

## Paralyzed dog's long wait over

It took more than two years, but Red, a paralyzed pit bull, has finally found a foster home.

Red's resilient temperament made him something of a mascot at PAWS Chicago Adoption and Humane Center. In July 2009, two gunmen attacked and robbed Red's elderly owner in his West Side garage. The robbers shot Red, leaving him partially paralyzed.

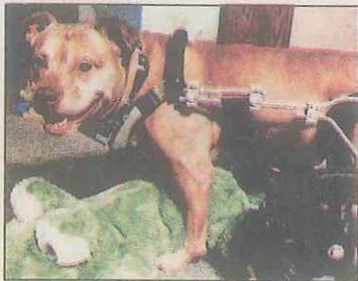
After the shooting, Red could no longer walk, wag his tail or relieve himself on his own. Indoors, he drags himself around using his front two legs; outside, he uses a wheelchairlike cart to get around.

Dawn Schaible, of Stockton, in northwest Illinois, said taking on a special needs dog didn't faze her.

"Most people prefer puppies," said Schaible, 41. "I was like, 'Oh, geez, who is going to want to adopt him?'"

In addition to emptying his bladder every eight hours, Red needs to be taken for regular walks and aqua and massage therapy, said Rochelle Michalek, executive director of PAWS Chicago. She said about 20 other families had expressed interest in Red over the two-plus years he was there but realized they wouldn't be able to handle his care.

Schaible brought Red home in



Red spent more than two years at a Chicago adoption center.

December, and though her foster contract ends in March, she said she plans to adopt him permanently.

Red's transition has been smooth, Schaible said. He gets along with her 19-month-old daughter and 6-year-old beagle. Red likes to play tug of war with a stuffed frog and seems to have adapted to his injuries, she said.

PAWS Chicago staff members said they will miss Red's people-friendly personality, but Schaible said she plans to bring Red into the center for a going-away party.

"I think it's bittersweet. We love Red. He is such a role model. He is such an inspiration," Michalek said. "(But) to see him at his home ... it just makes us so happy."

— Naomi Nix