



The Peppertree POST

2009 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.

A Rescuer's Journey to Spain to assist Scooby Protectra de Animales

By Barbara A. Kucharczyk

Tens of thousands of Galgos (the Spanish cousin of the racing greyhound, a sighthound) are bred annually in Spain in the hope of producing the national coursing champion. Medina del Campo is the focal point for those with a coursing interest in Spain. Many galgueros (breeders and owners of Galgos) live in Medina del Campo and its environs. For the galgueros it is an annual tradition to kill their Galgos by hanging them en masse in the pine forests in and around Medina del Campo at the end of the coursing season (January/February). Other times they discard "their" dogs in abandoned wells or kill them through some other inhumane method. It is estimated that over 30,000 Galgos are killed each year.

In 1987, Fermín Pérez started Scooby Protectra de Animales (Scooby Animal Refuge). Although the original shelter was poor in condition, it provided a safe refuge for the stray cat and dog population and the numerous Galgos discarded mainly by the local coursing fraternity in the area of Medina del Campo, Valladolid. Scooby continues to be led by President Fermín Pérez, who in daily life is a science teacher at the main senior school in Medina del Campo.

After Fermín made the world aware of the situation, the association has grown through out the years. What began in an old ruin with bed frames as fencing, an old warehouse without electricity, heat or water, has moved into a new refuge facility, with the help of international supporters dedicated to Scooby and its important work. In recent history the galgueros started to bring their unwanted Galgos to the Scooby shelter with the result that on average Scooby houses about 450 dogs, mainly Galgos. Scooby re-homes a limited number of Galgos and some of the mixed breed dogs via small partner organizations in Europe.

A work in progress, the new facility has become a centre everyone is extremely proud of. The Scooby shelter has expanded in terms of size, (volunteer) workers from several nationalities come in a steady stream to the refuge. In turn, Scooby has gradually been able to start tackling another problem, that of factory farming and the environment. To combat this issue Scooby has constructed an education center at its property. On a very small scale, Scooby has taken in ducks, geese, battery hens, sheep, goats, pigs, ponies, and more. In addition, the Donkey Sanctuary (Sidmouth, UK) has established an agree-

ment whereby Scooby is used as a holding station for donkeys en route to the Donkey Sanctuary's shelter, El Refugio del Burrito, in Fuente de Piedra in Spain.

Scooby is a privately-owned refuge, the largest safe haven in Spain for all sorts of animals, which means that without the help of supporters from Spain and everywhere around the world, it would not be able to exist.

About ten years ago I read an article about Fermin rescuing three Galgos from an abandoned well. After that, I made it a goal in life to adopt a galgo. I never in my wildest dreams expected to be a Scooby volunteer helping hundreds of animals nor did I think that my rescue network would expand to another continent. I have many people to thank for that, most importantly Peppertree who bought into my crazy idea of bringing Spanish dogs to the US!

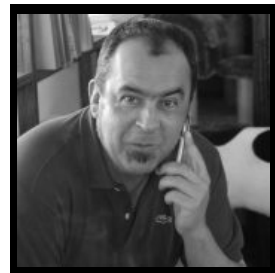
In February, a group of us (Paula and Martin from Forever Home Greyhound Rescue) jumped on a plane and travelled to Madrid, Spain for a most unusual "vacation." Armed with rubber boots, gloves and cleaning supplies, we set out on our adventure. We had no clue what to expect, only that the experience would change our lives, somehow.

Although the method of this article may be unorthodox, I would like to share with you my thoughts and impressions during my Scooby experience in a diary format.

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Well the first day is almost over and it was a lot of work. But after several hours of cleaning up poop and diarrhea (hey did you know that it actually freezes?) we got to socialize with the dogs. Let me tell you about that...I have never seen dogs in worse condition than those from Sevilla. If it had been in the States, they would be prosecuting this hoarder under numerous cruelty violations. The Galgos are skin and bones with almost no hair. There is one at only 10 pounds - yes a full grown male that skinny. They have nicknamed him Rabo-dog (meaning "tail dog" because of the injury to his tail). You see starvation on Animal Cops, but in these dogs, it's not only on the hips and ribs; their skin hangs from them and their butts are nothing but ball joints. We are working on socializing them with humans. There are two kennels of Sevilla

continued on next page



Galgos in the quarantine area. Between each area we were able to get two to eat from our hands.

We also had a drop off today, a puppy. The woman asked if she could drop off this dog, went to her TRUNK, and then pulled the puppy out by his back leg and threw him on the ground. Needless to say, he is in the puppy room enjoying the company and heat lamps with the two others.

But today wasn't all sad - I made friends with two gorgeous German Shepherds (GSD) -Carla and Tania and found a German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP) that was the most fat GSP I'd ever seen. His name is Luis. There are four hundred dogs here and each has a name - not like the states in which each would have a number. Also, food is no issue and as a result, there are a lot of dogs that are FAT!!!!

Saturday night, February 7, 2009

Just got back from dinner, I don't think I will ever be able to eat another mushroom again, at least not mushroom pizza! Being at Scooby you smell like dirt (amongst other things). I avoided getting hit by poop, but I smell like dirt from the turnouts. The dogs inevitably jump up on you to get your attention when you walk into a paddock. Although I "washed" my jacket this evening, it only hid the really obviously dirt not the smell. I ordered mushroom pizza tonight and the pizza smelled like dirt - specifically the mushrooms smelled like dirt, I wanted to vomit.

Anyway, it's really remarkable. Scooby is like the United Nations of those individuals with one thing in common - compassion towards animals. Tonight I had dinner with people from the Netherlands (Remi - she is a visiting

vet student), Spain, Canada (Eva, the Scooby adoption coordinator and her husband Tim) and Italy (Tomaso is the current vet at Scooby). It is so amazing that people from literally all over the world will pay to volunteer here while the local Spanish citizens don't volunteer at all. In the States there are volunteers to walk and maintain our US shelter dogs while we volunteer to clean the cages in a foreign country. It's really amazing.

The fun part is socializing with the dogs. As long as I can do that - I am happy. Many times the dogs only see the person feeding them twice a day so it is important to walk through the paddocks.

Scooby is very much an outside shelter. There are "houses" for each group of dogs that contain plastic beds, maybe with some hay in it, but mostly, just plastic beds. I ache to see these dogs and remark that they don't know what it is like to sleep on a couch, for many just to be warm. That's why the Sevilla dogs are so sad, they are so skinny and cold. Three or four of them will huddle together to keep warm.

I finally understand the difference between greyhounds and Galgos. After the basic body structure there really isn't any more similarity. These Galgos can exist outside. Those of us who have greys, think our guys could never last or be as adaptable as the Galgos are. It is cold here - in the low 20s. I could not imagine Kelso or KC outside with nothing but a felt jacket on forever?

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Good news - I got the camera to work and got lots of pictures of what we call the quarantine area. I decided to take lots of pictures of those dogs I really liked. Most importantly we spent a lot of time with the Sevilla dogs and I have pictures of the before and after the cleaning and putting coats on, etc. I also have pictures of my handsome GSDs (Coco and Paca) that have been so mistreated that they have no hair on them. It's called leishmania and it's a tick borne disease. They are very sad, especially the female (Paca). Believe it or not they were owner turn-ins. When you see their pictures you will be shocked. Every time I see them I tell them how handsome they are and give them treats. Note - Coco and Paca before pictures. The Scooby web site shows their improvement from February (when I met them) to March.

With all the different languages here I do not know how to speak Spanish dog talk (like come here, move, etc...). Thank goodness for the international language of dog. Amazing how body language is universally understood, especially with the Sevilla dogs.

I am catching a cold - I am cold all day unless I am working. I just jump in because if I don't, I sit here and freeze. My face is wind burned and my hands are chapping. We are in water all day cleaning and scrubbing.

I really like the folks here. They are all compassionate about the true cause. One of the galgo females gave birth yesterday and all the puppies have been euthanized. Scooby just can't afford anymore and with 50,000 Gal-

gos welped every year, Scooby is just the tip of the gigantic glacier. It was the right thing to do.

It's funny because I am seeing the difference between being a breed specific person and an all breed person. I am happy to say that I am an all breed person. There are the fattest GSPs and huge mastiffs here! My favorite boy is a 100 pound Rottie. I love him. I wish he was in the states because he represents what the breed can be. No chows or chow mixes here though.

Sunday night, February 8, 2009

Do you believe all I am watching here is sports!! Since there are no English speaking channels and I have to have the TV on at night to sleep - I just turn sports on. I watched a NBA Toronto Raptors game prior to going to dinner tonight.

We just got back from dinner... it was raining. I was able to get some cold medicine. The pharmacist was awesome. I pointed to my (English-Spanish) book and she immediately got me the medicine and then told me how often to take it.

Monday, February 9, 2009

I finally spent some quality time with Cocu. I think we bonded. He lives in a paddock with his brother, Tonny, and several other dogs. Cocu's brother Tonny was more interested in the new GSDs (Carla and Tania) next door than me. I really feel bad for the female (Carla). She and I bonded and when she saw me she tried to scratch through the fence to get me. We played in the hose yesterday and she is just a wonderful little girl. Cocu - he is awesome, while all the others were barking he was completely cool. I got pictures of his brother, where he lived and slept. I think you will be surprised. These are generally outside dogs - he is a good sized boy too - probably the size of Pookie but skinnier - not as skinny as a galgo-grey but fit. That's the problem with a lot of dogs at Scooby - they are fat!! Anyway, he is a lover and has a very good nature about him. I learned that many dogs have been here for several years - as Cocu is. He has been here for three years - since he was a puppy. The majority of the dogs get along well with other dogs and are not aggressive.

Other than that - we cleaned all of the quarantine kennels today - both the front and back. The dogs were so appreciative. Many of them haven't been cleaned since June and they were horrible. My two special GSDs with leishmania (Coco and Paca) were even up and around and playful!! In fact the boy - Coco my boyfriend - was pawing at me as I cuddled with him. I tell him he is so handsome. He is silly. I also got a chance to play with many more today.

The Galgos from Sevilla are making wonderful progress too. I have to say, if anyone thinks I am crazy for doing this and no one appreciates it - I just have to remember that for a little while, I made a HUGE difference in the lives of every animal I touched. We cut nails yesterday - we cut the nails of a little old lady whose nails were so bad that they were growing into her paw pads (Yaya). We didn't even know this little dog was there! Now that her nails are trimmed, she proudly walks to the front of

the kennel now to greet us. We saw that over and over again!!

Don't think Scooby is a bad place - but there are so many dogs. They are drafting a foster home program and already have their first foster home!! They are also changing the volunteers role - as opposed to strictly cleaning, we are now going to be doing more socialization - which is the best part of the day. Yes the first three hours are cleaning and scrubbing but once done, I just roam around the paddocks and mingle with the dogs. It is awesome!!! I love being in the middle of them and just, well just interacting with them!!!

I am still not sure about the second dog- it's between Aaron and Malacara. It will depend on who has bloodwork and the ability to get a passport in 2 days. Both are 8-10 but I think Eva will push for Malacara. He has been at the shelter for years without a single bit of interest. He also lost his tail here. He is super mellow and sits in the back of the paddock taking everything in. He isn't a super shy, he will let you pet him. That's the cool thing about the Galgos - they all sit! You will look out on the paddock and there will be 10-12 of them just sitting randomly watching you. Note - Malacara is coming to the states in June! Aaron went to live with a family in Italy.

BTW - the food is awful probably because I have no clue what I am ordering half the time. Like tonight - I ordered a pizza - it's name is something like Zucchini - well what do you think is on this?? Cucumbers, onions AND... TUNA!!!!!! Thank gosh my cold is so bad so I can't taste anything!

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Another amazing day at Scooby. I have roughly 75 pictures - the majority of which are the dogs. It's amazing to see the progression from Sunday with the Galgos and GSDs to now!

We spent a lot more time cleaning the quarantine area and all of the backs of the kennels. They are dirty little mongrels, especially the puppies! I feel so bad for them because they have 7-8 of them in a small kennel and when they poop they walk all in it. It's the worst kennel to have to clean.

Malacara will not be joining our family. He is not ready to travel and there is no way possible that we can speed things up. Though, I am going to work with Eva (Scooby's adoption coordinator) who is actually coming back in the May-June time frame and see if she could bring



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 Emeritus
esommers2@yahoo.com

Kevin Wilcox
President
kwilcox1@nycap.rr.com

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

David Sawicki
Treasurer
psawicki@capital.net

Peg Boughton
Secretary
peggyapat@prodigy.net

Mary Ellen Grimaldi
Director
meeno@localnet.com

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

Patti Conroy
Behavioral Advisor
pconroy@nycap.rr.com

Sam Stelmaszyk
Photos
samstel@nycap.rr.com

Lisa Nelson
Web Page
ltaber@yahoo.com

Lucia Perfetti Clark
Newsletter Editor
lulu72078@yahoo.com

Cheryl Hislop
Graphic Design
Cheryl@lidesign.us



Mother Nature must have felt guilty about the cold weather she sent our way for the First Annual Fun Run, because she blessed us with warm weather and sunshine for the second. The Run was a lot of fun for two legged and four legged participants alike and it was a booming success. This year we were able to raise \$9695 from registrations and sponsorships and more was raised from the donation jar and t-shirt sales. Our grand total was a little over \$10,000.00!

The first five runners to cross the finish line were:

1. Paul Koski – Clifton Park, 18:40 min
2. Kristina Depeau – Albany, 19:30 min
3. Patrick Spooner – Slingerlands, 20:37 min
4. Nicole Mallory – Albany, 22:03
5. Melissa Patrick – Delmar, 23:24 min

The first five dogs to cross the finish line were:

1. Hope with Patrick Spooner – Albany, 19:30 min
2. Quinn with Melissa Patrick, Delmar, 23:24 min
3. Winter with CJ Chartrand, Castleton, 24:08 min
4. Sketcher with Liz Lubkowski, Albany, 24:20
5. Sam with Joelle Ingram, Albany, 24:30 min

A shout out of thanks and praise to our sponsors -

Golds Gym, Sports Authority, Fleet Feet, Albany Running Exchange, Hudson Mohawk Road Runners Club, SUNY Albany, Price Chopper, The Wine Bar, Cudney Cleaners and DePaula Chevrolet.

See you next year!



Peppertree Volunteer Spotlight

Meet:
Carol
McNally

Occupation?
Full-time
foster Mom!

**Volunteer
Location?**
West Lafayette, Indiana

How long have you been volunteering with Peppertree? Four and a half years!

What is/are your Volunteer Role (s) within Peppertree? When needed, I assist the organization in finding short-term foster homes for southern dogs (typically from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina) coming into our program, as they must be quarantined in the South for two weeks prior to being sent to Peppertree. I also schedule the dog's vetting (including a complete physical, any necessary vaccines and a health certificate) to ensure they have a clean bill of health prior to traveling, and then I oversee their transport East.

How/Why did you come to be a Peppertree Volunteer? When I moved from Chicago to the Albany area back in 04', I really missed working with dogs so I asked the folks at my local PetSmart if they knew of any reputable dog rescue groups. They immediately responded with "Peppertree!", and the rest is history!

What surprised you the most about rescue once you became more involved? I am surprised that pet ownership is treated so lightly sometimes. Owning a pet is not only a privilege, but a lifetime commitment.

Name and Breed of dogs in your family? Any other animals in the home? We have two rescue dogs; Suzy, my 11 yr. old black and white Pit Bull (a Peppertree alum) who looks a lot like Petey from the Little Rascals, and Spirit, my 5 yr. old Blue Pit Bull who is currently on a diet with her Mom! We also have three rambunctious cats; Allie is my 15 yr. old Maine Coon who thinks he's a dog, Grace is my 8 yr. old gray domestic long hair who always makes me laugh and last but not least there is petite Marley, my 15 yr. old white and gray Turkish Angora who rules the roost.



Do you have a favorite breed? Pit Bulls are undoubtedly my favorite! They are extremely loyal, very responsive to training and have a great sense of humor. They are true clowns at heart and will make you laugh every chance they get!

What is your favorite activity to do with your dog(s)? When I visit New York, I like to hike, canoe (my dogs do wear life preservers!) and camp with them in the Adirondacks. My dogs even get their own tent! At home, I take them for walks at our Celery Bog wetlands, play Frisbee and let them splash around in our kiddie pool in the backyard.

What is your favorite thing about Peppertree Rescue? I love the fact that Peppertree takes many senior dogs into the program. Our group is very compassionate, and our volunteers see that these older dogs have so much unconditional love left to give. They too deserve a second chance at life, and I'm proud to be part of an organization that cherishes dogs in their golden years.



Our thanks to Price Chopper & Del Monte Foods!

By Donna Burdick

On March 1st of this year Price Chopper Supermarkets ran a promotion in conjunction with Del Monte Foods. Price Chopper designated Peppertree Rescue to be the recipients of the funds so generously offered by Del Monte Foods. At the completion of this promotion Del Monte donated \$4000 to Peppertree Rescue, a truly wonderful sum that will go a long way toward helping us defray the costs of re-homing and paying the medical expenses incurred by dogs in our care. Thank you to Price Chopper and Del Monte for your generosity toward Peppertree Rescue.

A Rescuer's Journey... Story Continued from page 3

him and this beautiful GSD female (Carla) that we both fell in love. She is wonderful and truly a Peppertree dog. Eva said she would bring the dogs to Buffalo for us so it would be a great excuse to go home!

I spent a lot of time with Cocu today - I think you will really like him. He knows something is going on - I feel bad for his brother (Tonny) - as if he knows it's not his day yet.

It will be sad with tomorrow being our last day. I would love to come back again. There really isn't much to do in Medina and I still can't get a grip of the hours of when stores are open, why everything closes between 2-5, etc.. Maybe I should do a little research next time? But in the meantime, I know that I made a difference - when you see the pictures you will understand.

I will especially miss my quarantine dogs. In under a week, many went from not even being able to get out of bed to barking at us! You will see the transformation of the GSDs.

This has been a nice vacation and I don't want the real world to break in. But, I will take Cocu to the vet and then spoil him with McDonald's. I have a lot of cleaning and wash to do so my day will be filled.

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

It was an emotional day. We arrived and started cleaning the quarantine kennels. I started at the end, Martin started with the puppies. I had already gone in and cleaned all the poop so we still needed to scrub. I started with the gremlins - these are about 12 or so dogs that are like little Jack Russell Terriers and then there was this tiny little pharaoh hound looking dog that was probably only 10 pounds - they are from Sevilla so many are in horrible shape. Of course, being dirty little gremlins, all of their blankets and beds were gross and they messed the back of their kennel. Since we are leaving tomorrow and the next volunteers aren't arriving for a month or so, we all agreed to give new beds, jackets and blankets to everyone. This also gave us an opportunity to check the Galgos skin. So the gremlins were cleaned up. For the little pharaoh looking one, I made a special nest for her. Sunday, we did her nails and I made sure she ate. Then I loved her today and made sure she ate again. Then of course, we lost electricity and water and we couldn't clean so I wandered around.



I went to Cocu's pad-dock - but first visited my GSD girls (Carla and Tania). I played ball with one of the mutts and then made my way over (actually next door) to Cocu's. The sun was out and all the dogs were sleeping in the sun just warming themselves.



Scooby can be a rough place but sometimes it is a good place. Then I saw our liver-red galgo

boy who came in on Saturday (Baute). He came in with a liver-red galgo female (Madonna). He immediately recognized me and I went over to give him love too. And then off to see Malacara - he recognized me and came right up to me. I threw the ball for Grundfos for what seemed like forever - this boy never tires.

After lunch - roughly 3pm - the water and electricity were back so I went back to the gremlins because I knew that they would have destroyed anything I had already completed in the morning; so I thought I would redo their kennel. When I went to the back area of the kennel, I found my little girl on the floor. She was barely breathing so I took a blanket and wrapped her in it. I walked to the front of the kennel in the sun and watched her take her last breath. I cradled her as her little brain protested for more air but her heart had already stopped. The sad thing is that I recognized the death cry and knew there was nothing more we could do for her. As she died in my arms, I asked her to wait at the bridge for me and I would cross with her. I took her body to Remi and we prepared it appropriately. It's funny how I cried so hard for that little girl. I was just so blessed to be there holding her as she died.

She didn't die alone on a cold floor but in my arms, wrapped in a blanket with the sun shining on her.

I finished up the kennel and then went to the Galgos. As I said you will see the pictures of them on Sunday, and then the pictures later in the week. It is amazing how they are getting stronger everyday.

We were just about to finish our chores when the power and water went out again. We put our tools away. It was close to 6:30pm and we really didn't have anymore sunlight to do anything else. I made my final round to my quarantine dogs and Malacara.

We collected our things and went to the office to say goodbye. Fermin asked us to come back and Sandra asked repeatedly. Fermin gave us a Scooby photo with a handwritten thank you from him on the back. I am going to have this framed, and photocopy the back so you can look at both at once. I was so touched by this. Fermin is very happy with the progress of the Sevilla dogs and that makes me happy.

These dogs changed my life. In the middle of 30 dogs, I was content, happy. I have made a difference in these fragile lives, maybe only for a few days. That is all I really wanted to do here.

Post script – We are very proud to announce Peppertree's first shipment of Scooby dogs. The four will be arriving in mid-June. Let me introduce Luis (GSP), Becky (Pointer), Jara (GSP) and Elvira (Mestizo – aka a mutt!). Malacara is also on his way – but already spoken for!



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 benefited from the kindness of one or multiple foster home volunteers.

Won't you show another dog or pup the same kindness?

Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

P.O. Box 2396, Albany, NY 12220

rescue@peppertree.org

www.peppertree.org

A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament