



DAWG Tales



Newsletter of Best DAWG Rescue, Inc.

Winter 2006

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

Message from the President



“To look backward for a while is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it more fit for its prime function of looking forward.”

—Margaret Fairless Barber

Dear Friends,

With 2006 near its end, it is a good time to reflect on the year's events. One way to do so is to look back at our adopted dogs and each of their stories.

When we take dogs in, we ask, “Who is this dog? What does he or she need to get well and to trust again? When will someone walk into an adoption show, looking at this dog as if he or she is the only dog there?” We look forward to knowing the answers to these questions. We may never know what happened in the first chapters of a dog's life, but our role is to make sure each story is written well as far as we can take it. When our dogs are adopted, their story continues to be written by their new families, although we are there for editing suggestions from time to time!

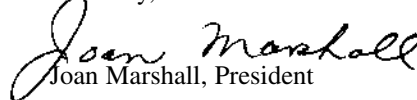
Heartwarming stories aside, we are often discouraged. Major issues, such as the pit bull ban dooming hundreds of innocent dogs rather than sanctioning bad owners, and the failed restriction on legal dog chaining in Maryland, were not resolved in favor of dogs in 2006. And it's hard to not think of the thousands of innocent lives ended at shelters, because people didn't bother to seek solutions or

had no business having a dog in the first place. Sadly, many organizations scramble to dole dogs out indiscriminately, believing any home is better than euthanasia, and unwittingly continuing the cycle of non-accountability and death.

As overwhelming as these issues are, we keep our focus on what we *can* do, and maintain high standards to benefit our dogs. We raise the bar and keep it high. It is not the easiest road, but we believe there is no other way. And we think you, our volunteers, adopters and friends, agree.

We will continue to share the stories, the angst and the triumphs with you throughout 2007. And we thank you for selecting Best Dawg Rescue as your way to make this world a better place.

Sincerely,


Joan Marshall, President

HEALTH. . .Caring for Animals

We are grateful that Dr. Michael Fox, columnist/veterinarian with doctoral degrees in medicine and animal behavior, offers creative solutions to common problems. Here he addresses misconceptions regarding tartar control and provides a novel solution that will provide hours of fun for your dog.

Dear Dr. Fox: I've begun using your Web site recipe for making my two terriers' food. One of them had been refusing to eat several meals a week, but with this diet, he never misses a meal.

I am concerned about one aspect of the

diet, though. When I adopted the first dog, my veterinarian told me that dry dog food was better for controlling tartar than canned. With your diet, there is nothing crunchy to help with the tartar control. What do you recommend, or is the crunchiness even necessary in their diets?
— N.H., Houston

A: I am glad that my basic recipe for home-prepared dog food is working well for your dogs. Perform an experiment. Pour hot water on a tablespoonful of my diet and the same amount on canned food, whisk and let cool. Do the same with a tablespoonful of dry dog food. Then examine. Chances are the highly processed canned and liquefied dry dog food will have much brownish “gravy.” It is made up of microparticles created by food processing that can get trapped between dogs' and cats' teeth. The whole foods in the kind of natural diet that I advocate have no such fine particles.

The best tooth cleaner for dogs is a three-inch-long piece of raw beef-marrow bone. Scald it in boiling water first to kill bacteria. Cooking makes the bone splinter easily when chewed and could put the dog at risk. (For cats, the gristly end of a raw chicken wing can do wonders.)

For more information on Dr. Michael Fox and natural diets for dogs, visit his website at <http://tedeboy.tripod.com/drmichaelwfox/> and scroll down to recipes for dogs and cats.

“Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened.”

—Anatole France

I Am Your Dog

I am your dog, and I have a little something I'd like to whisper in your ear. I know that you humans lead busy lives. Some have to work, some have children to raise. It always seems like you are running here and there, often much too fast, often never noticing the truly grand things in life. Look down at me now, while you sit there at your computer.

You smile at me; I see love in your eyes. What do you see in mine? I may not be here tomorrow; I may not be here next week. Someday you will be angry at yourself that you did not have just "one more day" with me. We have NOW together. So come, sit down here next to me on the floor, and look deep into my eyes. What do you see? If you look hard and deep enough we will talk, you and I, heart

to heart. Come to me not as an "alpha" or as "trainer" or even "Mom or Dad." Come to me as a living soul and stroke my fur and let us look deep into one another's eyes, and talk.

You decided to have me in your life. Someone very different from you, and here I am. I feel emotion, I feel physical senses, and I can revel in the differences of our spirits. I do not think of you as a "Dog on two feet"—I know what you are. You are human, in all your quiriness, and I love you still.

Now, come sit with me, on the floor. Enter my world, and let time slow down if only for 15 minutes. Look deep into my eyes, and whisper in my ears. Speak with your heart, with your joy. We may not have tomorrow, and life is oh so very short.

*Love, (on behalf of canines everywhere)
Author Unknown*

Thanks once again to Aino Hunter who graciously provided a grant for medical support of DAWG dogs!

HONORARY & MEMORIAL DONATIONS

A wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or pet is through a donation to give dogs a chance at the life they deserve. Honorary and memorial donations are listed in DAWG Tales on a quarterly basis.

In memory of departed pets

Bogart, by "Big Bruno" Bruce Cohen

Sam, by Steven and Deborah Dratter

Cobe Arnold, by Judy and Roger McClain

Ginger, "much loved by Jon Marshall and Joan. . . a precious girl,"
by Judy and Roger McClain

Haley and Sunkist, "Joan's dear kitties," by Judy and Roger McClain
"All the precious dogs who never got their forever homes, who now frolic at the Rainbow Bridge. . . gone but not forgotten." Judy and Roger McClain

In honor of pets

Our DAWG dogs, Calvin and Katie, by Bruce Niemiec and Stacy Baker

Amber, by Mike and Maura Clover

Reggie, by Sean and Katie Cartwright

BJ and Duke, by Douglas and Michele Krebs

In honor of people

Karin Rennings, DVM, by Caitlin Welsh

Kathy Rodeffer's birthday, by Gerard T. Atchinson, Dominador D. Sanchez, Joseph and Jean Richter, and Regina Buchen

Behaviorist/Trainer Dog Whisperer Cesar Millan says. . .

"Dogs in their natural state are balanced. We often upset that balance. Dogs have completely different needs from humans because of how they evolved. Most problems arise from the human not taking an active role of pack leader from the beginning. Dogs instinctively need a pack leader. They need exercise, then rules, then boundaries and limitations before getting our affection."

For specific answers about dog behavior, read Cesar's book, *Cesar's Way*, or write Cesar at pets911@cesarmillaninc.com.

Also watch "The Dog Whisperer" on the National Geographic channel. Do it to be the pack leader your dog expects you to be!

Thanks to DAWG Day Afternoon Silent Auction Donors

Suzanne Arnold, Jeanne Benas, Tom and Nancy Carruthers, Bill and Yvonne Curry, John and Karen Eskew, Warren and Joanne Goldman, Lori Hunley, Carmen Jessup, Diane Kaiser, Lynn Lee (Badger's Moon), Leni Lewis (Franklin's), Ken and Elizabeth Lundeen, Kassy Mattingly, Courtney Molino (Hands On Horses), Julie Paez (The Big Bad Woof), Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, Kathy Rodeffer, Vivian Rozane, Greg Samples, Debbie Thomas, Robin Tierney, Fred Wolpert (Preston Country Club for Pets).



And thanks to all the volunteers, adopters and friends who attended our third annual event!

DAWG's Adoption Gallery

Enjoy meeting some of our recent adoptees, pictured with their new families!



Beamer (foreground)



Cissy



Katrina Beau



Fifi



Roscoe (right)



Piper



Heidi



Hickory



Mikial



Pearl



Ruby



Simba

2006 DAWG Day Afternoon

DAWG thanks all of our volunteers, adopters and friends. Together you give dogs new lives.



DAWG dogs Dolly, Mandy (Lollipop), Tonka, Max, Daytona, Tink and Mulligan, and Betsy and Bethany plotting to get those hot dogs off the table!





"You want me to wear THAT?" Rory, Connor, Radar Joe, Pokey, Mulligan, Tinkerbelle, Berry, and friends in the costume contest parade!



Sadie, Shady and Breezy, Homer, Clyde, and Callie and friends watching Tessie win the best trick contest...AGAIN!





Adopted DAWG dogs of all sizes, from Beau, Camrie, Scampi and Oscar, to Cissy, Sebastian and Barkley!





Deedee, Slinky, Oliver in pure bliss, and lots of generous donations to entice bidders at our silent auction!

DAWG Gone Funny

Q: What does an agnostic, dyslexic, insomniac do?

A: Stays up all night wondering if there is a dog.

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them. —Phil Pastoret

A man walked by a table in a hotel and noticed three men and a dog playing cards. The dog was exhibiting an extraordinary performance.

"That is a very smart dog," the man commented.

"He's not so smart," said one of the irked players. "Every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail."

Note: If you know a funny, clean dog joke or anecdote you want to share please submit it to dawg@dawg-rescue.org. Indicate in the subject line "newsletter submission."

Do you have a great story about *your* adopted dog?

Send it and a recent photo to Best Dawg Rescue, Inc., PO Box 34213, Bethesda, MD 20827

Our grateful thanks to . . . PETCO (Beltsville, Columbia, and Rockville stores) for sponsoring our weekly adoption shows; and College Park Animal Hospital and Preston Country Club for Pets, for extraordinary care and services at reduced rates that help DAWG dogs get well and live well until adopted. We also thank the Outer Office in Fulton, MD for printing our newsletter.

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Check out our adoptable dogs and DAWG Tales in color at www.dawg-rescue.org

Best Dawg Rescue (DAWG) is #7062 in the Combined Federal Campaign