



# PNC Newsletter

Come on... open that door... and join a rescue group!

Every six months, we try to bring something new to the PNC newsletter to keep things interesting. There is so much activity going on behind the scenes of our group that it is never possible to share it all with our readers. The stories we do manage to post, are only a fraction of the action that takes place. If it were possible to open up a window... even for just a bit... to show you all how our organization moves along in our efforts to rescue and save dogs in need, it would be fabulous. We think you'd be impressed.

There is constant communication amongst the 60+ members... daily. With the use of "Yahoo! Groups" we are all able to stay connected at all times. Whenever one member sends out an email using the Yahoo Group email system to ask advice about a particular dog they are fostering for instance, every member of the group receives the message.

We are all able to share our knowledge and recommendations with one another. We share photos and updates of our foster dogs. We share victories... such as when a fearful mill dog finally takes that first step to take a treat out of its caregiver's hand... and we share sorrow... such as when one of the dogs we just rescued was just so badly neglected to the point where we are not able to save it, but give it a hug and kiss before its life finally ends in our

arms. We share fears, tears, laughs and friendship.

In rescue, vital information is quickly passed around to members... such as an emergency request for a transport of dogs needed to be moved from one state to another... or the warning of a known abuser posted for all of us to be aware of and to not adopt to. Such important communication is always passed along to other rescue groups all over the U.S. as well. In the rescue world, we all need to stay informed by the minute. Time is of the essence when moving dogs, pulling them out of kill shelters and dog auctions, or keeping them away from people who will harm them.

As members, we are all unique and different individuals with diverse personalities who all bring something special and useful to the group. We are all there to encourage and support one another. The knowledge we share is invaluable. Assistance in knowing how to train a difficult dog or to rehabilitate one that has never known how to live in a house helps us prepare these little animals into becoming adoptable, and then becoming loving members in a family of their own.

Volunteering one's time to pursue a passion such as the love of dogs is

*Special articles in our newsletter*

- *Message from Regi Goodhall*
- *Our Winter Puppies!*
- *From Puppy Mill Momma to Fire Detection Dog*
- *Eddie's Corner*

admirable. Many people want to see a better world. It can only happen when people get involved. It doesn't have to be scary... that's what groups are for! The effort can be as big or as small as you can manage, and can fit accordingly to any lifestyle and demanding time constraints. Volunteering some time can be as rewarding as fostering a dog or two, as vital as participating in a transport run, or as significant as making that one phone call. It's all as challenging or as easy as you want it to be. People who sign up to join groups as a volunteer to help save animals... big or small... are all heroes.

One of the most important things that rescue groups can do to help reduce the neglect and abuse that takes place every day in our society is to educate the public... to be a strong voice for the voiceless... and to fight in what you believe in. The valiant move to advocate for animals saves countless of innocent lives, and lessens needless suffering... and, you know, that's a good thing.

*Ginette Manaignre  
Newsletter Publisher*

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Paddy



Suni

## Message from Regi Goodhall

The time since October has been good for Peke N Chin Midwest. Volunteers continue to support rescue dogs by attending "Meet and Greet" twice a month at Petco in South St. Paul. Not only does this spread the word about Peke N Chin Midwest and needy dogs from puppy mills, but the Petco Adoption Partner Program is a major part of our donation funding.

Adoption fees can cover costs on the average dog such as a puppy or young adult with no medical needs outside of routine vaccinations and altering. Unfortunately, a large number of dogs that come into our rescue need additional care. Some of the larger costs might be for seniors that will spend the rest of their lives in one of our "Forever Foster" homes that need daily medication for a chronic condition, or for a dog in pain with bad knees or bad hips that needs surgery to live a comfortable life. Those expenses ride on the backs of young healthy dogs that are not the majority of our furkids. Therefore, extra funding is always necessary. PNC also covers the cost of preventive care on fosters for fleas and ticks as well as heartworm. It's a big help when some volunteers treat their fosters as well as they treat their own dogs by covering some of the costs personally.

Many times I have praised our volunteers and donors, but today I'd like to touch on a different thank you. In the past 6 months, we have had two individuals contact us about dogs they wanted to surrender. One party took in a dog from an elderly parent and didn't know what to do because they weren't "dog people", but enjoyed their cats. Winter being what it is this year, transport was not easy to arrange and they were always patient and understanding when we asked them to hold on a little longer until we could pick up the dog to bring into rescue. When transport finally became available, they had fallen for the little peke and decided to keep him after all. We

were able to offer resources to help them better understand and enjoy their new family member. My hats off to them for being patient and then willing to accept this new family member as their own.

The second party had a young peke and was very frustrated in potty training efforts. The dog had been adopted in Texas and the family then moved to Wisconsin. The little peke was loved, but... Anyway, PNC's resources and ideas were again offered to provide a more systematic approach to housetraining, and both pee pads and belly band/panties were offered as a partial solution when their peke was in the carpeted areas. The owner was willing to make some adjustments in routines and short-term expectations, and now feels comfortable keeping this precious little peke.

These stories point out another important side of rescue - helping people with dogs they already have so these dogs can stay with the family they know. It's not exciting or considered newsworthy but the same goal is served - insuring the long-term welfare of companion animals.

My thanks again to all our volunteers... to those maintaining our Facebook and Twitter pages, to those who drive many miles in transport, to those sitting at Petco every month, and to those opening homes to dogs in need. My thanks also to donors for their generous support that allows us to keep our dogs healthy and comfortable. And this time, my thanks to those people who are willing to contact us for help and do the work so they are able to keep dogs home with them.

Now if the snow in the north would just melt, the world would be good.

*Regina (Regi) Goodhall  
Co-founder and Treasurer*

## Dharma - A Foster Story

August 25, 2010 - I have to share that my little foster chin, Dharma, is doing really well.



When I brought her home less than 2 weeks ago, I cried the whole afternoon. My heart-ached for her and all the dogs like her. She was just a shell of a dog. She paced and spun and covered if I made any movement in the same room as her.

I had to carry her outside. This involved catching her and holding her (because she is either stiff as a board or struggling to jump out of my arms). After she did her business, I had to catch her (not easy even on a flexi-leash). Today, she ran from her crate to the door and even down the stairs (with a little nudging). She also is working on going up the stairs. This takes all dogs a little longer to master as there are 3 steps to a small landing and the door opens outward. At first, new dogs are either blocking the door or stuck behind it.



I still have to catch her sometimes, but I don't feel her little heart pounding when I pick her up. She still paces a little, but she has a lot more calm time. Right now, she's sleeping in the middle of the living room. It's so nice to see her not huddled in a corner.



We were told she was almost blind and maybe saw light and shadow. Within the first couple days, I questioned this. She maneuvered around very well. I expected a blind dog in a strange environment to not move out of sheer terror or to bump into things. Not Dharma. We suspect that she was likely completely shut-down from the situation she came from and misdiagnosed as blind.

She's a funny little girl. She started to approach me in the bathroom. Maybe she thinks she's in control as I can't move towards her. She waits while I take a shower. She takes soft treats from my hand and waits for her share in the kitchen after going outside (the boys taught her that). She is still uneasy about me petting her, but she will sniff or lick me. She licks and tries to nibble on my tattoo.

I am just so proud of her.

January 17, 2011 - Dharma went to her new home in Robins, Iowa yesterday. She was awake for the entire drive down there. When we arrived, she immediately began to explore the house, but not venturing very far from me. She took treats from her new mom's hand and even allowed her to scratch her ears for a couple minutes. I was surprised, but very proud of her for being such a brave little girl.

Dharma was rescued from a mill then waited 2 years for a foster home. She spent some time with Jeff and Cindy before coming to my place. At that time, she was believed to be blind and needed many of her few remaining teeth removed. Within a couple days, it was obvious she was not blind, but so shutdown that she didn't respond when examined by the vet. Having only about 10 teeth left after her dental didn't slow down her appetite. Despite some painful urinary issues (eventually diagnosed and treated for crystal stones), she was a wiz (no pun intended) at housetraining. She quickly learned her own name and the words "potty", "leave it", "treats" and "quiet" (although she usually had to throw in one last soft "woo" so she had the final word). She also learned to walk on a leash. She is still working on allowing people to pet her but she approaches them to sniff and sometimes lick. Being in a home with one person and no other pets, she will be somewhat forced to bond with her new mom, who works from home.

Thanks to everyone who played a role in Dharma's foster career. Some of you helped with vetting and transport. Some of you took my hysterical crying phone calls the first few days I had her when I had no idea what to do with a spinning, pacing, terrified "blind" chin. A special thanks to Shelley who made the initial call to the applicant. After a long conversation, it was clear that neither of the dogs she applied for would be a good fit and Shelley suggested Dharma. Shelley also made the long drive to Iowa on a cold gray day and gave the adopter lots of advice to help both her and Dharma with the transition.

*Patti & Dharma  
PNC Foster Volunteer*

Dharma is a red and white Japanese Chin

## Bella and T-Bone – Two Foster Stories



Jackie and her beloved Bella

September 13, 2010 - I ran into Jackie walking Bella today and thought I would give the group an update. I have seen Jackie walking her 3 previous dogs for years past my house. She recently lost her little Shih-Tzu Shadow and I didn't see her for a while. One day I saw her out in front of the dog house walking. I went out to say hello (much to the dismay of the daycare dogs, they hate it when I go out front). She said she hasn't been walking because it was too hard to walk without her little Shadow. I talked with her a bit about PNC and then didn't see her again until she showed up at a "Meet and Greet" at Petco here in Owatonna. The humane society had kittens there and she thought maybe a kitten would help her feel better. I started talking with her and showed her Bella. It was love at first sight. Within 3 weeks I saw her and Bella walking. Today, it was clear that they are a match made in heaven. Bella and Jackie are very happy together. Bella is calm and walks with her head held high and Jackie again has a skip in her step and a sparkle in her eye. As I watched them walk down the street I was reminded of why we do what we do. Only a few weeks ago Jackie was very sad and lonely and Bella was just getting out of a puppy mill. Now they are both happy and healthy and ready to start living again. Thanks to all of you who work so hard without complaint, who give of their hearts and pocketbooks to make stories like this a reality.

*Candace*  
*PNC Foster Volunteer*



February 12, 2011 - T-Bone found his home in Mankato. For those of you who never had the honor of meeting our little bubba boy, he was a very special character. We believe he had double vision to some extent and he also had some mental incapacitation. We tried to describe it to people by saying if he were a person he would probably be DD. He would do things like get lost in corners or "get stuck" in an area of the yard. It was like he just forgot where he was. Going out to retrieve him at 5a.m. in 20 below wasn't fun, but just made him all the more special to us. He has a swagger like no other and the best "confrontational" bark in the pack. He snored like crazy and was always full of sneezes and snorts.

His forever home is with a young couple who weren't intimidated by any of his specialness and find it all as endearing as we do. T-Bone marched into their house like he owned the place and snorted his way right into their hearts. They work different shifts so he is alone for less than 2 hours a day and their friends and family have been showering them with presents for their new family member. Last weekend he went on a road trip to meet his new Grandma and Grandpa and was loved up and spoiled even more according to his new Mom.

He has been gone 2 weeks now and we still miss him like crazy. Every once in a while I have a moment of panic, "Where's T-Bone?" I am so happy for him and his new family.

*Barbara*  
*PNC Foster Volunteer*

# Foster Updates!

The recent addition of T-Bone to our relationship has been wonderful. T-Bone is such a joy to have in our home. He is perfect for our schedules and level of activity. Also, he is very well behaved and has not caused us any problems. T-bone's big brown eyes along with his sweet, cuddly personality make him very easy to love. Bryan and I feel very blessed that he chose us to be his adoptive parents, and we are thankful everyday to have T-bone in our lives. We do not know what we would do without him!

T-Bone in his favorite place - the laundry basket. He is on his back and this shows his goofy little personality.

## Riam



Roscoe is a handsome red sable male Pekingese, presently living in a foster home in Big Lake, MN. Roscoe was found as a stray in Northern Minnesota with a horrible eye injury. His bad eye was beyond repair, and had to be removed. He is on the mend and seems like a very nice boy! Roscoe is new to PNC, so we will let you know more as we get to know him. Stay tuned!



Wanted to share this pic of Petunia - one of the Silky babies that we all knew and watched grow up! She looks like a spoiled and happy little girl!

## Heidi



Jade, the great hunter has just passed out on the ottoman in complete, satisfied, exhaustion! You see, the epic battle she fought with the fuzzy, pink bear... and WON, I might add... has worn out our small but mighty huntress. And of course she had to top that off with a *wrassling* match (which she also won!) with Mom on the couch. Not bad for a mill mama who spent 4 years in a cage, huh?

## Mary B.



Well, my little girls have completely stolen my heart after nearly a year living with me. They bring so much joy to my life, they make me laugh or at the very least, smile every single day. I have watched them change from terrified, shut down, skinny little girls to happy, fun-loving, sweet darling little dogs. The love and devotion they have to each other is unsurpassed and deeply touching and they have learned that the touch, love and companionship of people is really a good thing. Even little Delaware is delighted to meet new people. So... they have officially joined my personal pack and will be with me for a very long time. I truly fought the idea of adopting them for a long time but I guess the universe had a different idea. Maya, Pookie, my kitties and I welcome Dinah and Della into our pack and into our lives. Thank you to all the wonderful people who had a hand in rescuing the Missouri 17 and bringing these darling girls into my life. They are a precious gift.

## Candace



Piglet's exit...



## Magoo – An Adoption Update



Just had to share this beautiful story...

We got in a group of dogs from eastern MO through Illinois. One of them was a quirky little fella with a twisted neck and a blind eye (which faced downward). The drivers of one leg - Scott and Greg - asked if they could foster because they had a friend in homeopathic methods they thought might improve the neck. As time went by, they fell under the spell of this little peke and adopted him. Magoo was having some trouble getting up and down stairs from the beginning and leg problems continued - but you'll read that in the story. There are adopters out there to be treasured for sure.

*Regi Goodhall  
PNC Co-founder and Treasurer*



Hi Regina,



It has been a long time! Greg and I just wanted to give you an update on Magoo. We have moved to Central Indiana. We decided we wanted more property for the kids. We now have 1.5 acres for the dogs... about half of that is fenced.



Magoo has had some issues. He no longer walks. The vet told us to cherish his memories and put him down. Needless to say, we stopped going to that vet. It wasn't time to put him down. He loves his yard and scoots along like he has use of all four of his legs. We tried a cart but he didn't like it. He kept flipping over. That, and I think he loves to be carried around.



He loves gardening with us and has to inspect every hole that we dig. He loves to play up fetch. If we throw the ball up so he can see it, he will go and get it. He also loves trying to take Al's basketball away from him. He is also a hit with the many friends we have made down here. Everybody asks how he is before saying hi to us.



His favorite thing is to lay in the bed with the fan on him. So many nights I end up on the sofa because he won't move to let me in.



Greg and Scott





One by One, they pass by my cage,  
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way.  
Way past his time, he can't run and play.  
Then they shake their heads slowly and go on their way.

A little old man, arthritic and sore,  
It seems I am not wanted anymore.  
I once had a home, I once had a bed,  
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.

Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail.  
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?  
My family decided I didn't belong,  
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.

Whatever excuse they made in their head,  
Can't justify how they left me for dead.  
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,  
The younger dogs get adopted and driven away.

When I had almost come to the end of my rope,  
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.  
You saw thru the grey, and the legs bent with age,  
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.

You took me home, gave me food and a bed,  
And shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.

We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,  
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.

I may have lived most of my life with another,  
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger.  
And I promise to return all the love I can give,  
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.

I may be with you for a week, or for years,  
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.  
And when the time comes that God deems I must leave,  
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.

And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,  
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.  
And I will brag to all who will hear,  
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

-Author Unknown

## I Want to Save a Rescue Dog

I want to save a rescue dog  
that no one else would pick.  
But please...  
I couldn't handle one that was too old... or sick.

I want a dog with fluffy hair that's silky to the touch.  
A dog I wouldn't have to groom...  
the work would be too much!

My allergies are bad,  
and so the dog must never shed,  
or jump up on my velvet couch,  
or sleep with me in bed.

The size is not important,  
but the dog can't be too tall.  
And while I'm not being choosy,  
I'd prefer he not be small.

Cute and cuddly, sweet and smart  
and one who doesn't chew.  
Of course, he must be housebroken...  
my carpeting is new.

A dog who is quiet in his crate  
(I work twelve hours a day).  
A dog who isn't hyper,  
and yet one who likes to play.

Of course, all vetting must be done  
(it's easier for me).  
And I don't want to pay a lot  
for an adoption fee.

Ah, yes... it truly warms my heart  
to save a dog in need.  
I'll pick a dog that no one wants.  
A noble choice indeed!

A dog that no one else could love.  
A homeless dog that's needy.  
I only wish those rescues weren't so fussy—  
and so greedy!

*Marti Houge*  
*One Starfish Rehoming Connections*



Ben – Available for adoption with PNC

# Who is Regi Goodhall?

Okay... By now, we all know that Regi Goodhall is an extraordinary woman who has done remarkable work in dog rescue. We know that Regi co-founded Peke N Chin Midwest, and that she has worked tirelessly since 2005 to make this organization a success. Regi has her finger on the pulse of dog rescue in the U.S. There are not many groups in the rescue community that don't know who she is. This is true of dog rescue groups in Manitoba, Canada as well.

Everyone knows that Regi's devotion to "the cause" and passion for dog rescue has no boundaries. She and her husband have travelled hundreds of miles in the past 6 years, transporting dogs from state to state, and crossing borders to Canada and back. Wherever the dogs need to be that will ensure a better future for them, Regi and her supportive husband, Russ, are there to make that trip. We also know that Regi is the nucleus of our wonderful organization and we would be lost without her wise knowledge, vast experience and endless vision. Regi sometimes serves as our moderator when times get a little stressful and she is required to guide us back on the right track. Regi is there to support us and reassure us when we sometimes lose faith and feel like we want to quit. She is our leader, our mother hen and the guiding force behind Peke N Chin Midwest. Yes, this we all know already. But, really... who is Regi Goodhall?

Regi, please, can you tell us a little something about yourself... outside of the world of rescue?

My husband, Russ, and I live a very old fashioned kind of life. We're retired, though I stopped working before age 62 when we moved to northern Minnesota to be closer to our daughter and grandchildren. In Wisconsin, we had lived in a very small town - population under 300 - and were looking for the same feel here in Thief River Falls. So we ended up in the country about 4 miles from the town where our daughter is the music director at a 2 year college. We found a remodeled farmhouse on a few acres and settled in. Our first projects were building - adding a garage/shop, updating bathrooms, etc. We did most of the work ourselves.

We have an outside wood stove, which here is still economical though truckloads of 100" wood come from 60 miles away. Russ stays young and healthy by cutting, splitting and piling our wood. At times I get into the act but that's his domain for the most part. We have a large lawn (small garden tractor for mowing) and a pretty good sized garden. We both love the outdoors and get to experience it on a daily basis going out to "feed the stove" and taking our 7 little dogs for a short walk and sniff around the yard. We also have a good sized vegetable garden that keeps us busy in the summer and fall. Russ tills and plants - I weed, harvest and can. Yup, that's right, I can beans and tomato sauce, freeze corn, squash and raspberries and have potatoes and onions stored for winter use. Told you it was an old fashioned kind of life.



Regi and Russ bringing a dog to a happy adopter, and Regi relaxing at home with five of her seven rescued pets.



To add to the pleasures of a large country yard we adjoin 6 acres of woods that we can use as we wish. That means trails cut through the woods for enjoying with dogs in nice weather. It also means that heartworm prevention and flea and tick control are a must. That's more than offset by the dead wood we harvest for stove duty. Of course, no woods would be complete without poison ivy, which we seem to have in excess. Fortunately, that just means wearing socks and shoes in the summer. It's grand to walk through the woods with a little batch of fuzzy tails and backsides poking in the brush in front, or a "mother goose" group of dogs trailing behind. Again, sounds idyllic until one little dog heads into the underbrush between trails and needs to be found and coaxed back out.

The place is enough to keep Russ busy but I've added in membership in the Thief River Falls Community Band (our daughter directs). She was good enough to put up with my transition from piano player to percussionist. No, that's not a drummer. In the course of the years, I've played snare drum, bass drum, timpani, bongos, toms, bells, xylophone, vibraphone, triangle, rain stick, congas, shaker, ago-go and drum set. A percussionist gets to use a ton of fun toys. A few years ago, I also joined the Jazz Band and played keyboard bass. I love all the music and I'm so glad I can still enjoy being involved in music.

Of course, band is a night time activity, which left some day time open and I got a part time job as a substitute librarian at our local public library. A fun bunch of women already worked there so it's a great workplace. The biggest drawback is discovering another author that you'd like to read and I'm as bad as a kid in school with my bag full of books to be read. My current favorites are murder mysteries with a backdrop of Indian lore. I think it's the connection to nature that makes the cultures of Native Americans such an appealing backdrop. There are so many books and so little time. To help direct some of my reading, I belong to two book clubs that meet monthly. This is a great way to expand the type of book you're exposed to - books you'd never select on your own can prove very good reads. The time I have left I fill with needlecrafts and a bit of sewing. I enjoy needlepoint. My first needlepoint venture from 40 years ago still hangs framed on our wall and is as gorgeous as when it was first completed. Add in some counted cross stitch, crocheting doilies, and an occasional afghan - sewing a dog bed here and there- and my days are full.

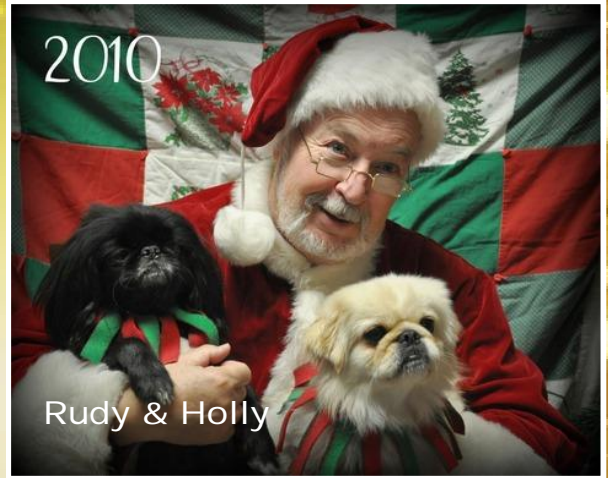
The final love to share with you is our love of travel. We make an annual trip to South Carolina to visit our son's family. We prefer to drive. We've also driven to California to see majestic redwoods, Nevada's Great Basin National Park to climb the mile and a half trail to 10,000 foot elevation, and experience the presence of 3,000 year old Bristlecone Pine. The Wyoming Bighorn Mountains and Montana's Glacier National Park are also United States favorites. This too we do the old fashioned way - driving and camping - in a tent.



Regi and Russ enjoying a stroll at home with their grandchildren and their pets.

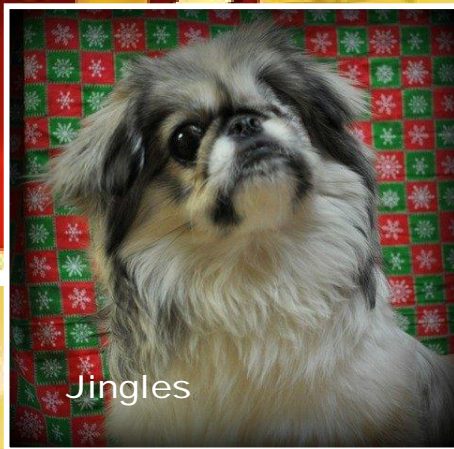


Rupert

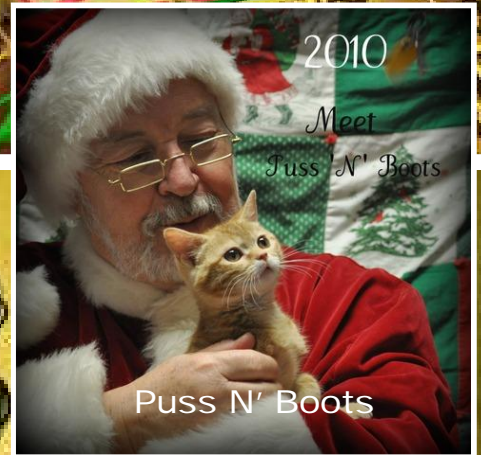


2010

Rudy & Holly



Jingles



2010

Meet  
Puss 'N' Boots

Puss N' Boots



Bogey



Crash

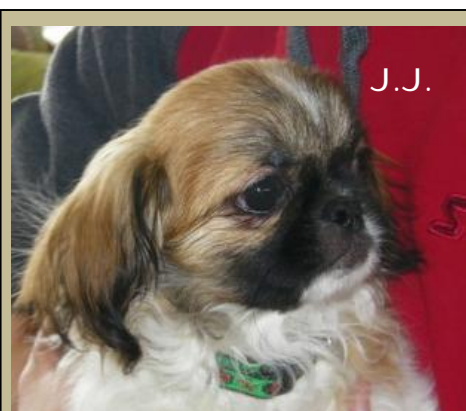


Asha

# Our Winter Puppies!

January 23, 2011 – Some of our puppies turned 5 months old today. This litter of “cuties” was surrendered by a breeder in the N. Mn. area in an attempt to phase out some of the breeds that she had. There were 5 puppies in the litter - 4 boys and 1 girl. The breeder kept the girl as a pet because she reminded her of Great Grandma Mittens that was a feisty 11 year old breeding dog that is now thoroughly enjoying retirement.

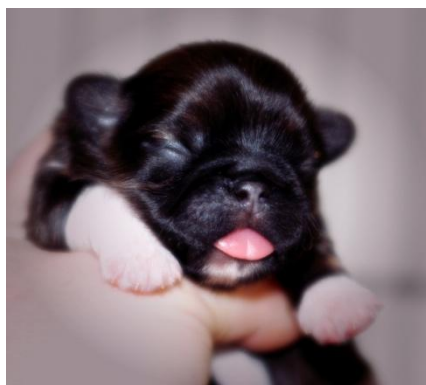
Unlike some of the dogs that PNC has received from some large scale breeders, these dogs had been taken care of, but have no experience as house pets. They were kept in an insulated building rather than the traditional chicken wire cages that puppy mills use. We were able to get these dogs into rescue through a recommendation from a vet that the breeder was using. Some of these puppies are still available for adoption!



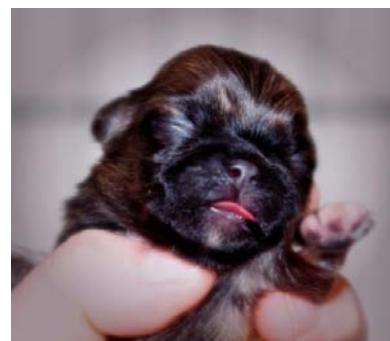
## Munchkin's Babies!

Munchkin came into rescue in late January from a puppy mill release with 6 babies in her belly. Munchkin gave birth on February 10 to 5 boys and 1 girl. Unfortunately, two of the pups were very tiny (which included the girl) and they lost their fight to survive.

All 4 boys will be available for adoption when the puppies are old enough and after Munchkin has been spayed. If you are interested in adopting a puppy feel free to fill out an adoption application from our website!



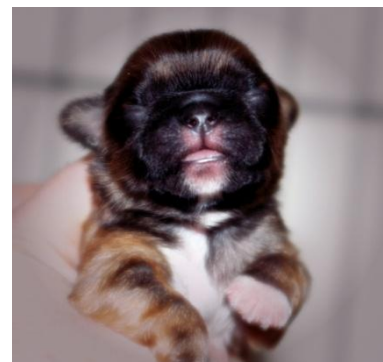
Fudge (Dark Sable Male)



Feng (Sable Male)



Flash (Black Tri-colored Male)



Fagen (Red Sable Male)

*"You want hopeless, sad, small and scared.... Marigold is your girl."*

## Misty's One-Year Story

By ANN KAJANDER

Who could remain untouched by the puppy mill auction story in the Peke N Chin Newsletter just over a year ago? To know these things go on, and to hear the actual details of what the "front-liners" endure, are two different things. Not that we needed another dog, we were holding just fine at five. Plus, we were planning to go South for a few months the following winter... in a small old motor home. (Did I mention we already had five dogs to bring along?) But somehow the subject just kept coming up.

Well, if we were going to get one more dog, my husband and I decided it better be of some help. We decided we would ask PNC for one of the tougher cases to rehabilitate. After sending a kind of tentative email, we got our answer back in no time, "You want hopeless, sad, small and scared.... Marigold is your girl". Wow. I looked up the (then) Marigold on the PNC site. She looked... blank. Nothing. I couldn't see any emotion in her eyes. How could I relate to her, I wondered. Could we love her? Then to add to our uncertainty, PNC also suggested Dallas. Dallas is beautiful. She was also in dire need and was nearly not sold at all at the auction, but according to the web had adjusted quickly to her foster home. She looked... happy. And then my husband liked Muffin. And I loved a few of the others too. But no, we were going to take an older, needier dog. What to do? I went to bed really confused. But suddenly in the night it hit me. That blank look in Marigold's eyes was exactly what we wanted to change - she was the one who needed us. We resolved to put the light in her eyes, some way, somehow. Marigold was indeed going to be our girl. But saying "yes" to one, meant leaving others. Taking Marigold meant leaving Dallas and Muffin. Muffin has since found a lovely home, but for some reason Dallas is still with her foster. I feel guilty every time I look at the listing. And then Marigold's foster mom told us Marigold had quickly bonded to

Cho. So then what about Cho, I wondered. It was hard to stick to our original plan without getting pulled in all directions. What followed for us were some wonderful phone conversations with Marigold's foster mom Candace. While we felt ready to tackle a "rehab", having already adopted one mill mama - our Gracie, it seemed Marigold was in no shape at all to even be worked with. She scattered and hid when any human came near. Candace couldn't touch her at all. So we put off the adoption date for a few more weeks, to give Marigold a bit more time to adjust with Candace's expert support. Meanwhile we struggled with names. Marigold was somehow just too... merry... for this little lost soul. I was bound and determined to name her Aurora (I still call her Princess Aurora in my mind sometimes). But my husband wanted something more... dog-like. I wanted something soft and beautiful that sounded like coming out of darkness. After many more ideas, we finally settled on Misty. The day came and PNC agreed to have Dave the wonderful doggie-driver meet us in Duluth, which was half-way for us. That meant we could do it in one day, which saved arrangements for our other dogs. After much discussion, we decided to bring Gracie along for moral support, which just goes to show how naive we really are. You may

have read about Gracie in previous Newsletters. She seems to make it in nearly every one. Oh, and did I mention her nickname is Diva? Anyway, back to Misty's story. We drove to the meeting spot, trembling with anticipation. Dave lifted lovely Misty out and handed her to me. I tried so hard to be gentle and soothing with her. I held her up to Gracie and they sniffed noses. We thought we would put Misty down in case she had to go potty before another long car ride. When I did, she twisted around on her harness, pulling on it in panic. Forget that, we thought. We had a kennel in the back seat in case she wanted to go into it, and we put the blanket from Candace's in it for comfort. We gently put Misty down on the back seat next to Gracie. And then... Gracie growled! (She says now she didn't. She says it was merely a statement like, "Who are you and what are you doing in MY car?") It's really hard to argue with Gracie.) So we moved Gracie to the front and left Misty on her own. Of course she peed right away on the blanket, so that meant she didn't have her blankie with the right smells any more. Gracie huffed in the front all the way home and Misty cowered in the back in the kennel. I was not feeling all that confident! We got through the Canadian border with no trouble, and I sang "Oh Canada" to Misty as I always do.



Misty and Gracie

She is U.S. rescue dog number 3 to join our household. Okay, so no one was impressed. When we got home, we carried in the kennel and opened the door. We left the back door open to the yard as well. It was time to meet the family. We locked up our two little terriers, and let out Finnegan and Buster - both Shih Tzu/Lhasa mixes. Fortunately, Misty fell in love with Finnegan at first sight. She followed him around the yard, and back in. Gracie continued to hold her nose in the air and act the perfect injured diva. We fed Misty chicken in the far end of the family room, and that was a success. We didn't try to touch her, and she didn't come near us. But she stayed in the same room with us at least. And she did follow Finnegan out to pee later. At bedtime we were pleased that Misty followed us upstairs. We brought up the kennel in case she might feel safer sleeping there but she showed no further interest in it, which was fine. No more kennels for her! She followed Finnegan up on the bed, but when I got in she dashed off. I had the sense she might have liked to curl up with Gracie, but whenever she came near her, Gracie grumped. (Excuse me, Gracie and I just need to have another small argument about whether she did or did not grump).

Our Finnegan, by the way, scores points for cuteness. We had been trying for about 18 months to teach Finnegan to use the dog door into the house from the yard, with no success whatsoever. (As I say, he is cute. No brains... but cute). Misty learned the dog door on her own within the first two days she was with



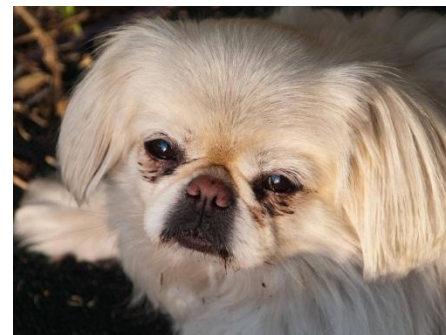
Misty and Finnegan

us! We were completely astonished. (I think she also started giving Finnegan lessons on the quiet, as soon after that he finally got it too). It was obvious she is a very smart lady! Two weeks went by in a similar way. We didn't go after Misty or try at all to touch her. She took her cues from Finnegan, and went in or out the open back door, but took wide berths around all humans. It was now mid-May, and time to go to the cottage for the weekend. There was no fenced yard there, so a leash and harness was critical. What to do. We hated it, but we had to corner her in a bathroom to get a harness on her. I tried to be as gentle as I could, but still she cowered and froze. Our poor baby! She was okay in the car, but hated walking around on the leash. We left a short leash on her to drag around in the cottage so we could just grab the end of it and not have to touch her directly.

And so the days went on for at least another month during which time we hardly touched Misty and generally had to corner her to leash her. Every morning I put my hand out to her and she retreated. The approaching hand seemed particularly scary to her. One morning I tried touching her head slowly from above, rather than from in front. She let me! At last I got to gently stroke her beautiful head, but only briefly. Every day we learned more.

She began to let us know when it was okay to touch her by hunkering down. Approaching her from above was important. She still hated the harness and leash but it was the only way to let her out at the cottage. I remember one day in the yard with her when a good friend walked over - a friendly and rather burly man wearing a baseball cap. Misty freaked! She just panicked, pulling and yanking away desperately. Well, I thought to myself. Now we know what the puppy mill owner looked like.

So we continued to progress slowly through the summer. Some days we were able to pat her head, or put a leash on her, while others Misty just wanted her little bed under the kitchen stools. She allowed us to carry her up to the cottage loft at night, and had a nice little corner under the sloping roof with her



blankets. She learned to live alongside her sometimes diva-ish sister. Gracie was tolerant, but I wouldn't say affectionate. Fortunately, Finnegan still provided a gentler friend. Although, he spends a lot of his days on a couch or bed asleep!

Interestingly, as time went by Misty started to need Finnegan less and less, seeming to become more confident in her own place and independence. She even gently told Gracie off once and, after that, they established a kind of equitable relationship. We tried a few more little walks down the country road and things improved there a little too. By the end of the summer, we were mostly able to pat Misty's head in the morning and at bedtime, and sometimes in between. She loved lying in the breeze on the front deck in the sun, and loved a good large bone. Slowly, slowly, things were progressing.

In the fall, my husband made a concerted effort to get Misty comfortable with leash walks. Every night he took her for just a little walk, all on her own, or with Finnegan. He nudged, cajoled, even tugged. After three weeks of very little progress he gave it up. This meant Misty wasn't getting proper exercise, so now we had to watch her food intake more. Our southern trip departure was looming quickly. January came and we seemed not to have made a lot of progress in the previous few months. Misty seemed generally happy, but not really relaxed. As we were preparing to leave, I came into the garage one day to find my husband cutting out what seemed to me to be a pile of small fence posts. "For Misty's Florida yard", he told me. We were renting

a motor home from a friend, but there was no fenced yard where it was parked.

On our drive South, we had a wonderful visit with Misty's foster mom Candace. Muffin had since been adopted but Misty got to see her earlier friend, Cho. But after a brief hello, it was clear Misty was part of our gang now, and Cho has since been adopted too. Misty was a little un-nerved by all the dogs, but did okay and Candace got to finally pat her head. As we carried on with our (four day!) drive, we noticed Misty seemed more and more comfortable going out on a leash. Since this was the only possibility at the road-side, that was great! Once we arrived at our destination, a quick trip to the hardware store for chicken wire produced a lovely little doggie yard off our trailer entrance with the custom-made fence posts, complete with a wooden doggie ramp to go in. There was even shade from a grapefruit tree. Even better, we soon discovered a large private fenced area owned by some friends which made the perfect off-leash park. Amazingly, after the long drive down, Misty very suddenly seemed comfortable on the leash. We were able to walk her down the street and in the park area. In the last month, we have progressed to letting her off the

leash in the fenced park, and she follows us, as well as going back on her own into the vehicle afterwards. And here we were worrying about the trip South, but it has done Misty nothing but good. Misty has her own little dog bed in the motor home and sleeps in it next to my bed. On a few lazy mornings, she has even let me rub her belly which is huge progress. Overall she is much more comfortable with affection since we have been south. She loves to lie outside in the sun or shade in her little pen. She is starting to look... happy.

In April we will head back North, and it will be one year since we adopted Misty. She has made so much progress, but my feeling is that she will still continue to develop. Misty is one of the smartest, most sensitive dogs I have ever met. Perhaps that is why her past experiences were so profoundly hard for her to get over. She is "my" girl now for sure, and we will do our best to protect her always. She is starting to learn the happiness we wanted for her. She has emerged from the darkness, and the light is coming back into her eyes. I am sure this is just the start of her story.

A friend told me of a man who had cared for and loved his dog for many years, and upon its death the man felt so much grief and so much loss that he vowed never to let another creature enter his life.

My friend, knowing this would only fuel the man's emptiness and despair, encouraged him to get another dog as soon as possible and reluctantly the man agreed with one provision, "I'll adopt another dog, but I won't let it be my friend. We'll just be roommates." the man insisted.

A few days later my friend met the man walking his new dog down the street and was startled to notice that the dog was old and lame.

"I see you've found another companion." My friend said to the man. "But how is it that this dog looks older than your last companion?"

"He is old, in fact he was the oldest, most worn out looking dog in the shelter and when I looked at him his eyes seemed to say, 'I know you're not here for me but thank you for stopping a moment or two; you remind me of my old friend who left me, I don't know why.'"

"In that instant," my friend said, "the man understood they had both lost something that only the other could return, a last chance. He adopted him on the spot."

If you have an older dog or if you can, adopt one, you'll have the friend for life and so will he.



## Minnesota Families Bring Foster Dogs Into Their Homes

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (AP) — Almost every dog breed has at least one rescue group dedicated to finding new homes for members of the breed. Jonas, a 1-year-old Brittany spaniel, received his happy ending with the help of a fairy godmother in Sartell.

Holly Vanderweyst bathed the happy dog recently, preparing him to meet his adoptive family in Monticello. She then delivered him to his new home.

Vanderweyst and her husband, Jeff, volunteer as a foster family for the American Brittany Rescue, a nationwide rescue group that finds homes for abandoned or surrendered Brittanies.

They join countless other volunteers who provide foster care for animals statewide. Almost every dog breed has at least one rescue group dedicated to finding new homes for members of the breed. The foster families invest financial and emotional resources into these dogs with the realization that most will leave their homes to be adopted.

Rescue groups say foster families provide necessary care and screen animals and potential adoptive families.

"All the time and emotion you put in it will be worth it," Vanderweyst said the day before Jonas was

scheduled to move to his new home.

"It will be easy to leave him because I know they will take care of him. I want to make sure the first adoption (for the dog) is the last adoption."

The Vanderweysts started fostering in January. They have two resident Brittanies, Toby, 6, and Dash, a 4-year-old rescue whom they fostered then adopted in April.

Even though Jonas found a home, they expected to take only a small break before another Brittany came into their home.

"I just wanted to help them out," Vanderweyst said. "Especially in the economic times we have right now, although (owners) love their pets, it's one of the first shortcuts they take and surrender their pets."

Foster home retention can be challenging, said Nancy Andersen, director of the Aussie Rescue of Minnesota, which rescues Australian shepherds.

Volunteers tire of providing foster care, become busy or struggle with difficult dogs, said Andersen, of Otsego.

"It's a constant battle," she said. "It's easier to find those who want to adopt than deal with a constant parade of dogs."

Yet there are always dog lovers who want to help, Andersen said. Some of her foster families include retired people who don't want a dog on a full-time basis. Andersen has a volunteer who helps even though she doesn't own an Australian shepherd.

There are success stories among fosters. The Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue has 30 foster families in six states. The collies can stay with a family for as little as two weeks to more than a year, said Mary Hickerson, president, of East Gull Lake.

Sometimes that foster family turns into a forever family, she said.

"Adopting a foster -- that's a hazard," Hickerson said. "We say a foster (family) who adopts is a foster flunky, but don't really mean it."

All breeds have fans, and those fans can translate into foster parents.

The Vanderweysts feel a connection to Brittanies, they said.

"They are happy all the time," Vanderweyst said. "They're extremely intelligent. They love to be with their people. They are an all-around great family dog."

(continued next page)





Jessica Kuehlman, a volunteer with Minnesota's Unwanted Siberian Husky Rescue, loves the huskies she helps.

She understands the breed. The dogs are loving toward their families, but they're runners and can get into trouble.

"They really get into mischief," said Kuehlman of Minneapolis. "They love to play. They are life-long puppies."

That's exactly why she feels a passion for the breed and wants to help, she said.

"There's the reward of seeing the dog with the family: to see a dog that was a stray being taken care of," Kuehlman said.

Most rescue groups provide financial help with the animals, but foster families often invest their own resources into the pets.

The Peke N Chin Midwest rescue, a Pekingese and Japanese Chin rescue group based in Thief River Falls, has 15-20 foster homes throughout Minnesota. Since 2004, the rescue has placed 300 dogs, said Regina Goodhall, co-founder and treasurer.

The group supplies volunteers with leashes, toys and food, she said. It also covers medical care. Adoption fees and donations cover expenses, Goodhall said.

Still, most foster families provide their own food and some even pay for medical expenses, Goodhall said.

Back in Sartell, Vanderweyst gets reimbursed about 50 percent of what she and her husband spend on their foster dogs. They spent about \$200 caring for Jonas, and expect to be reimbursed about \$75, Vanderweyst said.

"We have the extra money and love to give something," she said. "They deserve it. They're living, breathing creatures. They were bred to be our companions."

Like with any new animal, it takes a

while for the dog's personality to come through.

That's where foster families become the most important, Hickerson said. They comfort, love and try to help the dog adjust.

"You'd think they would be the meanest dogs ever," she said. "But they are so grateful to be warm, fed and loved. They look at you with those eyes and they say, 'I'm OK.'"

The Upper Midwest Great Dane Rescue has placed more than 150 dogs since its inception in late 2009, said Connie Schaupp, director of foster homes and adoption services.

The rescue group asks foster families to work on basic training, such as learning how to walk on a leash and house training. It also asks foster families to work on socializing the animal.

When an animal has been abused, treatment can include nursing the dogs back to a healthy weight or working on trust, Schaupp said.

"It's kind of like when you get a puppy," she said. "You need to train it and get used to it. It's from scratch. You have to know where the dog is at."

The emotional ties to the dogs are well worth it, Vanderweyst said. The foster dogs become part of the family until they're adopted, she said.

And there's always another waiting for a home.



**"Madonna of the Mills is a powerful, important documentary film that can help blow the lid off of the horrendous practice of puppy mills. Everyone should see this film.**

*The film follows Laura, as she travels into the bleak environment of Pennsylvania puppy mills in order to rescue breeder dogs from their horrible situation. **The film has real heart.** It will open your eyes and expose you to the terrible practice of puppy mills. It clearly shows that adopting a dog is the best way to go."*

Jonny Vasic

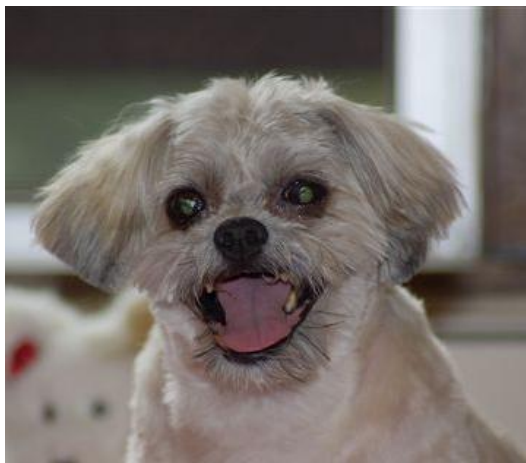
Program Director Animal Content in  
Entertainment

Humane Society of the United States



## From Puppy Mill Momma to Fire Detection Dog

By Danielle A. Engle



### About Spirit

Spirit is a former puppy mill momma with an interesting life lesson about age and life challenges. In September 2007, a puppy miller in the Midwest brought a group of senior dogs and dogs with imperfections to a veterinary clinic to be euthanized. Instead of euthanizing the dogs, the veterinarian talked the man into surrendering them to [Adopt-a-Pet](#), a no-kill shelter in Buffalo, Minnesota.

Spirit and her companions were groomed, vetted, and then available for adoption. In the spring of 2008, Spirit met her Mom at an adoption day event and proceeded to adopt her. A shy unassuming Peke-a-Poo with large eyes and an equally large but invisible vat of courage, Spirit soon won the woman's heart.

The weeks ahead presented both challenges and rewards to Spirit and her new Mom. With the assistance of her trainers at [Dogue Style](#), and volunteers with [Peke N Chin Midwest](#), Spirit and her new Mom discovered the special bond between a 9 ½ year old former puppy mill momma and a part time freelance writer living with a traumatic brain injury.

*Spirit, a former puppy mill momma rescued by Adopt-a-Pet in Buffalo, Minnesota, sniffs out a fire hazard.*

Together they celebrate the small steps and the milestones. Spirit now walks on a leash, follows directions such as "leave it," and bounds happily down the hallway in anticipation of a treat after her walks. Her Mom smiles more and exudes a new confidence in her ability to be a responsible dog guardian after many years of being without a dog. This fall, Spirit had a surprise for her Mom and the many people and animals that joined her circle of supporters.

### Spirit Leaps into Action

In October 2008, Spirit experienced something new and enlightening. For several days, she'd been tracking a scent in the yard around her building. Her Mom thought that Spirit was tracking a squirrel or another dog. As time passed, Spirit's insistent sniffing led her Mom to follow Spirit's lead. Within minutes, Spirit showed her Mom ashes from two small fires located next to the building. Her Mom reported the discoveries to management with promises to keep her eyes open for the culprit.

Shortly after reporting the incident, Spirit, her Mom and "godmom" were walking in the yard. Once again, Spirit found and tracked a scent. They discovered a young boy secretly playing with matches on the patio outside of his family's home. Recalling her own childhood curiosity and fascination with matches, Spirit's Mom knew that the little boy's parents needed to know.

The happy ending came the next day. Spirit sat in her Mom's lap and received a special thanks and happy pets from the management staff. The little boy's parents learned of his fascination with matches and steps were taken to ensure everyone's safety and the family's continued happiness in an apartment setting.

It shows you – You can teach people new tricks. Sometimes it just takes a special dog to do it.

### Here are some practical things you can do to fight the spread of puppy mills:

- Report any commercial breeder you believe to be unlicensed. Contact the nearest Humane Society and/or ASPCA and talk to someone in authority - these groups also have the authority to investigate and stop puppy mills.
- Write to your local government representative and ask for better enforcement of laws and increased penalties to stop puppy mills.
- Do not - under any circumstances - buy a dog from a pet shop.
- Consider visiting your local animal shelter or rescue organization and adopting a dog in need of a good home, and tell others to do the same.
- Join an organization dedicated to a national ban on puppy mills and stronger laws for animal protection. Donations to these organizations will also help end puppy mill cruelty.

# Eddie's Corner

## New law requires health history of dogs, cats before sale

August 22, 2010

Flanked by Eddie Spaghetti and a dozen other furry, four-legged friends, Gov. Pat Quinn today signed a law aimed at protecting consumers before they buy a dog or cat that might come from a breeding mill.

As of Jan. 1, pet stores, animal shelters and control facilities must disclose on the cages of dogs and cats the name and location of their breeders, as well as the animal's medical history. The law is the first of its kind nationwide, said Jordan Matyas, Illinois state director of the Humane Society of the United States.

Existing state law requires sellers to disclose pet information to consumers, but the law lacks teeth and doesn't say when sellers have to provide the information, Matyas said.

"This is a very important way in Illinois for us to get humane treatment of our animals," Quinn said as the tails and tongues of pets standing near him wagged. "We don't want anybody buying an animal that has been inhumanely treated before its sale, and unfortunately that has existed."

Fines for disobeying the new law can cost up to \$1,000 and include mandatory probation. Matyas said the law is key, but he also wants consumers to fight the urge to buy an adorable puppy from a pet shop and research the dog's breeder first.

Chuck Hartke is a consultant for Petland and Happiness Is Pets, a chain of suburban Chicago pet stores, and negotiated hard against what he said were stiff requirements that would put his clients out of business. He said he's happy with the final product. "No pet shop wants to sell a puppy or a kitten that is not healthy because it's not good for business," Hartke said.

Quinn and Matyas touted the new law against the backdrop of bustling Damen Avenue in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood. From Shakespeare to Milwaukee avenues, PAWS Chicago and more than 30 other animal shelters set up shop in front of various businesses with about 250 dogs and cats ready to be adopted. The event takes place a few times



*Kristen Schorsch of Chicago Breaking News Center*



Puppies in pet stores.



# Kath: Puppy mills are concern for constituents

By Clare Kennedy

OWATONNA — Siata still has scars. The friendly husky dog was removed in 2006 from a rural Steele County home that was packed to the gills with animals. When she emerged, she was malnourished and blind in one eye. She would attack her own pups if they came near her food bowl.

Nowadays, Siata is healthy again, though her lame eye is still cloudy and red.

“Every time I look at her it makes me sad,” said her owner Mark Sanders, a board member with the local chapter of the Humane Society. “It makes me want to do something about it.”

Sanders is not alone. Ask Rep. Kory Kath what issue seems to upset Minnesotans the most and you’re in for a surprise. It is not the budget, spending, abortion or any of the usual hot button items.

The answer?

Puppy and kitten mills — an uncomplimentary term for commercial breeders who turn out thousands of dogs and cats. The charge is that such breeders keep the animals in squalid, cramped conditions with little exercise, socialization, medical treatment and with minimal food.

“It is the number one thing I get e-mails on. I’ve gotten 14,000 e-mails on this issue,” Kath recently told business representatives. “There was one day you couldn’t even delete them fast enough. This is an issue that pulls at the heartstrings of a lot of people.”

Due to a strange lapse in the law, breeders who sell animals to pet stores are required to get a license and undergo periodic inspections — a federal law. However, current state laws allow breeders who sell dogs and cats direct to the consumer to avoid regulation almost entirely, Kath said.

“The pet breeders have learned, ‘Well why would I sell to a pet store when I can have no regulation whatsoever if I sell direct to the consumer?’” Kath said. “So what we’ve been finding are these puppy and kitten mills, that in some situations are very unsanitary and very

difficult for the keeping of the breeds and just the respect of these animals.”

Breeders are not completely under the radar of law enforcement. Animal cruelty laws still apply, said Martin Merserau, the director of emergency response at PETA. If the animals are mistreated and it is discovered, that can land a breeder in jail, Merserau said.

Likewise, there is some regulation on the local level, Kath said, through county and city ordinances limiting the number of dogs and cats per property without a boarding license.

Nevertheless, at present, there is a double standard, Kath said. To complicate matters, even the federal laws that protect animals are rarely enforced, said Regina Goodhall, treasurer and co-founder of a Minnesotan animal rescue organization called Peke N Chin Midwest, which specializes in saving Pekingese and Japanese Chin dogs.

“Some (breeders who sell to pet stores) are USDA inspected, some are not,” Goodhall said. “The federal government requires inspections and then doesn’t have the people to do it and then it isn’t done.”

Even when they do enforce the law, many breeders consider the fine a slap on the wrist compared to the cost of complying with inspectors’ demands, Goodhall said.

Those in favor of added regulation say the consequences are dire. For one thing, the breeders have created a massive surplus of pets, Goodhall and Merserau said, noting that hundreds of thousands of dogs are sitting in shelters and pounds without homes.

Critics also charge that the dogs they produce are unhealthy and badly socialized.

“It has to do with the care of the dogs. If the primary purpose is raising money, you use dogs like biological machines to produce as many puppies as possible,” Goodhall said. “Anything that takes more investment is not done.



*A close up of Siata, a husky, who was rescued from a puppy mill in Steele County in 2006. Siata lost sight in one eye as a result of poor conditions there, according to her current owner.*

Their food is bad, they get no veterinarian treatment, and some have awful conditions that are untreated because they can still make puppies. Unfortunately that’s the focus of a lot of businesses today — not to make a living producing something people need. You want to make bucks and sucker people in.”

Of the dogs that Goodhall has taken in, many of them have serious health problems — either through bad breeding or bad conditions in the mills. One has a heart condition, another is blind and another is deaf. One of the dogs has lived with the family for two years, but is still so frightened of people that she hides whenever anyone outside the immediate family enters the house.

Others are so strained by the constant cycle of pregnancy and birth that their internal organs have been damaged, Goodhall said.

“We picked up some that were so overbred that when we spayed them they almost died in surgery because their innards were so worn out,” Goodhall said.

The consumers are disappointed as well. Some pay hefty fees for dogs with persistent health and behavioral problems.

“It’s an ugly game that nobody wins and the animals are the worst losers because they pay with their lives,” Merserau said.

*(continued next page)*

In the past, legislators have tried to close the gap. In 2009, law makers introduced H.F. 573, the Minnesota Puppy and Kitten Mill Cruelty Prevention Act.

The bill applied to breeders raising “companion animals” — but only “commercial breeders” which are defined as “a person whom produces puppies or kittens for sale and who owns, houses, possesses, or maintains an ownership interest in 40 or more cats or dogs older than nine months of age and capable of breeding.”

If it had passed, the bill would have made it necessary for these breeders to have a permit issued by the Board of Animal Health. To obtain it, the breeder would have to pay a fee and go through unannounced inspections to ensure that they meet “minimum requirements for care of the animals,” though the breeder could legally operate when the application is pending. If the animals are found in conditions that would merit a charge of animal cruelty, the inspector is obligated to turn the matter over to law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

The fee for the permit would depend on the magnitude of the operation. It would be based on a per animal rate. The breeder would have to renew the license — and pay the fee — on an annual basis. The idea is to “fully cover the board’s reasonable administration and inspection costs.”

Breeders found in violation would become subject to a \$10,000 fine or the board may order a “forced depopulation” of the breeders’ animal stocks until the number of animals is 39. In cases of extreme neglect and cruelty, all the animals could be seized immediately.

Goodhall, Sanders and Merserau said their organizations support such bills. However, the act died in committee.

“I think the reason was we needed to figure out how to make a distinction between a for-profit versus hobby breeder. We didn’t want to penalize someone who was a hobby breeder,” Kath said. “Also, we don’t know how many breeders are out there so we don’t know what would the cost would be to enforce it.”

Another obstacle is that many of the legislators behind the effort are no longer in office. Of the four authors in the house — all DFLers — only one remained after the November election, when Republicans swept the Legislature. The same held true in the Senate. Chief author Sharon L. Erickson Ropes lost her seat to Republican Jeremy Miller. It is unclear how the new majority will take to the topic, though many campaigned on the platform of lifting regulations on business.

On Friday, Republican Sen. Mike Parry remained non-committal.

“First and foremost, I’m a dog lover, but truly, with a \$6.2 billion deficit that’s not going to be my number one concern,” Parry said. “It is a concern though. Before I can take a position I need to get a handle on what the real issue is.”

For his part, Kath said most are in favor of changing the system.

“Most agree that this should be done, but we want to do it right,” Kath said.

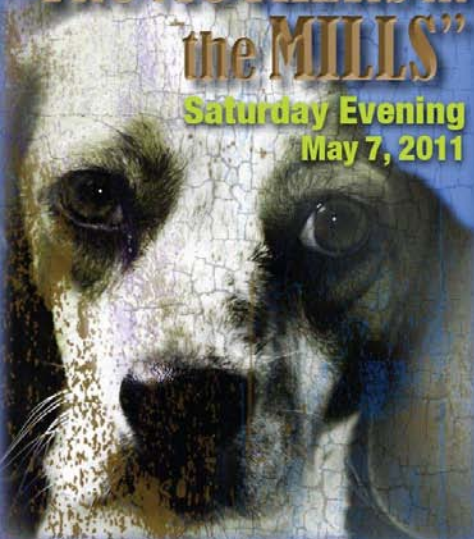
The breeders may feel differently about it. Calls to breeding businesses and breeder associations — such as Cat Fanciers and Minnesota Purebred Dog Breeders Association — were not returned. However, Kath said that such legislation has some support among breeders, who feel it will improve their reputation.

“There are lots of breeders who want something done because it gives them a better name, more trust from the consumer,” Kath said, adding that the permit need not be mandatory, but a choice, a mark of distinction that shows buyers that they are purchasing from an ethically sound breeder. “We need to ask how can we encourage a breeder to choose to be a licensed breeder and create incentives to do so?”

Please join **The Puppy Mill Project** as we honor

# “The MOTHERS in the MILLS”

**Saturday Evening  
May 7, 2011**



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7:00 EXCLUSIVE CHICAGO SCREENING OF  
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**\$65 OR \$100 FOR 2    \$75 AT THE DOOR**

The Puppy Mill Project is a registered 501C3 not for profit founded to educate the public about puppy mills and their direct connection to pet stores, internet sites, and newspaper ads. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to The Puppy Mill Project.

*“We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.”  
Immanuel Kant, “Duties towards Animals”*



**THE PUPPY MILL PROJECT**



# VINTAGE PHOTOS



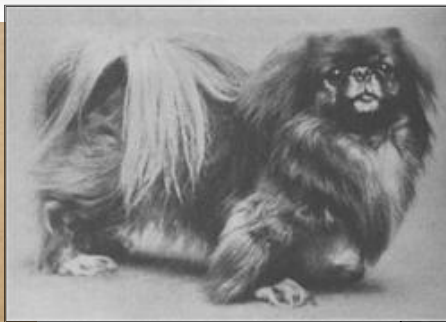
Two for the Show: 1915



Washington, D.C., circa 1915.  
"Miss Catherine L. Littauer. Dog show."



Elsie de Wolfe with her Pekingese "Wee Toi of Downshire"



Queen Alexandra and her Japanese Chin

"Histories are more full of examples of the fidelity of dogs than of friends."

-- Alexander Pope



### Joke of the Day:

What do you call a boring dog?

*A dull-mation!*



### Dog Fact

Dogs become loyal not because you feed them, but because of the companionship you give them.



Gabe

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- 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!

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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  
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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!**

- Joan Hargrave
  - Sue Auger
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  - Ann Kajander
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  - LuAnn and Maurice Raffelson
  - Yapper Camper
  - Claire and John Vocetich
  - Mita Bell Annette Fleming
  - Kammi Hoyt
  - Christine Almeda
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