

**Page 2**

Life with Sparky,  
Was such a joy,  
Bringing laughs and smiles,  
To girls and boys.

Although her life,  
Got a very bad start,  
She kept on smiling,  
And showed her heart.

**Page 3**

Of her early life,  
Not much is known,  
Born in New York City,  
Without a home.

She was a homeless dog,  
No family or friends,  
Alone at the dog pound,  
It looked like the end.

#### **Page 4**

But into her life,  
Stepped a guardian angel or two,  
To rescue Sparky,  
And start her life anew.

The city dog pound,  
Was now in the past,  
Adopt-A-Dog, Sparky,  
Find a home, real fast.

From New York City,  
Adopt-A-Dog took her,  
Sparky, so happy,  
She almost purred.\*

\*(There was no room in the back of Adopt-A-Dog's van for Sparky, so she sat up front with the driver.)

#### **Page 5**

But Sparky's a dog,  
Not a cat,  
And when she met David,  
Well, that was that.

Sparky saw my son,  
Pinned him to the ground,  
Just like that,  
Best friends were found.

## Page 6

David and Sparky,  
Were quite a pair,  
But don't forget Kristen,  
It wouldn't be fair.

Sparky would search her room,  
For something to eat,  
She'd sniff the trash,  
And find a treat.\*

\*(Sparky found a cookie in Kristen's trash can once; after that, she checked it every day!)

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So into our life,  
Sparky came to stay,  
All she wanted,  
Was to run and play.

When the snow came down,  
All fresh and clean,  
Sparky ran around,  
Like a crazy machine.

She'd scoot around,  
With her tail tucked in,\*  
Running in circles,  
With a big, wide grin. \*(We called this "The Puppy Tuck.")

**Page 8**

Sparky's tail,  
It wagged all day,  
And tug-of-war,  
She loved to play.

**Page 9**

Sparky also had  
A big, ol' tongue,  
Giving doggie kisses,  
To everyone.

**Page 10**

She was black and white,  
With all those spots,  
From head to tail,  
There were a lot.

To count her spots,  
Well, you could try,  
But how many stars,  
Are in the sky?

Hundreds and hundreds,  
And then some more,  
A spotted coat,  
Is what she wore.

**Page 11**

Along with her spots,  
Sparky's ears were unique,  
How so, you say?  
Let's take a peek.

On her left ear,  
She had three spots,  
On which you could play  
Connect the dots!

The other ear,  
The one on the right,  
Was missing the tip,  
Perhaps lost in a fight.\*

\*(We don't know much about Sparky's first year of her life in New York City.)

**Page 12**

Sparky loved her home,\*  
And out in the back,  
In the soft, green grass,  
She'd take a nap.

\*(Sparky's home was in Stamford, CT with a little yard with a fence.)

**Page 13**

Taking it easy,  
Enjoying the sun,  
But the crazy squirrels,  
Would spoil her fun.

Sparky watched them,  
Scooting right past,  
She tried to catch them,  
But they ran too fast.

**Page 14**

Sparky had many friends,  
In her neighborhood,  
She'd go for walks,  
Whenever she could.

Boys and girls,  
They'd all say hi,  
The kids sure loved,  
When Sparky stopped by.

Sparky's doggie friends,  
She had a few,  
Macy and Max,  
Were her favorite two.

**Page 15**

A bunch of pets,  
Filled Sparky's house,  
All different types,  
But never a mouse.

**Page 16**

Hamsters and gerbils,  
Some fish, two frogs,  
And don't forget Pearl,  
The little hedgehog.\*

\*(Sparky was a little afraid of Pearl - too spiky!)

**Page 17**

Maggie and Molly,  
Were two bunnies,  
And Speedy the tortoise,  
Was so funny.

I am the boss,  
Speedy thought in her head,  
Sometimes she'd push,  
Sparky right out of bed.

**Page 18**

But the bunnies and Speedy,  
Were also quite cool,  
And sometimes they'd visit,  
The kids in the schools.

Go to the schools?  
Well, that seems funny,  
Especially for  
A tortoise and bunnies.

**Page 19**

Pets in the schools?  
Well, let's take a look,  
Sparky went, too,  
Because of her books.

Her books were filled,  
With family and friends,  
The stories rhymed,  
From beginning to end.

**Page 20**

Storytime with Sparky,  
Was so much fun,  
The kids loved meeting her,  
When the reading was done.

Over the years,  
Sparky really enjoyed,  
Making new friends,  
With the girls and boys.

**Page 21**

And on her road trips,  
Traveling near and far,  
Oh, how Sparky,  
Loved to ride in the car.

Time to go!  
Her books all packed,  
Sparky so cozy,  
In her bed in the back.

Rolling down the highway,  
Sparky would take a nap,  
As she traveled to schools,  
All over the map.

**Page 22**

Way down in Miami,

She chased a bird that was pink,

In a big river near Canada,

I thought she would sink.\*

\*(Sparky hated water, but she actually jumped in the St. Lawrence River!)

**Page 23**

In New York City,

Down the hall she ran,

At a school in New Orleans,

She met all her fans.

**Page 24-25**

And on these two pages,

A break from the rhymes,

Highlights of her travels,

And all the fun times.

## **Page 26**

Such a wonderful dog,  
Touched so many lives,  
Sparky so happy,  
As the years went by.

And for each of her birthdays,  
A party we'd make,  
April 24,\*  
She'd always have cake.

\*(April 24 was the day we adopted Sparky from Adopt-A-Dog, so we celebrated that as her birthday. We never knew Sparky's real birthday. All we know is that she was born sometime in 1998, somewhere in New York City.)

## **Page 27**

Sparky lived 13 years,  
And she did it in style,  
Lost some of her spots,\*  
But never her smile.

\*(As Sparky got older and her fur turned gray around her muzzle, it actually blended with some of her spots and made them disappear!)

Sparky passed away,  
September 2011,  
And now she's in  
Doggie Heaven.

**Page 28**

But one of these nights,

When it's real dark,

Look up in the sky,

You might hear a bark.

A shooting star,

Flashing across the sky,

That's Sparky wagging her tail,

She's saying hi.

Woof, woof!!!!