The Adventures of Luque – Leaving the Lumberyard

In a big lumber yard, on the edge of Asuncion, surrounded by a chain link fence, lived Uncle Archie and his niece he called *Pequena.*

*Pequena* was very small. She heard some people call her a “runt”

All of *Pequena*’s brothers and sisters had left one by one.

*Pequena* and Archie became the best of friends.

They played in the lumberyard every day, chasing people along the fence who came too close, wrestling in the cool mud, and playing tag.

When old Archie got tired, *Pequena* played on her own. She chased leaves….a butterfly….a piece of trash…or her own tail.

One day, while they were wrestling and Uncle Archie had *Pequena*’s whole head in his mouth, a man and a woman came to the fence.

Uncle Archie and *Pequena* tried to act fierce to scare them away.

But they stayed close. “Oh, she’s so cute,” the woman put her hand through the fence.

*Pequena* couldn’t help herself, she lost her fierce growl and put her ear close so the woman could scratch it. Yes, *Pequena*, thought, that feels good. *Pequena* started licking her hand to show her she loved her.

“Yes, yes, she’s the one. Can we bring her home?” The woman asked the man.

Archie remained distant. He knew what was happening. *Pequena* would not be with him for much longer and he would be left alone.

The lumberman, Jose, came to open the gate, “Vamos.” Pequena ran to him. She knew this to mean food was coming. But Archie stayed behind.

Pequena ran back to Archie, “Vamos, Vamos,” then returned to Jose who picked her up.

She was not used to this and squirmed. She looked to Archie with pleading eyes. He just told her, “Este bien, este bien.”

The woman took Pequena in her arms.

But Pequena was still worried about Archie. She watched him for as long as she could while the woman carried her away from him. Archie yelled out once more, “Este bien, Pequena, este bien.”

The man and woman took Pequena in one of the yellow cars that she had seen go by the lumberyard many times. Archie had told her this was a Taxi, but he never told her she would be riding in one.

She tried to behave knowing this was really special and it was easy because the woman was so kind and the man kept scratching her behind the ears.

The man got out of the taxi and brought back a bag that smelled so good that Pequena couldn’t help herself. She dug her nose deep until she found a wonderful treat at the bottom. Archie never told her anything about these.

After a while, the taxi stopped and all three of them got out. The woman told Pequena, “Welcome to your new home, little one.”

The Adventures of Luque – Luque’s New Home

Pequena was still in the woman’s arms as they walked to the front of what Archie had told Pequena was a ‘casa de personas’ where dogs were not allowed.

The man opened the door and they walked in. This scared Pequena. She knew she wasn’t supposed to be in a ‘casa de personas’ and she started to squirm. But the woman talked very kind and said, “It’s ok, little one, it’s ok.”

*Oh boy Oh boy. I’m in a casa,* Pequena thought. *Archie is not going to believe this.*

The woman put Pequena on the floor. *Whoa.*

Pequena’s four legs planted and she tried to steady herself. It was so slippery. Not like the mud packed ground in the lumberyard. The woman and man laughed, and told her again, “It’s ok, it’s ok.”

Pequena took one hesitant step toward the woman….and then another….and then another. Pequena went very slow but she finally made it across the room.

As the day went on, Pequena loved the ‘casa de personas’ more and more. There were all kinds of things to explore. A box that had moving people and voices on it…..a big soft thing that the man sat on…..a room where the woman put some food for Pequena to eat….and the biggest water bowls she had ever seen in small little rooms. Archie hadn’t told her about any of these things.

Pequena had to relieve herself and didn’t know what to do in the ‘casa de personas’. Finally, she went out a big window that opened to the outside and squatted. The man told her, “good dog, good dog” and rubbed her ears and gave her what he called a “treat” so Pequena knew she did it right.

When it got dark out, Pequena was sure she would be kicked out of the ‘casa de personas’ to go sleep. But the man picked her up and brought her to a room in the back.

He set her down on a big, soft thing that was on the floor. It was so warm and fluffy. And he said, “lay down,’ and patted the ground. Pequena spread her whole body across the soft thing and had never felt anything so nice. The man said, “she is so smart,” which Pequena figured was good also because he did that rub behind the ears thing. She loved that.

The man and woman got on top of the big bed right next to Pequena and were talking. Pequena wished she knew what they were saying. She tried to understand, tilting her head back and forth. The one word she heard over and over was “Luque” and they kept looking at her when they said it. Luque. Luque. Pequena figured she was now going to be called Luque.

The woman turned a switch by the bed and all of a sudden it was night. Both the man and woman said, “Goodnight, Luque”.

Luque settled into her soft bed and closed her eyes. Everything was quiet except the man and woman breathing. She felt safe and warm and thought again, Archie is never going to believe this.