



*Victoria & Russell*



## DEAR EXPECTANT PARENTS,

Hello! We are Russell and Victoria with Sugar HoneyBear and we thank you for taking the time to learn more about our family. Thank you for considering your choices. We are so excited to be adopting and bringing a child into our family! We hope our story will help you in making your choice.

Please know that no matter what you choose, we wish you and your child all the best. We look forward to meeting you.





## *about us*

### **HOW WE MET**

It all started 9 years ago. We met through mutual friends in April 2014. We started dating and before we knew it we had made plans to move across the country from Long Island, NY to Austin, TX. Summer 2023 marks 8 years in Austin!

Before we met, Russell graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. When we met, Vic was finishing her Dual Master's Degree in Childhood Education and Special Education. Fast forward, Vic dedicated 5 more years to grad school, taking doctoral level classes and conducting research in education. She obtained her Doctorate degree in Education in April 2022.

We got engaged on our first vacation together, which was a cruise to Key West and the Bahamas. We officially got married in a park in Austin two weeks before our wedding in Jamaica, summer of 2019!





*a little about*  
**VICTORIA**

I have a doctorate degree in education.

I have 10+ years in education, ranging from teaching first grade to teaching adults in a GED program.

I am really good at making plant-based dinners and desserts.

I am terrible at saying no, even to myself! Help me stop buying indoor plants!

I love planning, making lists, and being organized!



*a little about*  
**RUSSELL**

As a kid I wanted to be a vet; now as an adult I volunteer with local dog rescues.

I have 10+ years in business to business sales with local distributors.

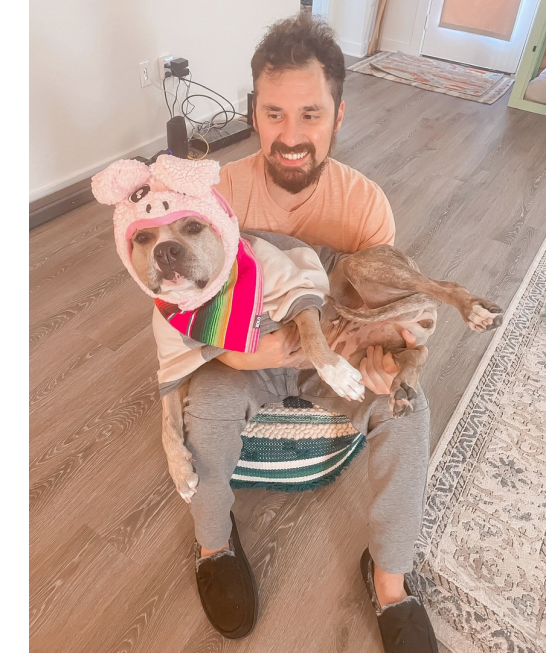
I have played soccer since I was 5 and continue to for fun in Austin.

I am really good at starting small talk with strangers.

I like to sing to the dog when I get home from work.







## HOW RUSSELL THINKS OF *Vic*

Victoria is a great homemaker. She loves to grow indoor/outdoor plants. She loves to decorate our house and cook various meals from different cultures and ingredients. She definitely is kind hearted, and is great at teaching people of all ages. One of my favorite things about Vic is that she makes lists to stay organized and keep our lives on track. If you go in her office you will find color coordinated post its and different kinds of ink as well. She is a positive person and brings light to my life.



## HOW VIC THINKS OF *Russell*

Russell has a strong work ethic; he is always working hard and going the extra mile. He helps others and asks for nothing in return. He makes random, amusing jokes! Russ has an interesting and unique personality: stoic, serious, but loves to laugh. He sees the good in people. He is always there for me and has always accepted me for who I am. He's so easy going; I could have the most random ideas or plans and he will roll with it. One of my favorite things about him is that he sings to our dog, Sugar.





# OUR *home* AND NEIGHBORHOOD



We bought property during the pandemic in November 2020 and had our first home built! We moved in October 2021. We live in a single story, 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with a large yard.

We love working on our home, especially the lawn and flower beds. We ride our bikes throughout the neighborhood, which includes a pool and playground! We can't wait to make memories with our growing family here!



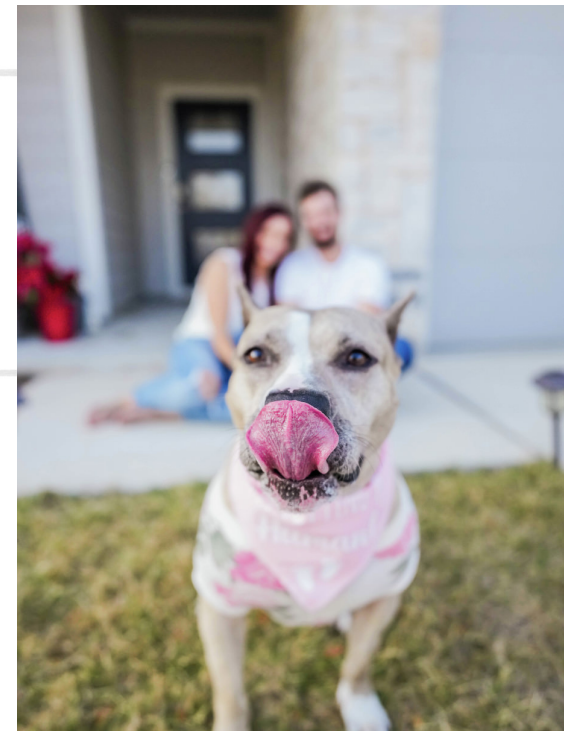
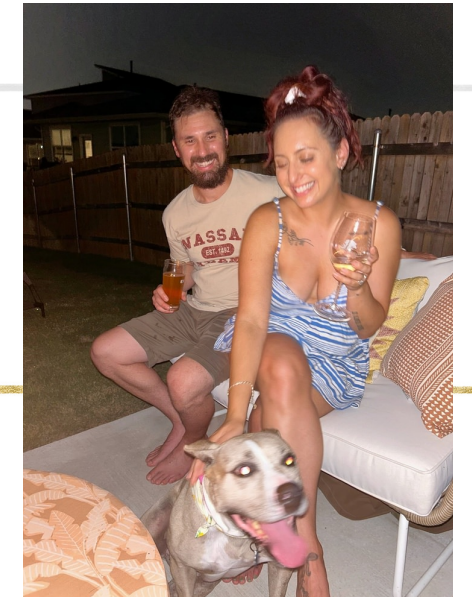
FINALLY DONE AND READY TO MOVE IN!



# Our Life AT HOME



We maintain healthy eating habits at home, but we believe life is all about balance, especially when it comes to food! We cook mostly plant-based at home, and will eat fish for special occasions or while we are dining out. We consider ourselves pescetarians and/or climatarians; we are committed to eating sustainably and truly focus on being aware of how foods are produced and processed. It is important for us to protect the environment and our health! We are passionate about practicing environmentally-friendly habits at home like recycling, composting, repurposing items, and limiting food waste.

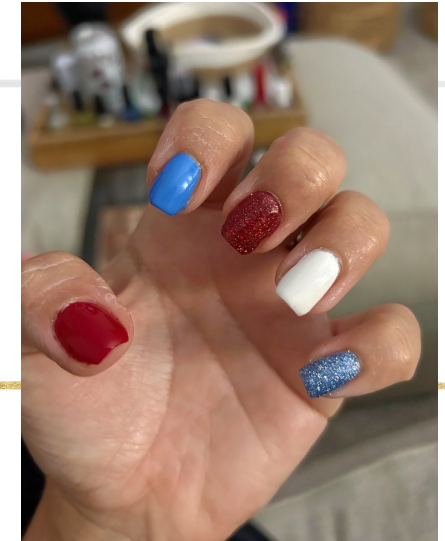




# WHAT OUR *Weekends* LOOK LIKE



Our weekends are filled with so much love! We love making homemade lattes at home, and equally love trying new coffee shops. Vic does her nails at home, something she has been doing weekly since she was a kid! We both cook and compete to take the best photo to send to Vic's sister, who also sends photos of what she made.



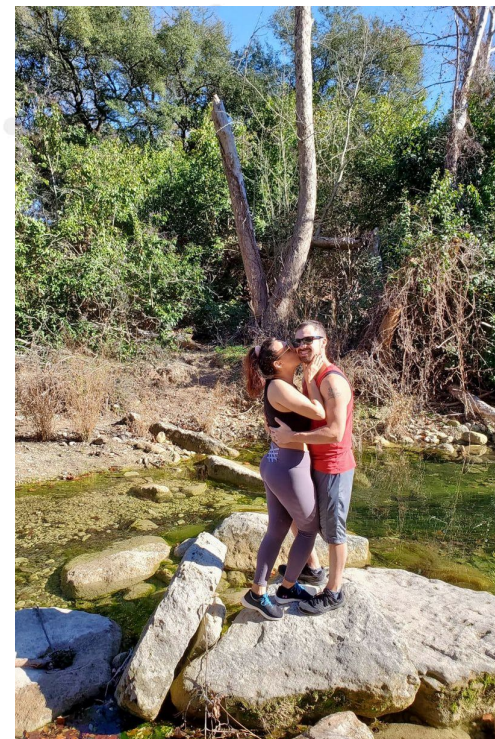
We are committed to improving the quality of life that shelter animals experience, which is why we engage in weekly walks with big dogs. We love animals so much!



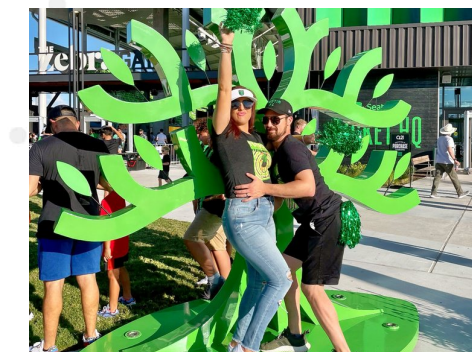




## *Our Interests*

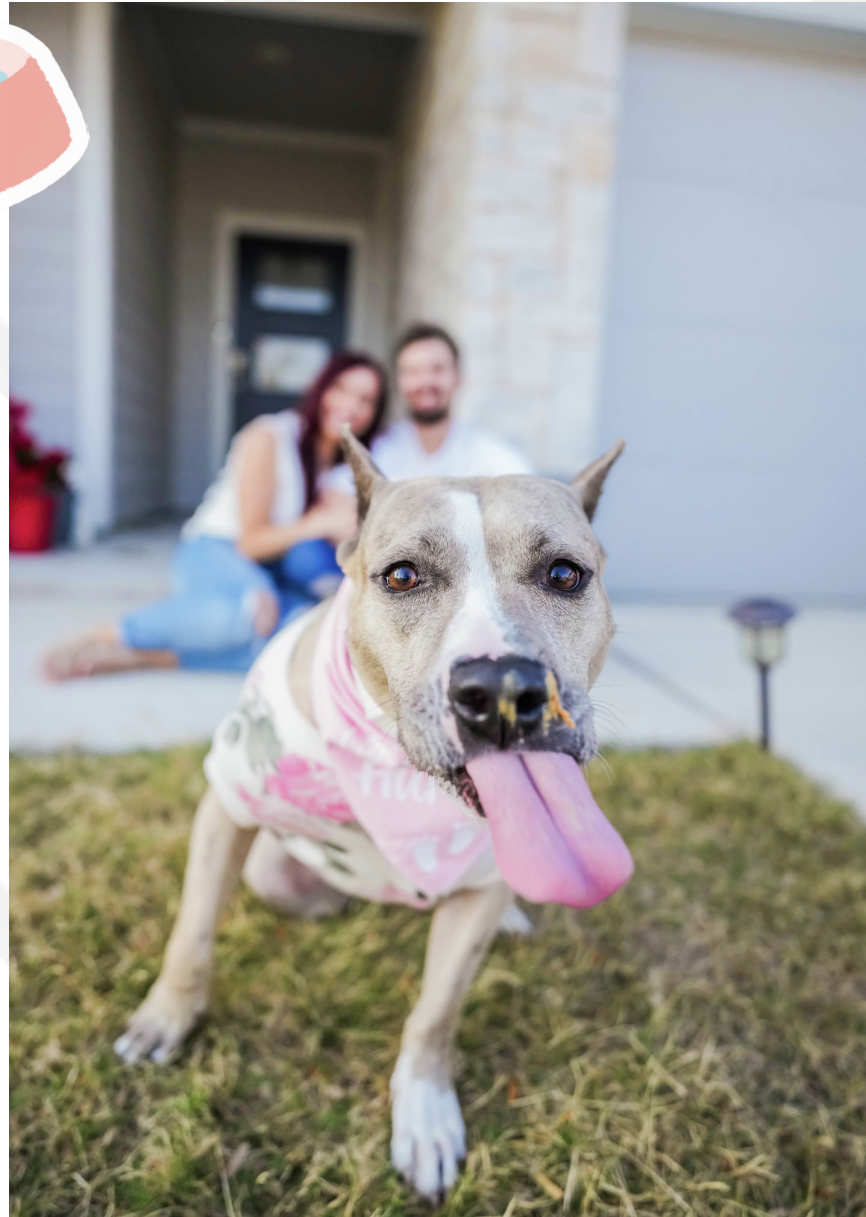
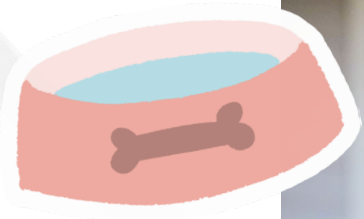


Running, walking, and hot yoga are incorporated into our active lifestyles! We swim at the pool in our community, grill outside, and take care of our never-ending supply of indoor plants. We attend Russ' work events, sporting events, and local festivals.





# Sugar Honey Bear



We began fostering dogs 6 years ago, and “Sandy” was a new foster from a local Austin pittie rescue, Love-A-Bull. We had no plans of adopting a dog, but low and behold Sugar HoneyBear is our 5-year-old (actually we have no idea how old she is) American Staffordshire Terrier. She’s a giant cat and sleeps all day. Even though Vic cooks homemade food for her, she has always decided that the sun rises and sets on Russ.







# Adventures

We love to travel. We got married in Negril, Jamaica, then had the best honeymoon ever in Phuket, Thailand a few months later. We stopped in China for a long layover. It was the best trip of our lives. We actually missed our flight back to the US; we laugh about it now!



OUR WEDDING IN JAMAICA!



DRESSING UP FOR HALLOWEEN!



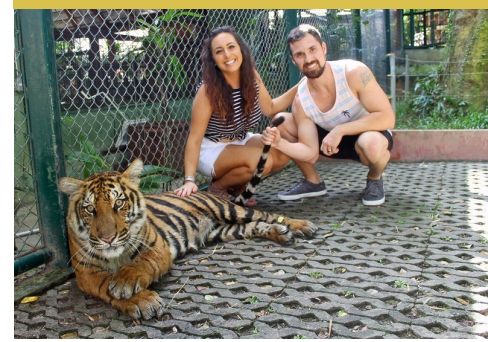
SUGAR'S FIRST BEACH TRIP :)



WE RELISH TRAVELING IN ALL SEASONS & WEATHER



HONEYMOON IN THAILAND







GETTING READY WITH SISTERS



FAMILY VISITS IN TEXAS

# OUR FAMILY

We love spending time with family! We both come from big, Italian families. Two of our nephews (and soon-to-be niece!) live close to us in Texas so we get to see them often! We enjoy cooking and hosting holidays and dinners in our home, but we equally enjoy going out. We believe sharing delicious food with people close to us make the absolute best memories!



FROM LEFT: HOUSTON TRIP WITH OUR NEPHEWS & FAMILY WEDDINGS IN NY



OUR WEDDING IN JAMAICA



FROM LEFT: MORE WEDDINGS & TAKING OUR NEPHEWS TO SEE THE GRINCH





# Friends

YOU'RE  
the  
family  
CHOOSE



We have become great at keeping up with long distance relationships with friends and family since we moved all those years ago. We believe quality is more important than quantity when it comes to spending time with those we love. We have close friends in New York, Colorado, Germany, and Texas cities like Houston and Austin. We consider our friends our family members.



POOL TIME, WATERPARKS, WALKS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND EXPLORING NEW CITIES ARE SOME OF THINGS WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WITH OUR FRIENDS & CHILD







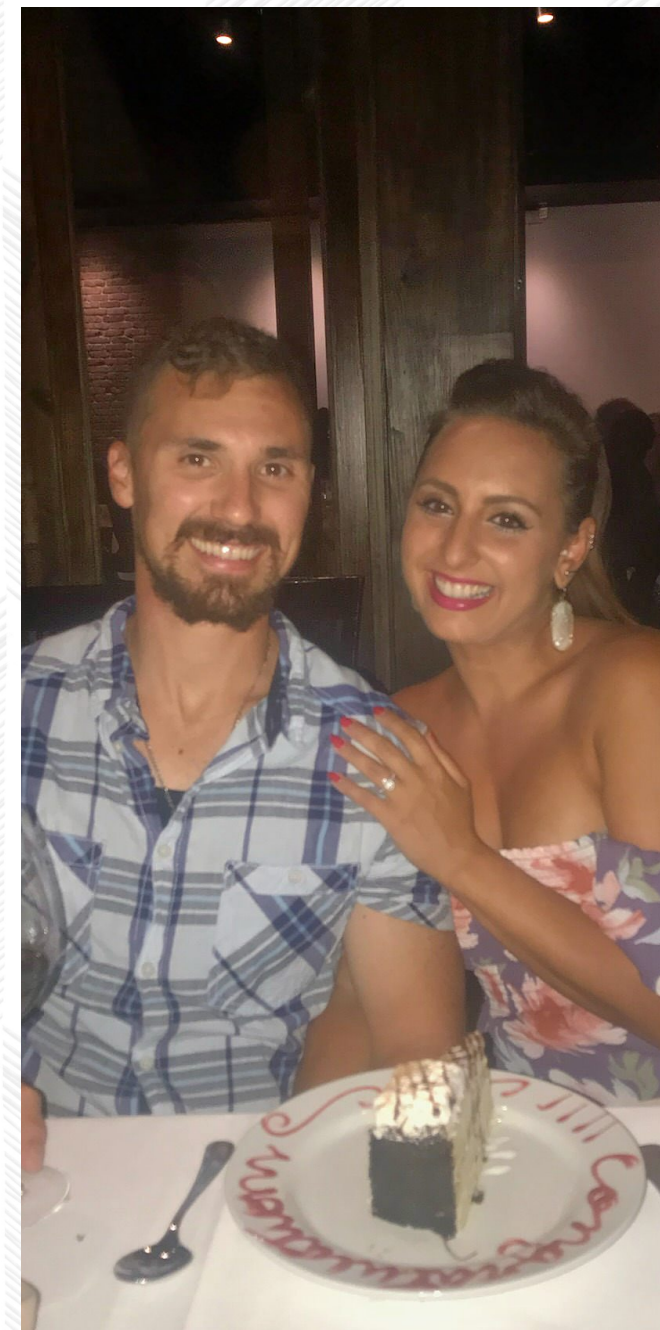
# Our Future

## & ALL THE THINGS WE WILL DO WITH OUR CHILD

When we are together, we often talk about our future baby and all the things we will do. After being together for almost 10 years, we are so excited to become parents and experience the world in a new light.

### THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE CAN'T WAIT TO DO AS A FAMILY:

- Teach them to ride a bike
- Bake birthday cupcakes
- Volunteer with animals
- Watch Disney movies
- Show them affection & empathy





## Our Promise...

We have always dreamed about being parents and having a child to raise in a loving home! We are very excited to be adopting and have so much love to share for this child as we expand our family. Please always know we will unconditionally love and cherish your child and we will make sure that he/she will be proud to be adopted. Open adoption is very important to us, as well as our commitment to honoring our child's relationship with their birth parents and maintaining healthy communication. We look forward to meeting you. Thank you for taking the time to read this.



WE ARE *excited* TO BE ADOPTING!



We hope this book gave you a look at our lives! *Vic & Russ*







