doesn't yet like the idea of "going straight up to him and wanting to play". He starts to growl and there have already been a few situations where we had to intervene because both dogs were attacking each other. So we're giving it the time it needs to accept a new flatmate and get used to the situation. Going for walks together is already working very well and the atmosphere outside is relaxed.

Willy is still very anxious outside and pays attention to every little noise. Understandably, this is all totally new to him and he didn't know a lead before.

He has already understood very well that he should do his business outside, so that he rarely has a little mishap.

Willy has a very calm disposition and is not at all impressed by many things. He was totally open to us straight away, not at all anxious and seemed to trust us immediately. He really enjoys being stroked and also enjoys physical closeness when sleeping.

Our 3-year-old daughter has also adored him since day 1, and Willy reciprocates completely. He treats her with the same respect as he does us, the two of them play and we take good care to ensure that she treats him gently.

We are very excited about the further development between the two dogs but are confident that they will get along in time. Until then, they each have their own area and we make sure that Willy is not too boisterous.

We are very happy about our new family member. The placement was exemplary and it is nice to see that there is genuine interest in the animals' whereabouts and development.

The Schauties family



