

DEVO by Mia Trovato

****Editor's note:** This is the winning entry in our "Fairport – Literally – Goes to the Dogs" writing contest. It was written by Mia Trovato, a 5th grader at East Rochester Elementary School. Mia has owned Devo for two years. Her hobbies include swimming and traveling and she has visited China and India.



This is the story of how Devo, my German Shepherd dog (or G.S.D.) came into my life.

Devo was born in a warehouse in New Jersey. The people who had the puppy didn't want the puppies – so they starved them. The parents were both guard dogs. The pups didn't get enough of what they needed.

Devo was rescued by an organization called "Big Dogs, Big Hearts". He was put into foster care. "Big Dogs, Big Hearts" found cardboard, plaster, and metal in the pups poop. Then I came along. Suddenly, Devo's life changed. My mom and dad took me to a pet store where the organization had the dogs for adoption. Then I saw him. I went over to him and asked if I could say hello. Soon, I was not leaving his side! I took him to the tiny space of grass between the parking lot and the building and back. My mom and dad looked into him and learned about his awful beginning. I remember saying, "We are not leaving here without him." So true!

The next day Devo came to my house. My family and his fosters talked. I asked, "Can we keep him?" and they said, "Yes." It was decided that we would get him forever the next day.

You may have heard of dog nicknames. Well, Devo has TOO many! There are: egg-lifter, pita-puller, poochie puppy, woony-wuppy-wo-wo, wuppy puppy, little handsome pooch, floopy-eared-big-boy (which died out long ago, as he has big, straight, high ears now), baloney-brain, Devo-bandito, and big ears. Devo does "sit", "down", "stand", "wait", "rest", "pool", "car", "door", "shoosh", "swim", "touch", "paw", "come", "watch", "heel" and "with-me". The other command is "find". Devo goes, finds his treat-filled whatever you want him to find, and he brings the whole thing with you (with the treat). You say "show" when he finds it and he puts it in your hand! Before eating it!

Devo has many friends. He goes to the dog park early each morning and plays. He plays with many other friends; he even has a best friend, a Great Dane!

Devo is a great dog – he gives me nothing but love.



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