

## **Charlie, Max and Enzo Too**

### **A Rehome Tale**

#### **Charlie Bollinger**

##### **Love at First Sight**

Six years ago, I had the most wonderful gift given to me by my partner Scott after I had recovered from Cancer.



The amazing gift being Charlie, aka Rattustrap Delerium Red, an eight-week-old Manchester Terrier, bred by Estella Saxton.

As we left Estella's house with Charlie, Estella said, "that dog will never want for anything". And how true that was.

The following six years were the best time of my life. I was devoted to him and worshipped him. I began to work from home as I could not leave him at all. I wanted to be with him and he with me.

#### **Max**

##### **Jack Russell Through the Window**

Each day, I would notice a woman passing my house accompanied by her little Jack Russell. I eventually learned that the woman was named Jenny and the dog was named Max. Jenny used to rest on the front wall of my house before continuing with her walk.

One day I plucked up the courage and introduced myself to Jenny, and her dog Max, and asked if they would like to come in for coffee and cake and let Charlie and Max have a play date.

From then on Jenny and Max came round everyday at 9am for the next two years. We became incredibly good friends. Jenny was the only one Charlie did not bark at and he used to wait at the window excitedly anticipating her visit.

When Jenny visited Charlie, he would welcome her with a kiss. Charlie would stand at the window in the morning watching out for his best mates and cry when they went home. Charlie developed a strong bond with Max.

Unfortunately, Jenny passed away during the Covid pandemic, but I had assured her that Max would have a great life with us and his best friend Charlie.

So, in April 2021, we gave Max his forever home. Charlie became very attached to Max, who was 14, and earlier in the year Scott and I discussed the need to get another companion for Charlie as, should anything happen to Max, we felt that Charlie would not cope very well without his buddy. It was at this point that we began to consider a rehome Manchester Terrier.

In July this year we took the dogs to the vets for their checkup. The vet said she was concerned that Charlie's gums looked very light coloured, so she took bloods and, within days, I got a call saying Charlie is very ill.

Charlie went into the hospital and spent two days in there, after which they let me bring him home and wanted me to bring him back to the surgery the next day. Sadly, the diagnosis was that we would be losing Charlie soon.

Within two weeks of being diagnosed with kidney failure Charlie died and part of me died with him.

I had indulged him, worshipped him and he was my everything, my morning, my night and he was “my raison d'être”

My partner, Scott and I were in such a state of shock. How had this happened to our darling boy at only six years of age. We were traumatised by the whole thing. I could not cope and everyday became unbearable without him.

Max went deaf and blind the day after Charlie died and wanted to be carried everywhere. Before Charlie died he used to hurtle up the stairs, this little Jack Russell Terrier so full of life and mischief. The pair used to go mad running around the house all day long. He was grieving and going downhill fast, to the point where I had to carry him everywhere.

## **Enzo**

### **The Future is Bright, the Future is Enzo**

About six weeks after Charlie died, Scott rang me and said, “Katherine you must look at this dog on the Facebook Manchester Terrier UK rehome Page”. He said, “this is our dog I can feel it in my bones, Charlie has done this as we are so unhappy without him, and he wants us to be happy”.

I got speaking to Nigel, who is the BMTC Rehome Officer, and he initially informed me that a home had already been found for Enzo. I replied, “I wish them well, but I believe in fate and fate will intervene”. I think Nigel thought me a bit eccentric (to be kind to him) and maybe thought that this would never happen.

The very next day, however, Nigel rang me and said, “you said you believed in fate, well the dog is still available, he needs a good home”.

Long story short, Nigel did my initial vetting prior to passing on my details to Enzo's owner. Scott and I then spoke to Enzo's owner a number of times, but his owner was unsure that we could give Enzo the best home for the following reasons:-

#### **Enzo does not like:**

- Men
- Little dogs
- Going under blankets
- Hates travelling in the car
- Did not like sleeping in his human's bed



Enzo's owner was so upset because he had not settled with her and not bonded well with other members of the family, and she loved him so much. I could sense her pain and felt so sorry for her. The sacrifices she had made to make Enzo happy were totally overwhelming

Eventually, however, it was agreed that we could be the home that Enzo was looking for.

When we met up to take Enzo home his owner was worried all afternoon about how we were getting on in the car. However, Enzo instantly calmed down with Max by his side and was the perfect gentleman all the way on the journey home.

As the days rolled past, I can now confirm that:

**Enzo:**

- Adores Scott and Max.
- Loves cuddling up under blankets.
- Loves travelling in the car.
- Loves sleeping in our bed (as soon as I shout Bedtime he runs upstairs straight in the bed).

I am still very traumatised by Charlies' passing, but Enzo has helped me by being such an amazing, loving dog and everyday I give thanks that he has come into our lives. Max has returned to running up the stairs now that he has a mate to play with.

**I want to thank from the bottom of my heart:**

Enzo's original owner for trusting us with her special boy.

Nigel BMTTC Rehome Officer.

Without you both this would not have happened and every day I give thanks for what you have done

Katherine & Scott