

was out in her front yard watering her flowers shortly after I appeared once more with two Scotties.

“Do you have a new dog?” she inquired.

“Yes,” I replied. “I’ve adopted another Rescue.”

The lady shook her head in mock despair.

“You sure are a glutton for punishment!” she concluded, without even looking at my dogs. It’s almost impossible to respond to such a total lack of comprehension.

We often say our Scotties are “full of themselves.” The description really captures what engages our die-hard devotion to this breed, and guarantees a unique experience with each individual that “owns” us. Becky had everything that endears Scotties to the susceptible, and had it in spades. She was smart, energetic, playful, bossy, *independent-minded*, serious about her self-assigned work, mighty hunter of small, fast, furry creatures, friendly with other dogs and people, spontaneously affectionate, prompt motivator of family routines, had a good sense of humor, and was amazingly healthy for a Scottie her age, and, of course, full of herself. I thought she listened attentively to what I had to say to her, but her response was definitely Scottified. Her zest for life was expressed in a rowdy nightly frap throughout the house and back yard.

So why was this adoption the most difficult of my experience? The reason was that I already had a Scottie who possessed *all of those endearments mentioned above*. Now I had two nearly perfect dogs whose status had never been in dispute. The rivalry between two secure, self-confident, “royal class acts” was subtle and civil, often humorous and calculating, as they tried to out-manuever or out-fanagle one another and appear innocent of status seeking. There was not a cross growl, or any overt aggressive behavior. This was rather remarkable as the contest went on for many weeks.

The difference in their personalities and physical size gave Becky the advantage. She was an only dog in her previous life and probably had her way in the household. She was domineering by nature as well. Mandy was tiny, and Miss Congeniality in disposition.