



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.

SPRING/SUMMER 2004 ISSUE

Have a Safe Summer

Ahhhh, Summer in the Northeast! It's that wonderful time of year when we can finally walk outside without gloves and a scarf on, take our dogs for that early-morning walk (in DAYLIGHT!), and spend our weekends mowing, planting, and just plain having fun in our yards. With the onset of Summer, however, also comes some seasonal "dangers" for our beloved pooches. For example, did you know that just as humans require sunscreen and insect repellent, our beloved canines need their protection, too?! Below are some important precautions to take this Summer when caring for your dog:

Sunburn

Believe it or not, your dog can get sunburn. If you trim a heavy-coated dog, be sure to leave an inch of fur for protection against insects and sunburn. Always cover any bare spots in your dog's coat with sunscreen, and keep an eye on areas where hair is thin, like eyelids, ears, and nose. Because dogs tend to lick their coats if there is anything on them, you may want to talk to your vet about sunscreens that are safe for dogs.

Heatstroke

If untreated, heatstroke can cause brain damage or even death in your pet. If your dog shows any symptoms such as restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, rapid heartbeat,



vomiting, or lack of coordination, get him/her into the shade immediately and call your veterinarian. Lower your dog's body temperature gradually by giving it water to drink, applying a cold towel or ice pack to the head, neck, and chest, or immersing your dog in lukewarm (not cold) water.

There are a few simple things one can do to prevent heatstroke: 1) Keep your dog indoors; if he or she must stay outside, be sure to provide shade and water, and try to avoid putting them outside during the hottest part of the day; 2) Exercising with your dog should be done either on cool mornings or evenings, and one should take frequent rests and have your pet drink plenty of water; 3) Never leave a dog in a parked car. On a 73°F day, the temperature inside of a car can reach 120°F in a mere 30 minutes.

Firecrackers and Thunder

Firecrackers and thunder can startle or scare dogs. If you happen to be outside when it is possible that either of these events could occur, keep your dog on a leash and make sure it is held tightly by someone strong enough to prevent the dog from running away. A dog that is startled may break loose and, in turn, can end up lost or injured. Fireworks can also cause deafness, injure or kill a dog if they are set off too close. It is best to keep your dog as far away from fireworks as possible.

Pesticide, Fertilizer and Pest Control

As you begin working outdoors, keep into consideration any lawn products, insecticides and rodent preventatives you are using. Poisoning due to pesticides, pest control and fertilizer can be avoided by using non-toxic

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preparations. Water or soap sprays may be used to kill insects in trees or shrubs, and there are “safe” mulches to keep down the weeds.

If using toxic preparations, do some research and ask your local nursery to discern if there are any dangers for your pet. Do not apply toxic preparations on windy days, as the chemical might travel and land on other areas such as water sources, eating surfaces, patios, dog toys, etc. Always be sure to clean up any spill immediately, diluting the area with water to weaken the strength of the preparation as much as possible.

Other Animals and Insects

Be sure to know what types of wildlife live in your area and be wary of poisonous animals, such as spiders and snakes. Even non-poisonous animals can be harmful – skunks, opossums, woodchucks, rabbits and bats are known carriers of rabies, and porcupine quills can injure dogs and cause infections.

The best way to avoid contact between your dog and any of these creatures is to keep an eye on your dog when it is outside and, if possible, keep your dog’s roaming limited to a fenced-in area – it will prevent him/her from getting out and hopefully keep others from getting in!! It is also helpful to take a ‘walk through’ of your property and inspect for bee hives (both above and below ground), ant nests and small animal population nesting. Better to be aware beforehand than have a bee sting on your pooch’s nose!

While it may sound like Summer is completely filled with danger for your dog, all it takes is a little simple planning and thinking ahead to make it one of the most enjoyable times of the year – for you AND your dog! So don’t sit and stay – get out there and enjoy!

–Courtney Davis and Liz Ammian



Ask the Groomer

Dear Groomer:

I took my dog in for a flea bath and two days later he still had fleas! Why??

Answer:

Flea control is a multi-step process. Not only does the dog have to be treated, but the home environment where the fleas live has to be treated, too. Fleas will feed on the host (dog), but they live in dark nooks & cranny’s, carpets and furniture in your home. Your best approach for treating fleas would be to start with a thorough vacuuming of your home and the disposal of the vacuum bag. Next, a flea spray or a bomb should be used in your home (follow the instructions carefully); be sure to also wash your dog’s bedding and blankets. If your dog is a frequent traveler in your car, you may also want to vacuum your car seats. Last (but not least!), treatment of your dog is key to your pet’s health and well being. There are currently at least two options available from your veterinarian for treating your dog – the “spot on” treatments (such as “Frontline”) are applied directly to your pet’s coat, and generally last a month. In addition, there is the option of an internal treatment – a pill which, when taken

by your dog, works to both sterilize adult fleas and kill flea eggs present on your dog. These pills can either be solely for the treatment of fleas (“Program” is one such treatment), or they may be combined to combat heartworm, too (such as “Sentinel”). Note that because spot-on topical treatments are essentially a small dosage of “poison” (to kill the fleas), some dogs MAY react negatively and can develop health issues. It is always best to check first with your veterinarian to discuss your options and decide which avenue of flea treatment is best for your dog.

Should you have any questions you would like answered by **The Groomer**, please email them to Courtney at ct_bug@yahoo.com and we may post them in future newsletters!

Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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

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Future fundraising activity

Peppertree Alumni Picnic

Saturday, October 2, 2004

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cooks Park, Colonie

Admission: \$5 per dog

A dog friendly picnic! (off leash only in designated areas)

Food: Hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, coleslaw, chips, soda, and a biscuit for your Peppertree pal.

Activities include bocce, volleyball, and horse shoes.

All day events and contests:

Basic obedience fun match

Best dog costume

Owner / dog look alike

Loudest bark

Best trick

Highest jumper

Fastest tail wag contests

...Just to name a few!



Also, a silent auction and Peppertree give aways.

Mini-Adoption Clinics

Peppertree may occasionally hold smaller clinics depending on dog and volunteer availability. Please check the website for further details.

Tribute to a Dog

THE ONE ABSOLUTELY unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as content in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens.

~Senator George Vest, 1870



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

Also, help dogs while shopping through iGive.com
<http://www.peppertree.org/store.htm>





Cassie

Familiar Things

People love things that are familiar. Familiarity breeds comfort, which can sometimes be hard to find. Nothing is more comforting than a pet, and it seems that people who are looking to adopt a dog look for the same kind of dog they grew up with. This is certainly true for me. Unlike others, for me it wasn't a certain breed, sex, or color that I was looking for.

My childhood dog was rescued from the local shelter by my mom. I was 8

years old and I had been begging for a dog for what seemed like years. My father was never an animal lover, so dogs were always a fight between my parents. Fortunately, he made an odd request – if my mom could find a dog like Mocha (an Irish setter who belonged to friends of the family), then we could have one. Brandon's picture ran in the local paper – a yellow lab/cocker spaniel mix – it was a close enough match for government work

and my mom saw her opportunity. When she got to the shelter the woman told her that due to his cuteness many people had been in to see him; however, he would only be going to a dog savvy home. Brandon had been returned because an inexperienced family, with a 6 year old daughter, was not happy with his puppy-like tendencies to jump and nip. Luckily, we had had dogs before and it was always my mother who trained them. She spent some time with him at the shelter and decided to test him out by bringing him to work with her. She figured a high school was a perfect place to get a good read on a dog's personality. By the end of the day she had decided we would be keeping him and asked my teacher to bring me over to her office after school. I walked in and he ran right at me, placed his front paws on my shoulders, knocked me over, and licked my face with fervor. As if I already knew I asked "Is he mine?" "Yes, he's yours," my mother said.

From the time I was 8 until I was 22 Brandon was a great companion. It took him a few years to settle in, but he made a perfect family dog. Sure, he was a beggar extraordinaire and he often stole mittens from children passing by the house, but no dog is perfect and his rascally behavior was part of his charm. We always marveled at what a gem that family unknowingly gave up. When I held him in my arms on the floor of our kitchen as the vet euthanized him, tears were streaming down my face as I felt his fluffy little body go cold. Many times that day I stated that I had loved that dog more than I loved most people. I knew that eventually I would heal and that there would be other dogs in my life, but at that moment I just couldn't see opening myself up to that kind of pain again.

About a year after Brandon had passed I thought about getting a dog. But I lived by myself, and as a 23 year old my life was so unsettled. I never felt

that the time or the place was right. Years rolled by, I met and married my husband and we moved from apartment to apartment, each time feeling like it was a good thing that we didn't have a dog because it would be impossible to find someplace to live. We moved into our current apartment and I devised a plan. We would make improvements to the apartment and warm up to the landlord in the hopes that he would give in to our request for a dog. In the meantime, I would volunteer for Peppertree and that would fill my craving for unconditional, slobbery, dog love.

In a strange turn of events the landlord got himself a dog. I made it a point to spoil his dog, and let him know that my husband and I were also dog lovers. One evening he casually asked "When are you guys going to get a dog?" Since I had been wanting to for a while, I immediately volunteered to foster a dog since we had essentially been given a green light. The next day Cassie came into our lives.

I had bonded with her at Peppertree's last adoption clinic, and she seemed like even though she was a little shy that she would be an "easy" first foster. The next evening the landlord had noticed the new arrival and had informed us that she had howled the entire day while we were at work. The conversation was short, and things didn't look good. I was sick of living in places where I didn't call the shots. No one was going to force me to take this dog back to the kennel, even if it was temporary, I was ready to move again if necessary. In just 24 hours she had pawed her way into my heart. We took her for a walk in the pouring rain, as she had been having issues with "going" outside on our walks. We waited and waited for her to "go," determined to stay outside in the rain as long as necessary, and when she finally went we both started cheering, and looking around to see if anyone was watching us cheer over a dog peeing. My husband and I also fought over what we thought our options were going to be

as I cried and stated that "I won't be the next person who casts her aside." Dramatic, yes, but being the understanding man that he is, he knew how I was feeling. He is also the more rational of the two of us, and he spoke to our landlord the next day. The landlord was willing to give Cassie time to adjust and prove she could be good unsupervised, as long as we didn't become "a halfway house for dogs." Cassie had chosen us. We had no choice but to become foster failures.

It is important to me that we have our dog because she is a dog that deserved a second chance, just like Brandon did. We didn't want her because she was cute, although she is really cute. We didn't want her because she was the right breed – we aren't even sure what she is, to be honest – when people ask, we say part Keeshond and part trash hound. We didn't want her because she was perfectly easy, she's quirky and we love it. We wanted her because she deserved to be wanted and no longer searching for her forever home. We too are amazed at what a wonderful dog she is, and how on Earth someone gave her up, but we wouldn't want it any other way.

–Lucia Perfetti



**Visit our website
for the link to the
Peppertree Store
at Cafe Press**


Help dogs while shopping
through iGive.com
www.peppertree.org/store.htm



Peppertree Adoption Clinic Schedule

clinic dates

2004 PEPPERTREE ADOPTION CLINIC SCHEDULE:

June 5th 
 Pet Supplies Plus
 Western Ave., Albany
 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

July 10th
 L.C. Smith
 Delmar
 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.


August 7th
 to be announced
 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

June 19th
 PetsMart, Latham
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

July 24th
 PetsMart, Latham
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

August 21st
 PetsMart, Latham
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 13th 2004
Calbak Farms Dog Walk
 at Colonie Town Park benefitting Peppertree Rescue
 – for further details visit our website. –


 We are coordinating a
 Used Book Sale and
 Bake Sale with this
 Adoption Clinic.

For locations of other Adoption Clinics:
 Call our Voice-Mail **435-7425** or
 consult 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)
 (check one) S M L XL \$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.

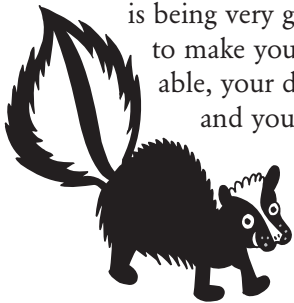
Name _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Telephone No. (with area code, please note if day or evening) (_____) _____

Send form & check to: Peppertree Rescue, PO Box 2396, Albany, NY 12220
Applications can also be downloaded or copied from our website. Woof!!!!

Skunk Season

Now that the warmer weather is upon us, those little, black-and-white striped, stinky creatures are bound to be making a visit to your neighborhood; the question is, are you ready for them? If your dog has never been sprayed by a skunk, you should probably count your blessings. The main thing to remember when bathing your “skunk dog” is that no matter what people tell you, your dog will NOT be completely stench-free for at least a week, and this

is being very generous! However, to make your life more bearable, your dog less odiferous, and your home more liveable, here are a few suggestions on what to use to bath your skunk dog:



Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

Now I lay me down to sleep.
The king sized bed is soft and deep.
I sleep right in the center groove,
my human beings can hardly move.
I've trapped their legs, they're tucked
in tight, and here is where I spend
the night.
No one disturbs me or dares intrude,
till morning comes and "I want food!"
I sneak up slowly to begin, and nibble
on my human's chin.
For the morning's here, it's time to
play. I always seem to get my way.
So thank you Lord for giving me, this
human person that I see.
The one who hugs me, holds me tight,
and shares their bed with me at night.

—Author anonymous

1) De-Skunker Recipe

1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide
1/2 cup baking soda
1 teaspoon liquid dish soap

Mix together and use immediately. Soak only for a few minutes and rinse very well. Never store unused portion – always discard. Be sure to mix only in an open container and do not try to store or cover in any way.

If your dog has never been sprayed by a skunk, you should probably count your blessings.

2) Tomato juice (Note “juice” – throwing several cans of stewed tomatoes into the blender and dousing your dog with that is **not** a good idea... unless you don't mind the dog resembling a smelly salad and having birds landing on him or her for days afterwards trying to get all those seeds!)

3) Massingill's douche (Honest! But your husband will probably balk at being the one to buy it!)

4) Commercial skunk remover mixtures, which can be found at most pet stores. As always, do not get these or any other mixtures into your dog's eyes, nose or mouth.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Peppertree Rescue is run totally by unpaid volunteers?

Our volunteers, while working for Peppertree, are really being “paid” with the reward of seeing dogs in need acquire great new homes after first being given some love, TLC and medical care. All funds that Peppertree receives, be it via adoption fees, donations or sales of items, go to support the care of dogs in our program. The funds received pay for veterinarian costs, boarding charges, other necessary dog supplies and administrative overhead (such as stamps, printing of this newsletter, etc.). In fact, besides the tremendous amount of time our volunteers

donate to Peppertree, considerable funds are spent by various volunteers in costs that are not repaid to the volunteers – such as food for foster dogs and transportation costs in moving our dogs around to foster homes, veterinarians and adoption clinics. Peppertree Rescue is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law. A copy of Peppertree's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from Peppertree or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.



Clyde — Our arms and hearts are always open to those special Peppertree senior dogs that come into the program. We have been fortunate to work with some wonderful rescuers in the Long Island area and Clyde has been one of several dogs that have made their way upstate over the last few years. Known affectionately as a “big love sausage” by his foster—and now forever—Mom, Liz, he continually howls his happiness with Liz’s pack. Clyde is yet another wonderful example of our senior dogs, who still have so much love to give to a family.



Ike — Hilary—a new Foster Mom with Peppertree—takes great pleasure in being a “foster failure”. Ike arrived in the Albany area from Tennessee at the end of 2003, being medicated for seizures, and was having initial problems adjusting in a home environment. Something about Ike pulled at Hilary’s heartstrings and she knew she wanted to foster him and help him work through his issues. She was hooked in less than a week and knew that she could not give up this special boy. Ike now excitedly greets his Mom every day with a toy and is a big, bouncy best friend to a golden mix, Nicholas and two cats, Oscar and Felix.



Rooney — Rooney is one of those wonderful dogs that you have to meet to see what a joy he is. Playful and loving, Rooney found his forever home during an adoption clinic. During the trial period, Rooney became known as “Rooney the Wimp” as we amazingly discovered that Rooney was constantly being bullied by the cat! The family realized that this was not the ideal situation for Rooney and he was returned to the program. At that point, however, Rooney had already left his mark on the family and they were certain that they couldn’t be without him. Overseen by one of our newer volunteers, David the Y, the family’s reunion with Rooney was a very, very happy one. The cat, you ask? He’s spending a little more time outside these days.



Winnie — Through the coordination of outstanding Peppertree volunteers—Christina, Joanne and David—and the Menands Shelter, yet again several dogs were saved after their owner was unable to care for them. Winnie was one of those special girls who, initially, appeared to be traumatized by her situation but after a week in her foster home, she flourished into the loving and playful girl that is today enjoying life to the full with her forever family.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.
P.O. Box 2396
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www.peppertree.org

A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament