



The Peppertree POST

2012 Volume 3

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.

When your best friend is missing...

By Karen Harmon

When Peppertree places a dog, the adoption contract stipulates that the adopter will keep its Peppertree identification tag on its collar in case the dog and owner are separated. Every year a few dogs manage to slip away from foster or adoptive homes despite reasonable precautions. Most missing Peppertree dogs are quickly recovered, although one foster dog, a golden retriever mix named Bear (now known as Mahoney), eluded capture for nearly a year. Knowing what to do when a dog becomes lost will increase your chances of a happy reunion with your canine companion. Peppertree dogs Yogi, Egan, Skippyjonjones and Mahoney are four of our most amazing recoveries and the first three coincidentally occurred one right after the other.

Yogi's story



In March, Jerry Dixon and his nine-year-old beagle Yogi moved from Catskill, New York to Hawley, Pennsylvania. In the midst of moving furniture, Yogi slipped out. Jerry and his brother drove around the area for hours searching for him and went door to door checking with neighbors. They did not find Yogi, but promised to help watch out for him.

Jerry alerted Peppertree in case anyone called our hotline number. He distributed multiple flyers with pictures of Yogi and local merchants graciously posted them. He notified a local animal rescue group and the animal control officer and put a message on the radio, letting people know that Yogi needs daily medication.

A few days later, the landlady of a nearby apartment complex contacted Jerry after seeing one of his flyers. She recognized Yogi as the dog that her tenants had recently had brought home. Jerry went to the apartment but no one answered the door. He saw a curtain move slightly though, so he left and returned with the landlady. At that point the tenants opened

*Peppertree's
Mahoney
(formerly Bear)
missing since
August 2011
- found July
2012!*



the door and there was Yogi. The couple had been holding him since the day he went missing because the wife wanted to keep him. They had already thrown away his collar, tag and harness. The man asked if they could keep him and Jerry, of course, said no.

Jerry was very grateful to the landlady and his new neighbors who had watched out for Yogi. "Finding Yogi," he said, "made me remember once again just how much he meant to my life. It still amazes me that people who did not know me, but only knew I was moving in and had lost my best friend, went to extraordinary steps to help me locate him."

Egan's story



Meanwhile, back in New York State, an extremely shy six-month-old golden retriever mix puppy named Egan bolted from his new owners' car one day in Johnsonville, nearly 25 miles away from his home in Petersburg. Michael and Linda White immediately contacted us and drove to Johnsonville daily looking for him. He

was lost for twelve days before a man called Peppertree's hotline number to report finding a golden mix puppy with a Peppertree ID tag. He hoped to adopt the puppy himself, but fortunately for Egan's owners, he was thoughtful enough to contact our hotline first. The Whites were relieved to hear the news and drove back to Johnsonville to pick up their boy.

(Continued next page)



Skippyjonjones' story

A red Italian greyhound/dachshund mix named Skippyjonjones also disappeared in March, escaping from a neighbor's home through an opening in their fence. His owner, Peppertree volunteer Michele Anderson, contacted the police, local animal control officer, veterinary clinics, and her friends and neighbors. She posted flyers and spread the word on the Internet via Craigslist and Facebook.

The Out of the Pits Rescue group posted his picture and story on their Facebook page. "It just went viral," she said. "His picture was everywhere. The number of people sharing his picture on Facebook just amazed me. I would be out searching for him and people would ask me if I was looking for the little red dog Skippyjonjones."

"One of the best things we did," Michele added, "was introduce ourselves to all shifts of animal control and make sure they all had flyers in their trucks. When Albany Animal Control Officer Karen got the call about a little red dog, she knew right away that it was Skippyjonjones." That's how, five days after running away, he was found unharmed curled up on a pile of leaves in an Arbor Hill parking lot. Michele thinks that someone may have picked him up on a whim and then dropped him off, maybe after seeing flyers or the widely posted information about him on the Internet.

Bear's story

The story of golden retriever mix Bear, now named Mahoney, is the most amazing of all. In August 2011, shortly after he came into the Peppertree program, he managed to push open a window in an Averill Park, New York foster home during a thunderstorm. When the foster parents returned from work, there was no sign of him. Immediately they began to look for him, but Bear was such a shy and unsocialized dog that he avoided all contact with humans. Over the winter, many concerned individuals called the Peppertree telephone hotline to report possible sightings. Peppertree volunteers and many community members searched for him, distributed flyers, placed Have-a-Heart traps with food near locations where he had been seen, and posted his picture on our website, Facebook and Craigslist.

As the one year anniversary of Bear's escape neared, little hope remained that he would be found; many believed that he had either died or been taken in by someone who ignored the Peppertree name and telephone number on his collar.

In July, 2012, we received an email from a Facebook friend that a golden retriever matching Bear's description had been found in Green Island and turned in to a local shelter. It seemed too good to be true; we were afraid to believe that it might be Bear and have those hopes dashed again. Even the volunteer who had transported him to Peppertree refused to believe it was Bear until she actually saw him, and then she was certain - it was definitely Bear! Eleven months after we lost him, he came back to us. He was filthy, malnourished and covered with ticks, but with some time, love, and attention he is now well on his way to regaining his health and being the beautiful dog we lost a year ago.

A Peppertree ID tag and another with your contact information are important preventative measures to protect your dog. And of course all dogs should be licensed with their local municipality and wear that tag. It is critical to spread the word about your missing pet as soon as possible by contacting local animal control officers, animal shelters and veterinary clinics, as well as residents and businesses in the vicinity where your pet was lost.

The Internet is an invaluable resource with such expeditious options as Facebook, Twitter and Craigslist that make it possible to share information beyond the reach of any single organization. Perhaps it would be appropriate to say that it takes a village to rescue a dog?

If they could voice an opinion, we believe that Yogi, Egan, Skippyjonjones and Bear would agree!

Editor's Note: Tips on finding a lost dog can be found on Peppertree's website under "Lost Dog Resources."
[<http://peppertree.org/lostdog.php>]



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

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Peppertree seeing an urgent need for foster homes

By Jennifer Dugan, River Life

Each year, countless dogs are adopted into their loving “forever homes.” While the plight of these displaced animals is well known, many people give little thought to the large network of volunteers required to make these adoptions possible. From intake until permanent placement, groups like local dog rescue organization Peppertree Rescue rely heavily on temporary foster homes and volunteers. Unfortunately, dogs in need far outnumber available homes, resulting in an urgent need for foster homes across the Capital District.

Peppertree Director Mary Ellen Grimaldi says that there are many benefits to working with a rescue organization. “Dog rescue is emotional work but it is so gratifying and it allows a person to feel they are making the world a better place and making a difference,” she said. “We average about 200 dogs adopted a year. Currently, we have about eight foster homes that we can rely on, on a regular basis.”

Peppertree Volunteer Richard Hartt says that it is easy to overlook the role that foster homes play in the adoption process. “People don’t understand how important foster families are in terms of evaluating a dog and getting a dog in a variety of situations so that, when the placements occur, they will be with the right kind of family,” he said. “Fostering is also a great opportunity for people who would love to have a dog but are not able make a twelve month a year commitment. Some of the fosters only stay a week and some longer. It’s the foster family that sets the parameters for how long they can do it.”

Peppertree provides its foster application on its website and Grimaldi says that there are certain qualities they look for in a foster home. “Ideally a foster home will have a love of dogs, patience, and a willingness to be candid with our volunteers about how the dog is doing in the foster home and the dog’s good points and its ‘quirks,’” she said.

Peppertree dogs are screened before being placed in their foster homes. “The first thing I look for is how the dog [is] with its owner. Then I take the dog away from their owner and see how we do together. I poke and prod, I look in the mouth, the ears, basically I see how far I can push the dog and how the dog will react,” said Owner Surrender Coordinator Alissa Barnett. “My goal is to get a feel for the dog and evaluate whether it is a fit for our program.”



Foster family Deb and Dudley Moon

Even with screening, it is not uncommon for a dog to exhibit new behaviors once they settle into their foster home. “All of the dogs that come in to our program are temperament tested but you still don’t always see a dog’s traits for the first few days or even weeks,” said long time foster Ginny Mosier. “The volunteers at Peppertree can usually tell when the dog comes in which [foster] home would be the best fit. Sometimes we have to shuffle the dogs around to find the best fit but these are experienced and knowledgeable volunteers and I trust their judgment.”

Grimaldi says that it’s important for potential foster families to know that they will never be in an uncomfortable foster situation. “We provide daily input if needed on any issues the foster home might be having. We do not believe in any ‘guilt trips.’ If a dog isn’t working out as a foster, for whatever reason, the dog does not stay in that home and we figure we have simply learned more about the dog which is always a good thing.”

Waterford Resident and Peppertree Volunteer Deb Bennett, who is currently fostering her 13th dog for Peppertree, says that there are several things to consider before becoming a foster. “It’s like having a part time pet. You have to have the time for them and have to have the patience,” she said. “You’re not helping people find pets you’re helping pets find the right family.” While it is rewarding when the dog finds its perfect home, it isn’t always easy to let them go. “People say all the time ‘I don’t know how you do it. How can you let them go?’” said Peppertree Volunteer and Fosterer Charlene Jackson. “I try to

(Continued on page 6)

Gabriel - proving that love of life has little to do with age

By Teresa Jurdy

Arriving into the Peppertree program the week before Christmas 2011, this little chestnut colored mixed breed dog was given the name Gabriel in the spirit of the season. And much like the Archangel Gabriel, the message he brought was of love, hope and a bit of mystery. The mystery being how an almost completely blind and deaf senior dog could survive on the streets of New York City (in the winter) and under what circumstances he found himself living there!

Gabriel was picked up by Animal Control in New York on December 12 and according to the notes on his intake paperwork “proper behavior assessment cannot be done at this time because he is extremely lethargic and unresponsive to assessor and handler. He was not able to be taken out of his cage.”

Once Gabriel was taken in by Peppertree, priority #1 was getting some weight on his thin, weak body, so he could be neutered and go into foster care. Because of an enlarged prostate, the poor guy had the urgency to urinate far more frequently than normal, so housebreaking him could not be done until the prostate situation improved. I began fostering Gabriel on March 4, 2012 and immediately started him on vitamins, joint and prostate support in addition to his on-going course of antibiotics which were also necessary for his upcoming teeth cleaning and the surgical removal of an eyelid cyst that was rubbing against his eyeball. He started gaining weight and his beautiful reddish-brown fur began to get glossy. In less than a month, he went from being a 30lb. weakling to a robust 40lbs. Gabriel now easily joined in on our mile-long leash walks and enjoyed leisurely hikes in the woods with our three dogs.

Meanwhile, in early February, Gabriel had caught the eye of Geraldine McQuoid and Cathie Chasse, two amazing women from Massachusetts who make it their life's work to adopt older



Gabriel with his family

It goes to prove that the spirit and love of life have little to do with age!

special needs dogs. They wanted to adopt him as a companion for their two senior female dogs. Once he had regained enough strength to have all his medical problems taken care of, I took Gabriel to visit Gerry, Cathie and their dogs, and after spending just 10 minutes with them, it was obvious that Gabriel had found his retirement home!

I keep in regular contact with his doting adopters and Gabriel continues to have improving health and energy. His gentle sweet nature and easy-going way truly make him an angelic addition to his new home. After watching him play with their senior Doberman, Gerry said, “It goes to prove that the spirit and love of life have little to do with age! I will be eternally grateful to Peppertree, Lex Murphy and his great foster mother, Teresa Jurdy.”



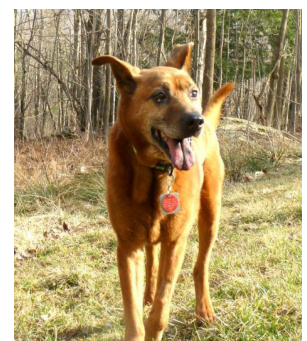
December



January



February



March

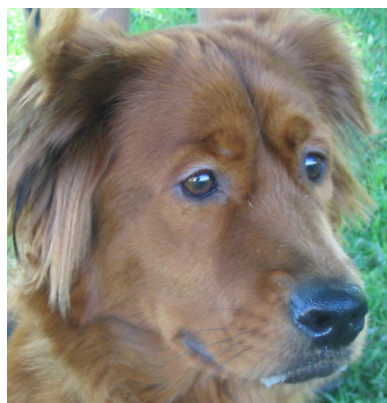
Gabriel's journey to health



Abe, now Marty



Autumn, now Josie



Yoda, now Yogi



Deb Bennett

Penelope, now Gabby



Oliver



Geni



Barkley aka Moose

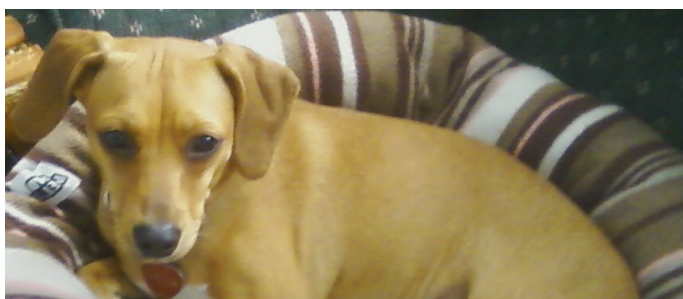


Darcy, now Darla



Foster Spotlight 10 dogs in a year!

Callie



Bitsy, now Roo





Photo by Portik Lorant

SAVE THE DATE!

Peppertree Rescue's Alumni Picnic, a celebration for people and dogs!

Bring your entire family to celebrate Peppertree and our extended family.
Dogs are welcome at this picnic, and encouraged!

Sunday, September 23rd at Cook Park's Sharon Pavilion, Colonie
Noon to 3pm.

\$12 for adults, \$5 for children
Family Package: \$30 for two adults and two kids

The picnic will be an all-you-can-eat buffet with hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers
and Joe G's Famous Grilled Chicken, side salads, chips, watermelon and beverages.

We will also have a raffle and desserts available for purchase.

RSVPs are appreciated but not required, and drop-ins are welcome.

If you plan on coming please send us an e-mail at
ptalumnipicnic@peppertree.org

This is a favorite event for many Peppertree volunteers as it brings
together so many wonderful people and dogs - please join us this year and take the
opportunity to have a captive audience excited to hear you brag about your dog!

And while you have your calendar out, it will soon be time for **Peppertree's 6th annual Spaghetti Dinner!**

Saturday, October 20th from 5pm to 8pm, take-out beginning at 4pm
Cohoes Multi-Service Senior Citizen Center, Inc. 10 Cayuga Plaza, Cohoes, NY.

\$12 for adults, \$5 for children, children 5 and under eat for free!

Meals include spaghetti with meat sauce, meatballs and sausage, with a vegetarian marinara or pesto option.
Each meal comes with fresh Italian bread, a Caesar Salad, a beverage and a homemade dessert.



Foster homes

(Continued from page 3)

explain that you are helping one dog at a time. I can make a difference in that one dog's life, even for a week or two weeks. I can get it feeling loved and secure and happy again, I can see the sparkle return to its eyes and then I can do it all over again for the next dog that needs me. There is always one more waiting. That's how I can do it."

For more information on becoming a foster home for a dog in need, please visit www.peppertree.org.

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For more of Charlene's thoughts about fostering, see
"How can you do that?" (next column)

"How can you do that?"

Why I foster...

By Charlene Jackson

It's a question that foster families are asked every day.

Here is my story. This is "why I should do that".

I had the love of my life for twelve loving, wonderful years. A Mother's Day gift from my children the month I retired. The cutest 6 week old chocolate lab, a little floppy, bouncy girl. Dirt on her face from digging in the yard, but a soul I knew was mine. We grew together. My first dog since I was a child. My children were 14 and 19, but she was my Casey girl. Overnight, twelve years passed by, and one horrible October morning I lay sobbing on her blanket with her toys around me.

(Continued next page)

(Why I foster continued)

By December, my heart was still crushed. I will never replace her, never love another like her, and more importantly, no one will love me like she did. "Oh, it's just a dog...you will get over it..."

One of many tearful evenings, searching the Web for chocolate labs, Peppertree Rescue somehow appeared as if by magic on my screen. They were looking for foster families.

What is this?

Almost 2 years later, along with an amazing group of volunteers, I am a foster mom! Fourteen times now.

Every one of those paws, ears and faces, I remember like yesterday, some were with us for weeks, some for months, but each of them needed me as much as I needed them, to love, nurture, heal, learn and grow.

And so it continues, my current foster, the incredibly gentle, loving, Sweet Pea and I will endeavor obedience classes (which she does not need...I think they are for me) - CGC! Canine Good Citizens...and we have agreed that we will continue for Therapy Dog certification after that!

Nursing homes, schools, hospitals; together we will continue our learning journey. I have a lot to learn, and one dog at a time helps me.

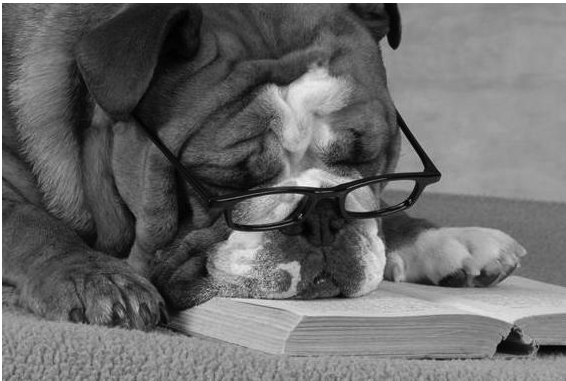
So, this is why and how I foster, and love every moment of it. Yes, saying "until we meet again" is sometimes hard. But, they have all hand picked their forever families (with my approval, of course).

We look each other in the eyes and they say, "Thanks Mom.... and please take care of another friend for me."

Forever grateful.



What we're reading...



Children's books:

A Friend Like You by Tanji Askani.

Photographer Tanja Askani adopts orphaned or injured animals -- owls, rabbits, and fawns, etc. -- and under her care, unexpected friendships form. Adorable photographs and simple text celebrating friendship.

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. (Newbery Honor Medal 2001)
Because of Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, 10-year-old Opal makes friends in her new hometown and begins to find her place in the world and let go of some of the sadness left by her mother's abandonment.

Blogs:

Dr. Sophia Yin: Art and Science of Animal Behavior blog
<http://drsophiayin.com/blog/category/dog>

Dr. Yin's mission in life is to improve our understanding of animals and their behavior so that we can care for, appreciate and enjoy our time with them better. She offers many free, downloadable posters about dogs and children, dogs and strangers, dogs and other dogs.

Something Wagging This Way Comes: An Amateur's Musings on Dogs and Their People
<http://www.somethingwagging.com/>

A very enjoyable-to-read blog about dogs, training, rescue, fostering, and life.

Nonfiction:

Soldier Dogs
by Maria Goodavage

Heartwarming stories of the bonds that develop between modern soldier dogs and their handlers. The author talks to leading dog-cognition experts about why dogs like nothing more than to be on a mission with a handler they trust, no matter how deadly.

Dieting with My Dog
by Peggy Frezon
The honest and heartfelt story of how one overweight woman and her chubby spaniel struggled to get fit and healthy together. Dieting with my Dog celebrates our close bonds with our pets in times of both need and triumph. Join Frezon and Kelly on their journey to weight loss with a wag.

Fiction:

The Lucky Dog Matchmaking Service
by Beth Kendrick

Lara Madigan has a gift: She can help you find your soul mate--your canine soul mate, that is. But she's not sure she's ready to commit to her long-term boyfriend after he drops the bomb: he's not a dog person.

The Dog Who Danced
by Susan Wilson

A story of second chances and also of the power of the human/canine bond, the amazing ways in which dogs can touch and make better people's lives. As Chance himself puts it, "What else could I have done? I'm only canine, I had to help."



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

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NY 12866

Dear Jenny,

Our new rescue dog has a terrible habit. He sneaks into Miss Kitty's litterbox and helps himself to the "treats." His breath constantly smells like cat poop and he tracks cat litter all over the house. What can we do about this?

Sincerely, Exasperated Dog Mom

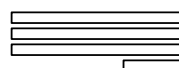


Dear Exasperated Dog Mom,

First, my deepest condolences to your poor Miss Kitty on the arrival of the uncouth canine. I, too, have been forced to reside with an ill-mannered canine who snacked on the contents of my potty box. Please make sure that Miss Kitty's box is in a safe quiet place with an easy escape route. Next, you need to make the room accessible to Miss Kitty but not to the dog. A cat door would work wonderfully for a medium to large dog. If the beast is respectful of baby gates you can gate the entry way and leave an opening on the bottom of the gate just big enough for Miss Kitty to slip through. You could also locate the box in a place where the dog doesn't have access to like a basement. Frequent scooping of the box is also advised. You can also try to catch the canine "in the act" and teach him the "leave it" command. However, in my experience these beasts do not have the mental capacity to learn proper etiquette.

Sincerely, Jennyanydots

Jennyanydots is a 13 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.

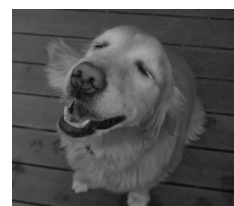


To subscribe to the Peppertree Post, visit <http://www.peppertree.org/newsletters>.

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?