



*A Rescue For  
Dogs Of  
Good Temperament*

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**Officers**

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Deborah Moon, Secretary  
Tara Miller, Treasurer

December, 2014

Dear Friend of Peppertree,

As another year of rescuing dogs in need comes to a close, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished. We know there are many deserving not-for-profit organizations, so we appreciate your support of Peppertree. Every penny goes to the direct care of the dogs we rescue and adopt out. This allows us to reach out to other organizations that share our mission.

The Capital District is fortunate to have many animal rescue groups. Some specialize in one species or breed, or various combinations. Each has its niche and serves an important purpose. These go above and beyond the work of the dog control officers, which each municipality in New York is required to have.

However, the roles of rescue groups and animal control are not mutually exclusive. Peppertree works closely with shelters throughout the state when it is realized that a municipal shelter can't help, but the dog could find a forever home through Peppertree.

Large shelters everywhere are so overwhelmed that they can provide little more than triage. They move "perfect" dogs out for adoption; the rest have little chance. Municipalities that can hold dogs at their own facilities don't have the space to keep them beyond the minimum hold period allowed.

Peppertree can offer these dogs a better chance for many reasons. Often dogs who have spent their lives in a loving home do not do well in a shelter situation. They may "shut down" and become non-responsive. Or they may start to "act out." The behaviors are usually reversible - they may only be displayed because of the stress of the shelter environment - but can quickly become ingrained, making the dog unadoptable.

Some dogs require medical assistance, which is beyond the reach of a high-turnover shelter. They aren't able to invest resources in an animal who might not get adopted.

Then there are the dogs for which Peppertree has a soft spot: the seniors. We have a hard time seeing a dog live out its last days in a shelter after being in a home for 10 or more years. These dogs will get passed over in the shelter for more adoptable dogs, but Peppertree can put in the time for the dog to find the right home.



Dewey was just such a dog. Although he had been microchipped, the owner could not be located. His time was soon up, so a decision had to be made. He was frail, underweight and at least 10 years old, but we knew there was the right home for him if we could give it time.

Two months later, he was adopted by a woman who had just lost her senior dog. The whole neighborhood was there to welcome Dewey when his foster mom brought him for a visit before final placement.

One dog who just needed time away from a shelter situation was Serafina -she displayed pitiful vocalizing and no sense of housebreaking. She started to calm down in her foster home and learned a bit about life in a home. Her sweetness and joy began to shine through, along with exuberance. She was adopted by a family where she gets to jog with the mom, soak up lots of love, and is probably going to be an ace at agility (she seemingly has springs in her feet.)



You probably wouldn't think a purebred Golden Retriever would end up in a shelter. Neither did Chopper, an owner surrender who was so terrified that it was difficult to get him out of his kennel. We placed him in a foster home and soon got this report:

"He is painfully thin and has obviously not had a lot of experience riding in a car. I can't imagine what it must be like to just be sent with someone you don't even know. He is very busy investigating the house. He really is a nice boy. I had to move my cat statue because he was afraid of it."

Chopper, now Charlie, became what we call a "foster failure." His foster family became so fond of him that they adopted him. He soon put on 15 pounds and is loved by all who meet him.

What hope is there for a dog with epilepsy? Fortunately for Otis, Peppertree didn't ask itself that question. Although he had 8 seizures in one day and had to see a canine neurologist, we knew there was a match to be made. There's always the fear that somebody would see a dog on our website, but shy away when told of a medical condition. His adopters had just the opposite reaction - hearing of his condition made them more certain that they wanted Otis. As the adopter said:

"I just had this inexplicably strong, sure feeling that we were meant for this dog and that this dog was meant for us."



Your continued support really supports the efforts of many different shelters. Your contributions allow us to help other shelters give such worthy dogs a chance. Imagine how shelter staff feel when they know that a dog that has tugged at their hearts stands a chance with Peppertree instead of falling victim to a numbers game.

Peppertree Rescue wishes you as good a holiday season as these dogs will enjoy.

With continued thanks,  
Peppertree Rescue

**2014 Appeal**

Peppertree thanks you for your donation amount of \$25\_\_\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Your contribution may be deducted from your income taxes as a charitable contribution. Peppertree is a not-for-profit corporation recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service (Federal Employee ID #14-1809956) .

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