



*Marley loved to chew on his leash.*

“Here,” said the teacher. “I’ll show you.”

She took Marley’s leash and started to walk with him. Marley pulled the chain, and the teacher pulled him back. But then Marley pulled the chain again. This new game was great!

Then Marley saw me. He started to run to me and he pulled the teacher after him. Marley was bigger and stronger than the teacher, so she couldn’t stop him. She was very angry.

After class, the teacher said, “Your dog isn’t ready for this class. He’s too young. You can bring him back in six or eight months.”

“Are you telling us that we have to leave the class?” I said.

“That’s right,” she said. “You have to leave.”



Because Marley couldn’t go back to the class, I started to teach him at home. But it was difficult. Marley wasn’t a fast learner.

We had another problem with Marley. In Florida, there were often thunderstorms. Marley was afraid of loud noises. He went crazy in a storm. He broke things and made everything dirty.

After each storm, Marley quickly forgot about it. He was happy again and wanted to play. But in the next storm, the same thing happened. He was afraid, so he went crazy again.

We talked to Dr. Jay about the problem. Dr. Jay was young and he understood dogs very well.

“What can we do?” we asked. “When Marley gets crazy, he breaks things. One day, he’ll get hurt in a storm.”

“Marley is seven months old,” said Dr. Jay. “I’ll neuter him. Then he won’t get so excited. He’ll be a quieter, happier dog.”

I thought about that. “Oh,” I said. “I don’t really know ...”

“Yes!” said Jenny. “That’s a great idea!”

“Bring Marley here on your way to work,” said Dr. Jay. “It doesn’t take long. He’ll be ready by the afternoon. You can get him again on your way home.”

A week later, we took Marley to Dr. Jay. Marley ran from the house and jumped into the car. He was very happy. He