

Most kids in the United States, at one time or another, beg their parents for a dog. My siblings and I were no different. But my parents always said no (for good reason) because my older brother was allergic to dogs. Because I didn't have a dog of my own as a kid, I have learned to enjoy other people's dogs, such as those of my coworkers—Tom, *Forum's* assistant editor, and Jenny and Jacquie, Classroom Activities authors. Their dogs are introduced below.

—MK



**TOM'S DOG,
WILLIE**

Our Tibetan Spaniel, Willie, is a “rescue dog”: he was a stray, and a local animal-rescue team looked after him until he found a home. When my wife and I first went to see Willie, we sat down, and immediately he jumped happily onto my lap. That did it; we knew he was the dog for us! Still, we had to be interviewed by a member of the rescue team, and another member inspected our house to make sure Willie would be safe and comfortable there. Finally we were able to adopt him. We're glad we did. Willie is a cheerful dog who loves being around people, especially children. His favorite activities are taking walks (with a tennis ball in his mouth), looking out the window, playing hide-and-seek, and eating almost any kind of fruit. Thanks for choosing us, Willie!



**JENNY'S DOG,
REGALITO**

Meet Regalito! Regalito met Jenny when she was just a small puppy traveling on a bus in Costa Rica with her sister and the man who owned them. He couldn't keep both puppies, so he asked Jenny if she wanted Regalito, and Jenny couldn't resist. Regalito spent her first five months in Costa Rica (attending school with Jenny) before migrating to the United States. Regalito means “little gift” in Spanish. Jenny considers Regalito her little gift, and they've been best friends from the very beginning. You know what a “selfie” is, right? Check out the photo; it's a selfie of dog owner Jenny and Regalito. Selfies with dogs are more fun!



**JACQUIE'S
DOGS,
MAISEY AND
MONTY**

Meet Maisey and Monty! Maisey is a golden retriever who was born on a bucolic farm in northern Maryland in 2007. She was the only girl of the litter and had eight brothers. Maisey has a jovial personality and is always up for active pursuits. Monty is a Newfoundland rescued from Bedford, Pennsylvania, in 2009. Although he is large at approximately 140 pounds, he is friendly and gets along well with other pets and family members. Newfoundland dogs are the only dogs that can swim the breaststroke. Monty loves to swim, and in the winter he is adept at walking on ice and snow. Both dogs love taking walks around our town's lake and going to barbeque parties in the summer.