

You Need Both Faith and Hope

At first glance, my dog, Hope, might appear to be a Lemon, but in reality, she deserves to be Geauga County's #1 Dog! Shortly after birth, she and her sister, Faith, were accidentally hit by a car. They were left on the road terrified and alone. Hope was so badly injured that her leg had to be amputated. Her other injuries were so severe that the veterinarian thought it best to put her to death. Fortunately, her sister, Faith, who was not injured, refused to eat without Hope. Initially, the workers at the Geauga County Shelter kept Hope alive only to support Faith, who was afraid to be alone. Hope stayed by Faith's side and comforted her. I met the dog sisters while visiting the shelter. At first, I brought them hot dogs and petted them. Many people wanted to adopt Faith because she was a pure bred Australian Shepherd with no injuries and nice markings. When the shelter volunteers refused to adopt out Faith without Hope, everyone backed away. No one wanted Hope. She was "A Lemon." I felt sorry for Hope. Certainly, someone could look past Hope's disability to see that her supportive personality would make her a wonderful pet. The days went by and nobody wanted Hope. With each visit, I became more attached to Hope. She seemed to really appreciate my love, my petting and especially my hot dogs! I felt connected to Hope. You see, I was born extremely early, weighing only one pound. Like Hope, I was not expected to live and might be considered by some to be "A Lemon." After months in the hospital on a ventilator, I survived; but like Hope, I also had problems with walking and coordination. We were both clumsy and slow. This dog could really help me. If she could have such a positive outlook despite only three legs and a slow run, then I should too! Yes, Hope was the dog for me! Reluctantly, my family agreed to

adopt both Faith and Hope. Over the years, we have become best friends. We depend on each other for love and support. Hope follows me everywhere. She is a wonderful guard dog who is very protective of me. Above all, Hope has been a real inspiration to me. Together we play in the yard, do homework, watch TV and share secrets. When people laugh at our slow run, we smile because we know that there's more to life than speed. It's character that can never be beat! Neither of us will ever win a running race, but both of us are thankful to be alive and happy helping others. Hope deserves to be Geauga County's #1 Dog because she reminds all of us that when life hands out lemons, we can choose to make lemonade!