



The Peppertree POST

Fall 2005 issue

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.

Healing Works Both Ways

Approximately twenty-five years ago a study of heart attack victims indicated that patients with pets recovered more rapidly and lived longer than those without. This created the use of animals as adjuncts to both physical and psychological therapy with patients suffering an onset of illness. The human-animal companion bond became a source of great interest to therapists and physicians in treating patients with physical and/or psychological needs.

Of course, it's ironic, because we as pet lovers have always known the benefits of canine companionship. For those of us who share our lives with four paws, it's a necessary addition to our lives, health and well-being.

Across America, programs are instituted to bring pets on visits to hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and visiting the home-bound folks. It's a time of mutual sharing of touch, hugs, and a feeling of bonding. Institutions for children with autism, emotional problems or developmental disabilities utilize canines to enhance the environment for



Jean Chamberlain and Spice.

the children. Children who were too shy or 'unable' to connect with human contact are able to let down their fear and hug/pet canines for comfort and communication.

Canines are able to detect oncoming seizures, asthma attacks or emotional episodes.

In the worst of times, canines have been used to open lines of communication with school students who have experienced a crisis in their school environment, i.e. shooting, bombing, etc. Canines have been brought in to allow students to simply have a solid body to put their arms around... someone non-judgmental to weep

into their fur. Canines seem to have an uncanny sense of awareness of a situation. They feel that something tragic/serious has occurred. They strive to institute the sense of normalcy to bring the karma back into the environment.

Did you ever notice with your own canine how receptive and intuitive they are to your moods?

If you suddenly feel sad and cry... a paw will appear on your knee, followed by gentle licks of support or a sudden sense of fear will cause your beloved companion to 'stand guard'... follow and protect your movements until the emotion is resolved.

Therapy dogs were utilized at Ground Zero following the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. These dogs provided comfort to the rescue workers as they toiled each day searching for life among the ruins. A sense of strength and bonding was provided both ways to help both the rescue workers and rescue dogs complete their work.

As many of us in rescue know, the healing goes both ways. More often than not, a canine with significant emotional or physical needs is brought into our program. These are canines who have suffered abuse, neglect, abandonment and are in need of the healing touch that humans can readily provide. Imagine living your life in a loving home and suddenly being sent to a shelter because

continued on page 2, see Healing



Associated Press

Dog Friendly Concept Car

WAKO, Japan - Honda Motor Co. has designed a car that's friendly for dogs — part of the Japanese automaker's ongoing effort to create vehicles that are easy to use and comfortable to ride in.

The W.O.W. Concept, which stands for “wonderful openhearted wagon,” shown to reporters recently, is an exhibition model with no plans for commercial sale that will be exhibited at the Tokyo auto show later this month.

A special crate for dogs in the glove apartment allows owners to interact with their pets while driving. A bigger crate pops up from the floor in the back seat area and can be folded back into the floor when it's not needed. For even bigger dogs, just buckle them up with a special seat belt to the floor.

The big danger for pets riding along in cars is that they get thrown out during a crash. About a fifth of Japanese households have a dog, and demand is growing for cars that cater to man's best friend, according to Honda.

The W.O.W comes with removable, washable, rollout flooring and has wide sliding doors to keep dogs happy.

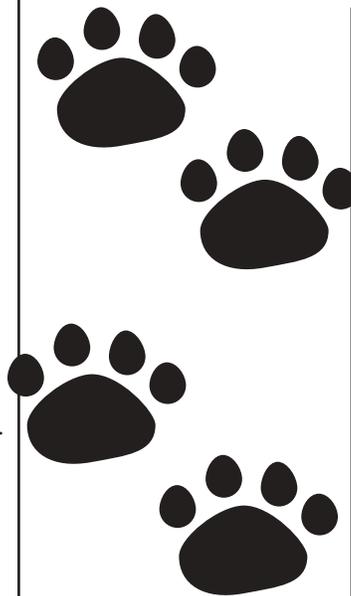
“We created this vehicle from the point of view of a dog, but it turned out to be a gentler vehicle for the elderly, children and other family members,” said Honda designer Katsuhito Nakamura.

Healing, *continued from page 1*

your ‘family’ has decided to move and you are not invited for the trip. Or, as we often see, an illness has occurred and your family has chosen not to pay for the medical expenses. Canines are far too frequently cast aside and not given the priority or care that a human life would receive.

One of the most rewarding experiences I have had working in rescue is to provide a temporary or permanent home to canines in need. What incredibly beautiful creatures, who only want a stable hand to paw relationship. It's hard to even put into words the gift that is shared between both. My days are lighter knowing that my home provides a haven for those in need... my heart is full feeling the return of acceptance, unconditional love and belief my fosters and own companions share. A lightness is shared by both... mutual needs are met and life in the present is bliss and the future holds a ‘light’ to shine on.

Do I believe in clinical studies that animal companionship is a healing process? You bet!! Waking up to wet noses and snuggling paws is the most content and grounding experience I've ever shared. Waking up to a needy canine that requires tummy rubs and comfort... the same loving and bonding feeling. The power behind sharing hugs, paw shakes and play goes beyond the human experience. Being childish and playing in the Fall leaves, walking in the new Spring sniffing the air, exploring the new buds, tossing Frisbees in abandon play... it's a feeling of freedom, love and sharing. Whether it's sharing play, hugs, or helping a canine find solitude... the benefits of hand-to-paw relationships help soothe the soul and bring balance in a typical life. — Liz Amman



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

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Adopting a Senior Dog

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

– Chief Seattle

Adopting a senior canine is such a rewarding experience. Gone are the days of house breaking, chewing, jumping, and general puppy type behavior. In place of these, are canines who love companionship, are gentle in manners and adore comfy places to rest their heads.

A lover of adopting seniors... I call them my “hassocks”. Snuggle dogs, who enjoy leisure walks, grooming, and just feeling ‘at home’ in their new environment.

Senior dogs are delightful! They arrive with a wealth of knowledge, quirks and antics! It’s fun to watch their personalities expand under a loving hand.

Nelma snoozing



It’s also important to be mindful of changes during the older years. Just like with humans, canines develop through cycles in life. Below is a listing of informational symptoms to watch for in your senior canine.

1. Decreased Appetite
2. Increased Water Intake
3. Weight Change
4. Incontinence
5. Itchy Skin
6. Confusion
7. Reduced Activity Level
8. Hearing/Vision Loss

When you witness these changes in your canine, make an appointment with your veterinarian. It’s important to determine the cause. Many diseases in older canines are similar to conditions in humans. i.e. increased water intake may indicate diabetes or kidney/liver disease. Weight change may be due to hypothyroidism or decreased activity may be a result of arthritis and painful joints.

Pennies for Pets

Pamela Trainor who teaches 2nd grade at the Forest Park School in South Colonie contacted Peppertree recently. Every year her class participates in some form of community service. This year the kids did Pennies for Pets which consisted of collection jars in the classrooms and they had a Doggie Twist Sale selling dog biscuits. They raised \$270 over the course of the year and are sending all the funds to Peppertree Dog Rescue.

A huge thanks to Pamela and all her 2nd grade pupils for helping make a difference.

Seniors can readily enjoy life if diagnosed promptly and receive veterinary care. Many seniors live many enjoyable years with medication, physical therapy or alternative methods, such as acupuncture, massage, etc.

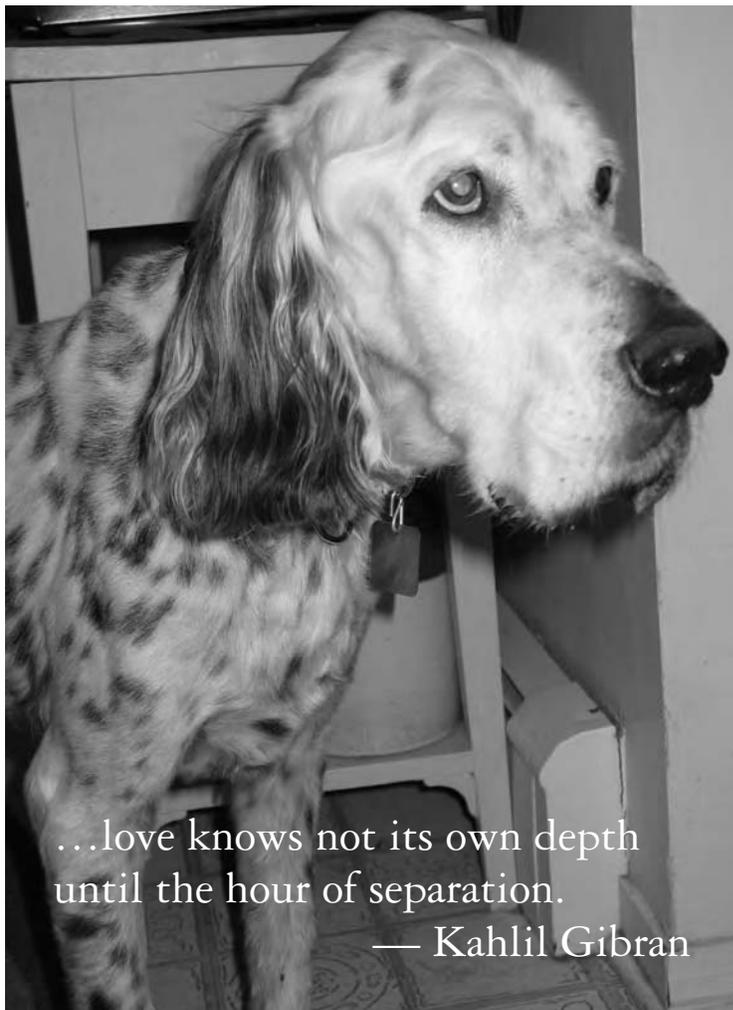
Senior canines are a joy to adopt. It’s a learning experience for both the human and the canine.

They arrive with a lifetime of knowledge and experience. Ready to share and incorporate their experiences into your life. What could be a better gift than to give a loving home to an older dog? From a personal front... the benefits have always outweighed the losses. My seniors make me laugh daily...they each have more personality than most humans. From pouting to silly behaviors... it’s always a ‘smirking’ experience to watch their interactions.

When thinking of adopting a canine... allow yourself to envelop a dog of senior years. Although their time in years may be shorter, the rewards of your time together will speak volumes.

—Liz Ammian

WHEN IT'S TIME TO LET GO



...love knows not its own depth
until the hour of separation.
— Kahlil Gibran

I'VE BEEN A VOLUNTEER WITH PEPPERTREE FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS NOW. During that time, I've fostered, adopted to wonderful families, become a "foster failure" adding to my brood... but most sadly I've made the decision that a canine was ready to cross the Rainbow Bridge.

This article is not for sadness, but more a subtle reality check for those of us who love our canines and only want the best for them in health and sickness.

Starkey was a wonderful addition to my fostering experience. A delightful aged, English Setter, who was abandoned, starved and loving the touch of a comforting hand, comforter snuggled around his body for sleep... Starkey was only with us in Peppertree for a few weeks, but his presence made a lasting impression in our hearts.

This Holiday Season Give the Gift of a Dog's Life

Are you looking for the perfect gift to give to your favorite dog lover this Holiday Season? Why not save a dog's life in their honor?

You know what Peppertree does. We save dogs. We do it over 200 times every year (maybe one of our "saves" is a member of your family) and we want to keep doing it. Finding good homes for good dogs.

But rescue costs. Food, transportation, boarding and most of all vet bills always seem to keep us in the red.

Here's how you can help and send a special gift to the person of your choice at the same time.

In the next few weeks you will be receiving a very special letter from us at Peppertree. That letter will let you know how a small donation on your part will allow us to save another dog. And once your donation has been made we will send a special holiday gift card to the person of your choice

announcing that a dog has been saved in their name.

Can you think of a better, more worthwhile, and more heartwarming present than that? And at the same time you will be allowing Peppertree to continue its good work well into the New Year.

Keep an eye out for our HOLIDAY APPEAL and give the gift of a new life for one of our 4-legged friends.

December 8, 2003

It's a sad day at my home... Starkey was escorted to the Rainbow Bridge this afternoon by David (Peppertree Treasurer), Mike and I. A sudden onset of early morning seizures and lethargic behavior became a diagnosis of Addison's Disease (adrenal gland failure). Donald Dries, DVM, who I would trust with my life, felt that Starkey would not benefit from any aggressive treatment. A steroid treatment yielded minimal positive results and after consulting with the Peppertree Board, we concurred... it was Starkey's time to be at peace in his world.

For those of you who met Starkey at our one of our clinics, I'm sure you can appreciate the love and admiration for this "baby boy". Ancient in years, but a trooper, tolerated all those 'satin balls' for nourishment and seemed to be on the mend and awaiting a new home and future. Starkey soon felt well enough to let Mike and I share his most delightful, slightly dim-witted personality. He flopped about our home with his "Dr. Suess" feet (reminded me of the Grinch) and always elicited a laugh when he would suddenly stop his flopping feet and bark at my china hutch!. (I didn't care for the pattern either)

This boy had a heart of gold... I will sadly miss tucking him in each night. He loved to sleep by the heater, totally submerged in a comforter... just a small visual of his nose. Some nights he had unsettling dreams. I'll miss snuggling next to him, holding his frail body and hoping my arms encasing him would ease the torment of his thoughts.



"We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own live within a fragile circle, easily and often breached. Yet, we still would live no other way."

— Irving Townsend

This is the sad side of fostering and the decision to euthanize a beloved, but also the most rewarding. Thru my tears, I know that Starkey had so much love with us... and, I believe he trusted the decision to let him go to the Rainbow Bridge when his illness became too great for his body.

It's never easy accepting a beloved companions' illness and need to leave us for a more comfortable place. It's certainly not easy making the decision to assist your canine through euthanasia.

Fortunately, many of us have intelligent, compassionate veterinarians', who guide us though the process.

Having worked in a veterinary practice, I was faced daily with the emotions of clients who need to make a decision about their animals care. It's an emotional situation for all involved. I've

learned that the staff of a veterinary hospital, from the receptionist to the veterinarian, care deeply about your animal and you. Their goal is to help your canine become well or, if not an option, help you through the transition of guiding your beloved to peace and finding solace for yourself.

When you are concerned with new behaviors, indicators of illness... feel comfortable contacting your veterinarian for advice and comfort. Be realistic when your beloved is

old, facing serious illness and might suffer due to prolonged treatments. Most importantly... take your vet's words as granite (they love animals and is why they chose this field) and be unselfish in your heart and allow your companion to enjoy life to the maximum and exit gracefully to the Rainbow Bridge.

—Liz Ammian

**Saturday
October 8**
Albany Damien Center
12 South Lake Ave.
Albany
11:00 to 1:30

**Saturday
October 29**
PetsMart
Latham Farms
10:00-1:30

**Saturday
November 19**
PetsMart
Latham Farms
10:00-1:30

**Saturday
October 15**
Checker Hill Farm's
Feed Store 53 Freeman's
Bridge Rd.
Scotia
10:00-1:30

**Saturday
November 5**
Checker Hill Farm's
Feed Store 53 Freeman's
Bridge Rd. Scotia
10:00-1:30

**Saturday
December 3**
Checker Hill Farm's
Feed Store 53 Freeman's
Bridge Rd. Scotia
10:00-1:30



**Saturday December 17 &
Sunday December 18**
Santa Claws Pet Photos
Latham Farms, Latham



Peppertree Post 1 year (4 issues) \$10.00

Peppertree Rescue Pins _____ @ \$5.00 each

Peppertree T-Shirts (Original Teal Version)

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!!!

DOG DICTIONARY

LEASH A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the floor, or better yet, on their laps.

SNIFF A social custom to use when you greet other dogs. Place your nose as close as you can to the other dog's rear end and inhale deeply, repeat several times, or until your person makes you stop.

GARBAGE CAN A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

BICYCLES Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards; the person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

DEAFNESS This is a malady which affects dogs when their persons want them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.

THUNDER This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrappers. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home.

SOFAS Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

BATH This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

LEAN Every good dog's response to the command "sit!", especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

BUMP The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

GOOSE BUMP A maneuver to use as a last resort when the Regular Bump doesn't get the attention you require... especially effective when combined with The Sniff. See above.

LOVE Is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

Crate Training

A standard application to adopt a canine has a question... "Would you be willing to crate train the dog?" More often than not, the answer is "No". Typically, this answer is a knee jerk reaction that humans feel that crate training is cruel to dogs. On this note, having crated several canines over the years... whether pups, fosters or to assist in behavioral issues... I've chosen to dedicate this section to the "Wonders of Crating".

By nature, canines are "den animals". They seek secure, protective areas in which to sleep, relax, etc. Notice how often your dogs enjoy relaxing in a 'protected' environment. Whether it be in a corner, under a table or bed... this is secure and comforting to them.

Choose a crate that is large enough for your dog to stand, stretch, and lie in a comfortable position. Do not have a crate that allows enough room for your dog to relieve itself and move away into a comfortable zone,

Dogs are pack animals. The crate should be placed within room of other canines or in the bedroom for sleeping. Your new dog needs to feel secure within it's pack.

Unless used inappropriately, crating a dog is a way to alleviate separation anxiety, provide comfort when humans are away and your dog may be stressed/anxious being "alone". Paying attention to your dog's needs will provide invaluable knowledge in learning when it's time to increase time out of the crate, and allowing both of you to be more comfortable with the home environment.

—Liz Ammian



Peppertree Rescue
Founder's Day
"Spring Fling" Raffle

1,000 tickets *only* will be sold
Tickets are \$10.00 each (not tax-deductible)

1st prize: \$4,000
2nd prize: \$500
3rd prize: \$300
4th prize: \$200

Drawing to be held: **Saturday, April 1, 2006**
Checker Hill Farm's Feed Store, 53 Freeman's Bridge Road, Scotia
You do not have to be present to win.

Proceeds will
aid in the costs
of caring for the
dogs in our
program





Happy Our little “energizer bunny” as she was affectionately known. Happy was a busy little girl who could barely sit still for a photo. After spending some wonderful learning time with our Kathy Foley, Happy finally worked out how to behave in company and how to finally sit still. Mike and Elizabeth LaRose met Happy with their kids at a clinic and Happy (now Pepper) is doing wonderfully in her new home.



Peggy B is a wonderful girl who came to us as a stray, looking for a home where she could be a quiet, but loyal companion. Barb and Chris Kucharczyk initially were going to foster Peggy B – in addition to their own adopted Peppertree dog, Portia – and their 6 rescue greyhounds! Peggy B flourished in their home and they couldn't let her go. What's more amazing is that Peggy B, now in her twilight years, is the most enthusiastic of all their dogs when it comes to going for a walk. Go on Peggy B!



Timber The last thing that Mary and Jim White thought they'd be doing when they stopped by our PetsMart Latham clinic one Saturday, was to be adopting a dog. We love to work with the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society, and that day Timber was visiting from the Shelter, after our initial evaluation showed that he was a very special boy. Our instincts were proven correct and Timber is having the best time with his new forever family, they adore him.



Spice came to Peppertree as a sweet, but super shy, girl, with literally no fur on her little body. It has taken much time, patience and attention from her wonderful foster Mom, Jo, for her to learn that she can be secure and happy again with humans. Gail Wessot spotted this special girl, curled up in a corner at a recent adoption clinic and it didn't take long for Gail to make the decision to take her home. Spice continues to blossom under the love and care she has received with Gail and her family, and they love her completely.



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www.peppertree.org
A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament