

SmallDog Tales



A Quarterly Newsletter to our Adopters, Supporters and Donors

Volume 2

Autumn 2004

Brought to you by:

SmallDog Rescue and Humane Society, Inc

(a non-profit Georgia Corporation)

From The Director

Whew! Where did the summer go?? It's fall already, and the trees will soon start to turn. Vacations are over, the children are back to school, and life returns to some semblance of "normal". We've been busy in spite of the vacations, the heat, and the hurricanes. Since our last issue, we have placed an average of 6 dogs per week for adoption. We've elected and celebrated our first Volunteer of the Month, held a dog wash, a bake sale, and a picnic. SmallDog celebrated what would have been our founder's 50th birthday in July. Volunteers brought the dogs they adopted from Bren to a first annual Alumni Picnic at Roswell Area Park. Our next Alumni Picnic will be planned as a larger event to include other adopting families. Watch for news of our second annual Alumni Picnic next summer!

Thank you again for your ongoing support. I hope you'll enjoy this special edition of SmallDog Tales!

Warmest Regards,
Anne Stockton, Director



What's it all about, Fido??

SmallDog Rescue has always been, is, and will continue to be a foster based rescue organization. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, **Foster** is an adjective meaning "affording, receiving, or sharing nurture or parental care though not related by blood or legal ties". But in practical terms, what does that mean?

It means that we have placed the dog in a home environment, where it will be nurtured and cared for. Dogs are social animals - they are happiest as part of a pack. There is a leader, and at least one follower. Your new foster will learn that he or she is not the pack leader, and does not need to worry about you, or the rest of the pack. You will take care of things. So your foster can concentrate on learning skills that make him or her more adoptable - potty training, social skills, grooming. He will learn that he will be fed -well, and regularly; that home is inside the house, not chained to a tree in the yard. While in a foster home, our rescued furkids learn basic manners. But the most important lesson fostering teaches a dog is that humans are, after all, worthy of love and trust. In this issue of SmallDog Tales, we will try to give you an inside look at fosterpups, foster guardians, what is involved when you choose to foster, and the reasons why we

are a foster based rescue. What follows is true. No names have been changed to “protect the innocent”. These are true stories, of real dogs, real rescues, and real heroes and heroines .



There's Always a First Time (Judy Branch)

I called him my gentleman poodle. Joey had been surrendered by his family. They had lost their homes and jobs and had to move in with the grandparents who said, "no dog." Now, 9 year old Joey was also homeless. Confused by the circumstances, this quiet little poodle came to be my foster and live with me until a forever home could be found.

Joey was a pleasure to keep at my home. He was trained, well-mannered and respectful of my own 2 old lady poodles. As the days and weeks went by, I found myself falling in love with this wonderful boy and considered making him my own.

Then, a friend of mine told me how her senior citizen widowed father was depressed. It was as though his spark of life was gone. My friend wanted to get a dog for her dad.

I knew Joey would be the perfect companion. So, with mixed feelings, I introduced Joey to her dad. Tom's face just lit up and he was smiling and talking to Joey and playing fetch with his new buddy. My heart was breaking because I knew I would be saying goodbye to my Joey. I wondered if fostering was just too hard to do.

But then it hit me -Tom had rescued Joey, but Joey had rescued Tom right back! At that moment, I knew I was in Small Dog Rescue to save lives, not increase “my family.”

I have fostered about 25 dogs since then and yes, sometimes I cry when I have to say "Good-bye. Have the wonderful life that you deserve." But I know how careful SDR is about finding great homes and as the foster mom, I have a say in where my foster baby goes. I know there is follow up and we stay in touch. I know that I made a difference to that dog.

I dry my eyes and ask, "Who do you want me to rescue now?" And another one is saved.

Won't you please consider fostering? Please, make room in your home. Make room in your heart. And yes, three years later, Tom and Joey are still buddies.



And a Little Child Shall Lead Them (Alexandra Silverstein)

What do you do with a hyperactive, destructive dog that doesn't fit the definition of “the family pet”? For a 10-year-old boy named Alexander, the answer is simple. You sacrifice your time anyway, doing your best to train her, taking those long walks that she requires and picking up her messes—all the while never ceasing to believe that there must be a place in the world for such an unconventional canine.

Alexander has the dedication that so many rescue organization volunteers have, but being the youngest volunteer for SmallDog Rescue in Atlanta, Georgia, he serves as a source of inspiration for some of the long-timers that got to see his optimism in action. For Alexander, the reason for all the hard work was simple: saving this special dog was the right thing to do, and he trusted that it would all work out.

And the dog? Her name was Lady. A big, shaggy blonde girl with a goofy smile and a body that seemed to be moving even when she was just standing still. The unwanted puppy of an abandoned dog, Lady was like a hurricane with fur.

"Alexander came to me and said that he wanted to foster Lady because no one else wanted her," said his mother Cheryl Christensen. In addition to all the hard work required to care for a challenging dog, Alexander also had to serve as Lady's defender. Although Lady was never vicious, her temperament drew criticism from people who believed that a good dog doesn't destroy its surroundings.

In the meantime, Lady kept herself busy, cheerfully chewing up the family's laundry, cable line, Barbie dolls and oriental rugs. She showed off her agility by leaping up onto the dining room table to retrieve a placemat. And for almost 10 months, she presented herself at SmallDog Rescue's Saturday adoptions, putting her best foot forward, with Alexander there to act as her champion. Sure, people showed interest in Lady, lured in by her visible charm and gregarious personality, but given few minutes of interaction, her abundant energy wore them out and they moved on to look for a different dog to take home.



"Goat" – SDR Alumnus

One day, Anne Stockton, the director of SmallDog Rescue, had an idea. She put Alexander's family in touch with Mac McGlamery, a retired police officer who had started DeKalb County's first K-9 unit. After a 15 second evaluation, things were about to change for Lady.

Alexander and his family learned about "prey drive," which was the part of Lady that made her too hard to handle for the average family and totally unsuited to a suburban life. Prey drive is an absolute requirement for K-9 police work. The official tests, conducted at the Virginia State Police Canine Training Academy in Richmond, Virginia, showed that Lady had it in spades.

In one test, Lady was supplied with a towel to hold in her mouth. The goal was that she hold it for a minute. Three and a half minutes later, Lady was still clutching the towel. She dropped it briefly then, hoping someone would want to play with her, but instantly picked it up again to hold it for several minutes more. It was practically an academy record.

Next, the trainers hid a towel on an airport-style conveyer belt, hoping that Lady would find it. While a bunch of men clapped and yelled, futilely attempting to distract her, she found that towel in no time.

Recently, Lady (re-named Goat to honor her totally unique "breed"), graduated at the top of her class after the 13-week training program that taught her to channel her natural abilities to detect gunpowder and other explosive substances, even in the smallest amounts, at airports, in vehicles and around crime scenes. And now she is embarking on a career that many people would envy. She will work full time, earning health benefits, vacation time and a 401(k). And after seven or eight years, she will retire to a life of leisure, living as part of the family with her handler and partner.

Alexander and his family attended the graduation ceremony, met Goat's handler, Trooper Cash, and even got to see them display their skills as a team. Sadly, because Goat is now a working dog and must retain a bond with one person only, Alexander and Goat couldn't play like in the old days, even though Goat clearly recognized her old friend. But they did get to see that Goat is finally being rewarded for simply being herself—energetic, focused, agile and dedicated. Shortly after her graduation, Goat was assigned to the Virginia Police's Narcotics division, where her well-developed search skills were in greater need.

So many elements conspired to give Lady's tale a happy ending. There's SmallDog Rescue, an organization that understands that, with time, a forever home can be discovered for every dog, even those with quirky personalities. And fosters like Alexander and his family, who are willing to buy the dogs the time they need to find their true place in the world. And finally, Alexander, a not-so-typical 10-year-old, whose dedication and unconditional love paid off, so that now Lady has the chance to save lives, just like the boy who loved her.



Never Give Up "Hope" (Elizabeth Bottomley)

Honeysuckle Hope was picked up by Fulton County Animal Shelter as a stray and brought into the shelter. A SmallDog Rescue representative happened to be there picking up some other dogs and saw this dirty, smelly bag of bones lying on the concrete, literally dying a slow death in front of her. She convinced the shelter employees to release Hope to rescue. Hope was taken straight to the vet, where they weighed her - 17.0 lbs when she should have weighed at least 25 lbs. Hope was covered in wounds, apparently having been attacked by another dog. She didn't respond to visual or aural stimulations, so it was assumed she was both blind and deaf. SmallDog Rescue brought her to our facility for the weekend. On Monday, I arrived at the shelter to take photos so we could document the condition of Hope. I realized quickly that, while she would be safe at our shelter, she would recover much faster and more fully if she was in a foster home that could focus on her care, it was quieter, and there was less chance of illness, etc. I talked it over my family and we decided to foster her for a few weeks, just to give her a solid boost in her recovery. On Tuesday, I brought her home and was much surprised that this blind, deaf, decrepit dog had some serious spunk in her! She was in constant defense mode and tried to bite me every time I touched her - much like a canine Helen Keller before Annie Sullivan got a hold of her - she trusted no one and was going to do what she could to protect herself. Fortunately for me, her poor condition meant that she couldn't react too fast or bite too hard!

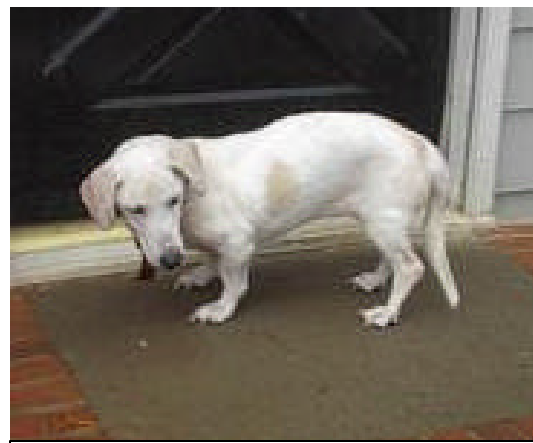
At first, Hope ate every three hours - wolfing down her small meals that were supplemented with calorie boosters and electrolytes. Within just a matter of days, her appearance and attitude started to change. She allowed herself to be picked up and brushed, and started to enjoy it. She started gaining weight. More

amazingly, she started to react to sounds and movement - so she wasn't completely deaf or blind; perhaps she had just been too exhausted to respond earlier? Her favorite activity is patrolling the backyard - she would be out there for hours, if left to her choice. The movement is good for her body - she's rebuilding muscle and stimulating her body systems. In another week or so, she will be ready to move to another foster home that doesn't specialize in the "criticalcare" dogs!!! ;-)



Honeysuckle Hope a few days after her rescue 8/20

Just 2 1/2 weeks after her intake, she was taken back to the vet for a check up. The dog that few people thought would survive had gained 2.4 lbs and is well on her way to recovery. Hope isn't a young gal, and she does have some physical concerns, but we will make sure she lives the rest of her years and safety, comfort and love.



Honeysuckle Hope September 16

When I took Hope home with me, I did it out of pity. That poor, pitiful, emaciated dog...Well, there is nothing pitiful about Hope in her mind. She is a strong willed, independent dog who has taught me so much about resiliency and determination. She has survived all that she has because she refused to have it any other way - how else can one explain her situation - a stray, blind, starving and wounded dog wandering the

streets? She has been my personal inspiration to rededicate my efforts to the mission of SDR to help rescue any small dog, regardless of age and health concerns. I adore Hope.



How Can You Help?

Small Dog Rescue And Humane Society, Inc. desperately needs new foster homes for small dogs. We can try to match you up with a dog or puppy that fits your situation and other pets. You would simply take care of the pet until it gets adopted. Please e-mail volunteer@smalldoghumane.org if you'd like to get information on fostering, or just come to our adoption site on Saturday at the Sandy Springs Petco, 5938 Roswell Rd., Roswell, GA.

You are NOT required to spend any money on your foster dog. He will usually be neutered and given shots and heartworm test before you even get him. We can also provide food. But we would like you to deliver him to the adoption site on Saturdays and pick him up if he is not adopted (or you may choose to stay, help out, and meet those interested in adopting your foster). If this is hard for you to do on Saturdays, we may be able to give you a dog that needs some recovery time before coming to adoption. For instance, you can help by taking care of him while he grows his hair back or learns not to be afraid of people.

Fostering is our greatest need, but if you can't foster, maybe you can help out in another capacity. We need people to screen applications (you need a computer for this) and to help out at adoptions, etc. Again, please e-mail the address above or if you don't have a computer, you can show up at our adoption any Saturday at the Sandy Springs Petco at noon. If possible, plan on staying and helping until 4 p.m.

If fostering doesn't work out, the worst thing that can happen is that you'll give him back to us. Please consider helping us save lives in this way. We can't do it without you and we are faced with new faces every week that will be killed at the shelters if we don't take them.

PLEASE HELP US TO SAVE THEM. They only want to live and love us.



Ready, Set Now what?

Great – you've decided to foster! Congratulations! Now what? What's the process? How do you get started, and what should you expect?

The first step is to complete a Foster Application. You will find the application at our Saturday adoption events, or you can complete it online, print it and bring it with you. You can also email it to volunteer@smalldoghumane.org. This document asks questions about you, your home, and your pet history. Your honest responses will help us make the best match between a potential foster and your home situation. The application may be a bit intimidating. Take your time completing it, and remember, we want to provide the ideal learning place for our dogs. It is important that you be entirely candid, and complete the application in its entirety.

Next, one of our screeners will want to talk to you, either by phone or face to face. Again, keep in mind we are trying to play match-maker. We need to make sure the dog you bring home is the right dog for your household. When you and the screener are comfortable that your home would make a good foster home, we'll ask you to sign a foster agreement. The screener will go over this document very carefully with you to ensure that you understand the commitment you are taking on.

Once you are approved, and you and the screener have agreed on the right dog, you'll take part in an orientation. During this orientation, you'll learn how to manage the new arrival and help make your new

foster comfortable with your family. We'll teach you what and how to feed, make sure you understand what is required of you, what to expect from the new member of your household, how to get required medical care for your foster, etc. You'll have plenty of opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

Finally, you and your foster furkid will head home... and SmallDog Rescue will be there with you every step of the way. We are available to answer any questions that come up, and to help you deal with unexpected behaviors. If needed, we'll put you in touch with a professional dog trainer, who can offer tips to help you teach your foster how to live successfully with humans. We'll provide medical advice, any medical care needed at our veterinarian's office, and generally help you both get settled.

The most common question we are asked is "How can you stand to give the dog up once you've fostered it? Don't you get too attached?" The answer is simple, really. Every dog that moves from a foster home to a permanent loving adoptive home is a dog saved. Placing a dog for adoption from foster care helps ensure a successful adoption, one that will last the dog's lifetime. And that foster space opens up to save yet another dog from, frequently, certain death. That's why we do it. And that's the comfort that comes from "losing" a dog you have come to know and love.



Long Term Fostering

Several months ago, we took MacDoodle, a purebred Westie, from the Fulton County Animal Shelter. He had arrived there about 10 days earlier, picked up as a stray. Nobody would really guess at his age – they simply listed him as “ancient”. FCAS wanted him adopted/rescued so much that they did more than the usual amount of work on him. They had him groomed; they removed a tumor from behind an ear and gave him a dental. He was already neutered. There was no doubt in our minds, after a brief time with him, that at some time in his life, he was a loved and cared for little guy. But when he came to us, he was confused, frightened and not feeling real good. He was stiff, depressed, stumbled and fell. He walked in circles, a possible sign of neurological damage, with his head down and his tail hanging,. At the time of his rescue, Anne noted “I believe in McDoodle’s ability to “bounce back” to, say, 12 year old behavior. I believe he IS adoptable, and seems very comfortable being with people, being held, and being loved on.”

Because of his age and generally poor condition, he went immediately into foster care. McDoodle has been with his long term foster for several months now. He can see - for sure, and his eyes don't look bad. His weight is good, his appetite is good. His foster family is so in love with him that they have taken on the expense of a holistic vet and never asked for reimbursement. His hair has grown in, and he walks longer without falling. He enjoys a life of love and luxury, for however long he is with us.

Recently, we applied for and received a grant from WestieMed, Inc. to help pay McDoodle’s medical expenses. This was an incredible gift to SmallDog Rescue, and to McDoodle’s foster family. We are very grateful for this assistance!

McDoodle is one of many senior citizens or medically challenged dogs SmallDog Rescue has in “permanent” foster care. We have made a lifetime commitment to these furkids. Their medical care is typically expensive, but not always. Your financial support makes the care of these deserving pups possible.

We will soon be starting a new program called “The PHD (Pretty Happy Dog) Program”. We hope this program will encourage you to “virtually adopt” one of our long term fosters. Your financial support will help us to give “your dog” any medical care it needs, and will entitle you to regular updates from the foster guardian. You may also apply to foster one of our long-term pups. Those who are approved for long-term fosters will be recognized for their contribution for the PHD program as well.

Visit us at adoption events every Saturday afternoon from noon till 4:00 PM at the Petco in Whole Foods Shopping Center on Hammond and Roswell in Sandy Springs. Ask about our PHD program for more details!

Can you make someone a "PHD"?



Training Tip (Jenny Schneider)

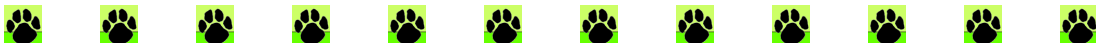
TRAINING TIP #1

How often have you heard of a dog being turned into a shelter or rescue group for being too friendly? Your answer is probably, "not often" ... perhaps even "never." Of all the things we, as foster families, can do for our dogs when we bring them home, *socializing* them is by far the most important to help them live at ease in our human world. It is the main building block for all other good behaviors that follow.

As soon as possible, begin exposing your foster dog to as many types of people, other dogs and other animals as you can. The sooner, the better. Take your puppy/adult dog with you wherever you go, whenever you can. Walk in the park, browse together in pet stores. Some home improvement warehouses will allow well-behaved dogs into their stores. Ask people ... preferably dog lovers ... to your home and allow your pup to interact with them. Arrange playtimes with appropriate neighbor dogs. If you have dogs (and/or cats) of your own, introduce your new resident to them carefully, and allow him to live as a full-fledged member of the pack as soon as comfort allows.

Make every effort to assure that each new experience is a *pleasant* experience for your dog. If you teach your pup that the world is full of kind, different and interesting people and animals, she won't fear them. That makes for a happy, well-adjusted dog who has a much better chance of quickly finding his or her forever home.

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



Come on over to My House!

We are very excited to report that we are making great progress toward the acquisition of our "forever home". As the end of the year approaches, please remember, all donations to SmallDog Rescue are tax deductible. We are as always an all volunteer organization, dependent entirely upon adoption fees and your generous support. Please complete the form attached to this newsletter, and mail your donation today, while it's fresh in your mind. You may also visit our web site to donate funds for the care of a particular rescue, or you may donate by using PayPal. In addition to funding, we will need the skills of carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and a host of other services.



Help Wanted!!

Want to help, but don't have a ton of cash laying around? Consider this. Every single week, we use up to 42 rolls of paper towels. Can you donate a roll or two a week? Pine Sol, Lysol cleaner, dish detergent and laundry detergent – we use these by the gallon each and every week. Can you pick up an extra bottle at the grocery store and bring it by adoption on Saturday? Garbage bags – imagine purchasing 13 gal., 33 gal. and the heavy-duty 30+ gallon bags by the case!! Can you add one box of each to your grocery list one week of the month, and donate it? We need to use the money we have to take care of our dogs... yet we need these supplies desperately.

Dog food is also critical to the success of our program. Remember, we don't expect foster parents to buy their own food. We feed only high quality foods for the health of our furkids. Can you swing by Petco and pick up a gift card to donate? Gift cards give us the ability to customize our dog food purchase according to the needs of the dogs currently in the program. We also use Avo-Derm, Advanced Pet Diet, and Pinnacle dog foods, all available at Red Bandanna stores in the area. Chicken baby food is used for our ill dogs, and those adjusting to a new diet – can you donate a few bottles? How about a can of Swanson's canned chicken?

Do you work at a hospital, dental or doctor's office? We need scrubs – particularly tops, disposable shoe covers, grooming jackets, and yes, even men's large size button down shirts. Remember, new dogs are placed in quarantine when they come into our program. That means we need to treat them as you would treat a patient until we know they are healthy enough to go into a foster home.

Please check our web site www.smalldoghumane.org for a list of supplies we are always in need of. Most of the items are inexpensive to the average consumer – one roll of paper towels is fairly inexpensive – but 42 rolls per week, 4 weeks of the month – now THAT adds up!



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)
- The search for a 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

You can advertise in this space for a \$60.00 donation!!

SmallDog Tales is distributed to our adopters, fosters, and generous supporters. Our last issue reached over 800 people, almost all in the Atlanta area. This issue will reach over 1,000!

You can advertise in this space for a \$100.00 donation!!

Reach new customers – people who share your love of dogs and rescue!!

This could be YOUR half page advertisement for a \$500.00 donation!!

Full page ads available for \$1000.00 donation