Ziggy was about a year old when I adopted him from the San Francisco SPCA, where I volunteered as a dog walker. The SPCA had found him in a rural shelter in the Sierra foothills, just days away from being euthanized.

Now 9 years old and graying, he’s still energetic and alert. I love how serious he is about being a dog, how he studies and observes things until he sorts it out and then dives in with gusto. I remember the day he learned to swim at a nearby beach called Crissy Field. At first, he didn’t know what to think of the water. He watched the other dogs paddling around for quite some time before finally jumping in. He’s been swimming ever since.

I took this photo one August morning at Crissy Field. After splashing through the water and chasing his ball, Ziggy sat down for a rest. He seemed so calm and joyful. He was enjoying being wet and then licked some of the bay water from his nose.

— CLIFTON STONE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in All Animals or at humansociety.org/allanimals, along with an explanation of 250 words or fewer about why it’s meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 8-by-10” and at least 2 MB.

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