



219 tongue through the bars to lick my hand. He wagged his tail. I  
227 knew we had found my brother's birthday dog.

239         The staff at the shelter asked us a number of questions about  
252 where we were going to keep the puppy, and required us to sign  
262 paperwork guaranteeing that we would take good care of the  
274 animal. We paid fees for the spaying and neutering of the puppy,  
286 along with fees for the license and the tags. Altogether, the total  
299 was less than seventy-five dollars, which was way less than the pet  
310 store would charge. And now this animal would have a home.

322         When we got home, I took the puppy into the backyard and  
336 my mom went into the house to tell Mario that she had a surprise  
350 for him. I held the puppy gently as Mario came out. He was so  
361 excited! He kept yelling, "Gracias! Gracias!" when he saw the dog.  
372 The puppy seemed really happy, too, probably because he was not  
385 in a cage anymore. Mario came closer to the puppy and slowly put  
400 his hand out for the puppy to smell it. The puppy took a couple of  
412 sniffs and gave him a lick. Mario smiled wider than ever, and  
422 softly patted the puppy on the back of his head.