

# I ew *Beginnings*

the official newsletter of the Furry Friends Network



## March PetSmart Adoption Day a Great Success!

*Crista Detweiler*

On Sunday, March 6th, Furry Friends Network hosted an Easter-themed pet adoption day at PetSmart in Mechanicsburg, and raised over \$350.00. Volunteers donned bunny ears and dished out vegetable soup, hot dogs and sausages to hungry shoppers. Our tables overflowed with yummy baked goods, peanut butter Easter eggs, cat and dog Easter baskets and cookbooks.

Several FFN "adoptees" were also there, being their charming selves and hoping to find their forever homes. We would like to give a big thanks to PetSmart and to all of the volunteers who helped to make this day a success! Thank you also to everyone who came out to support Furry Friends!

*Furry Friends can be found at Petsmart in Mechanicsburg the first Sunday of every month. We hope to see you there.*

## How do we let them GO?

*Stephanie Grossnickle*

**W**e all have read those lists of most frequently asked questions. Well, here is a question that we—as fosters—hear fairly often. "How can you give up these wonderful dogs that you foster?" It's not easy, believe me! I think most of us have adopted at least one of our fosters.

For me, the one who caught my heart and wouldn't let go was Gracie, a pup who came to me with a severe case of mange. How could I say goodbye to her after witnessing her courage in overcoming the odds that were stacked against her? She survived her battle with mange and now she is mine!



*Gracie before*

I think I am speaking for every foster when I say that we would probably keep each one of our fosters if we could. But being realistic, we know when we take these precious dogs into our homes that they are only with us for a while. We realize that the time we have to nurture and care for them will be limited. But we willingly and joyfully take on the responsibility of loving these dogs back to health and security because of people like you—the awesome individuals and families who adopt our fosters. How rewarding and uplifting it is to place these "babies" of ours into the care of people who are committed and caring and want to provide a home filled with love for them. That makes every moment of fostering and every part of saying goodbye worthwhile. These dogs are not fortunate because we take them into our homes to foster. They are fortunate because there are wonderful people out there who take them into their hearts for the rest of their lives.



*Gracie after*

So we let them go with a touch of sadness, but also with great joy because we know their futures are bright and filled with hope and happiness.



**Please distribute this newsletter to friends, relatives and co-workers. Running some copies off and putting them in a vet office, pet stores or any public place would be appreciated!!**

■ dogs available for adoption ■ dogs available for adoption ■ dogs available for adoption ■ dogs available for adoption



## Jordy

Hi my name is Jordy and I am a Senior Cocker Spaniel. I like to play and chase toys. I especially love treats and will sit all day if you are giving me love and attention. I am a real charm in the bathtub—I just stand there like a little trooper.

I am pretty good around other dogs, but I guess I have to get used to that, as my foster mom isn't getting rid of hers—No Way. Benji is one of my foster mom's dogs and we follow my mom everywhere she goes. Under her feet all the time. She keeps telling us "Will you two go play?" Guess she's afraid she'll step on us.

I really am a sweet little boy and very attentive. I had some skin problems, but they're all cleaned up now and I'm a very handsome boy. I liked to be groomed. I'll just lay and let you brush me all day. I also like sleeping on the bed at night. I'd make a wonderful companion for an older person or couple.

Don't you think I deserve a quiet home where I can spend the rest of my golden years with someone who will love and cherish me and in return I would give them a lot of joy and companionship.

You can find my bio on [Furryfriendsnetwork.com](http://Furryfriendsnetwork.com) and fill out an application if you're interested in me.

*Furry Friends Network is gearing up for a Longaberger Basket Raffle Fundraiser. If you have a gently used or new Longaberger basket you would like to contribute or would like to make a monetary donation so that FFN can purchase a basket, please email [furryfriendsnet@aol.com](mailto:furryfriendsnet@aol.com)*

# Lyme Disease

## A Bigger Problem than You Know

Jennifer L. Todd, D.V.M – Lambs Gap Animal Hospital

**L**yme disease is caused by the bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is transmitted to dogs, cats, and humans through the bite of an infected deer tick. Deer ticks are found in wooded areas, fields, and even neighborhood yards.

I have found in our practice that there is a common misconception that Lyme disease is not a threat in indoor dogs. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We have seen over 250 patients with Lyme disease at our hospital! These are indoor, family pets who go outside to play in the yard with their families and go on walks each day through the neighborhood. Most of the time, their owners report seeing very few, if any, ticks on their pet.

Fortunately, veterinarians have a very sensitive and reliable test available to screen our patients for Lyme Disease. The test will not be interfered with by the Lyme disease vaccination. This blood test, which can be done in the office, takes about 10 minutes for results and also checks for heartworm disease and Ehrlichia (another tick-borne disease). If a positive test results occurs, the pet is treated with a 28-day course of antibiotic effective against the *Borrelia* organism. Since Lyme disease can become chronic and even fatal if left untreated, our office recommends treatment regardless of whether the pet has current symptoms.

Over 50% of the patients that we have seen have had no reported symptoms. But many dogs have presented with sudden or chronic lameness

(limping) or joint swelling, fever, loss of appetite, lethargy, or swollen glands. Dogs have also presented to us with symptoms of kidney failure, liver disease, and neurologic disorders. Many times, although no symptoms were reported by the owners at the time of diagnosis, after several days of treatment, owners call to report their pets are feeling better than they've felt in months.

To prevent Lyme disease infection or re-infection, I recommend both tick prevention and Lyme disease vaccination. Frontline is the best way to prevent fleas and ticks on your pet. It is topical medication that is applied to the skin between the shoulders once monthly used year-round. This will kill ticks before they are able to transmit Lyme disease—a tick must be attached and feed for at least 24 hours before it can transmit Lyme disease. Frontline also helps protect your family by making sure any ticks that are brought inside on your pet are not alive to bite and transmit Lyme disease to the humans in the household.

Lyme disease vaccination is also recommended to help prevent Lyme disease in your dog. Your dog should be tested for Lyme disease before the first vaccine is given. A series of 2 booster vaccines, given 2-3 weeks apart, are required initially. Then, the Lyme vaccine is given annually.

I would encourage everyone to take Lyme disease seriously, for themselves and their pets. Please have your dogs tested, use tick prevention, and vaccinate against Lyme Disease so that we can help eradicate this disease.



# Helpful Hints

- In this hot weather, remember to never leave any animals in your car. Even with the windows cracked, temperatures in a car, can reach in excess of 110° in just a few minutes.
- Keep cats indoors at all times.
- Ensure animals have access to fresh water at all times and are protected from the sun.
- Dogs should be given heartworm and flea preventative (Interceptor and FrontLine) to keep them safe from fleas, intestinal parasites and heartworms.



## Tiga Goes to Jail

Robin Scherer



**T**iga is an energetic German Shepherd/Lab/Rottweiler mix that came upon rough times in December 2004. She found herself homeless in a shelter because she chewed up a boat seat. Tiga went to a foster home, got adopted and was returned within a few days because she was too much for the home to handle. From there, she went to the kennel, then to another foster home, which also sent her back to the kennel because she was too much to handle.

Despite our best efforts, Tiga was being passed around like a hotcake, and we needed to find her some serious help. Then came the day we found out Tiga was accepted into the HOPE program (Hounds of Prison Education). All of the dogs accepted into the HOPE Program are under the professional supervision of Amy Powell, owner of Doggie U. She provides the inmate handlers an in depth training course and monitors the progress of the dogs over an eight week session. Tiga and the other program participants live with their handlers in their cells and learn basic

obedience. This program helps the less adoptable dogs get the training they so desperately need, while also helping the inmates learn patience, respect, responsibility and so much more.

We are pleased to announce that Tiga was adopted on July 10th.



Another "inmate" of the HOPE program is Lindsay. Here is an excerpt from her diary—

*Hello HOPE Program and my adorning public; Wow, what a weekend!!! My handler gave me a bath on Friday and I really don't like that! I did better than the last time, but that water is still way too cold. I love the toweling off, though. Then, I got all brushed out and I looked marvelous! Jimmy was really impressed, as well he should be. Then my handler gave Jimmy a bath and he looked great and smelled really good too. He is such a stud. We played together almost all day long. Saturday we all were out in the yard by 6:30 am and stayed out until 10:30 when the HOPE Program volunteers came to get us for our first public appearance. We went to Malec's Pet Shop and I had families waiting to meet me and other families came throughout the day. It was tough to give everyone my full attention though because there was so much*

*going on and it was a new place with lots of new smells and other dogs. I got to eat lots of hot dogs and show off all my tricks and skills. It was a very long day but lots of fun. I got back to my cell and just collapsed right in my water bowl. I was so tired. My handler was so glad to see me and I was only gone 3 1/2 hours. He's got to get a grip ... lol! Sunday we trained for a long time. We did lots of walking and practiced wait and come. Then finally Jimmy and I got to play. We played tag and hide and seek in the yard. Boy can he run, I think he plays hard to get but I know he likes me. How could he not ... I'm sooo cute. I would like to take an opportunity to thank the families that came out to meet me and spend time with me. I would also like to tell my foster mom that I miss her and my fur brother and sisters please tell them I said hello. But I must say I am having a wonderful time and I love everyone in the program. But, I'm crossing my paws that one of the families that came to see me or has filled out an application on me works out to be my forever home. After all, I am working really hard in here just so that I can please my new family ...*

Anxiously awaiting,  
Lindsay



The Hounds of Prison Education (HOPE) Program is sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance (CPAA). CPAA is a non-profit alliance of over 25 area shelters and rescue organizations working together to save the lives of dogs, cats and other companion animals through improved public education, increased adoption rates and aggressive spay/neuter programs. CPAA is an all-volunteer, 501c3 organization that receives no government funding.

## Cans, Cans and more Cans...

Furry Friends Network is collecting Soda Cans to help cover the cost of vet bills. Please drop off any empty, cleaned, and crushed cans at Petsmart in Mechanicsburg the first Sunday of every month or email [Furryfriendsnet.com](http://Furryfriendsnet.com) to make arrangements to drop cans off.





# The Corner Stones for Building a Solid Dog House – Basic Obedience & Leadership

Terri Bullers, Canine Counselor and FFN Foster Mom

The first topic I was going to write about and submit to FFN to post in their newsletter was going to address the issue of Separation Anxiety. After I began to gather my thoughts to write the article, I changed my mind. I decided that I was jumping ahead to addressing a canine behavior problem instead of first offering recommendations to avoid behavior problems in the first place. I realized that almost all the canine behavior problems I have helped dog owners and dog foster parents to find a solution for dealt with advising the dog owner to implement a Leadership Program and teach the dog Basic Obedience. Other things went into the treatment plan, but the heart of it involved working on the dynamics of the existing relationship between the dog and the owner.

It is only natural we approach a relationship with our canine companion the same way we approach a relationship with a family member or friend. The problem is your dog is from the species "Canine" and you are from the species "Human". Your dog's ancestor was the wolf. The wolf lives in a very organized pack that has a very clear hierarchy (pecking order). The alpha male and female call the shots and the pack tows the line. Survival of the pack depended on it. Man in his wonderful wisdom decided, I should take the wolf and breed into it what I need to help me with my workload. Viola! Dogs developed to hunt, track, round up sheep and even kill rodents. When man no longer needed the dog for workload (welcome to modern times), the dog began

to become embedded into our family life. He became our canine companion, living inside our home. That is when things went a little crazy for the dog. Dog owners began to apply human-to-human dynamics to a human to canine relationship. Dogs no longer had ample exercise nor did they need to serve man in accomplishing his workload. That is when the canine behavior problems started to take off like a racecar at Indy 500.

Dogs require a firm but kind leader to keep the pack in harmony and stress free. It is only fair that you as the guardian of your dog accept the responsibility to send him the message everything is under control. A Leadership Program helps you to communicate to the dog you accept the role of pack leader. Leadership is shown in the little things you do with your dog. When you feed your dog, make him sit for his dinner. When he wants to go for a walk, make him sit while you put the leash on. You would not let your child throw a baseball in the house or jump on the couch till he breaks the springs would you? So why let your dog act like a spoiled rotten toddler?

Foster parents the worst thing you can do to a dog under your care is not expect him to behave like a good canine citizen. Loving him and building up his confidence is a wonderful gift to give, but babying him and letting him not respect you as a leader only makes the road to his forever home harder to travel.

Basic Obedience works hand in hand with a Leadership Program. Basic Obedience is designed



to give the dog owner a communication tool to use with his dog. Dogs do not respond to communication in sentence form like us humans. If you walk over to a dog and say "Spot please sit while I pay the doggie food bill". He would cock his head to one side and look at you like huh? But if your dog was taught the basic obedience command sit-stay, well now you are talking his language. He actually learned the sound tone and will understand what you want (after you take the time to teach him). Basic obedience takes the confusion out of communicating to your dog. Basic obedience classes are offered in your area all the time. Attend a basic obedience class in your local area. Your dog will have a blast meeting fellow canines. I think you will have some fun too! Nothing can be funnier than watching everyone working on teaching their dog his first sit or stay. You realize you are not alone in the learning process. The goal of the class instructor will be to teach you how to communicate in an efficient and effective manner to your dog.

Check out <http://www.doggie.uaddr.com> to learn more about the different doggie classes offered to you and your dog.

In summary, I can't emphasize enough the importance of implementing a Leadership Program and teaching your dog Basic Obedience. If you have any questions or comments regarding my article feel free to contact me at [doghhelp@pa.net](mailto:doghhelp@pa.net). Stay tuned the next article will address Separation Anxiety. Thanks and have a dog gone good day!



**Arrington** is still looking for his forever home! He is a handsome and lovable 1½ year old Norwegian Elkhound/ Lab mix. He loves to be loved and will give love. He will sit for long periods of time on your lap. He is great with adults and children and would do best in a home with another female dog or submissive male. Arrington is house trained, crate trained and knows basic commands. He would love to go to obedience school to refine his wonderful qualities and learn more. He is a very smart dog with lots of love to give! He has been neutered, is heartworm negative (and started on preventative) and is current on vaccines. Please complete an application if interested in Arrington! Adoption application, home visit and adoption fee required. If you would like to apply for adoption, please complete the online application at [www.furryfriendsnetwork.com](http://www.furryfriendsnetwork.com)





# My adopted dog Brock

Sharon McTavish

I have always loved Cocker Spaniels. They just look so cute! My best buddy, a Cocker named Khaki, was put down in January '04. He was 15. He couldn't walk, had to be hand fed, had many medical problems, and the time had come. It was hard. I didn't even want to think about another dog for a long time.

Missing Khaki, every once in a while when I was on my PC, I would do searches at petfinder.com and check out Cockers waiting for a home. I wanted to be very careful (if I ever did get another one) to make sure it was really nice and would "fit in". If you know Cockers, you know some can have an "attitude." My Khaki had a little attitude, but even though I loved him very, very much, not every one else did!

Each Cocker I found online, I made an excuse to pass up. I guess I didn't want another dog yet. Then I started sending an occasional link to my daughter to show her how cute each was and how so many were waiting to be adopted. One day she got in on the action. She emailed back with a link for "Brock" and said I should check him out, he seems just right. I said "not yet," but she said "I will fill out the application for you" and typed it up right then and sent it to Furry Friends Network.

Before I knew it, I was contacted by Sally Cammack (FFN foster home) for some information. I was amazed at the depth of the background and reference checks. (That should be done for people expecting children). Before I knew it, my son and I were at her house to meet Brock. He seemed just right except one problem: he has allergies and lots of them (molds, trees, grasses, house dust and cotton). Sally had him checked by a veterinarian that specializes in allergies. She said I would have to give him a shot every three weeks for the rest of his life. Well, that was something to really think about. Not sure I can do that, and not sure I want to spend that kind of money since I am single and supporting a disabled son.

Then I started thinking about how Brock really needed the care and it how difficult it would be for him to find a good home with his problem. I knew my son Sean liked him too. I decided to let Sally bring him to my house for a visit so I could think about it some more. At first,



I expected him to walk in and that I would love him just like Khaki. It didn't happen. Brock was another little fellow that had his own looks and own personality. I was very hesitant.

After a lot of thought, I decided this little guy needed a home, and I really did want him. I adopted him in November. I have only had him 4 months now, but already he has wormed his way into everyone's heart. He is the sweetest, best behaved little guy we could have gotten.

At the time of his rescue, Brock was very, very thin. I often wonder if he had to survive on trash bag contents in his past life, given his behavior when we pass them on our walks. Most dogs show interest in trash, but when Brock sees a bag, he makes a running, desperate dive for it. How sad. He also gets extremely anxious when I am in the kitchen cooking or getting his food ready. We are working on "sit, stay" until his food is ready. Sometimes I think he is going to burst if I don't hurry and get the food down! I guess in the past, he often didn't know when his next meal would be.

Even though he is a really good doggie, I signed us up for doggie school. I thought school would give us good time together, and we could work on a few manners. We went to every class, and even though I didn't get to spend as much time as I wanted doing the home training, he did

catch onto things fast—either he is really smart or he had some training in his first home. Who could have let this little guy go? It breaks my heart to think about it.

There must have been a truck in his past life. Every time he hears a loud truck going past the house, he flies up on the couch to look out the window. Now, my son says he does the same when I am gone. He will stand with his hind legs on the couch and front paws up over the top watching out the window for me to come home... and one day Brock fell asleep in that position! Brock bonded quickly—he wants to keep this good thing going in his life!

Brock loves our routine, and looks forward to our walk around our block every morning and every evening. On the morning walk, we pass a school bus stop where kids are waiting. He always pauses and turns several times to glance through the kids. He has to be looking for someone that was special. Even though this little guy was neglected and abused I think there must have been children that were kind to him.

His allergy shots are a little scary for me, but he has gotten them all. I just learned I should smear peanut butter on the refrigerator to keep him busy while giving it to him! It is getting easier.

Today Brock went for a grooming and took his own special shampoo along from his allergist. Things are going really well and he is so good. He has lots of toys, is (too) well fed, exercised, happy, has neighborhood doggie group friends, follows me everywhere, and best of all, he is treated well and loved by everyone. I look forward to many years with this little bundle of love.



*If you have a Happy Beginning story you would like to share for our website or future newsletters, please email [furryfriendsnet@aol.com](mailto:furryfriendsnet@aol.com)*



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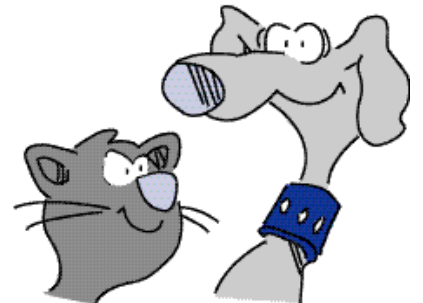
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## DONATION FORM

Thank you so much for caring about the animals. We are thankful for your support, and want you to know that all donations—large and small—help your furry friends, one and all!

*Here's a gift of love to help the animals and all the work of Furry Friends Network.*

I'm enclosing  \$45.00  \$100.00  \$150.00  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ to help the work of Furry Friends Network



Please mail donations to **Furry Friends Network | 290 Fairview Street | Carlisle, PA 17013**

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*Donations are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.*