

Members of the Month

The Caputo Family – Frank, Jackie, Isabella, Gabriella

Who would have thought a 25lb cotton ball of black, white, and tan would change our lives? Through this cotton ball, we have made great new friends, our kids have learned new responsibilities, and we have become part of a community.

Our 25lb cotton ball, aka Seavaridge Herbie the Love Bug, is now ingrained in every aspect of our lives and is now 103 pounds. He has become a great little brother to our Lucky, a 10 year old Jack Russell and our girls Isabella and Gabriella.

Jackie and I met in our college freshman year and for me (I'll assume for her as well) it was love at first sight. Nine years later we were married and bounced from apartment to apartment and state to state for the next 10 years while I finished my training. Along the way, we had two children: Isabella (10 years) and Gabriella (8 years), as well as Lucky, our JRT (10 years).

While Jackie has always loved the small dogs and me the big dogs, what better compromise than a JRT (BIG DOG in a small body!). What a great boy he is: obedient, faithful, protective, and loving. When we finally moved back to NJ, we bought a house with some land and were hoping to find a "little" brother for Lucky to play with.



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We have always loved the Swissys since our first introduction by Erin McWilliams who taught us how to teach Lucky to be the dog we wanted him to be 10 years ago in Rockaway, NJ. Through our journey in finding a Swissy, we met some awesome people. Through multiple telephone calls and conversations, we finally got our phone call that we had a puppy. Dr. Chris Gisewhite had a boy for us. It was the right time and eight weeks later, our boy was asleep in the back of my car with my two daughters.

But the story doesn't end there.



Chris encouraged us to get involved with MAGS and to consider showing Herbie. Well, I considered showing him myself or getting a handler, but after about a month it became apparent: Herbie belonged to Isabella and Isabella belonged to Herbie.

They took puppy class together and he loved being with her. She then started taking handling classes with him.

We were thrilled and were so happy to hear the encouragement from others.

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We just came back from our first show and while we still have a lot to learn, I was amazed at the camaraderie of everyone and how helpful everyone was.

Often when joining a new group of people, you feel like an outsider, but due to people like Chris Gisewhite, Susan Spaeth, Erin McWilliams, Denise Mitterando, Laurie Carmody, Carol Gehret, Doreen Holly, Gina Aurichio, Janie Hecker, and of course Santa, it feels like family.

