

Housebreaking Herschel

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Herschel was a Great Dane, which was a big dog. He was actually a puppy, but he was big enough that he looked like a full-size dog. He was bigger than Todd, his owner.

The problem with Herschel was that he wasn't housebroken yet. He was six months old, but his original owner had kept him on a porch, where he could go to the bathroom whenever he wanted.

That owner hadn't had a lot of time to take care of a dog, but he'd wanted one anyway. When he'd moved to another state for work, he'd given up his untrained puppy.

It was a sad story, but it looked like it might have a good end. Todd loved dogs, and he liked to spend time with them. He liked to train them, so he'd adopted Herschel. If it was going to work out, it would take lots of patience, love, and training.

So, Todd woke up early every day. He walked Herschel immediately. They went for a long walk so Herschel could empty his bladder and use the bathroom. While Todd was at school, his mother let the dog out in the back yard every hour. When he returned home, Todd walked Herschel again. He'd put in another walk before they went to bed, too.

With enough opportunities to go to the bathroom outside, Herschel didn't need to go inside. Still, he had accidents. He wasn't used to going only outside. It took a lot of patience to clean up his messes, but Todd did it anyway. Dedication was needed with an animal.

They walked and walked every day, and Herschel started walking better on a leash. He respected his owner. They got along well together, and there were less and less messes inside. After several weeks, Herschel made it through a day without any trouble.

Todd gave Herschel a hug and a special treat. Then, they went for another walk. It was great exercise for both of them, and it gave them time together. Todd hoped they would have many years together. His new friend meant a lot to him.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Todd's problem with Herschel?
 - A. Herschel chews his shoes.
 - B. Herschel isn't housetrained.
 - C. Herschel bites people.
 - D. Herschel is a picky eater.

2. Why does Todd have Herschel?
 - A. The old owner sold Herschel to Todd.
 - B. The old owner was mean to Herschel.
 - C. Herschel ran away and Todd found him.
 - D. When the old owner gave away Herschel, Todd adopted him.

3. Who helps Todd train Herschel?
 - A. brother
 - B. sister
 - C. mother
 - D. father

4. How would you BEST describe Todd?
 - A. diligent and responsible
 - B. whiny and unpredictable
 - C. caring and happy
 - D. cruel and scary

5. How does Todd celebrate Herschel's first day without an accident?
 - A. with a new collar
 - B. with a good brush and nail clipping
 - C. with a trip to the vet
 - D. with another walk

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