

He's perfect. And it was love at first sight.

Dark, soulful eyes. Soft, silky hair. A warm and loving personality. Always ready to go anywhere with me. And waiting to greet me every morning with a big kiss.

No, no, no. Not The Farmer. The dog, friends, Our dog.

Though part of the family less than a year, Solomon has solidly wedged himself into all our hearts. Of the half-dozen or so dogs we've loved as part of the family over the years, this one has proved to be exceptionally intelligent, well-behaved, and playful.

That first night, though we instantly fell for his outgoing affection and how "pretty" he was, we weren't so sure he'd adapt. He spent the entire evening running around so frantically "marking territory" that he developed an infection. And promptly disappeared the next morning when we

let him out, trotting nonchalantly back a couple of hours later.

After a few mornings of the same, we discovered he was busy paying his respects to the neighborhood lady dogs. A phone call promptly set up a visit to a local neutering clinic to end those excursions.

An assistant there sniffed at my description of the patient as a miniature Collie, and haultily corrected me that there is no such dog. They are Shelties. But larger than most purebred Shelties, Solomon's more a mid-size than a compact model.

Larger now, too, than when he arrived. In recent weeks, Solomon has begun to fill out more through the middle. This may in part have something to do with his stealing the barn cats' milk every chance he gets, while concurrently chasing them from his food dish.

Accustomed to being some-

thing of a house-dog for his first four years, he has adjusted well to his new career as a farm dog. Despite his long, thick hair, with full white chest and white feet, Solomon has always kept himself extremely clean. Only if the dairy barn's center alley has clean, fresh sawdust will he lay down there while we milk. He'll pick his way around wet or dirty spots, carefully planting his feet at only the driest places.

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Unless he can help chase cattle.

An inbred instinct to help herd cattle overcomes his usual distaste for dirt. Every evening as we finish milking, The Farmer switches groups of heifers let in to the feed bunk area. Solomon knows switch-time almost to the minute, waiting around near the barn's back door 'til he gets the word. Oblivious to the barnyard "residue" around the bunk area, he prances around helping.

While he's often in and out of the house with us, four paws liberally coated with wet barnyard "residue" bar him from traipsing across the kitchen floor. Plus, he likes to sneak onto the living room couch if he thinks someone isn't looking, a no-no in our house -clean or dirty-footed.

If he isn't admitted to the house shortly after the lights come on in the morning, he scratches his toenails against the aluminum storm door -- a grating, unmistakable racket that is his effective method of knocking

Ever playful, Solomon thrives on "fetching." Tennis balls, Frisbees, kindling, rolled up newspapers -- he'll bring it all back and

stand, tail thrashing, begging for another turn. A blown-up balloon sends him into a frenzy from which he has no rest until he's pounced on and burst it with a bang. Balloons are the only toys which surpass the old, faded soccer ball. I kick and he either carries or nudges it back with nose and paws. Solomon Soccer I call it. The Farmer calls it "spending quality time with the 'kid'."

We wanted a dog that would

Checking Chickens For Salmonella

WAYNE (Wayne Co.) - Farmers and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are working together to control the spread of Salmonella enteritidis from fresh, unbroken shell eggs.

Breeding flocks - the chickens that produce the chickens that lay the eggs (you buy) - are being tested to make sure they are Sale monella free. Research has proven a hen with Salmonella can pass the bacteria into their eggs.

This mandatory program seeks to control Salmonella spread, but it will probably be quite sometime before shell eggs can be certified Salmonella free.

Until that time there are several things consumers can do to protect themselves while still enjoying the flavor and nutrition of real eggs. - Eggs are perishable food and

bark, alerting us to visitors. Solomon barks... at guineas, chickens, geese, motorcycles, cats, and most vigorously at wary UPS delivery. men. He takes his job very seriously, barking twice as hard if he thinks someone is even slightly intimidated by him.

So he chases cats, intimidates delivery people, has dirty feet, sneaks on the couch, and is prone to fleas. Okay, so he's not perfect. But he's close enough.

should be handled and stored

carefully.

Store eggs in the refrigerator (40 degrees F). They should not be left out more than two hours. This is also true for hard-cooked eggs.

- Cook eggs thoroughly to (160 degrees F) to prevent the growth of bacteria: Any products containing eggs should also be cooked thoroughly before eating. This includes cake and cookie batters, ice cream mixes containing eggs and egg nogs.

- Some grocery stores are offering pasturized eggs. These eggs are safe to use in egg nogs and ice cream mixes without cooking.

If you have questions about egg safety or would like additional information please contact Debra Bryant, PSU Cooperative Extension Agent, at (717) 253-5970 ext. 239.

OPEN HOUSE PARTS INVENTORY CLEARANCE

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5-113324 \$16.35	Paddles	\$10.90

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tinued 15-28286 16-17377	2-113322 \$22.05 Chain Guide	\$14.70
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	2-2004018 \$3.05 Spacer 1-46604070 \$9.50 Gear	
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5 - Bales 16,000 NH Round Baler Twine \$10.00 ca	4-7.50-18	\$75.85
\$185 1-266221 Complete Aircleaner Assy.	6-11L-15SL	\$45.00
1499-505-L785-784-781-	1 - 11L-155	1. Tube \$30.00
1496-1100-1116-495-1426-L775-	4 - 12.50-15SL 10 Ply Multi-Rib	\$70.00
500-L779-1425-1114-L778-	2-8-16	\$25.00
1112-1283-910-912\$ 75.00	1-13.50-16.1	\$140.00
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6 - Skid Loader Counter Weights	1-11.2-24	Traad
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488-495-1495-1469-490-880N2-		
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