



# 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.

SUMMER/FALL 2004 ISSUE

## When They Become Family

I will never forget the first dog that I shared my life with – not the first dog my parents got me when I was a child. That dog had to be given to a friend of the family because my brother and I didn't walk it and feed it like we said we would; I am referring to the dog that I, as an adult, took off my brother's hands due to his quickly expanding family.

I'd always wanted a Dalmatian and had been infatuated with them since my late high school years. So when I'd been married for a little more than a year, and my husband and I started looking for a dog, I was instinctively drawn to that lovely, spotted breed. After a few months of searching, when my brother realized we were serious about adding a dog to our "family," he made the offer: would we like to "test drive" Mango, their four-year-old Dalmatian, and if it worked out, keep her?

We went to pick her up at his home in Pennsylvania, and I clearly remember that drive home. We fed her McDonald's French fries in the back seat, and I worried that I would somehow mess things up as her new "mom." When we entered our house, she quickly made her presence known by going to the bathroom in our entryway. "Not a promising start," I thought to myself. This dog parenting stuff was looking a bit more challenging than I had expected.



I worried about how she would let us know when she needed to go out. I worried about where she would want to sleep. I worried about her missing her other "family." I worried about giving her enough exercise. I worried about her running away and never coming back. I worried that she didn't have enough toys. I worried that she wouldn't eat. I worried that she would be bored. And this was all within the first minute of us arriving home!

What I didn't realize at the time was that while perhaps I couldn't address ALL of those issues the moment Mango entered our lives, the simple fact that I had even THOUGHT about them, that I had even CON-

SIDERED these things, put me at an advantage. I had thought about all the medical issues that might need to be addressed, I had thought about where she would be kept while we were at work, I had made an appointment for her at our local vet, I had read books on what a dog needs on a daily basis. I may have **felt** overwhelmed, but I was prepared.

People often laugh at me or joke at how "obsessed" I am about my dogs (we decided that Mango needed a friend, so she now (begrudgingly) shares her space with her younger "sister," Dottie). I don't like to leave our dogs home for prolonged periods of time, especially on the weekend

when it's their chance to get OUT of the house; something they cannot do on a work day. I don't like to be more than an hour late in feeding them. I would prefer that someone stay in our house with them while we are on vacation, rather than board them. I try to make sure they get two walks a day. If they appear to show ANY signs of illness, I bring them to the vet immediately.

People who consider this to be odd or "obsessive" usually make it quite clear; I know this, because their typical reaction is to remind me that "they're just dogs." While I will generally smile and nod in response, inside I can't help but wonder how they would like it if I were to withhold their food for hours on end, not allow them any human interaction for ten hours or more at a time, refuse them access to a bathroom for that same ten hour period, or ignore their signs of illness; simply

because I had other things to do or was having too much fun at a party and didn't want to leave, or, worse yet, because I didn't think it was that important. Yes, they are dogs, and it is true that they don't have jobs like we do, they can't speak English (although some may beg to differ!) and they can't do the dishes (I am personally hoping for a miracle breakthrough in this area someday!). But why would I, as an adult who willingly chose to bring a dog into my home, choose to be irresponsible when it comes to caring for that creature? Even when that creature is "just a dog?" To me, it is not obsessive or silly; it is just part of the package deal, part of what is involved in loving and caring for another being or creature. It requires thought, it requires that you be responsible, and it does require a certain amount of sacrifice. I would hope my dogs would

provide me with the same considerations should they ever need to care for me. Maybe I'm just trying to set a good example for them.

As for Mango, she is still with us. She is 9 years old now and still going strong. We've had plenty of crises in our lives with Mango around, including surgery to remove a wad of leaves blocking her intestines, trips to the vet to battle bladder infections, holes dug in our yard, and, more recently, some separation anxiety issues. Yet when I come home from work after a particularly bad day, and she is frantically looking for a toy to greet me with, tail wagging, "smiling" at me, I know that I would not give her up – nor the daily commitment she requires of me — for anything.

—Courtney Davis and Liz Ammian

# Thank You!

A satisfied customer enjoying her purchase from one of our Summer 2004 Book, Bake and Garage Sales.

Nearly \$1,200 was raised.



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

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# A Pet is Part of the Family and has the following rights.

We have the right to be full members of your family. We thrive on social interaction, praise, and love.

We have the right to stimulation. We need new games, new toys, new experiences, and new smells to be happy.

We have the right to regular exercise. Without it, we could become hyper, sluggish...or fat.

We have the right to have fun. We enjoy acting like clowns now and then; don't expect us to be predictable all the time.

We have the right to quality health care. Please stay good friends with our vet!

We have the right to a good diet. Like some people, we don't know what's best for us. We depend on you.

We have the right not to be rejected because of your expectations that we be great show dogs, watchdogs, hunters, or baby-sitters.

We have the right to receive proper training. Otherwise, our good relationship could be marred by confusion and strife and we could become dangerous to ourselves and others.

We have the right to guidance and correction based on understanding and compassion, rather than abuse.

We have the right to live with dignity...and to die with dignity when the time comes.

**Commitment, Firmness, but kindness.**

*Brought to you by: World Wide Information Outlet - <http://certificate.net/wwio/>, your source of FREEWare Content online.*



## Upcoming fundraising activity

There's still time to join us for a fun-packed day

# 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.



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



## Before You Buy That Puppy

“How much is that doggy in the window, the one with the waggly tail...?” Familiar words to an old tune suggests that many people at one time or another consider having a dog as a pet. They might have fond memories of the old Boxer or Cairn terrier that they grew up with. Maybe it was a good-natured mutt or even a neighbour’s well-behaved German Shepherd. Some folks imagine owning a beautiful and heroic dog such as “Lassie” of book and screen fame.

Often, the reality is that many pups purchased on impulse wind up in shelters or banned to a chain in the garden because they didn’t measure up to the dream. This is written to help you consider the answers to the questions you should ask before buying that cute little puppy.

Are you ready for a life long commitment to responsible dog ownership? Let’s think through and visualize what dog ownership is really like. It is fun to imagine walking an obedient dog on a beautiful day, but remember, the same dog will need walking when its hot, cold, raining or icy out. The “Obedient” part will take time and effort. In deciding whether a dog will fit into your lifestyle,

the biggest consideration in the long run will be “Do you have the TIME it takes to own a dog?”

**Questions** Some dogs need more time than others do, but every dog requires time for daily interaction beyond just meeting its basic needs. Consider your lifestyle and personality when deciding if a dog would fit into the picture.

Why do you want a dog? How active and busy are you? What do you do with the dog when you travel or are on vacation? Do you have young children? Do you have a fenced garden? How big is it? How long at a time will the dog be alone in the home? Does anyone have allergies? (Easier to find this out visiting someone else’s dog first) Would you have the time to start with an untrained puppy or would you be willing to re-train an older dog? What kind of fur and how much grooming/shedding are involved? What size would fit in? Purebred? Mixed? Male? Female? Large? Small?

**Dogs needs** Puppies and adult dogs have daily needs. The basics are shelter, food and water, grooming, health care, training, exercise and social interaction. The earlier in life you start teaching a pup what is expected of it the better, but the more it has to learn. With an older dog, there may be some bad habits they’ll have to ‘unlearn’. Early social experiences set the tone for a dog’s development into a dependable companion or a destructive nuisance.

**Training** Socialization Puppy Training (9-18 weeks.) will certainly mold the pup during its most impressionable period and helps provide an environment for learning positive associations with new people, places, experiences and other dogs. Patterns are set for life in these formative weeks. However it is essential that young dogs from 4 months to one year attend training classes.



**Cost** Besides training, there are other expenses incurred with dog ownership. After the initial purchase, the biggest portion will go toward veterinary and feeding bills. A high quality food costs more 'per bag' but is very cost effective in terms of better health and food efficiency (you feed less). Veterinary start-up costs, including immunizations and worming, Microchips are also required by law for identification is not cheap. Neutering and spaying usually takes place around 6 months. Semi-annual vet visits, heartworm testing and preventative medications, unexpected illnesses or accidents all add up! Then there is the control of internal and external parasites to consider (worms, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and mites etc.)

Grooming requires the proper tools to care for coat, ears, teeth, and nails. (For some breeds, there is the additional expense of a professional groomer 8-9 times a year.) Microchips are also required by law for identification.

Basic supplies include sturdy food and water bowls, leash and collar, bedding, cage, chew toys, food treats, indoor gates, outdoor fencing, kennels and housing.

Although lovable, puppies and dogs will create additional cleaning work around the home. (Accidents: diarrhea, urine, vomit), shedding hair, muddy paws, drool, tracked on floors and carpeting, nose prints on windows etc.) Responsible dog ownership dictates cleaning up dog garden waste, keeping dogs reasonably quiet and confined to their own property. Dogs are known for destructive chewing and digging holes. These problems can only be successfully dealt with through supervision and confinement and early puppy training (starting at two months.)

So, why on earth would anyone want a dog with all the work, time and expense of owning one? For many reasons, but the biggest one for most people is that they enjoy the loyalty and companionship of a

dog. Dogs like to play. Folks like the way they interact in the family, the way that the dog looks and the home security a properly trained dog can add. If you are willing to make a time commitment for the next 10 years (the average life span of a dog); knowing the responsibility and expense of owning a dog and fully aware of the likely negative elements involved, then, the next step would be to decide what kind of dog best fits into your lifestyle.

**Breeds** Do not make the drastic mistake of choosing a breed solely on its 'looks'. Although this is one consideration, the temperament, size, activity level and coat care are even more important considerations. Unfortunately a pup is sometimes chosen impulsively because it looked like a 'cute little teddy bear' and then the teddy grows up to me more like a 'grizzly' because the breed is a type bred for high levels of aggression. Or a pup may prove to have an energy level that requires more exercise and attention than can be provided.

**Research** Research the breeds that appeal to you. Libraries carry breed books and local veterinarians may be able to put you in touch with reputable breeders. Local dog shows allow you to view a variety of purebred dogs. Find out about the positive and the negative traits of each breed you are considering. Ask questions: How big do they get? How much grooming is required? How aggressive are they? How active? How much exercise is required? Are they good with children? Are allergies a consideration? Don't discount mixed breeds.

Good Luck with your new pet and come to training classes.

Article reprinted from [www.cyongo.com](http://www.cyongo.com).

—David the Dogman

**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](http://www.peppertree.org/store.htm)



# Peppertree Adoption Clinic Schedule

## 2004 PEPPERTREE ADOPTION CLINIC SCHEDULE:

<b>September 11th</b> LC Smith, Delmar 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>October 16th</b> PetsMart, Niskayuna 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>November 6th</b> Unleashed Pet Supplies, Wynantskill 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
<b>September 25th</b> PetsMart, Niskayuna 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>October 30th</b> LC Smith, Delmar 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>November 20th</b> PetsMart, Niskayuna 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 12th 2004 11:00am - 3:00pm  
**Additional Clinic at PetsMart, Niskayuna**  
 in conjunction with PetsMart Adopt-a-thon  
 — for further details visit our website. —

For locations of other Adoption Clinics:  
 Call our Voice-Mail 435-7425 or  
 consult 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  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!!!!**

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# To Have And To Hold ...

We all know the traditional wedding vows: "To have and to hold, from this day forward," "In sickness and in health, until death do us part." These statements do not apply solely to the bonds of marriage. They envelop any relationship that we take to heart and make part of our "home." When you choose to mesh your life with that of another, you take on the responsibility of loving and caring unconditionally for another being.

Think of these "vows" when you consider adopting a companion animal. Like humans, canines require and appreciate positive attention, direction, medical care as required, and a "partner" who is responsive to their needs.

When adopting a canine companion, look to the future and not just to the glory of today! Can I afford routine vet visits, bedding, food, preventative medications, toys, treats, training, and boarding if I am away? Most importantly, do I have time in my life to spend quality time with my new friend? Time, without reserve or resentment, for friends sharing fun times?

Not to take away from the glory of

adoption, but complications may arise. Illness may strike and accidents may occur; sadly, these are common hurdles we must overcome in the health and life of a canine. Be prepared to accept the responsibility and to provide the support, love and medical attention that you would provide a cherished human.

No one benefits, especially the canine, when an animal is discarded from a family because they "suddenly no longer have time to care," "illness struck and cannot be dealt with," or other issues arose that were not prepared for. It is the canine that suffers the most; at best, it is taken into a rescue group and, hopefully, some kind soul gives the balance of their heart to save a forlorn friend.

As an adopter, make it a priority to think through your decision to have a canine before you sign the adoption papers. Regular physicals by your pet's veterinarian are a must! Keep abreast of new treatments and preventatives for routine issues such as fleas, ticks, and worms. Plan ahead when introducing your canine to new situations such as camping trips and walks in rustic areas. Make sure your canine is protected from new and unusual diseases and parasites, and that your pet is properly socialized and trained so that he or she may better cope in these unfamiliar surroundings.

Purchase a comprehensive dog owners' manual for the home. Be aware of signs of impending illness - lack of appetite, excessive thirst, irregular elimination, frequent urination, lethargy, depression. Be responsive to your canines' communication of irregular behavior and contact your veterinarian.

Enlist in a CPR/First Aid course for animals, for this could save the life of your beloved! These courses provide a wealth of knowledge in first aid and emergency measures for animals. Time is not always on your side when an emergency strikes. Keep the local Poison Control phone number handy in the event your companion ingests a toxic material.

A most important yet often neglected measure to take is to make provisions for your canine when illness and/or death occur in your life. So often, beloved pets are left behind with no directive for their care; be responsible and ensure that your pal has a future when you need to leave this Earth.

The more thought put into one's decision to adopt a canine, the better the relationship is for both. It is truly a union "to have and to hold....from this day forward."

—Liz Ammian

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# Things We Can Learn From A Dog

*Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.*

*Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.*

*When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.*

*When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.*

*Let others know when they've invaded your territory.*

*Take naps and stretch before rising.*

*Run, romp, and play daily.*

*Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.*

*Be loyal.*

*Never pretend to be something you're not.*

*If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.*

*When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.*

*Thrive on attention and let people touch you.*

*Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.*

*On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under shady trees.*

*When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.*

*No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...run right back and make friends.*

*Bond with your pack.*

*Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.*

*If you stare at someone long enough, eventually you'll get what you want.*

*Don't go out without ID.*

*When you do something wrong, always take responsibility (as soon as you're dragged out from under the bed!)*

*If it's not sloppy, it's not a real kiss.*

*If at first you don't succeed, whine real loud.*

*Don't settle for cheap food.*

*Play nicely with others, but remind them that it's your toy.*

*Rainy days are best spent indoors.*

*When a loud thunderstorm comes at night, and the ones you need to impress with your bravery are asleep, it's okay to hide under the bed.*

—Author Unknown



**Remington** – Dogs come into the program from all walks of life. Remington was an older boy who had spent his life working as a search and rescue dog. In his twilight years it was time for some R&R, and with help from one of our most experienced foster Mom's, Joanne, Remington found his way into the hearts of a couple who were visiting one of our fund raising events, had recently lost their own dog and were open to fostering. After one week, Remington decided that he didn't want to be fostered anymore and he wanted to stay with them forever. His new foster family readily agreed and Remington was home.



**Kelsey & Clyde** – As our main focus is on larger dogs, it is always a humorous and fun change to help the “smaller” breeds of dogs. Sandra Lester works tirelessly against teasing from other members of the group to make sure that even those most vocal, little bundles of love have the same opportunities to find their forever families. Kelsey and Clyde were lucky enough to catch Sandra's eye (or ears) and, with her help, were able to be placed together with a loving new family.



**Jasmine** – We continue to be amazed at the wonderful work carried out at the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society, and when Jasmine was brought to our attention, we acted quickly to find her a new home. Jasmine had recently given birth to a litter of puppies that had all found homes and now Mom needed that little extra attention to find her own family. A little timid and shy, she quickly found her forever family after a very nice lady visited an adoption clinic and agreed to try fostering her at home. She never left.



**Rex** – There are times when the most perfect dogs can come in the plainest of packages, and this was Rex. Rex's elderly owner had passed away and there was no question that Rex was the quintessential Peppertree dog. But, at adoption clinics, nobody saw him! The Albany Times Union agreed to give this wonderful boy some help and featured him as a “Pet of the Week”. That was all it took for a family to spot him and decide that their home was going to be his home. We appreciate the efforts of all local publications who have been so instrumental in helping us to find homes for our special dogs.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.  
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[www.peppertree.org](http://www.peppertree.org)

*A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament*