

## The Puppy

One day Madi and Jace were playing at the park. It was a warm sunny day, and the park was filled with children. Jace was playing on the monkey bars. Madi was swinging with a friend. After a while Jace wanted to play tag. He asked Madi and all the other kids if they wanted to play tag. While everyone was deciding who would be “it,” Jace heard a puppy crying. It was not very loud but seemed to be close by. Soon all the children heard the crying and began to search. Following the sound, they moved toward a thicket of trees nearby. At the edge of the trees was a large green bush. Jace knelt down to peer under the bush, and there, quivering and shaking, was a fluffy white-and-black puppy. Jace knew he was scared, so he spoke softly to the puppy as he reached in to pick him up. The children were very excited when they saw what Jace had found, but Jace told them to be quiet. He knew the noise would scare the puppy even more.

Everyone quickly stopped talking, and in no time the puppy wasn't scared at all. He wagged his tail and wanted to run and play. While the puppy rolled and tumbled around the group, Jace wondered where he had come from. The puppy did not have a collar, so how would they find his owner? Jace had always wanted a puppy, but what would his mother say?