



DAWG Tales



Newsletter of Best DAWG Rescue, Inc.

Fall 2004

Best Dawg Rescue, Inc. • PO Box 34213 • Bethesda, MD 20827 • 301-407-BEST • www.dawg-rescue.org

Message from the President



Dear Friends,

This summer marked the completion of our first year as an organization. On August 9, 2003, we officially launched DAWG with our first adoption show at the Beltsville PETCO. Since then, we've offered help and hope to over 100 dog of all ages with medical needs ranging from broken legs and dislocated hips, to eye ailments and mange. Each dog has held a special place in our hearts. Many of our adopted dogs, their families and new friends attended DAWG Day Afternoon (Please see pictorial display in the center of this newsletter).

Of course DAWG dogs still await foster or adoptive homes. At times we gulp when we take in a dog, worried that we are too financially stretched to help "just one more." But supporters have been there when we needed them. Regardless, the calls keep coming, and we need your help.

DAWG was not allowed to apply for the United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns this year due to what officials referred to as a moratorium on new participants. Many people like payroll deduction workplace campaigns because they offer an easy way to support their favorite organizations. We had expected to benefit from these campaigns and certainly would have been approved because over 97 percent of our funds is spent on caring for our dogs.

In lieu of contributions from workplace campaigns, we hope that people will support us with an annual pledge, payable monthly, quarterly, or in any way a donor wishes to pledge. A pledge sheet is included in this newsletter. Please copy and dis-

tribute to family and friends who want their donations to "go to the DAWGs!"

Sincerely,

Joan Marshall
Joan Marshall
President

We Will Miss You, Stormy

On Saturday, October 9, 2004, our beloved Stormy suddenly passed away in her foster's loving



home. Stormy's life with DAWG had just begun with her rescue four months earlier. When found, Stormy had been stray

for a month, and she was severely malnourished and underweight. Our best guess is that Stormy was a breeding dog whose owners made enough money selling her puppies, then abandoned her.

Stormy required ongoing veterinarian care including several blood transfusions. After months of testing, specialists diagnosed auto-immune disease. Although her health was delicate, Stormy had a wonderful life with her foster mom. Unfortunately, love isn't enough.

We are taking this opportunity to say goodbye to Stormy, and to thank Stormy's wonderful foster mom, Joyce, for opening her heart and home to her. We would also like to thank you, our donors, for making it possible to help Stormy.

**To help other dogs with medical needs, please consider sending a donation in Stormy's memory to:
DAWG, PO BOX 34213,
Bethesda, MD 20827. Thank you.**

Fatal Fun For Fido

Have you ever taken your dog to the store, confidently leaving the air conditioning on while you do your shopping? Some people have done just that, only to find their dog dying in a hot car with the air conditioner shut down.



Computer-driven compressors will shut off when engines overheat, causing hot air to blow. Within minutes, a beloved dog can be unconscious or dead.

Best bet: leave your dog at home and be confident he'll be safe and comfortable waiting for your return...with a present from you, of course!

Animal Control: Misunderstood Savior

By Judy McClain, Cruelty Investigator for SPCA/HS of Prince George's County

A dog sits on a chain in the hot sun, no water or food visible. Your co-worker mentions a dog who is beaten. You pass a stray dog hiding behind a dumpster. What do you do?

Sadly, some people would rather let a dog suffer or risk being hit by a car than call Animal Control. Why? Because they believe calling Animal Control is an automatic death sentence. The reality is that Animal Control alleviates suffering, saves countless lives, and gives many animals a chance to live a better life through adoption.

If you are aware of a dog who seems to be suffering, the solution is to call Animal Control. The problem cannot be corrected by interfering (such as by providing food and water), or by ignoring

because the owner is a neighbor, friend or relative. An Animal Control officer will visit the home or business to inspect the abuse situation and give conditions for improvement to the animal's owner. If necessary, the officer will seize an animal who is in danger or ill (often more than one animal in cruelty situations). Once taken, Animal Control provides care in its facility and through emergency veterinarian services, although an animal may be humanely euthanized if in serious condition.

It is critical that Animal Control has the authority to seize animals in distress, but it is as important that Animal Control uses the law to correct abuse at the source. Animal Control will cite an abuser, usually stopping the person from further interaction with animals. At times, abusers are taken to court. If so, seized animals are saved as "evidence" for a hearing that can occur weeks or even months later.

Often abusive owners voluntarily surrender their animals to Animal Control. These animals are considered adoptable in many cases, with exceptions being vicious or illegal animals (e.g., pit bulls in Prince George's County). [Editor's note: Unfortunately, all pit bulls, regardless of

temperament, are euthanized if seized in Prince George's County. Efforts are underway to overturn current law for new legislation that would not focus on the breed but vicious dogs of any breed instead.]

As for stray animals, Animal Control is experienced in capturing them if they are sighted with regularity. One method of capture is by a humane trap. Once captured, a stray animal is given a pre-determined number of days or "stray period" during which the animal is advertised as found. The public can submit adoption applications if the owner is not found. Rescue groups such as Best Dawg Rescue also have an opportunity to save animals held by Animal Control... and we have, countless times.

The cartoon image of the heartless dog-catcher is just not true. Rodney C. Taylor, Associate Director, Animal Management Division, Prince George's County states, "While the animal is at the shelter...most find a quick connection with staff members." Director Taylor adds, "Remember Animal Control is not the enemy. We try very hard to either reunite the animal with its owner or find the best placement possible for the animal."

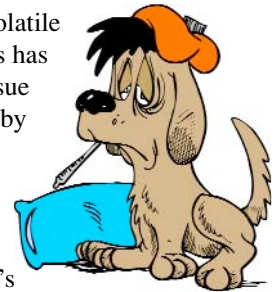
HEALTH...Caring for Animals

By Moira Gingery

Killing Your Dog with Kindness? The Vaccine Controversy

Weigh The Risks And Benefits!

The whispers have grown to a roar. Just punch "vaccinosis" (over-vaccination) into a search engine and be prepared for an avalanche of articles on this highly volatile topic. Vaccinosis has gone from an issue often dismissed by veterinarians, to one that has caused many pet owners to rethink their pet's care. An explosion of real-life stories regarding the likelihood of vaccine-related immune suppression leading to arthritis, skin diseases, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, spondylosis, epileptic seizures, loss of motor control, cancer, and even death has caused a revolution in pet stewardship.



Don't think you have anything to worry about? Ask yourself this: has your

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Please support us TODAY, so we can help dogs when they need us!

Donation of:

\$25 \$50 Other: \$ _____

Annual pledge of \$ _____ payable (select one) monthly or quarterly

Credit donation of \$ _____ (go to www.networkforgood.org and select Best Dawg Rescue/DAWG).

Gift of a security (please contact us at dawg@dawg-rescue.org to provide additional information)

Other: Please explain: _____
(please print)

In (Circle one) memory or honor of: _____

Notification to: _____

Address: _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Interested in helping in other ways? Don't forget purchasing online through iGive.com. If interested in volunteering, please contact us at dawg@dawg-rescue.org.

HOWL-O-WEEN's coming!

Costumed dogs will receive special treats at the Bowie PETCO Adoption Show on Saturday, October 30. Plan to join us for a howlin' good time!

pet ever had a reaction such as fever, weakness, loss of appetite, swelling, itchy skin, rashes, even loss of consciousness after a vaccination? Has your vet asked you to monitor your dog for these reactions? What about behavioral changes following vaccination? Aggressive behavior and unusual fearfulness have been known to occur following rabies vaccinations. Your dog's reaction is a red flag you should heed.

Aren't vaccinations required by law? The only vaccination required by law is the rabies vaccine. All other vaccinations are discretionary.

So how do you determine which vaccines are appropriate for your dog? Mainstream publication BARK recently published an article about the over-vaccination controversy, "Less Is More." In the article, it referenced the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), an international organization of companion-animal veterinarians, which offers new guidelines for canine vaccinations based on three categories: core, non-core, and not recommended.

For core diseases (distemper, parvovirus, adenovirus-2, and rabies), AAHA recommends revaccination of adult dogs (after puppy shots) no more than once every three years. AAHA recommends non-core vaccines (for leptospirosis, bordatella, lyme, parainfluenza) are not given with core vaccines. Non-core vaccines are for less prevalent or situational diseases (e.g., the bordatella vaccine is generally not needed except when boarding a dog). On AAHA's "not recommended" list are coronavirus, giardia, and adenovirus-1 vaccines. In addition, AAHA recommends discontinuing revaccination if your dog has had an anaphylactic reaction because "the risk from vaccine-induced anaphylaxis may be much greater than the risk of infection."

In light of the AAHA recommendations, how do you know your pet is protected by vaccines he already has received? An "antibody titer blood test" can tell you if your dog is likely to have immunity to certain diseases. Keep in mind the test is reasonably precise and is one way to determine what's right for your dog.

Are certain dogs more at risk of vaccinosis than others? Yes, especially if you have an older, immune-compromised, or

generally "delicate" pet. Do not vaccinate your dog if you suspect the dog is not well, and NEVER vaccinate in an all-in-one veterinarian annual visit. It is much better to stagger vaccinations you feel are necessary throughout the year. That would give your dog the benefit of additional exams during which your veterinarian might detect a health problem in your pet. Be sure to give your veterinarian a comprehensive portrayal of your dog's life, including potential visits to rural areas that have additional disease risks.

What proof is there that there is a connection between over-vaccination and reactions/disease? Unfortunately, not much can be documented through scientific research. According to Colorado State University (1988), "We are making this change [revising the vaccination protocol] after years of concern about the lack of documentation that over-vaccinating has been associated with harmful side effects...which are often fatal."

Is there anything else you can do to preserve your dog's health and enhance his immunity. Yes! Without question, the immune system is supported on a daily basis by what the dog eats. Many people have turned away from commercial foods toward natural canine diets and supplementation tailored to the dog's needs.

The purpose of this article is not to provide a thorough examination on the topic of vaccinosis. We want to leave you with enough questions that you study the issue on your own and ask your veterinarian for his or her recommendations. Your decisions regarding vaccination will enhance your dog's life...or even save it.

Fun Guy In Search of Adoring Adopter...

...Or so Chase's personal ad would read. Chase takes joy in every moment in life! Chase hasn't found a home because many adopters have children or grandchildren,



and Chase is nervous around them. Perhaps he was hurt by a child or simply can't understand them. His future is in an adult home looking for a fresh outlook on life. Chase loves to play with other dogs, so he's a great candidate as a second dog. If you want a lot of good loving from a short-legged guy, Chase is the "date" of your dreams!

Maisie...Oh, Maisie. Why haven't you found a home?

It wasn't long ago that our beautiful Maisie was

found in a ditch, emaciated, mange-ridden and ill. It took months for Maisie to recuperate. When she did, she turned into a loving, playful dog...an ideal companion, except



that she is highly fearful of other dogs. An understanding adopter will see through Maisie's insecurities and want to give this lovely lady the home she deserves. She couldn't be more loving with people, and she's quite the party girl, loving every moment of fun with her human friends. Do you have room in your heart for our dear Maisie?

DAWG Wish List

- Open wire crates (42 inch and 48 inch)
- Paper for printing applications and adoption kit inserts
- Green fabric or leather leashes, preferably with "P" hooks
- Green fabric collars—all sizes
- Squeaky toys for dogs to play with at shows
- Items to sell on Ebay
- Local pet and office supply store gift certificates (for misc. expenditures)
- Office machinery such as computers, copiers and fax machines (good condition, please!)

To donate, please write us at dawg@dawg-rescue.org so that we can arrange for drop-off or delivery. **Thank you!**



2004 DAWG DAY AFTERNOON

August 8, 2004



CONTEST WINNERS

Best Costume—Lark

Best Smoocher—Berry

Longest Ears—Max

Musical Sit—Amber

Shortest Dog—Slinky (Stoshan)

Tallest Dog—Riley

Best Trick—Pixie, 2nd place



Best Trick—Tessie (Tazzie)



Our Success Stories

Dear DAWG,

Thank you for Buddy (formerly known as Aspen)! Never has there been a more loving and loved dog. He is so



happy; I wish he could tell you himself. Buddy loves to take walks, greeting his friends (which so far includes all of the other dogs we meet with their owners, and the owners as well). Buddy is already known for his

loving friendliness. If a robber came to the door, Buddy would invite him in with a wag of his tail and show him around.

Fond regards,
Barbara

Editor's note: Aspen came to us as a dog slated for euthanasia at a local shelter. He had started his life in Colorado, hence his DAWG name. Aspen was found at the side of a local road, presumably hit by a car. No one claimed this loving pup. Luckily his injuries were not substantial, and he learned that love could be returned through his dedicated foster. At last, he was spotted on DAWG's website, and the rest is history!

Dear DAWG,

Slinky (formally known as Stoshan) is doing great! She loves going to PETCO, and even though she is low to the ground, she can reach the chew toys on the bottom racks of the store. She has picked out a lot of her own toys. I will be walking her through the store, turn around and see her carrying a toy. We took her to the



Farmer's Market in Dupont Circle downtown. She was the star! She also enjoys barking at the deer and squirrels that come to our backyard. Slinky loves everyone and everyone loves her. She is a doll baby!

Mary, Gary & Slinky

Hello, Everyone!

I just wanted to let everyone know how well Gabriel's doing (or as we call



him "Gabie-Babie"). He is the most precious pup I've ever known. His need for love is almost overwhelming. He charms everyone he meets. He enjoys rides in the car—especially to the "Dog Wash" (not so much), our local tack shop, but especially the pet store (where he picked out his new collar). He and his brother, Casper, and sister, Katie (a/k/a Ella), are working things out. They appear to miss one another when one is gone and it looks like it won't be long before Gabriel and Katie become best playmates! The three of them have started their own chorus! You should hear them! It's a lovely sound, at least to their mother and father.

Katie just celebrated her 3-month anniversary with us. What a dear lady. But such a wicked sense of humor! She loves nothing more than to chew on her toys or play in the backyard. And she is always talking! She'll run beside you, trying to grab your arm so she can lead you around. Or she'll take off and try to "sideswipe" one of the boys to get them to play with her!

Even though it hasn't been long, we can't imagine life without any of them. They are just the sweetest (and funniest!) pups we've ever met. They're learning to share, and it's amazing they've gotten

along so well! Like you said—it was meant to be!

Our very best wishes to everyone—and hugs to all the pups! Tell them that they're sure to have homes real soon.

Caspie-Booh, Katie-Bear,
Gabie-Babie and Barb

Editor's note: Katie (formerly Ella) was a stray slated for euthanasia at a local shelter, presumably because she looked older and was overweight. Our contact called,

knowing we'd see what she saw in her—and we did! Sweet Gabriel came to us as a rural stray. His hip had been dislocated, presumably because he had been hit by a car. It healed poorly prior to our intake. Corrective surgery was successful, and he was introduced to Ella/Katie's family shortly thereafter.
The rest is DAWG history!

From Opie's new family:

Opie is GREAT!! Things could not be going better. He is so sweet and has done absolutely nothing wrong. We could not have a better pet for our family, and everyone who has met him has fallen completely in love with him. He has perked up a bit but is still very mellow. He was obviously stressed in the beginning, but we just laid low and took it easy. We can tell now that he is really starting to feel comfortable.

We are working on him to become more in-tune with us. He was a little distant in the beginning but is starting to feel more connected. He eagerly greets

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us at the door, comes when we call, and approaches us for pets regularly. He is really starting to bond with me in particular since I keep the treats in my pocket. He is starting to become more eager to please me too. Someone must have been nasty to him because he really cringes when we correct him. We have made a serious commitment to not let anyone yell at him or fuss at him about anything. All he needs is gentle reminders.

He seems very smart and really easy to train. Once he raised his paw up on the bed, left it there for a while, lowered his head and glanced sideways at me. He couldn't have asked the question more clearly if he could speak. Of course I said O.K. because I am a sucker for such a cutey. All I had to say was "O.K." and he

hopped up and laid down. He stayed for a second or two, got up and gave me a whole bunch of kisses, and then laid back down. I can not believe anybody gave this dog up.

We are starting to speculate about his genetics. He is obviously a large part lab but he does not play fetch (no matter how hard we try). His jaw is wide set and strong like a rottie or pit bull, and he loves to play tug. He is tall and lean, points at squirrels like a pointer, and when you run with him, he tracks like a Collie. It is very interesting to get to know a dog you know nothing about. The pointing has really been the most fun for our family. The boys just think it is hilarious.

Thanks again for your work on behalf of Opie and all other unwanted dogs,
Melissa

Our grateful thanks to...

Crunchies in Crofton; PETCO (Beltsville, Bowie, Columbia, Ellicott City, and Rockville stores) for sponsoring our weekly adoption shows; and College Park Animal Hospital and Preston Country Club for Dogs, for extraordinary care and services at reduced rates that help DAWG dogs get well and live well until adopted.

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CANINE DRUG ALERT!

The FDA has recalled Proheart (injectable six-month heartworm preventative treatment) because of the number of adverse reactions and deaths reported by veterinarians and dog owners due to its use. In addition, Rimadyl manufacturer, Pfizer, has settled on more than 300 claims of drug-related deaths. For further information, please contact your veterinarian.



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Visit us at www.dawg-rescue.org

We need your help more than ever! Please say "Yes!" to an annual donation to DAWG.