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Message from Regi Goodhall

It has been almost a year since Heidi Eckers took over as President of Peke N Chin Midwest. It has been an astounding year with dozens of new volunteers. More volunteers mean we can process adoption applications, check references and perform home visits quicker. More fosters homes mean more dogs can be rescued. More members mean more exposure at public events for our dogs and about the dogs still suffering in puppy mills, which saves more dogs.

Our group is now strongly centered in the Twin Cities Minneapolis area, which has given exceptional opportunity for introducing the public to our dogs and our cause. Thank You Heidi.

And an often overlooked Thank You to Ginette Manaigne for her creative talent, determination and time to maintaining our website and to publishing this newsletter every 6 months. She gives Peke N Chin a professional presence on the web and in our publications.

Regi Goodhall, Co founder.



Peke N Chin Midwest would like to acknowledge and send a heart-felt "Thank You" to the staff at the Jewell Animal Hospital in Jewell, IA for treating the Missouri 17 crew.

This wonderful staff sacrificed time from their day off, and during a busy time of year, to help bring sick and neglected dogs back to a more compassionate start in life.

Please take the time to send a thank you note to Dr. Lisa at:

Jewell Animal Hospital
548 Main Street
Jewell, IA 50130
Phone: 515-827-5700



Camera Play by Maggie Senzig



Lynzee (left), Opal and Kinzie (center) and Ash (right). Maggie Senzig (PNC Foster Volunteer).

The Missouri 17 *by Regi Goodhall and Heidi Eckers*

Pictured below are some of the Missouri 17 dogs being examined at the Jewell Animal Hospital and having their "livestock" ID tags removed.



Delta



Dezzi



Destiny

The story starts when Peke N Chin Midwest discovered that 48 Pekingese dogs were slated to be sold off at a dog auction in southern Missouri in December. Heidi Eckers contacted the breeder named on the list and was told that the woman was dispersing her animals. The woman claimed that none of her dogs had been used for breeding and she was selling because the market was so poor.

At the sale, our buyer learned that this was a forced dispersal due to the dogs not being well kept and improper licensing. The dogs were matted and thin with no apparent major health issues except maybe for bad knees. Our buyer didn't want to see the majority of the Pekingese dogs go to millers and therefore purchased 17 of them on our behalf (we'd been considering 8). The most expensive was \$75 and the cheapest maybe a \$1.

Fortunately, a good share of the remaining dogs that didn't come to us went to other rescues, though some went to breeders and those not sold were euthanized. This was done to prevent any owner from reclaiming their dogs or using a back doorway to get their dogs back. Regi Goodhall had actually called the next day to offer to try to get more dogs out, but they were already gone. 5 dogs in all were euthanized. They were seniors in horrible condition and they may have not even survived transport. Only 6 were purchased by breeders, and the rest went to rescue.

This was Shelley Pabst's first time going face to face with the reality of puppy mills. Even the auction house is hard to take for people that haven't desensitized themselves to the horror. Luckily there was only one other family there loading dogs and not a large crowd of puppy millers or auction house owners. Many tears were shed by Shelley and many harsh words expressed by Heidi for only the poor dogs cramped in cages, covered in urine and feces, to hear. Heidi and Shelley waded through 4 inches of muck on the cement floor to find their newly purchased dogs in their respective cages.

It took all of the self will that Heidi possessed not to start loading up the 15 moms with puppies that were sitting in the drafty barn. Puppies as young as 1 day old. Umbilical cords still attached. Wiggling through their mom's poop. Tiny feet slipping through wire meshed cages. No warm towels or blankets. No clean or comfortable whelping boxes. Just cold, hard, wire, metal and feces. No compassion. No care. Mere livestock for profit.

As Chuck Wegner, Executive Director, of Clark County Humane Society describes it, the worst part of the auction for me, and there are a lot of bad parts, is the look on the faces of the dogs. Some of them, usually the younger ones, will come to the front of the cages and act frisky like they would like me to take them out to play. They have a sparkle in their eyes. Life is quite new to them. They have not had their spirits crushed yet by the relentless drudge of years in a cage.

Then there are those who look at me with very sad eyes. They have the eyes of realization. They have been in the system long enough to know that there is likely no escape from the situation they are in. They don't like it, but it's what they know. They still have the faintest look of hope in their eyes. Maybe this will be the day that they are released from a life of misery.

Then comes the worst thing about the auction. That is the eyes of the older dogs. The ones that have been in the system the longest. They no longer have any hope in their eyes. They are often expressionless. They don't even lift their heads to see the gawking public. You can tap on their cage or make noises (whistle, etc.) but they don't react at all. Theirs are the eyes of total despair and resignation. They have come to understand that there is no hope.

The Missouri 17 (continued)



Dumpling



Delaware



Diva, Dumpling, & Dinky
and Dalton (below)



Each day will be the same as the last. The future holds nothing for them and that in itself is absolutely depressing. Maybe somewhere in the recent or distant past they were brought to a sale previously. The possibility of a new beginning might have sparked some promise of a better life. Then they, like so many others around them, were sold to another puppy miller. Life as they knew it continued on and they realized that there would never be any escape. They have totally given up.

Heidi shares her own experience. I can't even put into words the noise and the smell in one of those facilities. Honestly, it has to be seen and heard for people to understand why we would pay money to save dogs from this industry. Until you've been to a dog farm/puppy mill or an auction barn you can't know. Every time I head down there to either pick up dogs, bid on dogs, or transport dogs, I am reminded how absolutely terrific it is to get a dog out of the callous, greedy hands of these farmers and to give them a chance at a real life as a companion for someone – what they were meant to be. We give them that chance. We bathe and groom them, and try to get them healthy again - physically and emotionally. We rehabilitate them and then find the right family to enjoy them for many years. We replace their years of loneliness and laying in squalor with years of pleasure and comfort. We remove dogs from these mass production farms and have them spayed and neuter to help battle an already out of control pet overpopulation crisis.

Heidi and Shelley had driven together in a minivan to pick up the dogs. In all, 50 dogs of various breeds were put in the vehicle. Many of the dogs were driven north to other rescues groups that specialized in breeds such as Miniature Pinschers, Shih Tzus, Bichon Frises, Chihuahua, etc. Yes it was cramped. Yes the dogs were probably uncomfortable; however, one 10 hour drive of slight discomfort got them to a new life of freedom!

Heidi and Shelley then stopped at the Jewell Animal Hospital to get their new dogs examined. The staff came in on that Sunday to process the dogs. As the Pekes were being pulled out of crates, it was horrible to see as daylight revealed matted fur, skin and bones, watery eyes, and feces-caked paws. But, guess what? They were safe! We can shave off matting. We can give food. We can clean eyes. We can remedy the effects of a poor breeding program that produces dogs with bad knees, stenotic nares, entropion and elongated soft palates. With the help from our foster home providers, we can offer a good start to a new life for these dogs. We can teach them how to eat out of a bowl. How to drink water not dripping out of a rabbit water bottle, and how great it feels to have something soft to lay down in for a nap. Preferably in the sunshine!

Because Christmas was fast approaching, there wasn't enough time to vet all the dogs at once so Heidi (a practicing veterinary technician) helped by administering vaccinations and conducting examinations. Some of the dogs were spayed/neutered and given dentals. There were a couple umbilical hernias taken care of as well.

The vetted dogs went to Minnesota and Heidi then brought other groups back to Jewell for the remainder of the required treatments. We are also indebted to Yappy Campers Boarding Kennel for donating kenneling for many of these dogs while they were being sorted and waiting for foster homes to open up. The story of the Missouri 17 generated additional foster offers from other groups. Several dogs, for instance, went to Kelly Hazel at Michigan Peke Rescue. She's been a rescuer for many years and normally takes dogs in from southern Michigan. She had room and was happy to help out.

Luckily some dogs that day were released from a life of despair and misery. Many hundreds of thousands of animals remain in this cruel system. Those are the ones we must not forget or give up on. We forge ahead, and keep up the fight, hoping one day this will all end.

Dinah and Delaware - A Foster Story



March 7, 2010 - It was a cold Wednesday in December when I saw the Blazer drive up in my driveway. I went out to meet Heidi and Jeff who had just driven back from Iowa with the now infamous Missouri 17. I wasn't really prepared for what I saw. The entire vehicle was literally filled with crates full of rescued Pekingese dogs. As the hatch opened the stench permeated the air and little Peke faces began to appear in the crates. I had not committed to fostering at that time, but seeing this sight made my heart stop a bit and I said, "I will take 2 spayed girls." "I can do that", and without skipping a beat, Heidi started pulling crates out of the van searching for 2 that had just been spayed by the veterinarian. We were trying to work quickly so the dogs didn't get too cold, but were having trouble finding anyone who had been spayed. Most of the dogs were too thin and in such poor health that putting them under could have been deadly. Finally I heard, "Here's one, and here's another one. Heidi handed me 2 very dirty white Pekingese who smelled so bad I had to hold my breath. I put them down inside the dog yard thinking they would walk around, explore, go potty and meet and greet the other dogs. At least that is what a normal dog would do. That is not what happened. They froze dead still and stayed that way even while Maya, one of my own dogs (and Pack Leader), encouraged them to be with the other dogs. It became extremely clear to me how damaged these two little girls were. I took them inside, fed them, and they settled down for a three hour nap.

A week went by and I was finally able to clean them up. Their coats

were so matted that the only option I had was to shave them down to the skin that revealed a few sores and a thick layer of black dirt. So off to the tub they went. As I washed them they were very still and stiff but as the process went on, they began to respond to my touch in a positive way. It must have felt so good they couldn't resist enjoying it. It was after their bath that I saw some of their personalities begin to emerge. They progressed very quickly and began following the pack outside to potty and play. Each day they tried something new. Each day they enjoyed themselves more. They were still hesitant and distrusting of me but no longer cringed when I touched them. They watched the other dogs trust in me and their trust increased rapidly. I will never forget the day they greeted me with wagging tails when I got them up in the morning. There was no stopping them after that day. They are always happy to experience whatever the day may bring.

Two and one-half months later, they are balanced little dogs, who love life and experience it to the fullest. As the saying goes, "Rescue a dog and in turn you will be rescued." This is so true with Dinah and Delaware. They rescued me in so many ways, but mostly, they taught me to live in the present and wag your tail at the experience of each new day and not look back. Thank you my precious little girls. I will always be grateful to you.

Candace Smith
PNC Foster Volunteer



Jizelle and Olive - A Foster Story



Jizelle (nicknamed Tish)



Olive



Pika and Lily

March 3, 2010 - I took Jizelle (Tish, as I call her) for a ride in the car today, to see if she would be a nervous drooly mess if she weren't in the crate. She did just fine! It was a short ride, but we will work on it. She did shake a little, but walked fine in the harness and leash. No drool, though! She is not what I'd call crate trained. Olive is, however!

Tish has made such large strides since we got her. She is obviously living out her puppy years here in our house, since she was obviously deprived of them. She LOVES, LOVES, LOVES toys... and other "things". I have taken away a glove or two, a T-Shirt, a LARGE child's stuffed animal (as big as Tish), a remote control cover, a piece of foam, and many other "trinkets" she finds. She will happily play with her toys and me or other humans, but is VERY possessive when it comes to other dogs wanting to play with her toys. She also guards the food dish from the other dogs, but lets me take it away. She's a very good girl otherwise. She potties outside ALL the time! We have a little trouble getting her and Lily inside, though... they want to play in the snow and explore.

And poor Olive... she seems scared of either the stairs or outside. She won't pee when being picked up to be petted or put on the couch, but when it comes to going outside to potty, she "nervous" pees. Once outside, however she will do her business, but seems scared to come back inside and wants to be picked up. We don't have steep steps and there are only 3 to get outside... I'm not sure what I can do to help her. I was

surprised to find she didn't mind being brushed... she snaps at just about any other "investigative" touching and when she gets nervous or anxious she attacks her tail! She hasn't snapped at either of my kids since that first day, so that is a good sign. She is very brave when it comes to the other dogs (and cats). While Tish is growling over the food bowl, Olive sticks her head in and grabs a bite and runs off with it. Tish hasn't ever snapped at a dog over the food issue, but guards it and growls. Tish DID snap at Olive over a toy, though. She didn't get her luckily, but it scared me! Tish is so much bigger and could probably do some damage... she has VERY nice teeth unlike my own doggies.

I think Tish would be fine in just about any environment, but really likes us humans more than other dogs. She does try to play with Pika sometimes, but not Olive or Lily. Lily is not interested in playing at all anymore. Olive wants to play, but is kind of hyper compared to the "older" dogs and they snub her. I think Olive either needs a really firm hand and an experienced owner to break her of her diva attitude and work on some things with her, or a home where she can continue to be a diva and be catered to. Some people are like that with their dogs (my mom was), so she might be right for someone! She sure is cute and has a sad little face sometimes! I will try to get more pictures of her, but have to be sneaky about it since she doesn't like the camera.

*Lisa Seliskar
PNC Foster Volunteer*



Dinky (aka "The Dinkster" aka "The Cutest Peke" - A Foster Story

January 31, 2010 - In the last week or so, Dinky discovered playing. I don't know if he didn't have an opportunity to play or if he was too thin and weak. He rips through the house at top speed, "wrestles" with a chew bone that is as long as he is and tries to jump up on the couch. His chewing and playful biting makes me wonder if he is even younger than we think.

Dinky, once the skinniest of the Missouri 17, now dances when he sees me preparing his food. He has gained more than 1.5 pounds since coming to Minnesota. He still gets a little wet food mixed with his dry food sometimes, but he is eating regular dry food (for small dogs). At first, he wouldn't eat treats. He wasn't afraid to take it from my hand, but he seemed unsure what it was. He now positions himself with the other dogs when treats are passed out.

He is a sweet and social dog. He loves to be talked to and snuggled. His favorite place is on the bed with the electric blanket--stretched out on his back.

Patti White
PNC Foster Volunteer

STAMPS To The RESCUE

In celebration of the new *Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet* stamps, the United States Postal Service, together with Ellen DeGeneres and Halo: Purely for Pets, is giving shelter pets around the country a First-Class Meal. During the launch of the stamps, Halo will be donating a million meals to animal shelters around the country.

You can make a difference. Adopt a pet. Volunteer at a shelter or with a rescue group, or just get the word out by buying these stamps!



facebook



You can now find Peke N Chin Midwest on Facebook and Twitter!

Fans are welcome to add videos and upload pictures of their dogs to our Facebook page. Check out the fun video that one of our foster providers, Lisa Selisker, posted of her foster dog, Tish!

We have 150 followers on Twitter. You can find us by searching the name PekeNChin.

Please be sure to take a look at these pages. These sites are being maintained by Yvette Hatfield, therefore if you need help posting your videos and/or photos, please don't hesitate to contact her. Thank you!

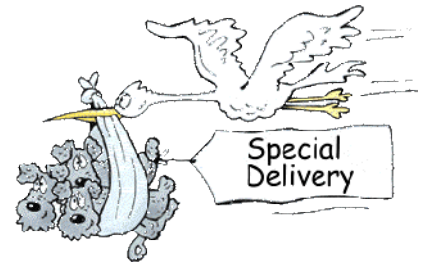
Puppies of the New

On January 16, 2010, Deanna, one of the Missouri 17 blessed us with three healthy puppies. Heidi Eckers, a practicing veterinary technician, assisted Deanna with her whelping.

May and Mitch, two of the five puppies Deanna gave birth to had deformed hind legs and severe cleft palates. They would not have been able to walk or eat. We had them humanely euthanized right after birth.

The deformities were more than likely the result of poor prenatal care. Deanna became pregnant in the puppy mill prior to coming into rescue. She could have been bred to her brother or father for all we know. Record keeping is not high on the agenda for some breeders... and according to her "records", she wasn't even bred.

The three healthy puppies (pictured below at 3 hours old and at 2 weeks old) are thriving, eating well and are beautiful. Deanna and her three pups, Meghan, Maryann and Mulligan are all available for adoption.



Another Road Trip to Missouri Reported by Heidi Eckers

On Saturday, January 30th, we woke up to 6 inches of snow on the windshield of our van. It was 10° F inside the vehicle. Even in our "mummy bags" we were freezing! It's a good thing we didn't have dogs with us at this point. Cindy Bruce and I made a trip to Missouri to rescue some dogs that a breeder was giving up to rescue, and we decided to sleep in the van to save money. Not so sure we will be doing that again, but chalk it up to a new experience and an adventure!

We met the breeder in a Wal-Mart parking lot where we also spent the night parked. The breeder had cracks and holes in the rear windshield of her truck, and of course that's where the dogs were. We had the van running for an hour so that it would be warm for the dogs when they arrived.

This breeder was crying with every dog she handed over to us. Crying while we were putting matted Peke after matted Peke into blanket lined crates in our warm van. I don't doubt that she loved her dogs, but she made the right decision by giving them up to rescue. All 9 dogs that we picked up that day are happy and healthy, and still available to be adopted into loving homes.

Please see the next page to get Cindy Bruce's side of the story!



Another Road Trip to Missouri Reported by Cindy Bruce

I can't believe how much my life has changed since I adopted Moe from PNC. Never in a million years did I think I'd be making trips to Missouri to bring dogs back from puppy mills.

Before I started fostering for PNC, I didn't even know there was any such thing as puppy mills. Now almost 2 years later I have made 4 trips to Missouri and Heidi has been my "partner in crime" on all of them. I must say that the last trip made was either the high point of my experiences or the low point. It all depends on your point of view!

We talked my daughter into letting us use her van (again) and decided that we could sleep in the back of the van because it had been in the 50's in Missouri for the last 2 weeks. The fun started on the way to Joplin. It started snowing outside of Kansas City and by the time we got to Joplin we were driving in a snow storm - one that Minnesota would have been proud of. By the time we got to Joplin, they had gotten at least 4 inches of snow and I think it was closer to 6! The temperature had also dropped down to about 10 degrees... if you were being optimistic. But being the adventurous, pioneering women we are, we decided we could tough it out in the van. It was snug enough in the back of the van that we figured the combined body heat would help keep us warm!

We parked in the Wal-Mart parking lot where we were meeting the breeder the next morning and planned to stay

there the night. We ended up leaving after a while after observing too much activity going on with strange people walking about at all hours of the morning. We finally moved to the Webb City police station parking lot for the rest of the night. By the time morning rolled around we had decided that having this wonderful adventure was probably a once in a lifetime experience. There is not enough body heat to make 10 degrees warm enough to camp in a van!

In the end, we brought back 6 Pekingese dogs, 3 Pugs, and 2 French Bulldogs from the breeder and made a couple of other stops on the way home to pick up more dogs.

The fact is, no matter what we endure (including the trip when we packed 50 dogs into the back of my daughter's van from the auction) makes anything well worth it - from frostbite to weird people, to spending a 14-hour day pretending I'm a breeder in a noisy, smelly auction hall so some of these dogs won't end up in the same rotten conditions they come from!

Thank you Heidi and Regi for trusting Jeff and I enough to let us join you in the wonderful endeavor of saving dogs!



Earthshaking Statistics -- The Figures

Although most people are aware that there are more dogs and cats being born than there are people willing to adopt them, the actual number of unwanted dogs and cats is staggering. For example, did you know?

An estimated 52 million dogs and 57 million cats live with U.S. families.

For every human born, 7 puppies and kittens are born.

One female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in 7 years.

One female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in 6 years.

More than 12 million dogs and cats are euthanized in shelters each year.

Millions more are abandoned in rural and urban areas.

As many as 25% of dogs entering shelters each year are purebreds.

Approximately 61% of all dogs entering shelters are killed.

Approximately 75% of all cats entering shelters are killed.

It costs approximately \$100 to capture, house, feed, and eventually kill each stray animal - a cost which you, the taxpayer, eventually pay.

**Please help reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats by spaying/neutering your pet(s). There are many non-profit organizations that offer low-cost spaying/neutering programs if you need financial assistance.*

<http://www.animalworldnetwork.com/bsurpetstat.html>



Now that I have been home for a few minutes and "made nice" with Zeus and Jasper with new collars, treats and bones, I just had to post what a fun weekend I personally had at the Expo! It was great meeting other foster volunteers and dogs (some who have only been names on the Yahoo group or photos on Petfinder). Each time I attend a PNC meet and greet, I feel more blessed to be part of this group.

Heidi deserves a special thank you for scheduling volunteers and planning the booth. Thanks everyone who has been part of the Dinky Fan Club. I know we all think our dogs are extraordinary, but Dinky REALLY is.

Congratulations Emmy Chin on finding a forever home and becoming the PNC ambassador to the cat show world.

Thanks PNC for letting me (an impulsive, indecisive Golden Retriever owner who couldn't even identify a Peke at RenFest) bring these wonderful smoochy faces into my home.

Patti White
PNC Volunteer

March 6 & 7, 2010, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN.



Group says city ordinance hinders canine rescue efforts

By CLARE KENNEDY (ckennedy@owatonna.com)

Posted in the Owatonna People's Press: Thursday, February 25, 2010

OWATONNA — Sometimes three isn't enough. That's the stance of Heidi Eckers, current president of Peke N Chin Midwest, or Pekingese and Japanese Chin Rescue and Re-homing — a group that rescues small dogs and puts them into volunteer foster homes.

In the past, the city had a kennel license which allowed groups like Ecker's to board a larger number of dogs, but in 2007 the council took that code off the books, said council president Les Abraham. The current ordinance allows a combination of five animals — three dogs and two cats or vice versa — not including puppies under five months. Most of the group's rescues are adult dogs, Eckers said.



Peke N Chin Midwest president Heidi Eckers and one of her rescue dogs.

"Right now, with the ordinance the way it is, we're having a hard time finding foster homes for all the dogs who need to come in to rescue," Eckers said.

The ordinance is written to prevent animal hoarding, neglect and abuse — ironically, exactly what Peke N Chin rescues dogs from. In general, the group takes animals from three sources: Owners who can no longer care for the dogs, shelters, and puppy mills — large-scale, commercial breeding facilities.

Eckers described deplorable conditions in the puppy mills. "Right now, some of these dogs live in rabbit hutches or they're walking on, sleeping on, eating off of wire," Eckers said. "It's not cleaned. Some of them can barely turn around. It's really sad."

Dogs rescued from such situations need lots of TLC before they can be adopted, which is best found in a home environment. Small dogs don't do well in pounds or shelters, Eckers said, because they are easily frightened by the larger, more boisterous breeds.

"Those dogs are not ready to be a pet the minute they're saved. They need rehabilitation, they need to learn how to be a pet," Eckers said. "The fosters work on house training, on teaching the dogs to drink and eat out of a bowl — which they've never done before. A lot of the commercial breeders use automatic feeders and rabbit drip waterers, so these animals don't even know the basics."

Once in a safe, clean environment, most of the dogs go into hiding for the first few weeks. Penny the Chin is a good example. Penny stood stark still in the middle of the floor at Ecker's home Thursday — quite a feat for the dog.

"They run to the darkest, quietest spot they can possibly find. Believe it or not, even though it doesn't look like she's doing anything, this is huge progress for Penny," Eckers said. "When you think about it, for the first year-and-a-half of her life no one even touched her. If they did, they probably grabbed her by her leg and threw her in another cage. Their opinion of people is not real great — they have zero trust when they get here."

Foster parent Jeff Bruce has another dog that only moves in circles, not straight lines, because he is still not used to living outside a tiny cage.

"That's all he's ever done in his life. He's in the house but he's so used to it he doesn't know how to be normal, he doesn't know there's a whole house to go into," Bruce said. "It helps when you have other dogs in the house, say you have a couple of your own that have been there for years. They learn by watching the other dogs."

For now, Peke N Chin is just looking for a variance to allow them to have more than three dogs in their volunteers' homes. They are not asking the council to change the ordinance.

Otherwise, the council could reinstate the kennel license or raise the maximum number of pets per household — 10 dogs total would be ideal, Eckers said. As it stand the ordinance discourages would-be foster homes, who probably already have two or three dogs of their own.

Owatonna's 'dog whisperer' shares techniques

By BRIANA GEHRING

Posted in the Owatonna People's Press: Thursday, February 25, 2010



Candace Smith started understanding more about the way dogs work after watching her dog, Maya, interact with other dogs. Now she is passing on her knowledge to other pet owners with the community education class "Lessons from Owatonna's Own Dog Whisperer."

OWATONNA — Unruly dogs could be a thing of the past for people who seek help from Owatonna's own dog whisperer, Candace Smith, who will be leading classes next week meant to connect owners with their dogs. "The class is designed to help people think about their dogs and their relationship with their dogs in a different way," said Smith, who is also the owner of Critter Comforts.

The foundation of the lessons is learning to act in a way that dogs respond to. That means taking on the authority and attitude that an alpha dog would display. Being strong, calm and making the dogs earn the owners attention will make them better listeners, Smith said. "We fail our dogs when we don't give them boundaries. Every dog wants boundaries," Smith said.

Smith didn't always think this way. Her current approach is thanks to a Siberian Husky named Maya that she adopted years ago. When Smith adopted Maya, the dog was feral and no one could really control her. She started watching Maya interact with other dogs, observing how a pack works. Maya was a natural leader and demanded respect from the other dogs in subtle ways. "I started using some of the techniques I had seen Maya using and the dogs were responding. I was like 'Wow!'" Smith said.

Smith continued practicing the techniques she learned from her dog and refining her skills with Maya at her side. She has learned how to make dogs listen to her with simple movements and changing her energy. "We need to learn to match our energy to their energy. It's not the dog that is behaving badly, it's how they react to a situation," Smith said. In fact, many of the times that dogs act up, it's because they have taken up the position of the alpha dog. They sensed weakness in the owner, Smith said, so they thought they needed to take over to protect the pack.

Smith's class is set to start Wednesday, Feb. 3, and will be a four-session class. The first two hours will consist of owners talking about their dogs — discussing the problems they're facing and the way people act around their pets. The second two sessions will be with the dogs, demonstrating some of the actions. At the end of the classes, Smith said the relationship attendees have with their dog will strengthen. "Smith has done some amazing things with dogs and their owners. They learn to better understand each other," said Deb Karaus, director of Owatonna Community Education.

Smith hopes that by contributing what she learns to the group she will help avoid problems that may send the dog to the pound and make life better for both owner and pet. In fact, since she adopted the pack mentality, she noticed that she is more calm and assertive than she was before. Learning that attitude and energy is part of the lesson plan.

"You'll learn that this is their energy, this is what they do. This is what you're going to do as a human to get the same response," Smith said.

For more information about the class, contact Owatonna Community Education at 444-7900.

Adoption Day at Petco

Peke N Chin Midwest is now officially part of the Petco Charitable Foundation. PETCO Animal Supplies, Inc. and the PETCO Foundation have a long history of supporting animal welfare and adoptions, and they are now broadening that philosophy with the introduction of an all-inclusive "Think Adoption First" initiative in PETCO stores across the country.

In conjunction with their online partner Petfinder.com, the nation's leading internet-based animal adoption organization, PETCO and the PETCO Foundation will encourage customers to consider adoption as the first option when thinking about adding a new companion animal to their homes. Although PETCO will continue to offer companion animals in their stores, they will encourage customers to seek adoptable animals in the community as a first option, providing informational kiosks and in-store adoption opportunities to a larger variety of rescue groups.

Peke N Chin Midwest attended their first national adoption weekend campaign on Saturday, January 16th at the West St Paul, MN location, and we are schedule to be there the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 11 am to 3 pm. We were the only rescue group at this store on that first day and it was nationally advertised!



Dinky



Dave and Olive

My family enjoyed the time a Petco today. We met new friends and enjoyed talking with everyone.

My kids and I loved holding those cute little puppies. My goodness, they were so sweet, we wanted all three!

Sounds crazy, but I love pink puppy bellies they are so warm and soft.

Rose Sorini

MORE PUPPIES!

On September 15, 2009, PNC was blessed with more puppies from another of its rescued dogs. Willow, the tiny grey Poodle, came from a hoarder/backyard breeder who is still at it, but at least she's down one female! Willow gave birth to 6 beautiful puppies (4 boys, 2 girls). She had her last litter of puppies with us because we had her spayed as soon as the pups were weaned. They have all since been adopted to loving homes, including Willow!



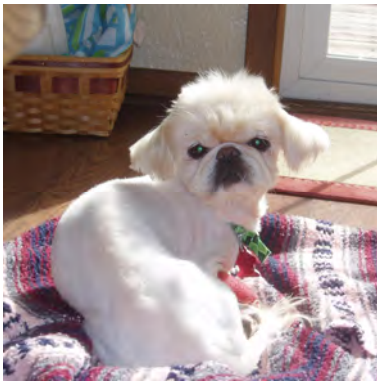
Off to the dog park!



Chopper, Wang, Blizzard, & Josephine



Fozzy Bear – His start in life wasn't the greatest and he ended up at a shelter. PNC stepped in to get him out and found him a home!



Our Prince... then...and now. Thriving, happy and adopted!



Rascal was a typical puppy - bouncy, happy and always wanting to play!

*"If you are a host to your guest,
be a host to his dog also."*

- Russian Proverb



Dog Fact

Rituals are a basic part of canine behavior. Greeting, feeding, hunting and sleeping all include social performances.

Joke of the Day:

What kind of dog does a vampire prefer?

Any kind of bloodhound!



We can't do it alone...
We need your help.

Hosting a special event for animals is a fun way for individuals, schools, organizations and companies to raise much needed funds for Peke N Chin Midwest or other animal rescue organization or shelter in your area.

- Garage Sale
- Birthday Money
- Car Washes
- Silent Auctions
- Bake/Craft Sales
- Casual Day at Work

How you can help us

*Send us a
PNC
Success
story!*

Is your dog the best dog in the World? Is he the funniest? Smartest? Or most affectionate? Does he light up your life every single day? Share your happy, touching, and memorable moments with us. We want to know what joy your special little canine friend that you adopted from us brings into your life!

Send us your story and photos and we will feature it in our next Newsletter or website.

*Please send to Ginette Manaigre at gmanaigre@shaw.ca
Stories may be edited for length and content.*



Want to say Hello?

Send us a letter, an email
or give us a call!

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Please don't hesitate to
make copies of our
newsletter to share with
friends and for the office.

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Gifts of Love

Every day we rescue and accept dogs that would have nowhere else to go. Thank you to the following individuals who have helped support us through their generous donations:

On behalf of our dogs
WE THANK YOU!

- Jacquelyn Campbell
- Angie's Pet Salon
- Shankar Veluvali
- Kimberly Rowan
- Farmers Feed and Pet Supply
- Fenee Lehew
- Dave and Shelly Pabst
- Steve Beilgard
- Sue Auger
- Cara Piersee
- Christine Grimaldi
- Dennis Dixon
- Rose Sorini
- Michelle Rudy
- Judy Wilkinson
- Yappy Camper Boarding Kennel



You Shop, We Win!
Help our cause **for free.**



Choose us as your favourite cause and every time you shop online at over 680 brand name stores, a portion of each purchase will be donated to us! You would be helping us save more dogs! Simply log on to our site and go directly to the iGive icon... the rest is easy!

