



The Peppertree POST

2009 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.

The Luckiest Unlucky Beagle: Copper's Story

By Joan Toenies

A successful dog rescue is often accomplished because many caring people and organizations help to make it happen. The story of Peppertree's Copper demonstrates this well.

We'll probably never know why this young beagle was running around loose in the city of Watervliet, NY on a June day in 2009. It certainly seems that he was an unlucky little fellow to have the misfortune to be hit by a car whose driver did not even stop. His luck was about to change, however, because he was about to meet his "Guardian Angel" named Kerry Watson. Kerry witnessed the accident and didn't hesitate to get involved and help this boy who appeared to be seriously injured. She picked him up and transported him to the Capital District Animal Emergency Clinic (CDAEC) in Latham and left him in the capable hands of the staff who quickly named him Copper because of his beautiful copper colored coat.

Copper was x-rayed and diagnosed with a broken leg. He was provided with a cast and all necessary medications, bandages, and tests to monitor his condition. Doctor Gavin was the primary veterinarian assigned to his care. She took special interest in him and enjoyed preparing him for the upcoming 4th of July holiday by dressing him with a blue cast complete with stars! Copper's stay at the hospital lasted approximately a week. During that time, he won the affection of the staff and received plenty of attention from all. Amazingly, because Copper was admitted as a stray, all services

provided to Copper at CDAEC were free of charge!

CDAEC staff had done everything they could for Copper and it was time for him to go to a foster home where he could wait for his "forever family" to find him while his leg healed.

If you are thinking that Kerry, the guardian angel had left Copper at the hospital and forgotten about him, you couldn't be more wrong! Although she was not in a position to keep this dog that she had saved, she already loved him dearly. She came to the clinic on numerous occasions to visit and play with Copper and even brought a large basket of dog "goodies" including treats and toys and a soft blanket. It was her plan that this basket would accompany Copper to his foster home along with a lovely "Thank You" card. Kerry also contacted several rescue organizations to aid in finding the dog a place to transition to. Peppertree had room in its foster program and wanted to help out this dog who had already won over so many people.

Peppertree volunteers Joan and Leslie offered to provide a foster home for Copper during his wait. Joan drove to the CDAEC to pick him up and bring him home where he would meet the other members of the family, foster dog Clyde and resident cats Amos and Anna. The clinic's release instructions for Copper were for him to finish the prescribed medications and to keep him quiet and the cast dry. That shouldn't be so hard right? They



would soon find out that it wasn't easy at all!

I think the problem was that Copper didn't understand that he had a broken leg and certainly had no intention of remaining quiet. He did not want to stay in the crate just watching life going on around him. He would stare sweetly and innocently at whoever was in the room until they were "hoodwinked" into letting him out to sit quietly on the couch to watch TV. Before long, he was jumping off the couch to find mischief. Foster mom Joan thought it would be nice if she could walk him in the neighborhood and borrowed a baby stroller from a neighbor. As quickly as she settled him in for the ride he jumped out of the stroller. Copper wanted to run and play and not be walked in a carriage.

Even the crate did not provide the sanctuary that the doctor ordered. Copper didn't want to rest quietly at all. On one occasion when he was

Story continues on page 3

*Editor's note, this is the continuation of a story that was in the previous newsletter, Her Own Guardian Angel,
By Karen Harmon. We apologize for leaving you in suspense, it was an editorial oversight,
please enjoy the rest of the story.*

It did not take long for Moses to settle into Peg's home and daily routine. He was very laid back and got along fine with all of her animals. In addition to his obvious lameness in his back area, Peg began noticing that he was leaking urine so Peppertree obtained medicine to address that and she began fitting him with doggie diapers. Peppertree advertised Moses and Peg faithfully brought him to clinics so that potential adopters could meet him, but he did not attract much interest because of his age and physical limitations.

Clinics can be stressful, particularly for older dogs, and after a few months, Peg noticed that Moses seemed to be getting a little "grumpy" at clinics. She thinks that he was trying to tell her that he was "tired of going when I am already in my home" and she was starting to wonder why she was bothering too. In July Moses had a particularly bad episode of pain in his backend that caused him to cry out so Peg took him to the vet. It turned out to be a muscular problem that was helped by pain medicines, but Peg started wondering what would have happened if it had been a serious neurological problem that a new adopter would not be willing to deal with in addition to the lameness and diaper issue. It

was then that she decided that Moses should stay with her because she did not want him to be uprooted again. Peg went to one of our adoption clinics without him to talk with our Board members and everyone agreed that it was a wonderful idea for her to adopt Moses. She finalized the adoption in July.

Moses is thriving in his new home. Originally 42 pounds when he was found, he is a healthy 58 pounds now. What made Peg fall in love with him? "He thinks that you are wonderful," she said when asked, "He gives you such a boost. He has that great personality that makes you feel good when you have him around. You can do no wrong and everything is going to be alright. He is a real emotional pleaser. I fall in love with them all, but he was very willing to be the low person on the totem pole because he let the other dogs in my house take charge."

She added, "We both got tired of going to clinics. I want him to be with me for whatever time he has. We have a little pack now and we are going to stick together. He has gotten over the pain, he knows his routine and he is my doggie now. Moses follows me from room to room, more so than my other dogs do. I believe in guardian angels and when I look at Moses, I see him as my guardian angel."

Peg encourages others to consider adopting a senior dog. "For a second or third pet to add to your home," she says, "there is nothing like an older dog. They are just so mellow and they really are not a lot of work. Much easier than playing with a younger dog, socializing them and worrying about what they are going to be chewing. The old dogs become part of the family so quickly."

Animal Control Officer Dick Watt is very pleased to know that Moses has found a doting home. He said, "We appreciate how Peppertree and other rescues have worked very well with the Town of Bethlehem in getting these abandoned dogs adopted." Peppertree is pleased too about our continuing collaboration with local animal control officers and other rescue groups in finding new homes for deserving dogs like Moses and we are thrilled that Peg and Moses have found each other.



taken out of the crate to go outside to take care of business, Joan realized that he didn't have the cast on. It had been wedged into the blanket that lined the bottom of the crate and Copper stepped out of it. A quick call to Shaker Veterinary Hospital, now providing care to Copper, resulted in instructions to "get here as soon as possible!" Leslie had to be called at work so that he could drive Copper to Shaker Vet while Joan held him as still as possible so that he did not further damage the still broken leg. A thorough examination by Dr. Brunke revealed no additional damage, so a new cast was put on and Copper was on his way back to his foster home. This would just be the first of Copper's unplanned visits to the vet.

Keeping him dry wasn't as easy as it sounded either. I am sure everyone will recall what a wet summer we had. In order for Copper to go out to take care of business, his cast had to be bagged or wrapped in plastic. As hard as we tried to follow the doctor's instructions to keep him dry, 100 percent success was not attained because he still developed an infection and ir-

ritation. This was to result in several more visits to Shaker Vet for examinations and changes of his cast.

Guardian Angel Kerry had not forgotten Copper. She continued to email and even stopped by the Peppertree adoption clinics when she knew that Copper would be attending. Copper had a good friend in her.

Stan and Meredith Adler spotted Copper on the Peppertree website and decided that they would like to meet him. They came to meet Copper at his foster home and liked him right from the start. They decided to take Copper on trial but had some preparations to make, supplies to buy and some reinforcements needed to be made in order to "Copper-proof" the backyard fence.

In just a couple of days, foster and adoption contracts were signed and Copper went home to be with Stan and Meredith; their Copper adventure was about to begin. The first thing that Stan learned was that he would have to do even more reinforcing of the backyard fence. Copper was able

to find the smallest openings to get out. Of course, he still had a broken leg and a cast, so he wasn't supposed to be cruising the neighborhood, anyway. Stan and Meredith also admitted that Copper would be their first dog allowed on the furniture. I guess he's just too cute to say "no" to. Copper's pranks continued; he had again slipped out of his cast, he ate the steak which was intended for his "parents" dinner (forcing them to have hotdogs) and of course, was making himself very comfortable on the couches, chairs and beds. After many more trips to Shaker Vet to monitor the infection and the healing of the leg, Copper has finally been released from the doctor's care. His cast is off and he is finally legal to do all the running and jumping that he wants to.

In spite of the trials related to Copper's recuperation period, Stan and Meredith absolutely fell in love with him and chose to finalize the adoption. He now has his "forever home" and parents who will be there to enjoy all his antics and to love him through it all! Copper turned out to be a very lucky boy indeed.



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

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Curtis Lumber "Pet Connection" Adoption Day a Huge Success

by Mary Ellen Grimaldi

On a very rainy Saturday in November fourteen Capital District rescue groups were invited to the Curtis Lumber store in Ballston Spa for an adoption clinic. Jay and Kendra Curtis and WTEN's, Steve Caporizzo; all long-time advocates for homeless animals, worked together to organize this great event. Many people braved the gray skies and steady showers to come out and add a dog or cat to their families and Peppertree Rescue volunteers were thrilled that six of our dogs found their forever homes that day. Pet Connection agreed to pay \$75 of the adoption fee of each cat or dog taken home that day, or adopted as a result of being at the clinic. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all who supported the event, and we look forward to being part of it again!

Another Successful Event!

Peppertree would like to thank everyone who was involved with our 3rd annual

Spaghetti Dinner

We made approximately **\$4000** compared to \$1800 last year and \$1200 first year!

Approximately \$900 was made from the raffle!

Estimated 250 dinners sold, 55 lbs of pasta cooked, 50 lbs of sausage, and 530 meatballs served!



Thank You to our Sponsors: **Mexican Radio, Andy and Sons Import Store** on New Scotland Avenue, **Price Chopper, Hannaford, and Bread and Jam.**

Thanks for helping us continue to do the necessary work of rescuing dogs of good temperament and finding them their forever homes.

Meet: *Sandy Graves*

Occupation? *Full Time Mother of four, Adjunct Instructor*

Volunteer Location? *Clifton Park, NY*

How long have you been volunteering with Peppertree, and what are your Volunteer Roles? *About 2 ½ years*

What are your volunteer roles? *Foster Mom for dogs, update the status of dogs and clinics on the Peppertree Website, update Peppertree's listing on Petfinder*

How or Why did you get involved with volunteering for Peppertree? *We had adopted a dog from rescue and it was when we were searching that I realized how many dogs there were in need. So even after we adopted our dog, I kept watching the websites and then there she was on Peppertree's website--Mindy needed a foster home. After fostering that great girl, we fostered again and again and again.... I get to work with great people for a great cause.*

What surprised you the most about rescue once you became more involved? *How dogs that get passed over for adoption and are in line to be put down in some areas of the country come into the Peppertree Program and have families lined up to adopt them. In addition, what continues to surprise me is the resiliency of the dogs. Some of the dogs rescued have had such horrendous starts or situations occur in their life yet they continue to be so open to loving and trusting again.*

What are the names & breed of the animals you have? *We have a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Lily and a hamster named CJ.*

What is your favorite breed? *After Lily came into our life, Cavaliers jumped right up there to the top of the list along with golden/labs, but the more we foster the more the list of favorite breeds in our family grows--everyone would have a different answer and that answer is subject to change on a daily basis!.*

What is your favorite activity? *When Lily comes into the kids rooms with me while I make the rounds to read at bedtime, she is in each room for story time. I also love to just sit and relax with her--she has a very calming effect on me. We all love taking her out and about--she is always excited for a car ride whether it is a short ride to drop the kids off at school or a long ride to the Grandma and Bumpa's house--she jumps in the car, picks her seat, and is ready to go.*

What is your favorite thing about Peppertree Rescue? *Besides all of the terrific dogs that we have had the pleasure to have in our lives, the people that volunteer for Peppertree are great! It is an eclectic group that works so well together. The support and resources that is available among the volunteers is incredible.*



Dog Rescue is not for wimps! A collection of tails by Peppertree Volunteers.

Lucia Perfetti Clark

For whatever reason people start out in dog rescue, usually the love of man's most loyal creature, it doesn't take long to figure out, there's way more to it than what a regular dog owner gets involved in. As a rescue group our volunteers are fostering dogs, meeting dogs for the first time, transporting dogs to and from homes and vet appointments. There is plenty of opportunity for things to go wrong, and while most of the time they don't, sometimes they do. It's usually something that has happened before, and with any luck the emergency can be remedied quickly. Inevitably the newer volunteer will feel horrible, irresponsible, and embarrassed, until we all relay all of the ridiculous things that have happened to us, and they realize that it's all part of dog rescue. It's not easy, it can be funny, occasionally scary, but certainly rewarding; please enjoy the following collection of rescue stories from our Peppertree volunteers, and consider joining the madness by becoming a volunteer in 2010.

I'll start by sharing one of my favorite memories, when we fostered William the beagle over Superbowl Sunday weekend. His regular foster mom was going skiing, and we were just hanging out, so I figured it would be fine, we had had our dog Cassie for a few months and she was settling in nicely. My husband and I went to the Laundromat to collect our clean laundry only to come home to find William with two bite mark holes in his face, up on our bed, shaking, and Cassie looking at us like "What? I've been telling him all weekend to stay off my damn bed." I was mortified, I couldn't believe our dog was such a jerk, and now we were going to spend Superbowl at the emergency vet, and who knows how much it would cost. William was very brave the whole car ride there, until they took him in back, and sedated him for the stitches, he howled pathetically, and incessantly the entire time we were there, we sat in the lobby sheepishly saying "he's a beagle, he's with us, he's really not that injured."

Lucia Perfetti Clark

One of my craziest memories was when I was at Checkerhill Farms to meet a transport from Georgia about an hour before our clinic was scheduled to begin. I was by myself and the van arrived early. The van driver started unloading the new Peppertree dogs and there were ten in all! I was all alone, no collars, no leashes and I was horrified at the thought of him leaving me to try to handle ten hungry, scared, confused pups! I explained to the driver that I was alone and I needed to come up with a plan. The nice folks at Checkerhill Farms told me they had an enclosed pen in the

back of the store and also provided me with leashes to get the dogs in the pen. The dogs were very well behaved and I didn't lose anyone and "help" arrived soon after. I think a few of the dogs even got adopted at that clinic.
Patrice O'Connor

I fostered Rocky the handsome Golden Retriever for a long time. The first day home while I was outside hanging clothes on the line, he ripped open a five pound bag of brown sugar and spread it around the kitchen, and then counter surfed for the 120 piece bucket of Glucosamine chews. He and our dog Nellie proceeded to eat every last chew! So long story short- there I was giving hydrogen peroxide to two large dogs, and walking the "foaming mouthed monsters" in the back yard trying to make them vomit! It was so ridiculous there was nothing for me to do but laugh.

Deb Moon

This happened the first summer we were in our new house. In our nice new neighborhood where we are the ONLY home with a fence, and one of the only homes with dogs. Our stockade fence had been put in a week or so earlier. Apparently we missed a spot where the ground dipped and the opening was large enough for dogs to scoot under. We look into our yard only to see a dog butt disappearing under the fence. We run outside and there are two foster dogs (Weegy the beagle and Phoebe the coonhound) and three of our own dogs all running around in and out of neighbor's yards. The neighbors behind us had the beagle and then look up and ask if that other dog is ours....and that other one....and...well you know. So we round up the dogs apologizing and thanking the neighbors for helping and quickly get them all back in the house. We sit down to relax only to count our dogs and realize we're still missing one! So we go back out and the last jail break dog is trying to get back in the fence where she came out.

Katie Muller

It depends what your definition of "funny" is but I'm sure that I was quite a sight to see when I picked up our second foster, Bubbles. I met Rich Rini who handles all Shaker Vet pick ups, and he had to do the foster paperwork with me, six kids (four of my own, and two friends along for the ride) and our dog, Champ! More recently I fostered Charlie and Cinnamon at the same time and both had to constantly mark their "territories" so where one peed, the other had to pee. I would be outside walking them on the leash and they would just seem to take turns peeing everywhere, and all I could think was I was witnessing a true "pissing match." Then there was Louie and his licking, he would try to swallow the car windows while out for a ride. The faces on the passersby were priceless.
Sandy Graves



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A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament

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?*