



The Peppertree POST

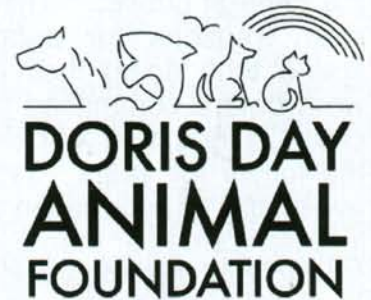
2010 Volume 4

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.

PEPPERTREE RESCUE RECIEVES A GRANT FROM THE DORIS DAY ANIMAL FOUNDATION

Lucia Perfetti Clark



If you're a regular reader of the Peppertree Post, then you're no stranger to Rich Rini, one of our famous volunteers. Rich is at it again, going above and beyond to keep Peppertree going strong in the black. Rich is retired, and when he's not out on the golf course, or working with the dogs that Peppertree boards at Shaker Vet hospital he's reading Parade Magazine. It was while doing the latter that he read about a grant program through the Doris Day Pet Foundation.

Formerly the Doris Day Pet Foundation, the Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) is a national, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1978 by legendary performer Doris Day. DDAF is dedicated to the proposition that we can create caring communities by acknowledging the significant interrelationship between animal welfare and human development. DDAF accomplishes its mission through specialized programs. DDAF continues to complement and build upon the many successes of its sister organization, the Doris Day Animal League. The Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) became independent from the Doris Day Animal League in 2007, when the DDAL merged with The Humane Society of the United States. DDAF will continue its longstanding mission to "help animals and the people who love



them," with a focus on funding other non-profit causes that need help in their work caring for and protecting animals.

Peppertree Rescue is lucky enough to be one of those non-profits, and the recipient of a \$6000 gift which Peppertree will use toward ongoing costs associated with the dogs we rescue such as boarding, transport, and veterinary attention. DDAF funds numerous excellent efforts for all kinds of animals; you can read more about their work at www.ddaf.org

Does it matter where I get my dog from?

Leda Kim

So, What's wrong with buying a dog from a pet store or a backyard breeder?

This is a question that often comes up in conversations between dog rescue people and the general public. There are many reasons for people to spend time doing their homework before committing to purchase a dog that will be with the family for years. With the availability of information on the internet it's easier than ever before to get the knowledge you need to make a thoughtful purchase.

Available puppies come from a few main sources:

-Backyard breeders or the hobby breeder who has a pair or several pairs of dogs that are

bred to supplement their income.

-Pet stores who generally purchase their puppies from puppy mills, most often the Amish or the millers in the Midwestern states such as Missouri and Arkansas.

- Breeders who focus on one or maybe two breeds and are serious students of genetics and also try to either improve the breed or at least not pass on hereditary problems.

All too often people are lured into a spontaneous and later regrettable purchase as they wander into a pet shop and fall for those lovely soft eyes. Or they are attracted to a classified ad from someone who breeds dogs in their home. However well intentioned these people

may be there are more reasons to not make the purchase than to make it!

Dogs from puppy mills and private individuals are often the products of parents who've never received appropriate veterinary care nor have they been health tested for congenital problems such as hip dysplasia, glaucoma, heart problems, and renal illnesses just to mention a few. Many breeds have known hereditary health problems and a good breeder will not breed dogs who have any of these issues so as not to pass on the problem to another generation. It's always wise to know what health issues may be attached to a breed and to ask the breeder what testing is done to try to minimize the risk. Unscrupu-



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

Nicki Duda

mmduda@aol.com

Patti Conroy

Behavioral Advisor
pconroy@nycap.rr.com

Sam Stelmaszyk

Photos
samstel@nycap.rr.com

Meg Fryling

Web Page

Lucia Perfetti Clark

Newsletter Editor
lulu72078@yahoo.com

Cheryl Hislop

Graphic Design
Cheryl@LdesignCompany.com

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?

lous salespeople will try to tell you that since they guarantee their puppies (meaning if the dog is ill you can return it for another one) health testing of the parents is not necessary. Do NOT fall for that. These people count on the fact that the owner is totally in love with the dog by the time the illness manifests itself and won't be exchanging the dog for a new one.

Many dogs from these environments are moved too young and before they've had time to learn 'to be a dog' from their mother and littermates. Older dogs who are not sold do not get human contact at the critical point in their development so that they can bond with people. These dogs are born in and live in crates where they simply eliminate as needed and this makes for an extremely challenging housebreaking task. Sometimes the inability to housebreak one of these dogs or the dog's fearfulness lands the dog in a shelter or rescue as the new owner cannot manage to solve the problems the dog has. There's also the issue of communicable diseases. When so many dogs are in such a small environment there are illnesses such as parvo and distemper which can rage through the herd. Lesser problems such as parasites also abound. In addition to temperament issues caused by lack of socialization there are also issues of ill temperament that are passed down from generation to generation. Often these poor creatures are transported all over in dark and confined trucks with crates stacked up to the roof. This in itself can create enough trauma to last a lifetime. Some of us remember that periodically trucks

are pulled over on the Northway or Thruway that have been filled with dogs being transported.

There are also the conditions in which the brood bitches live. These female dogs are treated like nothing more than breeding machines. Often when in season they are put in an area with several males to ensure that a breeding happens. Then they are moved to their cages where they give birth. This cycle replicates itself over and over until the bitch is no longer productive. At that point she's taken out back and shot. It's a lifetime of misery for the poor dog. The millers are careful to stay just on the right side of the law in case the US Dept of Agriculture, who has oversight, happens to check out the facility.

Interestingly enough the state of Pennsylvania has taken a more aggressive stand on puppy mills largely due to the Amish breedings. Unfortunately with that heightened scrutiny many of those millers have simply crossed the border into New York where they are able to buy up farmland and resume business in a less public manner. So now it's become a New York problem!

Sometimes the older dogs end up in auctions where they are sold to anyone who will bid the most for them. This is a controversial topic in rescue groups as there are groups who believe they are 'saving' a dog by doing this and others who believe that to participate in the auction merely sentences more dogs to the inhumane treatment of the puppy mill. Peppertree has a firm policy on this. The only time we have taken a dog at auction

is when we have the assurance that a miller is going out of business. It's not been a frequent practice but it has happened.

Then comes the issue of price. A backyard breeder and a pet store sell these inferior dogs for a lot more money than you'd spend going to a reputable breeder. The purchase price coupled with the ongoing vet bills for some of these poor critters is daunting. Classified Ads will state "with papers" giving the buyer the impression that that means the dog is of good quality, ...wrong. That simply means that both parents are purebred and eligible for registration with the AKC. It means absolutely nothing more than that.

When you are ready to make the leap to purchase a dog, seek out a breeder who is a member of a national breed club as all clubs have ethics that their members must follow. If you are looking for a mixed breed dog, seek out a reputable rescue. That way the dog will have been evaluated and vetted. Remember that the "something-poops" you see in the classified ads are nothing more than expensive mixes most likely from a backyard breeder.

When you buy from a pet shop or backyard breeder, even though you don't intend to be doing harm, and you think you are helping that one animal, you are perpetuating the problem as more dogs are bred to fill the slots of those purchased. Resist the urge to put your money in the pockets of the uncaring people who subject dogs to this lifestyle, and support your local rescue.



Peppertree 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Mary Ellen Grimaldi

Peppertree gives heartfelt thanks to its supporters, donors, volunteers, and adopters for once again making our annual Spaghetti Dinner a wonderful success. Peppertree sold over 200 dinners for a total profit of \$2500.00. We couldn't do it without all of you, and what a great way to raise much-needed funds for the basic vet care bills that Peppertree Rescue continuously faces. October 16th brought out many friends to the Cohoes Senior Center for what has become known as the best bargain in community dinners. Sauce and meatballs made from scratch, delicious Italian bread and Caesar salad, along with homemade desserts!

Much appreciation goes to the following donors and sponsors: Mexican Radio restaurant, Hudson; Andy & Sons Importing Co, Albany; Mastroianni Bros Bakery, Rotterdam; Hudson-Chatham Winery, Ghent NY, Price Chopper; and Hannaford.

See you next year!





Peppertree Volunteer Spotlight

Meet: Alissa Barnett

Occupation? I work in the classroom at an Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center. My job is never boring.

Volunteer Location? I was raised in the Troy countryside, but I am currently living in Albany.

How long have you been volunteering with Peppertree, and what are your Volunteer Roles?

I became involved with Peppertree as a foster home in 2008, since then I have joined the Fundraising Committee and now I help arrange owner surrenders, including evaluating potential Peppertree dogs.

Name and Breed of dogs in your family? Any other animals in the home?

I am lucky to share my home with Owen, a neurotic yet lovable German Shepherd mix, Ella an orange Maine Coon who is an evil genius and Milo, a senior citizen grey tabby who is a philosopher at heart.

How or why did you come to be a Peppertree volunteer?

I went into PetSmart to get some fish food, and left committed to a 14 year-old foster dog named Bessie. My parents were not nearly as annoyed as the time I came home with rats, probably because they did not have to live with Bessie.

What surprised you the most about rescue once you became more involved?

I was surprised at how responsive and supportive the other volunteers were to a new volunteer, and how varied everyone's backgrounds were.

Do you have a favorite breed? If so, what is it?

I grew up with German Shepherds, and German Shepherd mixes my entire life so I am a bit partial to the breed, but really the personality of the dog matters more to me than the genetics. I love a smart dog, and it is hard for me to ignore huskies, border collies and other herding breeds, but it is also a bit hard to live with them in an apartment.



What is your favorite activity to do with your dog(s)?

Well I enjoy hiking, but my dog prefers sleeping. We compromise with daily walks, and we both enjoy taking some long rambles through Albany on the weekends.

Does one Peppertree Dog stick out in your mind?

All my foster dogs have been memorable, and the Peppertree dog currently sleeping on my couch may be offended by this but I will never forget my first foster dog Bessie. She did not like many people, but she did love me, and while I did not have her for long I can honestly say that dog gave me her heart and a crash course in fostering. Of course Jack the Australian Shepherd who dutifully barked at every squirrel, leaf and snowflake that went by is also burned in my memory.

What is your favorite thing about Peppertree Rescue?

The dogs of course, quickly followed by the people.

Top Ten Reasons A Stuffed Dog is Better than a Real One for Christmas

1. You don't have to stand shivering in the snow hoping that your stuffed dog will pee before you freeze to death.
2. A stuffed dog won't throw up tinsel on your presents.
3. A stuffed dog won't snarf the Christmas dinner off the table when no one is looking.
4. A stuffed dog will wear whatever ridiculous Christmas sweater you want it to wear without complaint, and won't rip it trying to get it off.
5. A stuffed dog won't mistake Christmas ornaments for his tennis balls.
6. It's easier to put those antler things on a stuffed dog than a real dog. Trust me.
7. A stuffed dog will not chew on all your new presents.
8. A stuffed dog will not think that a Christmas tree is there for his indoor convenience.
9. Candy canes will not mysteriously disappear.
10. You don't have to worry about your stuffed dog getting carsick on the way to Grandma and Grandpa's.

In all seriousness, there is not a better image than that of a puppy sitting under a Christmas tree, but the reality is not as peaceful. A puppy rarely waits in one spot long and by the time the kids are downstairs your tree may be knocked over and several stockings may be in shreds. Regardless of the potential lack of manners in a new



dog, bringing a puppy or a dog into your home close to a day where people will be coming and going, the weather will be questionable and the family schedule is up in the air is not fun, for you or the dog. Both you and the dog deserve the best possible introduction to the home, one that is calm and enjoyable. Imagine being thrown into a home full of excited children, wrapping paper everywhere and people in and out the door – it would make several Peppertree volunteers want to hide under the bed, let alone a Peppertree dog.

While the idea of a dog for Christmas is tempting, and there are many children (and adults) who want nothing more than a dog for the holidays. There is a more creative and peaceful way to give this gift. Surprise your children by placing a dog bed under the tree with a stuffed dog on it, and a note around its neck saying when the time is right, the family will select its newest member together. If it is a gift for an adult purchase a leash or a collar and wrap it in a nice box. Additionally, a book on dog training or dog breeds can help aid in making the appropriate selection of the new family member. Dropping a hint with a gift that is for human use, like a necklace with a paw print, or a dog-related charm for a bracelet is a tasteful way to say the new 'baby' is on the way.





The Peppertree POST

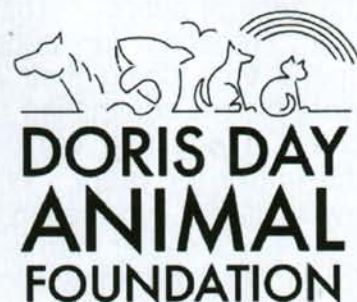
2010 Volume 4

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.

PEPPERTREE RESCUE RECIEVES A GRANT FROM THE DORIS DAY ANIMAL FOUNDATION

Lucia Perfetti Clark



If you're a regular reader of the Peppertree Post, then you're no stranger to Rich Rini, one of our famous volunteers. Rich is at it again, going above and beyond to keep Peppertree going strong in the black. Rich is retired, and when he's not out on the golf course, or working with the dogs that Peppertree boards at Shaker Vet hospital he's reading Parade Magazine. It was while doing the latter that he read about a grant program through the Doris Day Pet Foundation.

Formerly the Doris Day Pet Foundation, the Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) is a national, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1978 by legendary performer Doris Day. DDAF is dedicated to the proposition that we can create caring communities by acknowledging the significant interrelationship between animal welfare and human development. DDAF accomplishes its mission through specialized programs. DDAF continues to complement and build upon the many successes of its sister organization, the Doris Day Animal League. The Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) became independent from the Doris Day Animal League in 2007, when the DDAL merged with The Humane Society of the United States. DDAF will continue its longstanding mission to "help animals and the people who love



them," with a focus on funding other non-profit causes that need help in their work caring for and protecting animals.

Peppertree Rescue is lucky enough to be one of those non-profits, and the recipient of a \$6000 gift which Peppertree will use toward ongoing costs associated with the dogs we rescue such as boarding, transport, and veterinary attention. DDAF funds numerous excellent efforts for all kinds of animals; you can read more about their work at www.ddaf.org