



# DAWG Tales



Newsletter of Best DAWG Rescue, Inc.

Summer 2007

Best Dawg Rescue, Inc. • PO Box 34213 • Bethesda, MD 20827 • 301-407-BEST • [www.dawg-rescue.org](http://www.dawg-rescue.org)

## READY, SET, GO...

. . .to your calendar, that is, and circle **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7** to attend the **4th Annual DAWG Day Afternoon with your entire family!**

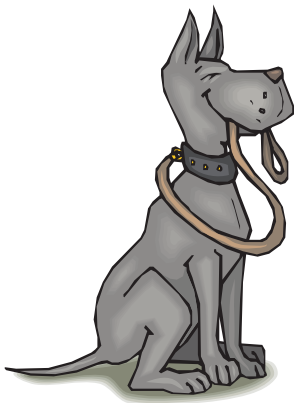
**DAWG Day Afternoon** has been expanded from a simple family picnic to a fun afternoon designed to entertain each member of the family including dog-friendly dogs (our adopted dogs as well as guest dogs).

We can promise you a great time, given the range of activities we have in store for you:

- On-the-spot **caricatures** by our talented sketch artist, Carmen
- An **array of booths** (Pampered Chef, Badger's Moon jewelry,

crafts, plants, and more)

- **Dog massage demonstration** by Courtney Molino of Hands On Horses (yes, she massages dogs)
- **No-pull dog handling techniques** by David



and Tessie, our undefeated Best Trick winner. Tessie will demonstrate good manner techniques to other dogs.

- **Face-painting** (animals, of course!)
- **Silent Auction** (last year's auction had over 50 items including gifts, football and baseball tickets, and antiques). This year's silent auction will include a **Sony PlayStation 3 60GB System!**

**And there's more. . . EACH dog arriving in costume will win a prize.** (We found it too difficult last year to select just three finalists!)

And every family with a dog will leave with a **photograph of their dog in a special DAWG Day Afternoon frame**, compliments of our superb portrait photographer, Jim. (Please see his fabulous pictures on our website.)

Just want to watch the **Redskins game**? Yes, we'll have a TV for diehard fans.

### We need your help in two ways!

**1. Please let us know as soon as possible if you can attend.** We have included a registration form for this purpose. If you're not sure, please register anyway, because we would rather know you're probably coming. We can't plan without a head-count! But above all, we really hope you want to stay in touch and enjoy the day with us. Refunds available by request.

**2. Silent Auction contributions are appreciated!** Do you have a new or collectible item? Here are some of the most popular winners last year:

Redskins and Orioles tickets  
Gift certificates to chain stores  
Antiques  
Outdoor items, e.g., birdfeeders  
Anything dog-related!

**Please contact us at:**  
[dawg@dawg-rescue.org](mailto:dawg@dawg-rescue.org).

## Poodle power! A rescue story, “from start to finish”

In early November, 2006, we received a forwarded email from another rescue organization contacted by a frantic resident in Calverton, Maryland. Would they help to capture stray poodles in the writer’s neighborhood? The woman sent a photo of the dogs on her front steps. The dogs seemed to be poodles, but their fur was so overgrown and filthy, you couldn’t be sure.



*Photo taken by woman who asked for our help*

While we can’t help in every situation like this, we thought the dogs might be easy to capture since they were lingering in the neighborhood for food and shelter. So our veteran searchers, Judy and Roger, prepared a flyer/poster, and off they went. Then the woman contacted us to say that some neighbors had shooed the dogs out of their garage, and noisy lawn mowers scared the dogs away again. Would the poodles come back when the coast was clear? They did not.

Judy and Roger continued to look for another day or so, then sadly gave up. Without a sighting or call, Judy and Roger suspected the dogs were captured. Sure enough, Judy checked the local shelter websites and found the dogs! Their shelter pictures were pathetic. Their facial fur was so overgrown that you couldn’t see any features but the tips of their noses. Their filthy coats were matted and caked with mud.

We offered our phone number to shelter staff in case the dogs were not adopted. We later discovered that more poodles were found in the same area. We’ll never know what happened, but apparently a breeder set them loose.

Three weeks later, the shelter called. The dogs had not been adopted, and they would be euthanized if not taken from the shelter. We decided to seriously consider taking in the dogs. Once at the shelter, we were taken to the back where we met the most smelly, filthy dogs we had ever seen. Poop literally stuck to their rear ends and their legs were soaked with dirt and urine. It’s doubtful anyone tried to clean them up after their capture. The dogs didn’t seem to care. They were happy, silly creatures, totally uninterested in people but very happy to be with each other.

Call us crazy, but we walked away talking about wanting to select two dogs, hopefully the ones we tried to track. We were overly full with dogs at the time, and—worse—facing the holidays when very few dogs are (or should be) adopted.

Then we received a call from an apologetic shelter worker. There was one more poodle, a male. This dog was in the “lower kennel” (meaning where the dogs who had the least chance of adoption awaited their fates). He didn’t look up when we approached. We were told he was separated from the others because the other dogs were females and none of the dogs had likely been spayed. So this pathetic dog, deprived of contact with his friends for weeks, withdrawn and (as we later learned, ill with pneumonia) was doomed.



*Finally captured and held at a local shelter*

Suzanne, one of our senior volunteers, said she would go the shelter to assess him. The male dog seemed practically wild initially, but finally took a treat from Suzanne. His eyes never went to her face, but they were clearly the eyes of a gentle soul. That was good enough for us. He had already found his way into our hearts.

On a practical note, dogs like these are difficult to rehabilitate. We have less worry about dogs “just” in poor physical condition. However, dogs who are nice but not interested in humans require a lot of time and patience, and we know it’s possible they may not come around or not be what a normal adopter seeks.

Mid-week, we transported the male and one of the females (both of whom had to be carried out of the shelter) to the first stop in their new lives: College Park Animal Hospital. The staff didn’t say a word, but their looks told us that they thought we had lost our minds. The dogs were housed in side-by-side kennels. They stayed at the animal hospital as they gained weight and became well enough to be spayed and neutered. The holidays came and went.

The female, whom we called Monique, was younger than the male, named Marcel. We were grateful that the College Park staff continuously catered to them, feeding small, multiple meals to help them gain weight, and they constantly cleaned their cages (did we mention they were totally unhousebroken?). Joyce, the most intrepid, actually tried to groom the dogs, but they were too terrified to submit to her clippers for long.

As soon as Monique and Marcel were sufficiently recovered from spay and neuter surgeries, we transferred them to our kennel, where they were overjoyed to see each other and run freely for the first time in months.

Eventually, Monique and Marcel were professionally groomed. They had eyes! But they also were eating the paint off the kennel walls. They were young, bored dogs in need of just the right foster home.

Monique and Marcel went to their first adoption show! Suzanne continued to be their advocate, by providing confidence-building handling at each show. Eventually, Suzanne melted and took Marcel home. She was relieved to see



**Reunited and free to run at last!**

involved in Monique’s and Marcel’s lives, we were surprised to meet a wonderful couple who weren’t looking for a dog but saw Marcel when shopping for supplies at our Beltsville PETCO adoption show. They couldn’t get him out of their minds. Our kind of adopter! During Marcel’s home visit, the couple showed great compassion and wisdom regarding the steps needed to integrate Marcel into their lives. And



**Handsome Marcel, all cleaned up**

so Marcel, our special dog with the spirit of an angel, found his home!

It was Monique’s turn to be fostered. Monique was tough, because she resisted housebreaking at Suzanne’s home, but slightly improved each day. She also was a pingpong ball of a dog, endlessly bouncing around with energy, but also a joy to experience. About one month later, an emailed application arrived for Monique. This time, Suzanne spent a day driving to and from West Virginia, where the applicant lived. Could it be that Monique’s adoption was a “go”?

how sweet and friendly he was. She picked up Monique at the kennel and took both poodles to the adoption shows together. The blank looks in their eyes changed, and they began to focus on human eyes. Progress!

Just as serendipitously as we became



**Marcel in his new home**



**Pretty Monique**



**Monique in her new home**

Suzanne returned a few days later to place Monique, and we held our breath. Monique’s transition was slower, but it eventually happened. Now the stories of Monique and Marcel are for their adopters to complete.

The point of this story is to explain what it can take to rescue EACH dog. Dogs aren’t just taken from a shelter to the vet, then to adoption shows, and adopted as if on a conveyor belt. No, our business is dirty, stressful, risky, and exhausting. . . and it takes time. That’s our gift (and our donors’ gift) to each dog.

By reading the story of Monique and Marcel, you have learned what it takes to adopt just two dogs. So when we celebrate our adoptions, you now know—as Paul Harvey says—the “rest of the story!”

**DAWG TALES**—Published by Best Dawg Rescue, Inc. (DAWG) A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to rescuing and adopting overlooked and medically needy animals in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

*Editors:* Kassy Mattingly and Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler  
*Designer:* Karen Eskew

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## PLEASE HELP US take in more shelter dogs than planned this summer!

**Why are shelter dogs in great peril during the summer?** Because limited shelter space is reserved for stray dogs during brief holding periods, and for dogs seized by Animal Control (pending future hearings).

Sadly, nice family dogs turned into a shelter are often euthanized within minutes of arrival. And dogs who are ill or are seriously injured have no chance at all. We need your help to save just a few more.

**We have saved seven dogs this summer—Skippy, Savannah, Summer, Brutus, Buddy, Patrick Henry and Sammie.** While not all dogs have significant medical problems, many surprise us with a medical need that is devastating to them as well as our budget. Much to our horror, Savannah was diagnosed with the dreaded, deadly parvo virus after intake, requiring many days

of intensive care. And Summer's eye required immediate removal. In fact, Summer was being taken from the Animal Control van to be euthanized when our volunteer spotted her. **Minutes, even seconds, count!**

Adoptions are slow and our expenses are relatively high during the summer as we wait until people have returned from vacations, get settled in the new school year, and are ready to adopt. If you want to help us save even one more dog at extreme risk at a shelter, please send a contribution, knowing that a future dog's life was saved by you!



*Savannah*

**Our grateful thanks to. . .** Beltsville PETCO and Laurel PETSMAART 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.

**Special thanks to. . .** Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic in Rockville for several days of pro bono support of Savannah through her critical days and to Aino Hunter for supplementing DAWG's "special care" medical account at Charles County Humane Society!



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**DAWG Day Afternoon. . . Important Information Inside. . . Don't Miss It!**

# SPECIAL EDITION!