



DAWG Tales



Best Dawg Rescue • www.dawg-rescue.org

Summer 2012

Dear Friends,

The year 2012 will be remembered for its seamless shift from winter to spring. And now onto summer!

Spring also brought the start of Best Dawg Rescue's 9th year of giving shelter dogs not only new lives but far *better* lives through medical care and prudent placements. To date, more than 800 dogs with all sorts of ailments and backgrounds, all "dogs without options" at a local shelter, were given the opportunity to start life again through DAWG. While your support is the reason we are able to do this, the quality of our adoptions has been due to the talents and perseverance of an extraordinary team of volunteers who patiently help new dogs become focused. Most rescue dogs have not had meaningful relationships with or sufficient guidance from humans and need to learn a few things before "moving on." We believe our work is cut out for us with each dog, from the moment we meet him/her, to showing our adopters how to work through standard adoption problems. That's why we "prep" adopters through home visits and then coach them after the adoption. Isn't that what a rescue effort is about?

What lies ahead in 2012? Frankly, it has been a rocky road so far. The current trend in "rescue" is seriously impacting our highly-successful rehabilitation and adoption methods. To our dismay, more and more organizations—including some local shelters—adopt dogs out with minimal or no vetting or applicant screening (sometimes passing out dogs right on the spot). How can they do this without

providing care for their dogs and then taking the time to learn who their dogs are and finding the best applicants for them?

Maybe quick or "turnstile" adoptions don't sound all that unreasonable to you. Because you are a responsible pet owner/advocate, you may not realize that people can have very strange notions about dog care and commitment, and a newly adopted dog usually takes a lot of understanding and patience during the post-adoption period. A quiet dog at a shelter or adoption show may turn into a "turbo-dog" at his or her new home. And dogs often exhibit fearful or bewildered behavior, including post-adoption separation anxiety. Unprepared or inappropriately chosen adopters don't know these are workable problems and have been known to return dogs, saying something is wrong with the

dog or the dog didn't understand what he or she was supposed to do. Actually, that may be true, but don't blame the dog!

Then there are dogs who need to be the only pet in his/her future home. We temperament test each dog at the shelter and work with them once they become DAWG dogs, but some are best suited to be "solo adoptions." Given that most people are not looking for more than one dog, that's fine, but most people also want "bomb proof" dogs who supposedly won't react to another dog. The reality is that almost any dog can be reactive to other dogs or stressful situations, since untrained dog handlers who ignore dog cues can turn a social dog into a temporary Cujo! At any rate, we stick by these dogs, unlike most shelters and rescue groups who destroy them as



Seeking My Future... Emory!




Love Divas? Adopt Me... Jackie!

“unadoptable.” They certainly are adoptable!

Back to the current shelter/rescue environment: Of course high-volume adoptions can be a knee-jerk reaction to the homeless pet problem—there are far more unwanted pets than there are responsible homes. But a less than honorable rescue organization will ignore that fact and convert their dogs to profitable inventory. DAWG will never do that – this is our promise to you, and most importantly our dogs.

On a more positive note, we had a fabulous 2011, with 92 adoptions and 94 new DAWG dogs taken in. A similar strong surge of intake and adoptions will not likely occur in 2012, because adoptions have been light this year. We don’t control that, and dread going from graduation season to the summer doldrums, when people take vacations rather than adopt (and stuff area shelters with “inconvenient” dogs). As for DAWG, we have a large number of dogs and know when to stop intake until adoptions start again. It’s worrisome that some of our dogs grieve for homes, and we are doing everything we can to promote them and keep them happy until we find their new families.

No one said rescue work is easy! We continue to hold our wonderful, weekly adoption shows to ensure we’re “out there” when someone is looking. Come by and see us, and consider adopting again. It is a win-win for everyone.

Sincerely,

Joan Marshall
President

Protecting the Kids and Dogs We Love

From Your Dog’s Friend

<http://www.yourdogsfriend.info/>

Whether your dog lives with children or meets them on walks, there’s a lot you should know. Colleen Pelar is a dog trainer, parent and author of *Living With Kids and Dogs ... Without Losing Your Mind*. If you’re a parent, we know that you love your child and your dog. We hope that Colleen’s tips will help your child and his friends become companions that your dog can’t wait to see. And for those of you without children of your own, we hope these tips will help your dog develop good relationships with children who visit, as well as those your dog meets in public.

For additional safety advice, visit Colleen Pelar’s website, <http://www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com>.

Good dog myth

Any dog can bite, even a “good” dog. If your dog lowers his head, turns or walks away, if he licks his lips, shakes off or yawns, he is trying to tell you that he’s stressed and needs to get away. We sometimes ask our dogs to put up with situations that make them uncomfortable, miss their signs of distress, and then get angry if they growl a warning that they have had enough. Listen to what your dog is trying to tell you and intervene.

Conditioning is not a guarantee

Pulling tails, ears, and bumping into dogs to prepare them for children won’t guarantee that your dog will tolerate your child doing the same. Your dog has a unique relationship with each person. Focus your attention on building a good

relationship between your dog and child. You want your dog to associate your child with good things happening. So, give him special treats when your child is around, and help your child have toys and activities of his own, even though your dog is in the same room.

Tolerance vs. Enjoyment

Your dog may tolerate some of your child’s more rambunctious antics, but he probably doesn’t enjoy them. When your child chases your dog, pulls on his ears or tail, falls on him, steps on him, picks him up, hugs him, or grabs his hair to steady himself, your dog, if he’s especially mellow, may tolerate it. Does he enjoy it? NO. Should you intervene? YES. Likewise, when your child has had enough of your dog’s nipping, jumping or nuzzling, give your child somewhere safe to go. It’s unlikely that a bond will form if either one of them is unhappy when they’re together.

Good intentions are not enough

Almost all children mean well when they’re with your dog, but that’s not enough. Your dog can still be unhappy when children do things that are uncomfortable for him – things that we think are cute, like hugging, kissing, patting the dog’s head, going into his crate, or sharing a blanket. In public, help children that run up to your dog learn what your dog likes and how to read his signals. Teach them that if your dog backs away or looks away, it’s time for a nice good-bye. They may even be pleased that they have learned some “Doglish”.

Holy Terror or Wimp—Which is YOUR Dog?

With all the public attention over bullying in schools, it is no surprise that *Whole Dog Journal* recently focused on “Bully For You!” about . . . bully dogs! We don’t mean “bully breeds” but dogs who actually like to torment unassertive dogs. Don’t presume you can determine which dog might be a bully by breed or age. The article used an example about a puppy overwhelming a large adult dog!

There’s a thin line between playing and bullying, so here’s how to determine if your dog is being bullied:

- Does your dog try to get away or hide behind you?

- Does your dog try an assortment of appeasement behaviors (ears back, squinty eyes, submissive urination)?
- Does your dog have to step up communication by snapping at the dog who ignores his/her appeasement behavior?
- Does your dog just look unhappy and not offer to re-engage in play if there’s a pause?

Do not accept bullying behavior by your dog or another dog, such as at a dog park. (DAWG does not endorse dog parks, to be discussed in the next issue of DAWG Tales).

Not sure how to read dog body language? Hire a trainer or contact Your Dog’s Friend: <http://www.yourdogsfriend.info>

Supervision is critical

This means more than being in the same room with your child and your dog. Your dog will be around your family because he wants to be with you, the adult whom he trusts. Keep in mind that even if your dog seemed okay around your baby, once that same child is crawling or walking and falling, it’s a new ballgame. If you recognize that, you’ll understand why the same dog that liked your baby may move away from your toddler. Your dog and child are more likely to enjoy each other if you supervise their play and help your dog escape when he needs to.

Teens can be as tough as toddlers

Your field of vision has to grow as your child does. Young children and teens present their own set of dangers, like riding bikes, throwing balls, having friends over, running around the house. Just because your teen has grown up with dogs and can reason (kind of), that doesn’t mean that he won’t do mindless things that will stress your dog.

A Prayer for Shelter and Rescue Dogs

An evening prayer for the dog in the shelter

Posted on February 17, 2012 by skijornmore, www.skijornmore.com

May a person with realism, vision and acceptance walk past you.

May they see that the jumping dog in front of them is desperate to say hello.

May they realize that with a bit of training, you can learn polite greeting manners.

May they understand that you are not perfect, but that you can be trained to be a good dog.

May they understand if you are shy and overwhelmed, and see that with love, encouragement and confidence you will come out of your shell. May they understand this may take quite a few months.

May they understand you are curious and inquisitive and need to explore the world, but also you will need clear boundaries and kind but constant guidance.

May they decide to make a life commitment to you, for who you are. The brilliant, the challenging, the aloof, the goofy, the exuberant, the serious, the silly, the reserved, the obnoxious, the funny, the athletic, the laid back, the complex and

beautiful; the real dog that makes you the completely unique you.

May you feel the touch of a kind hand and hear a gentle word.

May you take a car ride to your forever home.

When you mess up, may you be forgiven.

May your new family understand that it can take months and sometimes years of training, guidance and learning to help you be the best you can become. May they make that commitment to you.

May they accept you for the dog that you are in spite of all of the training. And may they smile at your imperfections as much as your achievements.

May they protect you, nurture you, give you exercise and adventures together.

And may you someday fall asleep on the bed, sighing in deep contentment, peace and security, spooned against your forever friend.

This I pray for you my friend, and for all dogs.

Adopter note. . . one of many that keep us going!

Dear Best Dawg,

We have had our new little Emerson, formerly Ranger, for two weeks. He is just as all of you said, “a perfect dog!” We’ve never known the wonders of adopting an adult dog till now. We assure you it lives up to what everyone says —this is easy!

To Emerson’s, Kate’s, and Spencer’s credit, it was these three who made going from two to three dogs so easy. The “first dogs” were patient and gentle while little Emerson watched and learned the

household routines (and first dogs’ dispositions) and then went step by step becoming one of the bunch. Your volunteer’s wonderful advice about facilitating this process has been working since day one.

Lou and I are enjoying all of our three kids now, and thank everyone one at Best Dawg for Emerson (and Spencer in 2004), and all that you do for the fabulous Best Dawg dogs you are rescuing!

Our best,
Jennie and Lou



Emerson in his Mom’s arms!

Honorary and Memorial Donations Mid-2011– Mid-2012

We are grateful that many individuals contribute to DAWG in celebration of pets and people who have enhanced their lives. We have listed these honorary and memorial donations below, and thank everyone who felt so strongly about friends, family and pets that they wanted to share a part of them by giving life to shelter dogs, now safe with us.

In memory of family, friends and pets



Gabe, by the Crown family
Yogi, by Kenneth Lightner and Ilene Pollack
Lilly, by Ilene Pollack and Kenneth Lightner
Tibbs the cat, from Ilene Pollack and Kenneth Lightner
Yogi, Meryl and Thistle by Kenneth Lightner and Ilene Pollack
Talon, for 16+ years of pure love, by Karen Eskew
Lark, by Warren Richardson
Ruby, by Anthony and Karen Dellavecchio
Windsor, by Scott and Paula Burr
Memories... Jake, Maggie, Dusty, Digger (and in honor of Angela & Brian McCluskey), by Deanna Dean
Mischa, who died in July at 15 years of age, by Marilyn Ridley

Lola and Miley Rust, from the Rust family
Linda Razzano, by Wanda Marie Knight-Griffin
Norman Paull, by Barbara Crouse, Amelia Thompson, Edward and Katherine Heberg, Jr., and Marsha Gittinger
Dudley, by Tom and Jean Austin
Cocoa Scherer, by Dr. Kimberly Beck
“Her Dog” Nu-Nee and Dakotah, by Eddie and Christine Suiter
Charlie (and in gratitude for my DAWG dog Nina, now Ziva), by Susan Shapiro
Samson, by Brian and Donna Almquist
Dianne Farrell, by Joan Patricia deLorenzo
Tara Belle and Squealer, by April O’Neill
PC, by Bridget Crowley Bob, by April O’Neill

Amber, our first DAWG adoption, by Michael and Maura Clover
Edward Winiarski and Raven, by April O’Neill
Henry, who bravely and valiantly fought a tough illness and was beloved by many, by Matthew Beckley and Jacquelyn Witte
Harriet Chiacchieri, by Jennifer Boniface
Regi Sadia, by Bob and Celeste Hart
Pumpkin, Marigold, Fennel, Birch & Clover, by Diane Calabrese
Harley, my big brother, laid to rest this past July, by Skylar (prior Dawg Dog Summer)
Jack, by Suzanne Mattingly
Sandy, Hilda, Marta, Gerta, Yancy, Marley, Kristi, Mercedes, Violet, Sylvie, by Teresa Buescher
Fred Collyer, from Marla Diamond/
Tony Guadagno

Alice Smolinski, by Sophie Hamel
Sophia and Pearl, by Jessica Weissman
Magic, by Peg Balogna

In honor of family, friends and pets



Oreo, by Dorothy Filbert
Louanne (formerly Louise from Katrina), by Michael & Barbara Greenan
Rodnye McNabb Rogers (our wonderful beagle), by Vicki Rodgers
Edgar Freedman, by Barbara Haurand
Jake, by Emmett and Helen Lauer
Rosie, the best girl ever!, by Kathleen Ann Weber
Molly, my Golden/English Setter (and thanks for your wonderful work), by Diana Watson
Toby (a/k/a Snowball), by Susan Rodak
Breezy and Shady (who are still doing great!), by Ken and Elizabeth Lundeen
Demi, by Barbara Berschler
Rosie, by Mary Martha Wood
Howie, by Karen Ott
Elsa, Beatrice, Shelley, Briar, Cinnamon, Cyrus, Dorie and Isolde, by Teresa Buescher
Theresa Howdeshell, and in memory of her dog Bumbles, by Donna Capizzi
Luke, by Heramb and Uma Singh
Luke, by Shaman and Mary Singh
Joan Marshall and Judy McLain, by Joe and Elfriede Pace
Super Dave, by Karen Bleakley
Charlie, formerly Lambert, by Susan Bruckheim
Audrey, by Laura Bennett and Ileana Ayala
Gretchen Buchen and Kathy Rodeffer, by Mary Ann Vaughan and by Carolyn Rehbock
The Henry family: Kiersten, Tommy, Sydney and Dylan, by Andree Micelli
My foster dogs Shelley, PomPom, Brave Cookie and Sweet Feni, and their adopters, by Kathy Rodeffer

Our dear Walter, by Iris Rainone
Sawyer (formerly Blizzard. . . thank you for taking care of our wonderful little boy until he found us), by Tom Aten and Dana Tompkins
Dawn, the light of my life, the sweetest and most wonderful girl ever, by Kathleen Ellis
Keebler, Sassy, Willie (and in memory of Poppy), by Anne Stepan
Liesel, by Bonnie Klem
Natalie Wilson, by Judy Randlett
David and Reine, our friends, by Sean and Jennifer McVeigh
Mandy, by Bruce and Toni Immerman
Sunny and Boagie, by Brian and Angela McClusky
Kavanaugh, by Dr. R. William Sowders
Dina Howard for the hundreds of dogs she helped save, by Amy Pergosky
Bella and Sophie, by Bob and Celeste Hart
Aunt Joan, by Dusty
Tonka, by Mike Uster and Lisa Adams
Hanes, by Joe and Peggy Fitzgibbon
Sue Rubino, by Floria Volynsky
Henry, by David and Lisa Snyder
Marcia Brier, by Rick Paden
Misty, by Chris and Jean Gilson
Rufus (formerly Bosco), by Neal and Martine Schmitt
Viking (now Sawyer), by Dianne Thompson
Sprite, by Sarah DuBois
Our "Best Dawgs" Katie, Gabriel and Fenwick, by Bob and Barb Awtrey
Mr. Sunny and Ms. Twinky, by Anna Bryan
Sammy and Simba, by Susan Behm
Our wonderful rescues, Baby, Stuart Little and Pippin, by Jim and Toni Honeywell
Her Royal Majesty, Queen Sheba, by Dan Michau
Diane Friis, by Joan Paull
Thank you for the most wonderful dog ever, Katie McGrady (Roxxy), by Sheila Fisher
Spunky, by Theodore Bain and Libby Smigel

Casie, a best dog, by Katherine Baumgartner
Lady (Minnie), by Ken and Roseanne Price
Gary Mummert and Walter, his new Best Dawg friend, by Nik and Melissa Apostolides
Brian and Angie McCluskey, by Paul and Kathy Hudson, and by Katherine Osborne
Cody (formerly Yodel), by Scott Tkacz
Joan Marshall, by Amy Bleich
Joan Marshall's Birthday, by Joanne Goldman
Zeus, by Amy Pergosky and Denise Reitan
Jasmine, by Mark and Kathy Banfield
Tim, from his "grandmom," by Rebecca Stepan
Pearl, by Mary Malarkey

In honor of Best Dawg Rescue!



Best Dawg Rescue volunteers who gave us our family: Brenda, Travis & George, by Fernando Marra-Lopez and Pam Bilik
Best Dawg Rescue (thank you so much for all the good work you do), by John and Mary Cotton
Thanks for saving so many PG Shelter dogs, by Amy Pergosky
Best Dawg's wonderful volunteers, from Jennie and Lou Pilato
For all the amazing work DAWG does, by Lisa Astrin
All the wonderful work you do for the animals. Thanks, DAWG, by Mary Mason

Thank you to those who supported specific dogs in need and who sent donations in lieu of exchanging holiday and birthday gifts! Special thanks to Sarah and Gracie Rodeffer, who decided that donations to Best Dawg Rescue were more important than receiving birthday presents. Happy birthday to both girls!

DAWG Adoption Picture Gallery

Enjoy seeing our former dogs with their proud new adopters!



Bandit



Circe



Buttons

Keep in mind that newly adopted dogs can be frightened of skateboards, bikes and cars. Please understand that for a dog, trying to attack these vehicles is a natural response. If your dog demonstrates this defensive behavior, contact a trainer to help with desensitizing your dog.



Dora



Cheeto



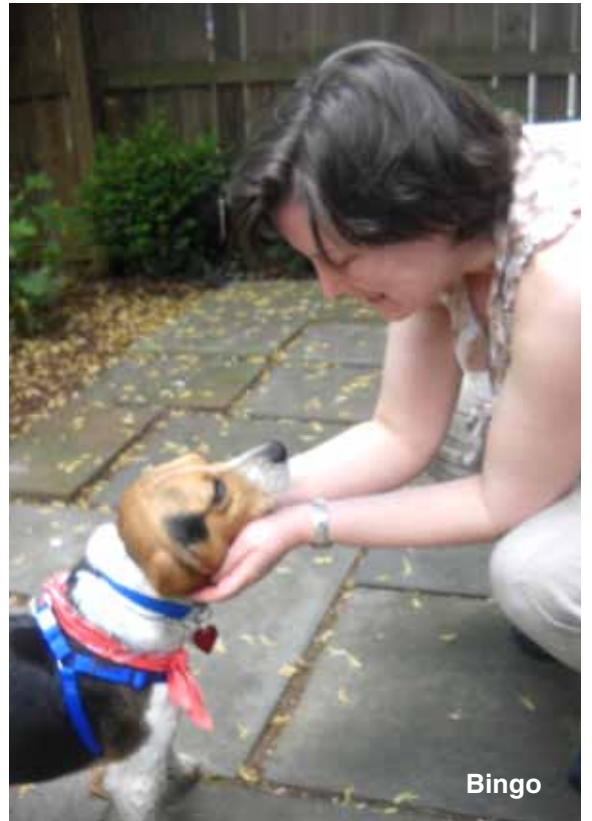
BooBoo



Fluffy



Luna



Bingo



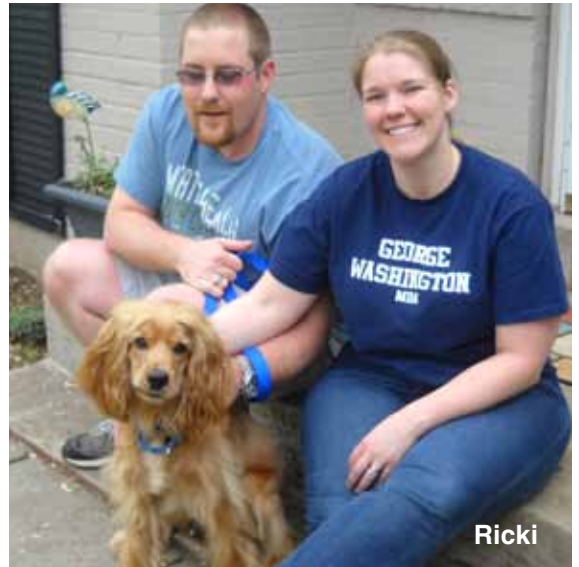
Trudy



Lambert



Kiwi



Ricki



Ginger



Sugar Bear

So your dog loves car rides? Follow these simple rules to ensure your dog's safety.

If you are running errands, leave your dog behind!

Even on a seemingly cool day, the sun can cause a car to heat up dangerously. (Don't think that your dog is safe if you leave the air conditioner on, because air conditioners are designed to turn off after a while.) Dogs are also stolen from cars, with or without locked doors. Best bet: save "dog cruising" for a time devoted solely to this event—a fun time for you and your dog!

One other thing: too often well-intentioned dog lovers think it is "cool" for a dog to have his/her head out an open car window. Sorry! Free access to an open window can result in a dog:

- 1) jumping out
- 2) strangling if you "crack" the window enough for the dog's head and the dog steps on the automatic window button
- 3) receiving eye injuries from the same debris that cracks a windshield!

One mistake on your part can seriously injure your dog. Best to play it safe!



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

Most of our readers know that DAWG takes in as many dogs as we can handle at adoption shows and as our budget allows. Luckily we have an incredible team of volunteers who take our new shelter dogs, sick with contagious respiratory illnesses, directly to our animal hospital, where they get well and then are spayed/neutered and given whatever else they may need. That's the short story, with the expenses incurred during each dog's stay easily totaling \$1,000 or more until adopted. If we operated as a volume adoption organization, we'd get dogs "out the door" with minimal vetting/expense and involvement. Instead, we acknowledge each dog as special, to be fully cared for, discovered, trained a bit, and then introduced into his or her new home, where we work with the adopters until we believe the adoption is on sound footing.

If our philosophy matches yours, please consider a mid-year gift to help us continue doing everything possible to help imperiled shelter dogs!

\$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: _____ Phone: _____

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.

Stay in touch with DAWG!

If you have moved or are planning on it, please let us know by emailing us at dawg@dawg-rescue.org.

If you moved over a year ago, the post office is unable to forward mail and returns it to DAWG. Thanks!



Our grateful thanks to . . . Beltsville PETCO and Rockville PetSmart for sponsoring our weekly adoption shows; and College Park Animal Hospital 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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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.

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

**Please spread the word that DAWG saves shelter dogs
with 96% of every dollar donated!**