

PIPER: No one knows what it's like
To be a cast-off
Always left-behind.
Needing someone kind.

MAX: No one sees that I'm mellow
They only see
I'm a big fellow
But I'm quite refined.

ALL: But we dream
Of love and cuddles
And fur-ever families...

ALL: We spend hours, lonely hours
Begging our request:
For human parents.

MAX: When my bark sounds aggressive
It just means I'm stressed
If a human were to pet me
I'll be relaxed instead.

PIPER: If I swallow other dogs' poo
You know what to do

PERRY: Just tell me that you love me
'Cause I love you too.

MAX: No one knows what it's like
To be the "bad" dog.

TEDDY: The big black dog.

ALL: Behind steel bars.

Each dog stares at out through the kennel bars, then sighs, turns around three times and curls up on a blanket in the corner of the cage.

Scene 2

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) opens the pound for Saturday adoptions, turning on lights, providing food and snacks to the dogs, tying a colorful bandanna around each dog's neck so they look more adoptable.

ACO: Some of them come from the empty streets

Poor things with bruised and calloused feet
And when the cops bring them here
They're full of fear.
Some of them are dropped by their ex-humans
Dumped here convinced it was due to their wrong-doings.
But it's not their fault.
And I love them all.

Love for sale, sweet and cuddly love for sale.
Love that's made of spots and fluff
Love that's just enough.

Love for sale...
Who will choose?
Who could see them and refuse?
Who will come and take them home,
Never more to be alone?
Puppy kisses, wagging tails...
Love for sale.

As the song continues, Chester and Janie enter along with other Potential Adopters who come to look at all the dogs, they add their voices to the ACO.

ACO: Love for sale...

CHESTER: (at Teddy's kennel) This one has a white-tipped tail.

JANIE: (about Piper) And this one has the softest fur.
Must be great to cuddle her.

ADOPTERS: I know every type of love
That comes wrapped in dog-shaped fur.

PERRY: If you want the calmest kind.
Pick me up and say, "he's mine!"

ALL DOGS: We are love that you can buy.
Old dogs, new dogs, big and small.

JANIE: Chester, dear, I want them all.

CAST: Love for sale.

One by one, each dog is matched with an Adopter, but Chester and Janie take all four of the named dogs with them.

ACT II: Several Months Later

Scene 1:

Chester and Janie's house, the dogs describe their new lives. It moves between the living room, the kitchen, and the back door, but it's all one long scene, and one set, with different areas lit by spotlight as needed.

PERRY: (on the couch) Is this real life?
Is this fantasy?
Lots of cuddling's
My new reality.

PIPER: (hovering near the entrance to the living room)
I stand between rooms
Because I'm neurotic.
I see a doorway and I get confused, see
Can't go back, can't go through.
Not sure what I must do
Stand stock still, flatten down
Stuck here in the doorway til Mom comes to get me.

Janie comes to escort PIPER to the couch, where she sits down between PERRY and PIPER.

MAX: (in the kitchen, tugging at CHESTER's leg and otherwise trying for his attention.)
Hey, Dad! I smell some food.
If you could just drop some on the floor
I could taste it and be sure
That the food for you and Mom
Isn't gonna give you any qualms.

Hey, Dad!
I see it's bacon that you fry.
Remember I'm a bacon guy.
If you could slip me a spare slice...

Chester shyly drops some bacon, which Max catches.

CHESTER: Don't tell Mama! Nice boy, nice.
MAX: Thank you, thank you, that was nice...

Teddy comes rushing through barking excitedly and heads for the back door.

TEDDY: I see something outside, might be a squirrel
Squirrel, squirrel, I have to chase it
Gotta chase the fluff-tail
It's a soulless thing of evil.

Jane enters the scene and goes with Teddy to the door, opening and closing it again. Piper and Perry follow her.

TEDDY: Gotta go out (want back in now)
Gotta go out (want back in now)
Gotta go out, want back in
Gotta go out, want back in.

PERRY: I'm just a small dog, watch where you're stepping.

PIPER: He's just a small dog, watch where- hey! Bacon!

PIPER & PERRY: Why do we smell bacon without some appearing?

TEDDY: Let me out, let me in. Will you let me go out.

OTHER DOGS: Bacon... we must have more of that.

JANIE: Ted! In or out, please choose.

OTHER DOGS: Bacon... We must have more of that.

CHESTER: It's all gone.

TEDDY: Squirrel! You have to let me out.

JANIE: No more out.

Janie and Chester start to fill dishes with dog food. All four dogs give up their previous wants and congregate around their feeding station.

JANIE: It's time for dinner now.

DOGS: Give us food.

JANIE & CHESTER: Dinner time is now.

DOGS: Give us food!

While the dogs eat, Chester and Janie embrace in the center of the kitchen.

CHESTER: Our family is complete now.
 Our furry family.
 How I love our four-foots.
 I love the dogs and you, Sweet Janie.

JANIE: By the way, I'm pregnant...

Scene 2

The living room. Chester and Janie are in the center of their couch with Perry and Piper flanking them. Teddy is curled in a chair. Max is guarding a playpen with a human infant in it.

MAX: Chester came to meet us on Adoption Day
 Janie came with him to meet us all.
 Now we have a family with a new baby.
 Plus two humans here to throw us balls.

ALL DOGS: Ruff-ruff-roo! Ruff-ruff-rawr!
 Throw the ball please.
 Please somebody throw the tennis ball.

TEDDY: I was told I'd never get a family.
 Because I'm big and black and ADD.
 But Mom and Dad are suckers for a hopeless case...
 Wait! I think somebody threw a ball.

ALL DOGS: Ruff-ruff-roo! Ruff-ruff-rawr!
 Throw the ball please.
 Please somebody throw the tennis ball.

JANIE: Having all of these dogs
 Has made our home so sweet.

CHESTER: (indicates the baby)
 In a couple of years
 They'll be playing with Little Pete.

DOGS: Ruff ruff ruff ruff.

PERRY: I get all the cuddles that I ever want.
PIPER: And my humans help me go through doors.
MAX & TED: They've learned big dogs love human pets to guard.
ALL: And we no longer live behind steel bars.

CAST: Ruff-ruff-roo! Ruff-ruff-rawr!

Throw the ball please.
Please somebody throw the tennis ball.

DOGS: Ruff-ruff-roo! Ruff-ruff-rawr!
Throw the ball please.
Gonna go and chase the tennis ball!

MAX: If you want the ball back....
A retriever's what you need.

CURTAIN.

