



The Peppertree POST

2017 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 Home for Every Dog

by Wendy Krebs

People often ask me how I can foster so many dogs. "I would want to keep them all!" they exclaim. I just smile and remember Rover, who is now Axe, the Homeland Security fire dog. I've enjoyed all my foster dogs. However, certain dogs come along that present more challenges. Dogs that, like Rover, have special needs which prevent them from adjusting to typical family life. They need a job. When they find that job and you were part of making that happen, the gratification it brings makes the effort all worthwhile. That's why I keep fostering.

The moment Rover dashed through my front door I could see he needed exercise and lots of it. I fitted him with a weighted backpack and off we went across town, down the bike path, and over trails. We went hiking and when it snowed, snowshoeing. When we hiked or snowshoed five miles, Rover ran ten to twelve doing leaps around us. I kept Rover busy in other ways as well. I took him to foster dog class first, and eventually we attended a Canine



Good Citizen class. He was intelligent and motivated, and kept me busy learning new tricks to teach him! Despite my attempts to keep him occupied, Rover was always on patrol in the house. He kept watch out the front and back doors and windows until nightfall when he finally settled down for the night. He was also very sensitive to movement. In the car, he needed to be in a crate with a sheet draped over it to keep him from getting overstimulated and barking. As I became a better judge of his

personality and needs, he calmed down, although he was always high energy. In class I saw he was very good with people and handled himself well around other dogs.

After I wrote yet another updated description of Rover for the web, acknowledging his energy and drive, Michael Knowlton of New York State Homeland Security read it and recognized his potential. He came to the house for an evaluation and knew immediately that Rover was a good candidate for their canine accelerant detection program. Two weeks later, paperwork completed, Deputy Chief William McGovern came to the house and Rover was off on a new adventure to the New York State Canine Accelerant Detection School.

On May 12, 2017 I watched as Rover, now Axe, graduated with his handler Scott Kuhlmeier from the NYS Academy of Fire Science Canine Accelerant Detection course in Montour Falls, NY, along with six other rescue dogs and their handlers. I received a certificate of appreciation for fostering Rover and another certificate of appreciation for Peppertree Rescue for donating Rover to NYS Homeland Security. I was able to meet Scott and his family and listened to stories about Axe. I also said hello to Axe and was surprised and overjoyed that he still recognized me. He gave me a big hug! I was so pleased and honored to be part of such a happy occasion. Axe has finally found his job and a family. This is what fostering is all about and this is why I keep finding new dogs to foster.



Keeping your dog safe outdoors

by Bonnie Ginter

Warm weather and dogs just seem to go hand in hand, and even though summer is over, fall brings many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with your pet. Dogs love to be outside and are magnetically attracted to water and mud. Something dead to roll in or bring back to mom is the best. We can still take them hiking, biking, swimming and camping. It can be wonderful to have your furry friend outside with you, but all of that fun comes with some safety concerns to keep in mind.

Fleas, ticks, and heartworm are the usual dangers that most people are aware of. Flea and tick preventatives should be used during the warm weather, early spring to late fall. Ticks can even be active in winter if the temperature rises above 40 degrees



and there is little or snow cover! The American Veterinary Association and the American Heartworm Association both recommend that heartworm preventatives should be given year-round. Check with your vet for a schedule that makes the most sense for your pet.

Just like people can, pets can suffer from environmental and food allergies. Allergies can cause ear infections, dermatitis,

and fur loss. These conditions can make your dog miserable, and allergies left untreated can cause serious infections. It is awful to see a beloved pet suffer from a preventable condition. If your dog is shaking his head, sneezing, licking, or scratching, it is time for a trip to the vet to get some advice on how to help your pet deal with allergies before they cause serious harm.

Dogs are curious creatures, and stinging insects can be very interesting to them. They buzz and dart around, and many dogs love to snap at them. I have seen plenty of dogs with swollen faces from putting their noses where they don't belong. If the dog is having any trouble breathing after a sting, get to the vet immediately. Minor sting issues can be treated with baking soda and water, cold packs, and Benadryl. The dosage for Benadryl is 1 milligram per lb of dog.

Another warm weather hazard that can get serious very quickly is heat stroke. Never leave your dog in a car in the summer, even just for a few minutes. Cars heat up much faster than you would think. Many dogs die every year in hot cars.



When outside, make sure your dog has a shady spot to lie down and plenty of cold water. If you are hiking or playing with your dog, make sure they get a cool-down break every so often. Dogs cool themselves by panting. Don't put a tight muzzle on your dog in the summer. They have minimal sweat glands, and HAVE to be able to pant. You can help cool your dog with cold water on the pads of the feet. Symptoms of heat stroke are excessive panting, drooling, dehydration, rapid heart beat, difficulty breathing. If your dog has these symptoms, go to the vet right away.

Fertilizers, weed killers, and insecticides are serious dangers for your dog. They can be absorbed through the skin just by walking through a treated area. They can also be ingested by eating the grass or walking through it and then licking their paws. These chemicals can cause severe liver or kidney damage, or even death.

You will most likely host or be a guest at a BBQ or picnic this summer or fall. Dogs are not discerning when it comes to food. They will happily eat something that will make them very sick. Most pet owners know not to give their dogs grapes, raisins, or chocolate, but onions are another serious hazard that most of us have on our picnic table. A bite of burger with onion on it can cause onion toxicity resulting in hemolytic anemia affecting the red blood cells. A dog raiding a buffet table can get pancreatitis and have to be hospitalized. Other things at your picnic like plastic utensils, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, and corn cobs, that have food flavor on them can be ingested and cause intestinal blockage. Be on the lookout for stagnant water that can harbor lots of micro-organisms.

Be aware of the environment your dog is playing in, especially if he or she likes to taste things that really aren't food. Have and carry a doggie first aid kit with you if you go hiking or camping. Keep the number for your vet saved in your phone's contacts so you can contact him/her quickly if necessary. Above all, enjoy the outdoors with your pet, but remember to do it safely!



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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

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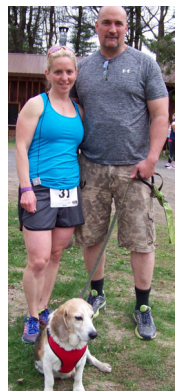
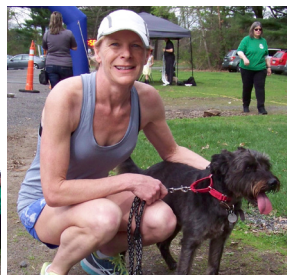
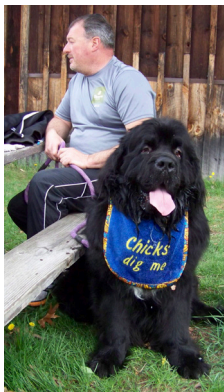
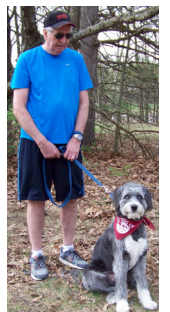
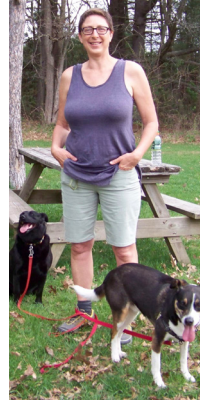
2017 Furry Fun Run

Thank you to our sponsors, donors and supporters!

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Peppertree Rescue awarded 2017 APF Animal Advocacy Award



At the Tails by Twilight Gala on Friday, April 21st, 2017, Peppertree Rescue was honored to receive Animal Protective Foundation's Animal Advocacy Award

Each year, the Animal Protective Foundation recognizes individuals and organizations who have improved the welfare of animals through their demonstrated passion, dedication and actions with its Animal Advocacy Award.

Peppertree Rescue would like to thank everyone at Animal Protective Foundation for the award. We are truly touched and honored to be a part of such a wonderful rescue community. We would not be able to do the work we do without the support of so many other rescues and shelters, and without the support of our volunteers, adopters and donors.

Peppertree Rescue has been a rescue for 18 years now; 18 years of helping dogs, 18 years of serving our community, and we hope to continue to serve our community for many more years to come.

Thank you again, to the Animal Protective Foundation, their staff, their volunteers, and their supporters. It was a lovely night, and we appreciate all you do, and your ongoing support.



Photo courtesy of Totaro Photography

10th Annual Furry Fun Run was a Huge Success

By Alissa Mosier

Thank you to all who came, ran, walked, donated, cheered or just spread the word on our 10th Annual Furry Fun Run! It was our most successful year to date bringing in over \$8,000 profit!. We truly could not do it without the support of our community, the adopters, local businesses, donors, volunteers, fosters, and everyone who continues to come and give each year.

Race Results were:

Eric Morse and Murdock were the winners again with 20 minutes and 10 seconds, followed by Joseph Genter and Duncan (23:29), and then Virginia Larnier and Luke (24:18)!

Connie Smith (24:25)

and Tracey Delaney and Dax (25:02) were right behind, tied with Joseph Britz (25:02) who came all the way from Staten Island, finishing up the top six.

Fastest dogs across the line were Murdock, Duncan and Luke, but special shout out to Peppertree honorary alumna Elliot for being the fourth dog across! We also saw some alumni run, including Simba who was the 30th dog to cross the line, looking amazing and clocking in at 39:24.

Another familiar face was Bella the Vizsla – this was her 8th year running in the Fun Run, our longest running dog.

Fundraising was a tight competition – Peppertree volunteers Colleen and Alissa were going head to head into the late evening the night before the race – Colleen pulled ahead though and raised \$605 for Peppertree! Alissa raised \$590 in memory of Peppertree alumnus Yaddo, and Missy Gilbert raised \$475! Special mention to Kale and Dauray who raised \$400 in memory of Peppertree alumna Holli, who was featured in our 2015 Holiday Appeal.

This year we had 199 sets of feet on the ground. We would like to once again say thank you to everyone that helped! It was an amazing year and we are so excited to put on this event and have such wonderful supporters.



Ace



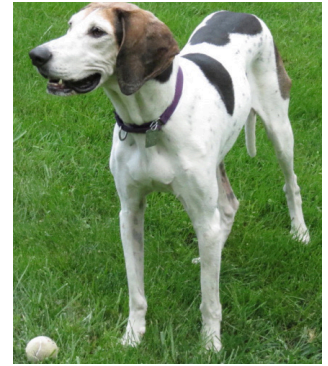
Roscoe



Sounder



Bayou

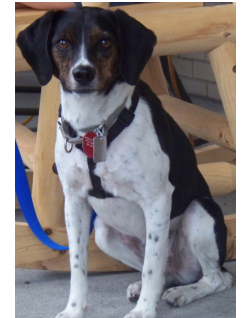


Jack of Hearts



Foster Spotlight

Lucy Lou



Duke

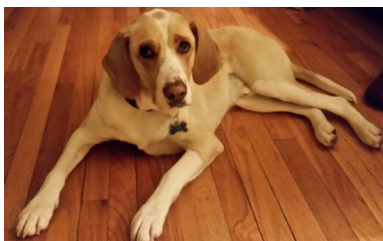


Fletcher



Bonnie and Don Ginter

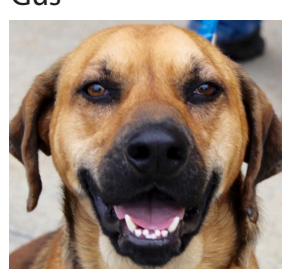
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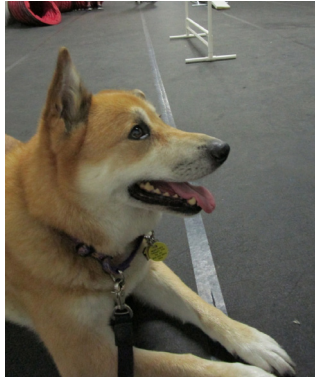
Stanley



Fluff's Training Corner - Gift of a Growl

By Alissa Mosier, CPDT-KA

Pat Miller, CPDT, CDBC was the first to coin the phrase, and it is a concept a lot of dog owners struggle with. We have been programmed to think of growling as bad, so we do not want our dogs to growl. We say NO and we correct and we get so embarrassed because who wants to have the growling dog? But the fact is, a growl truly is a gift! A growl is a warning, a growl is your dog clearly communicating that something (or someone) is making them uncomfortable. A growl should be praised and celebrated, because without the growl, how will a dog let us know they are not okay with what is happening? For many dogs that next step is a bite, and a bite is something no one wants. Bites get people hurt, bites get dogs in trouble, bites bring liability, and bites are often so easily avoided if people take the time to stop and listen to their dog.



So, try shifting your thinking when you hear a dog growl. Take it for the gift it is, and instead of 'No' say 'Thank you.' Thank you for letting me know you are not okay, thank you wanting to communicate with me, and then give your dog space – take a step back as they are eating, walk them away from the crowd of people, do not force the toy from their mouths. Give them what they are asking for. And then figure out what it is that is making your dog nervous, scared, protective, defensive – are you too close while they have a favorite toy? Are they backed in a corner with a lot of people crowded around? Are they sick and not feeling well? Is there a loud and noisy toddler in the room when they have never seen a child before and OMG it has a balloon!?! And then when you are out of that stressful moment, think about why your dog growled. If it is something that needs work, find a trainer that uses positive training methods and work with your dog to create happy associations with that stressor, and to keep that flow of communication going.

Fluffy says:

Confession! I totally guard toys, cat toys in particular. I love to steal them and hide them on my bed and keep them safe. But sometimes they are small and mom is worried I will choke, so she wants to take the toys. To get them she'll offer me a cookie while saying "Trade" – it's a great game! Mom gets the toy, I get the cookie, and I don't feel like mom is stealing my treasure. Mom is nice like that, she says she would probably growl and get upset if someone came up and just stole something important to her, like her phone, but if they offered her something better for it she would happily trade up. Why should it be any different for dogs?

Kids Helping Dogs

by Sue Tomlinson

Did you know that Peppertree has benefited from the help of countless "junior volunteers"? There are many ways for students to gain the wonderful satisfaction that comes with the knowledge that they have helped an animal in need.

Shaker High student, Alexis (pictured at right), made and donated bandanas for dogs in our program to sport at adoption clinics while waiting for their forever homes.

Over the years, a number of boys and girls have opted to ask for donations of collars, leashes, and gift cards as birthday gifts in lieu of presents for themselves. This selfless act is truly a gift from the heart.

Students of Christina Menetti, library media specialist at Voorheesville High School, have made dozens of colorful tutus to sell at special events, such as Peppertree's annual Furry Fun Run and the ever-popular fall classic, our Spaghetti Dinner.

And speaking of those two popular events, for many years Girl Scouts have helped out by serving diners and guiding runners around the 5k course.

Peppertree's work of saving "dogs of golden temperament" depends on the time and treasure of a great many individuals. A very big THANK YOU to these thoughtful young volunteers and many others who have given of themselves to help dogs find their forever homes!





SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Take out starts at 4:30 pm, sit down dinner from 5pm to 7:30pm

SPAGHETTI DINNER

TO HELP THE DOGS OF PEPPERTREE RESCUE

Adults are just \$12, children \$5, 5 years old and under eat free!

Meals include spaghetti with meatballs and sausage, with a marinara or pesto option for our vegetarian friends, along with Italian bread from the very generous Perecca's Bakery, salad, and a beverage.

Homemade desserts will be for sale if you are still hungry! Do not miss this great event.

**Cohoes Senior Citizen Center,
10 Cayuga Plaza, Cohoes, NY**



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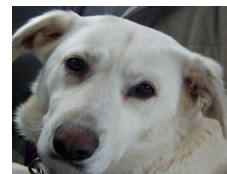
to all who contributed to our annual Holiday Appeal! We love receiving the pictures and notes of Peppertree alumni that often accompany the donations, and we mean it sincerely when we say we couldn't accomplish all we do without your steadfast support.



To subscribe to the Peppertree Post, visit 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?