



A Special Thank You!

Brandon Harris of Poestenkill, New York requested that his friends and family make a donation to Peppertree Rescue in lieu of gifts to him for his birthday. As a result he has raised **\$135** for homeless dogs!

Brandon is an animal lover and has two dogs of his own that he pals around with. Brandon is passionate about scouting, is learning to play guitar and also enjoys playing golf. Brandon wanted to give back some of the blessings he has received this past year. He made Peppertree his charity because he knows there are a lot of dogs who don't have a family to play or cuddle with. He would like to see all the dogs get good homes. Way to go Brandon, Happy Birthday and Thank You from Peppertree!



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.
P.O. Box 2396
Albany, NY 12220

www.peppertree.org

A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament



The Peppertree POST

2008 Volume 4

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.

Old Dogs, New Kids

(Part 1 of 2)

Jason Denham

When my wife and I started telling our friends and family that we were soon to become new parents, the conversations often quickly turned to the dogs. We heard everything from “boy, that will be a lot to handle” to “what do the dogs think about it?” and even one “are you going to be keeping your dogs?”

For us there was never any question, our three dogs (all Peppertree alumni) are family, a pack that we will be adding to, not replacing! But we know there will be adjustments, a learning curve both for the humans and the canines involved. The first part of this article is a compilation of all the advice and information we could find about how to get our pack ready for the newest additions. The second, to be published at a future date, will cover what worked best for us, and maybe what didn't.

Before the birth:

- If your dog has any behavioral issues, especially people issues, now is the time to deal with them. A basic obedience course could be helpful if you and/or the dog have not gone through one already. You won't have time for dog training when the baby comes home. In our case, the dogs are pretty good, they are Peppertree dogs after all! But we do need to get in some more practice with the “leave it” command.
- Make sure your dog is fully vetted and up to date on all vaccinations. Also, if he or she is not spayed or neutered, now is the time for a multitude of reasons.
- Get your dog used to having his/her nails trimmed.
- Accustom your dog to baby-related sights, noises and smells. This could entail playing a recording of an infant crying while praising and petting the dog, carrying a baby doll around the house, and/or letting the dog smell baby powder on you, and other things.
- Even better, have friends visit you with an actual baby and carefully expose them early to the real thing. Watch how they react and identify any potential problems.
- Make plans in advance to have your dogs well cared for while you are away at the hospital.



Right after the birth:

- Before the baby comes home, bring home some items with the baby's scent on them for the dog to get accustomed to. Speak to the dog in a calm, happy tone of voice while they sniff the scent.
- When you first return home from the hospital, have somebody else take the baby into another room while you greet the dog warmly and gently. Some suggest bringing home a treat or toy to make your homecoming even more of a positive event. You want to make sure he or she is calm and happy when you make the first introduction.
- When ready, sit down and invite the dog over to you with the baby in your lap. Praise and treat the dog for appropriate behavior. You want to make this a positive experience for the dog, so he or she will have happy associations with the baby. It may take some time – don't force them to go to the baby if they don't want to. If the dog reacts negatively in any way, remove them to another room and let them settle down before trying again.

Moving forward:

- As you adjust to having the baby at home, remember that life is becoming hectic for your dog as well as yourself. You can make it easier by maintaining regular routines

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Old Dogs, New Kids

Continued From Page One

as much as possible, and making sure that you spend some quality one-on-one time with the dog every day. This will be good for your sanity as well as his or hers!

- Realize that it may take some dogs longer than others to adjust to all the changes.
- Many people recommend making the baby's room off-limits to canines, at least at first. This will help them to understand their new place in the pack order, and also keep them away from the diaper bin, which may be tempting to some.
- Of course, never leave your baby unsupervised with the dog, no matter how good they are together. A curious or playful dog can easily injure an infant unintentionally, and besides, you wouldn't leave the baby alone without a dog would you? 🐾

Stay tuned for Part Two!

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

Betsy Sommers
President
esommers2@yahoo.com

Donna Burdick (MA)
Vice President
golddogz@roadrunner.com

David Sawicki
Treasurer
psawicki@capital.net

Peg Boughton
Secretary
peggyapat@prodigy.net

Kevin Wilcox
Director
kwilcox1@nycap.rr.com

Martie De Fronzo
Advisor to the Board
puppydogs4@cs.com

Nicole Duda (CT)
Recordkeeping
mmduda@aol.com

Patti Conroy
Behavioral Advisor
pconroy@nycap.rr.com

Sam Stelmaszyk
Photos
samstel@nycap.rr.com

Nancy Williams
Voice-Mail
rwnw3@aol.com

Michelle Lutz
Web Page
mlutz29@yahoo.com

Lucia Perfetti Clark
Newsletter Editor
lulu72078@yahoo.com

Karen Ryan
Graphic Design
kryan4@nycap.rr.com



Fostering... and Failing

Betsy Sommers - "Mom" to April (1996 foster failure) and Jedediah (2007 foster failure) as well as the "intentionals," Pippin and Chasin-the-cat

Usually failing at something is a bad thing, but that's not necessarily true in rescue. The phenomenon known as a "foster failure" is really a special kind of success.

Before founding Peppertree, we had fostered for a number of years for another rescue group and had our own moments of "failure." So when we founded Peppertree, one of the few rules that we put in place was that foster families are "allowed to fall in love." Inevitably, love does happen! It's pretty funny when it does, in fact, because it usually catches people by surprise. It's pretty wonderful, too, just like real love in any context.

Very often people are hesitant to foster in the first place because they are sure they will fall in love with every dog that comes into their home. They also hesitate because the concept seems so odd; opening your home to a dog, having it become a part of your family and learn to trust you, only to have it leave one day and go live with someone else is just a strange and uncomfortable notion. But there is such a pressing need for this service, for a dog in need to find a loving, secure "half-way house" where it can go for a time, healing sometimes physically and very often mentally, to prepare itself for a new forever family. So, bravely and with a bit of trepidation, many of us have decided to give it a try, most of us thinking "just this one time."

The first time a foster dog leaves, it is hard, and it feels strange. But then you discover the really good parts about the experience. You feel pride in the happier, often healthier and better behaved dog that trots out of your home, and you realize that you've given an unimaginable gift both to him and to the family that you have helped select for him. That's one of Peppertree's other rules (while we don't have many): no adoptive placement is made unless the dog's foster family feels comfortable about it. We figure they know the dog best and their instincts about what he/she needs and wants in a home will be one of the best guides. The best part is when that dog moves on, discovering that having an empty space available means being able to help another dog whose life and future may depend on foster home availability.

Those of us who have fostered for many years become very, very protective of that "empty space," that chance to reach out and provide a literal lifeline to another homeless dog, the chance to see him or her come in scared and bewildered and gradually blossom into the dog they were meant to be, loved and secure and ready to be a part of the world, including having a family of its own. Quite selfishly, we also relish the chance to get to have much more than one lifetime's worth of canine companions. How many of you have secretly wanted to spend some quality time with a Saint Bernard, a Daschund, a potential agility star, or a cuddly couch potato? Fostering allows you a wealth of experiences that living a "normal" life could never provide. We like to pretend that what we do is all about nobility and self-sacrifice but the experience has many rewards. You get to live with lots of nice dogs, and you meet some great people who think you're absolutely wonderful because you "allow" them to adopt your foster while you get to play the role of grandparent, getting pictures and sometimes visits but then sending them back home with mom and dad.

This fostering life settles into a nice routine, until one day one of your foster dogs looks up at you and says "Hi, Mom" or "Hi, Dad" and you suddenly

Happy Endings and New Beginnings:

Peppertree's mission is to place deserving dogs in their forever homes, so naturally when it happens we are all very pleased and excited about it. Those of you who avidly check the website may wonder what ever became of some of the charges in our care. Here's a look at a few of the Happy Endings for Peppertree, and New Beginnings for the dogs:



Pelly

Pelly is one of four extremely shy dogs found living on their own near Fishkill, New York. It took a bit of time but Pelly, then called Hobo, came to trust and enjoy humans. He is now living with Greg and Joanne Chase and their two other dogs. He is described as being "an absolute joy." His family give him high praise and state that: "He is extremely affectionate and loves the human touch. He is goofy and fun loving and brings such joy to all of us. We feel very fortunate to have him in our lives."



Molly

Molly (then Dolly) came to Peppertree from Virginia. She had been abandoned and her foster mom was unable to continue to care for her. The Hanovice family, including their current dog Austin, also a rescue, came to meet her at a Peppertree adoption clinic and they fell in love. Now Molly and Austin seek each other out for play sessions, walks together with their dad, Ron, and to sleep together. Cathryn says: "It is as if Molly was always meant to be with us."



Scotty

What a cutie! Scotty came to us from the Saratoga Shelter. He had been picked up as a stray but hadn't grabbed any attention there. Peppertree agreed to try to find him a home. He went into a foster home where he has become a "foster failure." It took him no time at all to convince them that he should be a permanent fixture in their home. Scotty is now happily living with his new people, another dog and four cats.

Donna Burdick

Captain Buddy



Captain Buddy was brought into the program as a stray. While in his foster home he successfully went through surgery to correct entropion, a painful disease in which the eyelid is flipped and the eyelashes are constantly rubbing against the eye. With, literally, a new outlook on life Buddy was ready for his forever home! The Durivage family was ready to give him a well deserved second chance in a home of his own. Buddy is fitting in well with two new girls of his own and a nine month old puppy to play with and train.

Buster



Buster is a handsome two year old who needed a special home that could appreciate his sweet, friendly nature and enjoy his energy. He is now living with John and DeDe Allard who say: "We may have given him a home but he has given us so much love and laughter and is a wonderful addition to our pack." Buster shares his new home with another dog and two grandchildren who come to play with him daily. Buster loves the doggy door and the large yard where he can romp around.

Suki



Suki, a three year old Chow-Chow, came to Peppertree from Project Drum in Troy where she was found as a stray. Suki represents all that a well socialized Chow can be! The following is a wonderful thank you to Peppertree for all who supported this beautiful lady: "First, thanks to everyone at Peppertree and especially Barb & Chris for rescuing her! We don't know what everyone did exactly but the final result is that we have a terrific dog and new family member. We thought that we would never find another dog to even compare to our "Bear" who died twenty months ago that we had loved for almost fourteen years. Well, miracles still happen and now Suki is part of us, forever." – Kathy and Larry Sproles of Baldwinsville, New York.



2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner



As always this event would not be possible without the help and generosity of the following local area businesses, owners, and individuals:

Carousel Antique Center – Karen Squire
Mexican Radio Restaurant – Lori Selden & Mark Young
Hudson-Chatham Winery – Dominique DeVito
Beth's Farm Kitchen – Liz Beals
Olde Hudson Antiques – Dena Moran
Hedstrom-Judd – Barry Judd
White Rice – Mary Vaughn Williams
Red Dot Bar and Restaurant – Alana
Winebar – Kevin Moran
Shana Lee Jewelry – Kristina
Lili and Loo – Melinda Stover
Keystone Antiques – Theresa & Jim Godman
Spotty Dog Books and Ale – Kelly Drahushuk
Andy and Sons Importing – Carmen and Vinnie Benincasa
Bread and Jam – Salvatore Prizio
Sunset Recreational Bowling Lanes – Pat Hoffman
Mill Road Acres Golf Course – Jevons Family
Briar Creek Golf Course – William Sise
Petsmart (Glenmont) – Lynne
Ellen Amedio
Labelle Salon – Valerie Maroncelli



Thank You!



realize that this one is going to be different!! There's no telling when it's going to happen. He/She may, in fact, be one of the most unlikely ones, the dog you took a bit reluctantly, rolling your eyes and thinking silently "Well, he's a nice enough boy but certainly not my type. Maybe we can get this one ready to move along to his forever home very quickly." You go along thinking nothing of it until a very suitable family makes an inquiry about your boy, and something inside you, around the vicinity of your heart, says "Nope - not going to happen. He's already found his home, the little sneak!" Inevitably, he/she looks at you as if to say "Well it's about time you figured it out! I've known for a long time... Mom."

What happens next is pretty much the same in all cases. You make a phone call to one of the higher-ups in Peppertree after hemming and hawing a bit, you tell them that perhaps they should take Rusty or Gidget off the "available" list. Or maybe you just show up at a clinic bringing, instead of the dog, a completed adoption contract and a check. The one caveat is that you can't have this epiphany after a commitment has already been made to an adoptive home, but since you are part of the decision about adopting, you have that last clear chance to call it off. I'll be honest, there is some teasing, because all the other volunteers are secretly pleased that they aren't the only ones who got caught unaware by love and "failed." Often they've been watching you and this particular foster, or listening to you talk about him, and saying to themselves "Uh huh. This is already a done deal. Wonder how long it's going to take her to realize what's already happened." The teasing is pretty gentle, however, because most of them really have had their own moment of similar surprise.

People often say to those of us who have fostered many, many times "Oh, you must fall in love with all of them." Here's another guilty secret – that isn't true at all. We do love our fosters very much, but we also love having that empty space so we can help save yet another one. We love getting to be a hero to those nice adoptive families and experiencing so many different varieties of canine companions. In truth, the most experienced foster homes become very, very choosy about any dog they would want to have around for a whole lifetime. Sometimes, quite frankly, we love waving goodbye to one of the fosters who, while enjoyable, managed to confirm our suspicions that we really aren't suited to have one that is too high-energy, too brainless, too smart, too clingy, or too aloof. We actually become terribly choosy and very protective of our revolving door, with all its various rewards.

That's when life, just to throw us a curve ball, sends along the dog with whom we "fall in love with" – big time. It's funny, humbling, and quite wonderful to suddenly be pulled up short and find that you have to rearrange your

life, hopefully in a way that allows you to continue fostering, but even if not, that's okay. All because one of the ones you thought would be an orderly progression of enjoyable visitors looked at you up and said "Hi, Mom," recognizing, long before you did, that he belongs with you in a way none of the others did or ever could.

Peppertree, and all rescues, desperately need foster homes. They are invaluable in allowing often traumatized dogs who have lost their original homes or who never had one to begin with, learn to trust and develop their personalities so that a truly appropriate match can be made. We encourage anyone who thinks they might like to help in this way to give it a try - just once. Okay - we all started out fostering planning to do it "just once." But consider yourself warned, because there is a potential danger: love, real, lasting and very unmistakable, may be lurking just around the corner, ready to pounce when you least expect it. 🐾

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?





2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner

A Rousing Success

Lucia Perfetti Clark

Again with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers and supporters Peppertree Rescue was able to raise over \$3,000 which will help the organization continue to support the mission of assisting dogs of good temperament in finding their forever homes. The dinner and donations accounted for approximately \$2,300, and another \$900 dollars was raised with the raffles. The raffles were a new and exciting addition to the dinner this year, it's clear they were well received; we hope to have great items to choose from for next year as well!

Some other new features this year were the venue, a big Peppertree thank you to the Cohoes Senior Center for allowing us to use your facility, and the table decorations featuring some of our dog placements. While most of our events include the dogs as participants, this was a nice way to include them without violating any health codes. After all they are the reason we volunteer and continue to raise money.

We apologize to those vegetarians who arrived after all of the vegetarian sauce was gone, but we hope you liked Chef Joe's version of alio olio. We'll be sure to have enough veggie sauce for next year's dinner.



"If there could be a **SHRINE** to Mexican food, Mexican Radio would be it" - NY Post

"Mexican fare that **BRAGS** of bordertown" - Billy Gibbons, ZZ Top

"Amazing margaritas and seriously **BADASS** Mexican food" - Shecky's Picks

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