



# The Peppertree POST

2012 Volume 1

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 New Job For A great Dog

By Jeri Eaton

*October 25, 2011*

Booth came to Peppertree Rescue from an overcrowded Washington County Animal Control where he had been found as a stray. His ribs were showing and he had obviously had trouble finding food before being captured. He was under the care of Shaker Veterinary Hospital for five days, and they estimated him to be about one year old.

Booth came to live with his foster family on October 30th, and in keeping with the Halloween holiday his name was shortened to "Boo". At first, Boo was having accidents in the house, he wanted to chase their cat, and was into everything. However, Boo is true to the German Shepherd Dog breed and is very intelligent. It did not take him long to learn the house rules: eat only out of your dish, do not chase the kitty, and go potty outside.

In addition to being underweight, he was Lyme positive, had sores on his body and one hind leg did not track well. Boo was put on puppy food, given medication for Lyme, and the sores were treated. His foster family's two German Shepherds were in charge of helping Boo build muscle mass. Boo loved to play with their 3 year



old male dog. They would play in the fenced yard and run, chase, box, and leap at each other. He really liked being outside so a fenced yard became a requirement for him, and he had a very strong prey drive so he could not go to a forever home that included cats.

After about 4 weeks Boo was ready to be put up on the Peppertree website for adoption. He was heavier, stronger, and house trained. Boo had learned basic commands and had learned he had his own bowl of food. Since he had been starved it was hard for him to wait and only eat out of his bowl, but he did.

*November 27*

After interviewing several prospective adopters, Boo was placed with a single man who had previously had German Shepherds and lives on a farm with no cats. Boo, an active "talker", kept his new owner entertained on the way to the farm. Boo bonded with his new owner quickly and followed him everywhere. He took over the bath mat when his human was in the shower and he tried to take over the bed. Boo wanted to be so close that he took most of the bed so the man chased him off and onto the floor where Boo promptly took



over the bedspread. Boo quickly became too protective of his owner and would not let visitors in or out of the house. It was very apparent that Boo would not be a companion dog; he was a dog that needed a job.

*December 8*

Booth came back to his foster family for re-evaluation. He continued to impress his foster family with his manners; he rode nicely in the car and never barked at other dogs, walkers, or bicyclists. But when he became part of a family and felt he “owned” a place, he would protect against anyone that entered the house or yard to the point where he would bite when there was no threat. He was also a danger to the foster’s cat. There were concerns that with his high level of protectiveness, he may have to be euthanized. The foster family contacted Rich Kranick, the owner of the “Happy Dog Pet Hotel”, which is where they board their dogs. Rich is an officer with the Rotterdam Police Department. He agreed to board Boo for Peppertree, and offered to contact his fellow officers to see if Boo could become a K-9 dog.

*December 19*

Schenectady County Sheriff’s Department evaluated Boo at the Happy Dog Pet Hotel twice. The first time was in the rain for about 30 minutes in the kennel’s large fenced-in area. They did mostly play: chasing a toy and retrieving. He did well. The second time they took him over to Albany State. He walked well on the slippery floors, rode well on the elevator. They felt he was raw but was workable!



Everyone at Peppertree was just as excited as his foster family that Boo (now named Diesel) had found a job!!! No one wanted his life to end at such a young age.

Booth/Diesel seemed to have a connection with holidays. He arrived at Halloween, was placed in a new home over the Thanksgiving holidays, and became a K-9 officer at Christmas.



### Peppertree Again Awarded Doris Day Grant By Rich Rini

In 2010, the Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF) awarded Peppertree a \$6,000 grant to help offset the costs incurred in placing 20 homeless dogs with new families. The DDAF was particularly interested in helping seniors, both dogs and adopters. Since Peppertree has no bias in placing dogs with senior citizens, and since Peppertree has always found room in its program for older dogs we had no difficulty in complying with the wishes of the DDAF.

Peppertree worked diligently throughout the year and reported successful adoptions to the DDAF on a regular basis. The staff at Doris Day were so impressed by the work of the Peppertree volunteers that in 2011 they renewed the grant, this time to the tune of \$7,500. Peppertree thanks everyone at the DDAF for helping us continue our work in saving the lives of dogs of good temperament no matter age, breed or physical condition.

## Large Scale Golden Rescue

Peppertree is involved in a large-scale rescue of Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes and will probably be receiving some of the dogs in the future. The rescue was carried out by a fellow Golden rescue program, Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue. Peppertree’s role in the rescue was vital because it was known that some of the dogs were mixes, and breed-specific groups can usually place only a limited number of mixes. With our cooperation, they were able to bring back all of the dogs they were able to capture. Should any of the Golden mixes wind up coming to our program, they will be posted with our other available dogs on our website, [www.Peppertree.org/adoptlist.php](http://www.Peppertree.org/adoptlist.php).

# SKUNKED !!

by Patrice O’Connor

Spring is here!! Ah, the beautiful smells of lilac, roses and fresh cut grass are in the air, and suddenly another familiar scent starts burning your nostrils! We’ve all smelled the smelly smell of something horribly SMELLY when our black and white stinky friends come out of hibernation to forage for food and a find a mate.

Unfortunately, many dogs like to investigate skunks, usually at dusk or at night. A skunk will spray when it feels threatened, and the dog usually gets sprayed in the face and on the chest. Below is a solution that you can make at home which works well to neutralize the skunk oil on the dog, and it can also be used on anything else that has skunk oil on it. It’s a good idea to have these supplies on hand at home. You may still smell the skunk oil after one application of the solution, so re-apply as needed. The “recipe” is for a medium-sized dog—double it for a large dog.

1 quart of 30% hydrogen peroxide  
¼ cup of baking soda  
1 teaspoon of dog or baby shampoo

Mix together and apply to the sprayed areas. You will see the solution foam when it hits the skunk oil. Let it stand for five minutes and rinse thoroughly. If the skunk spray is on the dog’s face, use a washcloth dipped in the solution and rub it into the sprayed area. Be careful not to get the solution in the dog’s eyes or mouth. The solution may lighten the fur color of some dogs. Be sure to discard all of the solution when you are finished and do not store it.



We sincerely hope that you never have to use this!!!  
*Happy Spring!*



Lucia Perfetti Clark is a volunteer we simply won’t allow to leave Peppertree! For the past six years she has been the editor of the Peppertree Post. Prior to taking on this task, Lucia established the Fundraising Committee and served as its chair. She has also fostered some of the most interesting (but challenging) dogs. Many of us particularly remember Carly! When her job took her out of the area, her commitment to Peppertree led her to take on the job of newsletter editor as a long distance volunteer. She moved the newsletter from three to four issues a year, and frequently wrote articles for the paper. Peppertree cannot thank Lucia enough for her contribution to this important task. We wish her all the best in the future, and whether she is in this area or not, want her to know that she will always be a part of the Peppertree family.



### Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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

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# A Very Special "Present"

by Alissa Barnett

When a child talks about his birthday, normally you hear about the cake, the toys and the friends who came. It is not common to hear about dogs. But if you asked Dean and Keston about their birthday, dogs are what you would hear about.

In January, friends Dean and Keston had a dual birthday party. They invited their friends and they had a cake, but they did not ask for the types of gifts you would think of when you think of 10-year-old boys. They asked for collars, leashes, dog treats and had a canister to collect money. No, they are not opening up their own pet store, these young men decided that they wanted to use their birthday to help dogs, Peppertree dogs in particular.

These presents were delivered to Peppertree at our February 4th clinic at the Capital Agway in Brunswick. They included almost 30 collars and leashes, toys, treats and \$212 in cash. We were delighted by their generosity, and touched at the time the boys spent going around and meeting all the dogs they helped. (Sorry you could not take the big guy Jeter home with you, boys!) We were also impressed with their patience as they posed for pictures with a group of camera-shy dogs.



When you hear of this kind of generosity you often look to the parents to find out how much was their influence. Dean and Keston's mothers are proud to admit they had no part in the inspiration for the party. The boys had seen a similar idea on a television program and decided that was what they wanted to do themselves. Fresh off the holiday overload of toys and electronics that accompanies December, it is wonderful to meet boys like Dean and Keston, who decided that they had enough and wanted to use their birthdays to help a group that is always in need.

Peppertree wants to thank Dean and Keston, their parents, and all their friends who brought presents or donations for our dogs. We appreciate the gift more than you know, and we appreciate the chance to be introduced to new family and friends in such a delightful way.

## 🐾 PESOS FOR PEPPERTREE 🐾 MEXICAN RADIO GOES TO THE DOGS!



**SUNDAY  
MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>  
NOON-8 PM**

**MEXICAN RADIO  
537 WARREN ST.  
HUDSON, NY**

**\* 25% OF EVERY MEAL SOLD WILL BENEFIT PEPPERTREE RESCUE- TO SAVE AND FIND HOMES FOR WONDERFUL DOGS! \* ENJOY DELICIOUS FOOD, DRINK, AND GREAT COMPANY! \* ALSO SERVING VEGETARIAN, VEGAN, AND GLUTEN-FREE MEALS.**



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# Peppertree Volunteer Spotlight

**Meet:** Donna Burdick

## Occupation:

I am now retired but for over 30 years I taught at the elementary school level. I currently work part time at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute doing admissions.

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

I became a volunteer for Peppertree shortly after the group was formed in 1998. Now, as the Secretary on the Board of Directors, I maintain the database of applicants, acknowledge donations, and send letters notifying people when donations are made in their honor or in memory of a loved one. My husband and I also foster dogs when we are able.

**Name and Breed of dogs in your family?** We have 2 Golden Retrievers, Gilly almost 5 and Oliver almost 2 yrs.

## Any other animals in the home?

No, we just have our 2 boys.

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

I was a member of a breed-specific rescue group through which I met Betsy Sommers. When she and David Sawicki left that group to form Peppertree I decided to join them because I think any dog with a good temperament deserves to have a home.

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

Aside from the sheer numbers of dogs in need, I think I was most surprised to discover that there are so many people willing to volunteer their time and talents and work very hard to help find homes for those dogs.

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

Golden Retrievers are my favorite breed. Generally I prefer the sporting, working and herding breeds but I do love all dogs.

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

We go for lots of long walks together but when we are home we play. Our Golden Retrievers love to chase balls and also enjoy the few pieces of agility equipment that we have put outside for them. We'll never make it on the trial circuit but we surely do have fun!



## Does one Peppertree Dog stick out in your mind?

There are so many dogs that stand out in my memory; I really can't single out any one dog. All are former foster dogs and in many cases I have been able to keep in touch with their new families and be a part of their new lives. I really enjoy getting updates and seeing pictures of those dogs as time goes by.

## What is your favorite thing about Peppertree Rescue?

It's been said before but I'll repeat it. The people in this group are very special, hard working and dedicated volunteers who find time around their work and family obligations to take on various tasks. We could never accomplish all we do if the whole group didn't work together so well.

## Pose a question for the next person in the volunteer spotlight.

Have you ever been or considered becoming a foster failure? Why or why not.

**Thank you!**  
Holiday Appeal  
Total to date:

**\$17,800**

To all of you at Peppertree,  
you all have been so ready to  
help me get that "perfect dog".  
We have found him and  
look forward to years of joy.

Dear Peppertree,  
Thanks you for saving my life.  
My new mom and dad are  
great, and I love my two  
greyhound brothers.  
God Bless you all.  
Love Sophie

Thank you for the wonderful work you do. Karen  
connected us with my daughter's dog many years  
ago. We all love him. God Bless you and all those connected  
with your wonderful organization. Please accept my donation of  
\$100 to continue the great work your organization provides.

A gift from "Mona"  
Mona is a loving lab that we  
adopted through your group.  
She's a great dog. Love  
the work you guys do,  
it's a wonderful thing.

I adopted my golden retriever "Zoe"  
from you over 10 years ago and know after  
2 surgeries, hypothyroidism and many smaller ailments  
financial cost can be significant. I am very lucky and thank God  
I never had to make this choice concerning my best friend.  
Please keep up the good work.

Although we found our new  
dog through another agency,  
Peppertree will always be number  
one. We adopted our Kansas  
from Peppertree  
12 years ago.

We adopted Lindy from  
Peppertree six years ago.  
She was only about 1 year then.  
She is the love of our life.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Notes

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

Fourth Annual Furry Fun Run

**April 14th**

at Saratoga State Park,

Avenue of the Pines, Warming Hut

Registration will start at 8am

Check the website for more  
detailed information.

[www.peppertree.com](http://www.peppertree.com)



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



For the sake of the environment and to reduce mailing costs, please let us know if you no longer wish to receive a newsletter. We are also happy to correct errors in names or addresses. Please email [rescue@peppertree.org](mailto:rescue@peppertree.org) and include "Peppertree Post" in the subject.