



# The Peppertree POST

2013 Volume 2

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.

## Grady's Journey

By Betty Sleep

There is a distinctive silence that pervades a home that has lost a companion. It's not a complete silence, because life goes on and in my case with the cats, it's not likely to be totally quiet, ever. But there is a stream of...stillness that winds its way through each day where once the sound of nails on the floor, or the push of a nose in your hand defined some of the best moments of your life.

So when I lost both of my rescue dogs only three weeks apart, I once more found myself looking to fill that void with another dog that needed me as much as I needed them. It had been four years since I first went looking for a rescue Golden Retriever. I hoped fervently that things had changed, but they hadn't. Once more I ran into the wall of objections: You don't live close enough, we can't inspect your home and my personal favorite – you have unaltered cats in your home and that's against our policy.

As a retired breeder of Goldens, and breeder/exhibitor of Birman cats for 17 years, I have done rescue across North America, set a case law precedent for selling an animal on a contract, and fought tooth and nail to toughen animal abuse penalties. None of that seems to be enough. I do understand why rescue groups have certain rules. But there are times when an absolute needs to bend, to benefit a handicapped or old dog that might not get a home otherwise. I was offering just about anything they wanted, including having someone from the local kennel club come and inspect my home for them. I even sent them the website created for my first rescue, my beloved Leah, whose story was told in the Ultimate Dog Lover book. But still, I was rejected. Until I found Peppertree Rescue.

Someone I knew had recommended getting in touch with the national breed club in the U.S. and asking if they had a rescue contact that was close to the border, or if they were willing to transport a dog. That's how I came to correspond with Betsy Sommers of Peppertree Rescue. Betsy listened. And Peppertree was willing to take a chance on me. I knew that somewhere, there was a dog that needed me, and I knew Betsy would find him or her. But he found us.



Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York, based in Syracuse, had learned about a sad old dog in a shelter in a nearby town. GRR-CNY wasn't able to take him into their program at that time, so they reached out to Peppertree to see if they could help. In one of those rescue non-coincidences, from my recent contact with Betsy, Peppertree knew that a home was waiting for Grady in Canada, and they said they would take him.

That's when Sallie Lennox of GRR-CNY began her weekend behind the wheel. She traveled to the shelter where he was being kept and determined that his temperament definitely qualified Grady to be a Peppertree dog! The following day she turned around and went back again, got Grady, stopped at home to feed her own dogs, and proceeded east to meet up with a Peppertree volunteer outside of Albany.

Grady arrived in Albany, looking very thin and bedraggled but with a spirit and enjoyment of life that taught us all lessons.

Betsy had never arranged a transport before, and I had not coordinated the puppy train north that brought my Leah to Canada. But there were angels waiting, and with a few calls, emails and posts to an online forum, his chauffeurs were ready to go. On Saturday, June 16, 2012 Grady left Albany with

*continued next page*

# Remembering Wendy Garraghty, Golden Girl



Peppertree Rescue is saddened to learn of the death of Wendy Garraghty, a Golden Retriever rescuer and a benefactor of Peppertree for many years.

A lifelong dog lover, Wendy began her journey with Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue as an adopter. In the years following, she wore many hats with YGRR, including Membership Director and Board Member. For the last ten years, Wendy served as Executive Director.

Through the years, Wendy enjoyed sharing her home with senior and special needs Golden Retrievers. She was the proud adopter of eleven Yankee senior/special needs dogs. She also adopted several cats

over the years, all of whom good-naturedly tolerated the many new Golden faces in their home.

Wendy's quiet demeanor belied her fierceness as an advocate for Golden Retrievers in need. She connected with each and every dog that came through YGRR and was, in fact, a virtual encyclopedia of the dogs and their adopters. Every 'Buddy' and 'Brandy' was remembered as the individuals they were.

Peppertree joins with Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue in honoring Wendy and her legacy. She was a true friend of Golden Retrievers and of the rescue community. Her family requests donations in her memory go to the Look Beyond Time Fund at <http://ygrr.stores.yahoo.net/lookbeytimfu.html>.



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

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### Grady, cont.

Betsy, and was passed along a chain of wonderful people, some of whom had brought Leah to me four years before. On Sunday, he was driven over the border at Calais, Maine and he became a Canadian.

Grady has been a real education. I learned that his previous deprived life has left him with a street dog mentality which means no food is safe, anywhere, anytime. And that while he walked into my arms and got up in my back car seat with all the aplomb of a seasoned traveler, he still carries baggage, like most rescues. We have gone from the high of being new buddies to the lows of tumor removal and the resulting terror of being in a hard Elizabethan collar (the dreaded "cone of shame"! ) that deprived him of the echolocating skills that help him cope as a blind dog.

But he is still a trip. From his marathon "whizzing" sessions, to his fascination with human anatomy, there is always something to make you laugh. The eyes may be the window to the soul, but even when a dog is blind, his character and love will find a way to shine through.

*Ed. Note: You can read more about Grady's adventures on his blog, at <http://thegradyreport.wordpress.com/>*

# Peppertree partners with NYC, GA shelters to save dogs

by Katie Muller

Peppertree is a local rescue. We work hard to be ambassadors in our community. We work with local shelters and owners to do the most we can for dogs in need who fit our temperament requirements. While we want to be integral members of our local community ensuring dogs here are able to find wonderful forever homes, we also know there are dogs in need elsewhere and we have the ability to help some of them, too.



Animal Care and Control of New York City (AC&C) is a large shelter that deals with an incredible volume of animals in need. We have long felt our proximity to NYC provided us with the ability to help this metropolitan shelter serve the animals of their community. While they aren't exactly local to us we are in New York and we are proud to be active partners with AC&C.

AC&C of NYC took in 28,466 dogs and cats in 2012. They were able to place 18,872, or two-thirds, of the animals that came through their doors through adoptions and help from rescues. AC&C of NYC has worked extremely hard to maximize placements and their dedication has produced results. Eight years ago, in 2004, they only placed 37.3% of

the animals that came to them.<sup>1</sup> As this large shelter worked to build relationships with rescues to better serve their population we wanted to be part of the effort to reduce euthanasia and over population in their shelter system. AC&C sends pictures to their rescue partners as well as behavioral evaluations of the dogs in need. They also have partners who drive the dogs upstate to one of our foster homes. Of the 185 dogs Peppertree placed in 2012, 23 of them were AC&C dogs who found forever homes.

In addition to city dogs in need, we have active relationships with a few southern shelters. One of these shelters is in DeKalb County, GA. They work with us routinely to help save many young, highly adoptable dogs who have limited options at their small, crowded shelter.

We have a contact in Georgia who has been a long time friend of Peppertree and has established herself as a trusted evaluator. She meets the dogs in person, relays information about the dogs she feels best fit our group's requirements, and she travels from GA to NY with the dogs. Once in NY, we move them to foster care prior to placement. Last year we helped 46 dogs from DeKalb County find loving homes.

We try hard to prioritize dogs in our region but our goal is to help dogs of golden temperament find loving homes, and sometimes those dogs may come from outside the Albany area. We take great pride in the work we do to help find homes for worthy dogs in need, whether they are from the Capital District, New York City, or beyond.



*“Rescue dogs aren't broken they've simply experienced more life than other dogs. If they were human, we would call them wise.*

*They would be the ones with Tales to tell and stories to write, The ones dealt a bad hand who responded with courage. Don't pity a rescue dog. Adopt one. And be proud to have their greatness by your side.”*



Beckett



Alf



Sgt. Pepper



Nichole Wood and Naomi Schanz



Derby



Aura



Zane



Oscar



# Foster Spotlight

Elvis



Astro



# Mexican Radio Helps Peppertree “Do It For The Dogs!”

by Mary Ellen Grimaldi

Once again Mexican Radio Hudson generously opened its doors to Peppertree friends and supporters on March 17th. Many folks enjoyed Margaritas and enchiladas instead of green beer and corned beef and cabbage on this St. Patrick's day; however, in recognition of the holiday, corned beef and cabbage tacos were a special on the menu. It goes without saying they were delicious!

Peppertree's younger volunteers (and in some cases, their moms) lovingly crafted doggie cut-outs that could be purchased, personalized and hung on the restaurant walls, adding a warm and festive touch to an establishment that is already both of those things. Beribboned and bejeweled paper canines of many different breeds festooned the entire eatery.

More than an opportunity to raise money for Peppertree, it's a great time for the Peppertree family to gather without dogs in tow. The comfortable and welcoming restaurant makes people feel at home and allows everybody to have a great time, as the faces of the happy diners will attest.

Peppertree extends a heartfelt thank you to Radio owners Lori Selden and Mark Young, manager Miriam Walton, and the always friendly and professional wait staff.

Our hope is to have next year's event at both the Mexican Radio restaurant in Hudson as well as the new Mexican Radio in Schenectady. To follow the progress of that establishment, go to <http://www.mexrad.com/>



## 6th Annual Furry Fun Run a Huge Success

by Mary Ellen Grimaldi

The morning of April 13<sup>th</sup> dawned cool and wet at the Saratoga State Park, but it did not dampen the spirits of volunteers and participants. The 6th Annual Furry Fun Run was our most successful Run to date and we raised an inspiring ten thousand dollars to help fulfill Peppertree's mission of saving dogs of "golden temperament"!

The Fundraising Committee, masterfully chaired by Alissa Barnett, was tireless in its efforts to organize every detail and to gather donations of refreshments and goody bag supplies from local vendors.

Many volunteers helped - setting up, directing parking, registering runners and walkers, answering questions, and providing a warm-up session. Members of RPI's Epsilon Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity provided great assistance as well.

For the second year in a row the speedy Westie, Murdock, was the first to cross the finish line, quickly followed by owner Eric Morse. Robin Murray was first in the category of female runner with dog accompanied by Holly. Eight out of the top ten finishers in the race ran with dogs and in fact one "rented" a friend's dog for the event (appropriately enough, a Golden Retriever).

Dr. Nina Caires and Dr. Rich DeVries represented Parkside

Veterinary Hospital and their friendly marital rivalry resulted in \$1800 being raised.

One feature of the Run that volunteers particularly look forward to every year is seeing Peppertree "alumni"-----such as Bandit, Felix, Wally, Lua, Cruz, and Bodie, to name just a few.

Our heartfelt appreciation to all who helped make the Furry Fun Run such a success!



# Rescue Dogs: Their Stories Matter

By Alissa Barnett

“He’s a rescue.”

How many times have you heard it said? How many times have you said it? Having a rescue dog is a matter of pride, and those words are always followed by a story.

“His owner went into a nursing home.”

“Her mom gave birth to her in a barn.”

Sometimes we guess.

“He was a stray; I think he was abused.”

“She was found in a house; we think her owners left her when they moved.”

But each story is important, and each story touches us -- after all, that is why we love our rescue dogs. The stories matter.



Wags, a seven-year-old Lab mix, always had a family. He was loved. But Wags contracted heartworm and Wags’ family could not afford the treatment. Wags became a Peppertree dog and his family turned him in with tears in their eyes. He was named for his constantly wagging tail, but as his

owners drove away, his tail stopped wagging.

Wags did not get a lot of attention at adoption events except when people commented on his large size. But one day a man, who was suffering from dementia, sat down while his wife met potential dogs to adopt. She was looking at smaller dogs, but Wags was looking at her husband. He sat next to him and the man started petting his head. Wags wagged his tail.

Wags brought a lot of joy to the wife, and became her comfort when her husband left for assisted living. She was working to get Wags his therapy dog certification so he could continue to see her husband, and bring joy to others who need it.

He’s a rescue.

Effie was a young Lab mix from a local shelter. She was full of energy but needed manners. She loved life, but did not understand that life had rules. She needed a patient owner, and she needed surgery. The shelter staff questioned whether it would be wise to spend their limited funds on surgery for a dog who may never get adopted. They contacted us, and Effie became a Peppertree dog.



Effie was boisterous. Effie was a pain. But she was also a charmer. She got her surgery and while she gave her foster family some wild times, she found the perfect adopter who loves her energy. Effie has years of love to give.

She’s a rescue.



Gabriel was from New York City. A Shepherd mix that was picked up as a stray, Gabriel was blind, he was skin and bones, and it seemed like he had given up. But there was something about him that made Peppertree decide his life should not end in a shelter. He became a Peppertree dog.

When he arrived, we questioned his health, we questioned our sanity - he would not lift his head, he would bump into walls, and he was marking every corner he could get to. But Gabriel had a guardian angel in his foster mom.

His foster mom gave him love, she gave him good food, and she gave him a home. Soon he remembered what it was like to be a dog. He put on weight, he had a growth on his eyelid removed, and he started to play. No longer were we worried about whether Gabriel would make it, but began worrying about who was special enough to have him.

Gabriel’s special family was not remarkable -- they were two people with a few dogs of their own. But their willingness to accept an old, blind dog, into their home was remarkable. Gabriel loves his new canine sisters, and his new family.

He’s a rescue.

India was from New York City also. She was old, she was tired, and she was a stray. Too dignified to end her days unloved, we brought her to Peppertree. She was given a bed of her own, food, and love. She died in her sleep, hours after getting a name.

She’s a rescue.

They are Peppertree.

You can help an animal in need by adopting, fostering, volunteering, or donating. Find out how at [Peppertree.org](http://Peppertree.org).

## SAVE THE DATE!

Peppertree Alumni  
Picnic

September 29, 2013

Cook Park, Colonie

Watch for more details!





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*Dear Jenny,*

I share a home with my dear feline friends Moe and Larry. Our mom just adopted a very large dog. He seems like a nice fellow but he has one very bad habit. Mom leaves dry food out for us during the day and as soon as she leaves the dog eats all our food. Mom thinks we are eating a lot but we are actually starving...



*Sincerely, Skinny in Seattle*

*Dear Mr. Skinny,*

I feel your pain and hunger, my famished friend. There are several things your mom can do to safeguard your dry food dishes during the workday. First, she can move the dishes to the counter as long as the dog isn't a counter-surfer. For many cats, this can be a safe place to eat and can be cleaned with antibacterial soap after feedings. Your mom could also put a baby gate in the entry way to the kitchen to keep the dog out during the day but with enough space for you felines to crawl under.

By the way, dogs and cats have very different nutritional needs. Cats are obligate carnivores which means we need twice as much animal protein as humans and dogs who are omnivores. I hope that you are able to enjoy your kibble snacks whenever you want.

*Your feline friend,  
Jennyanydots*

*Jennyanydots is a 13 year old grey tabby who unfortunately has had to live with numerous large canines. She currently resides with Teddy the Lab, three male cats who she affectionately refers to as the Three Stooges, and Patrice and Marty O'Connor.*



To subscribe to the Peppertree Post, visit <http://www.peppertree.org/newsletters>. To correct an address or unsubscribe, please email [rescue@peppertree.org](mailto:rescue@peppertree.org) with "Peppertree Post correction" in the subject.

## 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?