

# Blaze and Arlo

A short story about friendship

By Elia V. Cochran

I hate it when Susie has to work. I hate staying home alone all day long, especially when there is a storm. Luckily we are going on our annual lake trip soon. I get to come with Susie and swim in the lake all week! I hear the garage door opening, this can only mean one thing. “WOOF! SUSIE! WOOF!” The door swings open and Susie walks in. I jump up and lick her face. I spin in circles and chase my wagging tail. Susie pats my head and scratches behind my ears. “Guess who I brought home? Guess! Guess!” My tail is now wagging uncontrollably, I can’t wait to see what Susie has for me! Maybe a new toy? Fresh dog biscuits? A steak?!? “WOOF! WOOF!” “Ok I’ll go get her!” “WOOF!” Susie runs back out to the car and about 1 minute later she comes back with a big brown box. I jump up and lick her face. “Down, Arlo.” I sit down, my tail still wagging. Susie sets the box down and takes off her rain

jacket, after hanging it up on the coat tree, she sits down too. I paw at the box, all of a sudden there is a loud “MEOW!” I jump back. “Don’t worry Arlo baby!” Susie opens the box and a little orange head pops out. I bark, “WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!” The head disappears under a blue blanket. “Oh Arlo! You're scaring her!” Susie reaches into the box and pulls out an orange kitten. “WOOOOOOOF!” “Arlo! Cut it out!” The kitten squirms in Susie's hands. “MEOW!” “WOOF!” “MEOW!” “WOOOOOOOOOF!” “ARLO! That’s enough!” Susie takes the blanket out of the box and wraps it around the kitten. She places it carefully in the box, then carries the kitten into the living room. I follow, my tail dragging on the floor as I walk. She sets the big brown box on the couch, the couch that I always like to lay on. “Oh Arlo! You got dog hair on the couch again!” Susie brushes the hair off the couch and removes the kitten from the safety and warmth of the box. I walk over to my bed which is right next to the couch and plop down. “HUFF!” I let out a big sigh. When Susie finishes smoothing out the blanket on the couch she comes over and pats my head. “It’s okay buddy! You’ll adjust to this! Plus, it isn't permanent, we're only pet sitting her for 2 weeks while my aunt is in Seattle.” “HUFF!” Susie giggles and walks into the kitchen. A couple minutes later I

can smell the delightful scent of chicken noodle soup. All throughout the next week the kitten, (who I soon found out was named Blaze) followed me around the house. Everywhere I went, Blaze had to go too. Finally Friday came, the last day before our lake trip! I couldn't wait to spend the long mornings and afternoons splashing around in the cool refreshing lake. In fact I am so excited for the trip I can hardly sleep tonight!

The next thing I know:

“ARLO! BLAZE! TIME TO WAKE UP! WE LEAVE FOR THE LAKE TODAY!” I roll over on my tummy and Susie gives me my morning dose of belly rubs. “Are you excited buddy?” “WOOF! WOOF!” We hop in the car and Susie buckles me in the back seat. Blaze sits across from me in her box. Susie revs up her engine and ZOOM! We pull out of the driveway and onto the main road. “To the lake!” Susie announces. The drive is long and boring, I can't stop thinking about the fun trip ahead of us, my head is bobbing up and down and soon I am asleep again.

“We're at the cabin!” Susie whispers, it is now late afternoon,

I open my eyes a bit then close them again. I am too tired to swim today. Susie carries both of us into the cabin and all three of us sleep the rest of the afternoon.

I wake up the next morning to the smell of pancakes and “SNIFFFFF!” “WOOF! BACON! WOOF!”

After Breakfast, we hit the lake! I jump off the dock and into the water, Blaze jumps off the dock and into the water.

“BLAZE! NO! YOU CAN’T SWIM!” I turn and look at Susie She Looks Terrified, I swim towards the shore and out of the water, I run towards Susie and try to comfort her. I don’t

know why she is so scared. “ARLO! BLAZE CAN’T SWIM!”

“WOOF?” “ARLO! GET HER!” I turn around and sure enough, Blaze’s head is bobbing up and down in the water. I run up on the dock and jump in. Right on top of Blaze. “ARLO!

NOOOOOOOOOOO!” I dive down into the water. I paw around at the sandy bottom, until my paw touches something furry. I gently pick Blaze up in my mouth and swim back to the shore.

Susie runs over and takes Blaze out of my mouth. “Arlo! You saved her!” “WOOF!” I wag my tail and kiss Susie's face. Susie holds Blaze close to her chest. “I love you both so much, you know that?!” Susie hugs me close to her as well. We snuggle

like this for a while, finally Susie says the words I was waiting for her to say. “Who wants to celebrate with some yummy leftover bacon?” “WOOF!” MEOW!” Blaze snuggles close to me, I kiss her head. It will be my job to protect her these last few days we are together. And who knows, maybe I can even teach her how to swim!