

PAWS & THINK

RESCUE NEWSLETTER



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A DNA test shows that Cooper is mostly weimaraner and greyhound! He was born 1-27-10. At 2 months of age, he was found hanging around a dumpster. He was adopted as a pup and returned because the owners had a baby! Poor Cooper as he's still a baby himself.

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BARK IN THE PARK!

Did you know that 12 of Central Ohio's Metro Parks have dog trails, and if you walked them all you would have travelled

58.95 MILES!

I'm tired just thinking about it! Many of these parks also have special events just for you and your pup, as well as pet swimming areas, dog parks, agility areas and more!

Check out www.metroparks.net!

An Angel Among Us

The economy is taking its toll on everyone these days. People and animals alike! The "owner surrender" numbers have shot up at shelters across the country, which is ALWAYS a terrible thing to hear. In many cases of financial tragedy - it is the only option. I know this is starting out as a "bummer" article, but trust me - it gets better. I recently read a great story about an amazing "angel among us", and thought it would be a nice one to share.

The story begins at Seer Farms in Jackson, NJ. The German shepherd leaps, tail wagging, when she sees the little boy approach. "Bella, Bella!" shouts A.J. Chesney, 5, running to his dog. His father, Kevin, grins and ruffles the dog's fur. "Ready to have fun?" he asks. And for the next four hours, they do: running, playing catch and enjoying snacks together. Then, just as they did last weekend, A.J. and Kevin leave their family pet behind. For the last year, 3-year-old Bella has lived at Seer Farms, a nonprofit boarding facility that cares for pets while their owners deal with job loss, foreclosure, illness or other troubles. A divorce left Chesney, 43, financially drained. He now rooms with a coworker, who wasn't willing to take in a 55-lb. dog. "I didn't want to get rid of her. The kids are going through a lot," says Chesney, a police officer, who also has a daughter, Jade, 8.

Fortunately, through an animal-control officer, Chesney learned about Seer Farms, which provides a temporary refuge so beloved pets like Bella don't have to be put up for adoption-or end up on a dog pound's death row-because the family is going through a difficult time. "We want to provide someplace safe for the animals," says Seer Farms founder Laura Pople, 48. Just as important, she says, "we want to provide hope for their owners that they will get through this crisis and someday get their animals back."

Unlike shelters or rescue agencies, which will sometimes send animals to volunteer foster homes until their owners can get them back, Seer is differentiated by its farm setting and open visitation policy. "I've never heard of anything like this," says Adam Goldfarb, director of the Pets at Risk Program at the Humane Society of the U.S.

In 2008 Pople, a textbook editor who is also an avowed animal lover with two rescue dogs of her own, took out a second mortgage to buy Seer's 3-acre property in this semi-rural part of the state, and then held fund-raisers to fix up the grounds and farmhouses for the animals. (She suggests a monthly fee of \$50 per animal, but accepts whatever owners can afford.) Her guests, she notes, "are coming out of families, and they're used to people being around." So a rotating staff of 75 is always on hand to walk dogs, change litter boxes and just play.

Since opening in 2009 Seer Farms has helped 77 families from up and down the East Coast, housing 166 cats, 55 dogs and a rabbit nicknamed Monty Python. Of those, 53 have been reunited with their owners. Pople was surprised at the range of people she was helping. Among the farm's recent residents are pit bulls Tillman and Blackey, whose owner is a petty officer first class with the U.S. Navy. He called in desperation last year when living arrangements for the dogs fell through five days before his deployment to Afghanistan. There was a cat and four kittens that escaped a house fire and whose owners needed time to rebuild. And there are two dogs belonging to a woman who had been so badly beaten by her boyfriend that she had to be hospitalized. Anne Ciemnecki, the farm's president and a domestic-violence victims' advocate, says the woman refused to leave her abuser if her pets had to stay behind. Knowing about Seer Farms gave "a way for her to escape," says Ciemnecki.

As for Pople, she loves seeing the farm populated with contented animals and is more to them than just an innkeeper. Talking about one couple's cats, she effortlessly rattles off the names: "Shane, Pepper, Odie, Boo, Munchkin and Baby. You get attached because you care, but we're not the final stop for them," says Pople. "We want them to go home."

See, you know I only like happy stories! If you are interested in finding out more about Seer Farms, or would care to donate - please visit <http://seerfarms.org>

(source: People Magazine, Nov 2010, article by Heather Salerno, She Helps Struggling Pet Owners)



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A SURE SIGN OF SPRING...

overcrowded shelters!

PLEASE CONSIDER FOSTERING!

Put a SPRING in your step - and attend some April activities!

- **Saturday, April 16th - Easter Egg Hunt (with your pup!)** starts @ Three Dog Bakery, 611 N. High Street and stop in shops along High Street to gather eggs filled with prize vouchers that can be redeemed back at Three Dog Bakery! This event benefits... you and your PUP! How fun!
- **Saturday, April 30th - Feline Wine & Dine** @ Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Whittier Peninsula near downtown. An evening of food & drink and friends - dinner includes pasta bar, fajita station, dessert & coffee bar, signature Cattail drink in the cash bar (collectible glass), and huge silent auction. This event benefits Cat Welfare - www.catwelfareohio.com for info!

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CHIPS AHoy!

On Christmas Eve 2008 a police officer found her lying injured with no identification tags, on the side of the street, in Bentonville, and took her to an animal hospital. Most pets in this situation, with no way to identify an owner willing to foot the bill, are euthanized. But hospital workers scanned the dog for a microchip which revealed an owner who was quite happy to have their pup treated and returned home in time for Christmas! I love happy endings - and I love microchips!

So, what are microchips?

Microchips are tiny transponders, about the size of a grain of rice, that use radio frequency waves to transmit information about your pet. They're implanted just under the skin, usually right between the shoulder blades.

How do they work?

Each microchip contains a registration number and the phone number of the registry for the particular brand of chip.

A handheld scanner reads the radio frequency of the chip and displays this information. The animal shelter or vet clinic that finds your pet can contact the registry to get your name and phone number.

Contact your vet about the brand they recommend. Get em' chipped!

PAWS & THINK

Happy Tails...

Just wanted to let the team at PWP know how well Case has progressed since we adopted him in January 2011. I never thought he would come out of his shell; thankfully, he did and has become such a lap cat. He is still afraid of people he has never met before but I am sure he will come around one day. When we adopted Callie (Mittens) in October 2010 my boyfriend and I decided after a couple months it was time Callie needed some furry company. They are adorable when they play together and I am so blessed that they are a part of our family now. Thank you PWP! Couldn't have done it without you guys!!



IZZY SEZ...

I am a lucky dog! My Mom and I are getting ready to head to some warmer weather for spring break! Some things to think about as the sun stays out, and the temperatures rise... pets with light colored hair or pink noses and stand-up ears - can get sunburned! In fact, extensive time in the sun for us can result in skin cancer - just like you guys. So, if you are going to be out side on a hot sunny day - be sure to provide some shade for those pups (and yourself), and consider using some sun block on thin hair spots, and nose and ears. Be careful around the eyes.

(source: pawstreet.com)

LAST CHANCE CORRAL

Some of you may have caught a story on the news last week about the Last Chance Corral in Athens. Sadly, they were not on the news because of the incredible work they do, but because they are in financial hardship. They are forced to turn away 20-30 horses a week. Officially, they are a non-profit organization, and a respectful alternative, specializing in rehabilitation and adoption services for unwanted equine. Unofficially, they are a horses "Last Chance".

The Last Chance Corral proudly offers horses hope, shelter, and opportunity regardless of their situation or problems. Be it psychological or physiological they are committed to addressing the individual needs of each rescued animal. When a horse has been sufficiently rehabilitated, the work then becomes finding appropriate adoptive homes that suit the horse's needs and abilities. Not all horses that come into the L.C.C. are sick, most are simply unwanted. Situations such as children leaving for college, divorce, and relocation can leave a horse with no place to go. The economy, being what it is, has many people having to face serious cutbacks in their lifestyles so that they might care for their own families. Often this means saying goodbye to a friend. Many people find comfort in placing their beloved pet through an adoption agency rather than a straight out sale. Often this



assures the horse's safe future. Some of the rehab stories on their website are just amazing - with before and after pictures - incredible. Be sure to check them out.

If you find yourself looking for a horse, or know of anyone considering to "buy" a horse, please note that shopping at a rescue could get you an incredible bargain on a terrific horse while saving other horses from slaughter. Available horses are posted on their website and updated regularly. On any given day you might find a variety of horses that range from a mighty draft to a mini, a cart pony to a race horse. All of them are looking for just the right home - perhaps that home is yours.

Finally, If you would like to help out this wonderful organization - either through a monetary donation, hay donation - or "wish list" item - please visit their website, www.lastchancecorral.org for more info!

(source: lastchancecorral.org)

Teething Tips to Chew Over

So, its only been a month, and your new puppy is leaving a big impression on you... and your books, your leather shoes, and the kitchen table leg! Teething is a natural behavior and usually strikes between 3-6 months when your puppies baby teeth are being replaced with adult ones. Teething helps relieve discomfort, and may help the new tooth penetrate the gum. That's great and all... but what can you do to help? 1. Leave temptation beyond their reach. Give your puppy a break - don't leave things out for them to get in to, tape down electrical cords, and provide them plenty of "their" chew toys. 2. Keep it simple. While there are hundreds of chew toys out there, don't go overboard. The more types of toys they have, the more confusing it can be. Its better that they know what is OK to chew. 3. Make it mouth-watering. Some chew toys (like Nylabones) can be soaked in broth, or smeared with peanut butter. Make the chew toys tempting from the start! 4. Help them learn. If you catch your pup chewing on a no-no, don't just yell "No". Make sure you also give them one of their toys, and praise them for chewing on the correct thing! Redirect! 5. Don't hold a grudge. This one can be hard... If you come home and find your favorite shoes shredded - don't scold your pup unless you actually catch her in the "act". Otherwise - she will not know why you are yelling at her, and become nervous any time you come home. 6. Lots of playtime. Tired dogs are good dogs. Period, so keep them active! 7. Put the pain on ice. Give your pup ice cubes or ice chips to chew - it will help the teething pain, and curb their urge to chew. Or, try a towel - tie a knot in it, wet it, and put it in the freezer. They will love to gnaw on it, and it will numb their gums! Most importantly, be patient. They are young - and it is only natural. Use a few of these tricks, and it will take the "bite" out of the teething time!



(source: Home Remedies for Cats & Dogs)

ROCCO'S RANTS...



Cats are special creatures, and when people try to compare our body language with what they know about dogs... that's when it gets confusing! For instance, ever wonder why a cat's seemingly sweet behavior of rolling over to expose his belly may turn aggressive when you try to stroke them? Well, sometimes we do that when we feel relaxed and content (like I'm doing now), but other times when we feel cornered - we also may strike this pose. It is a highly defensive position - ready to fight with our claws ready! Once you know your cat - this should be pretty easy to figure out, just be careful with those new ones you meet!

(source: WebMDpets)

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