



# 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.

HOLIDAY 2004 ISSUE

## Peppertree 2004 Alumni Picnic

Peppertree Rescue's first ever Alumni Picnic took place on Saturday October 2nd at Cook Park, Colonie. Here is Michelle Lutz's personal account of the memorable day.

Peppertree hosted an Alumni Reunion picnic for all Peppertree volunteers and adoptive homes and their rescue dogs. It was an event to which we, as volunteers, all looked forward. It was a wonderful opportunity to see our foster dogs again, and the adoptive families get a chance to show off their furry family members. And, of course, the dogs are all happy for a chance to play and compete for prizes (biscuits).

We held the picnic by special permit in a covered pavilion at Cook Park in Colonie. It gave us plenty of room for the many dogs and families that attended. We estimate over 150 humans and 100 dogs visited us throughout the day. We began early in the morning with food, fun and special events that carried us into the late afternoon.

Prizes and ribbons were awarded to the winners of many different competitions which were held throughout the day for those competitive pups and their owners. The "Best Trick" competition brought out all kinds of talented acts. The "Best Costume" contest



*Michelle Lutz, Lucia Perfetti, Kevin Wilcox and Pepper*

was a must see, as dogs strutted around looking their best. The "Owner/ Dog look alike" event, "Loudest Bark," "Fastest Tail Wag," and "Basic Obedience" competitions were also good opportunities to show off the pooch that has been working on his/her skills. We also included a raffle with all kinds of doggy goodies.

The focus on the reunion was to have lots of socializing, eating, story swapping, and suggestions on everything from dog friendly parks to obedience trainers to how to modify an annoying habit. We wanted to recognize volunteers and adoptive homes and their dogs with special thanks. Through the generosity of many local businesses and

Peppertree friends, we were also able to conduct a silent auction a ticket raffle in order to raise much needed funds to help offset veterinarian and other expenses that are incurred in rescue.

The day went by much too fast, but one of our favorite things was that the dogs were exhausted (at least for a little while!). Sometimes, the intensity of doing rescue can be overwhelming with so many dogs needing help. It can be depressing when our foster homes are full and we cannot help another dog in need, or when we fail at being able to rehabilitate a dog, medically or temperamentally. The picnic was one day when we could bask in the success of those dogs who are thriving in

continued from page 1

their wonderful and loving new homes. Peppertree may do the initial rescue work, but it is the adoptive homes that truly make their new furry friend a member of the family and deserve all the kudos. These families could have easily purchased a puppy, but instead, they welcomed a rescued dog who needed a second chance at getting the love and care they should have had from the beginning. Seeing such happy dogs and owners gave us a tremendous lift.

Maybe next picnic your family and your new Peppertree adoptee will be able to join us!

— Michelle Lutz

— Editing by Emily Delebant

Please turn to the centre pages for some wonderful memories of the day.

---

**Visit our website  
for the link to the  
Peppertree Store  
at Cafe Press**

Help dogs while shopping  
this Holiday through  
iGive.com

[www.peppertree.org/store.htm](http://www.peppertree.org/store.htm)



# SEFA - We Thank You!

The State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) continues to support Peppertree Rescue as a group eligible for donations through their annual SEFA Campaign. If you are a New



York State employee, you can help support Peppertree by having donations made directly from your paycheck to benefit Peppertree.

Please see the booklet for the participating Charities and note Peppertree's code on your SEFA form. All of us (furry and non-furry creatures) thank you!

## Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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

P.O. Box 2396, Albany, New York 12220

Voice-Mail (518) 435-7425

[rescue@peppertree.org](mailto:rescue@peppertree.org)

<http://www.peppertree.org>

**Betsy Sommers**  
President  
[esommers2@yahoo.com](mailto:esommers2@yahoo.com)

**David Sawicki**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
[psawicki@capital.net](mailto:psawicki@capital.net)

**Martie De Fronzo**  
Vice President  
[puppydogs4@cs.com](mailto:puppydogs4@cs.com)

**Peg Boughton**  
Director  
[peggypat@prodigy.net](mailto:peggypat@prodigy.net)

**Donna Burdick (MA)**  
Director  
[golddog1@adelphia.net](mailto:golddog1@adelphia.net)

**Nicole Duda (CT)**  
Recordkeeping  
[nmduda@aol.com](mailto:nmduda@aol.com)

**Patti Conroy**  
Behavioral Advisor  
[pconroy@nycap.rr.com](mailto:pconroy@nycap.rr.com)

**Liz Ammian**  
Newsletter  
[liz16paws@yahoo.com](mailto:liz16paws@yahoo.com)

**Sam Stelmaszyk**  
Photos  
[samstel@nycap.rr.com](mailto:samstel@nycap.rr.com)

**Nancy Williams**  
Voice-Mail  
[rwnw3@aol.com](mailto:rwnw3@aol.com)



## I Am Your Dog

I am your dog, and I have a little something I'd like to whisper in your ear. I know that you humans lead busy lives. Some have to work, some have children to raise. It always seems like you are running here and there, often much too fast, often never noticing the truly grand things in life. Look down at me now, while you sit there at your computer. See the way my dark brown eyes look at yours? They are slightly cloudy now. That comes with age. The gray hairs are beginning to ring my soft muzzle.

You smile at me; I see love in your eyes. What do you see in mine? Do you see a spirit? A soul inside, who loves you as no other could in the world? A spirit that would forgive all trespasses of prior wrong doing for just a simple

moment of your time? That is all I ask. To slow down, if even for a few minutes to be with me. So many times you have been saddened by the words you read on that screen, of other of my kind, passing.

Sometimes we die young and oh so quickly, sometimes so suddenly it wrenches your heart out of your throat. Sometimes, we age so slowly before your eyes that you may not even seem to know until the very end, when we look at you with grizzled muzzles and cataract clouded eyes. Still the love is always there, even when we must take that long sleep, to run free in a distant land.

I may not be here tomorrow; I may not be here next week. Someday you will shed the water from your eyes, which humans have when deep grief fills their souls, and you will be angry at yourself that you

did not have just "One more day" with me. Because I love you so, your sorrow touches my spirit and grieves me. We have NOW, together. So come, sit down here next to me on the floor, and look deep into my eyes. What do you see? If you look hard and deep enough we will talk, you and I, heart to heart. Come to me not as "alpha" or as "trainer" or even "Mom or Dad," come to me as a living soul and stroke my fur and let us look deep into one another's eyes, and talk.

I may tell you something about the fun of chasing a tennis ball, or I may tell you something profound about myself or even life in general. You decided to have me in your life because you wanted a soul to share such things with. Someone very different from you, and here I am. I am a dog, but I am alive. I feel emotion, I feel physical senses, and I can revel in the differences of our spirits and souls. I do not think of you as a "Dog on two feet" — I know what you are. You are human, in all your quirkiness, and I love you still.

Now, come and sit with me, on the floor. Enter my world, and let time slow down if only for fifteen minutes. Look deep into my eyes, and whisper to my ears Speak with your heart, with your joy and I will know your true self. We may not have tomorrow, and life is oh so very short.

Love,

(on behalf of canines everywhere)

- Author Unknown

# Photographs from Peppertree Rescue Alumni Picnic



---

**Saturday, October 2nd, 2004**  
**Cook Park, Colonie**



# Peppertree Adoption Clinic Schedule

## 2004 PEPPERTREE ADOPTION CLINIC SCHEDULE:

<b>December 18th</b> PetsMart, Niskayuna 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>January 8th</b> Unleashed Pet Supplies, Wynantskill 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>February 5th</b> Unleashed Pet Supplies, Wynantskill 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
<b>December 19th</b> Mini-clinic at PetsMart, Niskayuna 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>January 22nd</b> PetsMart, Niskayuna 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>February 19th</b> PetsMart, Niskayuna 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th December 2004 11:00am - 4:00pm  
**Santa Paws Pictures at PetsMart**  
 Balltown Road, Niskayuna/Schenectady  
 — for further details visit our website. —

For locations of other Adoption Clinics:  
 Call our Voice-Mail 435-7425 or  
 consult our website (<http://www.peppertree.org>)

- Peppertree Post** 1 year (4 issues) \$10.00
- Peppertree Rescue Pins** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each
- Peppertree T-Shirts** (Original Teal Version)  
(check one) £ S £ M £ L £ XL \$10.00 + \$3.00 shipping

Peppertree has a limited number of our original teal T-shirts left. To clear the stock we are discounting the prices for all T-shirts to \$10, including shipping. Order before the remaining stock disappears forever!

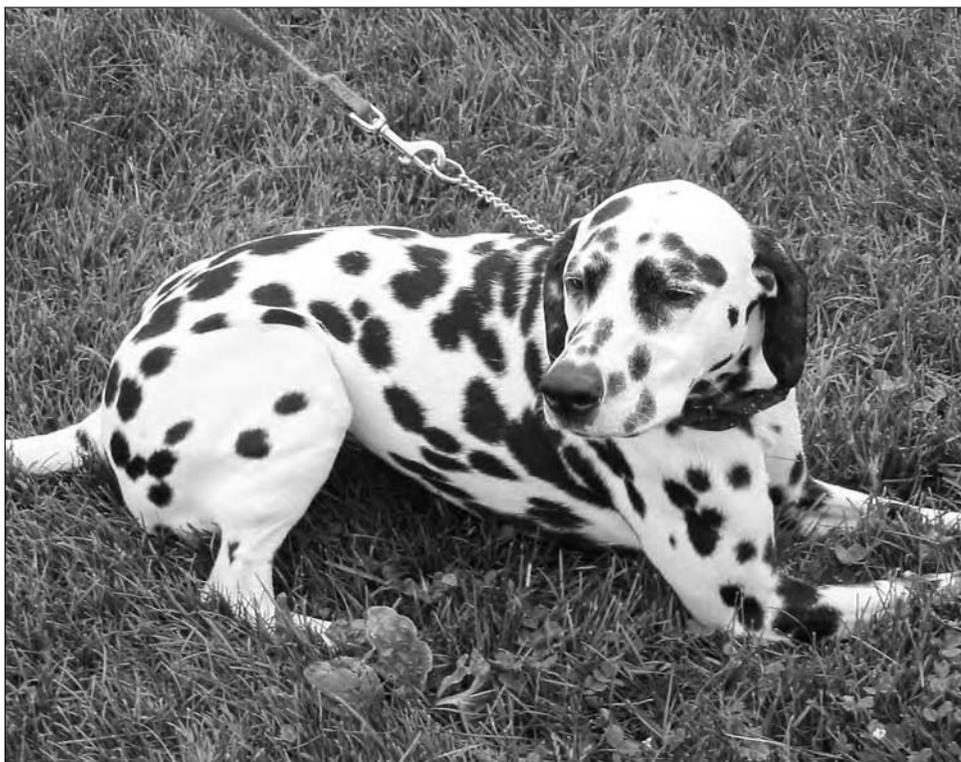
**Donation** (Tax-deductible).

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!!!!**



## Meet The Breed

### Choosing A Dog Breed: Is A Dalmatian Right For You?

Dalmatians are a distinctly different dog with an unusual and famous appearance and a delightful countenance.

Occasionally mistaken as a snarl, they are famous for smiling when they're happy. These high-energy, fun-loving dogs can make a great family addition if you know their pros and cons. Picking the right breed of dog will go a long way towards harmony in your home.

Dalmatians reached significant fame in the Victorian Era when they were bred as coach dogs for nobility. Even today, they have a love for horses. They are an ancient breed that may have originally come from a region in Croatia.

Dalmatians are handsome, medium-sized dogs. They weigh up to 55 pounds and stand 19 to 23 inches high at the shoulder. They tend to live to 11-14 years of age.

Their coat is short, sleek, and smooth, and their coloring is white with black or liver colored spots. Dalmatians are born white and develop their spotted coloring at several weeks of age. They are one of the few breeds who may have blue eyes in addition to the standard dark brown eye color.

They stand alert and should have an upbeat, intelligent expression. Dalmatians have extreme stamina, and often maintain an outgoing, friendly demeanor. They may be aloof with strangers until they learn to recognize them as friends.

This breed is very playful and displays a great sense of humor. Human affection is extremely important to them, and they thrive beautifully when given a lot of attention. The more time they spend with the family, the better of a dog they will be.

A Dalmatian makes a very good watch dog. They are fairly quiet dogs, but have a warning bark that is very different from their joyful, play-time bark. They are naturally protective of their family and can live comfortably with other pets.

Unlike many breeds, Dalmatians are also very easy to care for. Because their coat is so short, they are not suitable outdoor dogs and have little protection from hot or cold weather. They are very clean dogs and rarely need bathing. Regular brushing will alleviate shedding. They shed very little, and their short hairs do not tend to be problematic in the home.

They require a lot of exercise. Dalmatians are athletic and have amazing endurance. Your Dalmatian needs a large yard and lots of play time. If you jog or walk, this is a perfect breed to keep you company while you exercise.

Training Dalmatians is not difficult. Training is important for this family dog because they are very strong for their size. They may be too much to manage comfortably unless properly trained in basic obedience from a young age.

This breed has several genetic health problems. They have a tendency towards deafness, urinary stones, and skin problems. Potential buyers also need to look for aggressive temperament. Professional breeders caution against a Dalmatian that is overly shy, as this breed may react to fear with aggression.

Socialization is important for Dalmatians. After Disney made Dalmatians so popular, many backyard breeders answered the call for demand without responsibly checking a lineage's health and temperament. This led to some ill-tempered and aggressive Dalmatians. This breed is not aggressive by nature, but you must ensure you get a dog from a reputable breeder that screens for health and temperament issues. A reputable breeder works very hard to ensure the best aspects of the breed remain and the undesirable characteristics are bred out of the bloodline.

If you have a family, a large yard, and can spend a lot of time with your dog, a Dalmatian will make an excellent family addition. They are fun-loving, clownish, good-natured dogs who are very dedicated to their families. Their distinctive appearance makes them one of the most notable breeds in existence.

—© by WebGuru, Inc.



**Bootsie** – A total love! That is how everybody at Peppertree referred to this special girl. The sweetest disposition and the gentlest of girls. She liked nothing better than to cuddle up to you and be around her human, canine and feline pals. Bootsie's autoimmune disorder allowed severe skin problems to occur periodically. Her condition worsens when she is stressed and she needed medication, care and love. With her new family, and a brand new name "Tasha", she is living the wonderful life she deserves.



**Binky** – What do you do when you are trying to find a home for a dog that adores everyone, but wants to be in total charge of every other dog? This larger than life girl loved to boss the other dogs around but won the hearts of all at Shaker Veterinary Hospital. It was no surprise when her affectionate, loving nature won over one of the vets there and she was promptly adopted and taken home.



**Cujo** – The perfect dog, according to his foster Mom and certainly nothing like his movie namesake. (We've always agreed that you need a weird sense of humor to fit in with Peppertree). This sweet, sweet boy was totally adored by all who met him and he wanted nothing more than to be near you, or playing with his other doggie friends. Cujo is now with a wonderful family and has another St. Bernard pal for company. Life doesn't get much better than that.



**Tigger** – Tigger was one of a group of dogs that we assisted in placing from an Alabama shelter. We have successfully worked with other rescue groups and shelters outside of the Capital District to help in transporting and finding new families for these dogs. Tigger and her two companions were wonderful examples of the great temperament that we look for in Peppertree dogs and all 3 dogs are now living very happy lives with their new families.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2396  
Albany, New York 12220

[www.peppertree.org](http://www.peppertree.org)

*A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament*