

Calendar

ADOPTION EVENTS

October 9th, 2-4 Adoption Event,
Petco in Natick, MA

November 13th, 2-4 Adoption Event,
Petco in Natick, MA

*Please refer to our Web site
as these dates are subject to change.*

FUND RAISING EVENTS

**November 7th — Second Annual
Benefit Auction for Save A Dog**
Natick Elks, 95 Speen Street, Natick,
MA 01760. 1 PM silent auction
begins, 2 PM live bidding starts.

Register before **October 20th** to be
entered into our Early Bird gift
basket raffle

**June, 12th 2005 — Paws in the Park
Dog Walk**, VA Hospital Grounds in
Bedford, MA.

Jake: A Success Story



Just wanted to drop an update on Jake. We adopted Jake from you on 12/21/02. What a pleasure he has been! He is such a wonderful addition to our family and I believe he is as happy as we are with him. He lives with myself and my 8 year old Grand-

daughter. They bonded instantly. Jake celebrated his 10th birthday on Saturday, February 14th in grand fashion with a party to include our neighbors and my granddaughters best friend. He was very excited with his new football, tennis balls and of course some tasty dog treats. Jake loves to go on walks and enjoys playing with the tennis ball, football or soccer ball with my grand-

daughter who is an avid athlete. Jake continues to be quite spry for his age and we look forward to many more years with him in our family.

Many Thanks,

Sandy, Linda, Jake & Nikki 🐾

A Letter from Shirley

Hi everyone,

I'm writing this letter on the fly as I get ready to load up the van for another trip to West Virginia. Things have not slowed down much this year, in fact, the need is more urgent than ever. I've never received so many urgent emails from over-crowded shelters as I have in the last few weeks and months. The Florida hurricanes have added to the burden of many humane societies who are stepping up to help. I'm heartened to see that the media is involved in bringing these needs to the forefront and that many of the larger humane societies are getting involved in that rescue effort. Meanwhile the little WV shelters are still not on the map and there's not much hope in sight other than the few rescue vans that go down every other week or so as there is no low cost spaying and neutering in this rural part of the country. The shelter we're headed for tomorrow, Marion County Humane Society, is over capacity with more than 155 dogs, doubled up two and three to a run. The last time we visited I wanted to run out the door, it was so overwhelming. But the three shelter workers labor such long hours making sure everyone gets fresh air and

sunshine and a clean kennel every day, that you can't help but want to go out of your way to help them. They're using every resource they have despite an unsupporting community who orders that all surplus animals be gassed. So all we can do is give them the best we've got and go down and save the few that we can. The van is wonderful, but it only holds about 20 or so dogs, and even if we had a bigger van, we'd have no place to put them all when we get back as there are so few foster homes and no permanent facility in sight, so the cycle goes with many small trips to the shelter. Save a few, get them ready for adoption, and find compassionate, qualified adopters. That's where you all come in.

We have been very fortunate to have so many compassionate supporters in a part of the country where people are so busy with their own affairs. Thank you all for your continued financial support. It is so crucial to our ability to continue what we do. I also commend the volunteers for carving out the time to help us with all the chores that accompany the rescue efforts. As well, I commend all the adopters for providing the loving homes,

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A Letter from Shirley

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especially those who are willing to give an adult or senior dog a chance.

We've made a few changes this year. One program change is that we decided to focus on dogs and outsource the Feral Fix program to organizations better qualified than we are to trap, neuter, and release the local feral cats. There are many more local humane societies in the Metrowest area focusing on cats than on dogs, so we've got our work cut out for us and we'll try to support the local cat programs whenever possible. Following our last fund raiser, Paws in the Park, we sponsored the Merrimack Valley Feline Rescue Network's monthly free spay clinic. This way we can help the local strays and feral cats while doing what we do best, saving dogs. We work side by side with many of our friends in cat rescue and also belong to the same larger networking groups, like the Massachusetts Animal Coalition.

We've expanded our Board of Directors by asking Dawn Giovannucci, our chief fund raising queen, to join on as Director of Fund Raising. Dawn's more than earned the title and position as she has spear headed the past three successful fund raisers. As a former business owner of Pampered Pooch, she is no stranger to the dog world or to the business-savvy it takes to getting significant support from the community. Please join me in supporting Dawn in her new role.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for November 7th at 1 PM when we hold our Second Annual Auction at the Natick Elks. It promises to be a great shopping opportunity while we wine and dine you!

Well, I have to run, but also wanted to make this short so there's more room for your success stories and other great information for dog owners.

Shirley Moore
President and Founder
Save A Dog, Inc.



Please Welcome New Board Member, Dawn Giovannucci.

Helping your Dog Overcome Car Sickness

Does your dog tremble and drool every time you have to take her in the car? We've discovered that rescued dogs are especially prone to car sickness, probably because the only time they rode in the car was on the trip to the shelter.

Here are some tips for helping your dog overcome car sickness. Like any training program, the approach is to break it down into small steps. Clickers work wonders at "shaping a behavior" and the behavior you want is for her to ride calmly in the car. Ultimately, you want her to enjoy riding in the car with you. Here are five easy steps to making car riding with your dog a joy.

1. Make going near the car a positive experience by giving her treats and praise whenever she goes near the car. Using a clicker makes this training go much faster. Every time she walks up to the car without quivering or drooling, click and give her a treat.
2. Once you've established that she can go near the car, without distress, open the car door, let her get in or throw a treat in. Click, treat again and exit. Do this quickly. Give her lots of praise. I often tell people to do a whole week or two of just getting in and out of the car, gradually lengthening the time that she spends in the car.
3. At this point you are able to get her to sit in the car without too much sense of stress. Start the car and let it idle, while she sits in the car. Start with 30 seconds or less and build from there. Once she can do this without stress, move to the next step. All the while you're clicking and treating.
4. Now try backing the car out of the driveway, or if you have a U-shaped driveway, move slowly forward. Click, treat, praise, then return to the driveway and exit the car. Again, once she can do this without stress, move to the next step.
5. Try driving around the block. If she lasts without drooling or getting car sick, then continue for one week of short drives. At this point you're home free. If at any point in this exercise, your dog regresses, go back to the previous step and work on it some more. It also helps to use really juicy treats instead of the boring biscuit type. It's always wise not to feed your dog before doing this last step until you're sure that she's really over her car sickness.

This method has worked wonders with many of our foster dogs. We hope it works for you too. The use of a clicker makes it so much easier because clickers afford you an excellent way to mark a good behavior. For more information on clicker training go to www.clickertraining.com. 🐾

Separation Anxiety

by Eileen Moreira

Congratulations, you've adopted a dog! During the first few days/weeks everything is going well when suddenly your new family member cannot be left alone. You notice as you step outside to get the mail that Fido exhibits signs of distress. These signs may include: panting, pacing, drooling, barking constantly, whining, jumping at doors or windows and/or exhibiting destructive behavior. When you leave him for longer periods (even in his crate) you notice these symptoms get even worse. He may even urinate or defecate in his crate - a true sign something is wrong.

Fido is likely suffering from separation anxiety. Separation anxiety is a common experience for many dogs, especially those who have been through a rescue situation. Think about it from the dog's perspective - he was likely with a human at some point, abandoned in some way, kept at a shelter, transported to a rescue group, living at a foster home, and then joining your family - many transitions for any dog, young or old.

Because dogs are pack animals, they long to be part of a group and want to learn their place in it. A rescued dog usually bonds quickly with one person - the shelter worker, the rescue worker, the foster parent, and then the mom or dad. His "person" has been taken away so many times over such a short period of time, Fido fears being "abandoned" again.

There are many things you can do to help ease Fido's separation anxiety:

- 🐾 **Read up on the subject.** There are many great books, articles and websites out there. Search for "canine separation anxiety" on the Internet and marvel at the information available to you.
- 🐾 **Crate Train Fido.** To Fido, his crate should be his "den". A warm, welcoming, comfortable, safe place to be. Add a bed, blanket and a chew toy (when you are present.*) Leave the door open and toss treats in every once in a while. Fido will quickly learn that "good things happen when I'm in my crate." (*When first left in his crate when you are not home, you may have to remove the bed, blanket or toy so Fido doesn't chew or choke on them.)
- 🐾 **Enroll in a training class.** Training (clicker or otherwise) will deepen the bond between you and Fido, as well as boost his confidence in general, which will make him feel better when left alone.
- 🐾 **Practice "leaving" Fido.** Practice, even if just for a few seconds at a time, leaving Fido in another room. Increase the number of seconds to minutes you are gone gradually, in small increments. Soon he'll get the idea that you always come back. When you do this, you are "desensitizing" him to being left alone.

- 🐾 **Practice calm "hello's" and "goodbye's."** When leaving and returning, don't make it a big deal. Calmly say "goodbye" to Fido when you leave and "hello" to him when you return. If Fido picks up anxiety at these times from you, he will internalize it. Be a calm role model coming and going, and soon Fido will be, too.
- 🐾 **Doggie Day Care.** Enrolling Fido in a reputable doggie daycare center (even for only one or two days a week) may be the perfect solution. He'll be busy with dog-savvy people and make lots of doggie friends. Best of all, you'll feel better knowing he's not stressing-out, home alone.
- 🐾 **Have patience and lots of love.** Fido's separation anxiety may take a few weeks, or even a few months, to conquer. Muster up all the love and patience you can find - it will be worth it! One day you'll notice that Fido has become content and calm when left alone.

Eileen Moreira adopted Buddy, the yellow Lab, from Save A Dog in January of 2002. Eileen tried all of the above with Buddy, but finally found that leaving him in her bedroom (not crated) was the solution for him. Buddy sees the bedroom as his "safe haven" and has no separation problems when left there. Eileen believes that there is an angel for every person who saves a dog.🐾

Meet Volunteer Holly Tomlinson

Holly Tomlinson, a very faithful, rock solid volunteer who doesn't like the lime-light, but certainly deserves a hero's award for all she's done for Save A Dog. She faithfully attends the adoption events, will take any dog you give her, doesn't complain, takes her share of fosters, even adopted a long time foster dog, Boo, who she nurtured through hip replacement surgery that required months of restricted activity. Imagine crating an 80 lb. energetic lab and doing it successfully. That's Holly.🐾



Tails from the Letter Bag

Chloe

I thought I would give you an update on how Chloe is doing in her new home. It's been almost 4 months since she came home with us, and she is the absolute love of my life. She has made tremendous progress since October, and has gained about 12 pounds to reach a healthy weight. Her love for me and my family has been so profound every day, and we all can see how happy she is. She lives in harmony with our guinea pig Emma, and sometimes they even lie down and nap side by side, with supervision, of course. She is also crazy about my 3-year-old cousin Charlie, and during the last snowstorm played in the snow for hours with him.



She sleeps in my bed, as I promised you she would, and spends the majority of her day snoozing on the couch or playing with whoever will toss a ball for her. Sometimes, if

there's no one around to play with, she'll literally toss the ball to herself! It's very funny! We recently went on our first big trip down to the Cape to visit some relatives, and she had a blast running around in the snow and chasing snowballs.

She is just the most wonderful girl, and she could not have come into our lives at a better time. We lost our labrador mix of 14 years just two months before we found Chloe, and her presence in our home has made coping with the loss so much less painful.

I am so grateful to you and everyone at Save A Dog for finding and caring for our baby. She has given us so much joy and made us all laugh until our sides hurt, but above all she has given us all of her love.

Thank you again, Shirley, and keep up the good work!

Sue Kervis and Chloe 🐾

Gretel

Gretel was adopted in June 2002 and will celebrate her 2nd Birthday on April 1st.. She is half GSD and half Airedale. She currently weighs 65 pounds and is affectionately



known as "Gretel Monster". She is a total sweetheart and as smart as a whip. She brings much joy to her family and enjoys her life to the fullest. She is in-charge of the family (nuclear and extended).

Tom Weadock, Human in Training 🐾