

Second place, Fiction

My Pet Sock

by Nicole Cortichiato

(Author disability: narcolepsy)

I have a pet sock. He is the cheapest pet I ever had. He eats lint and is pretty low maintenance considering the cost of pets these days. Every once and a while I have to pick up his fuzz but he's mostly a really sweet piece of fabric. He does have a bit of wild side. He likes to take bubble baths when I'm not at home. Sometimes he gets worn out from dancing or sliding on my wooden floors. Occasionally, he doesn't make sense and then I realize he's inside out so I have to flip him back into our world. People always ask how we found each other. I'll tell you or maybe I'll sock it to you. Ha ha!

One day, I went to the [Adopt-A-Sock-Rescue](#). Do you know they get 3 million orphan socks a year that need a good home? Apparently, these wonderful pets often come from good homes. They just aren't wanted due to not having a matching mate. I thought, "how sad" and one day stopped in to see what I could do. The staff there asked me what type of sock I was looking for. They had many different types of styles and personalities to choose from. They had every kind of sock you could think of: there were tube, toe, dress, tennis, crew, booties, high cut, low cut, knee high, no show, solid colored, rainbow, checkered, wool and lace. As I pondered, I saw out of the corner of my eye a woman bringing in some freshly laundered socks- and there he was, so cute peeking through this white, plastic laundry basket. He saw me too and his colors vibrated with excitement. He certainly stood out from the rest with his toe action. I knew instantly I had had a bond with this amazing argyle creature of colored squares, diamonds and cotton. He is knee-high and very cuddly. He loves people and cannot seem to keep his toes away from them when I have visitors. He is very well trained and heels upon command. The rest is history. I adopted him immediately. I named him Argie and was able to take him home that day. All his darning had already been taken care of so I knew I was taking home a healthy sock. They provided me with a leash, went over his personality, and sent me home with his favorite toy, a sock monkey.

Argie has adapted quite well except he does not like to be alone. He seems to have a fear of abandonment. He can be a crafty one, that Argie. Often, he hides in the dryer, picks up static cling and attaches himself to my pants or shirt just so he can come with me to work. I'm thinking of adopting another sock to keep him company when I'm not at home.

Despite our challenges -Argie and I are very happy. He's always waiting for me when I get home. His favorite games to play are [this little piggy](#), footsies, hide and seek, and the sock hop.

For those of you out there contemplating what kind of pet to get- please consider adopting from the [Adopt-A-Sock-Rescue](#). They are a great organization and rescue socks from all over Austin. Plus it's a great way to give back. With the money I've saved by having a low maintenance pet I've even socked away a little nest egg for Argie and I to use for a trip later on. We are thinking of using it to go to Sockramento, California. Argie is only two years old but has already expressed interest in being a sock puppet when he grows up.

The END