



DAWG Tales



Newsletter of Best DAWG Rescue, Inc.

Winter 2007

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

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

The close of another year...time to look forward as well as back at what made this year unique. Hopefully many of this year's special moments will be remembered because they were uplifting. However, some of the memorable events of the year were not joyful but deeply disturbing and caused an erosion of trust on many levels.

Our trust was permanently shattered by the pet food tainting and recalls, resulting in untold illness and deaths. Horrible? Yes, but redeemable in that few will blindly trust manufactured products again, and most will at least read product labeling even if not sure of the foods' origins. In fact, many people have changed their pets' lives for the better by preparing their food or at least purchasing higher caliber commercial foods. So perhaps the pets who paid the price paved the way for a healthier life for other pets. Must we always learn the hard way?

Dog fighting received its rightful exposure and explosion of public outrage in 2007. On a larger scale, we hope that the atrocities exposed in the Michael Vick case will result in vigilant people reporting any suspicion of animal cruelty. Trust your instincts!

Sadly, there will be reverberations of the "Ellen DeGeneres matter" for a

while. As you recall, when her adopted dog did not work out in her home, she violated the adoption agreement by giving the dog to someone rather than returning him to the rescue group. The private rescue world, already a tough one for those who undertake saving animals, has been unfairly targeted and treated with contempt. Perhaps some adopters don't realize we prioritize returned dogs who were not a match for any reason. We were their original nurturers, and we have fosters homes available to welcome our dogs back. We also have access to qualified homes to consider for a dog's future placement. Hopefully a result of the uproar will NOT be that rescue placements will decrease because of the lack of trust and understanding between rescue groups and adopters. Fewer dogs would get their chance at life.

We also hope to see the day when pets are not treated as property. Until then, people like Tammy Grimes, who defied the law and "stole" an elder farm dog lying in waste for days, may receive heavy penalties for doing the morally right thing. Even minimal laws "protecting" animals cannot be fully enforced because of the enormous number of cases that need follow-up by Animal Control. Sadly, Animal Control, which exists to protect and extract animals from terrible situations, is often feared and not contacted by people aware of animals in dis-

stress. A pity, as so many of our own dogs were seized from bad owners and are living the good life now thanks in large part to the dedicated work of Animal Control officers.

We consider our final newsletter of the year as an informal report on DAWG's accomplishments and status. Now that DAWG is a mature organization, our intake and adoptions have "leveled off" so that we adopted out more dogs than we took in this year. We continue to adopt over one dog per week on average and have adopted over 350 dogs since we began just under five years ago.

It is our great fortune to have a solid base of volunteers who attend our adoption shows week after week. When you have wonderful one-of-a-kind dogs to introduce to the public, you need large shows! So we give



Keefter, happy at home!

very special thanks to our incredible volunteers who make our work possible. Our strength is the core of selfless people who quietly help our dogs get the life they deserve.

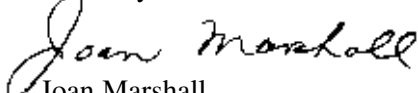
We also thank YOU, our friends and donors, for what otherwise would be just "wishful thinking" if we didn't have ongoing financial support to ensure our dogs become and stay well as they get ready for their futures.

Our wish for 2008? That people not think that dogs are little humans, but embrace dogs as a totally different species: marvelous, mysterious gifts to be treasured each day of the year. Dogs have heightened senses and communication abilities that transcend ours. They know so much!

Dogs oblige our desires in so many ways, sometimes even taking on personas that are alien to their natural state. In return for all they do for us, we owe them...to learn more about who they are and how they think, so that we can deepen our bond through mutual respect and awe.

Happy 2008, and may it be a good year for us all.

Sincerely,


Joan Marshall
President

Thank you to...

Badger's Moon jewelry, Hands On Horses/Hounds massage, Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, and Whole Foods for enhancing DAWG Day Afternoon with their products and services, and to all of our Silent Auction donors! Special thanks to volunteers Carmen (cariac-tures); Lori (nail clipping); Yvonne (face painting); Nancy (Smash Vick!); Jim (souvenir photos); Karen, Kassy and Mary Lynn for superb overall orchestration; and all our worker bee volunteers for helping at the event. Lastly, thanks to David and Tessie, our alumnae, who showed other dogs good leash manners.

HONORARY & MEMORIAL GIFTS

A good way to pay tribute to a special person or pet is to give a DAWG dog the chance to live. We are grateful to the following individuals for choosing to help our dogs in this way!

In memory of Tiffany, by Bill and Yvonne Curry

In memory of Casper, by Bob and Barb Awtrey

In memory of Claudia and Suki, by Thomas and Jean Hefland

In memory of Midas, by David and Marianne Stevenson

In memory of Lark, by Warren Richardson

In memory of Loose, by Nicki Jacobs


In memory of Bear, by Ilene Pollack

In memory of Timber and Teddi, by Gloria Pound

In memory of Destiny, by Bonnie Hurwitz

In memory of Rose DeSantis, by Bonnie Hurwitz

In memory of Maggie Hardy, by Mike, Maura, Amber and Dusty Clover

In honor of  Katie's third adoption anniversary, by Bob and Barb Awtrey

In honor of Gabriel's third adoption anniversary, by Bob and Barb Awtrey

In honor of Oreo, By Dorothy Filbert
In honor of Baby and Stuart Little, our wonderful rescues, by Jim and Toni Honeywell

In honor of Mama Joan and Clancy, Alex Cross and Wonder Boy, from Joanne Goldman

In honor of the Fishmans, from Joanne Goldman

In honor of Ruby, by Karen Dellavecchio

In honor of Acadia, "the love of my life," by Danielle Verrill

In honor of Slinky's 5th Birthday, by Gary and Mary Seale

In honor of Logan, formerly "Katrina Beau," on the first anniversary of his adoption, by Brett Molina and Sara Fitzsimmons

In honor of Karen Eskew, by Jody Clark and Gail Colangelo

In honor of 4 years of dedication to the DAWGs, by Nancy Gay

In honor of Judy McClain's cruelty work, by the Hurleys

In honor of Natalie Wilson's birthday, by "Aunt" Judy Randlett

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

\$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: _____

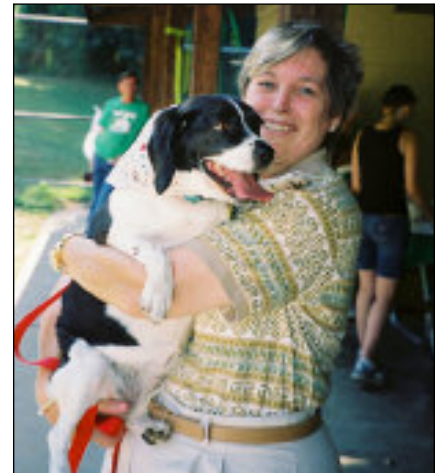
Telephone: _____

Interested in helping in other ways? Designate Best Dawg Rescue to receive donations in your name at iGive.com, giveline.com, and goodsearch.com. If interested in volunteering, please contact us at dawg@dawg-rescue.org.

DAWG Day Afternoon 2007

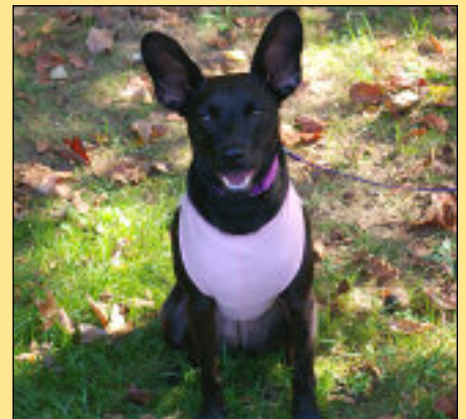
Hot dogs and HOT DAWGS! DAWG Day Afternoon was a great success, as can be seen by the happy dogs and their companions on the following pages. Old and new friends gathered to celebrate their dogs and enjoy a day filled with fun, food, and activities ranging from a Silent Auction to dog training tips.



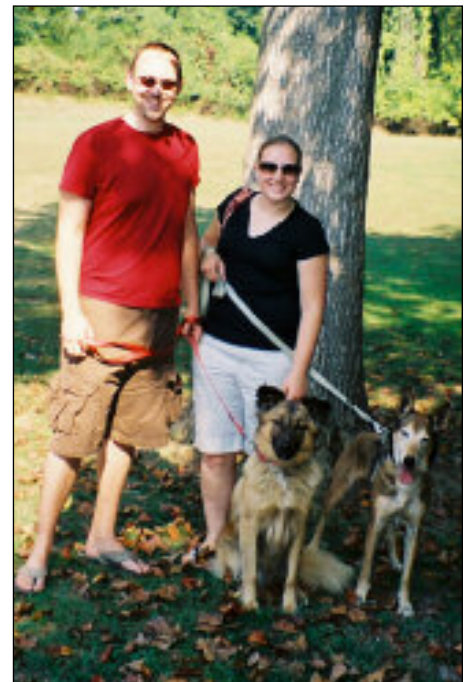
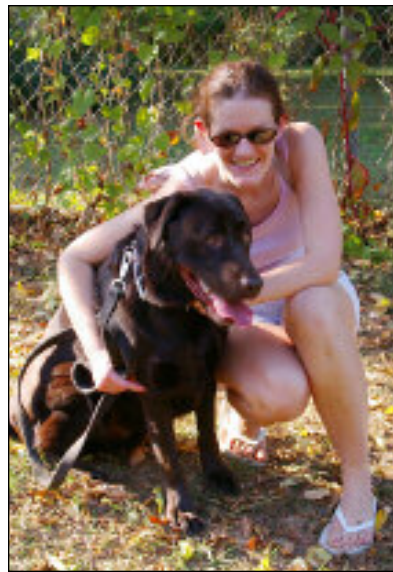
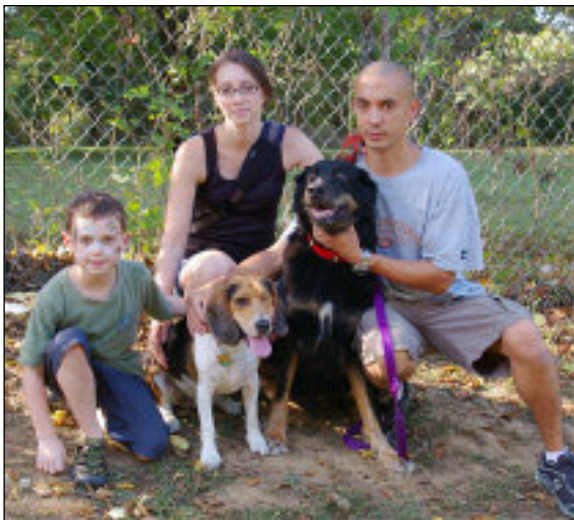
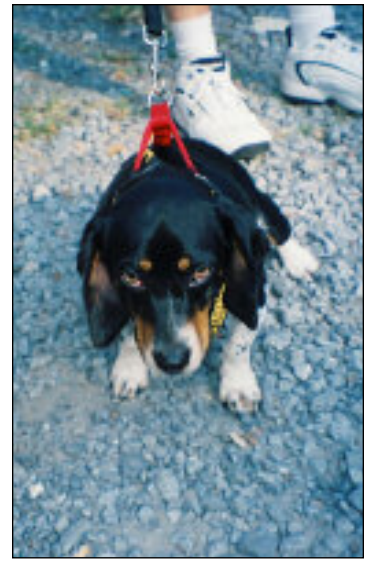




DAWG Alumni and Friends, Dressed to Impress!







In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog.

—Edward Hoagland



DAWG Gone Funny



Q: How do you catch a runaway dog?

A: Hide behind a tree and make a noise like a bone!

Q: What dog loves to take bubble baths?

A: A shampoodle!

Q: What dogs are best for sending telegrams?

A: Wire haired terriers!!

Q: What is the dog's favorite city?

A: New Yorkie!

Q: Why did the dog have to move to a new apartment?

A: He lost his leash.

Q: Why can dogs scratch whenever they want to?

A: They live in a flea country.

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 . . . Beltsville PETCO and Laurel PETSMART for sponsoring our weekly adoption shows; and College Park Animal Hospital, Preston Country Club for Pets and Countryside Kennels, 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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