



# 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.

## A Foster Parent Speaks

Thank You for bringing this foster dog into my life.

Had I not made the decision to participate in rescue, I would never have had the chance to meet him. If I had sat here comfortably in my home and said, "I already have four dogs and I know that I couldn't take in another — even on a temporary basis," I would never have met this dog.

Yes, it takes time to rescue and foster... but who gave me Time in the first place? And why or what was the reason I was given Time? To fill my own needs? Or was there another reason ever so small and seemingly insignificant, like rescuing this one dog, that could make a difference in another's life? Perhaps to add joy, hope, help and companionship to another who is in need?

With great sadness, I sat down on a footstool in my kitchen this morning and watched as this foster dog bounced back into the house and skidded across the floor to sit ever so perfectly in front of me. He was the picture of health, finally. He was all smiles for me... and I smiled back at his happy face. Deep in his eyes, the storm clouds of illness and generalized poor health had blown away, and the clear light of his perfection radiated out from his beautiful soul.

He holds no ill will towards man. He forgives us all. I thought to myself as I impressed this one last long look of him into my heart, what a very fine creature you have created. Tears slowly pooled and spilled over my cheekbones as the deeper realization of how wonderful this dog is sank into my internal file cabinet of Needful Things to Remember. Lord, he's a dog — but he's a better human being than I am.

He has forgiven quickly. Would I do the same?

He passionately enjoys the simple things in life. And I have often overlooked them.

He accepts change and gets on with his life. I fuss and worry about change.

He lives today and loves today. And I often dwell in the past or worry about the future.

He loves no matter what. I am not that free.

This very lovely dog has gone to his new home today and already I miss him. Thank You for bringing this dog into my life. And thank You for the beautiful and tender lesson on how to be a better human.

— Author Unknown

## The John Davis Fund for Senior Dogs



Peppertree Rescue finds homes for many older dogs and now has a special fund dedicated for that purpose, thanks to the generosity of a special donor. Paige Davis recently adopted a senior dog through Peppertree Rescue, and decided to help other dogs by creating the John Davis Fund for Senior Dogs in memory of her late husband and their beloved senior rescue dogs Bronco and Stallion. Paige told us that "she wanted to do something in John's memory to keep his name alive. The Fund is something that he would be proud of, and it would have made him happy because he adored both dogs."



In January 1996 Paige and her husband John decided that they would like to adopt a dog that needed a home. They already had a beagle named Chance, but John wanted to adopt a golden retriever. He never had one before, but always liked the neighbor's golden retriever. Paige agreed with his choice, but she convinced him to get an older dog because she wanted to provide a home for a dog that would be hard to place. Paige felt a special affinity for older dogs because she enjoyed caring for senior citizens, and worked in the activities department of a local nursing home.

It took Paige and John a couple of months to find the special dog they were looking for. In March 1996, they noticed a Times Union classified ad about golden retrievers

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in need of homes. They contacted the rescue group, Golden Retriever Rescue Operated With Love Statewide (GRROWLS), and were quickly matched up with Bronco, a 14-year-old male golden retriever who happened to be the oldest dog in need of placement. The only catch was that Bronco had a special companion, a nine-year-old male golden retriever named Stallion, and GRROWLS volunteers hoped that they would not have to be separated.

Bronco and Stallion were like brothers. They had lived together nearly all of their lives after their owner rescued them from a Long Island shelter. GRROWLS had been trying to find the pair a home for several months. Their owner was moving to the Midwest on short notice and could not take them with her so she asked GRROWLS to help her rather than putting them in a shelter. She was very worried about them being separated, but understood that there would be little chance of finding anyone to take both dogs because of their age and size. She asked that they be kept together for as long as possible until they could adjust to the new changes.

Paige and John had planned to adopt only one dog, Bronco. When they arrived at the home of a GRROWLS volunteer to

meet him and take him home, they also met Stallion. The volunteer asked them if they would consider fostering Stallion for a short time to help both dogs adjust to the transition. They agreed to take Stallion home for a temporary stay, but fell in love and decided to keep him too.

The two dogs were featured together in the 1999 GRROWLS calendar. In retrospect, Paige cannot imagine having separated Bronco and Stallion because they were so close. Recently she told us, "They were such great dogs and became part of the family immediately. They were very happy and devoted to us, and John and I were devoted to them." In fact, John was so happy with both goldens that he convinced Paige to buy an eight-week-old golden retriever puppy from a reputable breeder. Teddy the puppy used to curl up next to Bronco and Stallion like they were his parents. Bronco was especially close to Teddy and used to play with him daily. It was quite a sight to see a 100-pound dog wrestling with a golden retriever puppy in their backyard. Bronco was like a gentle giant. He always had to have a tennis ball in his mouth and sometimes fell asleep with it there. Bronco was a little more independent than Stallion was, but was just as devoted. Whenever they left the dogs in the car during outings, Bronco always would sit in the driver's seat to wait for them.

Stallion had a disfigured front leg that had been injured sometime before he had been adopted from the shelter. The injury had never been properly cared for so he held his leg up to the side and never used it. After Paige and John adopted him, their veterinarian recommended amputating the leg because it was so heavy and bothersome to Stallion. Fortunately, Stallion's surgery was paid for by the GRROWLS Uncle Sherman Fund, which helps to offset medical costs for senior dogs. John had had cancer in his leg so he also was handicapped and walked with a limp. Paige believes that John and Stallion's leg handicaps gave them a special bond. Stallion was very devoted and was the kind of dog who would do anything for you. He followed Paige everywhere and she admits that Stallion became her special baby.

Ironically, John, Bronco and Stallion all passed away in 2000. John died in March, Stallion died in May at the age of 13, and Bronco died in October at the age of 18.

Despite her tremendous personal losses, Paige refused to let John's legacy of kindness and love die. By November she already had decided to open up her heart and home to another senior dog. After contacting Peppertree Rescue, she brought home Goldie, a 12-year-old female golden retriever. The next month she approached Peppertree Rescue about starting a memorial fund for senior dogs to pay tribute to her late husband and the two dogs that he loved so much. Paige decided to create the memorial fund through Peppertree Rescue because she had kept in touch with two former GRROWLS volunteers who later founded Peppertree.

The John Davis Fund for Senior Dogs provides a source of emergency reserves for senior dogs. According to Peppertree Rescue President Betsy Sommers, "The John Davis Fund allows us to accept seniors into the program as readily as we do younger dogs. If we accept an older dog and then run into problems, or if we know at the outset that an intake is going to require more care than we can afford at that moment, we can still help that senior dog because we can turn to the Fund. The Fund has allowed us to accept many more seniors than we would have been able to do otherwise. Since its inception, the Fund has helped, either directly or indirectly, 27 dogs aged eight and above."

Paige has three dogs at home with her now, including her 13-year-old beagle Chance, five-year-old Teddy, and 14-year-old Goldie. She attended a Peppertree Rescue clinic recently and plans to keep in touch with our volunteers. She wants her husband to be remembered for his kindness and generosity, and hopes that the John Davis Fund for Senior Dogs will help older dogs that need and deserve a loving and caring home. Her dream is to encourage individuals to adopt senior dogs that, despite their years, still have so much love to give. She hopes that others will support that goal by adopting a senior dog and contributing to the Fund.

Peppertree Rescue's website has a new page dedicated to the John Davis Fund for Senior Dogs. Individuals interested in targeting donations to senior dogs can donate through the website link or specify the Fund when making a contribution by mail or at one of our many clinics.

— Karen Harmon

**Peppertree Rescue, Inc.**  
**( A 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity )**  
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# Dog Walk Through Hail, Storm or High Wind!



For honoring us at your event, **THANK YOU!!!** to **Cathy Wagoner and Calbak Farms - Classic Dog Training's Dog Walk to Benefit Peppertree Rescue.**

**Calbak Farms - Classic Dog Training**  
**Lee's Plaza, 1624 Rt. 9,**  
**Clifton Park, NY 12065**  
**Tel - 518-786-1108**  
<http://www.members.aol.com/wesdxc>

"IT'S NOT RAINING!" observed Karolyn Buttle repeatedly. It was a rather damp Saturday on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002 and everybody assumed that Karolyn had been at the milk bones again. OK, so it was a little wet, but that certainly didn't dampen the spirits of the 79 walkers that turned up at the Town of Colonie Park that morning, with or without their dogs, to take part in Calbak Farms - Classic Dog Training's Dog Walk to Benefit Peppertree Rescue.

9.30am and the well-organized registration area was a hive of activity. Walkers signing up, dogs in great costumes, donations being made. Peg Boughton, not to be intimidated by any bad weather, was the picture of summer and looked ready to take on any gray clouds in a short-sleeved T-shirt, while the rest of the group

hid under their caps and gortex jackets. Peg and Courtney Davis ensured that refreshments were in abundance for the soon to be exercised pooches and the adrenalin was pumping as owners and canine companions alike prepared for the start at 10.00am. Kathryn Manning showed up with a shy, but very well behaved Zack, Joanne Roscoe brought Benn, Noot and Ed to enjoy the day and Kara Collins attended with Riley who may have been adopted before the walk even began. Way to go Kara!

10.00am - and they're off! Things are starting out well and everybody is on the same course. Then, half a mile into the walk, and ... indecision ... the group splits ... and some walkers find themselves heading off into the woods. Why worry though, those ahead know where they're going, right?! After 10 minutes, yours truly bumps into Deb and Martha Moon heading in the opposite direction with Topper. 180 degree about face and we're off again. Finally, we arrive at the end of course, unfortunately from the opposite direction. No prizes for Topper and Nell as top trackers of the day!

Karolyn "It's still not raining"! Buttle is still rallying everybody together. All gather at the finish line to enjoy lunch and refreshments and Cathy, together with Greg Floyd of Fox 23 News, award several generously donated prizes, with Peppertree's very own Joanne singularly raising the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest amount of money for the day. A staggering total of \$4,400 was raised from the event. It's also a touching moment when Bob Gleeson and his dog, Ruger, receive a special award for being NYRTT's first responders to the

WTC search and rescue effort.

Betsy and David find a moment to practice their media training skills when Fox 23 News also asks for their feedback on a recent, successful closing down of a Pekingese puppy mill. David, with his love of the smaller breeds, enjoys this opportunity to comment on ... well, we don't know what he commented on because it was edited out, but we're all sure it was very constructive. [grin]

Although Pepper looked very fetching in a Peppertree T-shirt, the fashion accessory of the day had to be the Adopt Me Capes beautifully made by Courtney. Modelled in this picture by Kiki, 10 - she loves people, food, people with food and belly rubs, and is available for adoption and bookings, through Jean & John Balint. The capes were a wonderful way to spot some of the great dogs still looking for a family of their own. Courtney, thank you.



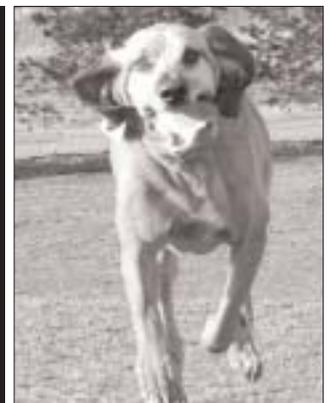
Finally, again, our deepest appreciation is extended to Cathy and Calbak Farms - Classic Dog Training for letting Peppertree benefit from this Dog Walk. Aply assisted by Peg Boughton, they pulled together such a well-organized, fun and heart-warming occasion that all, despite the showers, enjoyed immensely. Thank you Peg and Cathy, and to all who attended and supported this event. We look forward to helping out at Calbak Farms - Classic Dog Training's next Dog Walk to be held at, and for, St Colman's Home on October 5th, 2002.

—Sam Stelmaszyk

## Why We Love Them ...



COMPETITION



- Can you identify this object?
- Answer in next newsletter

## Peppertree Adoption Clinic Schedule

September 7th — LC Smith, Delmar (11.00am - 3.00pm)

September 21st — Petsmart, Latham (10.00am - 2.00pm)

October 5th — LC Smith, Delmar (11.00am - 3.00pm)

October 19th — Petsmart, Latham (10.00am - 2.00pm)

For locations of other Adoption Clinics:

Call our Voice-Mail 435-7425 or consult our web page (<http://www.peppertree.org>)



We're here to remind you to visit our website for the link to the new Peppertree Store at Cafe Press

Mugs - Tees - Sweats



**PEPPERTREE POST** 1 year (4 issues) \$10.00

**PEPPERTREE RESCUE PINS** \_\_\_\_\_ pins @ \$5.00 each

**PEPPERTREE T-SHIRTS**  S  M  L (check one) \$12.00 + \$3.00 shipping  
 XL  XXXL \$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping

**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, 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 from and or completed on our website. Woof!!!!**

# A Picture Perfect Day at Saratoga State Park on June 8th, 2002

## NENYGRC Fun Date, Peppertree Adoption Clinic and Golden Bells Mini-reunion

For the past several years, the Northeastern New York Golden Retriever Club has sponsored its Annual AKC-Sanctioned Golden Retriever Speciality Match. June 8th was a beautiful day and we couldn't have asked for better weather to show off our dogs, have an adoption clinic and get the "golden bells" together for a mini-reunion.

There are several of us that had not met each other but had been corresponding on email for months. Let's start with who was in attendance- quite the colourful group with hats on and funny faces.

Betsy and David (of course) - Kathryn Manning with golden cutie Ginger - Karolyn Buttle - Peggy Boughton - Cathy Plummer - Lainy Saile with Taryn - Donna and Larry Burdick with Duffer (memorial puppy mill dog) - Kara Collins - Sam and Paul S, with adorable Nell - Kathy Foley and family - Lee and Mike Leahy, with golden bell Rosie and Josie - Lisa Vincent with golden bell Sissy and daughter Sierra - Eugenie Clark with golden bell Holly - The Laviolette family was there for a little while with golden bell Sequoia/Speckles

The adoption clinic got off to a good



were a few dogs that left there on trial placement- Max, Abby and Prince, with Moe to be picked up at Kathryn's the next day (once the couple realized that they couldn't live without Moe- now Barley).

The golden bells reunion was organized by the "other bureaucrat," ME, who adopted Rosie from foster mom, Donna Burdick, and Peppertree. Rosie was able to meet up with Holly, Sequoia, Sissy and Buddy from GRROWLS. Former puppy mill resident, Taryn, was also there to share in the joy of being "freed" from a puppy mill. We all wore our "golden bells" tee shirts. As a token of the golden bells' appreciation, Betsy was presented with a tee shirt that stated, "I fostered one of the golden bells." David was humbled by a gift of an "I fostered one of the golden bells" hat.

The golden bells, Taryn, and other Peppertree alumnae also participated in the rescue parade and received ribbons. Most notably, Betsy was visible moved and cried when watching Holly participate in the parade of rescue as Betsy had seen the "before side of holly" and we all wondered if Holly would ever make it to the point of being in the rescue parade. What a remarkable poignant time for all to see the real Holly!!!!

Many thanks are sent to Leda Kim for making such beautiful bandannas for the

start. Dogs available for adoption in attendance were Wheeler, Abby, Max, Burt, Prince, Duffer /Ian, Moe, Cooper, and Duffy. There

golden bells and Taryn to wear. The colors matched beautifully with the golden retriever coats and had little bells on the ends.

All had food, laughter and fun and we consumed Lainy's super chocolate chip cookies and Lee's melted squares. We heard someone say that Carolyn took a picture of her belly button and we are awaiting that to be posted to the list. Moe, one of the Memorial puppy mill rescue dogs, stole everyone's hearts.

All in all it was a wonderful day. The face-to-face interaction (in an email and cyberspace world) is a wonderful reminder of why we help these doggie souls. Most importantly, we remembered why we do what we do. We do it for the dogs.

I pulled together a scrapbook of the golden bells' story with photos from Peppertree and from other rescues around the country. I also had a created a collage and Donna Burdick created a commemorative calendar for 2003 with the golden bells photos on it. It was wonderful to compare notes and see how each dog had progressed.

We are all looking forward to marking our calendars for the next Peppertree event where we can share stories and take funny pictures.

— Lee Leahy



## Busted!

On returning to her home this morning Donna Burdick of this town was faced with the grim evidence of an apparent break-in by marauders with evil intent. Two rooms had been wantonly vandalized. All counters and the dining table in the kitchen had been cleared off, the items which had been stored on these were strewn about the floor or eaten. The 'biscuit safe' in the stair hall had been demolished and the contents had been strewn about the floor or eaten. (Notice a theme developing here???) Burdick, the wife of a

retired police officer, put her years of training to use and quickly apprehended the culprits, the cookie crumbs in their whiskers were an obvious clue. The suspects, Olivia Burdick, 5 of Williamstown and Sally Peppertree (who refused to state her age) a guest in the Burdick home, have pleaded innocent by reason of insanity (caused by dieting) and are being held without bail (or further cookies) pending a hearing. The accused, claiming indigence, have requested a court appointed attorney. Judge Eat-oe has recommended F. Lee Beagle, Esq. who has agreed to take the case. No date has as yet been set for the trial. The attorney for the defense refused

to allow his clients to speak to reporters so this reporter has submitted the police file photo (mug shot) below this article. If you see either of these two violent critters on the street be afraid, be very afraid!!!

—Donna Burdick



# HOMeward BOUND



**BURT** - He was everybody's sweetheart. A wonderful boy, with a great temperament, who had lots of places to go and even lots more to do. He had more energy than most people could handle. Everybody loved Burt, but it was becoming impossible to place him with a family. After a few weeks of love and training with Kathy Foley, a young couple took a keen interest in him and he is, at last, with his forever family.



**MACDUFF** - Fostered for some time at the Burdick's home in Massachusetts, Macduff, or Duffers as he was affectionately known, started to learn that with security and a lot of love, he could be a dog too! Eventually, Duffers found his forever family and as he left Donna's home, it was remarked that "he was sitting up in the passenger seat of the car, like a King" - and so he should be!



**WHEELER** - One of the handsomest Peppertree dogs, but for weeks, nobody seemed to see him. He had a tendency to run off through an open door, but was a perfect dog in every other way. He attended clinic after clinic and no-one took a second glance at this beautiful, blond boy. His luck just had to change, and it did recently. Wheeler is now living and loving life with his new family.



**REX** When Rex first came into the program, it was very soon discovered that he liked to lift his leg - on anything and everything, including Betsy's daughter Kelly! After a first trial placement, this need to give everybody a bath, miraculously ceased and now, with his second family, Rex is a happy boy and everybody is nice and dry!



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*A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament*