



Brownie Troop 1874 Earns a Service Badge

PEPPERTREE RESCUE BENEFITS

Patrice O'Connor

On Saturday, April 19th, Brownie Girl Scout Troop 1874, visited our adoption clinic at the Latham Petsmart. The girls are all second grade students at the Westmere Elementary School in Guilderland. The girls decided to use the funds raised by selling Girl Scout cookies for an animal-related charity. One of the troop leaders learned about Peppertree from talking to a friend and fellow Peppertree volunteer, Cathy Kunz. The troop decided to create adoption “goodie bags” to donate to Peppertree for new owners to bring home with their Peppertree dog. The girls spent the winter months decorating canvas bags with doggie motifs. With the guidance of the Troop leaders, they made wonderful homemade dog biscuits to include in the bags.

LC Smith Pet Center in Delmar graciously allowed the Troop to purchase collars and leashes at cost to include in

the bags. The girls finished the bags by including a large rope tug toy. The girls even went so far as to make “girl” and “boy” dog bags with the appropriate colors. The Brownies presented Peppertree with the bags and also a very generous donation of clinic clean up supplies including gallons of Nature’s Miracle cleaner and tons of paper towels!

The girls will earn a service patch for this project, but their real reward was visiting with the Peppertree dogs who they got to help. The dogs enjoyed sampling the homemade biscuits and Peppertree dog, Shaina and her new owners went home with a beautiful bag full of goodies! Peppertree would like to thank Brownie Troop 1874 for all of their hard work and for thinking of the dogs. 🐾

Left to Right: Brooke Haldeman, Lauren VanAmerongen, Caitlin Gagan, Leah Bonnano and Jessica Tallman. In addition to the girls pictured above the following girls helped with the project but were unable to participate in the delivery of the bags: Caroline Murphy, Maya Septer, Emily Bolognino, Angelina Ragule, Emma Davis, Lily Pickett, and Lily Call.



Peppertree Rescue, Inc.
P.O. Box 2396
Albany, NY 12220

www.peppertree.org

A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament



The Peppertree POST

2008 Volume 2

What do we do?

Rescue Dogs of good temperament who need new homes • Cooperate with and assist other rescues, shelters, and animal control • Educate the public about how to obtain a companion animal.



A Flurry of Furry Fun: FANTASTIC FUND RAISING EVENT A RESULT OF PREVIOUS TRAGEDY

Lucia Perfetti Clark

Lucia Perfetti Clark, Newsletter Editor
and Fundraising Committee Chair

Some of you dedicated readers of Peppertree’s newsletter and website may have noticed a recent emphasis on fundraising. As always, there is a story behind why we have become more serious about maintaining a black financial status as opposed to a red one. Over a year ago, Peppertree committed to taking in a mother and her litter of pups from down south, those of us in the group refer to them as the Tipton litter. They came to us via a Tennessee shelter. They were a beautiful group of dogs who looked extremely golden – but not quite 100 percent golden – so breed rescue referred them to us. As an organization, if the father is also known and of Peppertree temperament, we try to take him as well, and before we knew it we were taking in a whole family of dogs. This was such a spectacular crew of dogs that we had homes lined up for the puppies, and mom and dad didn’t look like they would be available for very long either.

However, shortly after their arrival things took an ugly turn. Slowly, one by one, the puppies began to show signs of distemper, a virus that is relatively easy to

diagnose, but for which there is no effective treatment. There is a vaccination for this disease, but these puppies had not yet received it, even though we asked the shelter to make sure they had already received their basic inoculations. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of Shaker Animal Hospital, none of the puppies made it, and several families went from the joy of anticipating a puppy to the sorrow of losing a dog they never had. Shifting our focus to the mom and dad’s health, we then learned that they both had stage four heartworm, again a disease that is easily prevented but difficult to treat, especially if it has had time to progress. Within another few weeks, after attempting to get them all the medical attention possible, both of them crossed the bridge. Now I know that you are wondering what in the world this has to do with the Fun Run.

As you can imagine, this family of dogs cost Peppertree a great deal of money in veterinary expenses. Peppertree is dedicated to giving every dog in the program the same high quality care that we give our own dogs. There was no way to foresee the emotional and financial

Flurry of Furry Fun

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tragedy that came by taking in this otherwise lovely group of dogs. To say the organization was set back financially is an understatement. It was at this time that as a group we decided that we needed to have a committee of volunteers dedicated to fund-raising year round. Thus far, the fundraising committee has put on a Spaghetti Dinner in November, the Holiday Appeal, and most recently on March 29th the First Annual Furry Fun Run 5K. Each event has been unique and successful in its own right. As an organization, we realize that charitable giving is a challenge for many financially, so we are trying to host events that put the "fun" in fundraising, giving you an entertaining experience while also raising much needed money for our group.

Peppertree Rescue, Inc.

(A 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity)

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The Furry Fun Run has been our most successful fundraiser yet, in spite of the early spring snow and cold, over 60 runners and walkers brought in \$7,539 to Peppertree Rescue. While it was a success in dollars raised it was also a success in that we reached out to a new group of people who wanted to participate in an event that allowed them to compete with their most loyal running/walking partner of all...their dog! The prize categories were: Top Three Finishers Without a Dog, Top Three Finishers With a Dog, and Top Three Fundraisers.

The Top Three Finishers Without a Dog

1. Aaron Knobloch, 18:20
2. David Schumpert 21:59
3. John Schwarz 24:51

Top finisher, Aaron, said that this race had the best prize package he has received yet, and he seemed like he's been in a lot of races!

The Top Three Finishers With a Dog

1. Chris Nowak with his Golden Summit in 20:21
2. William Ports with his dog Piper (Peppertree Alumni) in 21:06
3. Ed Menis with his dog Suzy (Peppertree Alumni) in 20:36

It should be noted that in terms of finishing times these two categories overlapped, these canines were speedy!

The Top Three Fundraisers

1. Dell Langlois raising \$765
2. Connie Burke and her son Powell raising \$600
3. Nancy Kunz raising \$440

Peppertree Treasurer and Founder, David Sawicki, wanted me to write this article and take credit for the success of the Furry Fun Run, but he's not the writer nor the editor! Seriously, the Fun Run was such a success because of all the dedicated people that took part in the walk/run, and raised money for the organization. All I did was organize the event, which was easy because of the fantastic fundraising committee who let me boss them around, and the help of all of our volunteers. Since the inception of the fundraising committee, Peppertree has gone from a twenty thousand dollar deficit, to a one thousand dollar surplus. As a 501 3C made up of all unpaid volunteers, our goal is always to break even, but money in the bank means we can commit to taking in more dogs, or dogs with special needs where before we may have had to say 'no'.

We're just getting started folks! Expect some of these events to be annual, and look for more in the upcoming months. If you have already participated in some of our fundraisers and you had a good time, we hope to see you again with some of your friends. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our fundraisers, or are interested in volunteering for the fundraising committee, e-mail me, Lucia Clark, at lulu72078@yahoo.com.

Peppertree is expecting to hold a huge garage sale in June, and dog swim in mid to late summer. Stay tuned to the website and the newsletter for more information. 🐾

Delta Pond

A LOVE FOR EACH OTHER, AND FOR RESCUE

Mary Ellen Grimaldi



Mary and John DeFreest owners of Delta Pond Kennels, will celebrate 48 years of marriage this August, and have been working with dogs one way or the other for 45 years. They formerly raised and trained Doberman Pinschers for the Coast Guard, then rescued a racing Greyhound and "fell madly in love with the breed."

At one point they had 26 Greyhounds, and found adoptive homes for every one. The next breed Mary and John focused on was Rottweilers, starting with a female who had been badly abused. They had seven dogs of their own but recently have lost three to cancer in the last two years. A lovely memorial to these dogs stands on the kennel's rural property.

Delta Pond Kennels in East Nassau is a great friend to Peppertree Rescue. If a dog does not yet have a foster home it is the primary place where they are kenneled. The DeFreests have operated a boarding and recuperation kennel for 35 years. Delta Pond is a very cozy and welcoming facility that offers daily walks and plenty of TLC. Mary says, "we always have room for any of the great second chance dogs from Peppertree, our favorite rescue group. This is our life and we love it, love every sweetheart of a dog. We live here and thus are on site 24/7."

Mary and John treat every dog at the kennel, no matter how long or short the stay, as their own, and one really gets the feeling that the dogs are part of their family. Peppertree has seen many dogs calm down and de-stress after getting loving attention from the DeFreests.

Delta Pond has a local vet on call 24 hours a day, in case any urgent medical problems arise for the dogs at the kennel. For Mary and John the highlight of running Delta Pond is the thrill of getting to know a dog awaiting adoption and then seeing the dog find its forever home and eventually having that dog return to board when Mom or Dad is away. They get to see how happy the dog and new owners are and it is very rewarding. For more information on Delta Pond Kennels check out their website at <http://www.deltapondkennels.com/index.htm>. 🐾

Foster Homes Needed

Please consider opening up your heart and home to one of our dogs or puppies for a few days or weeks to give them a chance at a new life. We have to turn away many animals in need because of a shortage of foster homes. Most of our dogs are fostered before being placed so if you own a Peppertree dog, your pet probably benefitted from the kindness of one or multiple foster home volunteers. Won't you show another dog or pup the same kindness? 🐾



Peppertree Video

Thanks to production support provided by WMHT and the Albany Guardian Society, Peppertree Rescue is pleased to announce our new video that introduces what we do.

It will be loaded on our website shortly, but in the meantime, it can be viewed at www.youtube.com, type in 'Peppertree Rescue' and it will come up.

We are very grateful to the Albany Guardian Society for providing Peppertree Rescue with this wonderful opportunity to raise public awareness about our dogs and rescue activities. 🐾

Breezey

Continued From Page Three

to see if one of our dogs might fit in well with her pack. Jill checked Peppertree Rescue's website on a regular basis and one day she saw Breezey's picture and description. She worried that Breezey, who was estimated to be less than one year

old, might be a little young, but she attended a clinic to meet Breezey, talked with Katie and Steve, and then went home and "thought and thought" about Breezey. She called them the next day and brought her two dogs,

a twelve-year-old mixed breed male named Bear and a twelve-year-old blind Siberian Husky named Smokey, to the foster home to meet Breezey. The three dogs seemed to get along fine, but Jill was going to a dog show so she waited two weeks before bringing Breezey home on trial placement. Once she arrived, Breezey ran circles around Jill's older dogs and although Jill felt guilty about bringing home such a young dog she loved Breezey right from the start and was "blown away by how easily Breezey adapted to her."

Katie was thrilled when Jill expressed interest in Breezey because, as Katie put it, "Jill is clearly the kind of dog owner you can only hope for." Jill also was not in a rush to find any dog and was looking for the right

match. One of Jill's dogs participated in agility trials and Jill was interested in adopting another dog who might have the same potential. Katie knew that Breezey could be a "trying girl," but thought that agility training might be just what she needed.

Jill has found Breezey to be



extremely easy to train. She had such good focus in her first obedience class that the teacher used her as a role model for the other dogs. Last October, Jill officially started her agility training. She took her to a few private lessons and then joined a class. Jill had hoped that Breezey would be ready for competition by May 2008, but Breezey learned so quickly that she was ready by February when they attended their first agility trial together in Farmington, NY. Jill was amazed that Breezey qualified for all of the six classes she was entered into. At all subsequent trials that Breezey has attended, she has qualified in either all of the classes or all but one. Breezey already has met all of the requirements for Level I, but Jill is keeping her at Level I for awhile to

give her more experience. She hopes to move her up to Level II once she is seasoned.

Being an agility champ does not keep Breezey from being a couch potato pal at home. Jill said that she is crazy and ready to go-go-go, yet really cuddly and affectionate at home. She described Breezey's funny "praying" position, "She will sit on my lap facing me, tuck her head up against me like she is praying and put her forelegs on either side of my neck like she's hugging me." Of course, that is not to say that Breezey is perfect. Jill does have to remind Breezey to stop tormenting her pals Smokey and Bear at times and Breezey is still learning not to bark so much when Jill leaves her in a crate at an agility show, but all in all, Breezey has come a long way from her clinic days.

Katie and Steve are thrilled by Breezey's success. Katy said, "Considering Breezey was a loud, rude, bold dog who barked through clinics it's pretty awesome to see pictures of her competing! Of course, much of her success is attributable to Jill, her fantastic owner!" We at Peppertree Rescue raise our hats to Jill Nestor for her remarkable partnership with Breezey, our former "Naughty Baby" turned agility pro.

The pictures accompanying this article are being used with permission of the photographer Barry Rosen who specializes in agility, hunt trials and outdoor portrait works. If you're interested in his services you can contact him in Cold Springs, NY at (845) 265-7645 or at brosen@highlands.com. 🐾

Breezey Was No Breeze

Karen Harmon

Katie and Steve Muller have fostered many dogs for Peppertree Rescue since joining our group two years ago, but one particularly challenging "Naughty Baby," as Katie fondly dubbed her, made them shake their heads and wonder when they would ever find a good placement for her. They are still shaking their heads in wonder. Not only did the right person come along, her new owner has helped "Naughty Baby" evolve into a stunning agility champ who continues to amaze all of us at Peppertree Rescue who knew her before her transformation.

Breezey, formerly known as Asia, is a gorgeous female dog with reddish and white markings and perky ears. No one knows what she is mixed with or what her original background was, but Breezey was on the verge of being euthanized in a Georgia shelter before being pulled by a rescuer. She came to Peppertree Rescue in January 2007 after one of our volunteers was intrigued by her picture and thought she might be just the type of dog we like to help. Little did we know that she would be an irrepressible whirlwind of activity, especially at clinics where her incessant barking made her stand out from the crowd in a less than flattering way.

Katie laughed when she recalled her first impression of Breezey. She said, "We got to an adoption clinic at Checkerhill Farms in Scotia and she was there, having just arrived from Georgia earlier that week. She was WILD at the clinic, leaping, barking and just totally hyper. I knew a kennel setting would only make her worse. She was so friendly at the clinic that I knew she'd love my hyper pack of dogs at home, and she



needed some structure to calm her down so I said we'd take her. Betsy, one of our volunteers, looked at me like I was nuts."

Katie and Steve fostered Breezey for five months. She was a barker when she wanted attention and they learned early on that she was willing to take positive or negative attention. Nothing seemed to deter her exuberance. She was exceptionally smart and they felt that they

could not let down their guard with her or she would try to get away with something. It was not all bad news, however. Despite her incredibly active nature, they found her to be relatively easy to have around their house with their other dogs that are also active. She loved their dogs and got plenty of hard daily exercise with them, which she needed to burn off some of her boundless energy. They also learned that she would stop barking if they ignored her.

Katie was confident that Breezey was a great dog with a lot of potential, but knew that it would take awhile to find the right home that could handle her high energy level. Breezey went on trial placement with a young couple who had another high-energy dog. Katie

and Steve were cautiously optimistic; Breezey, however, had other plans. She ran circles around the couple, chewed up shoes and proved to be far too much dog for them to handle. They brought her back to the Mullers' house after only a few days.

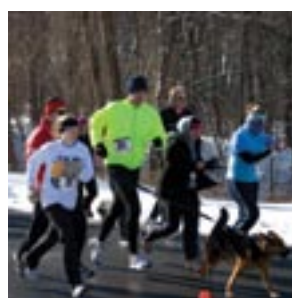
It must have been fate, though, because the right home came along in May 2007. Jill Nestor of Amsterdam had two senior dogs at home, but had been coming to our adoption clinics for some time

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MARCH 2008

The Furry Fun Run

ABOVE: The Top Three Fundraisers
 Nancy Kunz, Connie Burke and her son Powell, and Dell Langlois



LEFT: The Top Three Finishers
 William Ports with his dog Piper
 Ed Menis with his dog Suzy
 Chris Nowak with his Golden Summit

