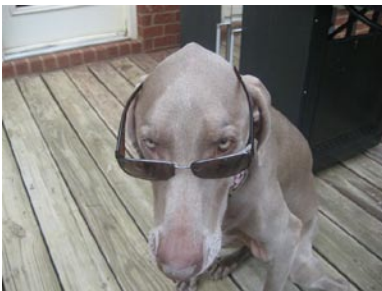




Thank you, Almost Home, for matching our family with Grace and for gently coaching us through those first couple of weeks as we all adjusted to each other. As you can see in the photo, the little boy who once cried, “I don’t like that big dog. I want her to go back,” is now thoroughly smitten, and the feeling is mutual. Gracie loves having children to play with in the back yard, and the kids love having a dog with the energy to keep up with them. We grown-ups are grateful for Grace’s energy and the motivation it gives us to walk and jog with her. We’re losing weight and getting in better shape thanks to Grace’s need for exercise.

Grace has melded so sweetly into every facet of our lives. She is obedient and doting and pretty much game for anything we want to do as long as we’re doing it together. She enjoys riding in the car and going to Grandma’s house where she is spoiled to a nauseating degree. She loves her twice-daily walks so much that she performs a happy dance when she sees us reaching for her leash. She even joins us for bedtime stories every evening and helps us wake the kids for school in the morning. We’ve found there’s nothing quite like sloppy Grace kisses to get a sleepy child moving.



Gracie is the perfect combination of sweetness, energy and total ham, and we love her more and more every day. We have the unique benefit of an “open adoption” of sorts with Grace’s first family. Grace came from a wonderful home where she was a cherished member of the family. Sadly, the family’s new baby was severely allergic to Grace and her Weimaraner brother, Moe, so surrender was a heartbreaking but necessary choice. Because of the circumstances, Almost Home gave us the option of

establishing direct contact with Grace’s original family, a privilege most unusual in a surrender/adoption scenario. We’ve been able to find out so much about Grace’s history including her birthday. We share stories of Grace’s funny little quirks – those that are new to us but so familiar to her first family – and they have shared Grace’s puppy photos with us. We likewise share photos with Grace’s first family, giving them peace of mind. They know, without a doubt, that Grace is happy, beloved and very well cared for.

Our decision to adopt came about after the painful loss of our sweet dog, Betty, who was with us for more than 15 years. While no dog could ever take Betty’s place in our hearts, Gracie has shown us that there is always room to grow! Like Betty before her, Grace is now part of the family legacy, and we look forward to all the sweet memories we will make with her.