

Meet the **Lichtenfelt** family...

Sarah is the Director for the Wonderland Samoyed Safe Haven. She does not work outside the home, leaving time for nothing other than family and the dogs (sometimes forgetting the proper order). If there is time left in the day after tending to the family and the house, her time is spent meeting new Sammy families, grooming, playing with, and vetting the rescue dogs. When there is an extra minute here and there she likes to play on the beach, lounge in the sun, and motorcycle ride. Sarah has a passion for Sammies – one so strong her husband has decided to no longer fight it (he was never a dog person – at least not before.)

Rich was mostly just along for the ride – being the good, supporting husband he is. Somehow (he's still not sure how) he's become WSSH's Communications and Support Coordinator and one of our Board members. Sarah has also brought her two children Richard (7) and Alexandria (6) into rescue work. Richard and Alexandria don't know it yet, in addition to playing with the dogs, they are soon going to be part of the "grooming team."

Rich works in the IT department of FANUC Robotics. In March of 2001 he said "no dogs!" After the pleasure of our first family Sammy (Jasmine), in April he said "okay that's it, but she's not allowed on the furniture." Having now given up (if you can't fight them, join them so the saying goes), he is the co-owner of three Sammys (though he still calls them Sarah's dogs) and the foster father to a varying number of dogs - all of which will get on the furniture and do not give up their spot for anyone. Rich has even gone so far as to sell his home to get more land for his children and his wife's dogs. WSSH's Sammy Ranch is at their new home. Rich enjoys spending his time working on his house, cars, bike, and yard. He helps maintain our web-site and takes care of all of our ordering. The most patient of patient men!!

Richard is the first born in this house. He is seven going on ten to say the least he is independent. He takes care of everything and everyone, he knows just when you need a hug and when you just need a minute. Richard tends to attach to the dogs that attach to him first but has the most fun with the ones that like to play tug a war and wrestle (nicely). Richard has the biggest job of all he takes care of the momma that takes care of the dogs. Yet another link the rescue could not do without.

Alexandria (Little Bit) is six years old and loves her doggies. Not long after the rescue came into the life of her family she said she wanted to be a doggie doctor so that when the sick doggies came in she could make them feel better. Aggravated with the fact that she was going to have to be a little bigger before she could do that, she was calmed greatly when she was told that a lot of the time what makes them feel best is a hug or a nice belly rub. That's her job and she loves doing it. The hard part is saying good-bye when they go to their forever homes.

Now for the four legged part of the family...

Jasmine came to the family as a 4-year-old female and is now eight. She has been the Queen of the house for over four years now. She is very happy that is the case. With all of the foster dogs we love so much coming and going, she is sure to let them know who is in charge, while still letting them feel like they are at home. Jasmine started out as a momma's girl, but now that momma has all of these babies to tend to all of the time, she tends to turn to daddy for sympathy (and gets it – even though she is still called Sarah's dog.) Jasmine is the most loyal and devoted dog a family could ask for.

Teddy Bear came in as an 8-week-old puppy with his momma Pebbles. We just could not let him go. He is now two and a half years old. Unfortunately, he has severe hip dysplasia and severe arthritis splinters . Teddy Bear loves his family - even though he came in very young, he knows he has I good. Teddy Bear is always the first to greet the new guys when they come into our lives. We Thank God every day for perfect little babies like this.

Solomon is our Samoyed/Malamute mix and was four years old when he joined our family. He is now six. This dog would never hurt anyone intentionally - that is so long as they don't mess with his family. We call Solomon the big guy. While he is the Eyeore of the house, we can't help but feel protected when he is around. Everyone that meets him tells us how much they love our big black dog!

We were forced to sell our home in the Village of Birch Run in '04'. You see, in Birch Run you can only have two dogs. Now you can keep those dogs tied to trees, without shelter or love, so long as all you have is two. After selling our home we lived with friends and family for nine months until finally finding our paradise. When our foster dogs move on from this home (WSSH's Sammy Ranch), they will always be loved and never forgotten.

Thanks for taking the time to get to know us! As we look forward to the new adventures of everyday. We also look forward to getting to know all of our Sammy families better and better as their families grow.

We always enjoy hearing Sammy stories - please send them on anytime.