

I adopted Ming from Peke N Chin Midwest in October of 2007. I want to share a success story of a "crabby" Peke and how they can be rehabilitated with discipline, love, and exercise.

I was looking for a pal for my Pekingese, Bear, so I looked on Petfinder and saw Ming. There was just something about him that appealed to me (same coloring as my Bear, perhaps?). I arranged for Bear and I to meet Ming and Heidi in Owatonna. I was concerned my spoiled Bear would have a problem sharing me with another. Well, Bear had no problem with Ming, but Ming growled at me and tried to bite me (I now realize I tried to hold him too soon). When I sat on the grass and let Ming come to me, he leaned up against my leg wanting to be close to me, but he wouldn't let me pet or hold him. Of course, I wanted a dog that would snuggle, so I left Owatonna thinking I wouldn't adopt Ming since I had never had a dog that growled at me and tried to bite me before. After talking to Heidi about my reservations, she said Ming had made a lot of progress in just a couple of weeks. I kept remembering how sweet he was when he leaned up against my leg, so I just knew he wanted to be loved. I agreed to adopt Ming. When I met Heidi in Rochester to pick Ming up, I could tell right away that he had changed. He let me hold him and gave me kisses! Bear, on the other hand, was not pleased. He growled and barked at Ming ferociously while he waited for me in his crate in the car. Ming simply ignored him. Bear ignored Ming at home for about two weeks, but now they are the best of pals and Bear is Ming's protector.

I'd like to say that Ming didn't growl or try to bite me when we got home, but he did. He is very protective of his back end (I think he may have been kicked by someone in his past life), so he would growl and bite at me when I tried to brush him or give him a bath. I watch Cesar Millan, The Dog Whisperer, so I tried one of his techniques while giving him his first bath, which is to "bite" Ming on the neck with three fingers to snap him out of it - it worked! He has "potty" issues and just wasn't getting it, so I recently purchased "Belly Bands" which he wears with no problem. I think he may have a bladder problem and just can't hold it. I'm glad I didn't give up on him just because he's not housebroken.

Now that Ming has recognized I'm the "pack leader", he rarely growls at me and he hasn't tried to bite me once since the bath incident. If he does growl while I'm brushing his tail or back end, I simply say, "stop it" and he does. He is very affectionate, snuggly, fun, energetic, and playful. He lets me brush him and give him baths with no problem.

Some of the things Ming loves are being outside in the yard, playing with me, wrestling with Bear, going for walks, eating, treats, snuggling with me, and going for car rides. I have also recently discovered he loves to run along side me while I ride my bike (he has a lot of energy and this helps burn it off). Ming definitely isn't perfect, but who is? He has an obsession with leaves, which has now tapered to a strong fondness for leaves (he will still try to grab them as he's running along side my bike) and he does have the potty issue, but other than that, he is wonderful and Bear and I love him very much! Our home just wouldn't be the same without Ming! Thank you, PNC for giving Ming a chance, and thank you, Heidi, for encouraging me to give Ming a chance - he definitely deserved one and I can't imagine him being with anyone else.

Pam Erickson, Ming & Bear

