



# DAWG Tales



Newsletter of Best DAWG Rescue, Inc.

Spring 2006

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

## Message from the President



Dear Friends,

The New Year got off to a promising start with the adoptions of 30 dogs through March (more than twice our average, including two double adoptions)! The achievement isn't in the number of adoptions but that we found the right homes for so many dogs. Each adoption is an exhilarating, but intense, labor of love on our part. No complaint!

One of the most gratifying events was that Garnet finally found her home. Her story is included in this edition of Dawg Tales, as well as a photo gallery of 36 former DAWG dogs now in their adoptive homes!

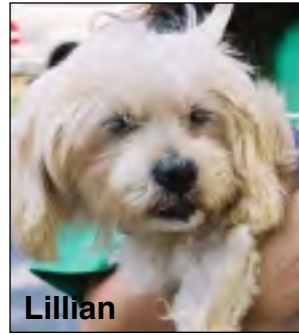
In addition to the good things that have happened, some sad events have occurred as well. Although our objective is to find permanent adoptive homes, foster volunteers occasionally provide the last home for a rescued dog.

Many of our dogs from shelters have heartworm disease. Treatment is somewhat routine, yet always risky. **Ernie**, a Chihuahua whom we took in knowing he had heartworms, didn't make it through his treatment. Despite the 'round-the-clock efforts of his dedicated foster mom, and numerous trips to the emergency and regular vet for oxygen, Ernie struggled to breathe. At least Ernie had a wonderful life in his foster home until his untimely end.

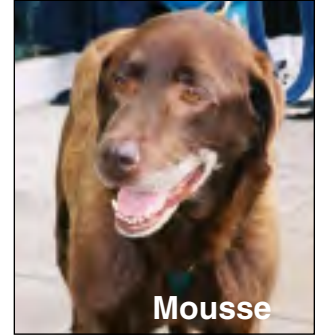
One of our first rescue dogs, **Nikki**, fostered in the same home as Ernie, was lovingly put to sleep a few days after Ernie. Nikki, a senior dog, was abandoned by her owner after his wife suffered a heart attack while eight months pregnant. Because of her age, we considered her a



Ernie



Lillian



Mousse

“virtual adoption,” meaning she would spend the rest of her life with her foster mom, and DAWG would take care of all of her needs. So Nikki started her new life, delighting her foster mom for two years before her time came.

Much to our shock, we just said goodbye to a special fellow, **Mousse**, whom we took from a shelter as he was being walked to the euthanasia room. Mousse, also senior, was filled with joy and never gave any indication of the neglected life he led. No one will forget the twinkle in his eyes and gleeful treat-catching at adoption shows. He was diagnosed with aggressive cancer and was gone just one week later. I had the privilege of being Mousse's foster mom. He was one of the best dogs I've ever known, and Mousse is deeply missed by our entire group of volunteers.

We also said goodbye to **Lillian**, who arrived with other “Katrina dogs” in mid-September. We will always be grateful to Lillian's foster mom, Georgia, who never faltered through Lillian's nighttime pacing and physical problems. Just as Lillian seemed to put her problems behind her, she started to decline again. Lillian, who had been given up by her owners just before the hurricane, finally found someone who loved her without reservation, even if for a short time.



Nikki

Predictably, after the New Year started, pleas for help from area shelters became a daily occurrence. Buoyed by the strong surge in adoptions, we took in a maximum number of shelter dogs (20 through March) to save them from an unfair end. *With our current foster homes full, we now turn to you to ask if you might consider fostering a dog “matched” to your lifestyle and home's environment? Or perhaps another adopted dog might be in the cards this year? If not, we would gladly welcome you as a volunteer at our adoption shows. As we say, “a shown dog is an adopted dog.” If you have room in your life and in your heart, please make this a special year by fostering, adopting and/or volunteering to help our dogs get the lives they deserve!*

Sincerely,

Joan Marshall

President

## What do paper shredders, automatic windows, snack bags, and sugar-free products have in common? They can harm or kill your dog!

We receive many email notes from dog owners who want to warn the public about everyday hazards. So please take heed!

**Make sure your dog is not present when you are using your paper shredder.** Recently, a curious dog licked the freshly oiled blade of a shredder right after a sheet was fed into the machine. The dog's tongue was shredded, and when he tried to pull it out, his mouth was severely injured. The dog's tongue was saved, but recovery is ongoing and difficult because the dog cannot eat or drink as a normal dog would, there is risk of infection, and additional surgeries may be required.

**Think your dog is safe in the back seat of the car?** Not unless the dog cannot access the door's automatic window devices. Recently, a dog was almost strangled when his head, already out the window, was caught when he raised the window and then locked



it by stepping on the door's automatic buttons. The best way to transport your dog is confined in the back seat and far from the door's mechanisms!

**Love sugar-free products?** Make sure you keep them far from your dog. The number of dogs poisoned by sugarless gum and other foods containing xylitol has more than doubled in the past year. Even a pack or two of sugar free gum, snatched from your purse or counter, can cause a rapid drop in blood sugar, leading to disorientation, seizures and even death.

**Lastly, most people think the worst thing a potato chip bag threatens is their waistline.** However, dogs who can get to snack bags not only can be harmed by the contents, but can be asphyxiated by the bag if the dog can put his head into it.

Just remember that your dog thinks the world is fun, but even the most seemingly benign or commonplace objects can be dangerous!

## Sit/Stay Before You Get A Dog!

Can't wait until you add a fuzzy friend to your new family? Please think again if you have pre-school children (or are planning on having children soon). According to a study published in the March issue of *Pediatrics*, Dr. Johannes Schalamon and associates at the Medical University of Graz, conducted a study of 341 children treated for dog bites at a trauma center in Austria. Over a 10-year period, children one year of age or younger had the highest risk of being bitten, and children up to age 10 also had a higher risk than older individuals.

"Parents should postpone. . . a dog until children are of school age," the researchers recommend. "Throughout evolution dogs have lived in packs with a specific order of dominance. In view of this rigorous hierarchical system in a pack, dogs may regard newborns as well as toddlers as subordinate," they added. But "school-aged children can be trained successfully in precautionary behavior when approaching a dog."

If you have children and a dog, please invest in at least one home session with a trainer who can show you how children can interact safely and as "pack superiors," of course under your supervision. At no time should a dog be left alone with children who may inadvertently scare or injure a dog, or even cause the dog to escape when a door is left open or not properly closed. We also recommend the same precautions if children have access to relatives' and friends' dogs. As for strange dogs while walking and in dog parks or other public settings, please practice avoidance and you'll never be sorry!

## What's bad for bugs and other garden critters can also harm your dog!

If you use systemic plant insecticides, be aware that your dog is at risk if he or she comes into contact with plants already treated with insecticide or fertilizer. One such product is Disulfoton, used to kill aphids. Metaldehyde, used as slug and snail bait, is also potentially dangerous or lethal to your dog.

If your dog ingests poisonous products, they can rapidly produce clinical

effects, from within a few minutes to a couple of hours after ingestion. Signs of poisoning include excessive saliva, urine and tear production, vomiting, diarrhea, elevated heart rate, difficulty breathing, lack of coordination, muscle weakness, nervous system depression, tremors, seizures, coma and potentially death from respiratory failure.

Poison can mimic many things. Some act immediately, and others take days to manifest symptoms. Diagnosis can be difficult, especially when time is of the essence. Keep your dog and other pets away from areas that you are treating with chemicals, and store products appropriately. If you suspect that your pet may have ingested a poisonous product, contact your local veterinarian or the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435) for immediate assistance.**

To reduce risks to animals, you may wish to research organic alternatives at your local library or on the internet. For instance, if you have slugs or snails, use less toxic formulations, such as those containing ferric phosphate, or sprinkle crushed eggshells at the base of affected plants. If your dog is attracted to eating grubs, treat the ground with milky spores, beneficial microbes that will not harm your dog. (When grubs feed on plant roots treated where spores have been applied, the grubs become infected, die and disintegrate, releasing spores to stop generations of grubs.) These and other natural "tricks" can help keep your yard beautiful without endangering your pets.

## Pawsitively Puzzled

**Q:** What is the difference between DAWG's application process and that of a shelter?

**A:** Each shelter has its own policies, so we will explain our process and general differences so you can derive your own conclusions.

Shelter dogs are at risk of euthanasia and have little time. DAWG gives our dogs all the time they need to attract adopters just right for them. We don't know if our dogs will be adopted in a week, a month, or longer and there is no "pressure" to adopt them as quickly as possible.



## Aren't You Setting Yourself Up For Heartbreak?

By Susan Reed

How many times have we heard this question from concerned family members and friends these last few weeks? After all, we have been through heartbreak this winter. We lost both our beautiful Dobies to two different diseases within two months. We knew we could never replace Colonel and Spring but the house was unbearably lonely. We decided to look for a puppy sometime later in the year when my seasonal employment had ended and I could devote 24/7 to it. But something led my husband to the Best DAWG Rescue website. Could it have been Colonel and Spring? Who



knows. But he found a beautiful girl named Garnet and we were smitten.

After reading Best DAWG's bio and communicating with Garnet's foster mom, we were confident in the fact

that if Best DAWG Rescue was willing to take a chance on giving this girl a reprieve, she must be special. One look in her eyes and one "lean" from her and we knew it too. Yes, she's seven plus (a guesstimate), and, yes, she's been through a life no animal should have to go through, but we've adopted the



most beautiful, loving companion anyone could ever ask for. Chances are we won't have 10 or 12 years with her. But there are no guarantees anyway when you put your heart on the line. And quality of time together is far more fulfilling than quantity of life together. We'll never know what her life was like before, but we can guarantee that her life from now on will be full of love. What is life without a little heartbreak? For now our hearts are full again.

DAWG does not deal with applicants on a "first come, first served" basis nor limit applications on our dogs. We seek the best fit based on the dog's personality and the adopter's lifestyle. We often suggest dogs whom we feel are suited to applicants, and we often urge potential adopters to wait until certain aspects of their lives are stable or more dog-friendly, such as if a person travels, works long hours, or is planning on having a baby in the near future.

An applicant will receive a definitive answer regarding the status of his/her application within 24 hours. If approved, we are able to proceed as quickly as the applicant's schedule permits.

All dogs are totally "vetted" prior to placement. We provide all required vaccinations, and test for tick-borne diseases and heartworm. We spay/neuter, microchip and treat for anything our veterinarian recommends, such as dental cleaning and heartworm treatment. Our adoption "fee" rarely covers the average medical expenses of the adopted dog. We seek donations to help ensure each dog receives all necessary medical care until adopted.

Every applicant is "home visited" at least once prior to adoption. We thor-

oughly prepare the applicant for adoption, and visit with the chosen dog so that the applicant can spend time with the dog in the home. If all goes well, placement can occur as soon as the applicant is prepared to adopt the dog, but we do not "hold" dogs for people who wish to delay placement.

We follow up on adoptions until we're reasonably assured the "match" is indeed a good one. If an adoption fails, we require that the dog is returned to us, to be re-adopted and NEVER returned to the original shelter.

***Please write us at [dawg@dawg-rescue.org](mailto:dawg@dawg-rescue.org) If you have questions about DAWG, dog behavior, or any dog-related concern. We're waiting to help!***

## So You Think You Know Your Dog?

You know when your dog has done something "bad" because the dog acts guilty or sneaky, right? Not necessarily.

Human body language, such as not looking directly at you or "slinking" around a corner, might signal that the person is hiding something. However, dogs who display similar behavior, such as averted eyes and lowered body posture,

are actually showing submissive (deferential) behavior.

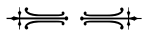
One form of deference is submissive urination, a natural way for a dog to try to please an assertive, higher-ranking dog. Unfortunately, humans usually react in alarm, causing a dog to submissively urinate all the more as if to say, "I'll try harder to show you you're top dog!"

What should you do to avoid receiving this messy message? The cure is relatively simple. Do not react when a dog urinates submissively (i.e., ignore), and avoid behavior that might trigger submissive urination, such as leaning over the dog, another "signal" of dominance to a dog. In most cases, altered human behavior solves the unwanted dog behavior almost immediately.

Another misunderstood example of submission is the infamous dog "grin." Sadly, many "grinning" dogs are considered aggressive because they show their teeth. Luckily, many people perceive a grinning dog as smiling, a more favorable response, even if not the correct one.

Unfortunately, submissive dogs often end up in shelters for "aggression" or because the dog is considered unhousebroken or incontinent. Other common dog behaviors are also misinterpreted, but

of course many “signals” are correctly interpreted by dog owners. The only way you can understand your dog is to study canine behavior. Even trainers are not always savvy and therefore may not be able to correctly understand and communicate with dogs (and help you communicate with yours). Why not make it a part of your summer reading plan to pick up a book on dog behavior? You will learn about your fascinating friend and may even be able to help others who are frustrated by their dogs. That’s a win-win proposal!



## HONORARY & MEMORIAL DONATIONS

### In honor of dogs/pets

In honor of Courtney, by Dorie Forte  
 In honor of Moonie and Petey, by Leon and Linda Scovitch  
 In honor of BJ, a real cutie pie, by adoptive parents Michele and Doug Krebs  
 In honor of Sebastian, by Nancy Gay

### In memory of dogs/pets

In memory of Parlay, “the sweetest of the sweet”, by Tom and Bette Dolan  
 In memory of our beloved Lab, Haley, by Yvonne and Bill Curry  
 In memory of Dakotah, Nu-Nee and Hep, by Eddie and Christy Suiter  
 In memory of Austin, by Margaret Riden  
 In memory of Rascal and Katie, by Meghan Williams  
 In memory of Grover, by David Elfin  
 In memory of Yoooper, by Wendy and Andrew Thompson  
 In memory of Lillian, “who knew she was loved by Georgia,” by Judy and Roger McClain  
 In memory of Lillian, by Aleda Bunch  
 In memory of Prunella Grandiflora, “Ginnie Maurer’s special kitty with lots of character,” by Judy and Roger McClain  
 In memory of Daffodil, “Natalie’s special girl who was such a joy,” by Judy and Roger McClain  
 In memory of Daffodil, by Natalie Kramer  
 In memory of Hopie, “Ginnie Maurer’s special girl who howled to tell Ginnie,

‘time to eat!’,” by Judy and Roger McClain  
 In memory of Mousse, by Lisa Astrin  
 In memory of Nikki, by Lisa Astrin  
 In memory of Bailey, by Jennifer Crown  
 In memory of Mousse, my best foster boy ever, by Joan Marshall  
 In memory of Mousse, from Allyson Dentice

### In honor of people

In honor of Joan Marshall, by Elfriede Pace  
 In honor of Joan Marshall, by Bruce and Toni Immerman  
 In honor of Andrea Maertens, by David and Debra Throckmorton  
 In honor of Sophie Strike, by Emma Simson  
 In honor of David Pitt’s 9th birthday, by Laura Criswell, Karen Greene, Matthew Wagner, and Kathleen Wetzel

### In honor of people

In very special memory of Debbie Breuer, by Liz Dietz



Debbie & Wookie

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

### Donation of:

- \$25     \$50     Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Annual pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable (select one) monthly or quarterly
- Credit donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (go to [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org) and select Best Dawg Rescue/DAWG).
- Gift of a security (please contact us at [dawg@dawg-rescue.org](mailto: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? Don’t forget purchasing online through [iGive.com](http://iGive.com). If interested in volunteering, please contact us at [dawg@dawg-rescue.org](mailto:dawg@dawg-rescue.org).

### A special farewell from all of us at DAWG to dogs who will be missed by more than their families

Wookie Breuer  
 Daffodil Kramer  
 Deno Legasso  
 Riley Herman

### And good-bye, dear DAWG dogs

Ernie  
 Lillian  
 Mousse  
 Nikki

### And special thanks to Aino Hunter for her generous commitment to all of our dogs!



# DAWG's Adoption Gallery

Enjoy meeting some of our recent adopters with their new DAWG dogs!



**Bear**



**Autum**



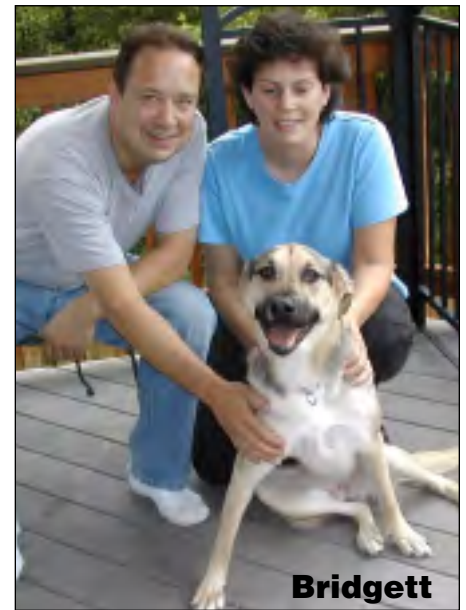
**Amber**



**Barkley**



**Bambi**



**Bridgett**



**DeeDee**





**Callie**



**Camrie**



**Dream**



**Cubby**



**Hank**



**Foxy-Ginger**



**Honey**





**Jordan**



**Jennie'04 & Delilah-Mya**



**Katrina Katie & Calvin**



**Lollipop-Mandy**



**Julep**



**Korina**

**ADOPTERS!**  
You have wonderful stories to tell about your dogs, so why not share them with DAWG Tales? Please write us at [dawg@dawg-rescue.org](mailto:dawg@dawg-rescue.org). . .and don't forget to send pictures as well!









**Sunshine**



**Twinkie**



**Tyke**



**Twinkle-Carly**



**Tina**



**Wolfie**

# DAWG Gone Funny



**Q:** What did one flea say to the other flea when they walked out of the movies?

**A:** Shall we walk or take a dog?

Little Harold was practicing the violin in the living room while his father was trying to read in the den. The family dog was lying in the den, and as the screeching sounds of little Harold's violin reached his ears, he began to howl loudly.

The father listened to the dog and the violin as long as he could. Then he jumped up, slammed his paper to the floor and yelled above the noise, "For Pete's sake, can't you play something the dog doesn't know?!"

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

## 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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**Visit us at [www.dawg-rescue.org](http://www.dawg-rescue.org)**

**Our dogs have medical emergencies all through the year. Please consider a mid-year donation.**