



The Peppertree POST

2012 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.

From Juddy... to Buddy

By Alissa Barnett and Maria Mackey

When a young person gets a dog, it is expected that change will happen. Will the dog fit in if the owner has to move? Or meets someone special? Or has kids? Juddy, a hefty 7 year old Chocolate Lab, can tell you what happened to him – he found himself not fitting in.

Juddy started his life as a puppy living with a young woman. He was a loved and spoiled dog for years. He went for long walks, he played, he barked excitedly when his owner came home because it meant they would be together. But life changed, and Juddy did not. Juddy is an energetic dog who needs a lot of exercise and attention, and he found himself living in an apartment with an owner who worked unusual hours and was caring for an infant. He still barked enthusiastically when she came home, but now he was being shushed because he was waking the baby. Juddy knew his life was different, but he did not know how to be different.

Juddy's grandparents stepped in and took him in. They gave him a place to play and bark, but they could not keep him forever because there was a city limit on the number of dogs per household. When they contacted Peppertree and asked us to help, Juddy charmed us all with his smile and enthusiasm. We knew we were getting a handful of a dog, but we had a foster home willing to give him a chance, so Juddy became a Peppertree dog.

Now, when most people think of a senior dog they think couch potato, but Juddy is a dynamo! He likes to rip the stuffing out of toys and explore garbage cans. He feels emotions to the extreme. When he is happy he is over the moon, and when he is nervous he is an anxious mess. Juddy's foster home found out firsthand that Juddy did not do anything halfway. His foster moms lovingly called him Jughead because of his tendency to rush into things without thinking. He really kept them on their toes!



So, where could Peppertree place a dog who shreds garbage, hates to be alone and likes to bark? With a pair of seventy-something nuns, of course! When two retired Sisters who were looking for a companion contacted Peppertree, Juddy seemed to be the perfect match. Sister Shannon's health meant she was home a lot and she wanted company, and Sister Pat wanted a dog to bark and let them know when people were in the yard. Juddy fit the bill!

Of course Juddy, hating change and thinking everything is for him to eat, put the Sisters through some tests of his own. From the start Juddy was a devoted companion. He made them laugh, scared off some solicitors, was exactly what they wanted – but he also opened a door to shred the trash, emptied the cupboards, ate a cake off the table, consumed a stick of butter and had a panic attack whenever they closed a door with him on the other side of it.

(Continued on page 2)

Many adopters would have returned him immediately, and on a few occasions we were sure the Sisters were going to do just that, but they did not want to give up on him. They had faith that he was the right dog for them and they wanted to make it work, so they asked us for advice. The extended Peppertree support network offered a number of suggestions which the Sisters tried, but Juddy continued to be anxious. It had reached a point where chew toys, exercise and prayer were not enough – we needed divine intervention.

For Juddy, divine intervention came in the form of Dr. Kroll, an animal behaviorist. Peppertree arranged and paid for a consultation with her, and when they left the appointment the Sisters had a prescription for Prozac for Juddy. They had also learned a lot about Juddy's problems. They embraced the challenge head on and did research on their own to learn more about animal behavior. It took many phone calls and emails on the part of his foster moms, but Peppertree never gave up on Juddy or the placement, and neither did the Sisters. They went above and beyond our expectations, and showed us that age is just a number when you are determined to make things work.

Soon Juddy was playing with toys rather than shredding garbage, and running around outside instead of stealing butter – most of the time! Yes, they still have to make sure the butter is up high, but they can leave to go to another room without him now.

Juddy is now Buddy, and he is once again a spoiled dog. He helps Sister Pat feel safe and gives Sister Shannon a constant companion. He has a purpose, he is loved, and he is a testament to what it means to have faith in a dog.

Recently, Sister Pat sent us an e-mail and shared a story:

“One night last week Sister Shannon went up to bed early, and he followed her as always. But instead of going to his bed on the far side of her room, she said he lay facing the door until I came up later and went to my room. Only then did he go around to his bed. Good guy! He watches out for both of us. We both love him.”



THANK YOU!

To everyone who contributes to Peppertree through the New York State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) campaign!

The 2011 donation totaled

\$ 7,936.96

We couldn't do it without you!



Pesos for Peppertree 2012

By Mary Ellen Grimaldi

Hudson's popular Mexican Radio Restaurant was even more busy than usual on Sunday, March 25, when owners (and Peppertree adopters of the lovely girl Alma) Lori Selden and Mark Young generously hosted the 3rd annual “Pesos For Peppertree.” From noon to 8pm that day 25% of all dining and bar proceeds “went to the dogs.” Doggie-themed cut-outs that had been created by students and scout troops in the area decorated the walls, making the ambiance especially festive. Each was purchased for a small donation by diners at the Radio in the weeks leading up to the event and on the day of. It is always a treat for us to see old friends and make new ones on this day. We thank Lori and Mark and their efficient and friendly staff, especially manager Miriam, for once again allowing us to enjoy the array of delicious appetizers, entrees, desserts (AND margaritas!) and get together for our favorite cause. Through the generosity of Peppertree supporters and the folks at Mexican Radio, \$2500 fills our coffers from just one day of great dining, and every penny of course will go to rescuing more dogs in need.

For pictures of the event, see page 4.



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

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Rescues and Shelters: Forging Partnerships in the Animal Rescue World

By Heather Rose

Animals typically come to rescues from three main sources: owner surrenders, animal shelters and Animal Control Officers. (The relationship between a rescue and a local ACO will be explored in a future issue.) The public often associates private rescue groups with owner surrenders, but it is not as commonly known that shelters and rescues tend to form symbiotic relationships in an effort to help as many animals in need as possible.

Peppertree often works with individuals who need to re-home their dogs, but we feel it is also important to form connections with shelters in our community. Animal shelters are often the first stop for stray, seized, and surrendered pets – given this, the allotted space in a shelter can quickly fill up. If one stops to consider the amount of time, energy and fiscal resources that are being utilized in order to care for these animals all at once – well, it is daunting to think about, let alone do!

This is where a rescue can step in and help a shelter handle some of that stress. There are several ways this might occur. First, a shelter might know that given a dog's breed or personality traits, he may be a good fit for a specific rescue group. For example, Peppertree will always help a shelter with a Golden Retriever and will always attempt to help with a dog that has the "Golden" temperament that we look for in any of our dogs.

Second, a rescue may assist if a dog begins to have behavioral problems within the shelter environment. "Rescues are wonderful about taking dogs that are just too shy or stressed to thrive in a shelter environment. They tend to have more foster homes and have a longer timeframe to work with dogs that might need some behavior modification or socializing," reported Nancy Haynes, Animal Welfare Manager at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society (MHHS). Similarly, Barbara Spillane, Animal Welfare Manager of the Animal Protective Foundation (APF) stated that "it is very helpful to work with rescues because it opens up [more] avenues for the shelters to place animals."

A striking example of this was a dog named Ray, a yellow Labrador retriever who was surrendered to MHHS when his family lost their home. The shelter was concerned about placing Ray up for adoption as he showed very fearful behavior upon being handled and displayed some food guarding. Peppertree agreed to take him in and placed him in a foster home where Ray could begin to relax and feel safe. Ray's food aggression behaviors disappeared after he left the shelter. Eventually, a retired gentleman spotted Ray's information on our website – he had just lost his 15 year old yellow lab and was looking for another one to dote on. He and Ray hit it off immediately, and now Ray spends his days with his new dad, lazing around the house and riding in the truck with him.



Image courtesy IIT Bombay

Finally, a rescue can assist in ways other than bringing a dog into its program. If we know of a home that would be a good fit for a dog in a local shelter, we may recommend the adopter contact the shelter in order to help the dog get adopted as quickly as possible. In addition, Peppertree will often showcase "guest dogs" at our adoption clinics as a way for a shelter dog to garner more attention and perhaps get adopted! On one occasion in 2011 the APF had a puppy named Sarah who had spent half of her young life growing up in a shelter. She had begun to deteriorate, and she was exhibiting behaviors that were causing prospective adopters to pass her by. Peppertree offered to bring her as a guest dog to an adoption clinic. Sarah was a perfect guest dog – sweet and friendly. A woman who approached asking for information on Sarah was dumbfounded to learn that Sarah was from APF. The woman revealed that she had recently gone to APF to meet Sarah, but was met by an extremely hyper, constantly barking dog. Disheartened, she left empty handed, thinking that this dog could not possibly fit in with her beloved cats at home. She could not believe that "that Sarah" was the same dog as "this Sarah"! Happily, Sarah left that day with her new mom and has gotten along wonderfully with her new cat siblings.

While rescues do all of the above to help local shelters, it is very important to add that local shelters are also great resources for rescues and more importantly, for the public. Shelters offer training and educational classes to the public, and sponsor low-cost spay and neuter clinics. They also go out into the community to provide information on appropriate care and training of animals and other animal-related subjects. As Haynes mentions, "Just like any other animal welfare agency, [shelters] are constantly striving to make our animals' lives more enriched and provide them with the best care we can while they are here."

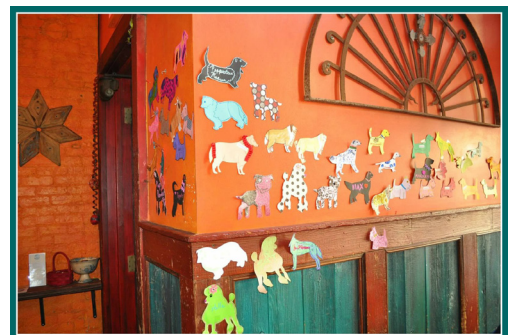
Peppertree will continue to work with Capital District shelters, and we hope that our relationships will grow and flourish!

To adopt from your local shelter, contact:
Animal Protective Foundation
<http://www.animalprotective.org>

Mohawk Hudson Humane Society
<http://mohawkhumane.org>



Pesos for Peppertree 2012





Thank you to our sponsors, donors and supporters!



Furry Fun Run

Peppertree Volunteer Spotlight

Meet: *Kevin Wilcox*

Occupation: *Vice President and Controller at the University at Albany*

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

Almost 10 years. I'm currently President of the Board of Directors and have been handling the Treasurer role as well for the past 2 years.

Name and Breed of dogs in your family?

Finbar – Sheltie mix, Corky – Sheltie, Claire – Sheltie mix,

Any other animals in the home?

8 cats, 4 rabbits and a red eared slider turtle.

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

I adopted a dog from the shelter that I could not keep because he wanted to eat our cats, and Peppertree helped me find him a good forever home. I was so impressed with the group, I have been with them ever since.

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

The people. The people within Peppertree are incredibly friendly and very committed to the cause, but are still realistic to what can and cannot be accomplished.

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

Shetland Sheepdogs – I love their commitment to their people and their quirky personalities.

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

Taking them for rides in the car - - they LOVE car rides.

Does one Peppertree Dog stick out in your mind?

Kate the Aussie. She was a handful and a real challenge, but underneath all the trouble is a very affectionate and

loving dog who would not be with us today if not for Peppertree.

What is your favorite thing about Peppertree?

That they give me the opportunity to make our little corner of the world just a little better place to live.

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

I have been a foster failure multiple times! We like to adopt the ones who have little chance of placement because of age or ailment. They give us back so much more than we give them.

Pose a question for the next volunteer in the spotlight.

What is your dream job?



5th Annual Furry Fun Run

by Joe Grimaldi

More than 100 dogs and 171 registrants toed the mark at this year's Furry Fun Run and the first one across the finish line was ... a West Highland White Terrier! Murdoch and all who followed made this the most successful Run yet.

At the end of Murdoch's leash was Eric Morse, who crossed the finish line in 17:31. Karen Bertasso, running with Mia, was the first two-legged female across the finish line, with a time of 20:47. The first 7 runners all had dogs – only 2 of the top 13 runners were without a canine companion, showing how valuable man's best friend can be.

This was the second year for the Run at Saratoga Spa State Park and again the weather was gorgeous. This allowed the entrants who participated for the "Fun" of it to enjoy a nice stroll in a park setting.

(Continued next page)

Furry Fun Run, continued

This year's Run saw us raise more than \$7,000 to support Peppertree thanks to our fundraisers, led by Judith Mulrooney, who raised \$1,000, and Nancy Kunz, who raised \$360. We must also thank Mallory Baringer, Laura Tedesco, Maria Mackey, Karen Landry and Charlene Jackson, all of whom raised over \$100.

Runners ranged in age from 11 (hats off to Patrick Nagy finishing in 23 minutes flat) to 79, which is close to 11 in dog years. Participants of the "Doggy Dash," a short run for the young children at the race, were naturally a bit younger.

Our thanks go out to the members of RPI's Epsilon Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity who came out to help. For college students to get up on a Saturday morning sacrificing either sleep or study time (the two most precious

commodities for college students) and drive 30 miles to help a group probably few had heard of is truly remarkable. Perhaps they started service early in their lives, such as the members of Pack 528, who also provided great help in keeping the runners on course.

We are also thankful to Green Leaf Racing for handling the timing so flawlessly. Results are listed at www.greenleafracing.com/results2/2012/PeppertreeFurry5k2012results.txt. Once again Infamous Graphics did a great job on the event T-shirts, and we appreciate all of our Fun Run sponsors whose names are listed on page 5 where photos of the race are shown.

We hope to build on our success next year, so keep your eyes open for the date of the Sixth Annual Furry Fun Run.

See page 5 for photos from the event.

What we're reading...



Children's books:

Letters to Leo, by Amy Hest. Candlewick Press, 2012

Floppy-eared pup Leo listens intently as Annie reads her letters, stories and poems aloud, just like her mother used to read to Annie before she died, and Annie slowly begins to heal from the loss of her mother.

Meet the Dogs of Bedlam Farm, by Jon Katz. Henry Holt & Co., 2011

On the quiet Bedlam Farm in upstate New York live four special dogs. Author Katz tells their stories, offering each a chance in the spotlight.

Blogs:

Be the Change for Animals
<http://btc4animals.com>

Bloggers report on their experiences helping animals, request support from readers, honor someone who inspires them, and inspire others to get out and make a difference. BtC4Animals highlights one cause per week and provides information on how readers can help.

Whole Dog Journal
<http://www.whole-dog-journal.com>

Provides dog owners with well researched articles about all aspects of natural dog care and training. It addresses nutrition, training and grooming for a healthy dog. In addition, it reviews dog food, dog toys, and dog health and care products, etc.

Nonfiction:

Inside of a dog: what dogs see, smell and know

by Alexandra Horowitz
Scribner, 2010

The author combines her perspectives as both scientist and dog owner to deliver a fresh look at the world of dogs, as seen from the animal's point of view.

Rin Tin Tin: the life and the legend

by Susan Orlean
Simon & Schuster, 2011

Rin Tin Tin was discovered on a WWI battlefield in 1918. The adorable German shepherd went on to star in several movies throughout the 1920s and '30s. Eventually, his legacy was cemented in a popular 1950s television program.

Fiction:

The Art of Racing in the Rain

by Garth Stein
Harper, 2008

Evaluating his life on the eve of his death, a typical canine considers the sacrifices his master has made in his pursuit of becoming a professional race car driver, and the dog's own efforts to preserve his family.

A Dog's Purpose

by W. Bruce Cameron
Forge Books, 2010

The story of one endearing dog's search for his purpose over the course of several lives. This story teaches us that love never dies, that our true friends are always with us, and that every creature on earth is born with a purpose.



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We must correct ourselves...



It has come to our attention that the concoction we listed in our previous newsletter as a preparation to help neutralize the odor of skunk on a dog's fur is incorrect. It should read as follows, with the proper peroxide concentration being 3%:

- 1 quart of 3% 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. Discard all of the solution when you are finished and do not store it.

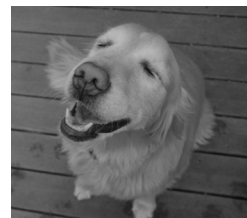
We sincerely hope that you never have to use this!!!



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?