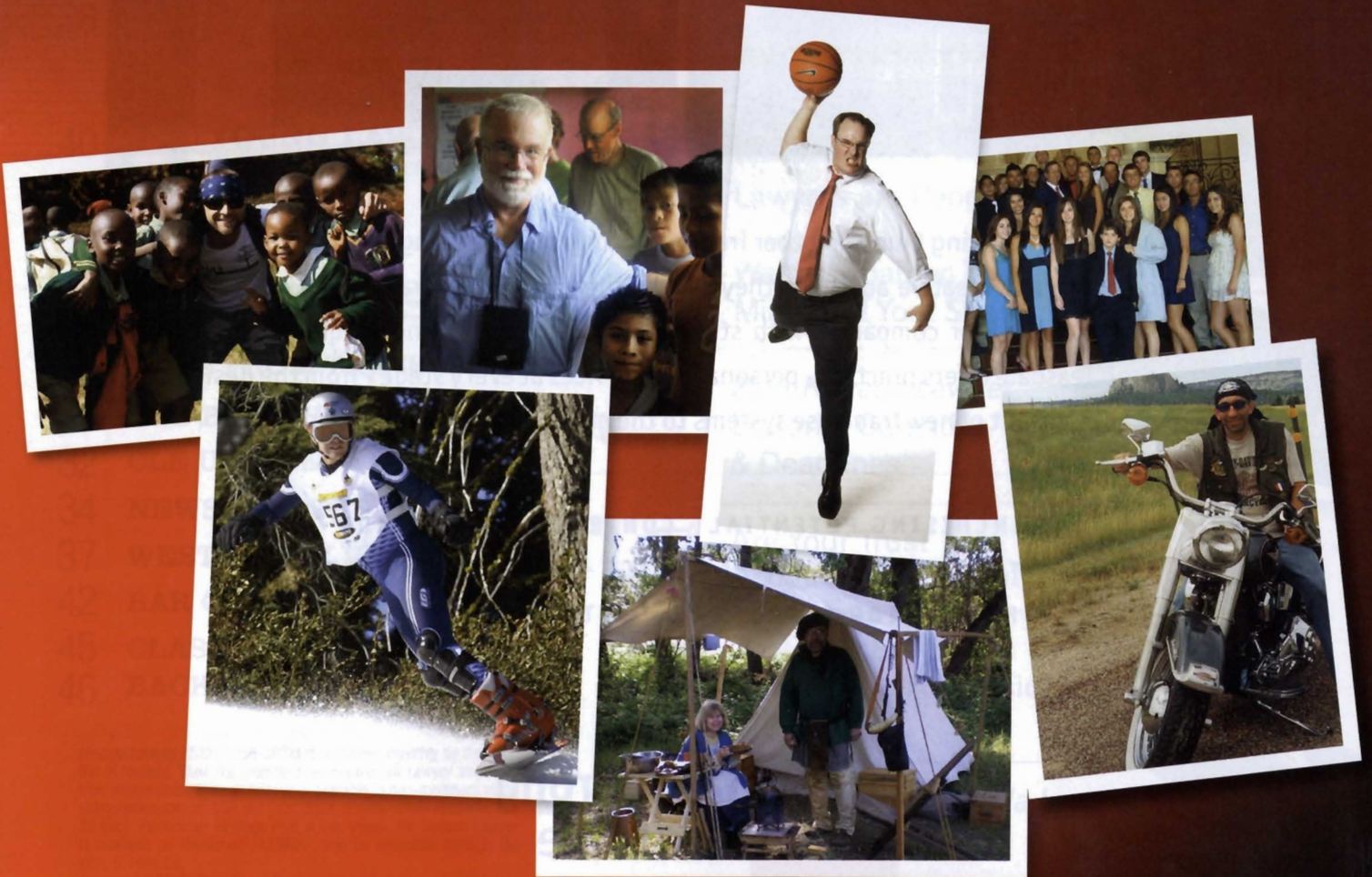


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JENNY FOLEY, LAS VEGAS DOG FOSTER MOM

By Christina Alberts

Fostering dogs has been a bittersweet experience for Las Vegas attorney Jenny Foley.

Foley had tried, without success, to convince her husband Lars that a dog would be a wonderful addition to their family; then the couple was introduced to the notion of fostering.

While he wasn't ready to commit to full ownership, Foley's husband agreed to give fostering a try. So Jack, a black Labrador Retriever, moved into their home. The Foleys were allowed to keep Jack to themselves for two months before having to return him to the pet store on weekends for adoption fairs; during those two months Jack became a beloved member of the family. When Jack's first weekend back at the pet store arrived Foley and her husband spent an entire day in tears. The following day, realizing they wouldn't be able to face having to continue returning Jack to the pet store, they decided to adopt Jack permanently. But when the Foleys got to the pet store, he had already been adopted by someone else. Even though this was heartbreaking for the Foleys, they were thrilled that the dog had found a forever home. "It was kind of perfect for him," Foley explains. The people had a pond and two or three boys...a black lab on a ranch: it can't get more perfect than that."

Deciding the positives of the experience outweighed the negatives, Foley and her husband continued fostering dogs. They have been at it, off and on, for the past two years. Foley says working for a boss who is extremely flexible and understanding has helped her balance life as a busy attorney with her responsibilities as a foster pet parent. The agency Foley has most recently worked with, German Shepherd Rescue of Las Vegas, has also worked to accommodate her busy schedule, allowing her to continue to pursue her passion for helping animals in need of homes.

In her two years of fostering, Foley says she has had some wonderful, uplifting



experiences. Her most recent foster pet, a German shepherd named Honey, has provided her with one of her best fostering experiences thus far. Honey wasn't doing well when Foley picked her up, but she says her connection with the dog was instant.

"She attached herself to me like Velcro; she could have taken or left Lars...she would have preferred to leave him on the side of the road," says Foley. Part of Honey's dislike for her husband, and all other men, stemmed from the dog's having been abused by a male.

It took Foley six weeks of hard work, but eventually Honey warmed up to Lars and showed real improvement. After helping to rehabilitate Honey, Foley got a call from the rescue agency, informing her that an older gentleman was interested in adopting the dog. The man and his wife had recently lost their German shepherd and thought Honey might be the perfect dog to fill the space left by their pet's death.

Although she'd initially had issues connecting with men, Honey attached herself to her new owner immediately. Foley still gets e-mail updates from Honey's new owner and knows the dog is in the ideal home. ■



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