



IT'S STORY TIME

Enjoy reading this story with your family or to your furry friends!
Fun twist: Set up your furry friends and act out the story!

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ARE YOU EMILY?

For Emily and her family, this was no ordinary day...it was pet adoption day at the neighborhood animal shelter! Emily knew that adopting a pet meant making a very special promise. She had waited so long and learned everything her dad had taught her about taking care of an animal. She felt well prepared after they stopped at the pet store. They bought a brush to keep the puppy's fur soft, a leash for going on walks and a tennis ball so the puppy could learn to play fetch. Emily was all set to be the best dog owner ever!

Meanwhile, the good people at the shelter were preparing for Emily and her dad to arrive and pick up their last golden retriever puppy. Sparky was the name of the smallest pup in the litter.

"You're going home today!" they told the small puppy. Everyone, especially Sparky, was excited to meet the new owner.

"Your new owner is a little girl named Emily," the shelter employees told Sparky. "She lives with her dad in a house just around the corner. They're a nice family with other animals too. And they've promised to love you and take care of you with all their hearts!"

Sparky was so excited! He ran around in circles, jumped high, rolled around on the floor and made playful yips and yaps. He even gave sloppy kisses to everyone at the shelter!

"You're going to wear yourself out, Sparky! Calm down," they said, laughing. But Sparky couldn't sit still! He kept hopping and running and jumping and rolling and yipping and yapping with delight.

Sparky thought, "Oh boy! I'm going to have new home! Emily is going to be my new owner and it's going to be great!"

All that excitement tired out little Sparky. By the time Emily and her dad arrived, he was one pooped pup! He had fallen fast asleep in his little travel crate. Emily peeked in to see the curled up ball of fur. He was sooo cute. She wanted to wake him so she could give Sparky a hug, but Dad said to just let him sleep. Emily carefully picked up the travel crate so she wouldn't wake him up. She held it in her lap on the trip back to her house and thought of all the fun things they'd do together.

There was one more thing Emily and her dad needed to get for Sparky: some special puppy food. Since Sparky was still fast asleep, Dad decided to drop Sparky off at home first, then head back to the pet store with Emily. It wouldn't take long.

"We'll take Sparky inside and leave him in the crate in the kitchen," Dad told Emily quietly. "Let's open the door to the crate and leave some newspaper right outside in case he needs to go potty while we're gone."

While Emily and her dad were gone, Sparky woke up. He stuck his wet little nose out of the crate and gave his new home a little sniff. "This must be my new home," he thought. "I need to meet Emily, my new owner!" So the brave little golden retriever puppy set out in search of Emily.

He first came upon a lazy black and white cat lounging in a sun spot on the carpet. "Hi!" Sparky said. "I'm new here. Are you Emily?"

The sleepy cat replied:
"Silly puppy! Can't you see?
I'm not a girl named Emily!
I have whiskers and fluffy fur,
So that makes me a cat, for sure!"

So, Sparky kept looking. He said goodbye to the cat and scampered into the next room, where he found a brown pet bunny nibbling on a carrot. "Hi, I'm Sparky," he said. "Are you Emily?"

The snacking bunny replied:
"Silly puppy! Can't you see?
I'm not a girl named Emily!
Long ears and a tail that's funny -
That makes me the family bunny!"

"Hmmm," Sparky thought. "Where can my new owner Emily be? And what can she be?" He pawed his way into Emily's bedroom and saw a furry creature up on the bed. He used the step stool and bounded onto the bed, then slowly approached the big brown teddy bear perched up on the pillows. He gave the furry friend a cautious sniff.

"Hi. My name's Sparky and my new owner is Emily. Are you Emily?"

The teddy bear replied:
"Silly puppy! Can't you see?
I'm not a girl named Emily!
She hugs me tight, we're quite the pair!
So that makes me her teddy bear!"

Sparky spotted another furry friend across the room on a shelf. It was a smiley T-Rex dinosaur. "How about you?" Sparky called out. "Are you Emily up there?"

The friendly dino replied:
"Silly puppy! Can't you see?
I'm not a girl named Emily!
I've got sharp teeth and a great big roar,
So that makes me a dinosaur!"

That spooked the little Sparky and he leaped off the bed! Where was Emily? He didn't know, so he scurried at full speed through the living room and into the kitchen, heading straight for the back door to make his escape. When the door opened, it just so happened that a beautiful little girl was standing there. She had a friendly smile that brought his tiny paws to a sliding stop right at her feet. It was Emily!

Having just returned from the pet store, Emily set down the dog food, picked up the jittery puppy and cradled him in her arms.

"Hi, I'm Emily. It's nice to meet you, Sparky!"

"Yip yip yip!" barked Sparky as he licked Emily's nose in excitement. Sparky had found Emily!

Emily and Sparky spent the rest of the day together getting to know one another. Emily brushed Sparky's fur to keep it soft and shiny and took him on a walk with his new leash and collar set. She gave Sparky food and water in his bowl and took him outside to throw the tennis ball around. Emily also re-introduced Sparky to all the other animals and furry friends in the house – everyone was super nice!

It was no ordinary day indeed. Emily adopted a very special puppy and Sparky became a much-loved member of the family. The two of them had many, many happy days together, thanks to the promise Emily made that special day – and kept every day after.



THE END

