

The Human Canine Bond

By Michelle Reeves

The bond between human and canine has been ongoing for centuries. For me, that bond began when I was about three years of age.

As a young child in the Wisconsin winter, I enjoyed playing outside in the snow in tow with my uncle's six month old Labrador Retriever, Lady. Before I was permitted out of the house, my mother warned me not to go near the covered water well. I was bundled up and so proud of myself because Lady was walking so well on the leash with me and we were true buddies.

In proper child fashion, I failed to adhere to my mother's warning to stay away from the covered well. I remember moving the rock and wood covering off of the well to see what was in there; after all, it

must be something intriguing because I was forbidden to see in there. Once the cover was removed, it was imperative that I see what was housed down in that deep hole. Apparently I couldn't see well enough by leaning over, so I leaned in further, falling into the freezing well that had only a bit of water and ice at the bottom.

As I fell, I was hanging on to Lady's homemade rope leash. She was frantically barking as I was screaming and wailing for assistance. Lady did not flee, but rather waited until help arrived. I was cold and scraped up by the well walls as I had fallen. It was dark, cold and extremely frightening to be in that old well.

Because of all the commotion, my mother ran from the house to see what was going on. I can only imagine

what could have been racing through her head when she saw Lady standing over the well and no child in sight. My mother recants that she was dumbfounded and amazed that my fashioned leash remained around Lady's neck since I was the one that had tied it around her. It was only by the grace of God that the rope held.

I remember my mother looking down the hole in panic and somehow pulling me out. I was rushed into the house and placed in a lukewarm bath to warm up. I recall being scolded for not listening as my mother was pouring warm water over me and crying.

Throughout the years, I have always remained an avid canine lover, and years later there has been no change in my commitment to my dogs.



Lily



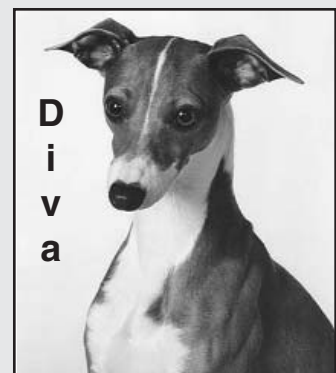
Halo



Basil



Spirit



Divina