



DAWG Tales



Newsletter of Best DAWG Rescue, Inc.

Spring 2007

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

Message from the President



Dear Friends,

Much has happened so far this year! We often start a new year with a surge of adoptions, and 2007 started no differently: 32 within the first four months! Most importantly, we were able to save special shelter dogs not offered to the public. Such dogs, considered in shelter terms “unadoptable,” are normally euthanized. **Daisy Mae**, an extreme starvation case who was just adopted, **Sabrina**, a plain young mama dog dumped with her puppies, and **Travis**, who had an unusual physical malady, are going to have great lives, thanks to our supporters and volunteers.

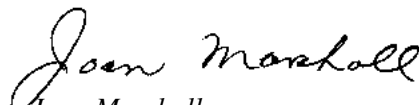
Not only do we rescue dogs and find them homes, but the educational component of our mission includes providing the best information we can find on health and behavior. We have become advocates of Cesar Millan’s training/ communication methods, and Dr. Michael Fox’s enlightened advice on health and nutrition, which is particularly insightful given the ongoing commercial pet food nightmare. We were not alone in suspecting that confusing (if not misleading) pet food advertising and labeling has led to disease and the deaths of countless pets for years. While we are sorry for the needless suffering and loss of life—now possibly in the tens of thousands due to the latest scandal alone—there is one silver lining: dog owners will never blindly trust the source of their dogs’ food again.

Although some people criticize Cesar Millan (mostly because they have not

read his books or watched him demonstrate his training techniques), we think Cesar is kind and effective. He understands dog behavior and offers simple principles that work because they satisfy what a dog needs. We presume neither Cesar nor Dr. Fox would mind our use of some of their best comments to spur you on to investigate their approaches and methods yourselves.

We are beginning to plan **DAWG Day Afternoon**, to be held again at Parklawn Group Picnic Area on **Sunday, October 7**. This will be a wonderful afternoon of dog reunions, good food, and fun. Please mark your calendar, start rummaging for silent auction items, and offer to help us if you have the time!

Special thanks to the unprecedented number of volunteers who offered to foster or part-time foster dogs this year. It is a wonderful opportunity for the dogs, and a courageous move by each volunteer who knows parting can be painful but a joyful occasion as well.


Joan Marshall
President

From Cesar Millan’s February 2007 Newsletter

Love is one of the greatest gifts we can share with our dogs. Dogs are affectionate animals. Touch means a lot to them, in their natural world and when they live with us. **However, affection that hasn’t been earned and is shared at the wrong time can be detrimental to a dog.** Here

are a few thoughts on sharing affection.

Give affection—but at the right time! Remember anytime you give affection, you reinforce the behavior preceding it. Reward stability. Share your love when your dog is in a calm-submissive state.

Share affection after a dog has . . . exercised and eaten; changed an unwanted behavior into a behavior you asked for; responded to a rule or command; or entered a calm-submissive state.

Don’t share affection when your dog is . . . fearful, anxious, possessive, dominant, aggressive, whining, begging, barking or breaking a household rule.

Don’t forget exercise and discipline. Prove your love by giving your dog what s/he needs: long walks, rules, boundaries and limitations.

Give your dogs as much love as you have! Give as much love as your heart can handle and then some! But please give it at the right time.

Health... Food for Thought!

Here is a selection of recent food-related comments and replies by Dr. Michael Fox, renowned veterinarian with doctoral degrees in medicine and animal behavior. We have summarized the questions and slightly abbreviated Dr. Fox’s replies. Be sure to discuss his advice and your own research on nutrition with your veterinarian. Ironically this column was prepared prior to the current pet food recall.

Reader: *A dog owner wrote that his dogs had severe gastrointestinal problems and refused to eat canned prescription food, so he switched to homemade food, resulting in the restoration of the dogs’ health and appetite.*

Dr. Fox: It is deplorable that a veterinarian did not consider changing your dogs' diet, and that your little canine companions—and you—had to suffer for so long. As with our human medical-care system and care providers, we sometimes have to take matters into our own hands. One thing we can do to take control over our health (and that goes for our animal companions) is to see to our diets. Most human doctors are in the Dark Ages on this matter, as are some veterinarians. But those with a holistic orientation would do precisely what you are doing. The dog food recipe on my Web site, <http://tedeboy.tripod.com/drmichaelwfox>, will show you what supplements you need to include to ensure that your dogs' diet is not deficient in calcium and trace minerals. Do buy organically certified food, which contains more nutrients than conventional meat, poultry, vegetables and cereals.

Another dog owner wrote that she chose to rub her dog's coat and skin with olive oil after the dog was infested by fleas. The fleas and itching disappeared, "as if by magic."

Thanks for the very simple and surprising anti-flea treatment—cheap and harmless, indeed. And, no doubt, the dog's coat has a nice shine. Olives contain several botanical compounds that are beneficial to the skin, hair and immune system when ingested, and, like most plants, they may contain mild insect

repellants that are harmless when ingested in moderate amounts. Also, it would seem that a mild solution of liquid dish soap and water, scented shampoo and Avon's Skin So Soft really does repel fleas, and they are so much safer than the expensive flea-and-tick repelling pills, sprays, dips and drop-on drugs so widely marketed.

Reader: Another dog owner wrote that his dog's more frequent and lengthier seizures were almost eliminated thanks to Dr. Fox's prior advice that wheat gluten could cause seizures in some dogs. He wondered if he should be looking for other products where wheat gluten might be concealed.

Dr. Fox: It was a Swedish veterinary research report put out several years ago, as I recall, that linked wheat gluten with seizures in some dogs. Other wheat products may contain some gluten, so it's best to avoid all wheat ingredients for dogs prone to seizures, just in case wheat is the culprit. Highly processed commercial pet foods may also contain undesirable additives such as "natural flavor enhancers"—e.g., monosodium glutamate, which can also cause some dogs to have seizures. Try my basic home-prepared, wheat-free diet for dogs, listed on my Web site, <http://tedeboy.tripod.com/drmichaelwfox>. Of course, there are many other factors that can cause dogs to have seizures.

Reader: Another dog owner wrote about her 12 year old dog who had blood in her urine, clots, and severe allergies. Her veterinarian prescribed drugs that she admitted would make her dog ill and recommended fluids. Instead, the reader put her dog on Dr. Fox's homemade recipe, in part, then totally. Today, the dog is symptom-free...and has sweet breath as a bonus!

Dr. Fox: Good nutrition is the cornerstone of good health. The old saying "garbage in, garbage out" omits the stink between what goes in and what goes out. My dogs also eat my homemade food and they, like yours, are healthy and have sweet breath. I pity the many dogs with bad breath, and cats, too, who are pushed away rather than embraced when they want to show affection. Of course, some may have bad teeth, but many like yours could enjoy a new lease on life with a more healthful diet.

Editor's note: We strongly recommend reading "Have Dinner In," an article in the April 2007 issue of The Whole Dog Journal which provides an enormous amount of information and warnings about dog nutrition. Bottom line: you can be pretty much guaranteed your dog will be far healthier if you provide a variety of fresh, wholesome foods, supplemented to complete minimal nutritional needs. Allergic to your kitchen? Specialty pet stores feature many frozen fresh foods and higher caliber foods in general. No matter what you do, keep in mind that variety is essential, so don't feed the same food every day for months or years on end. After all, would you eat the same meal every day and expect to be healthy?

Shop Online and Search the Web— Easy Ways to Support Best Dawg Rescue

GoodSearch—A Yahoo-powered search engine that donates money (a penny per search) to your favorite charity each time you search the Web. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year for Best Dawg Rescue without anyone spending a dime! <http://www.goodsearch.com/>

iGive—Change online shopping for good! Shop online at over 680 participating stores and up to 26% of your purchase will be donated to Dawg. <http://www.igive.com/>

Giveline—An online store created for the community-minded shopper. Every transaction generates a charitable contribution between 7 and 33% of product sales to your favorite non-profit organization. <http://www.giveline.com/>

Does Your Dog Have Garbage Can Taste?

Dog owners weren't particularly surprised by the recent ASPCA report that dogs are the most likely pet to eat toxic substances. "This could be related 'in part to their indiscriminate eating habits,' an ASPCA representative commented." However, how many of the following substances would you figure your dog might eat?



If you think your dog has had an *adverse reaction* to a vaccine (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, uncontrolled trembling, lack of coordination, seizures, or a hard lump at the vaccination site which doesn't disappear after a few weeks), your veterinarian must report it to both the vaccine manufacturer and the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine.



doesn't take kindly to the puppyrazzi, but she's still young and with experience she'll learn the ropes from our more mature Sugar. Puff is already taking hints from Sugar on fashion, posing, and etiquette.

SugarPuff strives to be much more than a pretty face. These girls are smart and dedicated to each other and their "staff." Industry insiders say both girls are a pleasure to work with and overall take direction well.

Recent puppyrazzi caught the girls on a shopping spree at one of their favorite stores, PETCO! Interested in joining the puppyrazzi and meeting the girls for a pawtograph? Be sure to write dawg@dawg-rescue.org for their next day on the town!

Human medications, such as cold medicine, topped the call list with 78,000 individual cases handled by the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center. Not far behind that were pet poisonings from insecticides, including flea and tick treatments, and more than 12,000 cases related to health products for animals, such as dewormers, nutritional supplements and antibiotics. Other pet poisonings reported were from plants (lilies, azaleas, rhododendrons, etc.); rodenticides; household cleaners; chemical hazards, such as paint thinners and drain cleaners, which received an "astronomical jump in call volume" from 2005; physical hazards, such as choking or ingestion of common items—even pet collars; and home improvement products. And don't forget common items such as pennies, and common foods such as avocados, onions, garlic, chocolate, grapes/raisins, tomatoes, nutmeg, caffeinated products, macadamia nuts and walnuts, many common fruit pits and seeds (which contain cyanide), salty food, fatty food, raw egg whites, raw or cooked liver, mushrooms, grains, and cooked bones. Lastly, be aware that even small amounts of xylitol, a sugar-alcohol sweetener found in many sugar free candies, chewing gums, baked goods and other products, can have lethal consequences for dogs. According to an internet warning, one dog recently died from eating a package of gum found in his owner's purse. For more information: http://www.avma.org/press/releases/061001_xylitol.asp.

If you think your dog has eaten a hazardous item, please contact your regular or emergency veterinarian immediately and call APCC at (888) 426-4435 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (per their website, there is a \$55 consultation fee).

Featured Dogs: SugarPuff

One of the hottest new duos to come out of Best Dawg Rescue is "SugarPuff." Like all good celebrity pairings, these two even have their own celebrity moniker. Sugar, an American Bulldog mix, and Puff, a Lab/Corgi mix, have risen to fame in recent weeks on the dog rescue circuit.

Unlike much of young Doggywood, these girls have healthy figures and are excellent role models for their admiring public. Sugar is the mild mannered, poised member of the duo. Puff is the more outspoken, energetic, slightly rebellious one that



Sugar (left) and Puff (right)



Two young dog lovers decided to ask for donations in lieu of presents for their recent birthdays. Thanks to Lauren and Phenon, for their support of DAWG dogs, who send their licks of gratitude to them!

DAWG's Adoption Gallery

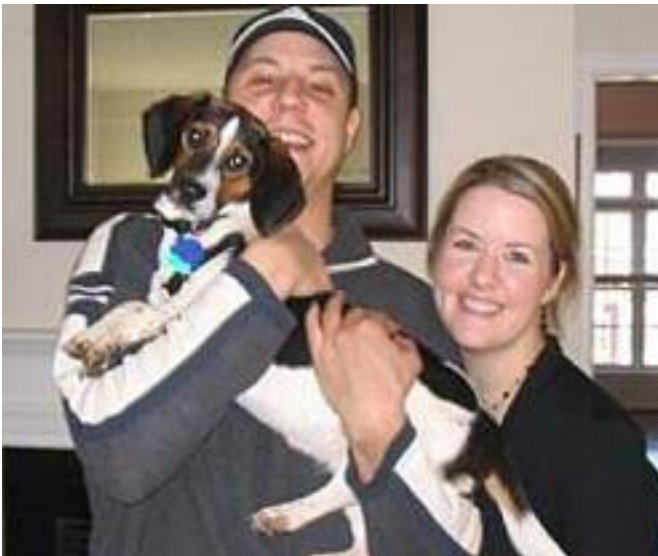
Some of our many recent adopters with their new DAWG dogs!



Archie (left)



Baby, now Mollie (left)



Bosco



Buddy Boy (right)



Cara, now Kaya



Chloe (top left)



Colby



Cookie Crisp



Daisy Mae



Dandy



Felicity



Honey Bunny



Lady (left)



Isabelle



Sparky



Keller



Magic (front right)



Nicholas



Ninja and Sassy



Pumpkin Pie



Puppy



Rory



Rudy



Shatze (left)



Stuart Little



Teri and Bindi



Wilson (right)



Willow and Maple now Molly and Annie

Vicky's Story

Named in honor of the Fairfax, Virginia police officer killed in an ambush last May, Vicky deserves to have such a distinguished name. She lived an unloved and sad life until a stroke of luck gave her a chance at a real future. A DAWG volunteer found Vicky walking along a highway, captured her, and took her to the closest house to ask if they knew who owned the dog. It turned out that they owned Vicky! Much to our volunteer's surprise, not only did they not thank her, but they yelled she could keep "that good-for-nothing dog."

In shock, the volunteer took Vicky home and spent hours de-ticking her. The next morning, Vicky woke up and gave our volunteer grateful kisses. That might have been the most comfortable and happy night that Vicky ever spent. Today, Vicky is much loved and appreciated for her mellow personality and quiet ways. She is very trusting with people, and she likes other dogs. She is frequently seen curled up with another beagle at her foster home, no doubt snoozing in pure



Vicky

bliss! As a plus, Vicky loves walks and holds her head up as she prances along. It's a joy to see how Vicky has shed her past, but her woes aren't over. Sadly, Vicky was diagnosed with significant heart disease earlier this year. Medications are making her comfortable,

but most people are not willing to adopt a dog with limited time. How limited? We don't know, because medications can extend her life indefinitely. We hope that's the case, because a dog who has managed to survive terrible hardships and neglect deserves a break.

Vicky is what we call a virtual adoption because she will live out her life in a foster home, unless a very special adopter decides to add Vicky to his or her home. *If you can't adopt Vicky but want to help her, please contribute to her ongoing cardiologist visits and medications by donating to DAWG, PO Box 34213, Bethesda, MD 20827. With luck, Vicky will have some years left, and DAWG will do everything to make them the best years of her life. With your help, we will!*

Thank you to the Snyder Foundation for Animals, Inc. for providing a grant to Best Dawg Rescue for medical emergencies.

HONORARY and MEMORY DONATIONS

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

Honor of Pets

Camrie, by Debra Wise
Acadia, the love of my life, by Danielle Verrill
Kate and Spencer, by Lou and Virginia Pilato
Stuart and Baby, by Toni and Jim Honeywell
Wonder, by Julie Walker
Mandy, by her mom and dad, Bruce and Toni Immerman
Jack, by Suzanne Mattingly
Logan "Beau" Molina, by Sarah Fitzsimmons
Loki and Dr. Seuss, by Meghan L. Williams, DVM

Memory of Pets

Amber and Quincy, quiet and gentle friends,
and in memory of their extraordinary friendship,
by Georgia Niedzielko
Porche, by Jacquelyn Witte & Matthew Beckley
Jasper, my smooth collie, by Diana Watson
Ginger, loved for many years by Joan and Jon Marshall,
by Amy Bleich
Bo, Butch, Simba and Cheetah, by Jess Jenness
Hambone Krenzke, by Pat Krenzke and Mike Hall
Gizmo, the best soul I ever met or loved and loved me,
by Teri O'Brien-Jones

Sappho, by Mindy Daniels
Tarabelle, by April Miller
Casey Mitchell, by Kathy Mitchell
Cody Townshend, by Michael and Cybele Cook
In honor of those who have come before,
by Bob and Barb Awtrey
And a special farewell to Daisy Kramer, Ariel Lord, Molly
St. John, and Lawrence Arnold from their DAWG friends

Honor of People:

Debbie Breuer, by Liz Dietz
Thelma Champness, by Adrienne Bull
Robin Newberg, by John Scofield
Dorothee Riederer, who has rescued many dogs,
by Iris Rainone
Iris Rainone, by Dorothee Riederer
Stephanie, my daughter, by Glen Lewis
Marcia Brier, by Rickey A. Paden

Memory of People:

Ann Piety, DVM, by Debbie and Jim Thomas
My grandparents, by Luanne M. Seipp

Cracked windows and screened windows or doors will not keep your dog from hurtling through if he or she has a mind to



“go!” One of our volunteers recently found a stray dog who was

later reunited with her frantic owner. The dog—all of 25 lbs—pushed through a screened window and took off! Open windows from the top! Or if you have a different style of window, take necessary steps to eliminate potential escape risks.

CHANCE (A Dog’s Story)

Please let me know what I have done
wrong
To be chained up to this old oak tree,
I sit here for months, it feels so long
In hopes that someone would soon set me
free.

I sit here for all four seasons,
I howl all the time hoping that someone
is near

So, please tell me the reasons
Why I am chained up here.

I sit here alone,
Waiting for someone to find me
Or toss me a bone
Someone just set me free.

I sit here with my food bowl
Empty once again
My water as black as coal
As another cold winter already began.

Then a car pulls in the driveway
With the words, “Dawg Rescue” written
on it,

I remained in my spot that I lay
As they stepped out of the car my eyes
were lit

They walked over to me and patted me
on the head

Unhooked the chain saying, “Don’t worry
we will get you out of here.”

They picked me up and lay me in the
back of the car in a bed.

Then I knew love would be near.

They walked me into a big place filled
with barking.

They put me in a warm room with a bed
and a big bowl of food.

My hunger would never be larking.

Right then and there, I knew those people
were in a loving mood.

I knew at the first glance
They were there to help me
Because they knew I had a chance . . .

*By: Courtney Richey
(12 year old niece of DAWG volunteer)*

Clarification: Despite the reference in the poem above, Best Dawg Rescue cannot directly intervene in cruelty cases. However, because one of DAWG’s board members is a cruelty investigator who works closely with Animal Control, we are often aware of neglected and abused dogs seized by Animal Control officers. Animal Control has the legal authority to do so and hopefully prosecutes those who are cruel to their animals. If you are aware or suspicious of an animal cruelty case, please contact your local Animal Control department.

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.



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

Look for Best Dawg Rescue (DAWG) in the Combined Federal Campaign!