



The Peppertree POST

2014 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.

From China with Love . . .

By Alissa Barnett

It is not often you get an e-mail from a stranger asking you to take a dog who was destined to be food, but that was our introduction to Mark Fung. The dog's name was Chocolate and he was an adorable little mixed dog from China. We were stumped, and thought we might be victims of an elaborate scam. But he mentioned he had worked with another rescue in the area, so we reached out to the folks at Glen Highland Farm, who do excellent work for Border Collies, to see how working with Mark went for them. Glen Highland Farm confirmed he was legit, and at that point we realized there was no way we could ignore this request. The dog was adorable, he was saved from a horrible fate, and, well, Mark seemed really nice.

It turns out Mark and his wife are more than nice, they are simply amazing. They live in New York City but frequently travel to China, where large dogs are often in shelters, and do not always have a lot of options. When they hear of a good dog in need they reach out to their network of volunteers and donors and raise the funds to get the dog to the United States. Mark, his wife, or one of the volunteers travels with the dog personally, and they ensure the dog is up to date with all medical needs, and ready to travel. You are probably thinking this must cost a lot of money, and you are right, it does. It costs about \$3,000 to get a dog to the United States from China. But, Mark assured us it would not cost Peppertree a penny, all would be covered by him and his associates. We were stunned and wondered why they do this. Why do they spend so much money on helping one dog? It turns out that they do it because they know a dog in China will not have the life a



dog in the United States will have. Large breeds are often purchased because they are attractive or trendy, but they are not suited for city life and end up in shelters. In the rural areas they are treated as livestock, and often end up as food. They help these dogs because they cannot ignore the situation, and when they come across a good dog, a really good dog, they cannot *not* help. Because they are amazing.

Chocolate was amazing too, although we never got to meet him. Chocolate ended up being adopted in NYC before he came to us. But, that does not mean this story is over. In making plans to help Chocolate we mentioned that we work with all breeds, and mixed breeds, but we are a Golden Retriever rescue as well. Wouldn't you know that Mark knew of a Golden Retriever in need of help? A handsome young boy, just about a year old, named Wan Chai. We assured Mark as soon as he was ready to come over, Peppertree Rescue would take him.

As luck would have it, Wan Chai was scheduled to arrive Christmas Eve – our volunteers were stuck, and we were scrambling to find someone able to drive from Albany to NYC to meet the plane, on Christmas Eve, with snow coming. Mark came to our rescue, much as he rescued Wan Chai, and found a place that would board him for us until we could get him the day after Christmas.

Two volunteers headed down to NYC not sure what they would find. They had never met Mark, they had no idea how



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scared Wan Chai would be, or if he would handle the three hour ride in the car – but they should not have worried because Mark, his wife, Wan Chai and the staff at Biscuits and Bath were lovely. Wan Chai greeted them with hugs and snuggled on the ride home. It was immediately clear he was worth all the trouble. We started calling him just Chai.

Now all that was left was to find Chai a home. Peppertree had a wait-list of applicants for Golden Retrievers and went to work contacting them and trying to find a match, and surprisingly, could not find one! We were a bit shocked, but knew his home was not

far off. Chai attended a clinic with his foster mom and a few people were interested. One young couple was immediately drawn to him, but they were told that others were interested in Chai and they did not think they had a chance at being picked. They were first time dog owners, they were young, and they had not adopted from us before. And to top it off, they had a chinchilla at home, so, even if they were selected, Chai would have to get along with Oscar. But something about them stuck out. They were so sincere in wanting a dog, had made it clear they would be responsible pet owners, and had connected with him right away. While they kept looking for a dog, the other applicants were being eliminated for one reason or another, and then, there was one: Anna and Alan. When we told them they were the lucky ones, they were thrilled, but the chinchilla had to be consulted. Not all dogs can resist chasing a chinchilla, or pestering its cage. They look a lot like a squirrel, and would provide a tempting source of fun for a dog with a strong prey drive. Golden Retrievers, hunting dogs – could Chai handle it? Only a home visit would tell.

And this is where it became clear that the fates were involved, and Chai was meant to be in their home. He entered and after getting a tour, happily touched noses with the chinchilla, and looked around the house as if he belonged. Because he did. Chai had to come all the way from China to find it, but, he had found his home.

A New Beginning for Gemelli

Her adopters say:



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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

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Sue Tomlinson

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Lex Murphy

Sue Tomlinson

Newsletter Editors



Here's an update on sweet Gemelli who joined our family in August 2013. She is the all black one sleeping with her brother Dexter on their very own couch. I knew as soon as I saw her on your website that she was the perfect addition to our furry family and I was right! She has so much personality and sweetness - we call her Princess around here. She loves her brother so much they are always together. Even at bedtime they both sleep in between my husband and me (she sleeps under the blankets and hogs my pillow.) She's learned a few tricks like hand shakes and roll over, she's almost mastered playing dead, but she gets too excited for her treat. Even though she doesn't like going on car rides, she loves hiking. Everyone who has met her has fallen in love. We feel so blessed to have her and can't imagine our home without her! Thank you so much for all you do to help these dogs find their forever home. She is just so perfect -- my little snuggle bug! She is definitely a mommy's girl! :)

Super-shy dogs

By Betsy Sommers

Fostering a super-shy dog is like watching a flower blossom (sometimes in very, very slow motion!) Whether, or how far, the dog succeeds in becoming “normal” is really up to the dog. All the foster family can do is provide the security and peace and love that it needs to finally



have a chance to summon up courage and begin to emerge out of its emotionally frozen state. A super-shy dog, as we use the term, is not the same as a fear-aggressive dog. In fact, the two are almost at the opposite end of the spectrum. Although any dog, or person, may become aggressive in defense of its life, the difference between a fear-aggressive dog and one of our super-shys was best summed up by one of our behavioral consultants. When cornered or put in a situation that seriously alarms it, the fear-aggressive dog will show its teeth or attempt to bite, while the super-shy will well, it will poop!! And that is quite literally true, as we've had occasion to learn. For the most part, these are gentle, peaceful beings who, for one reason or another, never got the chance to develop their social skills in a normal fashion, especially where humans are concerned.

Many of them come from puppy mills, where they had little or no human contact – or only unpleasant and rough human contact – and no life other than being kept in cages or pens and required to reproduce. Others come from similarly isolated situations: abandoned or neglected barns, hoarder situations, forests and once even an auto junk yard.

None of them had a good beginning, but still they maintained their peaceful nature and the ability to have some minimal curiosity about the world. When you see what most of them can accomplish, slow step by slow step, you realize that they are some of the bravest creatures you'll ever meet. The only way they ever learn and change and begin to trust is by letting them convince themselves that it's safe to step out, after they've had a lifetime of learning that it's not safe to do so.

You, as a foster family, can help them in many ways, beginning with making sure their needs for food and comfort and security are met, often for the first time in their lives. You can give them a calm home and a safe “den” (most often a crate covered by a sheet or rug) to retreat to when it all gets too much for them but also to serve as an observation post. They learn that they really don't have to worry about being safe, which gives them a chance to watch people, and watch the interaction of people with their own dogs, and for the first time think about what they are seeing and let some new thoughts creep into their minds. Sometimes you'll need to give them a short course of medication, to help them push back their built-in anxiety enough so that they can think - and therefore learn - but often all it takes is security, and routine, and time.

The very best thing you can provide them with are “translators”: other dogs who do trust and even enjoy people and who can show the super-shy visitor that it's possible and it's safe to interact. In almost all cases, the super-shys have very good interaction with other dogs, having lived among others in the mills or other isolated areas. So the “normal” dogs can teach by just being .. normal ... in their dealing with each other and with these creatures who had previously only been seen as terrifying. The expressions on their faces as they observe this new world, operating by new rules, is often priceless and one of the slow, small, quiet movements you come to appreciate as the blossom unfurls.

There are so many similarities in their behavior as they emerge from the frozen state. In the beginning they want to hide or run, nothing in between. They are very reluctant to cross thresholds. Walking them on a leash is like trying to land a particularly active fish. As they progress, many go through a period of bringing every resource they can find - toys, clothes, knick-knacks - into their crate as if to surround themselves with “things” and be secure. They will never come to you voluntarily and don't want to have a leash put on, but when you do get them up close to you, sometimes they will just “melt” and be very content to have all sorts of contact. (Our theory about that is that they have no experience of being close to a human in a positive way so that hasn't become a frightening situation for them, not like being across the room from one.)

Finally, when the super-shy dog gets curious enough to venture out and, after a while, to bravely try making contact on their own, they will almost always approach the person from the back or side and as the person's attention is turned elsewhere. One of the most endearing ways that some of them do this is to edge up to another dog when you are turned away but petting it at your side or behind your back. When your hand moves from one dog to the other, they will stay right there, enjoying the contact and even pressing against you ... and enjoying the fact that (in their mind) you don't know it's them your touching. If you turn your head and catch them at it, they'll be off like a shot - totally disowning their own actions.

It may literally be weeks or even months for the dog to get to this point, but now it's time to begin the second step of this process: gently pushing them into new behaviors that they would never have been able to get them to do themselves. Walking around the block on a leash, taking a ride in a car, walking on different surfaces, standing near a stranger who is talking to you. These sound like tiny steps, but by this time you've come to understand your foster dog enough to appreciate how truly *huge* it is for them, and therefore, how huge it is for you. Spending time with one of these dogs as they make their journey from frozen dread to interest in the world around them and even enjoyment at new experiences is one of the most rewarding things a rescuer can do.



Saturday, April 12th



7th Annual

Furry Fun Run



A 5K for People and Dogs!

To benefit Peppertree Rescue

www.Peppertree.org/events.php

Prizes for fundraisers and Runners!



Registration starts at 8 am, Race starts at 9:15 am

Warming Hut at the Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga State Park

\$30 for Pre-registration with t-shirt, \$25 for pre-registration without t-shirt, \$30 for day of registration.

Wondering about Pesos for Peppertree?

The bad news - this crowd favorite fundraiser will be held later this year than in recent years. The good news - it will be held in the soon-to-be opened Schenectady location of Mexican Radio restaurant! Stay tuned for more information, and in the meantime, watch for news of the opening at <http://schenectady.mexrad.com/location-hours> !

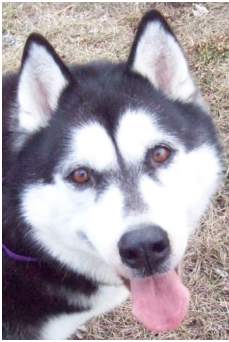


Remembering Allie...

Last August, many people and animals unexpectedly lost a friend in the passing of Allison "Allie" Tripodi. Allie was an avid animal lover and proud mother to her dogs Marty and Suzy, aka Mr. Marty and Miss Suzy as well as her cats Tobie and Finnegan, aka Finnie. All her animals were rescue animals. When Allie was new to the area, joining a kickball league was one of the ways she made new friends. With Allie's passing, her friends felt they had to do something to celebrate her life and her love for animals. Because Allie loved playing kickball with her league, her friends and family organized a kickball tournament with the money generously being donated to Peppertree Rescue, all to remember Allie to and honor the things she loved. Support of the kickball tournament was strong, and Peppertree Rescue was touched and honored to receive \$2,677 in Allie's name. It was a wonderful gift, just as Allie was a gift to all who knew her. All the money is going directly to help dogs, dogs like Marty and Suzy, and we cannot thank her friends and family enough for organizing the wonderful event.



Storm



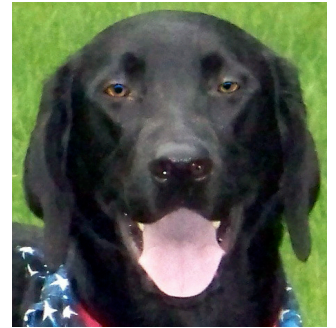
Emmaline



Roscoe



Blue



Nova



Pat Treiber and her beloved Twix

Chica



Madra



Gilbert



Thelma



Zahara



Foster Spotlight

Ada



Harvey



Decker



Munson



Natural Flea Remedies

By Teresa Jurdy

Depending on where you live, fleas may be a minor seasonal irritation or a serious year-round problem for you and your dog. Some dogs are so sensitive to flea bites that they experience a major allergic reaction which can cause incessant scratching, chewing and damaged skin that can sometimes develop a secondary infection on top of the flea bites.

Many dog caregivers rely on topical or internal chemical/insecticidal products and treatments to kill and control fleas. While some of these products are considered safe for most dogs, some caregivers are not comfortable using these conventional products and some dogs become sick from these treatments. To protect their dogs' health and well-being, owners need to ask questions and be informed.

This short article is merely a suggestion to consider some more natural approaches to making your dog less attractive to fleas in the first place. The writer of this article is not an animal health care professional and implores you to do your own research before making a decision about flea control. If you wish to pursue alternative solutions for serious health problems, don't waste time and money trying to figure out a self-administered solution. Consult a holistic veterinarian. Using herbs and nutraceuticals is more involved than merely tossing some fresh or dried herbs or supplements into your dog's food bowl. It is a whole dog approach and begins with attaining and keeping your dog's immune system at optimal performance. Working to strengthen your dog's immune system starts with improving his diet. (This is an entirely separate topic which can be investigated with minimal reading and research. The Whole Dog Journal is an excellent starting point.)

If your dog's body is overburdened with challenges of poor digestion, food allergies or over-vaccination, his immune system's ability to deal with fleas will be greatly reduced. This is why improving your dog's diet is the first big step to better health and fewer fleas.

Some natural suggestions for helping your dog who may already be suffering from dastardly fleas or if you want to get a head start on improving his resistance or response to flea bites before the warm weather arrives:

- A well balanced essential fatty acid supplement with Omegas 3 and 6 will assist in supporting your dog's immune function and help to repair skin and coat. Buy only fatty acid products that use quality minimally processed fresh oils.
- Probiotics and digestive enzymes are also strongly suggested for flea sufferers. Animal Essentials is a company that makes an easy to feed powder supplement which contains both of these, and supports the body's transport of nutrients and removal of waste material.



- A pinch of garlic powder daily in meals can be beneficial (Springtime Inc. offers a product called Bug Off, a chewable Garlic based wafer) as can trace minerals, B Complex and Zinc. A well rounded high quality canine multivitamin/mineral would offer this -- all vitamins products are not created equal. Search for a high quality whole food derived canine vitamin/mineral product, not one that uses synthetic vitamins.
- Low alcohol liquid tinctures with herbs such as Dandelion root, Burdock root or Red Clover may also be used to assist your dog's natural defense systems to work more freely toward coping with flea bites. Nettle is another herb sometimes used to treat any type of allergy.
- To help promote healing and relieve itching externally, a Calendula flower rinse is a good choice as is Aloe Vera juice, which can be diluted (1 cup Aloe juice to 4 parts water). Dried Peppermint or Lavender flowers can be added to the liquid, as well. Use this as a rinse on the dog's body and lightly towel dry the dog, allowing the skin/fur to air dry.

These days you don't need to be a master herbalist in order to enlist the power of plants to bring comfort and better health to your dog. There are many pet supply companies that have done all the research and work for you. Some suggestions are Buck Mountain Botanicals (www.buckmountainbotanicals.net), Only Natural Pet (www.onlynaturalpet.com), Springtime Inc. (www.springtimeinc.com) and Pet Health And Nutrition Center (www.pethealthandnutritioncenter.com). Do some reading about the available products and find what resonates with you and your lifestyle. Always consult a holistic veterinarian to customize a food/supplement regimen based on your dog's individual needs.

Life with Gennie, a super-shy dog

by Deb Moon

Genevieve (alias Bugle) came to us in late summer of 2006, initially as a temporary foster. Little did we know we were about to enter the world of a super shy dog. We had no experience with this and had no idea what this entailed. So, we flew by the seat of our pants and figured love would conquer.

Gennie was a puppy mill brood bitch. She was a petite, deep rust colored, purebred Golden. She was withdrawn, unsocialized, scared of our shadows as well as her own. She had a very hoarse bark, possibly a result of vocal cord destruction.

Luckily for us, we had Miss Nellie our resident Peppertree Golden mix who soon took charge. She offered comfort and guidance down the long road towards semi-normalcy.

Over the coming years we learned many ways to help our super shy girl. In the beginning, we did what came naturally and offered love, physical contact, and routine. During the evenings we brought Gennie from the comfort of her crate to join the family, where we gave her “forced” cuddling, brushing, and socialization. We walked daily and Gennie begrudgingly participated with Nellie’s encouragement. We realized how important the morning walk routine had become to her when one morning she got out and took herself for a walk. I quickly followed her up the street in my bare feet and pajamas. She turned back at the appropriate spot where I was able to catch up with her.

Gennie and Nellie accompanied me almost everywhere I went in the car. Without thinking about it I exposed her to the world, varied surfaces, situations, and places thru car travel. The automatic doors at Pet Smart proved to be a huge barrier for her. She was finally successful at conquering her fear, when she walked in under her own volition sandwiched between Nellie and our daughter’s Golden, Arnold.

Other challenges surfaced as she became an adopted member of our family. Our annual family vacation in the Adirondacks brought a two day hiatus of excretion before she was able to find a spot wedged between two cars where she could “safely” go to the bathroom. She also faced the challenge of canoe travel which ironically she conquered quickly and soon came to love. We learned the progress with a super shy is measured in baby steps, not milestones. Navigating everyday life is a challenge and scary proposition.

One surprising breakthrough came while I was watching the “Monks of New Skete” dog training video. When Gennie heard the puppies on the video she burst to life to investigate the TV and find the puppies!

In the spring, my daughter and I attended a seminar by Patty

Conroy. We learned about shy dogs, **flooding**, **desensitization**, and **imprinting**. Without realizing it, we had been using these techniques all along.

We suffered a major setback when we tried a pheromone diffuser to help soothe her. It backfired and caused extreme anxiety and a retreat from us and her budding progress. We didn’t realize that the pheromones must have taken her back to the days of multiple litters, cramped cages and neglect. Luckily, once the diffuser was gone and the house aired out, she returned to her fragile new-found abilities.

In the end, we had Gennie for 4 years before she left us prematurely as a victim of cancer. I had always told her that someday life would not be so scary and I believe that she had many days that she was happy and found Peace. Toward the end, she loved to sit in a sunny spot in the yard, snuggle, lay in the canoe, and most of all chase falling leaves in the fall. And that is how I will always remember her.



Definitions

Flooding: A form of behavior modification used to treat extreme reactions (usually fear) to a specific stimuli. It involves exposing the dog to the stimuli while preventing escape and assuring no adverse events occur. It produces an initial increase in fear, but the fear eventually declines.

Desensitization: A form of behavior modification used to treat extreme reactions (usually fear) to a specific stimuli. It involves repeatedly presenting the stimulus at such a low level the dog’s state of arousal is kept low and the dog habituates. Gradually, the stimulus is increased and eventually the dog can tolerate the stimulus at the original intensity without displaying emotional responses.

Imprinting: Attachment formation and following behavior.



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Dear Jenny,

I live with a small, short-haired rescue dog named Pete. Pete and I are getting cabin fever being in the house for days on end during these winter months. I get plenty of exercise chasing my fur mousie and playing with my wand toys. Pete is starting to make his own fun by chasing me which I don't find amusing. Can you suggest some indoor activities to keep Pete happy?

Thanks, Jingles the cat

Dear Jingles,

I feel your frustration, my friend. Dogs are not as creative or independent when it comes to finding fun things to do indoors. However, there are some fun games that your caregiver can play with Pete to keep him physically and mentally active. "Find It" is an interactive game in which your caregiver chooses a toy and makes sure that his/her scent is on it. She can have another family member hold Pete in another room, or if Pete knows "stay" she can have him stay in another room. Your caregiver then hides the toy – first in easy places and then in progressively harder places. When Pete is released from his "stay" he needs to find the toy with lots of encouragement. Another fun game is to have your caregiver put small treats in a muffin tin and place tennis balls on top of the treats. Pete would have to figure out how to remove the balls to get the treats. As cats, you and I would find these games easy and boring. However our canine pals are easily amused.

Love & Purrs, Jennyanydots

Jennyanydots is a 14 year old grey tabby who unfortunately has had to live with numerous large canines. She currently resides with Teddy the Lab, three male cats who she affectionately refers to as the Three Stooges, and Patrice and Marty O'Connor.



To subscribe to the Peppertree Post, visit <http://www.peppertree.org/newsletters>.

To correct an address or unsubscribe, please email rescue@peppertree.org with "Peppertree Post correction" in the subject.

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?