



# 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.

WINTER 2006 ISSUE

## CANINES IN THE WORK ENVIRONMENT

Every pet owner feels sadness when we leave for work and wave to the big eyes watching us drive away. Many times during the day you wonder what your pal is doing while you work. Wouldn't it be wonderful to take your companion to work? Here's the story of someone who does ... John W. Repsher, P.T., owner of Repsher & Alheim, P.T. and The Athletic Training Room in Albany, New York.

Welcome Orvis, a delightful 8 year old Portuguese Water Dog, who is the Cruise Director of Repsher & Alheim, P.T. In 1998 Orvis joined the staff as a pup. Throughout the years he has become the greeter, ball tosser and basically, the "Little Man" of the practice. Orvis is especially fond of children and helps keep them entertained while parents are receiving physical therapy. He is also happy to sit on his bed for those patients who do not wish to be near dogs.

Orvis, with his embracing and, sometimes reserved personality, comforts the emotions we feel when confronted with new terrain. He will make you feel welcome, relaxed, and allow you to take comfort in the healing environment of the physical therapy office.

If prompted, he'll share a game of



*John W. Repsher, P.T., A.T.,C and "Orvis"*

tennis ball toss or simply snuggle by your therapy table as you bask in heat wraps.

Orvis has adopted fitness friends who slap-shot him balls while training. While you run on the treadmill ... he delights in dozing on the adjacent trainer. One eye is peeled to make sure **you** work to

the appropriate heart rate.

Kudos to Repsher & Alheim, P.T. ... an environment of healing from therapists for your musculoskeletal concerns, and Orvis, provider of "Healing With a Personal Touch".

— Liz Amman, Editor

# FUNDRAISING

## Holiday Appeal Letter

Our first 2005 Holiday Appeal Letter was distributed in November 2005. The response from previous adopters and supporters of Peppertree Rescue was overwhelming and monies raised were essential in allowing us to be able to continue dog rescue work.

Final totals will be published in the next newsletter together with our 2005 statistics. In the meantime, a huge thank you to our volunteers for their tireless efforts and especially to those of you who donated. Your continued support means everything.



## Santa Claws Pet Photos

On December 17/18, elves and wannabe Santa's congregated at PetSmart in Latham for 2 days of photos with Santa. PetSmart donates \$5 for every photo sale on those 2 days and our volunteers were there in full force to make sure that nobody was left that day, that hadn't had their photo taken with their beloved pet and the man in red and white.

On Sunday, Brownie Troop # 573 stopped by before the Santa pictures and dropped off bandanas for our dogs. Each girl wrote a special saying on each bandana and goodie bags were made for the dogs going off to their new families. Thank you Beth Ann and Troop #573 for taking the time to make such a lovely gesture. The dogs loved the visit too.

Last, but by no means least, a big thank you to PetSmart for allowing us to have fun and raise needed funds.

## Colonie Center Washout

Well, not exactly - but Kevin Wilcox was prepared to get his feet wet. In October 2005, we received a call from Susan Despart at Colonie Center with wonderful news, that Peppertree Rescue had been selected to receive the contents of the fountain that customers throw their coins into throughout the year.

In December, Kevin, armed with a 5-gallon bucket, dragged several loads back to his car and we're now all looking forward to a final total. Thanks so much to Susan and Colonie Center for considering us as the worthy charity this year. The only question now is, who's going to bring the wine and appetizers to the coin counting party?

## Legal Loot

The Nixon Peabody Law Firm very kindly donated \$410 to Peppertree Rescue. In December, escorted by Rich Rini - Peppertree dog, Annie and, Katrina dog, Boo - took their first ride in an elevator to visit the Law Firm and collect their very generous donation.

Thank you so much to the Nixon Peabody Law Firm for allowing our group to benefit from your kindness.

## Crossgates Weekend

While one half of the group were taking photos with Santa, the other half devoted their weekend to setting up a table at Crossgates Mall to highlight what Peppertree Rescue does and how you can help.

Headed up by Lucia Perfetti (who created a wonderful PR display for all to see) we received a lot of positive feedback, sold raffle tickets for our April 1 drawing and raised \$156 in cash donations.

Thanks to everybody who stopped by, and especially those volunteers who braved the Mall - during Holiday Season!



### Peppertree Rescue, Inc. (A 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity)

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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

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



Tickets available at  
upcoming Adoption Clinics  
and by contacting Peppertree Rescue  
at **518-435-7425** or  
visiting [www.peppertree.org](http://www.peppertree.org)



**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.**

[www.peppertree.org](http://www.peppertree.org)  
518.435.7425



Rich Rini and canine pals

## KATRINA DOGS ... BOUND FOR HOME!!

**The catastrophic situation in the South alerted many canine rescue groups ... separated by miles ... but our goal was united ... to rescue abandoned, lost and troubled animals with the ultimate goal of bringing the people and loved companions back together.**

This project required a tremendous amount of energy, organization, commitment and funds from many not-for-profit rescue groups. Timing was critical, emergency veterinary care necessary and foster homes/kennels for dogs, that had suffered

horrific conditions, was an emergent demand.

Across the United States, many volunteers upended their lives to become part of the "Katrina Rescue". Some of the approaches were met with challenge, "Why bring a dog from Louisiana to New York?" "How can we ever match a dog with its owner and return it?"

Let me tell you a very true and heart-warming tale, the reason dog lovers are a unique group, and the 24/7 work of a Peppertree volunteer, Rich Rini, who diligently worked with other rescue groups to make families become whole again.

*As you read on, this is Rich's own account of how we became part of this massive rescue effort.*

### Yippee!!! Lewis Is Really Bear!!!

A quote from Rich, "I find these stories pretty remarkable. If you are interested in them too, read on. Otherwise, what you need to know is that another Katrina dog is going back to its owner. LEWIS is the golden/chow mix that wanted to eat STITCH that first night they arrived.

Anyway ... here's the yarn. Deb and Louie Rabion, and her mother, lived in Arabi, LA, which is just south of New Orleans (I never realized how many towns there were south of the city). As the storm was rolling in, Louie sent Deb and her mother North to safety and stayed behind with their two dogs, Bear and King. Second day in water, which was up to the second storey, Louie and the dogs went up to the roof. They stayed there for another day when a police rescue boat came by. They would only take Louie, not the dogs, so Louie refused to go. The police arrested him and took him off the roof. He had to leave Bear and King behind.

The boat went across the street to another roof where a neighbor of Louie's was stranded along with his dog. Same thing, same discussion and the same result as the neighbor was arrested. Before he would come off the roof, the neighbor pulls a gun and aims it at the head of the dog. Louie starts yelling at him not to shoot. The neighbor starts arguing with Louie that the only humane thing to do is to put the dog down and not let him suffer for days on the broiling roof.

Thankfully (or maybe not?) Louie talks him out of it and everyone leaves their dogs behind. Weeks later Deb gets a lead that Bear is with Best Friends Rescue. She is in a motel in Florida and Louie is living in his car because he still has work ... just no place to live. Deb identifies Bear and Best Friends contacted me today.

I spoke to Deb and then went to take pictures of Lewis. Deb said that Bear has a distinctive black spot on the tip of his tongue and an extra toe on his back foot. Lewis has both of those and I took pics of them along with a few more of the whole dog.

Deb called me this evening... "You got my Dog" ... I notified Best Friends and they are starting to work on return transport.

I was wondering about King and asked Deb about him. Somehow Bear and King got separated and King is not with Best Friends. Deb feels Bear was much more 'street wise' and probably took off to save himself. King was more shy and never ventured far from home. She does have another lead on King with another rescue group, but info and pics are hard to come by. She is determined to find King and bring him home.

Best Friends, as of this post in November 2005, have 28 people in Utah just working on reuniting owners and animals. A case load of 400 animals.

### **Jumping forward, to Dec. 2005**

Best Friends put me onto a lead for one of our Katrina dogs - Boo. I

spoke for a while with a woman named Maria, who is temporarily living with relatives in Texas. She does not have computer access so I can't readily send her pics (but we are working on that with a local library). She described one of our dogs to a tee!! Size, color, coat, two missing teeth and a strange little cyst towards her tail. Best Friends says the dog was picked up at Heights Drive in St. Bernard and Maria has a home at Heights Drive in St. Bernard.

HEEWACKITY!!! So ... it does not take a rocket scientist to conclude that BOO is CANDY!

Maria cried a lot. We were on the phone a long time but did not talk much because I was just letting her have a really good cry. Who can blame her? I know I'd be blubbering if I was certain my dog was dead and I came to find out that it's alive, cared for and coming home to me.

Maria will locate a local computer

so I can send pictures. Peppertree may have to hold onto Boo/Candy for a little while. Maria is in an apartment that does not allow pets and she's waiting on FEMA for trailer accommodation. Hey, how's our supply of airline crates?" - Rich

These are just a few happy endings, - more Peppertree Katrina stories to follow in future newsletter editions.

A heartfelt hug to our own, Rich Rini, and Best Friends for devoting so much time and care in helping all reunite. To date, of the 12 dogs Peppertree took in, 5 have had their owners identified and the dogs returned, or we are attempting to return them when the owners get a new home.

Special thanks also to Dr. Wolfe and Kathy Rogers of Shaker Veterinary Hospital for their unconditional support and veterinary care during the transport and boarding of the Katrina 'kids'.

— Liz Ammian

## **If I did not have Pets....**

*I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.*

*My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.*

*All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of Pet hair.*

*When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like the humane society kennels.*

*When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through furry bodies who beat me there or who are running away to escape the strangers.*

*I could sit on the couch the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.*

*I would not have strange presents under my Christmas tree...like dog bones, stuffed animals, little balls and string toys. OR have to answer to people why I wrap them.*

*I would not be on a first name basis with three vets.*

*The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: "out", "sit", "down", "come", "no", "stay", and "leave him/her/it ALONE".*

*My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.*

*My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, dog treats and an extra leash.*

*I would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L or F-R-I-S-B-E-E or W-A-L-K or T-R-E-A-T-S.*

*I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside.*

*I'd look forward to Spring and the melting of the snow instead of dreading "mud season".*

*I would not have to answer the question "Why do I have so many animals?" from people who will never have the joy in their life of knowing they are loved unconditionally by something as close to an angel as they will ever get.*

*How empty my life would be.*

*"We give our pets time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, pets give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made"*

— M Acklam

# Peppertree Adoption Clinic Schedule

## 2006 PEPPERTREE ADOPTION CLINIC SCHEDULE:

**Saturday  
February 4**  
Checker Hill Farm's  
Feed Store,  
53 Freeman's Bridge  
Rd. Scotia  
10:00 – 1:30

**Saturday  
March 4**  
Checker Hill Farm's  
Feed Store,  
53 Freeman's Bridge  
Rd. Scotia  
10:00 – 1:30

**Saturday  
April 1**  
Checker Hill Farm's  
Feed Store,  
53 Freeman's Bridge  
Rd. Scotia  
10:00 – 1:30

**Saturday  
February 18**  
PetSmart,  
Latham Farms  
10:00 – 1:30

**Saturday  
March 18**  
PetSmart,  
Latham Farms  
10:00 – 1:30

**Saturday  
April 15**  
PetSmart,  
Latham Farms  
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>)

Peppertree Post 1 year (4 issues) \$10.00

Peppertree Rescue Pins \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 each

Peppertree T-Shirts (Original Teal Version)

(check one) £ S £ M \$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!!!!**

clinic dates

subscribe

# RAINBOW BRIDGE

## Remembering 2 very special Peppertree pals.

In late 2005, Chris & Barbara Kucharczyk opened their home and hearts to these two loving canines - Peggy B and Sheldon. Peppertree had learned about both dogs through the Mohawk & Hudson Humane Society where they had been surrendered. They were later diagnosed with cancer and while Chris and Barb knew the time would be short, little did they realize that while their souls were strong, their bodies were fast becoming unworkable and both would depart this life so quickly and almost together.

On November 26th, Peggy B succumbed to leukemia. Two days later, Sheldon or "Shelly Belly", as he was lovingly known, was also failing fast. Unfortunately his cancer spread faster and quicker than anyone could have suspected, and Chris and Barb were there to help him to the Rainbow Bridge.

Our heartfelt thanks to Chris and Barb for allowing the last weeks of these special dogs, to be such happy ones. Romp well at the Bridge Peggy and Shelly- two dogs who gave love, loyalty and gratitude back when so little was given to them until the end.



Sheldon (AKA Shelly Belly) (? - 11.28.05)  
Approximately 3 years old

Responding to a dying old woman's inquiry James Herriot, the late British author/veterinarian noted:

"If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans. You've nothing to worry about there."

He goes to note regarding animals joining their masters in the afterlife: "I do believe it. With all my heart I believe it."

James Herriot "Dog Stories" chapter The Card Over the Bed



Peggy B (? - 11.26.05)  
Approximately 8 years old

### GOODBYE

*With heavy hearts; and a tear in our eyes;  
we must say goodbye; Please understand; we've done all we could  
if there was anything we could do; you know we would*

*I'm sitting right here; gently rub your ears  
while I talk to you softly; trying to hold back the tears  
The memories you gave us; we'll never forget  
especially the ones; of the day we all met*

*One last hug; and one last kiss  
you have no idea; how much you'll be missed  
To look into your eyes; this one last time  
you tell me it's ok; you know it's your time*

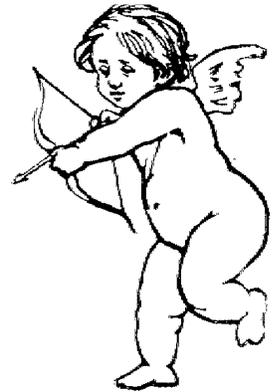
*Close your eyes now; and go to sleep  
we'll pray to the Lord; your soul he'll keep  
Go in peace now; our good friend  
we'll stay right here with you; until the end*

*Dream of that special day and time  
when we'll meet at the Bridge; and all will be fine  
We'll run and play; side by side  
with a soft warm feeling; deep down inside*

*Your memory will live on; in each one of us  
you'll always be number 1; to all of us  
Have a safe journey; through the night  
I promise when you awake; you'll be in God's light*

*So with heavy hearts; and tears in our eyes  
just for now my friend; we say goodbye*

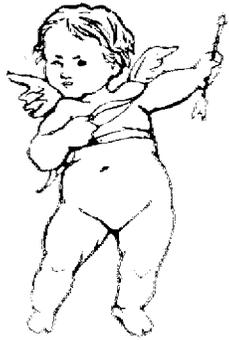
— attributed to: John Queahy



*Hi, My name is  
Nelma.*

*I'm 11 and  
slightly shy. I  
love movies and eating out, long  
walks and quiet, lazy afternoons.*

***Will you be my Valentine?***



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*A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament*