



# DAWG Tales



Newsletter of Best DAWG Rescue, Inc.

Summer 2006

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

## Message from the President



Dear Friends,

Summer's in full swing, and we hope that all of our human and canine friends are enjoying the "dog days"! As regular readers know, we try to provide helpful seasonal tips in each issue of DAWG Tales. Please take a moment to download prior DAWG Tales issues by going to our website, [www.dawg-rescue.org](http://www.dawg-rescue.org), then clicking on DAWG Tales. You will find articles on camping with your dog, ideas for creating fun times with your dog, and much more helpful information.

### Other summer reminders:

**Dogs cannot be left in the car—even for a few minutes and even if the car isn't hot when you leave it or if the windows are open.** And leaving the air conditioning on for a dog in the car can be a deadly mistake. *Car computers will automatically shut off most air conditioners* after a certain point, or they simply can malfunction. There are better and definitely safer ways to amuse your dog than taking him on car trips in the summer.

If you see a dog in a locked car, be sure to call 911. Don't presume that the dog's owner will return in the nick of time. Your delay could result in the dog's death. If a dog owner is careless, don't let the dog pay the price!

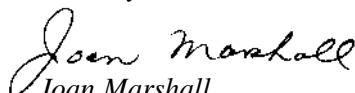
**Take precautions that your dog won't react and bolt from you because of a thunderstorm or lightning.** Every year, shelters take in strays that ran out doors, jumped through windows, and scaled high fences in sheer terror. Your dog may know the neighborhood, but don't presume he'd find his way back when so terrorized.

When a dog is that scared, he forgets and may go miles and never be found. Microchipping and providing ID on your dog are helpful but don't guarantee you will ever see your dog again.

**Have you heard that dogs have died after taste-testing cocoa mulch, sold at many local stores?** Cocoa mulch is toxic to 50% of the dogs who eat it, according to Hershey's, the manufacturer. If you suspect your dog has eaten any amount, go to your regular or emergency veterinarian immediately.

Enough of the dangers. We would be remiss not to remind you, but the flipside of summer dangers are the good times and happy memories. May you have many of them, and be sure to share some of them with us!

Sincerely,

  
Joan Marshall  
President

## Flower Power

**Lilies, azaleas, oleander, sago palm and castor bean** are the five most dangerous plants to dogs and other companion animals, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Permanent organ damage, gastrointestinal tract irritation, collapse of the cardiovascular system, coma and death can occur after ingestion of these plants.

## Need reasons not to leave your dog outside when you're not there to supervise?

- Even one bee sting can cause anaphylactic shock.

- Lightning and thunderstorms can cause a dog to bolt over or push through a fence regardless of its height and structure.

- Heatstroke

- Poisoning

- Wildlife, including coyotes and rabid animals, can either climb over or under fences and enter your property.

- And, of course, a thief will have no problem stealing your dog when you aren't there to stop him.

## Are you prepared to evacuate?

No one wants to think about catastrophes. However, considering recent weather/environmental mayhem, no one can ignore the potential for disaster. If you are prepared and have an emergency plan, you won't panic should an emergency occur. Take action today!

- If you have to leave, remember that shelters and motels ordinarily do not accept animals, so check ahead regarding their emergency policies. They will always accommodate people first. If a shelter or motel will take in your pet(s), expect that they will want them contained.

*(continued on next page)*

## The Dog Whisperer, Cesar Millan, says. . .

*The worst thing an owner can do is to heap affection on a pet without balancing it with discipline and exercise. In the dog's eyes, that means the owner isn't a boss to be respected. . .*

- Develop a network of friends or relatives who can help with housing if an emergency strikes. (And be sure to return the favor!)

- Make sure you have leashes, harnesses, collars and ID tags for EACH of your four-legged pets, and (ideally) carriers and collapsible crates for safe transportation of each one.

- Invest in a dog emergency kit. Go to DAWG Tips: <http://dawg-rescue.org/tips/emergencytreatments.htm> for more information.

- If your pet isn't microchipped, have it done right away. Also confirm your pet's microchip number to ensure you were given the correct one.

- Take current pictures of each dog, label them, and create a folder for each including current medication, key medical and vaccination records indicating the veterinarian's contact information, and microchip number. These folders should be in your possession when you leave.

- Purchase several weeks' worth of food, water and medication, and extra bowls for food and water. If there is a disaster, food and clean water may be scarce.

If you must leave your dog or pets behind, be sure to:

- Leave them inside the house, with access to upper floors. Leave out at least 10 days' supply of dry food and water.

Fill multiple sinks, bowls, pans, and plastic containers with water.

- NEVER leave pets outside to fend for themselves. Post your contact information (including emergency phone numbers) and *copies* of each pet's folder as explained above in a plastic sleeve nailed to several prominent locations inside and outside your home.

- Distribute spare keys to nearby friends and relatives who can help.

Even if you don't experience a disaster, place an emergency sticker in a window near your front door in case a weather crisis or fire occurs when you are not home. This sticker will alert rescuers to animals in your home who need help. Be sure to note how many animals are in the home and where they can be found.

And remember that a full-blown emergency plan may come in handy if you are involved in an accident or called away unexpectedly. For sure, none of us know what the future holds, so take the time to prepare for the future today!

## Pawsitively Relieved

*A slight reworking of our column from "Pawsitively Puzzled" to "Pawsitively Relieved"*

"Would you remind everyone to check their fences frequently for signs of wear? I have a 4 foot split rail with wire on the inside. I happened to be planting a rose-

bush recently and so looked at it very carefully then. It was fine. A few days later, my mother couldn't find our dog, Emma, after a potty break. She called and called, but no Emma. She looked at the fence and didn't see anything wrong, but she got scared because she saw a small dog running off in the distance. She went into the house to call me and then returned to the yard again. Luckily, there was a slinking, panting Emma, coming up the hill to the house. When I got home, I went out and looked over the entire fence. I found the gap, *She didn't dig under it, she pulled or pushed the wire until there was enough room to get through) and she'd made it bigger on the way back in.*

We were very lucky!!!

*Georgia, DAWG volunteer*

**Moral of the story: be ahead of your dog's creative thinking and check your fence frequently!**

## HEALTH. . .

### Caring for Animals

*Three valuable tips from Michael Fox, columnist/veterinarian with doctoral degrees in medicine and animal behavior.*

- **Never combine any vaccination with a surgical procedure that involves general anesthesia, because the latter can reduce the body's normal immune response.** Have the vaccination given only if mandated by law and not less than three weeks before the surgery. While it can be argued that two visits to the veterinarian (one for the vaccination and the other for the surgery) would be more stressful than a single visit for both treatments, the fact remains that the risk of adverse effects of combining anesthesia and surgery with a vaccination should be avoided at all costs.

- Many factors are involved in the development of various kinds of cancer, notably genetic susceptibility, stress, diet, prior infection and exposure to toxins in the environment and in food. Toxic metals and harmful pollutants, such as dioxins and PCBs, are suspected of being more prevalent in commercial pet foods than in home-prepared diets made primarily from organically certified ingredients. **I am especially concerned that many veterinarians are advising lifelong**

**Thank you to Dr. Rosenberg and Dr. Cain of Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates, and Dr. Bush of Bush Veterinary Neurology Service, for their discounted specialty services for our dogs, Topaz, Flash and Beau**



*Topaz after heart surgery.*

## from . . . *Unleashed: Poems by Writers' Dogs*,

Edited by Amy Hempel and Jim Shepard. New York: Three Rivers Press, 1995.

### Shelter

R. S. Jones

You paused outside  
to look into my cage.  
I tried to play it right  
wanting to catch your eye  
with a shy glint in my own,  
a soft bark,  
that said, "Choose me,"  
in a canine grammar  
I hoped you'd understand.

Your face held nothing  
(Pity maybe)  
that let me believe  
you would ever want  
a dog like me.

You turned once,  
twice,  
a hundred times,  
coming and going  
the length of my cage.  
(Coming and going  
like you do now,  
ten times a day.)  
Then walked away.  
I could not stand another day of

strangers coming to stare.  
Passing me over for younger dogs who  
knew too little to have the strange  
look of longing  
I could not keep from my eyes.

I could not stand another night  
alone in that place  
the cracked cement floor  
the howls and whines that kept  
me sleepless  
(Did you know that sound is still the  
one I hear  
when you wake me kicking from dreams  
sleeping in your bed?)

The suddenly you were back.  
I saw you glance at the card  
Hung onto my gate—  
a false name, a date of arrival,  
otherwise a blank  
no age, no history,  
nothing,  
that would let you know  
I would stay with you forever  
and never go.

You leaned your face into the fence  
curling your hand through the wires,  
blinking in the sun.

(Neither one of us so young  
in the bright, Spring light  
yet wanting to be.)

I let one paw  
hover in the air  
but looked away,  
not wanting to show my eagerness,  
but wanting  
to find a way to tell you  
that I would be a good dog  
and how much I wanted to be owned.  
(A dog is only half himself  
without a master.  
Unfinished, half-alive)

I could not move  
nor speak  
but when you dropped to your knees  
and reached two fingers towards my fur  
I felt myself fall,  
(oh god I could not help myself)  
letting my body form the words,  
head back, eyes closed  
throat exposed,  
legs flailing in the air,  
"Please," I said "Yes please.  
Take me. Yes."

—Scout

monthly preventive flea-control drugs for dogs and cats that could be at risk from long-term treatment, especially if their immune systems are already compromised.

- "Summer eczema" is a generic term for seasonal dermatitis in dogs. It is often misdiagnosed as fleas, hence the hazardous, widespread misapplication of flea drops, dips and pills. Many dogs develop itchy skin and red eruptions with secondary bacterial infections as a result of allergies to flowers, grass and tree pollen. Antihistamine medication (and steroids, in severe cases) should be given. Anti-flea medicines might make such pollen-allergy problems worse by disrupting a dog's immune system. Pollen-allergy eczema can be misdiagnosed as mange, which is caused by skin-burrowing mites, which a routine skin-scraping might or might not reveal. A careful diagnosis is important—not more flea-killing poisons!

## ADOPTER STORIES

### Adventures of Lucy (adopted 2006) and Sebastian (adopted 2005)

This morning on our walk, Lucy the Hunter was pulling, pulling on her leash in an effort to capture the elusive grey *suburbanus squirrelius*. At the same time, Sebastian the Protector was following a fluttering white butterfly with his handsome nose. Go figure! If they could read books, Lucy would read trashy detective books while Sebastian would read poetry!

They continue to get along very well. It's amazing that they were strangers just a couple of months ago. The connection was immediate. They are perfect playmates. How bored Sebastian must have been before Lucy's arrival! If we had dirt floors in our house, they'd have worn a path throughout with their racing and chasing. Tug of war and chase are their



Sebastian (left) and Lucy (right)

favorite games—inside, outside, upstairs, downstairs, on the bed, off the bed, over the bed. They don't jump on any furniture other than "their" couch and the bed.

The other day, Lucy was up on the recliner with me. Sebastian came into the room with a rope toy in his mouth, prancing past Lucy to entice her to play. She stood up and did a flying squirrel leap onto Sebastian's back. What a hoot they are to watch.

It also struck me for the first time how DAWG really targets dogs that are unlikely to get adopted from the shelter because of health, age, or just because their personality cannot shine through because they are so scared or depressed at the shelter. Lucy is a perfect example. Since she had heartworm, I assume the shelter would have put her down since they wouldn't adopt her out. A treasure would have been lost.

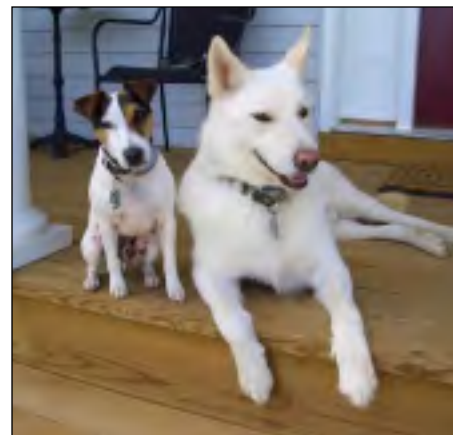
*Nancy*

### Reggie's Story

My husband Sean and I adopted our Jack Russell Terrier, Reggie, from DAWG in 2004. He was a small dog, which I liked, but his terrier personality made him

tough enough to hold his own with our 80 pound rescued German Shepherd, Wolfy. Reggie and Wolfy had a rough first week with Reggie getting bit once over a toy, but after a couple weeks they were the best of friends. They play in the backyard and it is such a funny sight. It is usually Reggie chasing Wolfy, trying to take him out at the ankles and sounding ferocious. They may look like opposites but they make a perfect pair. Reggie is smart enough to open the pantry door and Wolfy is tall enough to pull down the good stuff. Wolfy knocks food off the kitchen counter while Reggie keeps watch.

One of the bumps in the road to domestic doggie bliss was housebreaking. We had the first clue that there might be trouble when Reggie lifted his leg and "marked" the leg of his handler at an adoption event. So it should not have been a surprise when he started marking everything in the house. We thought this was just an adjustment period, he was neutered late in life and this was just a habit we would have to break. We bought a crate, signed him up for training classes, and had him checked out by our vet. Months later we had a crate trained, obedient, healthy dog



**Reggie (left) and Wolfy (right)**

who still pees in the house. We also now had a member of the family. He is the sweetest and most loving terrier I have ever met. He loves to be held, travels well and is friends with everyone he meets.

My husband and I decided that we would do whatever we needed to do to make it work out. So this was the beginning of the diaper phase with Reggie. Many dogs come straight into your home already housebroken, or can catch on to the housebreaking thing pretty quickly, Reggie is just not one of those dogs. He is much better than he used to be, but he will always be a diaper doggie. So I guess it comes down to this: no dog is perfect for everyone. I know a lot of people would find Reggie's marking habit unacceptable, but he is so great in so many other ways that we can work with the diapers. Wolfy has chewed up more socks than I care to mention, but that is a small price to pay for such a sweet and gentle dog. When you bring a new dog into your home there will always be an adjustment period, give it some time. Reggie is a joy to have in the house and we feel so lucky to have him, diapers and all.

*Katie*

### The Adoption of Shady and Breezy

In November of 2005 I lost my 10-year-old adopted greyhound to an undiagnosed disease. In August 2005 my adopted 14-year-old Dalmatian left our family. In January 2006 I knew I was ready to fill the void in our household. I had my mind made up that I would only adopt one dog this time. When DAWG responded to my application, they mildly suggested Breezy and Shady because they noticed that I had previously owned two dogs. (Breezy and

**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. If interested in volunteering, please contact us at [dawg@dawg-rescue.org](mailto:dawg@dawg-rescue.org).**

Shady had been surrendered to the shelter together.) I didn't give it much thought at the time. However, when I went to meet a different dog, I took a look at Breezy (he was also there). He melted right at my feet, and looked longingly at me for pets. How could I not look at Shady?! Shady also leaned right into my legs and looked at me with adoring eyes. I was sold. My husband met them on a separate visit. They also wormed their way into his heart and soul in one visit.

Two dogs. Yes, I adopted two dogs instead of one. They are so wonderful. Each has its own personality and makes me smile in different ways. My husband and I now have one dog for each of our laps. Sometimes they just curl up together—Shady's head on or near Breezy's torso. How heartwarming can it get? We love our walks, but if I don't have time for a lengthy walk, they wear each other out by playing together. I know when I am away that they are comforted by each other's company.

Was it a piece of cake? Not totally.

Breezy had to do without Shady for the first 9 days he was with us, as she had some medical needs. He was lonely and showed signs of separation anxiety. I called the volunteer whom I was working with, received lots of moral support, and read up on how to work with separation anxiety. By the time Shady came along, he was already getting used to my leaving the house. Once Shady arrived, it helped him even more. Now they often sense when I am about to leave and crawl into their crates on their own.

Of course, I knew how to handle dogs. After all I have had 5 dogs in my life before these two. But then I started to notice some behavior in Breezy that I thought needed correction. Do I dare bother my volunteer friend again? Will she see me as a failure as a dog owner? Will she think I misrepresented my ability to own a dog? I made the phone call. Again I received nothing but moral support, her take on the situation, and the name of a person to contact who could help me solve our problem. The dog



**Breezy (left) and Shady checking out their new backyard!**

trainer came to my house within a week of my call. Our session resulted in two invaluable pieces of information that I would never have noticed myself as well as training techniques and homework.

Within a week we are back to a cohesive, happy, and loving pack. Thank you DAWG!

*Elizabeth*

## HONORARY & MEMORIAL 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 on a quarterly basis.*

### **In honor of pets/people:**

In honor of all the Best Dawgs,  
by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler and Greg Bradsher  
In honor of Lexi, by the Burrs  
In honor of Katie's second adoption anniversary,  
by Barb and Bob Awtrey  
In honor of Casper's tenth adoption anniversary,  
by Barb and Bob Awtrey  
In honor of Gabriel's second adoption anniversary,  
by Barb and Bob Awtrey  
In honor of DAWG senior dogs, by Marilyn Marquardt  
In honor of all the "Dickie Dogs" and Joan Dickie  
Marshall, by Janet Jacobs  
In honor of Major, an angel to his foster sister,  
by Valerie Silensky  
In honor of all the wonderful DAWG volunteers,  
from Mary, Gary and Slinky Seale  
In honor of Dan and Charlotte Fishman,  
by Joanne Goldman  
In honor of Marcia Brier, by Rick Paden

### **In memory of pets/people:**

In memory of Mousse, "such a loving dog who loved to catch those treats," by Judy and Roger McClain  
In memory of Riley, "who had a wonderful life with the Hermans," by Judy and Roger McClain  
In memory of Babette, who "loved everyone,"  
by Judy and Roger McClain  
In memory of Ernie, "much loved by Susie and her mother," by Judy and Roger McClain  
In memory of Nikki, "much loved by Susie and her mother," by Judy and Roger McClain  
In memory of Kristie, Gizmo and Melissa,  
by Nancy Brantner  
In memory of Lillian, by Dorothy Waddell  
In memory of Sugar, "Joan's precious girl and devoted friend," by Judy and Roger McClain  
In memory of Lark on the first anniversary of her passing,  
by Warren Richardson  
In memory of Sugar, by Toni and Bruce Immerman  
In memory of "Joan's beautiful girl Leah."  
by Judy and Roger McClain  
In memory of Nicky, by Marilyn Marquardt  
In memory of Pumpernickel, by Toni and Jim Honeywell  
In memory of Thelma Champness,  
by Adrienne (and Dolly) Bull

# DAWG's Adoption Gallery

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



*Breezy (left) and Shady (right)*



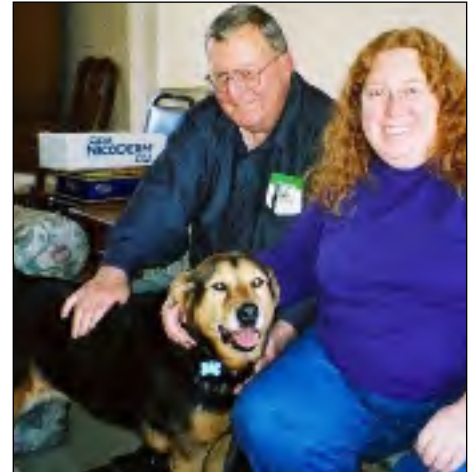
*Connor (right)*



*Dart*



*Flash*



*Honeybelle*



*Happy (left)*



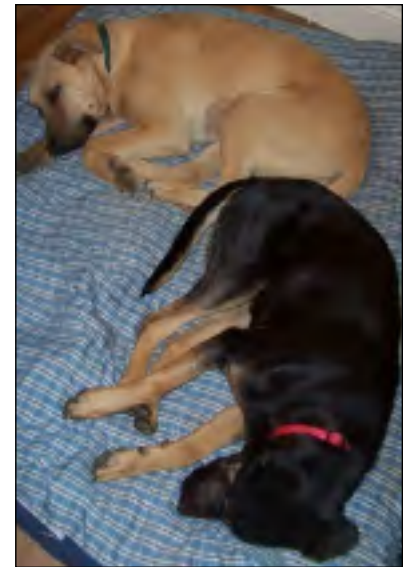
*Josh and Jeremy*



*Lacey*



*Maurice*



*Nia (bottom)*



*Patsy*



*Melody (right)*



*Sadie Sue*



*Pokey*

**Special thanks to  
Aino Hunter for her  
generous donation  
establishing a medical  
care account for DAWG  
at Charles County  
SPCA/Humane Society  
Spay/Neuter Clinic.**

# DAWG Gone Funny



## The AKC now recognizes the following breeds:

*Collie + Lhasa Apso = Collapso:*

A dog that folds up for easy transport.

*Spitz + Chow Chow = Spitz-Chow:*

A dog that throws up a lot.

*Pointer + Setter = Poinsetter:*

A traditional Christmas pet.

*Great Pyrenees + Dachshund =*

*Pyradachs:* A puzzling breed.

*Pekingese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso:*

An abstract dog.

*Irish Water Spaniel + English Setter*

*= Irish Springer:* A dog fresh and clean as a whistle.

*Labrador Retriever + Curly Coated*

*Retriever = Lab Coat Retriever:*  
The choice of research scientists.

*Newfoundland + Basset Hound =*

*Newfound Asset Hound:* A dog for financial advisers.

*Terrier + Bulldog = Terribull:* A dog that makes awful mistakes.

*Bloodhound + Labrador Retriever =*

*Blabador:* A dog that barks incessantly.

*Malamute + Pointer = Moot Point:*

Owned by. . . oh, well, it doesn't matter.

*Collie + Malamute = Commute:*

A dog that travels to work.

*Deerhound + Terrier = Derriere:*

A dog that's true to the end.

*Bull Terrier + Shih Tzu:* Oh, never

mind. . .

**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

### **Best Dawg Rescue, Inc.**

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

### **2006 Board of Directors**

Joan Marshall, *President*  
Moiria Gingery, *Vice President*  
Karen Eskew, *Secretary*  
Kassy Mattingly, *Treasurer*  
Judy McClain, *Member-at-Large*  
Kassy Mattingly, *Promotions and Marketing Director*  
Joanne Goldman, *Application Review Director*  
Joan Marshall, *Medical Director*  
Kassy Mattingly, *Communications Director*



## 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.



**Best Dawg Rescue, Inc.**

**PO Box 34213**

**Bethesda, MD 20827**

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

**Best Dawg Rescue (DAWG) is #7062 in the Combined Federal Campaign**