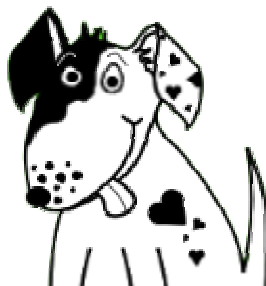


SmallDog Tales



A Quarterly Newsletter to our Adopters, Supporters and Donors

Volume 3

Winter 2004

Brought to you by:

SmallDog Rescue and Humane Society, Inc
(a non-profit Georgia Corporation)

From The Director

The holidays are here! This is the time of year we all take stock, and reflect on all the year has brought, the good and the bad. So it is with SmallDog Rescue. We suffered a huge loss when we lost our founder and our friend, Bren, in March, after a long battle with cancer. With her passing, we lost much, including Bren's management of SDR and our intake facility. This year we lost some special dogs, and some wonderful volunteers and foster homes. Oh, but the things we've gained! We gained our 501(c)(3) status, allowing donors to make tax-deductible donations. We found a temporary intake facility, and were able to continue rescuing dogs while we continued to search for our forever home. New volunteers with new skills arrived "in the nick of time" to take on work that desperately needed to be done. Old volunteers returned and brought their passion for rescue with them. Somewhere around five hundred dogs found their forever home – and finally, so did SmallDog Rescue!

Fate? Miracles? Happy circumstance? I don't know for sure. But we at SmallDog Rescue are ever grateful for the wonderful things that have happened this year, and for you, our adopters and supporters in the community. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart – for the dogs, for the volunteers and fosters who work so hard, and for the community who benefits from the love you so openly share with us. May the holiday season bring you love, peace, and joy.

Warmest Regards,
Anne Stockton, Director



Take me home, country road

Do you remember the first time you moved into your "own place"? Leaving the comfort of home is exciting and scary – all at the same time! Did you move into an apartment? Have you bought a house since then? Remember gulping over that first mortgage payment? Remember realizing that "that carpet has GOT to go!"? Remember all of the other expenses associated with home ownership?

Well, SmallDog Rescue has purchased our "own place" in Alpharetta... and we need your help desperately! We have so much to do, and so little time and money with which to do it! We're moving out of our "apartment" late in December. But before we move into our own house, we need to paint, clean, buy kennels, set up our clinic, and so much more!

We can't install just any floor – we need special flooring that is easy to clean and disinfect to keep our babies healthy. We need a septic system. We need large, adjustable kennels so that our furkids can have their own comfortable room. Our yard needs work, and we need to upgrade our electrical system to support two washers and dryers, air conditioning and heat. We need a clinic and a quarantine area for new kids. We need a grooming area to keep our babies beautiful until they go to foster care.

We've applied for grants, held bake sales, exchanged water, candy and shirts for your donations, washed dogs, served dinner to our friends (and charged them for it!), and done so many things to prepare for this move. But you probably know – you're never really prepared.

You've helped us before because you know how important the work is that we do. You know how special our furkids are. We've placed nearly 500 dogs in permanent loving homes this year. Most came out of shelters, where they almost certainly would have been killed.

Will you help us again? Will you help us provide a safe temporary place for our babies until a foster home opens up? There are so many ways to help, and so much to be done.

You can mail your donation to SmallDog Rescue, PO Box 888570, Atlanta, GA 30356. You can visit our web site, www.smalldoghumane.org, and click on the "Donate" link. There you'll find our wish list and a PayPal button so you can use your credit card to donate. Donate \$1200 (alone or as a group), and you can name a kennel. You can pass the word to everyone you know, and put us in touch with people who can provide the services we need so much. Remind everyone you know – this is the season for giving, and all donations are tax-deductible. If you donate before the end of the year, the deduction will reduce your tax burden for the year. And our babies will have a safe place to wait for their foster parent to find them – or better yet, their forever family.

Thank you so much for your past help and support. Can we count on you one more time?



What's in a name?

Ever wonder how SmallDog Rescue comes up with names for all our furkids? Or why they're so unusual? Imagine if you have 3 dogs, and you name them all the same... and that you use the same vet for all of them. Imagine trying to figure out who is due for shots, and when? How will you keep their records in order? Now, multiply that times 40! At any given time, there are as many as 120 dogs in our program, looking for permanent homes. Too many Jackies, Fidos, and Curlys make for too little organization!

A few months ago, someone very creative came up with the idea of monthly themes. The volunteers and fosters vote for their two favorite themes, and the names for any rescues that come in that month are drawn from a pool of names that reflect the theme. So if you wondered why we had a dog named Ra Ra Red Hot, and how we came up with "Bit-o-Honey", now you now!



Training Tip (Jenny Schneider)

Does your dog verbalize EVERYTHING? Barky dogs can be annoying – to you and your neighbors! There are many ways to help your dog understand that he doesn't need to bark at everything – or anything! – unless you need him to. This training tip is a true story, as told by one of our volunteers.

This foster is a barker... He barks and barks whenever you vacuum and after 15 minutes of his piercing bark you've had enough. I asked Jenny Schneider, a certified Trainer, to work with us because he would go crazy barking anytime someone came to the door and if I tried to hold him back he acted like he'd rip the person to pieces if he ever got loose. He'd even bite me trying to get to the person.

Jenny said to focus on the behavior you want and not the behavior you don't want. Jenny walked in the door and without looking at him just started dropping tasty treats on the floor. Only when he settled down did she look at him and greet him.

It worked, so I just applied the same method to the vacuum cleaning episode. I kept tasty little doggie sausage treats on me and called his name quietly and told him "shhhh". Then if he was quiet, even for a second I told him "good boy" and gave him a treat. After repeating this for 10 minutes he lost interest in barking at the vacuum and went off to do other things.

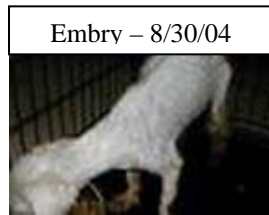
Try it and see if you get results.

Jenny West Schneider
Volunteer Trainer, Small Dog Rescue
Owner/Trainer, Camp Canine USA
Member APDT
Charter Member GAPDT
(404) 642-4419



Embry Finds Love (Carol Lopp)

My name is Carol, and I'm an extended family member of SmallDog Rescue. I'm here to tell you about little Embry Riddle. Embry was brought to us from a severe neglect situation. Some folks would call it abuse, but that's not the important part of my story. Embry was kept alone for an extended period of time with very limited food and water. He was left to stand in his own waste, and I would bet that he was so hungry that he was forced to eat the same. When Embry came to us he weighed 6.4 pounds, but after 9 days of eating 7-8 meals a day he weighed 11.8 pounds, so in less than 2 weeks he almost doubled his body weight. Can you imagine if you were so malnourished that you needed to double your body weight? Well, as these pictures will show you, Embry was close to his body shutting down.



Elizabeth is a stay at home mom and another member of Small Dog Rescue, and she volunteered for the task of providing nutritious meals for Embry. Since his body was so malnourished, she needed to feed him high quality, low fat food, but in smaller portions with higher frequencies. Hence, she fed him 7-8 meals a day, but small portions until his body could regain strength. This was not an easy task since Embry's body did have quite a bit of gastric upset as it became able to digest food again. In fact Embry needed fluids after coming to us because his digestive system was under distress and he became dehydrated. Elizabeth gave not only time and food to Embry, but also the thing that those of us at Small Dog Rescue know makes all the difference, she gave him love.



Embry - 9/6/04

I first saw Embry a week after Elizabeth began caring for him, and I could easily wrap my hands around his waist it was so small. Elizabeth asked me to come by to trim the fur off his legs. You see he was shaved before he was sent to

us, but the people who shaved him neglected to trim the bottoms of his legs. You would think a dog that had been treated in such a manner would not really care for the human race, but Embry never harbored any of those thoughts. He knew that he had been without

food and love for a long time, and he craved them both. He would gulp his food, and then when he finished, he could not stop kissing and trying to get in your arms. The only difficult part in trimming his legs was trying to see around his head which was busy trying to lick my face. He was and still is just extremely lovable. I shaved Embry's legs, and picked up his feet to shave the bottoms of them. The skin there was so red and inflamed that it had to be painful, but Embry never showed any signs of being in pain, he was too busy looking for the love to feel the pain. One of his paws has a large dent in it which was probably caused by standing in urine and feces. His nails were stained with urine, and they looked so cracked and brittle that I refused to trim them. Embry never noticed any of this.



Embry - 9/2/04

Thru all this, Embry never lost his faith in human kindness. His strength, joy and love are now shared with his newly adopted family. The Small Dog Rescue family just got a bit larger and stronger. We grow in leaps and bounds with each dog we save.

Embry found his forever home on October 9. On the 13th, Elizabeth told us that “Embry's new name is "Moxie" because his new parents believe he had to have some serious moxie to survive what he did. He is doing very well with his new family and they even took all the photos I sent them (detailing his recovery) to their vet to see what miracles we had worked with him. Their vet was very impressed. I am thrilled and relieved that he has gotten a new lease on life.”

His new family wrote to tell us “I want to share a funny story about the little love you nursed to health. I noticed Moxie running from the kitchen to the then back to his food bowl and a full run bedroom to wait and see what he was doing. and run to the bathroom , where John was back for another mouthful. He doesn't leave have John and his food too. His bouncy, pleasure. What a loving little guy.”



bedroom. A pause in the bedroom, back to the bedroom. I went into the He would get a mouth full of kibble showering, chew his kibble and run John's side. Guess he figured he could happy actions give us so much

Moxie, and his big brother Riley



When The one You Love Leaves (Leigh Ann Holtz)

This is a love story. If you follow SmallDog Rescue's web site (www.smalldoghumane.org), you may know that one of our rescues, Miko, was diagnosed with a fast growing and deadly cancer soon after coming into the program. Leigh Ann and AJ Holtz gave their hearts to Miko, and promised to make his last days as comfortable as possible. Miko would leave this world having known what it means to be loved and cared for. What follows is Leigh Ann's journey through love and loss.

October 26, 2004: I wanted to let you know that Miko has taken a slight turn for the worse over the past couple of weeks (he has cancer). I have been sensing that he is not feeling well. In the mornings, his little tail has stopped wagging at me as I enter the room to wake him up. He doesn't enjoy going outside as much and he is not eating as well either. His little legs shake a lot more now, not in the old fashioned Chihuahua kind of way, but more as a pain response. On the other hand, he does still have his good moments and prances around here like a little "bad a**", as AJ calls him. Once he is outside he just lays in the grass and snoozes. He also has a favorite blankie that is all his own.

Unfortunately, in addition to this turn for the worse, he also had an unexpected seizure this morning. He has never had seizures before so we can only assume that this may have something to do with his cancer progressing, possibly in to his major organs and to his brain.

Right now, we are going to put him back on prednisone to help reduce the inflammation and pain in his body. That's all we can do for him. We will keep him on that until it quits working and then we will know, unfortunately, that it's that time.....

I brought him to work with me after he has his seizure this morning. During lunch we went out and sat on the grass underneath two dogwood trees. There was a bird that landed on a nearby tree branch and started singing us a special song. Miko rolled over on his back for me to pet his belly. As I petted him, I told him about the Rainbow Bridge and how beautiful it was and that he would like it even better than laying here in the cool grass with the sun beating

down on him. I let him know that he could go to the Rainbow Bridge whenever he wanted to and that he didn't have to stay here because of me.

He asked me if I would still be his mom when he left. I reassured him that I would always be there for him and he could visit me whenever he wanted. I had to look away for a minute as I wiped a tear from my eye. I didn't want him to see my cry. I continued to pet his belly, and as he closed his weepy little eyes, the bird kept singing us that special song.

November 18th, 2004: In Loving Memory of Miko, the Chihuahua.

My Little Miko...My Meekster.....God bless your little soul. May you rest in peace. May you be whole again, free from the cancer and pain, free from the worries that bound you to this world, free to go to that happy place.

I sensed that things were terribly wrong with Miko this morning. I called and made a veterinary appointment for him. I decided I needed to ask him if it was "that time" - was he ready to go? He sent me a vision of a happy place....a field of green grass blowing in the wind on top of a mountain top covered with beautiful multi colored flowers. He was walking away from me and towards a bright sunny light just over the horizon....he paused briefly and turned his head back to look at me. I told him "don't look back- keep going, keep going, you're almost there!" Was he asking for permission? Had we just said our goodbye? I knew the answer.

The vet recommended that we put him to sleep. He had let me know in just enough time to spare him any more pain and suffering than he could bear. How could I deny him that happy place for my own selfish reasons? He went with my loving arms wrapped around him. As I pulled away from the vet's office, I heard him calling to me. He said "Momma, look at me, I'm playing Momma, I'm playing". I said "You play boy, you keep playing, Momma is so happy for you!"

He is now forever at rest in my backyard. He was buried with his favorite blankie and some beautiful pink roses from my rose bush. I plan to visit with him often. We can sit and talk and listen to the birds sing. It will be my happy place.



Tis the season all year 'round! (Coming soon to adoption events and our web site!!)

– Turnkey Floral Network (TFN) Flowers4Pets and SmallDog Rescue join forces to bring you a great way to buy flowers and more, and help SDR at the same time! Purchase a Flowers4Pets Floral Discount card for \$20.00, and we'll give you a gift certificate to use for any non-floral gift.

Then all year long, use your discount card to order floral gifts for all occasions, and you'll receive a 10% discount immediately. Plus, you'll receive discounts on non-floral gifts like Lennox crystal, gourmet gift baskets – even steaks and seafood! Order by phone, or over the internet. All flowers are sent with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee anywhere in the world via local Teleflora member florists. There are over 25,000 combined florists in over 150 countries to serve you! Other upscale selections of non-floral gifts are shipped via UPS or FedEx. And SDR gets \$2.00 for every order!

TFN Discount cards make a wonderful gift for that special teacher, hairdress, mail carrier – anyone you want to treat to a year round gift! Watch our web site, www.smalldoghumane.org, for more details when we launch this brand new program!



My Gift to the SmallDogs of Atlanta and the surrounding area:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Enclosed please find my donation of \$ _____ for SmallDog Rescue and Humane Society, Inc. My gift is for:

- A specific dog's medical care: _____ (Dog's name)
- "Bren's House", our permanent facility
- _____ hours of help at "Bren's House" (\$10.00 = one hour)
- General Operating fund

SmallDog Rescue and Humane Society, Inc. is a registered non-profit Georgia Corporation. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your generous gift!

Please detach this section and mail your gift to SDR, PO Box 888570, Atlanta, GA 30356



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