



The Peppertree POST

2010 Volume 1

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.

HERE WE GO AGAIN *Moving with your Pet*

By Lucia Perfetti Clark

While I am no expert, for the second time in two years my husband and I are getting ready for a major relocation thus I feel I have a working knowledge of how to do this well. It can be frustrating to share the news of your big move, and then immediately be asked “are you bringing the dogs with you?” Oh we’re not sure, did you bring your kids with you the last time you moved? The answer, of course is we’re bringing the dogs with us. But where does this silly question come from? The fact that it is hard to relocate yourself, let alone all of your belongings, and the family pet? Yes, that’s all true, but I’m here to tell you it’s really not altogether that complicated, and here are a few steps to follow should you find yourself planning a move.

First of all, if you have never moved with your pet, and you’re not sure how they are going to react to a new environment, take all possible precautions to avoid pet loss. Make sure they have current tags, if they are a Peppertree dog, make sure the Peppertree tag is still affixed to their collar, and consider having your pet micro-chipped. This should give you piece of mind that if they do get lost, and end up in a shelter system, they

will be scanned for a chip, and quickly brought back to you. But keep any and all tags associated with your pet on them, as even a rabies tag can assist authorities in tracking you down. Second, check their medical records and make sure they are current on all vaccinations, physical check-ups, and that you have enough



of your preventative medications (heartworm preventative, and anti-tick topicals) to get you through the time you will be moving so that you are not in a rush to find a new veterinarian in your new city. Ask your current veterinarian for a copy of your dog’s medical records so you have them at your new vet’s office.

The act of moving is stressful, and your pets certainly know something is up when you begin to put your entire life into boxes and label them. I try to keep their areas “normal” for as long as possible. Basically don’t pack the dog’s bed until you pack your own bed, keep their toys and dishes out so they can have a normal day to day existence up until moving day. On moving day, if you can take them to a friend’s house this will ease a lot of your stress as well as their stress. If this is your first big road trip try to find out a few things about your dog, such as, do they get car sick, will they eat and drink regularly while riding, are they at ease on a long ride or edgy the whole time, if it’s the latter think about medication for the trip, and gingersnap cookies have been known to be an herbal remedy for mild car sickness. Depending on your dog’s personality you may consider tightening that collar just a smidgen while you get in and out of the car at strange rest stops with unfamiliar sights and sounds, the last thing you need is for your



Story continues on page 2

Editor's note, We mistakenly printed in the last newsletter that Andy and Sons is located on New Scotland Avenue in Albany, when everyone knows Andy and Sons is on Delaware Avenue! Please accept our apologies, or better yet, stop in to Andy's on Delaware Avenue and buy some delicious Italian food for dinner tonight!

Continued from cover

pet to slip their collar somewhere in the middle of your drive!

All of your stuff is packed and you're headed somewhere new, this means you must have found a new place to live. Believe it or not I have found it relatively easy to find an apartment that will accept dogs. For starters, landlords know that good pet owners tend to be reliable tenants with predictable routines, which is generally good for a living environment. Of course you need to have all the other things in-line that they look for, like a good rental history, solid income, and a good credit rating, if you don't have these things, don't blame your dog for why you



can't find a decent place to live. Using a real estate agent to help you find a rental can make it easier for you to find appropriate places for you and your pet, this way you don't waste your time calling places which do not allow any pets. Always offer for your prospective landlord to call your current landlord to discuss you as a tenant, as well as your pets as tenants. I also extend the offer to have the landlord meet the animals prior to being approved for the rental.

So you're there, you're all moved in, now what? Start doing what you normally do, go out for walks, find the dog parks. Fellow dog owners are the greatest resource you have in getting you and your pet acclimated to your new city. Basically the dog park and the internet is where I start looking for a new dog walker/sitter, and a new veterinarian. Be patient, and don't get discouraged. It's the same as finding all of these new things for yourself, you might not get the right person for you on your first try, just keep trying.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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

P.O. Box 2396, Albany, NY 12220

Voice-Mail (518) 435-7425

rescue@peppertree.org | www.peppertree.org

Betsy Sommers

President Emeritus
esommers2@yahoo.com

Kevin Wilcox

President
kwilcox1@nycap.rr.com

Donna Burdick (MA)

Vice President
golddogz@roadrunner.com

David Sawicki

Treasurer
psawicki@capital.net

Peg Boughton

Secretary
peggyapat@prodigy.net

Mary Ellen Grimaldi

Director
meeno@localnet.com

Martie De Fronzo

Advisor to the Board
puppydogs4@cs.com
mmduda@aol.com

Patti Conroy

Behavioral Advisor
pconroy@nycap.rr.com

Sam Stelmaszyk

Photos
samstel@nycap.rr.com

Lisa Nelson

Web Page
ltaber@yahoo.com

Lucia Perfetti Clark

Newsletter Editor
lulu72078@yahoo.com

Cheryl Hislop

Graphic Design
Cheryl@lidesign.us

Foster Homes Needed

Please consider opening up your heart and home to one of our dogs or puppies for a few days or weeks to give them a chance at a new life.



We have to turn away many animals in need because of a shortage of foster homes.

Most of our dogs are fostered before being placed, so if you own a Peppertree dog, your pet probably benefitted from the kindness of one or multiple foster home volunteers.

Won't you show another dog or pup the same kindness?

Peppertree Rescue Decade Review

Lucia Perfetti Clark

It's 2010, what does that mean? Well it is a census year, and everyone loves to

count things in a census year, including Peppertree. We thought we would provide our loyal readers, adopters, volunteers, and any other interested parties with a numbers run down from the past decade. As you can see Peppertree has helped a lot of dogs in the last ten years, and we're really proud of that. On average Peppertree helps 256 dogs per year. This number has really not grown over the past ten years and is not expected to change drastically. Why? As an all volunteer rescue the point is not to increase the volume of dogs we assist but to assist each dog as best as possible. Why not rush to try to increase the number of dogs we serve? The sad truth is that there will likely always be more dogs waiting for Peppertree to assist, until society changes its attitudes about dog ownership so it is more important to be sure we are placing the dogs correctly. There is a saying by an unknown author that describes this sentiment well: "Rescuing animals is like trying to empty the ocean with an eye dropper--don't do it if your goal is to make the ocean dry--do it only if you enjoy being around the ocean." To Peppertree this means making sure each dog is fully vetted (spayed or neutered and all vaccinations preferably

before being adopted out but definitely before any adoption is finalized, and having evaluated the behavior of the dog – preferably by having been fostered in at least one home, before being placed in a potential forever home. As an organization, we truly believe taking this time and effort means we make a better dog to person match in the end. The number of dogs Peppertree can help also does fluctuate again because we are an all volunteer organization. As volunteers, sometimes life gets in the way, and our ability to foster and aid dogs ebbs and flows with the trials and tribulations of all the other things we manage as people. Dog rescue truly is a labor of love. The one number that has grown steadily over the years is the cost of helping dogs. Even with the generous help of Shaker Veterinary Hospital, each year it gets more costly to rescue dogs.

As an organization Peppertree is dedicated to continuing to maintain the average number of dogs we assist each year, which means being dedicated to fund-raising, and maintaining our volunteer base. How can you help? The reality is you probably already do! Which we think is great. Peppertree fundraisers mainly through having events which we encourage you attend, either dining out, eating our fantastic Italian cooking at the annual spaghetti dinner, running with your dog in the Furry

Fun Run 5K, or attending the alumni picnics. Of course direct monetary contributions help too. But if you're not able to do any of those things, the other thing that is a tremendous help to Peppertree is of course fostering one of our dogs who is pending adoption. Foster homes not only give us an idea about the type of home a dog would place well in, but they also save us the cost of having to board the dog. Next to medical expenses, boarding expenses are the biggest cost of doing business for Peppertree. Peppertree truly appreciates all forms of generosity that come to the organization, its humbling to know so many people care about the work that we do.

Total number of dogs taken in from 1999-2009:
2,564.

Costs are total costs, including overhead, equipment, etc.

Year	Intake	Cost per dog
1999	306	\$143.18
2000	237	\$235.19
2001	249	\$218.24
2002	267	\$251.78
2003	285	\$234.08
2004	217	\$336.17
2005	158	\$393.34
2006	183	\$563.56
2007	200	\$415.52
2008	222	\$475.27
2009	240	\$544.18



Young Ladies Gather Donations for Peppertree



right

Peppertree volunteer Kevin Wilcox accepts a donation of dog food and a check that were collected by eleven year old Allison Farney of Voorheesville. Allison, with help from her sister Olivia, asked for the dog food instead of presents for her 11th birthday so that she could donate the items to Peppertree.

below

On the right, eleven year old Katelin Brandt of Albany, along with her family, present much needed dog food, collars and leashes to Peppertree volunteer Kevin Wilcox. Katelin collected the items to donate to Peppertree from friends and family members.



Dog Rescue is not for wimps!

A collection of tails by Peppertree Volunteers.

Part II

Lucia Perfetti Clark

We ran some pretty amusing tales of whoa by our volunteers last issue, and if that didn't convince you to join the Peppertree Rescue Party, there's plenty more where that came from!

When I walk my dog I talk to my mom on the phone. The conversation starts the same every time "what are you doing?" "walking Yankee." Sometimes there are complications. So Yankee and I are walking along talking to mom, when he poops. Naturally, I put the phone between my shoulder and neck, get out my bag, pick up the poop, and flip the poop over in my hand, all normal activities that we do everyday. Yankee sees a squirrel, pulls on the leash, and the phone falls out from between my shoulder. Thanks to my cat like reflexes I catch the phone in my hand that's holding the poop. Now the phone doesn't land right in the poop so I think nothing of it. I put the phone between my legs close the poop bag and go on with my walk. A minute later, "Mom I closed the poop bag but for some reason I still smell it." I think for a second and look at my phone. Oh no there is poop on my phone. "Mom I got to go there is poop on my phone, my hand, and probably even my ear, and I am five blocks from the house." I walk back to the house completely grossed out and trying not to spread the smell. I finally get back to the house I wash my hands, my ear, and everywhere else that could have come in contact with my phone. Now to wash my phone, it's not like I can just stick it in water. I gently wash it off but it still smells. I call mom back on the other phone. "How do I get my phone to not smelling? Wrap it in a dryer sheet good idea, that's why you're the mom." I'm clean the phone is clean so now I can sit in my chair and talk to my mom. Fifteen minutes later. "There is something brown on my pants, I don't remember having chocolate." Smell it she says. "There is poop on my pants, how did I get poop on my pants, mom I got to go, I'll talk to you tomorrow."

Lynn Holcomb

I convinced my girlfriend, now wife, Paula that Balloo would be a great dog to foster and maybe, even to adopt. I saw Balloo at my first Peppertree adoption clinic in Scotia, where he sat quietly next to Chris, his foster dad. Balloo was an older Rottweiler who was blind in one eye, arthritic in his hips, and needed two eye medications applied twice a day...PERFECT! Really, Balloo seemed like such a peaceful, good-natured soul after spending about ten minutes with him that day. I sold Paula on the idea that we would be his retirement home. The tougher sell on this idea would be with Patty, the true owner/occupant of the house, the female pitbull I had adopted two years before. Patty is a people dog, but most definitely not a dog's dog. When Balloo and Patty met for the first time at the Schodack Town Park, Patty became her usually excited self, barking and running up to her new potential house mate. And then...oh God, she jumped up on the back of Balloo's neck. I thought that was the end of this experiment. But Balloo didn't react and Patty moved along. Alright! So the first big hurdle was passed. I took Balloo back to

our house and settled in for the evening. Mr. Balloo decided to stay downstairs and not come up to our bedroom to sleep. The next morning, I went off to work while Paula, with the day off, left the house around 10am to run some errands and hit the gym.

So when I returned from lunch I had an interesting message on my voicemail. State Trooper Such-n-Such wanted to let me know that he had gotten my dog down off the roof and if I needed to get in touch, to call him at 732-.....I laughed, thinking sure, I bet that was tough getting my dog off the roof. So I called the 'Trooper', waiting to hear which of my humor-deprived friends had left the message. Unfortunately for me, Trooper Such-n-Such was in fact a real state trooper. He proceeded to tell me that the mail man had stopped him and another trooper at the coffee shop (insert joke here) and told them that there was a dog on the roof at a house up the road. After calling the Schodack animal control officer, all government officials descended upon our house to find a 100 pound Rottweiler hanging out on the roof over the porch. Apparently, Balloo decided to go upstairs after Paula and I left, and since it was the first warm, beautiful day of the spring, Paula had opened the windows. Our house is over 100 years old, so several of the window screens are hinged and if not latched, can be easily pushed open. In this case by an inquisitive twelve year old half-blind Rottweiler. After the troopers and the animal control officer opened the front door to find a pitbull (thankfully our neighbor told them that Patty is "a big baby", but she didn't know anything about the strange dog on the roof), they made their way up to the bedroom, cut short Mr. Balloo's suntan session, latched closed the screen, and closed the front door on the way out.

Well there wasn't much to say to the trooper other than repeated "thank you's" with the stated hope that "I swear, this will never, ever happen again." The only thing left to do was to call Chris later that evening to let him know how Patty and Balloo were getting along. I presumed after I told him about the incident, Chris would be heading down in his van to pick up Balloo, wondering what kind of foster parents we were. Instead, I heard quite a bit of laughter, and Balloo the roof-walking dog legend was born.

Shay Harrison

I got home from a clinic in February of 2005 at about 3:30pm. I was soaking wet from bathing the puppies at Unleashed so I figured before getting out of the wet clothes, I'll pick up some dog poop in the backyard with the new pooper scooper I bought at Unleashed while giving four of the Shelties (Declan, Elmer, Tegan and Lenny) some outside time with me. Then I remember the dead squirrel that Emily and I discovered in the garage Friday night, so I go to the garage to bag that to throw it out. Once I get the squirrel and am heading out of the garage, Declan magically appears. I must have not latched the gate and he pushed it open and decided to join me, so the jailbreak is on. I race back to the gate and start looking for Sheltie heads. The only one there of course, is Elmer who in the time the gate has been open could not have gotten halfway down the driveway if he hailed a cab. The other two, Lenny and Tegan, however, are no where to be found. So I stuff Declan and Elmer back into the yard, close the gate and go racing down the driveway. I look

Story continued on page 7

Meet: Rich Rini

Occupation? Retired School Teacher

Volunteer Location? Latham, NY

How long have you been volunteering with Peppertree, and what are your Volunteer Roles? Seven years, and my dear wife Hammie has been known to lend a hand with Peppertree from time to time.

What are your volunteer roles?

A little of this and a little of that. I live near Shaker Vet, where Peppertree gets most of the dogs taken care of, so I run some errands there. I also take most of the pictures of the dogs you see on the website. I'm a pretty mediocre photographer, but I seem to be the only volunteer who remembers to bring a camera to the clinics.

How or Why did you get involved with volunteering for Peppertree?

Our first rescue was a GROWLS Golden back in the mid-nineties. We met Betsy Sommers and Dave Sawicki at that time. When they formed Peppertree a few years later, we just followed along, and when I retired I had a bunch more time to help the dogs.

What surprised you the most about rescue once you became more involved?

Oh, this is an easy question...and a good story, too! I was at about my second or third adoption clinic after I started volunteering and there was a dog there named JACK. He was about as motley a creature as you could imagine; old, unkempt, mostly blind and pretty feeble. I said to myself, "No one is ever going to want to adopt this dog." And I asked Betsy, "What do you do with the dogs like JACK, that never get adopted?" Betsy said, "Oh no, don't worry, he will get adopted, they all do." I remember thinking, "yeah, right." Well just two clinics later JACK was spotted by a wonderful family and they scooped him up and he went to spend the rest of his days in their home. Because, it turns out, that under the surface JACK was a pretty great dog. I learned an important lesson about dog rescue that day. Betsy was right, there is a good home waiting for every dog!

What are the names & breed of the animals you have? We have two Peppertree dogs. ANNIE is a 7 year old Golden Retriever who was left



abandoned in a house in Oneonta. BOGIE is almost 2, and some sort of Lab/Husky mix. He was a stray in Georgia.

What is your favorite breed?

We have always been a Golden Retriever family, but we sure do like Border Collies too (see below). Not too many Border Collies come through Peppertree...it might be they are too smart to need rescuing

Does one Peppertree Dog stick out in your mind?

Another easy question....and another good story. When Hurricane Katrina rolled through New Orleans Peppertree hooked up with Best Friends and brought a dozen dogs north to Albany. One was a black Border Collie mix who we fostered. We got her on Halloween and named her BOO. She ended up spending 7 months with us. Thanks to some luck and the hard working people in New Orleans, her owners were tracked down and we sent her on an airplane back to her family. They had lost everything, and they were living in a FEMA trailer, but they got the dog they loved back. By the way, her real name was CANDY. Actually of the 12 dogs Peppertree took in 6 were returned to their owners in New Orleans.

What is your favorite thing about Peppertree Rescue?

The volunteers are about as nice a bunch of people you would ever want to associate with. The dogs are wonderful and just make me laugh. I have a little superstition, whenever a dog is adopted at a clinic I go look them right in the eyes and tell them, "Don't screw this up!" They listen to me...most of the time!

What Makes a Rescue Dog? *By Mary Ellen Grimaldi*

Hundreds of dogs pass through Peppertree's foster homes in the course of a year, and there are as many stories as there are dogs. Volunteers, in talking to potential adopters, often find that people interested in adopting a rescue dog assume that every rescue dog has had a horrible past of neglect or even abuse.

While there are certainly very sad and upsetting stories associated with some of the dogs we help, including suspicious-looking scars or even x-rays that reveal that the animal was shot at or bones were broken, many of our dogs have come from homes where they were a well cared for and loved family pet. Especially now, with people facing job loss, home foreclosure, or military deployment, the situation of pets needing immediate placement in new homes or facing euthanasia is dire.

Peppertree tries to learn what we can about the history of each dog in our program, in addition to assessing their behavior on a day to day basis in a foster home with different types of people and other family pets. Some dogs will need time in a calm, loving and patient home to overcome whatever trauma may possibly have been endured. Still other dogs display a wonderful resiliency and quickly show us they are able to be happy and bond in their new homes, with few issues. The dogs in our program have as wide a range in personality as humans do. Some dogs may have had a difficult life and quickly readjust, while other dogs may have been cared for and loved, and take time to readjust to a new family, the reverse of this scenario can also be true.

We simply ask that in meeting rescue dogs you start with an open mind and heart, understand that each one has a different story and that when you open your home to a rescue dog there is the potential for some bumps in the road (but often it's a pretty easy ride) and there is great gratification as the journey unfolds.

Story continued from page 5

right and Lenny is heading for the nearest pedestrian looking to be petted. I look left just in time to see Tegan's furry butt turning the corner onto Holmesdale, at least he is heading away from Western Avenue! So I run over to Lenny and the man walking tells me he saw "the other one" heading the other way, but does not offer to hold Lenny or anything so I can get Tegan. Not wanting to waste time running Lenny all the way back down the driveway to the backyard, I scoop him up and race after Tegan. As I turn the corner onto Holmesdale, Tegan has about a 40 yard lead on me and he is trotting down the sidewalk like he is late for lunch in Delmar or something. So, here I am, carrying one Sheltie while chasing after another one. I figured I could catch up to Tegan, but after about 1/2 block (which is actually the length of about 3 normal city blocks), I realize I am not gaining much on Tegan, I am about to have my third coronary, and the "huge" protein boost from the two chocolate donuts I had for breakfast at the Dunkin Donuts at the clinic this morning (thanks a lot, Rich) is about expended. So I start to call Tegan's variety of names. I start with Tegan, go to Jock (his name when surrendered) and move onto Jacques, which is what Nancy was calling him. All I have now accomplished is to alert him to my pursuit and he now turns back to look at me about every ten feet to make sure he is maintaining his 30 yard lead. I now move on to calling him a***** and you @&%*#*\$* Sheltie, neither of which help at all. As I approach the end of Holmesdale and am probably more than a 1/3 mile from the house, I come to the realization that he is headed south and not likely to stop until he reaches the toll booths at the Tappan Zee Bridge! Of course, carrying Lenny's extra 30 pounds plus my own extra 30 pounds

is not helping and I am starting to think about dropping Lenny in a snow bank and hope he stays put while I get Tegan. I am looking around for someone to either hold Lenny or stop Tegan, but no one is around. Just as I am starting to panic that I really won't catch him, Tegan, who has severe pooping anxiety in front of anyone and has never gone on a leash for either me or Nancy, stops to take a poop in the middle of the sidewalk on Holmesdale. So, I am able to catch up with him and re-gather my lungs, which are now on the sidewalk beside me. Just then, some old lady comes out of her house and gives me a dirty look because I have no bag to pick up Tegan's deposit. Fortunately, I was able to stave off the overwhelming desire to misdirect my anger at the old lady. I am now probably 1/2 mile from home, with two dog and no leashes. So, I have to walk all the way home, stooped over holding onto their collars, wishing that I did Great Dane rescue so I could at least stand upright bringing runaways home. I can't tell you how many people must have driven by me thinking, "hey buddy, there is an easier way to walk your dogs - - it's called a leash."

We finally made it back home and I immediately made a chiropractic appointment for my aching back and bought gym memberships for both Lenny and I to lose a few pounds. Declan the instigator, of course was jealous as if I had been out on a pleasant jog with the other dogs and he wanted his turn. So I stuck his butt on the treadmill and hit the fast button, just kidding, I don't own a treadmill, I put him on the elliptical machine instead, no not really! Ain't rescue fun!

Kevin Wilcox



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www.Ldesign.us
518-852-0603



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

P.O. Box 2396, Albany, NY 12220

rescue@peppertree.org

www.peppertree.org

A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament

ANNOUNCING

Peppertree Rescue's 3rd Annual Furry Fun Run 5K

Saturday, April 17th, 2010,
8:15am walk up registration begins
9am race start time

- SUNY Albany Campus -

Peppertree Rescue puts on some fun annual events, if you haven't been to one yet, then here's your chance. What else can we say, this is your chance to raise money for Peppertree and get your workout in all before 10am! Prizes, music, fun for the whole family. Get more details about the race and pre-register online at the Peppertree Website on the events page

<http://www.peppertree.org/events.php>

Standard Mail
Postage Paid
Permit 110
Saratoga Springs,
NY 12866