



The Peppertree POST

What do we do? Rescue Dogs of good temperament who need new homes • Cooperate with and assist other rescues, shelters, and animal control • Educate the public about how to obtain a companion animal.

SUMMER/FALL 2003 ISSUE

Providing A Foster Home

The functioning and success of Peppertree in large part depends on our volunteers. In rescue volunteering can take many forms, and very often behind the scenes, in addition to working at scheduled clinics. Other volunteers transport dogs, work on fundraising events, contact applicants, maintain our website, contribute to this newsletter, conduct follow-ups with adopters, go through shelters to identify dogs for our program, juggle the mass of paperwork required to maintain a non-profit organization and provide foster homes.

In this issue we are going to focus on fostering dogs. To a large extent our capacity to foster controls the number of dogs we can have in the program at any given moment. Sometimes we board dogs but aside from the drain on our treasury, we miss out on some other critical pieces of information. Foster homes mean we get to 'test drive' a dog in a home situation, often with children, cats and other dogs. We get to know a lot about a dog this way and that helps us make more knowledgeable matches with new homes.

We view our foster homes as bridges. These bridges provide the transition from a dog's former life to his/her new one. The home provides all the basic needs of the dog and emotionally prepares him for his permanent home. It is the best gift we can give a rescue by meeting his basic physical needs and making him feel secure prior to letting him move on. Thus, our foster volunteers are our treasures.

A few of these hard working volunteers offered to write about their experiences for our readers. Some are serious but there are amusing stories as you'll see when you read Elaine Saile's piece about being a foster failure! Every foster home has its stories. One of the most touching comes from our webmistress, Alison Doyle. Alison offered to foster a senior golden that we took out of a local shelter having been found wandering about. He had an enormous tumor on his body extending to a rear leg. Ian survived two surgeries and lived out his life with Alison and her family until a few months ago when the tumor returned with a new vigor. It is to this dog, the foster who stayed and whose story can be found on the Peppertree website, that this issue is dedicated.

If you think fostering might be your way to contribute to rescue, go to www.peppertree.org to complete the volunteer form. And then come to a clinic to introduce yourself. We'd love to meet you.

Introducing A New Foster

Three years into fostering for Peppertree my mind was a blank. I remember reading somewhere that it is a good idea to keep animals apart for a few days... let them sniff each other under a door perhaps...take it slowly. Well, forget that. In our house one or other will be whining and scratching at the door, even howling or barking, and the cat can get a sharp clawed paw under to accompany his best hisses. Not much of a welcome for an often poor, old, abandoned, perhaps abused, dog - or anyone for that matter.



It would be nice to get a dog early in the day, on a week-end maybe, when there is time to spend for civilized introductions, play, a walk or some such. You can mostly forget that too. If you're lucky you can bring one home from a Saturday Clinic in the afternoon, or even pick one up from a kennel at a civilized hour of your choosing. People do work you know so dogs are often brought over evenings, sometimes quite late, and in winter of course, well after dark .

Today I did pick up Tigger early from Shaker Vet. What do I do? Of course, how could I forget. Chitter chatter, all the way home. "What a good dog, not to worry everything will be all right you'll see, well at least it'll be better than the kennel. We have a dog Daisy and a difficult cat and Uncle John will dote on you," and on and on in the same chirpy sort of voice. When we get in the door at home I keep going "Here we are, nice yard you see, good dog, this is Daisy, you'd better go pee," on and on, sounding perfectly idiotic now that I am paying attention so as to be able to write about it! I remember sometimes people have heard me at it and laugh kindly, saying I remind them of my fellow countrywoman Barbara Woodhouse, a dog trainer, whom they have heard on TV! Now I am in the house I am playing close attention to canine body language as well, and my voice tone may change , get stern, if I see any undesirable behavior or if intervention is required. Very enthusiastic for any good

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

moves. Reassuring to resident animals. It seems in no time at all we are all quite well acquainted. There is a crate at hand, sometimes needed for newcomer's emotional comfort, or, oh so rarely, due to the wonderful screening process that takes place before we ever get a foster, for the protection of our other animals or furnishings.

The real secret is to get under the Pepper Tree yourself and then you will be taken care of too, and only get fosters suited to your capabilities and tastes, and instant solutions willingly provided to any difficulties you may encounter.

Tigger has been here 5 hours now. He is totally relaxed, (exhausted by the chatter?), asleep beside me. After a couple of very active hours checking and rechecking our small establishment, he settled himself in the crate to rest. I shut him in after a while, not yet knowing what he would do if left alone, and Daisy and I went for a walk. All was serene upon our return. He will not need to be confined again, but will have the crate as an optional sleeping place. Now the cat is back sleeping in his favorite chair. Daisy in her favorite place and all seems right with our world.... seems (so far!) Tigger is a perfect old Peppertree dog, likely to bring only joy to his world.

— Jean Balint

Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

(A 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity)

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My Foster Failure

It's been about 6 years now since I got that fateful phone call from our benevolent leader. It was a seemingly innocent call.... I was to go to Betsy's house to pick up Hobo, a grand 9 year old golden whose family had to move without him. So sad, but he was good with Betsy's crew so my husband and I felt he would be okay with our 2 dogs and 2 cats. Little did I know what awaited me.

Betsy and crew greeted me at the door, but I didn't see Hobo. "Great news" Betsy informed me, "Hobo's been placed with an older couple who want to adopt if it goes okay, it all happened rather quickly". Its always good news when a senior gets a home so fast. Betsy then backed away the door and looked at a crate that was against the wall in her dining room. "Look what we just got in" she said. If I had run then, maybe, just maybe, I wouldn't be the Foster Failure I am today. I walked slowly toward the crate, listening as I went, to their sad tale. The words tumbled from Betsy, "they're only 6 months old or so, rescued from an abuse abandon situation downstate, the mother is still at the vets being rehydrated, we think they're lab/border collie cross." By this time I was kneeling in front of the crate. Peering in I saw a black mass shivering with fear way back in the crate. "They're terrified" she said "we're having a tough time getting them to come out even to eat".

A lot of people have a special dog, one that stands out for various reasons. I've heard of people choosing dogs for various reasons, but until this day I had never been chosen by a dog. As I sat in front of the crate the mass began to move and ever so slowly a little black face came toward me. The shy little boy pup was coming forward, his 2 sisters remained huddled behind. He came to the door of the crate and looked at me as if to say "I've been waiting for you." He then crawled into my lap and drifted off to sleep. Not the sleep of a frightened puppy, but the deep contented sleep of someone home from a long journey.

Well, my home wasn't ready for a pup, and a million things went through my head as I drove home. Good grief, what was I going to tell my husband? On my arrival back home, without a senior golden, I told him of the pups. Seeing that all

to familiar look in his eyes I immediately rattled off all the reasons *not* to get a puppy, the chewing, the housebreaking. And I never considered a border collie, no matter what it was crossed with. They're wonderful dogs but I was used to more of a docile breed so to speak. My golden was 7 and my golden/lab cross was 9. "It's okay", my husband said "we're only going to foster him.... right?" To which I replied "Okay that's what we'll call the first 2 weeks" *Ha Ha Ha*. He knows now that I had no intention of fostering this boy.... I had no choice from the start... he chose me. I was helpless. So it came to be that Duncan came to our home.

Two families adopted the sisters and all was right with the world until 6 months later. One of the families had some problems and had to return one of the little girls. "Her name is Cassidy" Betsy said. "Would you like to foster her? I'm sure she'll be an easy placement, it won't be long". I brought Cassidy home, a scared and very confused little girl. She hid under the seat the entire ride home. When we arrived home she stayed under the seat. I called Duncan to come out and see her. When she saw him her face lit up, she was so happy to see him. She settled in nicely to our full house. She became more and more confident and periodically my husband would remind me that we were *fostering* her.

Then one day another phone call.... Betsy had someone interested in Cassidy, it sounded perfect, a fenced yard, someone at home with her all day, she'd hardly ever be alone. Yes it did sound perfect, to everyone except my husband. "*How could you, you can't possibly think of taking her away from her brother?*" "How could you do that?" "Silly me", I told Betsy, "I thought she was a foster!"

So this is my tale of being a foster failure. Since Duncan and Cassidy I have also failed abysmally with Taryn, a rescued golden, tsk tsk, my husband really thought that she was a foster....silly man. And Tucker, a yellow lab pup that my husband fell completely for and never mentioned the word foster. But I'll tell you what. If these are the greatest failures in my life, then I am successful beyond my wildest dreams. Thank you, Duncan, Cassidy, Taryn and Tucker, for showing me just what a failure I am.

— Elaine Saile



On June 15th Peppertree shared in the fund raising efforts of Kathy Wagoner as she organized another successful dog walk. The event took place in the Town of Colonie Park. We received approximately \$2900 in donations for this day. Dollars which will greatly help with our veterinary bills. Our thanks and gratitude to everyone who assisted and participated in this event.

About 40 pictures were submitted, and there was wide participation in voting. Mrs. Smith's puppy Rex won the "Cutest" award. Jennifer Kleindienst's bespectacled guinea pig won the "Funniest" award. And Jose Kammerer's ferret Muffin won the "Scariest" award. The winners were awarded gift certificates to PetsMart and candy bags.

White proudly describes NICS volunteers as "such a good group of kids who are so generous with their time, and very enthusiastic and creative with their ideas." The Pet Photo Contest is one of several fundraisers that NICS volunteers hold throughout the year to benefit worthy causes. They have organized candy sales to support a local domestic violence shelter and American troops overseas, and a Daffodil sale on behalf of the American Cancer Society. They also hold blood drives twice a year, volunteer at the Regional Food Bank and adopt a family for the holidays.

— Karen Harmon

Winning Entries

Thanks To A Special Group Of Teenagers

Peppertree Rescue would like to thank the Niskayuna Inter-Community Service (NICS) organization at Niskayuna High School for spearheading a fundraiser early this spring that raised \$200 to help our dogs. We also are indebted to all of the students and faculty members who participated in the event. This is the second fundraiser that NICS volunteers have held to benefit Peppertree Rescue because "they want to support a place that rescues animals." In addition to raising funds, the NICS volunteers educated their peers and faculty members about the plight of homeless dogs and the efforts of volunteer groups like Peppertree Rescue to find them loving homes.

NICS, a volunteer group of Niskayuna High School students, includes about 35 board members and an additional 50 to 60 volunteers. Participants donate time

and raise funds to help support the efforts of a variety of charitable organizations in the Capital District. Niskayuna High School teachers Carol White and Nancy Theissen are NICS co-advisors.

NICS decided that the first fundraiser of the year should be a Pet Photo Contest to support Peppertree Rescue. NICS Board Members Lisa D'Aniello and Caitlin McTague ran the event, coordinating publicity and setting up a photo display in the high school cafeteria. They also arranged for signs and announcements in each homeroom. On the day of the contest, they helped generate widespread enthusiasm for the contest by playing "Who Let the Dogs Out?" over the school intercom.

The entire school was invited to participate in the contest. Students and faculty were encouraged to submit a favorite photo of their pet with a suggested donation of \$1.00. Votes were cast for the best photo in three categories, including "Cutest," "Funniest" and "Scariest" pets. Students and faculty also donated generously to a donation jar set up next to the display.



"Cutest"



"Funniest"



"Scariest"

The Beauty of Fostering

Imagine walking through a pet adoption clinic and seeing several canine faces seeking visual contact. The looks vary from trepidation, fear, longing, anticipation and joy. These are the faces that Peppertree Rescue works tirelessly to evaluate for behavior and medical situations and then, find loving homes for placement. Most of our dogs available for foster are placed in our program because they are strays, owner abandon, shelter drop off rescues from undesirable living conditions or puppy mills. Many dogs initially in our rescue are lost, unsure, with no direction, not knowing where the next step leads in their lives.

A foster home, whether within the staffing of Peppertree volunteers or persons in the community desiring a companion, becomes a stepping stone to guide a dog forward to an opportunity for a fulfilling life with a family to love. A home where love, trust, guidance, laughter and challenge replace the previous fears.

Basically.....that sums fostering up! A hand to paw relationship.... guidance.... reassurance..... so fear and sadness remain in the past. A new start.... energy.... hope for a new beginning. As a foster parent, you reap the rewards of watching a canine mature to accept and believe in mankind's goodness in life. It's not always an easy road.... many bumps introducing a dog into a home of routine. A few 'furs' may fly....but the road traveled is so worth the journey for all.

Our Foster Dogs

Since 1999 Peppertree Rescue has opened our homes and hearts to help find homes for dogs of good temperament. Dogs are evaluated for behavioral and medical issues before being accepted into the program. The majority of our rescues are fostered at Peppertree volunteers' homes, boarded at a local veterinary hospital or 'tagged' for acceptance at the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society in Menands, N.Y. Our volunteers work with the shelter in trying to locate homes for dogs surrendered to the shelter.

Our goal is to provide these dogs with training, care and love until a suitable adoption to permanent home is secured. Foster care allows us to work with

canines with varying disabilities, personalities, behaviors and problems. Frequently, we foster dogs who are 'simply a joy'. Ready for adoption at a moments notice.

We are aware that not every dog in our program is suitable for every foster situation. We try our best to match the fosters' needs and behaviors to the foster homes' current living situation. By having our dogs reside in our homes, we experience first-hand the interactions with our animals, separation anxiety, housebreaking, aggression, barking, jumping, and shyness. An invaluable gift to us in helping prospective owners select a companion animal.

Peppertree Rescue cares about all our fostered dogs and diligently works to provide each canine a perfect foster situation. Not every dog is suitable for every person and lifestyle and we try to make the "match" as suitable as possible. Sometimes, despite the time and energy to match a dog with a prospective foster, the situation does not work. We readily accept the dog back into our program. All our dogs are spayed/neutered (or will do so when age permits), are current on vaccinations and heartworm/tick preventative.

What Is A Foster Home?

Remember, a foster home is a 'way station and testing ground' for our dogs. It is probably the most important need of any rescue group....and its dogs.

In a 'Regular' foster home, the dog is simply a member of your family. Peppertree will be responsible for food, veterinary care and other expenses. If you are comfortable with the foster arrangement, we may ask you to speak with potential adopters, and, if possible, allow them to visit the dog in your home or at our adoption clinics.

Utmost, the fostering is the important part. It provides the dog with high quality time, security and a sense of comfort. It saves Peppertree boarding costs that we simply cannot afford and also, and most importantly, provides us with first hand invaluable information about the dog so we can make the best possible placement.

Two Rules About Our Foster Homes:

Yes.... you are allowed to fall in love and become the adoptive parent. As long as the situation is working for both the people and the dog....we give our blessing!

We will not place the foster in a home which you feel uneasy or uncomfortable



about. Not only do we not want a foster home 'upset' but we also highly respect the 'instincts' of someone who cares, loves the dog and wants only the best!

Rehabilitative Foster Homes

Foster homes provide our dogs with the ability to learn acts of life they need to know in order to become good companions. Rehabilitative homes are special homes for dogs who have more serious issues: lack of socialization that may lead to aggression; extreme fears; physical weakness; need for medical intervention; attitudes resulting from neglect or abuse.

All foster individuals have total support from Peppertree volunteers, our behavioral consultant, obedience trainers, veterinarians who diligently work with our dogs. Sometimes, this feels like the most daunting type of fostering....most likely it becomes the most rewarding.

Test Foster Homes

A 'test' foster home serves a vital function for Peppertree. It helps us find out, quite simply, 'what a dog is like'. Is the dog housebroken? Does he/she counter-surf? Get on furniture? Bark when crated or alone? Enjoy other canines/felines? Like to run, interact, play? Physical limitations after a long walk or romping in a yard?

'Test' foster homes ask a lot of the family. We are requesting that you foster a totally unknown dog, but on the upside, this is how we assess this vital information to help a dog find an appropriate family. As a foster parent, we provide full 'back-up' and immediate rescue, if needed. We never expect you to keep the dog....what we need, most urgently, is basic information which is gathered quickly from a home setting.

Out-Of-Home Fostering

Frequently, we have several dogs who are boarding in a veterinary setting or kennel. Rather than have this simply be a "boarding" setting... we relish volunteers who want to become a dog's regular visitor. A

visit in the waiting room, short walk, car trip, days' hike. Time spent with a boarding canine is invaluable to both the spirit of the dog and companion. Any interaction provides us with much needed information about the dog as well as providing a 'pleasure visit/trip' in life.

Supplies For Fostering

If you are interested in fostering a Peppertree dog... we supply the following:

Crate

Collar and leash

I.D. tag which is securely affixed to collar

Fostering contract

Supplies to have ready at home:

Baby Gates; good for confining when crating is not required. Make sure your foster cannot get it's head/paws caught in the gate. Cannot chew through the gate, knock it down or jump over.

Comfy bedding....unless sleeping/daily time in crate

Brush...brush daily...this is good for skin, bonding and acceptance.

Appropriate toys for dogs age, level of maturity and chewing ability. Small treats to reward good behavior.

Congratulations! A New Foster

Congratulations! You have accepted a foster canine companion who will provide you with love and friendship. Your commitment.... daily care, veterinary attention and obedience/training to assist your foster in becoming a well behaved companion.

Dogs love routine! Pay attention to your fosters' routine and help the dog adjust to your schedule.

Puppy proof your home!! New fosters love to investigate! Shoes go in closets... cords out of reach.... take your beloved clothes off the laundry room floor! Simple tasks.... less tease for pooches!

On the first day at your home, walk the dog for a few minutes outside . Let the dog relieve himself... sniff... get acquainted with the smells of your home and property. Select a 'special place' for the foster to go potty. Praise highly when 'duty' is done.

Keep your new foster on a leash as you introduce him/her into your home. The excitement/smells are dominant. If the dog starts to lift a leg or sniff in circles.... bring the dog to the yard to urinate. Offer a treat for good behavior.

Show the foster his/her crate.

Encourage the dog to go in and sniff. Small treats and encouragement for entering the crate are well accepted. Soft bedding and a snuggle toy make the transition very homey.

Anxiety is expected in a new home. Stress may be expressed through panting, pacing, chewing, vomiting, diarrhea, or vocalization. Encourage everyone in the household to restrain from 'over handling' the foster. Sometimes....the dog just needs time to establish it's placement in the home.

Easy tip: for the first few days: 1. Leave a leash attached to the fosters collar while indoors; you can stop the dog immediately from doing something you don't want, i.e. lifting a leg, chewing, jumping, aggressive signs. Please do not leave a leash attached when you are not there. The leash can become caught on an item or chewed. Never leave a choke collar on a dog when indoors or out in the yard. The dog could become strangled or caught on something.

The Beauty Of Fostering

On a personal note.... I find fostering the most generous gift I can give back to this Earth. Two years ago, I fostered and then adopted, Hero. A beautiful hound, ridge-back mix, who was abandoned from birth in a junk lot in the Bronx. He was alot of hands-on work for reassurance and acceptance for about a year. Now...my "Hero"... the name fit's the beauty.



Wilbur, a beautiful Shepherd-mix, taken from a neglect situation. Born with only three legs and degenerative arthritis.... what a boy! Love at first sight for us both.

Whether it's fostering short-term or looking for a permanent placement.... the rewards are so beneficial for both parties. A chance to help a canine re-accept their future...a chance for us humans to bow down and see life at a much kinder level. I currently have three canines and two felines. Would I continue to foster? Absolutely! The beauty of sharing life with my existing brood and enhancing the life of a canine... well... that pretty much out-ways the rest in life! Canine simplicity is the gracious reward in life.

— Liz Ammian

A Talking Dog?

A guy sees a sign in front of a house: "Talking Dog for Sale." He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the backyard and sees a black mutt just sitting there. "You talk?" he asks. "Yep," the mutt replies. "So, what's your story?" The mutt looks up and says, "Well, I discovered this gift pretty young and I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies eight years running. The jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and wanted to settle down. So I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals. Had a wife, a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired." The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog. The owner says, "Ten dollars." The guy says, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?" The owner replies, "He's such a liar. He didn't do any of that stuff."

Boom, boom!

Peppertree Adoption Clinic Schedule

- August 9th — LC Smith, Delmar (11.00am - 3.00pm)
- August 23rd — Petsmart, Latham (10.00am - 2.00pm)
- September 6th — LC Smith, Delmar (11.00am - 3.00pm)
- September 20th — Petsmart, Latham (10.00am - 2.00pm)
- October 4th — LC Smith, Delmar (11.00am - 3.00pm)
- October 18th — Petsmart, Latham (10.00am - 2.00pm)

For locations of other Adoption Clinics:

Call our Voice-Mail 435-7425 or consult our web page (<http://www.peppertree.org>)

Other Events

August 16th @ 7.00pm — Annual Candlelight Vigil at the Menands Shelter



We're here to remind you to visit our website for the link to the new Peppertree Store at Cafe Press



Mugs - Tees - Sweats

<http://www.peppertree.org/store.htm>

PEPPERTREE POST 1 year (4 issues) \$10.00

PEPPERTREE RESCUE PINS _____ pins @ \$5.00 each

PEPPERTREE T-SHIRTS S M L XL XXL (check one) \$12.00 + \$3.00 shipping
 \$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping

Donation (Tax-deductible). Written receipts will automatically be provided for donations of \$50 or more. If you wish a written receipt for audit purposes for amounts less than \$50, please note. Any donations of \$10 or more will automatically be subscribed for 1 year to the Peppertree Post, unless noted that the subscription is not wanted.

If you wish to foster, adopt or volunteer, please check here and an Application will be mailed or e-mailed to you.

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone No. (with area code, please note if day or evening) (_____) _____

Send form & check to: Peppertree Rescue, PO Box 2396, Albany, NY 12220

Applications can also be downloaded or copied from our website. Woof!!!!



Dear Betsy and Peppertree Rescue,

It will be over a year and a half, since we got our wonderful, perfect, beautiful, charming, sweet and lovable Bubba. We love him more now than we did then if that's possible! He has brought us so much joy and I want to thank Peppertree Rescue and most of all, you, Betsy. Like I told you a week after receiving him, we couldn't have ordered a better dog. He was all that we were looking for and more. Sara loves him to pieces and he gives her the same love back. Sleeps and cuddles with her and is also very protective of her and all of us.

Chester, our other goldie has changed so much for the better since Bubba arrived. He has calmed down so much (not completely) but he is much, much better and the two of them are like brothers. I do believe Chester would be lost without him. I would like to send you an updated picture of Bubba. Well actually it was taken during last summer. Although he came to us approximately a year and a half old, he still has his puppy face and that wonderful smile! Only difference is, he has filled out a bit more (he eats very well)!!! Again, we want to thank you, Sara, Me, Steve and Chester: for our wonderful gift, our wonderful Bubba. We hope you have a wonderful year.

Love, Melanie, Sara, Bubba, Steve and Chester.

Dear Dogs

When I say to move, it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two dogs in the way.

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food.

Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by Nascar and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help, because I fall faster than you can run.

I can not buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. Look at videos of dogs sleeping, they can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but doggy sarcasm.

When I am playing the pinball machine, jumping up and trying to grab the ball through the glass is not helpful. Barking at me because I'm not helping you achieve your goal does not win you any extra brownie points.

My compact discs are not miniature frisbees.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. In addition, I have been using bathrooms for years, canine attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dogs butt. I can not stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you guys to make.

Yours sincerely

Mom and Dad

Author Unknown

Animal Rescuer's Creed

- I'll never bring about world peace.
- I won't single handedly save the rain forest. I'm not a brain surgeon and I'll never transplant an organ to save a life.
- I don't have the ear of a powerful politician or world power. I can't end world hunger.
- I'm not a celebrity and God knows I'm not glamorous. I'm not looked up to by millions around the world. Very few people even recognize my name.
- I'll never win the Nobel prize or end global warming. There are a lot of things that I'll never do or become.

But today I helped place an animal. It was a small, scared bundle of flesh and fur that was dumped at a shelter, or on the streets by unfeeling people who didn't care what happened to it

but yet who were responsible for it having existence in the first place.

I helped find it a loving home.

It now has contentment and an abundance of love and a warm place to sleep and plenty to eat.

Two little girls have a warm and playful new friend who will give them unending affection and teach them about responsibility and love. A wife and mother has a new free spirit to cuddle, nurture and care for.

A husband and father has a furry friend to sit in his lap at the end of a hard day of work and help him relax and enjoy life and a sense of satisfaction, that when he is gone all day at work, that there is a gentle spirit in his home keeping watch over his family. No, I'm not a rocket scientist. But today, I made a difference! And I'll do it tomorrow too, if given a chance.

— Author Unknown

HOMeward BOUND



NEVADA - A beautiful girl, and yet another example of the wonderful dogs that are available for adoption at the Menands Shelter. Nevada was evaluated, taken into the Peppertree program and immediately placed in one of our experienced foster homes where she received the love, care and, yes, grooming she so desperately needed. A family from Syracuse spotted her on the website and travelled to Albany as soon as possible so that they could take her to her new forever home, and that is where she is staying.



BEAR - Less than 6 months ago, a valued Peppertree volunteer rescued this lovely boy from a desperate situation, hoping for nothing more, at that time, than to be able to give him a peaceful end to his miserable existence. Bear was kept in a crate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, being let outside only on a short chain. When he got too noisy, his mouth was duct taped to keep him quiet. Well, guess what? Bear is actually a wonderful dog, and is now living his second life to the full with his new family.



MOJO - Kevin arrives at an adoption clinic, sees Mojo, and it's an immediate match. This super energetic boy had come a long way before this day. His time spent learning a few manners, whilst in the comfort and security of one of our most experienced foster homes was invaluable to ensuring that a placement was going to work for him. And it did! Mojo really loves to run and Kevin is right there with him.



SCOUT - Super shy, but did beautifully at one of his first adoption clinics. Peppertree has had a lot of success placing shy dogs and we knew that there was a home for this lovely boy. That home appeared in the shape of a wonderful lady who just happened to be taking a walk that day, and dropped into the adoption clinic. Of course, she eventually had to go home, and of course, Scout went with her he didn't come back.



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A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament