



The Peppertree POST

2015 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.

Our Friend, Cydney Cross

While we like to believe that all Peppertree dogs are wonderful, we do have to admit they are not always perfect. Part of what rescues do is take an imperfect dog and find it the perfect home. This can take a lot of time and energy on the part of our fosters as well as on our adopters. While we have a wealth of experience represented among our volunteers, sometimes we need some help and have to call in the experts. Cydney Cross, founder of Crossroads for Dogs, is one of those experts, and she has been an amazing and invaluable resource for us at Peppertree. Below you will find the stories of three special dogs that found three special homes, but needed some help from Cydney to make them be perfect matches.



TANNON

by Alissa Barnett

Young Tannon was a diamond in the rough. This two-year old pit bull had a rough start in life, having been abandoned in a house in Schenectady. Other rescues saw his potential and recommended that Peppertree take him into our program.



Tannon was a big love who certainly possessed the qualities of a Peppertree dog, but needed some training so he could curb his enthusiasm in social and home situations. This little guy had been returned from an adoptive home and two trial placements because he was too high energy. Cyd did some private sessions to help him out, and was kind of like a Fairy Godmother to Tannon, there to offer advice when we needed her. Tannon's life would likely have turned out much differently had it not been for Cyd.

His foster family enrolled him in Cyd's Canine Good Citizen class to teach him skills that would make him a welcome part of a family. Tannon was a quick study who learned commands like sit, wait, down, and leave it. Cyd and her trainers offered him lots of positive reinforcement in class and gave him and his foster family confidence that he could pass the test. Cyd was

Tannon's biggest champion, and everyone was thrilled when he passed with flying colors. Just a few weeks later, he was adopted for the last time. Tannon now lives in a wonderful home with his sister Abby, also a Peppertree alum.

RILEY

by Rhea Drysdale

Riley came to us as a potential adoption, because he fit the profile of the perfect family dog. What wasn't in the profile was the true personality of Riley, which didn't come through until we exposed him to many different experiences. In those moments we saw incredible potential, but a combination of personality traits that would require an immense amount of training and exercise from any owner.



Cyd must have recognized this potential in Riley as well--a gorgeous, injured puppy in need of love and a lap to sit on. His excitement towards other dogs was significant and he picked up on nervous behavior from other humans quickly. This made him bark and struggle, losing any responsiveness to treats or commands. Despite these hurdles, Riley was a sponge with training and took to commands quickly. He required a calm,

confident owner who could exercise and socialize him daily.

Cyd went out of her way to make our potential situation the absolute best case scenario, giving us the tools and techniques we needed to determine if this was right for both Riley and us. She came to our office to assist in the training of our team on how best to interact with Riley. She also readily exchanged texts when we had specific questions. Had we moved forward with Riley, he would have attended the Canine Good Citizen obedience training course Cyd teaches (we ultimately took the course with another Peppertree dog Cyd had found as well who is now a permanent member of our family).

While Riley wasn't the right fit for our home, he ultimately found his forever family, and we know it wouldn't have been possible without the experience and dedication Cyd has to locating exceptional pups in need of a chance and proper training. We're thankful we got to help Riley on his journey and know we wouldn't have met Riley (or Sully, our dog now) without Cyd's incredible hand in selecting the right dogs for Peppertree and the community.

MAPLE

by Debbie Armbruster

Our canine companion of five years passed away suddenly in February. We were devastated. The house (despite four cats) seemed empty.

We decided to start looking after



a few weeks. Adopting through Peppertree was a no-brainer! I have been friends for several years with a PT volunteer, and I trust her judgment implicitly. Peppertree rescues great dogs, so it was only natural that we'd find our next great dog with their help.

I had a lot of expectations going into the process. Dog wanted: Young(-ish), moderate energy, great with cats, kids and adults, and with a temperament for therapy certification. We attended an adoption clinic and met some very sweet dogs, but no perfect match. Two PT foster Moms were open to meeting with us outside of a clinic, and we ended up meeting two lovely girls in one day, one of whom was Maple.

Maple has a fantastic personality - goofy and sweet, amazingly good with children, eager to please. She has some health issues, but nothing that cannot be monitored and treated. She is a wonderful girl! I am told that she was ill when she was first placed with her foster Mom, and that her energy was relatively low. She also got along well with her cat (read: left it pretty much alone), so we decided to take the plunge.

As it turned out, Maple was feeling much better by the time she came to our house. Moderate energy level? Nope. Maple was a complete goof! She ran sprints around the house, chased the cats, wanted to play non-stop. Maple was a bit "more dog" than we had bargained for, but we could adjust.

The cats were really the big issue. There are four of them, and, while they got along to varying degrees with our other dog, they were not keen on Ms. Maple. Our other dog was a fly-by kind of girl. "Hey, Cat! Want to hang out? No... That's cool. I'll try you later!" Not Mape. She is a bit more persistent. When she started trying to catch the cats, or pin them with her giant dinosaur feet, I became concerned and started to rethink the whole Maple adoption idea.

Peppertree's two week trial placement is fantastic! It allowed us the time to see if Maple (and we) could get it together in terms of "Kitty/Canine Harmony". To help us in the process, Peppertree called on the services of Cydney Cross, an incredible person and amazing dog behavioral interpreter. She evaluated Maple in our home, gave us tips and tricks to use when goofy moments arose, and helped my husband and I see how our behavior could influence the path to better Cat/Dog relations.

A month in, and Maple is great. We made the right decision and have added a truly spectacular canine member to the family. She is still a work in progress, but Maple is the dog for us. Without Peppertree's willingness to answer our many questions and to bring in Cydney, Maple would probably have gone on to another family. I cannot express how grateful I am that everyone at Peppertree was as supportive as they were during this process. Thank you for this wonderful dog!

If you are interested in contacting Cydney Cross, please call 766-4766 or visit www.facebook.com/CrossRoadsforDogs.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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

P.O. Box 2396, Albany, NY 12220

Voice-Mail (518) 435-7425

rescue@peppertree.org | www.peppertree.org

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A "Series of Fortunate Events" for Bella and Peppertree

by Karen Harmon

One thing we all have learned in rescue work is that you have to be flexible, go with the flow, keep a sense of humor. Rescue work can be unpredictable and stressful, but in addition to saving dogs, it gives us great stories to reminisce about and laugh over as we work together to benefit dogs and their adopters. Initial setbacks often turn out to be, in hindsight, a lucky turn of events with consequences much bigger than you can imagine. Such is the case with Bella the American Bulldog.

I remember the day in May 2008 when I met Bella. I had agreed to meet a transport from Georgia at a New York State Thruway rest stop outside of Albany. The plan was to pick up two male Labrador mix puppies to foster, and although I don't remember all of the details, somehow I ended up with four dogs in a van that I had not intended to drive.

I was supposed to take our old Jeep Cherokee to meet the dogs, but brake problems made it necessary to take the very old Ford Econoline van my husband inherited when his father died. He was a bit incredulous when I told him that I was in a bind and asked him if he could stop his work project to drive me to pick up two dogs. He begrudgingly agreed, and off we went.

We met the transporter as planned, despite the vehicle swap. She had already dropped off multiple dogs to other rescue groups along her route North; we were her last stop and she was very tired and anxious to head back. She opened up the doors of her big trailer and pointed to the two Labrador mix puppies we were supposed to take. They were riding together in one crate, and were both so shy that we had to literally pry them out of their crate and transfer them into our crate in the Econoline van. My husband, Mr. Impatient, who never intended to come with me in the first place, thought we were done and was ready to go, but I had to break the news to him that we also were supposed to transport a female pitbull mix back to Peppertree. He sighed, and we put her in our van too.

As we prepared to leave, something made me ask the transporter if everything had worked out for all of the dogs she brought up from the South. I was surprised when she said, "No, I am taking back one dog with me because the rescue group turned her away." She added that the dog was strongly heartworm positive, but that an individual had promised to pay for the expensive treatment. I asked if I could see the dog, so she pointed to a large crate where a subdued American Bulldog lay. The transporter opened the crate and the dog, a sad, white dog with black freckles and protruding ribs, walked out for a potty break in the grass.

Wondering whether one more delay would put my beleaguered husband over the edge, I asked the transport driver if she would mind if I made a quick phone call. I tried two different num-

bers before reaching our Board President. I assured her that an individual had promised to pay for the heartworm treatment if a rescue group took her. Luckily, softhearted Betsy said, "O.K., our treasurer may kill me, but let's take her." I broke the news to my husband that we were taking a fourth dog in the van and we loaded her in.

That was Bella the American Bulldog's backdoor entrance into the Peppertree family. The person who promised to pay for the heartworm treatment ended up not paying after all, so Peppertree absorbed the bill of nearly \$1,000 to treat Bella and nurse her back to health.

So why was this "a series of fortunate events?" If the brakes had not failed on our Jeep that night, the car would have been too small to bring Bella back to Peppertree. If my husband had not been home, I would not have been able to drive the dilapidated, but spacious Econoline van to meet the transport. If I had not asked the transporter about the status of all of the dogs, I would not have known about Bella's plight in being returned to the South, where she might have been euthanized.

Bella's good fortune continued. Soon she met Michele Anderson and her family, who originally came to meet another dog, but when they saw Bella they knew she was the dog for them. It was not always easy. Michele comments, "You know, for the first six months to a year, Bella really only bonded with the kids and animals. She even tried to live in the kid's playhouse outside. Then all of a sudden, she became my best friend. I still remember how happy it made me! She's a wonderful girl." With love and patience, Bella became a permanent member of the Anderson family, but her story does not end there.

As the Anderson family continued to volunteer, they started to focus on fostering puppies, and that is where Bella showed her true talent. Through the Anderson family, Bella has taken on the important job of puppy-raising and has become a very valuable member of both Peppertree Rescue and Out of the Pits. Bella is a natural mother, offering countless puppies the love, comfort and patience she needed during her own transition - although she also knows when to draw the line, possibly her most valuable gift. With the help of Dunkin, her adopted pit bull brother, she has been the solid base for countless puppy piles. Bella, who almost did not have a chance at a home, has gone on to help many puppies find homes of their own, creating a true rescue legacy.



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Peppertree Volunteer Spotlight

Meet - Rob and Corina Baugh

Occupation: Rob works for New York State in the Office For People With Developmental Disabilities. Corina is a French teacher at Farnsworth Middle School in Guilderland and also speaks Spanish and Romanian. Their two daughters are professional children who have devoted their lives to their work!

How long have you been volunteering with Peppertree, and what are your volunteering roles? We began volunteering for Peppertree on Memorial Day weekend, 2014. Since that time, we have fostered six dogs.

Name and breed of dogs in your family? Our dog's name is Sammy. He is 18 months old. His mother had lots of Beagle in her. His dad is unknown, but perhaps was a German Short Haired Pointer. That is what Sammy most resembles, according to our informal research.

Any other animals in the home? No other animals at this time.

How or why did you come to be a Peppertree volunteer? We were at Pet-A-Palooza in Scotia last year, and finally following through with an idea Corina had suggested, submitted our name to a different fostering agency. They said they would get right back to us in a few days. Well...they didn't. Some time later, our youngest daughter and Rob were at Bark in the Park at Cook's Park in Colonie. There were lots of dog rescue tables and for some reason we approached the Peppertree table, struck up a conversation, and eventually relayed our previous experience with the agency from Pet-A-Palooza. A friendly Peppertree volunteer (I do not know who) said "We'll call you back!" And they did! The other agency called a few months later, but it was way too late. Thank you, Peppertree.

We became volunteers because we love dogs, wanted to provide a companion dog for Sammy to help him burn off some of his puppy energy (this has pretty much proven ineffective, by the way!) and to introduce our daughters to, and instill in them a sense of, community service. Fostering provides an awesome counterbalance to all the influences kids are subject to these days. It involves no sugar, no electronics, great people, and minimal cost! We would recommend it to any parent.

What surprised you most about rescue once you became more involved? People will tell us that they could never be fosters, and give us such nice compliments, but we think it is the easiest thing ever. Fostering has blended seamlessly into our lives.

Do you have a favorite breed? If so what is it? Beagles, beagles, beagles. But our favorite dog is any dog we have right now.

What is your favorite activity to do with your dog(s)? Walking the dogs. It makes them so happy when we pick up the leashes (and plastic bags!)

Does one Peppertree dog stick out in your mind? We fostered Riley for 4-5 months. His is an epic story of persevering over physical and emotional challenges. Riley and Sammy were roughly the same age, size, and mentality. They were truly brothers by circumstance, playing like crazy, joyously barking at the neighbors, going for walks together, and making new friends. We love all the dogs we have had. Cabot really challenged Rob's resolve to not adopt anymore dogs. It may take awhile, if ever, before we forget about him. Tannon was simply a beautiful dog; amazingly athletic. If he was human he would be a great basketball player. Abby was with us just a few days. She was just too much dog for Sammy at the time, but we quickly fell in love with her perfect temperament. Mack was a retriever mix who was here for a few weeks. He actually was a great influence on Sammy and showed off the best qualities labs and retrievers are known for. He loved to cuddle. Recently we had Gia for a weekend. She has awesome potential and we are really rooting for her to land in the right home.

What was your favorite Peppertree moment? A rescue non-coincidence, maybe a favorite adoption story? When we first met Riley, he made an absolutely awful impression on us: barking wildly, trying to bite Sammy in the face, (that seemed to be his "handshake"), just seemingly unable to control himself. Rob was questioning our decision to even foster dogs at all. Riley's foster, Nichole, and Rob walked the dogs in the neighborhood, trying to acclimate the dogs to one another. Nichole was going on vacation and needed a place for Riley to stay for a week, maybe longer. After fifteen minutes, it still wasn't looking good. Nichole was about to get back in her car and find other accommodations for Riley. Someone had the idea of giving the dogs a little freedom in our fenced in backyard. Maybe keeping them on the leash wasn't the way to go. After a few minutes of gradually loosening the reins, the two dogs were playing like littermates. And they continued to do so for months. It was a great lesson in not judging a "pit bull" by its cover, and giving dogs an opportunity to show us they can often resolve things on their own.

Pose a question for the next person in the volunteer spotlight. Have you successfully fostered a dog that initially looked like it would not be a good fit for your household, and how did you assist it in overcoming these hurdles?





Save the Date!

Please join us Sunday, October 4th 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, so e-mail ptalumnipicnic@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 at <http://www.colonievillage.org/youth/index.htm>

And while you've got your calendar out....

Peppertree's **9th annual Spaghetti Dinner** will be

Saturday, November 14th from 5-7:30pm, take-out begins at 4:30.

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. Hope to see you there!

Fluff's Training Corner - Agility

By Alissa Barnett



Agility - the word likely has you envisioning zipping border collies and flying terriers, but it can be just as much fun for an 86 lb, 11 year old Akita mix and her out of shape owner. There is no typical agility dog. In class we met Yorkies, pit bulls, labs, Norwich Terriers, Chinook Shepherds, something little and fluffy and a lot of awesome All-American Mixed Breeds like

Fluff. All learning, having fun, and bonding. We all started slow with running through a short tunnel and jumping over small jumps, learning obstacle by obstacle – some excelled at jumps, others loved the tunnel, one pit bull seemed to really enjoy the seesaw and making it bang. We taught Fluff to take “touch” from touching our hands to touching touch pads, and Fluff went from treat-filled pad to pad, quickly learning that completing the obstacle led to a whole lot of praise and treats. Next thing I knew, Fluff was walking on the dog walk without me coaxing her up, and then she is doing things one after another without demanding a treat each time – we were doing agility!

You may be thinking agility is for young, confident dogs but I assure you all types of dogs can do agility. Your dog has a touch of arthritis? Your dog is scared of the tunnel? No worries, Fluff has those same issues and she got to do things at her own speed, with a lot of praise, encouragement, and, well, cheese. Fluff really loves cheese, Fluff climbed an A-frame for cheese. But there were benefits besides fun and cheese. *(Continued)*

Agility rewards a dog for checking in with their handler. Fluff needed to check in with me to know what came next, she had to not only listen for my voice, she also had to look for my hand signals and be aware of where I was. Once Fluff realized that checking in with me meant she got cheese, keeping an eye on Mom became her highest priority! And that carried over outside of the class. We may not have been working on obedience but I credit agility with helping Fluffy pass the Therapy Dog International certification test, it helped her learn to relax and have fun while listening, and it gave her confidence about things that are not ordinary to dogs. Big noises and running kids were nothing compared to the bang of the seesaw. Many owners turn to agility as an outlet for an energetic dog, or as a job for a dog that needs to work, and I saw it do amazing things for those types of dogs. But, it also did a lot for a dog that does not fit the typical agility mold – agility made Fluff more comfortable and confident.

Fluffy says:

Fellow canines, be warned, your owner may ask you to do some really strange things in agility class. Like, I had to walk on this tiny bridge 4 feet in the air when I could have gotten to the same place on the floor! And she kept asking me to go on this thing that moved. The floor should not be moving! People are weird sometimes. But Mom was by my side and made sure I never got hurt. Her teacher told her that the important thing is never to force a dog to do something. If you do, and they get scared or hurt, it makes them even more reluctant to do it the next time. I had fun because Mom always let me decide whether or not I would do each activity, and when I decided to do it she was always waiting for me at the end with a lot of cheese and praise.

Fleas and Ticks - ICK!

by Joan Trombini

Dogs can now be screened for Heartworm, Lyme, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis with one simple blood test, the SNAP 4DX Plus. Your veterinarian can perform this test with results available in as little as eight minutes, giving you an opportunity to detect and treat these harmful diseases in their earliest stages.

According to the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) in New York State, 1 in every 200 dogs tested positive for heartworm. Dogs contract this deadly disease from infected mosquitos. Although the new treatment protocol is less harsh than it was in the past, it is still a lengthy, painful, expensive and risky treatment. If not detected early, permanent heart or pulmonary artery damage or even death may be the result. Dogs with heartworm may show no symptoms until its late stages, or they may present with symptoms such as coughing and intolerance to exercise. Heartworm can easily be prevented with the use of monthly heartworm medication.

Ehrlichiosis, Lyme and Anaplasmosis are serious, debilitating tick-borne diseases. According to the CAPC, as many as 1 in 9 dogs in New York State will test positive for one of these diseases each year. Lyme disease can sometimes be deadly if not detected early, especially for Labrador and Golden Retrievers. Dogs can present with any one of a dozen or so different symptoms such as lameness, fever, loss of appetite and lethargy. Do you think that ticks can't survive the cold weather? Think again! They typically retreat into leaf litter and climb out whenever the temperatures rise above freezing. Routine vaccination against Lyme disease is not considered very effective and not worth the risk. Monthly preventatives provide a higher level of protection with the most effective ones available at your veterinarian's office.

Yearly SNAP 4DX Plus tests along with monthly heartworm and tick preventatives will provide your dog with the highest level of protection from dangerous heartworm and tick-borne diseases.

While we hate the thought of the creepy little critters, living in the Northeast with our 4 footed friends means that fleas, ticks and mosquitoes are a fact of life affecting us all. There are a number of products available at a range of expense and methods of administering them to our pets. When choosing, owners need to consider cost per month, indication of usage (fleas only or a multiple organism product), any health problems of your pet, and the method of administration you prefer. The most important thing to remember is to let your veterinarian guide you on what product is best suited for your pet's needs.

Flea and tick products come in three forms: topical, oral and collars. Several of these handle more than one pest, and some kill common intestinal worms as well. A chart of available products can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/preventative-comparison>. Although many products are available at pet stores, over the counter and through the mail, getting prevention products and guidance from your veterinary clinic is often best since it means your vet trusts the product. If there is a problem, such as an adverse reaction, the vet has a relationship with the company making the product and can advocate for your pet. Getting prescription products from online pharmacies can be appealing, but often they are getting the product through a third-party so caution should be used. Make sure you are getting the authentic product and not a "same as" product which can be dangerous to your pet.



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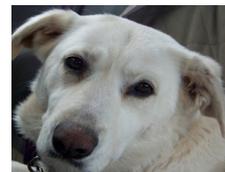
Peppertree Rescue is a grateful recipient of a generous grant from the ASPCA New York City Veterinary Emergency Care Fund to help care for dogs with upper respiratory illness pulled from the New York City shelter system. URIs are highly contagious in crowded shelters and dogs can become quite ill and even get pneumonia, so it has been a financial burden on Peppertree to care for some of these dogs when we commit to bringing them in to our program from the New York City shelters. Thank you to the ASPCA for all they do!



To subscribe to the Peppertree Post, visit 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?