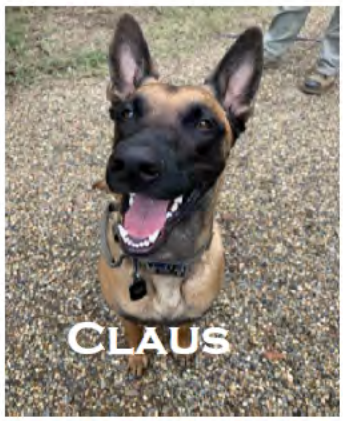
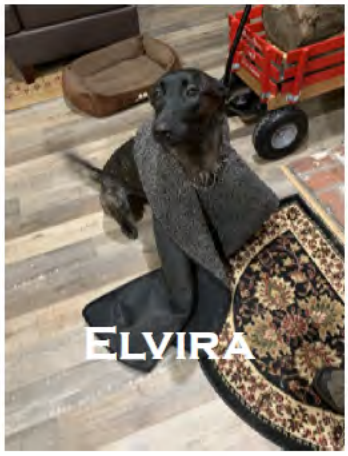
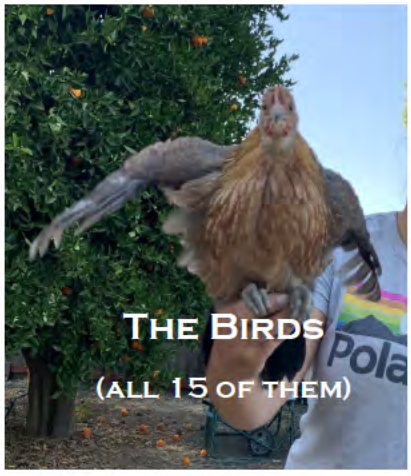
Matthew & Tabie







Thank You!

Through our journey we have come to realize that everyone has a story to tell. Our hope is that showing you our story will make your decision a little easier in some way. We understand words don't always make things better but we still want to say thank you. We believe that what you're considering is one of the most selfless and kind actions a person can take. Whether you choose us or not, we believe you are an amazing and brave person. We wish you strength and tranquility during this process.

Getting to Know Us

We love to adventure! Every year we head to the Mojave Desert for a week of riding and exploration. A few years back on a long ride, we had a bit of an accident. We ended up rolling over *5* times! It was just a fluke and a bit of bad luck. When we came to a stop we were scared to check ourselves for injuries but when we were able to take a breath, we remembered all the safety gear we always make sure to wear and realized we were probably unscathed. Sure enough, not only did we have no injuries, but we were still able to drive all the way back to camp.

Our pups go everywhere with us! We even got an RV so we can visit more places with them in tow. One year we took them to Monterey, California to have some clam chowder. The restaurant we visited had a dog menu! Both dogs got steak and eggs for lunch and Blitz (our German shepherd who has since passed) even got to be on the restaurant's website! Your child will grow up with a family that stays together.

We live on an almond farm. Our almonds are grown and harvested by Matt and our family. We sell almonds to Blue Diamond, if you have ever bought flavored almonds from the gas station or grocery store you have likely had an almond from our farm. When we started farming, we didn't have any equipment. Matt had to knock the nuts off each tree with poles and pile them manually. Sometimes he would be so exhausted he couldn't lift his arms by the end of the day. Thankfully we were able to upgrade to mechanical tree shakers and other equipment for easier harvesting.

Tabie

From Matt's View

Tabie is incredibly driven! If you need something done Tabie is the person to ask. I always wanted to take flight lessons and see what it was like, but never knew how to get started. Without telling me, Tabie found a great instructor, paid for lessons and made sure I had everything I needed. I am still working on my license and I can't wait to solo. Your child will always have Tabie to help then achieve their dreams.

Tabie is the family medic! Even though, if needed, we have an actual doctor in the family, Tabie is the one who patches everyone up. She has trained as an emergency medic and gets plenty of practice fixing animal injuries and patching up her somewhat clumsy self. Thank goodness she does because at one family dinner my mom was choking on a piece of steak. Tabie immediately rushed over and gave her the Heimlich. The chunk of steak flew across the house and after a bit of coughing she was right as rain!

Tabie loves to read! Sometimes I have to turn the lights off on her so she will go to sleep! She often reads well into the wee hours of the night. Every now and then, Claus will decide Tabie has been paying too much attention to her book and not enough to him. So he will get a running start and leap in to her arms. She always gets mad that she lost her page but she can't stay mad with the big lug cuddled on her lap!

Matt

From Tabie's View

Matthew is extremely devoted to his friends and family. On a trip to go off-roading in the mountains, we got a call from one of his friends. He said he was broken down on the side of the highway two and a half hours from where we were. Matt turned us around without hesitation and we drove the long trip to help a friend in need and got him home safe and sound ! Your child will have a father they can count on.

Matt can fix anything! One weekend we were camping at an alpine lake at over 10,000 ft elevation. On the day we were set to leave, the jeep wouldn't start! We were easily an hour's drive from phone service or the nearest paved road. No one was coming to save us if we couldn't get it started. Matt worked his magic and after about an hour of fiddling and a couple accidental alarms, he found a solitary wire to the fuse box had come loose and was able to get us on the road again!

Matt is a social butterfly! It doesn't matter where we are or what we are doing, people love to talk to Matt, and he loves to talk to them! On a trip to Prague, Matt somehow ended up in conversation on the Charles bridge with a man he had never met. We ended up standing on the bridge talking to this local for over 20 minutes. He liked Matt so much that he insisted we go out for a meal with him. To use his words: He just had "to spend more time with this wonderful American"!

How I Became We

We met online and our mutual love of dogs brought us together. We were both on a dating site and Matt had a picture of him with his German Shepard, Blitz. Tabie thought Blitz was the most adorable dog she had ever seen! She reached out to Matt to find out where he got his dog, and the rest...well, you can guess!

Our shared passions made us best friends. It turns out that we shared more than a love of dogs, we basically liked all the same things! Our parents call us "the twins" because we often act like the same person. On one camping trip in the mountains we were sitting around the fire when a friend asked a funny question. We, on completely opposite sides of the fire, answered in unison, laughed, and both said "jinx" at the same time. It was like something out of a cheesy romance novel. Our friend just gave us the raised eyebrow and asked if we rehearsed that kind of stuff at home. We don't, but that happens all the time and it always cracks us up!

We discovered our infertility quickly after we got married. It has been a difficult time. We tried multiple rounds of IVF and they all failed. The emotional roller-coaster has been extremely taxing but in the end, we learned we would rather be parents than pregnant. We have so much to share with a child and believe love is more important than biology. We are looking forward to this adventure with you.

The Farm Life

On our almond farm, there are 70 acres of almonds that Matt cares for and harvests every year. Almond harvest is hard work and takes months of non-stop effort to get the almonds from the trees to the store. One year was bad, everything kept breaking down and Matt just couldn't get the almonds harvested. Fortunately, Matt is so friendly that our neighbor Serge brought his machines over and helped Matt harvest the whole orchard. Your child will grow up in a kind and helpful community.

Our home on our California farm is over 120 years old! It's called The Nut House! Before we moved in the house was in really bad shape so we decided to rebuild it! When Matt was running the new water line through the attic to the back rooms, he lost his footing and fell thought the ceiling in the hall closet! It turned out to be a small blessing as we found a damaged area in the ceiling! Matt started yelling for help. Tabie came running and found just a left leg dangling from the whole in the ceiling. Tabie got a ladder and maneuvered his foot on to a wrung so he could push himself up. No harm done, other than to the ceiling!

Every year we plant a large garden that will feed most of our vegetable needs over the summer and leave us extra to preserve for the winter months. Our first year with chickens we decided to let them wander the yard—and that included the vegetable garden . In two days, everything we planted was eaten to the stalk by the chickens. Tabie was so disappointed! Now the garden is fenced off to defend against the chickens.

Four Legged Family

The Woofs

We love our animals! Neither of us really had many pets growing up but as adults we took our first opportunities to rescue pups. Even before we met, Tabie got her sweet tiny Alpha from the pound and Matt got beautiful Blitz from the GSD Rescue. Blitz and Alpha grew old and passed away but they will always be the sparks that started the fire of our love for animals that will never end.

Claus and Elvira have both graduated from dog school and have a certificate of "canine good citizenship" from the AKC. One time we were at a PetSmart training class and a little girl decided to try and ride Claus like a horse. Claus was a young dog and had no experience with children. He was very frightened by the little girl but was the best boy and didn't react at all when the little girl jumped on him. He pushed through his fear and waited for directions like a good boy!

Our dogs are good with kids. Elvira especially loves babies! Mainly because they drop food. On a trip out to dinner a few months back, a toddler was seated next to us. He had a little snack cup full of goldfish and decided to offer one to Elvira. Ever so gently she went and licked the goldfish right out of his hand then proceeded to lick all the crumbs off his face. They quickly became best friends and he used Elvira as a balance tool the rest of the night as they shared goldfish and cuddles.

Four Legged Family

The Meows & The Birds

Dexter's origin story is one of great mystery! He just showed up one on our porch one day! Everyone thinks Tabie brought him, but she didn't. He was so tiny and we were worried he would get killed in the night, so we made him a bed and gave him some food. We didn't expect him to be there in the morning but he was, and the next, and the next... until the dogs got out! We thought they were going to eat him, but fearless Dexter stood his ground and the dogs just stopped. The next day he walked in through the dog door and started playing with the dogs. He has been with us ever since.

Farva is a little different, and he is totally "Tabie's fault." We met him a week after he was born and he was super small as the runt of the litter. He waddled right up to Tabie and climbed up her leg. He was running from the bigger kittens who were bullying him, so Tabie decided he needed a home and someone to take care of him. Even full grown, he is only *5* pounds.

We raise chickens and ducks! It all started with a spur of the moment trip to Tractor Supply where they had baby chicks for sale. Tabie had always wanted chickens so Matt, after some begging, let her buy 4 baby chicks to raise for eggs. If you can't tell, Tabie loves animals! Even with Matt's supervision, the number of birds quickly escalated...Today we have 13 chicken and 2 ducks. Every day we go out to spend some time with them. It has become such a habit they run to the fence when they see us; they know snacks are coming! The chickens favorite snack is watermelon and crushed corn while the ducks love meal worms and raisins!

The Two Legged Family

If you choose us, your child will grow up with six grandparents, four aunts and uncles, two great grandparents, and nine cousins.

Our family is close by! One Saturday our aunt and uncle arrived unannounced with baby cousin Elana. They decided they desperately needed a bit of sleep and asked us if we could take her for the day. It was 8am and we weren't even out of our PJ's but we agreed. Elana immediately vomited all over Matt's back and the couch. She somehow managed to aim the vomit down the gap between his neck and the shirt collar so that it got all the way to his boxers. We still can't stop laughing about it. Your child will grow up surrounded by family.

Our family has a great sense of humor! With so much family so close it seems like every other week something is going on. The last time we got together was Tabie's grandfather's 90th birthday. He kept forgetting why everyone was gathered together. We all took to making up different funny reasons we were having this party. "Grandpa, it's a party to celebrate the successful reattachment of Matt's toe!" "Grandpa! Its Christmas!" (it was the summer). He was a little confused until we brought out his birthday cake!

Our family works as a team. One time a huge tree fell outside Tabie's parent's home and we all got together to cut the tree up, split the wood, and haul it out! Everyone showed up at the crack of dawn with a half dozen chainsaws, trailers, splitters, and got to work! By the end of the day we had 4 cords of split oak to heat the family houses for a full winter!

Fun Family Facts

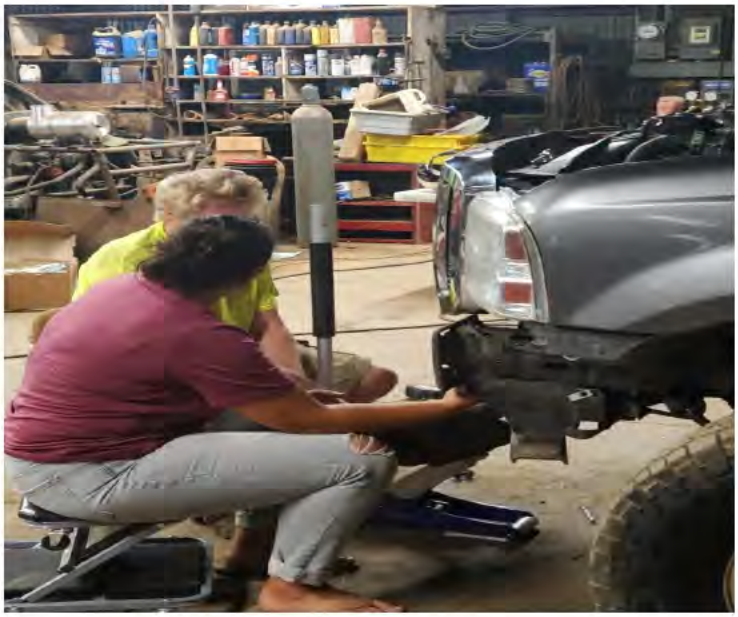
We come from very different family backgrounds! Matt can trace his ancestry back to the Mayflower and he is directly related to Aaron Burr, the third Vice President of the US. Tabie is a first generation American with both parents escaping from countries under dictatorships. The first time Matt met Tabie's parents he came in to the kitchen to ask if he could help with the cooking and he was immediately shooed out. Matt went to sit with Tabie's dad, uncle, and brother and was informed that in their culture, men are not usually in the kitchen when the women are a cooking. Over the years Matt has managed to break with cultural norms and is even requested as a kitchen helper.

We do Thanksgiving on the trail! We don't sit at a table with turkey for Thanksgiving, we go camping! The year before last, our Uncle Mike forgot his coffee (and uncle Mike *needs* his coffee!). Out the window, Tabie saw him stamping over to our trailer with an empty cup and a scowl on his face. We opened the door with the coffee pot in hand. Uncle Mike has never smiled brighter! We look forward to learning about your favorite traditions to include in our gatherings for your child.

Dinner is an event! Tabie's family is from Eastern Europe and cooking and food is a part of their family culture. Everyone is always invited to dinner, and its an open invitation. Our friend Phil loves to pop in unannounced for meals. One night he showed up with two friends in tow and Matt's parents had decided to come for dinner that night as well! It's a good thing Tabie always cooks enough food for six, just in case someone (or more!) pops in for dinner.

What We Call Fun!

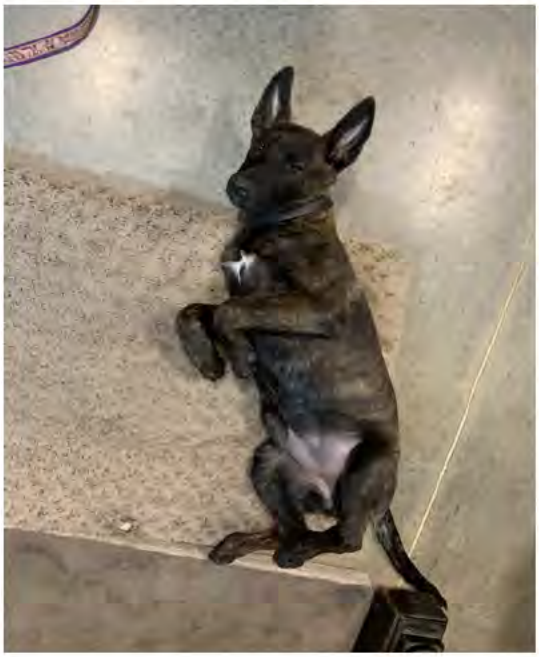
We love to tinker together in the shop! While helping a friend replace his front bumper after he hit a tree, we came across a bent bolt that got stuck in place stopping us from completing the job. We sat in the shop well into the night to get the bolt out so we could put the new bumper on. It took two hours of prying and wiggling but we got it out!



We have always loved off roading. We especially loved desert riding on ATV's and Dirt bikes until Matt got a jeep and we took it up to Levite Lake. We absolutely fell in love with overlanding and adventure driving. We both sold our day cars and built out a jeep and land cruiser for off roading. On Tabie's Land Cruiser's "rattle run" (test run) we went to Bald Mountain to climb the granite boulders. Tabie decided she wanted to tackle the "Bumper Buster" obstacle on her first run. Matt was very skeptical but Tabie went for it! The Land Cruiser climbed right over the 6' boulder with no problem! Your child will never lack for adventures.

We enjoy spending time with friends and family around bonfires! Cold weather brings big fires and cold noses. One weekend we had several friends show up to hang out. We also had a huge pile of sticks from harvest that needed burning. Everyone grabbled a wheelbarrow and started loading sticks into a massive pile. When the fire went up we had to sit back 20+ feet and could still roast marshmallows!

We love to hunt and fish! When we got married, we decided to go elk hunting in New Mexico for our honeymoon. We spent a week tracking elk. Our guide, Tabie's step-grandpa, kept getting frustrated that we were laughing and smiling when we were supposed to quiet. He said that he could spot our white teeth a mile away! Your child will grow up with a love for nature.



We enjoy training our K9's! Claus and Elvira are both working dog breeds, so we took up dog training to make sure they have the most fulfilling life possible. We quickly found out that Elvira and Claus had very different levels of drive. Claus will do anything for food and will work all day to get more. Elvira is lazy. Once at dog school, she learned a trick and immediately got bored and just laid down for a nap in the middle of class. It didn't matter what treats or rewards we offered her, once Elvira decided she was done, she was done. Eventually the master trainer at the school just gave up and said "let her nap!" To this day, she still knows all the commands.

In true country fashion, we attend the rodeo every year. Last year we forgot our seat pads to protect our butts from the cold aluminum stadium seats that are extremely uncomfortable. Matt unleashed his inner cowboy and won us some "Cowboy" themed ponchos in an air rifle game that doubled perfectly as warm cushions for cold stadium seats.

Our Everyday

Tabie works from home. Her job provides her a lot of flexibility. Tabie will always be available. She is often under the close supervision of our cats, Making sure she stays on track at all times. You child will always be the top priority.

Matt's job is on the farm, so he is never far from home. He is his own boss so he gets to make his own schedule. His day-to-day is extremely flexible. Your child will always have their dad around.

While it may seem a bit weird, evening chores is one our favorite parts of the day. Every night we tend to the garden, feed the birds, make the dogs their special dinner, and get some cleaning done. Claus will tell you all that really matters is his dinner! The dogs are supposed to wait patiently for their meals but he can't seem to help but whimper excitedly when Matt brings out his food. He gets so excited he starts to shake and sometimes he even drools! It always makes us happy and it's a hilarious way to end the night.

Until We Meet

Thank you for this opportunity to share a bit of our lives with you. We are deeply grateful for your consideration of us . We understand this is likely a difficult time for you, please know if you choose us your child will always know the great love and care you have for them.

We cannot wait to welcome the little one we have hoped and prayed for. In that, we would welcome a level of contact you are comfortable with through your child's life. Love heals all wounds. We hope you continually carry love in your heart.

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