The New Puppy

My little brother Mario wanted a dog for his birthday. He had been asking for one for a long time. My mom and I went down to the pet store while he stayed at home with grandma. When we got to the pet store, we saw snakes, birds, mice, and fish. The dogs were in the back. The store only had fancy poodles with curly hair, and they cost $300 each!

My mom said that we could not afford to buy such an expensive dog. I told her that Mario wouldn't have liked a poodle anyway. On the way back home we stopped at the animal shelter to see if they had any dogs up for adoption. There was a little brown one with black spots in a cage in the back corner.

The other dogs in the shelter started barking when I walked by their cages, but it was real quiet. I put my hand next to the bars of the cage and the puppy slowly walked over to smell my hand. I could tell he had been hurt because one of his legs didn't work that well. Even though he was small, his eyes were big. He stuck his
tongue through the bars to lick my hand. He wagged his tail. I knew we had found my brother’s birthday dog.

The staff at the shelter asked us a number of questions about where we were going to keep the puppy, and required us to sign paperwork guaranteeing that we would take good care of the animal. We paid fees for the spaying and neutering of the puppy, along with fees for the license and the tags. Altogether, the total was less than seventy-five dollars, which was way less than the pet store would charge. And now this animal would have a home.

When we got home, I took the puppy into the backyard and my mom went into the house to tell Mario that she had a surprise for him. I held the puppy gently as Mario came out. He was so excited! He kept yelling, “Gracias! Gracias!” when he saw the dog. The puppy seemed really happy, too, probably because he was not in a cage anymore. Mario came closer to the puppy and slowly put his hand out for the puppy to smell it. The puppy took a couple of sniffs and gave him a lick. Mario smiled wider than ever, and softly patted the puppy on the back of his head.