



The Peppertree POST

2014 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.

Senior Moments...

By Elizabeth Floyd Mair

Reprinted with permission of The Times Union

My husband likes to joke that I'm "building a pet cemetery" because I now have two senior rescue dogs. But for me it's worked really well, choosing to adopt dogs who are older. I'd even go so far as to say that senior dogs have certain advantages over puppies.

First -- and I know this may sound cold -- but if you're a first-time dog owner like me, a senior dog is a little less of a commitment. For anyone who's unsure how well the dog will fit into the existing family dynamic, this can make it easier to take the plunge. You're not signing on for 20 years, but probably more like 5. I thought of my first senior dog as a "starter kit." She gave me and my family a chance to see if we would be happy with a dog in the house, and we gave her a second chance.

Second -- and this reason is very much less cold than the first -- you get a real joy from knowing that you have aligned yourself with the idea that each animal life is important and should be lived out with dignity.

There are practical benefits, too. The adage goes that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but the flip side is you probably won't have to. Senior dogs usually come already housebroken and knowing the basic commands like "sit" and "stay." Don't like the thought of training a dog, or don't have time to go to obedience classes? With a senior dog, you may not have to.

Senior dogs, just like senior citizens, also often take life at a slower pace. So if Frisbee throwing, beach running and agility training are not your cup of tea, and you'd prefer to snuggle on the couch with a warm body watching the latest episode of Law and Order SVU, a senior may be the ticket. Energy level will, of course, differ with each breed, and it's important to research the breeds you're interested in, but I know that my toy poodle and beagle are both content with one quarter-mile walk in the morning and another in the evening (as well as time spent in the fenced yard), and like to round out the rest of the day snoozing on one or the other of the dog beds (I do all my writing to the rhythmic snuffle of a beagle's snores).

Some people might think taking on a senior dog means taking on someone else's problems. They might think that any dog



that was given up was probably hard to handle. But a quick perusal of the senior dogs available on petfinder.com (a search for available dogs, with the parameters set on senior) will show that many senior dogs are housebroken, trained and friendly, and have simply wound up without a home through no fault of their own: often the reason is death of a long-time owner, or a family's move, or a change in fortunes (particularly in this economy).

I adopted my toy poodle, Allie, a few years ago when she was 11. Her owner had passed away, and the owner's daughter had brought her to the groomer and never returned. Beagle Lucky joined us a few months ago from a local shelter where her family had left her when she was 10 years old and pregnant (she had an emergency C-section -- just one puppy survived -- and she was finally spayed).

The dogs get along very well and have both settled in as if they've always been here. Some people say they wouldn't want a senior pet because they would be so sad when it passed away, but I think that mostly I'll be glad for the time I've had with them.

Finally, and this seems to me the most important way that a senior dog is better than a puppy: A senior reminds us of the vulnerability of all living creatures. There is something particularly soulful about the eyes of an old dog.

7th Annual Furry Fun Run Our Biggest Ever!

Saturday April 12th dawned cool and gloriously sunny, quite a welcome change from last year's gray drizzle. Peppertree's Furry Fun Run 5K is becoming a bona fide event for runners and for local dog lovers!

We had a new record of 201 participants and there were many Peppertree alumni among them, something the volunteers always love seeing. Bandit, Ruby, Robbie and Tango, Lola, Lars were some of the familiar faces. Chai, now Timber, the Golden from China, with adopter Alan Finder finished in third place. Once again Eric Morse and Murdock the mighty Westie, came in first with a time of 17 minutes and 10 seconds. Wow! And we extend special thanks and congratulations to our top fundraisers, Mallory Baringer, Colleen Martin and Angelina Cadena.

We raised over \$9000, \$1500 more than last year, and it was only possible through the very hard work of the Fundraising Committee, with its leader and motivator Alissa Barnett. Community donations of water, fruit, and granola bars were much appreciated and enjoyed by the thirsty and hungry folks after they crossed the finish line.

Thank you to all who attended and supported this important fundraising event, including our donors and sponsors, Fleet Feet, Benson's Pet Center, Oliver's Way, Albany Crossfit, Vent Fitness, Saratoga Water, A Natural Way Cafe, Bella Napoli, Hannaford, Topricin, and PureVita/Nutrisource. Special thanks to Stephanie Bartik at Upstate NY Photography for donating her time and skills at the finish line.

Please see page 6 for pictures of this wonderful event.

Peppertree Garage Sale a Win-Win For Shoppers And Dogs



"One Person's Trash is Another's Treasure" as the adage goes, and this was well proven on a recent sunny Saturday when the Buttaci family of Averill Park generously offered up their driveway for a yard sale to benefit Peppertree.

Other volunteers donated lots of "stuff" and special thanks go out to Sue Howard, Teresa Jurdy, Patrice O'Connor, and Cindy Welch. They organized and set up the day before as well as running things on the day of the sale.

We were very pleased to make \$525 from this endeavor, every penny of which goes back to help more great dogs.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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

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THE MEAT OF THE MATTER

By Teresa Jurdy

Have you ever considered feeding your dog a raw diet? As if it weren't already overwhelming enough for a dog owner to try to decide between the seemingly endless options in kibbles and canned foods, the availability of many new frozen raw meat diets for dogs makes raw feeding an easier and more convenient option for dog owners wishing to serve their pets a more nutritious meal. While many people prefer to buy their dog's raw food from a grass-fed farm, others find it to be too expensive and time consuming to go the farm route.

The good news is that many premium pet supply stores now have freezers and stock a variety of raw meat-based foods for dogs and cats. You can also order from many internet pet supply companies that will ship the food frozen in an insulated shipping box, right to your door. I buy from a farm and also order the pre-packaged frozen diets from a few different trusted companies that produce and ship it. Darwin's Raw Pet Food is wonderful for people new to the concept of feeding raw, and I am now feeding it to my dogs.

The bad news is that these products vary widely in quality, formulation and price. Discerning consumers should know what they are looking for and use the products wisely in order for their dogs to receive the full benefits of this feeding method. Those who are new to this concept should ideally discuss the idea and plan an appropriate diet with their holistic veterinarian or a professional veterinary nutritional consultant who has experience with raw diets. It may not be right for your particular dog, although most dogs seem to transition quite well from commercial kibble to raw whole foods.

Some of the currently available raw meat pet foods are intended to be used solely as the meat component of a meat-based diet; pet owners add vegetables and supplements as they see fit. Most experienced "raw feeders" know that a complete diet that is based on raw meats should contain a mix of mostly muscle tissue with a small but important addition of organ tissues



(heart and liver) and bone, as well as vegetables. Only the most dedicated raw feeders are willing to buy meat and bones in bulk and then grind it to make a complete food for their dogs, so commercial sources of meat that include the bone and veggies are worth the cost to many of us.

Of course there are safety precautions that should be practiced to protect you and your family from bacteria found in raw meat, but the chance of a dog getting sick from bacteria like E-coli or salmonella is very slim because freezing reportedly kills these bacteria and because dogs are equipped with powerful stomach acids that can kill harmful bacteria.

Some of the producers of these prepared raw diets believe there is no harm in mixing the raw food with kibble if that makes it more affordable. This is especially useful during the introduction of feeding the raw food, but the goal of raw feeding is to ultimately eliminate the cooked processed foods altogether.

While some dog owners may feel that the cost of feeding meat is too expensive and complicated, I personally have been feeding my dogs a primarily raw diet for more than 20 years, and while I am committed to spending the money for better quality food, I have never spent one penny on the usual vet visits for fleas, hot spots and yucky smelly ears. Pet owners who choose a raw diet feel that the benefits we see in our pets' overall health outweigh any inconvenience or cost. As with all things, it is a personal choice, and being armed with as much information as possible helps in the decision. Do your homework by reading about the pros and cons of feeding raw - there are many articles and books available to help you educate yourself.

*Peppertree volunteer Teresa Jurdy is not a canine nutritionist, but feeds her own dogs primarily a raw meat/bone diet, with the addition of other fresh foods.

*The information in this article has been compiled from several articles featured in the Whole Dog Journal.



Peppertree Volunteer Spotlight

Meet - Katy Harmon

Occupation: student at University of Connecticut

How long have you been volunteering with Peppertree, and what are your

volunteering roles? Around ten years. We've been an active foster home for a long time, my mom and I fostered 26 dogs in 2013. I don't foster so much now that I'm living in Connecticut, but I'm still active on the Intake Committee. When I'm home, I help with transport and off-clinic evaluations. I worked as a Craigslist liaison for over a year, and brought in 12 dogs, of which we personally fostered eight.

Name and breed of dogs in your family? I have some family dogs at home, but my baby is Fievel, my little Chihuahua who lives with me at school.

Any other animals in the home? My European Starling, Babylon. My high school chorus teacher found him in the closet at 3 days old and we couldn't get him back to the nest. So I took him to work with me at the Delmar Animal Hospital and after two months of trying and failing to teach him the mystical ways of the bird, we finally realized he had imprinted on me. Everyone is impressed by how social he is. He loves people, and doesn't understand why he can't build a nest in my hair. He's my wild child.

How or why did you come to be a Peppertree volunteer? My mom started fostering when I was a few months old, and joined Peppertree not long after it formed. I don't have any distinct memories of working with a different rescue. I was very shy at that age, so she started bringing me to clinics with her. I became comfortable at clinics, and it just sort of ran amuck from there.

What surprised you most about rescue once you became more involved? Honestly, I would say the things that have surprised me the most are the misconceptions about rescue. The biggest one would have to be the myth that many rescue dogs are "bad" and you have to get a puppy to "raise it right." I just never understood that.

Do you have a favorite breed? If so what is it? Chihuahuas! They're tenacious, extremely affectionate, and loyal to a fault. I just adore them.

What is your favorite activity to do with your dog(s)? Long walks, cuddling, and being silly. I love seeing their personalities come out.

Does one Peppertree dog stick out in your mind? Besides the ones we adopted, I'd say Jude, one of my all-time favorites.

Mom specifically told me not to bring home any more dogs, because we had just finished raising a litter of puppies. I took our current foster to the clinic and Jude was there, being the most well-behaved puppy I've ever seen. Then someone had to tell me he didn't have a foster home...well. That was the end of that! I took him to visit a family friend with me later that week, because I was afraid he would bark if I left him alone. As soon as I walked in the door, she was all over him. She adopted him and hopes to make him a therapy dog.

What was the most memorable catastrophe that your dog(s) caused? Oh boy. Well, Jake ate the Wii, but I think the worst was when our neighbor left the yard gate open. Jake, Phoenix, and Reuben went charging through the gate and ran up onto his deck – where he had prepared a romantic dinner for his wife. Needless to say, it was destroyed in seconds. The dogs were thrilled, he was furious, and his wife thought the whole thing was hilarious. We all laugh about it now, but it was so awkward and embarrassing at the time!

Pose a question for the next person in the volunteer spotlight. What was your favorite Peppertree moment? A rescue non-coincidence, maybe a favorite adoption story?





Benson's Pet Center



A Natural Way Cafe



Albany Crossfit



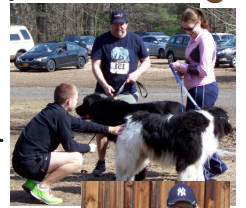
Thank you to our sponsors, donors and supporters!

2014 Furry Fun Run

Oliver's Way



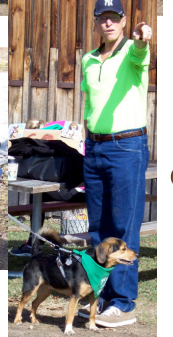
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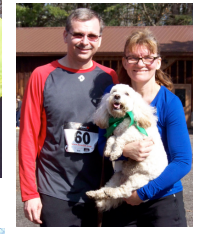
Bella Napoli



Saratoga Water



Saratoga Water



Stephanie Bartik at Upstate NY Photography for donating her time and skills at the finish line





SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us Sunday, September 14th at Cook Park's Sharon Pavilion in the Village of Colonie for our annual Alumni Picnic to celebrate Peppertree dogs! You do not need to have a Peppertree dog, or any dog, to attend. All are welcome at this event.

There will be good food and fun from noon to 3pm - Chef Grimaldi's famous grilled chicken, homemade veggie burgers, hamburgers, hot dogs, and many delicious sides - plus homemade apple crisp for dessert! And if you have not had a chance to stop by a clinic and gotten some of our great new Peppertree shirts or merchandise, they will be available there as well.

Just \$12 for adults, \$5 for children, and \$30 for a family package of two adults and two children. While RSVPs are not necessary, they are appreciated. Just e-mail ptalumnicpicnic@peppertree.org and let us know if you are coming, and if you would like the vegetarian option. This helps us plan!



Not sure where Cook Park is? Directions are available here:
<http://www.colonievillage.org/youth/index.htm>

And while you've got your calendar out, before you know it, it will be time for Peppertree's 8th annual Spaghetti Dinner!

Saturday, November 15th from 5pm to 7:30pm

Take-out begins at 4:30 pm

Cohoes Multi-Service Senior Citizen Center, Inc.
10 Cayuga Plaza, Cohoes, NY.

\$12 for adults, \$5 for children,
children 5 and under eat for free!

Meals include spaghetti with meat sauce,
meatballs and sausage, fresh Italian bread,
Caesar salad, beverage and homemade dessert.

Vegetarian marinara or pesto option also available.



Won't you join us?

Thank you, DDAF!

We have mentioned in past newsletters that the Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) has awarded Peppertree several grants to help us help provide proper veterinary care prior to dogs prior to being placed in adoptive homes. Stella is one of the many dogs whose medical expenses were paid for in part by funds received from the DDAF.



Stella

Written by Matt and Mary H., Foster Parents

Peppertree, with financial help from The DDAF, rescues dogs of good temperament. Breed, size, age and health are irrelevant to us. If it's a good dog we say "yes", and believe it when we tell you that Stella was a good dog.

But Stella, a gorgeous three year old St. Bernard, was in very rough shape. She had a torn ACL, heartworm disease and was grossly overweight. At one point she was even scheduled for euthanasia until a caring veterinarian convinced her owners to seek help from a rescue group. Peppertree gladly took her, but it would be quite some time before she would be anywhere near adoptable.

Stella needed to be in a calm and accessible environment as she went through all her vetting. We came across her lovable mug on the Peppertree Facebook page, as the call went out to find her a suitable foster home. We had adopted before from Peppertree, and were now considering fostering. Our whole family fell in love with Stella, and jumped at the chance of opening our home and our hearts to this gentle giant.

Stella came home with us and immediately started her heartworm treatment. We also put her on a strict diet because

at 150 pounds she needed to lose at least 30 pounds. We had to wait until Stella completed her heartworm injections before we could schedule the ligament surgery. At times it was tough because the injections took a lot out of her, and Stella was not the type of dog to stay still. We made her as comfortable as we could, and limited her activity as much as we could, too, as heartworm treatment protocol requires.

After the heartworm was treated, she then faced TPLO surgery for the torn ligament in her back leg. Surprisingly, Stella was back up on her feet fairly soon with a towel as a makeshift sling to help her stand when she had to go to the bathroom. We slowly introduced more activity as her leg healed. Through it all Stella was an angel, plain and simple, even with all the injections and surgery. We had heard that the surgery might involve long nights with supervision, but Stella was a great patient. She even enjoyed the follow-up visits to the vet and surgeon.

After 6 months in our home Stella was thinner, healthy and ready for adoption. She loved everyone - kids, cats, and dogs alike. She followed us everywhere, and would love to just sit right next to people, grabbing any attention she could get. She would probably jump on your lap if allowed. She was definitely hard to let go, and we even toyed with the idea of keeping her. But such a love bug deserved someone who had more time for her.

Stella then became a TV star, appearing on Steve Caporizzo's Pet Connection. Steve showed her off and gave adoption information. The calls and adoption applications for Stella flooded in but it was hard to say who would be the right home for her.

One application stood out from the rest. Paulette, a recently widowed retiree, had been waiting for the right dog to be her treasured companion. She recently lost her last St. Bernard, Nicholas. She drove down to see Stella at our home right away. It was love at first sight – for her and for Stella. The big gal immediately jumped onto the couch to sit with Paulette while we talked, melting into her like she had known her all her life. She even went for a quick walk and was ready to jump into the back of her car.

The rest, as they say, is history. Now Stella enjoys long walks and occasional ice cream with her new mom, along with all the love and attention she could possibly want. Oh, and of course, lots of cuddle time!

Paulette puts it this way: "Stella has fit right in with my grandkids and friends. Now I can join with my friends and their dogs as they attend concerts in the park or just nice walks on one of local bike trails."

Stella Financials: Vet costs, \$5,010, after adoption fee, cost to Peppertree \$4,810.

Editor's note: You can read about more dogs helped by the DDAF on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DDAF.org>



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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Dear Jenny,

I am a five year old indoor cat. I do love the taste of outdoors and this spring I ate a piece of my mom's English Ivy plant. I had a bad stomachache and mom had to bring me to the vet's office. Could you please research harmful plants so I don't make this mistake again? I have a young mixed breed dog friend named Malcolm who also likes to sample plants outside and I'd like to share this list with him also.

Yours With Purrs, Lester

Dear Lester,

My condolences on your unfortunate choice of snack foods and subsequent vet visit. Now is the season for gardening and plants are flourishing indoors and outside. Here is a list of the most common plants which are toxic or poisonous to cats and dogs:

Azalea/rhododendron, tulip/narcissus bulbs, amaryllis, chrysanthemum, English ivy, schefflera, begonia, cyclamen, daffodil, and hosta.

Please warn your canine friend about the dangers of nibbling on plants. Many of these look wonderful and even taste good but they should never be eaten.

Your feline friend,
Jennyanydots

Jennyanydots is a 14 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.

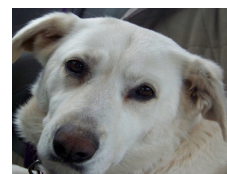


To subscribe to the Peppertree Post, visit <http://www.peppertree.org/newsletters>.

To correct an address or unsubscribe, please email rescue@peppertree.org 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?