

Calendar

ADOPTION EVENTS

Jan 11th — 2pm to 4pm
Especially for Pets in Sudbury, MA

Feb 8th — 2pm to 4pm
Especially for Pets in Sudbury, MA

FUND RAISING EVENTS

December 14 — 11 to 2pm
Pictures with Santa
Best Friends in Sudbury. Also retail sales discount day at Best Friends.

June 28th, 2003 — 10am to 3pm
Paws in the Park Dog Walk
VA Hospital Grounds in Bedford, MA.

September 14th — Pet Rock 2003
The 5th annual Pet Rock will take place at the Hebert Candy Mansion in Shrewsbury, MA from Noon to 5pm.

A Look Inside...

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An overview and some quick pictures of Paws in the Park 2002. It's not too early to plan on attending Paws in the Park 2003

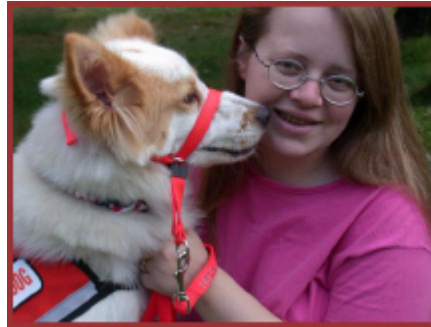
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Save A Dog Provides Dogs for NEADS



*Kim Lizak
and her assistance dog Whizzer*

Earlier this summer a few of us from Save A Dog attended a workshop and tour at the NEADS (National Education for Assistance Dog Services) facility in Princeton, MA. We learned that they were on the look-out for small, peppy dogs to train as companions for the hearing impaired. These Assistance Dogs become an extension of their owners and bring security, freedom, independence and relief from social isolation to their human partners. Since we come across lots of small, energetic dogs in our pursuit of good-natured, family dogs for our adopters, we forged a relationship with NEADS and set a goal to help provide them with dogs

Dear Save A Dog,

I'd just like to say Thank You for donating my hearing dog, Whizzer, to the NEADS for me. I've enclosed a picture of the two of us.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Kim Lizak and Whizzer

whenever possible. We alerted our partners in West Virginia and Kentucky and they jumped into action, meeting us at a half-way mark with a van of carefully selected small dogs, of whom NEADS would have their first pick. The NEADS trainers met us at Best Friends in Sudbury on a sunny day in May and evaluated the dogs, choosing several for their program. Later in the summer we were able to provide them with two more small dogs who passed their temperament test with flying colors. We're proud to announce four recent graduates, all provided by Save A Dog: Whizzer, CJ, Summer, and Dewey.

Seeing the graduation pictures of these dogs with their hearing impaired

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Year 2002 Recap!

This past year was the busiest ever! The down-turn in the economy caused more dogs to be in need than ever, but with a number of us losing our high tech jobs, there were more volunteers with more hours to devote to helping homeless dogs and cats. In our effort to provide friendly, good-natured dogs to people in the New England area we have forged relationships with some of the most dedicated shelter workers on the face of the earth. Diana Charles of the Paris Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in Paris,

Kentucky takes in far more dogs than she can place. She knows that we are always on the look-out for dogs who are good with children, so she selects dogs with the best temperament and drives them nine hours to meet us at a half-way point. PAWS has provided us with some wonderful little dogs who we've been able to match up with approved families. Some of these dogs went to the NEADS program where they received training to become assistance dogs for the hearing impaired.

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Save A Dog Hosts Day of Dog Fun

By Jill Morneau



Everyone Came!

Hundreds of paws descended on the VA Medical Center in Bedford, Mass. to help raise money and awareness for Save a Dog. Numerous dogs, including many adopted from Save A Dog, strolled the picnic grounds with owners in tow during the second annual pet walk on a sultry Saturday in June.

It was an opportunity to bring in new volunteers and friends and also to try and raise some of the funds that we need to keep finding good homes for great dogs," said Michael Denomy, a Save a Dog volunteer.



Some Dogs Arrived Cool!
the adopter it holds fundraisers to help augment medical bills. Shirley Moore, President of Save A Dog, praised the organizations' volunteers, saying "What an upbeat and hard-working group of volunteers we have. I'm so proud of you all!"

Attendees enjoyed a day complete with agility try-outs (which contained a set of doggie-slalom poles, various height dog jumps, and an elevated tire jump), dog training demonstrations, a guided dog-walk, and nonprofit organizations. Carting dogs, Search and Rescue dogs and ARFF Agility Club dogs all gave demonstrations. Save a Dog

members Teri Olsen and Pamela Enion spearheaded the event.

For Save A Dog volunteer Bill McPhail, helping dogs find homes is not only satisfying, it's become an obsession. "I'm addicted to the cause," he said.



Other Dogs GOT Cool!

McPhail served as PR, Rescue & Vendor Coordinator for the event. His favorite part of the day was meeting the many volunteer rescue groups at the event, for pure breed and mixed breed dogs. Overall, PAWS was a demonstration of dog owners' connections with their best friends.



Some Dogs Invented Cool!

Save A Dog alumni and their masters, the love and the bond between them," said Save A Dog volunteer Cathleen Crowley. 🐾

We need Volunteers for Paws 2003!

Paws In The Park is Save A Dogs biggest fund-raiser for the year. This year's walk was a great success! Next year's Paws in the Park is coming up soon and we anticipate an even larger turnout! Teri Olsen, our Coordinator, has set the date for Saturday, June 28, 2003 (with a rain date of Sunday, June 29th). Location is the same: Bedford VA picnic grounds in Bedford, MA). If one or more of the items below is your specialty or if you have a skill you'd like to offer, please email us at saveadog@saveadog.org.

- 🐾 Publicity
- 🐾 Set-up and break-down
- 🐾 Silent Auction and Raffle
- 🐾 Registration table
- 🐾 Water stations

We're also looking for corporate sponsors, vendors, photographers and musicians.

Year 2002 Recap!

(Continued from Page 1)

Another wonderful connection we made this summer was with a humane society in a remote part of WV. June, the caretaker, takes in all sorts of strays and does so on a shoe string budget. Most households cannot afford to spend on shots or neutering, so the number of stray puppies is staggering. Ritchie County is in the heart of the mountainous portion of WV. In other words, you can't get there from here. Driving in that part of the country is challenging at the very least and too far for most rescue groups to help. So June will load the dogs in her van and meet us at a half-way point in MD. Recently they had a water shortage and the town had to cut off their water. People were donating their swimming pool water, but the Fire Dept. said they needed it in case of fire. They wrote to us to take some of the dogs so they wouldn't have to be put to sleep and our volunteers jumped into action, collecting water from friends, co-workers, and local grocery stores. I had the honor of driving down on Sept. 11th with my van loaded with water and American flags flapping in the breeze. It was very windy that day, but the water kept the van anchored.

Nancy Seevers of North Carolina doesn't have a shelter, but she and her co-workers take in many dogs and puppies and foster them until they can get a ride up north. She has provided us with some of the sweetest puppies on earth and some beautiful adults. People in her area leave dogs by the side of the road or outside the local Walmart. Nancy scoops them up and nurses them back to health. She and her husband will drive them for miles, just to get a ride up north. Then they hook up with rescue hero Sandy Fisher, who lives in PA and often drives dogs as far north as NYC -- she is an amazing woman. Sandy has a conversion van outfitted with crates and spends most of her waking hours driving dogs here and there. She does this as a labor of love!

There is nothing more thrilling than seeing a family bonding with their new dog or puppy, especially knowing their sad beginnings. The dogs who come us are often thin, loaded with parasites from living outside, and are desperate to bond with a human being. It's such a joy to see that human-canine connection happen to these wonderful beings whose nature is to be someone's best friend. Be it in a Petco parking lot or the Best Friends lobby where many of our adoption events take place, the matches made in heaven transpire before our very eyes here on earth. This is what keeps us all hooked on saving more dogs.

This issue contains a letter of appeal as we desperately need a transportation vehicle to help us with these trips. If you adopted a dog from us, please remember that many heroes worked diligently to get them into your loving homes. Your donations are a vote of support that we continue this important work. As always, thanks for your support.

Shirley Moore, President of Save A Dog

NEADS Dogs

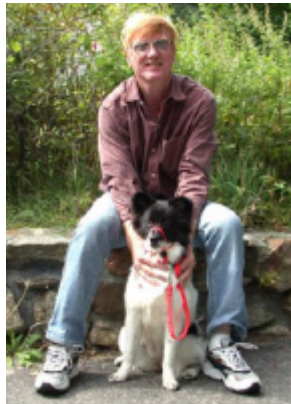
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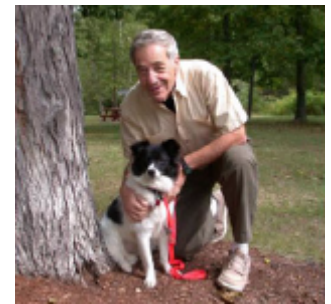
Lynn Robbins & Dewey

adopters brought tears to our eyes. What a noble calling for dogs who were formerly society's throw-aways. We feel so honored to have played a small part in helping NEADS provide their hearing impaired adopters with such wonderful assistance and companion dogs. 🐾

For more pictures of the graduates, go to the Web and type http://neads.org/graduation/photos_oct2002/index.html



Neal Mooney & Summer



Bill Shapiro & CJ

Save A Dog Hosts Temperament Testing Training

On November 4th Save A Dog presented a hands-on dog temperament evaluation workshop for animal control officers, shelter employees, volunteers, and the rescue community. The training was held at the Animal Rescue League in Pembroke, MA with guest speaker Dr. Amy Marder, a well-known animal behaviorist who practices in the Boston area. She addressed why we do evaluations, how to observe dog behavior, what dog signals are, how to safely conduct an evaluation, how to observe and interpret evaluations, and how to determine the best placement based on the evaluation. In addition, Dr. Marder also presented the results of recent research about the evaluation process. We spent the morning learning the theories and the afternoon working with shelter dogs provided by the Animal Rescue League. This event was well-attended by representatives from all over the New England area. It was great to see so many of our peers in this field eagerly taking responsibility for evaluating their dogs before adopting them to the public. At Save A Dog we've always felt that we owe it to the public to provide dogs who have been temperament tested and are safe with people. We hope to provide more workshops of this nature in the future. 🐾

Why I volunteer for Save A Dog

by Sheryl Palmer



On a Wednesday at the beginning of October, Shirley Moore and I went to the Billerica dog pound to evaluate some dogs for the Save A Dog program. That's where we met a cattle dog mix named Disney. We learned that Disney's owner came down with MS and had to relinquish her last April. She was shuffled around a few times before she ended up at the pound where she sat for a few months.

At our next adoption event I decided to handle Disney as I was familiar with her. She really grew on me that day. Every time I told her to sit, she would do a 'sit pretty' with front paws raised up in the air. That made me laugh every time. She loved everyone and adored the attention from the volunteers, but she didn't generate much interest from the folks interested in adopting a dog.

A few days later another volunteer, Sheila, was showing Disney to a family and I stuck around to watch. As a new volunteer, I am always looking for a chance to learn a thing or two. Also, I had fallen in love with this dog and wanted to make sure she went to a good home. This family, Tammy and her 2 younger boys were so nice. The kids were well behaved and listened to everything Sheila said.

Tammy's father and sister were also there and told us the family's story while Tammy and the boys were taking Disney for a walk.

About 1 1/2 years ago, Tammy's husband was diagnosed with cancer. Their relatives got together and sent Tammy and her family to Disney World. Tammy's husband was so sick they had to come home early. He said to Tammy, upon arriving home, "I owe you a Disney".

I later found out that Tammy's husband passed away the very day that I picked up Disney from the Billerica dog pound. The following day their dog died of cancer as well.

Tammy and her family fell in love with Disney from the moment they laid eyes on her and wanted to take her home right then and there. Sheila and I told them the rules. We don't do adoptions on the spot, but that someone would get in touch with them to do a home visit first. One very depressed family left – without Disney. It just broke my heart. After they left, Sheila and I agreed that if it was ok

with Shirley, I would do the home check the following morning with Disney hidden in the back of my truck. When I called Tammy to let her know I was coming, she was almost in tears.

So I packed up Disney and proceeded down to the Taunton area. When I got there, I parked my truck at the end of the driveway so they wouldn't see that I had her.

All three of her sons were there when I got there and were very happy and proud to show me around the house, along with Tammy, of course. It didn't take me long to know that this was the perfect place for Disney. As we finished the inspection, I turned to Tammy and said, "Everything looks good. I have Disney in the truck". She started crying and hugging me and saying "You don't know how much this means to us." I replied, "You don't know how much this means to *me*."

When the boys got Disney in the house, you should have seen her. She did this happy dance we never saw her do. She puts her 2 front legs out straight and prances. She was having a ball with the boys. The boys must have walked her 3 times during the adoption process. (Showing me each time that they were holding the leash as Sheila had taught them the night before). Every once in a while, Disney would come over and sit beside me and look up as if saying "Thank you", and then run back to the boys.

By the time I left there, Disney had on her new collar, with all the tags attached. They were loading her up in their van to go to the City Hall to get her license and then to Petco for dog food.

As I pulled out of the driveway, I looked up and noticed a hand written sign hanging on a tree in the front yard that said, "We love you Dad". I sobbed all the way home.

This is the reason I love doing this volunteer work so much.



How to Survive Visiting Dogs During the Holidays

If you're anything like us, not only do you have your own dogs to deal with during the holidays, but chances are you'll have the dogs of friends and relatives over. Here are some tips on how to survive visiting dogs without too much stress.

🐾 Find out as much as possible about the visiting dog "before" he arrives. The more you know about the visiting dog before the arrival, the better you can prepare yourself. Try to find out if your guest's dog is socialized with other dogs by asking questions such whether he goes to dog parks or lives with other dogs. Does he play with other dogs on a regular basis? Does he know obedience commands? Also, find out if they have a back-up plan in case the dogs don't get along. If not, then you should have a back-up plan. At least have an extra crate on hand. Encourage them to bring their dog's crate so he'll have a place where he feels safe.

🐾 Remove all bones, toys, and food before the new dog arrives. The best way to start off introductions is to remove anything that they might fight over. It is not unusual for dogs to compete for resources when forced to live in a "pack" situation. Save the bones and special toys for when they're safely in their crates or at least in a separate area.



🐾 Introduce dogs in neutral territory. If it's not possible to introduce the dogs in a nearby park or on neutral ground, then at least introduce them in the back yard. Ideally, the best way to introduce them is through a fence where they can sniff each other, but still feel safe. This may not work for dogs who tend to be aggressive behind fences, though.

🐾 Introduce them in a spacious area. You'll want to give the dogs room to meet so choose a spacious area. This is especially important if you have to introduce the dogs indoors. Don't do it in a doorway or in an area where there are a lot of obstacles to maneuver around. Avoid crowding the dogs with people, especially small children.

🐾 Introduce them briefly on-leash. It's important to have the leashes loose, as tightening up on the leash may send the wrong message to your dog (that this is a scary animal and you're trying to pull him to safety). What you want is a relaxed, carefree meeting. Let them sniff each other, walking around them to avoid getting leashes tangled.

🐾 Make introductions brief. Introductions should be brief. If they sniff and then ignore, give them a little more time and don't force the issue. If one makes a play

bow and the other responds, that's a good sign. Often at that point you can drop the leashes and let them play for a few minutes. If one initiates play and the other raises his lip, then back off from the lip-raiser and give him time. Brief introductions, followed by having them separate is a good way to avoid stressful situations. If your dog is stressed it might be wise to briefly crate the new dog. The best way to introduce inside is to bring your dogs outside and bring the new dog inside. Then let your dogs in. That will lessen the chances of your dogs feeling protective. It's wise to keep leashes on until you're sure the dogs are getting along. Again, keep the meeting short.

🐾 Be conservative. Don't leave the dogs to play unattended, even if it looks as if everything is going well. Play is arousing and high arousal can lead to out of control emotions, which can lead to aggression. It's very similar to children on a play ground. It's often the smaller dogs who get picked on so make sure you pick your play group appropriately.



🐾 Feed them separately. Feeding should be enjoyable and stress-free. Always feed visiting dogs separately, either in their crate away from your dogs, or in another room. Make sure all food is removed before putting them together in a group again.

🐾 Sleeping arrangements. If your guests are staying over and their dog can sleep in their room you shouldn't have any problem. If your guests have gone out for the evening and you are dog-sitting the visiting dog, it's best to have him crated separately from your dogs. If for some reason the new dog can't be crated, you might want to put him in a room where he can't do much damage or have a family member sleep on a couch that's in the same room as the dog. Visiting dogs often suffer from temporary separation anxiety so don't be too hard on him if he cries. Hopefully, your friends will be nice enough to reciprocate the favor and you can look forward to your own night on the town, sans dogs. 🐾



Framingham, MA 01701-1108

P.O. Box 1108

Save A Dog, Inc.

From the Letter Bag!

Hello Save A Dog!

Last Sunday it was six months since Cross came here to her new and forever home. We celebrated by taking a good long walk in previously uncharted territory and by redeco-



rating the station wagon, which included adding a new fuzzy rug for curling up on during long car rides.

Cross came home on a Friday night last May and we started basic obedience classes the next Tuesday. She did well in class and learned very quickly compared to her puppy classmates, even if she was not exactly a willing student. She only wanted to play with her new pals, but this was an on-leash only activity. But she endured the hour, doing as she was asked or directed, but often with a look that said, "Why can't I go play with that dog?"

When I tell people of her sad story, coming up from North Carolina after being rescued, they often respond forlornly, "Oh poor thing! Was she abused?" I reply that I don't think so, because it took her less than 24 hours to figure out how to curl up on the sofa, and to jump up on the bed for a little snooze after her morning walk and breakfast. This dog definitely knew the comforts of home.

She is an absolute delight to have around, and such a friendly dog to all. Honestly, this dog wakes up with her tail

wagging. When we meet people and dogs on our walks, she tends to introduce herself briefly to the dog, before trotting off to meet its human, as if that's the true indication of the dog's character and worthiness. When she approaches people with her head on a tilt due to those crazy mismatched eyes, and her tail in a full wag, she is pretty irresistible together. People who know me well remark how well suited we are, and that we were meant to keep one another company. By the time I brought her home, she was a happy and healthy dog, thanks largely to the extraordinary efforts of her foster mom, Jane. I hear that she was one sick dog when she arrived in March, but she is thriving and full of life and energy now. During our exchange of paperwork on adoption day, I noted that she weighed 33 pounds on the day of her spay surgery. Today she is a healthy and trim 57 pounds, which is all solid muscle. I am still trying to imagine what she must have looked like without those extra 24 pounds. I can't, but others have told me what tough shape she was in. Thanks to all of you for your effort and faith on the part of this sad and sick little dog - it was certainly worth it. As the attached pictures show, she now enjoys every day and she has brought me much cheer and companionship.

Keep up the good work, and thanks from both of us!

Denise and Cross

