

Blessing in disguise

for the Hoch Family and their new Labrador Maggie

By Helga Krietsch (volunteer of Garden Route SPCA)



Gerald Hoch with Maggie

In August 2012 Gerald and JD had to find out that 4 years old Roxy – one of their Labradors – was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma (an aggressive bone cancer) and eventually they had to put her to sleep end of September 2012.

After this sad event their guesthouse felt "empty" and 7 years old Maxwell – the other Labrador – was sad and alone. About a month later Gerald and JD decided to start looking for a Labrador puppy and went to the George branch of Garden Route SPCA. At this stage there was no Labrador for adoption but they left their contact details with the receptionist.

They did not have long to wait. At the end of November Gerald received a call from George SPCA informing him that a female Labrador puppy of 6 months had been brought in by the owner. This puppy had been hit constantly by the owner when it was digging in the garden and destroying plants. A neighbour reported this to George SPCA but before any action could be taken, the owner brought this young Labrador to George SPCA.

Gerald and JD went to have a look at this puppy and were thrilled. They filled in the adoption papers, a home check was carried out by SPCA, the puppy was sterilised and everything was prepared for her arrival. On the 7th December 2012 Gerald fetched this Labrador puppy and named her Maggie.

She settled into her new home very quickly and Maxwell loves her. She is very cute and happy, but . . . she will need a while to forget her former life. Whenever anyone makes a sudden move or tries to grab her by the collar she cowers and makes herself as small as possible.

In April Gerald, JD, Maxwell and Maggie went to the Kaaimans River. For Maggie it was the first swim and after getting used to the water she loved it and did not want to leave.

Maggie found a new home, which is full of joy and happiness.



Maxwell and Maggie in the river

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