



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 2006 ISSUE

Animal Magnetism

Locally based writer, Patricia Martin, contributes a monthly column to BOOM magazine. She gives touching and humorous insights into everyday events that make us sit up and take notice. Read on, as she reminds us how animals give so much to their human families and how fortunate we are to have them in our lives.

"Animal Magnetism" was originally published in the January 2006 issue of BOOM magazine in Patricia Martin's Verve column (www.BoomPublishing.com).

There is no doubt that the bond between humans and animals is one of the most potent, powerful forces in the world, and probably has been throughout the history of evolution. Anyone who has ever had a pet in their life knows that nothing pulls at the heart-strings quite the same way as the loving relationship between man and beast. Unlike the delightful, exasperating, and infinitely complex emotional connections we have with family and friends, "animal magnetism" somehow feels more simple, more constant, and more transcendent. It simply IS.

The idea of animals leaving indelible paw prints on our hearts isn't just a romantic notion. Twenty-five years ago, a study of heart attack victims determined that patients with pets recovered more rapidly and lived longer than patients without an animal friend at home. Recognizing the healing, nurturing energy provided by animals, health care professionals have initiated myriad programs that bring pets on visits to hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and classes for children who have emotional issues or developmental disabilities. Here in my neck of the woods, I recently discovered a special ed tutor with several doggie side-kicks who are an attentive and appreciative audience



Patti and Charlie

for learning disabled youngsters attempting to read aloud from books for the first time in their lives. And who can forget the images of therapy dogs on the scene at Ground Zero, providing support and comfort to 9/11 rescue workers?

Being an unabashed animal lover, I have had many pets over the years, ranging from furry four-leggeds to a mutant baby chick I rescued from the executioner's grip of my fifth grade biology teacher. At the moment my ark houses a pair of cockatiels, two parakeet brothers, and 8½ lb. Charlie, my beloved Maltese, who is in fact now napping on my lap as I write.

While I've cherished all my experiences with animals, Charlie has been my greatest teacher, and I never cease to learn from him. In fact, I got the idea for this

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Animal Magnetism, continued from page 1

column when he was home recuperating from a successful operation (the removal of a tumor from his front leg that fortunately turned out to be benign). Watching Charlie recover was a lesson in surrender and grace, for he just gave himself over to the healing process totally, neither complaining nor trying to be a hero. He simply honored what his body needed, resting when he was tired, asking to be picked up when he needed help, and independently doing whatever he could on his own, making progress day by day until he had completely recovered. A first time dog owner, my husband Richard was also anxious when Charlie was undergoing surgery, and cannot imagine life without our little buddy. He says, "Charlie loves life, and reminds me every day to love it, too."

Pet Project

Inspired by this moving experience with Charlie, I decided to survey other Boomers to discover what they have learned from communing with creatures great and small. Not so surprisingly, the number one answer to my query was an awareness of "unconditional love." Feline aficionado Gus echoed other boomers when he said, "The many cats who have been my teachers had one thing in common: they always provided me with the opportunity to observe unconditional love...rare amongst humans, and yet possible as I have seen through my furry friends, which I have come to call 'DivineAmals.'"

Another proponent of unconditional love, Tej is a thoughtful observer, reflecting on what he sees and feels watching his beloved pets. He explains, "When I look at my two dogs, I realize how far behind humans are in their communication skills. These little souls give unconditional love. All they need is a smile and the tails show appreciation. When they are not smiling and laughing, they are simply being – a state which is not achieved by the human race for as long as memory exists." Tej's comments remind me of how I have often wished people possessed tails, for tails are always a barometer of true feelings; indeed, with a tell-tale tail, you get fair warning that you're going to get kissed or are about to be bitten!

Respondent Cathy – who holds the survey record for owning the most pets (five cats, two dogs, two birds, two turtles, two horses, and a fish) –says, "I could never live without my animals, particularly the cats. They are

there when you're sick in bed, when you feel like the world hates you, and when you don't want anything human to even look at you. But they are not just bad weather friends, they are there to celebrate your highs as well."

Cats have provided a rich array of other life-enhancing lessons—from learning the benefit of a good nap to how to let go and just play, and a few Boomers swear they make the world's best alarm clock. Kathy, who has rescued a number of cats over the past twenty years, provides a thoughtful cosmic overview when she says, "I've learned that no life form is greater than another or can be seen as given a right to dominate another. We are all here to learn from each other, and pets are a part of this equation."

Dog owners wax equally philosophical about their canine instructors. After rescuing Pitbull "Frannie" ten years ago, Victor muses, "She has become my truest companion and noble friend, spanning three moves, two relationships, and now an apartment in Manhattan. The simple truth of the matter is that she makes me a better human being, and reminds me that it is not only OK, but necessary, to take time to imbibe every scent, every new discovery, every detail of grass, of trash, of crushed Cheese Doodles on your journey through life. With her as inspiration, I am willing to embrace fear, conquer obstacles, and have faith – even if it means crouching on the floor of my closet during a thunder storm!"

The owner of a 15 year-old Cocker Spaniel, Sandy says, "Our old friend has taught me what grace really means. She has tumors and gray hair mixed in with her blonde and is wearing the

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white glaze of cataracts over her once-beautiful brown eyes, all of these things inoperable due to her age. This is aging gracefully and taking it one day at a time in a world that is out for the quick cosmetic fix. Enduring discomfort and never letting it show, this is our beloved 'Lady,' a fitting name for her these days especially."

Loving Memories

Carl was the first Boomer to express something pet owners can't help but think about from time to time when he said, "My beloved Otis the Cat was my meditation on death. There came a time when I realized he would probably predecease me. From then on, I would frequently look at this cat love of my life and think about his passing. When he did die – last February, at the age of 14 – it was less painful than I had expected; I had been preparing myself for it. He was, to my mind, a perfect being. "

While mourning a beloved pet's passing is inevitable, untimely loss must be the most sorrowful of all. Musician Studio Stu, his wife Joyce, and son Josh are still healing from the recent death of their favorite cat, Benny, whose life was cut short when he was victimized by a hit and run driver. Benny sounds like he was a most delightful creature, and I am honored to pay homage to him by sharing excerpts from a letter the family sent me, which was originally posted in The Woodstock Times. I am sure it will touch everyone who has known the unconditional love of a noble animal teacher.

"Benny was a big, fat, fluffy orange cat with a soft white belly and a ton of personality. When he threw his heavy body down onto your lap and went BOOM he could 'muffa-purr' just like his ancestral lions. As he slipped into a state of sheer bliss in one of his upside-down/belly-up yoga positions, he would often forget where he was, and ever so slowly start to slide off laps, or chairs, or his favorite footstool...He was the ringleader, the joyous instigator in our clan of cats. At night, after a hard day of intense play, he would fall onto our cold feet at the bottom of the bed, or guard us from the full moon creatures...Our Benny was just SO nice, SO silly, and SO much fun! He must have been hanging out at the pond last Tuesday night, mesmerized by bugs, getting a mouthful of frog, or encouraging ducks to head south...We'll never know why he was out in the road. He always ran away from cars, he hated them, was afraid of them! But somehow, one of those dreaded machines snuffed out Benny's precious life... As his death sinks in, we wish for all the things we might have done. But most of all, we wish that you had been driving a little slower, or more carefully. We wish that you would have had the time to stop, let Benny cross the road, and come home to us in one piece..."

Here's to mindful driving, and cherishing the pets who own our hearts.....

— Patricia Martin
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HELP WANTED

**Peppertree Newsletter
Post Production
Start Date: Immediately
Salary: Gratitude & Humor**

After nearly five years of working on the newsletter, I am stepping down to spend more time with my young family. This newsletter is the last one that I will be putting together and I have loved every moment of being involved in its production.

My Peppertree girl, Nelma, has appeared in every issue that I have worked on and I will very much miss the challenging task every 3 months of trying to get everything to fit. It's been fun and I'll miss working with such a wonderful group.

Anyone wishing to take over the layout of the newsletter should contact Peppertree Rescue through the website www.peppertree.org or by calling (518) 435-7425.

Currently the newsletter is built in Quark Express 5.0 or InDesign CS2 version files. Knowledge of

Photoshop and access to a scanner is a must. Use of a digital camera is a real plus.

— Sam Stelmaszyk



Changes In The Home - Relationships and Loved Ones

Have you suddenly begun dating? Do your children have a new group of friends? Has someone passed away or left the home? Was that someone important to your dog's daily life or socialization?

Many times humans do not take into consideration the effect new people or the loss of someone in the home has on our canine companions. As people we have difficulty adjusting and tend to forget that canines also make a transition when the home situation changes.

When someone new is introduced into the house, the dog does not understand why a previously working situation has been changed. Just because you and the dog enjoy sharing naps together on the couch or a lazy Sunday sharing the newspaper, a new person may not understand the relationship and bonding between you and your pet. Maybe you and the pooch love to run Saturday errands together... again, not always understood by those without a canine companion.

It is important to discuss up front with any new people your relationship between you and your pet and to allow a period for adjustment. Do not sacrifice rules like no jumping at people or no table feeding to the dog. Make sure you are consistent with your canine rules and enforce them to maintain a balanced environment for all.

Your dog will likely have difficulty adjusting to the relationship balance when you introduce someone new into the home. The balance of attention may shift and it is important the new humans understand the importance of your canine and his need for your attention. If your dog is in need of attention, make sure he earns it. Make sure you let your dog know you are the boss and ask for 'behavior' before you reward with attention. An example is to have your dog 'sit' before petting. Take the time to recognize undesirable behaviors being demonstrated by your dog and rather than reward these behaviors with attention, ignore him or her until the unwanted behaviors stop. This is easier said than done, but very effective for diffusing bad behavior. Reinforcing bad behavior only opens a 'can of worms' for both parties. Also, make it understood to your new friend that most dogs do not like to be smothered with affection. If you don't hug your dog or expect kisses, don't let another person do so. If

you don't reward your dog with treats for every action, let it be known. It's extremely important to maintain the same guidelines to help your dog feel relaxed and comfortable in his home and to keep his lifestyle consistent even during a transition.

Canines will feel a similar loss to a human reaction when a loved one departs the home. There will be a void, a feeling of loss. It is important to recognize this void and find activities to fill the space.

This becomes a time to reinforce the structure within the home to avoid behavioral issues and uncertainty. Spending additional time with your dog or introducing new play time may be necessary. Your dog may become depressed and need additional time with you. If his or her behavior changes and he or she becomes agitated or destructive, it is beneficial to consult with your veterinarian for guidance about behavioral issues and the potential use of medications.

The bottom line is to make sure you realize your canine's feelings about a loss may be similar to your own. Dogs are pack animals and become part of 'our pack'. When a member of the pack is lost, they need to be guided and nourished during this life change. Remember, this is your best friend going through times of change with you. Be sure to lend your heart and wisdom to him or her.

— Liz Ammian



Liz and Grizzly

PEPPERTREE RESCUE'S

Picnic for the Dogs

*Join us for our 2006 picnic event
and good canine company.*

**Saturday
Sept. 16th
noon to 3pm**

Shaker Rd-Loudonville
Fire Dept., Station 2
144 Old Niskayuna Rd
Loudonville



Great BBQ from Tex's BBQ/Longhorn Catering Co. is available for \$8 per person. Choice of pulled pork or ½ chicken w/ side salad & corn bread – or pack your own picnic.

Admission: \$2 per dog and their human friends are free. (*Dogs need to be on a leash at all times*).

RSVP by 9/12/06 with your dinner of choice, or for more information call: **(518) 435-7425** or visit **www.peppertree.org**



Peppertree Dog Rescue is an all volunteer group and operates solely from donations and adoption placements. If you would like to make a donation please call us or visit our website. **All proceeds from this event will benefit Peppertree Dog Rescue. Thank you.**

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Peppertree Adoption Clinic Schedule

clinic dates

2006 PEPPERTREE ADOPTION CLINIC SCHEDULE:

Saturday Sept 9

Checkerhills Farm Pet Food & Access.
53 Freeman's Bridge Rd. Scotia
10:00 – 1:30

Saturday Sept 23

PetSmart - East Greenbush & PetSmart Latham Farms
10:00 – 1:30

Saturday November 4

Checkerhills Farm Pet Food & Access.
53 Freeman's Bridge Rd. Scotia
10:00 – 1:30

Saturday Sept 16 Picnic For the Dogs

Shaker-Loudonville Fire Dept., Station 2
12:00 - 3:00

Saturday October 7

Checkerhills Farm Pet Food & Access.
53 Freeman's Bridge Rd. Scotia
10:00 – 1:30

Saturday November 18

PetSmart - East Greenbush & PetSmart Latham Farms
10:00 – 1:30

Sunday Sept 17 PetSmart Adoptathon, PetSmart - Latham
see Peppertree website or call 435-7425, week of Sept 10 for times

Saturday October 21

PetSmart - East Greenbush & PetSmart Latham Farms
10:00 – 1:30

Saturday December 2

Checkerhills Farm Pet Food & Access.
53 Freeman's Bridge Rd. Scotia
10:00 – 1:30

For locations of other Adoption Clinics and further details of all events, call our Voice-Mail 435-7425 or visit our website (<http://www.peppertree.org>)

subscribe

Peppertree Post

1 year (4 issues) \$10.00

Peppertree Rescue Pins

_____ @ \$5.00 each

Peppertree T-Shirts

(Original Teal Version - only 8 remaining)

(check one) £ S \$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!!!!!!

Pet Adoptions
HERE!

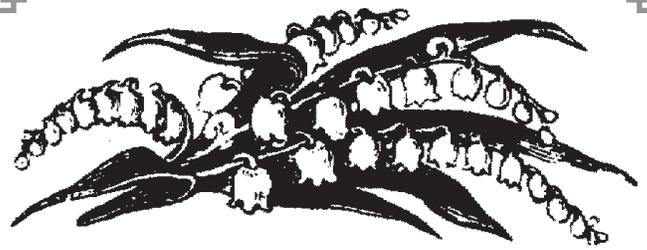


St. Pius X Girl Scouts Pet Adoption Day

On a rather damp Saturday in April, Maddie Burnett, Ericka Pier and Ashley Tanski hosted a Pet Adoption Day at The Crossings of Colonie, and Peppertree Rescue was honored to be invited to the celebration. More than half a dozen animal rescue groups took part in the event. Sponsors included St. Pius X School, Benson's Pet Center and St. Gregory's School, as well as other local community businesses.

Demonstrations and discussions were given by the Colonie Police K9 Unit and Dr. McDaniel from the Sand Creek Animal Hospital. Prizes were handed out for the best dressed, silliest and best behaved pets. Father James Walsh of St. Pius X visited the event for a Blessing of the Animals.

104.5 FM The Buzz were also on hand to make the event a great day.



Did You Know ...

These Plants Are Poisonous to Animals?

Tomato Plant
(all parts, except fruit)

Lily of the Valley
(all parts, even vase water)

Chrysanthemums

Christmas Trees
(needles, tree water)

Poison Ivy

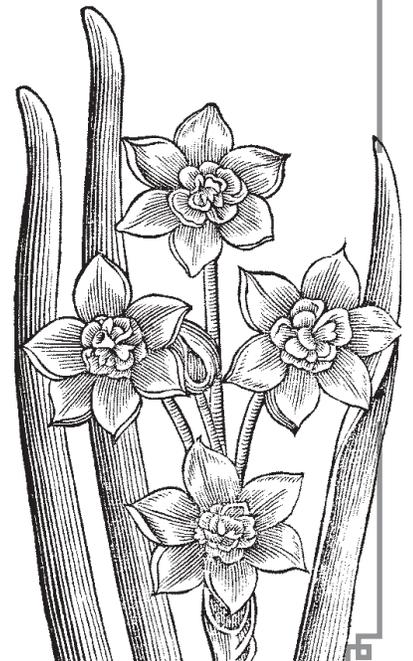
Daffodils

Jasmine

Eggplant
(foliage)

Tulips

Hydrangea
(flower buds)



OPEN YOUR HEART

Still looking for their forever home ...



ZANA - Shepherd/Lab (probably Anatolian Shepherd), female, 7 years. Zana is a regal girl who lost her home. While large, she is very gentle and is great with people and children (she previously lived with children under five). She is generally good with other dogs, but in a home she is better with dogs that are not dominant in their own right. She isn't good with cats, so we would not place her in a cat home. Despite her age, Zana has the agility of a 3 year old.



SHAUN - German Shepherd mix, male, 7 years old. Shaun is a happy, affectionate boy, who adjusts well to new situations and is very eager to please. He gets along with people and dogs, although we do not believe he would do well with cats. Shaun would make a wonderful companion and friend and is just looking for the opportunity to be with a loving family,



LADY P & PUGSLEY - Beagle/Golden Retriever, female, around 7 and 11 years, respectively. This mother and daughter combination came to us after a local veterinarian assisted a local shelter where the dogs had landed. One owner passed away and the other went into a nursing facility. Peppertree has taken them into their program and they are now in a loving foster home. They are great with people and other dogs and totally ignore cats. They even do well with children, although we would place them in a home with older children due to their age. They are a super-sweet pair and Peppertree will be placing them together so they do not suffer any more loss in their life. We are looking for a very special home for these two very special girls.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.
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www.peppertree.org

A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament