



PNC Newsletter

Special articles in our newsletter

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Rabid skunk grabs Pekingese's neck, so Thief River Falls woman grabs skunk

Brad Dokken, Published February 22 2012 – Grand Forks Herald
 Herald photo by John Stennes.

Russell and Regina Goodhall were enjoying a quiet Saturday morning February 11 at their home near Thief River Falls — he was talking on the phone, and she was on the computer — when Regina heard a loud yipping sound coming from outside.

“I went to the back porch door, and there was something black hanging off the neck of one of my dogs,” Regina said.

The dog was Cassandra, a 12 year old Pekingese who is nearly blind.

The something black was a skunk, and it had Cassie in its jaws.

Regina’s instincts took over.

“I immediately ran out and grabbed the skunk by the scruff of the neck, and he wouldn’t let go” of Cassie, Regina said.

She then tried to pry open the skunk’s jaws, but that didn’t work, either.

“He wouldn’t let go, so I kind of whacked him on the head,” Regina said. “It startled him, and he let go.”

Regina still had a dilemma on her hands, and a potentially stinky one, at that:

What to do with the skunk she had by the scruff of the neck?

Back for more

Regina says their home is a retirement community, of sorts, for Pekingese, and she and her husband have seven of the small dogs. They also have a large dog yard surrounded by mesh fence for the pets to roam while outdoors.

She decided to carry the skunk to the fence and drop it on the other side.

Figuring that was the end of the encounter, Regina checked Cassie, who was traumatized but otherwise unhurt by the attack.

“She never was bitten because she has a very thick fur coat,” Regina said.

Regina returned indoors and secured the “doggy door” that provides access from the porch to the dog yard. Good thing, too, because the skunk soon was back through the fence and scratching at the doggy door trying to get into the house.

“If we didn’t have a clue before then, that was a clue something wasn’t right” with the skunk, Regina said.

(continued on page 4)



Russell and Regina Goodhall of rural Thief River Falls, Minn. with their pet Pekingese Cassandra that was attacked by a rabid skunk.

Regina rescued Cassandra from the skunk and Russell killed it with a shovel.

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Message from Regi Goodhall

Spring is fast approaching and almost seems to be here in some areas.

We've had some exciting times on the rescue front with the opportunity to save several small female dogs from a life of continued breeding. The "Oh, my!" moment came when we confirmed that a Tibetan Spaniel and a Pekingese were both pregnant. Our president, Heidi Eckers, has extensive experience whelping small dogs and took on the challenge.

Taking on the responsibility of caring for pregnant dogs starts with meeting the immediate health needs without interfering with a pregnancy, and acclimating the new moms to a home, good food, and attention as reasonable. Then birth comes... a time of both joy and sorrow. The foster caregiver getting up every hour or two all night long as birth approaches and anxiously waiting... Then the first puppy emerges. It is healthy and mom licks it. The second puppy has a lot of trouble coming with obvious signs of serious congenital problems, and dies within an hour of birth. While you mourn the little lost life, another comes, and another. Number four is awfully small and mom pushes him away. You clean him off and tuck him in a warm spot then take care of the last healthy puppy. Six born. One lost. One pushed away. Four healthy puppies. You spend the next two weeks carrying the rejected baby with you everywhere, and use an eyedropper to feed it. Unfortunately, the mom was right, and he fails to thrive. All that time, love and work didn't save the last little life.

This is just a sample of the ups and downs of bringing puppies into the world. Then it's the work to help mom keep a clean environment, letting her out frequently, and handling the pups so human hands are good and the world is good. The commitment continues as the pups are weaned and mom can finally say "goodbye" to her puppy bearing days and is spayed. Each puppy is altered before adoption, or placed with a spay/neuter contract that is religiously

monitored. This line of puppy production is done.

Each puppy is checked over and vaccinations begin. This is a happy litter. There are times when a mom is not in good shape and her puppies all fail to thrive, or only one is saved. We still respect the biology of the mom whose hormone levels are all geared towards the birth. Months are put into her care and the care of her little ones until they are **really** old enough for placement at 3 to 4 months old - not the 8 weeks that commercial breeders will wean. Each prospective home is diligently screened for, not just for the knowledge of adopting a breed such as a Peke or a Chin, but for dealing with the demands of a small puppy that needs plenty of patience and vital socialization skills. Fortunately, there always seem to be enough excellent homes, even if it takes longer to find them.

And so we continue as foster caregivers and our present finances allow us to take in dogs from local shelters, from owners who surrender them, and dogs that were once used for breeding and then not valued any longer. Taking in dogs that have somewhat of a history on record regarding health and behavioral issues are easier to deal with when you know ahead what to expect. It makes it easier to assess them and prepare them for adoption. Not having a dog's history on record can prove to be a bit difficult at times. It's better to know certain important things about a new dog we take in such as maybe whether the dog has had seizures in the past. Maybe it's had a broken bone that is now healed, and will be prone to arthritis. Maybe they react with aggression when approached by something they fear such as a big dog, for instance. Maybe they hate cats. We need to know these things so that the potential adopter knows these things as well.



(Above) Avalon with her newborn pups.

(Right) The pups at four weeks old.

(Below) Heidi Eckers delivering Guinness, a Tibetan Spaniel puppy, to his adopter who flew in from Kentucky.



Each foster caregiver works to identify the strong and weak points of dogs they foster so the dog can be placed in the right household to deal with its unique character traits, quirks or issues. We don't always get it right though. At times applicants aren't always forthcoming with their experience with dogs or unusual circumstances or situations that could affect a dog that has certain needs. Or then there are times a foster caregiver may not be in a position to foresee a potential behavior issue until a different environment triggers this behavior. As foster caregivers who've dealt with plenty of "damaged" dogs, we are not surprised when a dog brought into a new home environment wants to hide under the furniture for the first couple of weeks. We will relay this important "heads up" to the new adopter so they know what to expect, and provide them with knowledge on how to deal with the fearful dog. We never say also that our dogs are 100% potty trained. A dog trying to cope with a change in their life may have accidents. We've seen it many times before. All dogs have an adjustment period coming into a new home... some needing more time than others.

We make a concerted effort to get things right the first time by properly assessing each and every dog in our rescue and placing them with the right household. In the same respect, we take our screening process seriously and find it just as important to reference check every potential adopter, and do a home visit to ensure that a good match can be made. If something surfaces that was not apparent earlier, and the new adoptive home and adopted dog are not a good match, we take the dog back. We do that for the sake of the dog as well as the adopter. Fortunately, such instances are very few and far between.

So again a special thanks to our foster caregivers and the wonderful adopters who have opened their homes to a dog with a story partially hidden and work with us and their new family member to make sure all end up happy.

*Regi Goodhall
PNC Treasurer and Co-founder*



Guinness



Sophie



Quinn



Cydney

Rabid skunk grabs Pekingese's neck, so Thief River Falls woman grabs skunk.

(continued from page 1)

She and her husband decided to trap the skunk with a crate, but the animal left the back porch and was wandering around the dog yard before they got the chance.

Russell went outside to open the fence gate, and the skunk chased him to the back door.

"The skunk caught his head in the screen door as my husband was closing it," Regina said.

When the skunk left the porch and wandered toward a patch of woods in the backyard, Russell followed.

The skunk charged again.

"(Russell) waved his hands and hollered and it didn't make any difference," Regina said. He then killed the skunk with a shovel he grabbed in self-defense.

Tests positive for rabies

Regina said she called authorities, who didn't respond to the incident, and also contacted the Minnesota Department of Health. They advised bringing the head of the skunk to Valley Animal Hospital in Thief River Falls. The head was sent to the Department of Health on Feb. 13, and last Thursday, the results came back as positive for rabies.

The viral disease attacks the central nervous system.

Cassie received a booster shot for rabies, and the Health Department recommended Regina undergo a series of shots, even though she wasn't bitten.

"The shots aren't anything like they used to be," she said. "It's only a series of four shots and a couple of others you have to get the first time. It's not that horrendous."

Dr. Bruce Pierce, veterinarian at Valley Animal Hospital, said it's not unusual for skunks to go in and out of hibernation in the winter. Pierce said skunks can incubate rabies for up to two years, and he treats two to four cases of exposure every year.

Looking back on the incident, Regina said protecting the dogs and rescuing Cassie was the only thing on her mind. She also managed to avoid getting sprayed, although it was "a kind of aromatic" by the house for a few days.

"I've had to break up dog fights in the past so I knew that by grabbing him by the scruff of the neck, there was no way he was going to get a hold of me," she said. "I thought afterward I should have strangled him when I had the little buzzard in my hand."

But doing that, she said, would have increased her chances of being bitten.

"We've been in this place for 10 years, and that is only the second skunk we have ever even seen, but it was really bizarre," Regina said.

As for Cassie, the old dog is under 40-day quarantine but otherwise is doing fine and getting back to normal.

"I'm so thankful it worked out the way it did because if it had been any of the other dogs, they would have barked, they would have fought, and we would have had a real mess on our hands," Regina said.

The moral of the story, she said, is pet owners should make sure their animals' vaccinations are current.

"I have seven dogs here and any one of them could now be dead because you don't plan an encounter like that," she said. "You really don't know what they might encounter out of the blue."



Regi and Russ

A Foster Story - Ben



Ben at play



Ben came to us on February 12th of 2011, a large smelly scruffy Peke with a yeast infection of the skin. His transporters thought he seemed "depressed", but we later learned that that was just his "look". Ben was found in a grocery store parking lot in South Dakota with no tags or microchip. It was assumed that he was dumped there. Over the months Ben escaped a few times so we began to wonder if he had run off from his owner and was just not found. You see, Ben was just way TOO nice of a dog. There's no way anyone in their right mind would want him off their hands. He knew how to "sit", "go to his room" and "fetch". He seemed to be a lab puppy stuck in an adult Peke's body. Also, as the months went on, we realized he had been groomed when he was found. His ears grew long black streaks and his tail grew into a beautiful plume. It didn't seem to us that an unwanted dog would be groomed (and groomed well enough that we figured that was his natural length and hair style).

After about 3 months, we seriously considered keeping Ben. He was great with kids and other animals, and didn't have a mean bone in his body. He let our cat groom him and would snuggle up with her regularly. He played well with other dogs and understood that when growled at, to stop and back off. He never destroyed any toys or items except for one lone high heel shoe my teenage daughter had left out once. He would regularly bring us shoes, socks and slippers, but never "ate" them! Over the summer of 2011, I stayed with my mother to help her take care of my terminally ill grandmother. Ben stayed for a while, and then would just come on weekends after needing to devote more time and care to our elderly Peke, Lily. When Ben was at my mom's house, he swam and laid in the lake, chased ducks (he must have thought he was a Golden Retriever), stayed in the yard and played VERY hard. There wasn't a person who came who did not like Ben. He would have been a perfect

match for just about anyone, and we wanted him badly. Then Lily fell more ill, with two heart problems requiring daily medication, and cage rest for a spinal disc problem. She could not play or do anything for many weeks. When she was off of cage rest and feeling better, I found a lump on her stomach. Back to the vet, and a probable diagnosis of cancer... again. Surgery would be risky based on the heart problems and the location and structure of the new tumor. We decided to let Lily live out her life on pain meds as long as she was still acting "normal" and was happy. We didn't think she'd be around much longer, and figured Ben would be a "safe" addition to the family, without going over our 3 dog legal limit in our town.

Well, Lily got better and better and is more puppy-like every day. Ben had at least 4 approved adopters, all of which fell through. The adopters never even met Ben before they changed their minds, so it was through no fault of his own. We figured it was fate and that he was meant to be with us. In late February of 2012, we got a new roommate with two Chihuahuas of her own. With the addition of two new dogs, I was feeling a little overwhelmed. One day shortly after, I got a phone call from a "Jeni" who was interested in Ben. After talking to Jeni, and then later Heidi, we decided that this was it for Ben. Heidi said Jeni was "150% approved" and had done the home visit herself. Jeni had so much positive energy on the phone, that everything just felt right. A couple weeks later, Jeni drove up from Iowa to meet Ben and fell in love instantly (although I think she really loved him before she met him). Ben met her two dogs, and they were instant friends as well. Jeni took Ben home and the rest is history.

There is no greater joy than knowing that a much loved foster has met his or her perfect match.

*Lisa Seliskar
PNC Foster Volunteer*



Scrumpy, the sad little dog found in a box by a dumpster.

A Rescue Story - Scrumpy

Scrumpy has a sad story. He was found in a cardboard box along some garbage cans and dumpster in an alley on the south side of Chicago. Someone saw the box move and he was discovered just in time before freezing to death. PNC was contacted and asked if we could take him in. We were then committed to helping this poor guy out, and proceeded in spreading the word of his story to help fundraise for his medical expenses.

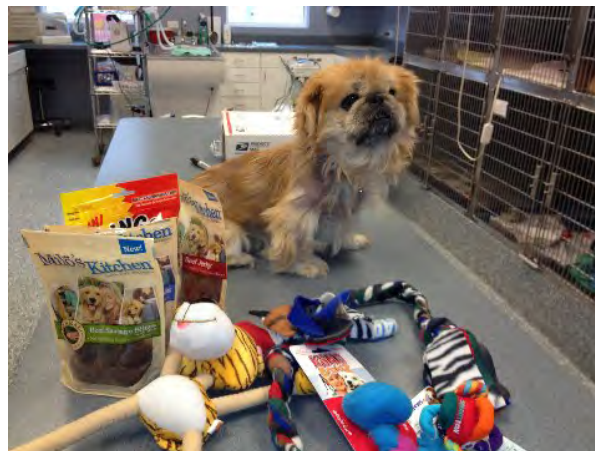
It was suspected due to his very bad coat condition that he had either a staph infection or demodectic mange, or possibly allergies that are got out of control because of lack of care. His eyes appeared infected as well. In his condition, he looked like a senior, but his very clean and white teeth proved that he could be no more than 2 years old. Luckily, the bad experience didn't affect him too much - he had the sweetest temperament!

Scrumpy spent most of his time at the clinic for his daily treatments. It didn't take long for him to make himself quite at home. By accounts of the doctor, he thought the treatment table was made just so he could lay on it and sunbathe! He would jump up on it by himself.

They didn't see any immediate improvement with his skin/haircoat, and he may always just be a little scruffy. The staff at the clinic, including the vet, became quite fond and very attached of the little fella. They swore that if he wasn't going to get adopted soon, one of them was surely to take him home!



Scrumpy enjoying many of the gifts that caring people donated after hearing of his story. Our thanks to these generous donors.



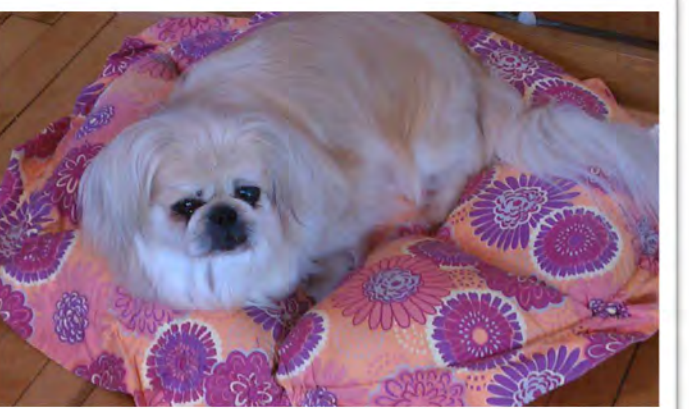
Peke N Chin Midwest



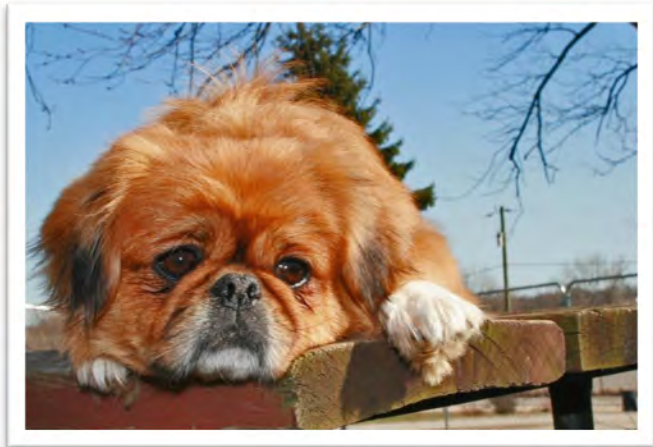
Kathy: Her Royal Highness, Miss Muffin, decked out for Halloween.



Samantha: We went to see Jeff and Cindy today and brought home the precocious Roscoe. He has been hard at work hiding all his new toys all over our house. ♥ We love him already!



Lisa: Sophie on her bed in her new home. She is my little princess.



Jennifer: I had a wonderful experience with Peke N Chin! I am so happy with my boy Captain (formerly Ben. He is settling in wonderfully! I adore him!



Diana: Here is my little Savannah with her BBF Scarlett! I got Savannah from Peke N Chin rescue also. She is such a doll. We travel in our semi truck and she loves meeting new people. We get told every day that she is so sweet, friendly and well behaved. I can't say enough about how thrilled I am that she is mine.

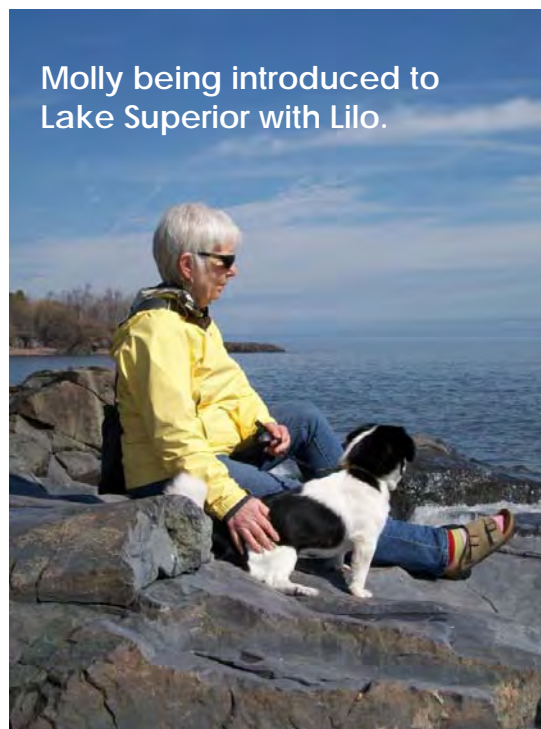
Your photos to us.



Barney met a horse today! To him, it was like any other big dog -- and Barney wanted to play! They sniffed each other and then went off about their day. ~ Amy (PNC Adopter)



Miss Jane models in black and white. ~ Photo by Mary Bowles



Molly being introduced to Lake Superior with Lilo.



Checkers the red-nosed Chin



Deb O'Donnell & Crew



Happy Holidays



Gia



Arch



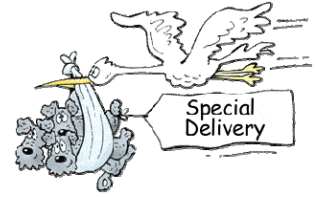
Lila



Miss Jane

Our Winter Puppies!

Serah really seems to appreciate her life outside of the puppy mill. She was rescued and had her babies a few weeks later in the safe, warm and comfortable setting of a foster home instead of a wire floored cage. She's been the best mom. She's quiet, potties outside, and keeps her babies fed, clean and happy. They are growing like weeds and will find terrific forever homes. Serah is still looking for a home to call her own.



Mama Serah with her babies, Mim, Pippin, Brutus and Nellie.

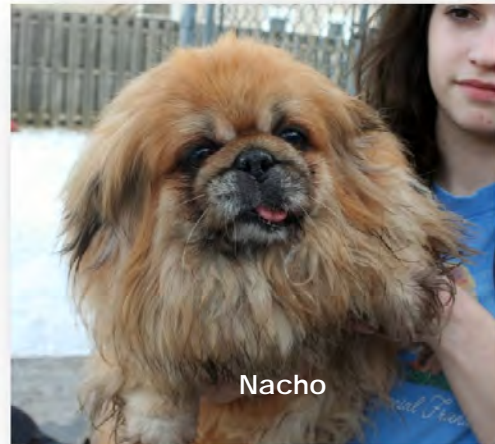


The pups are now 10 weeks old, and Brutus is flying to New Hampshire "in cabin" with his new Mom on May 2nd to his forever home.

"I don't feel flat-faced breeds should EVER travel cargo, however, I have traveled with my [dogs] in the passenger cabin and they do wonderfully!"

Heidi Eckers
PNC President





March 6, 2012 - A special "Congratulations" has to go out today to Jeff Bruce (one of our volunteers) for handling rescue stress with poise. One of our dogs, Nacho, being fostered in another home, had a medical emergency. Jeff hopped in the car, got the dog, and arranged with the Owatonna vet to swap appointments with another of our dogs and get him in immediately. Little Nacho had to have his jaw wired back together. Poor nutrition, poor conformation and poor care led this 5 year old boy to lose 20 teeth from a jaw with little bone left. Recovering from the dental, he had another problem and was rushed again to the vet.

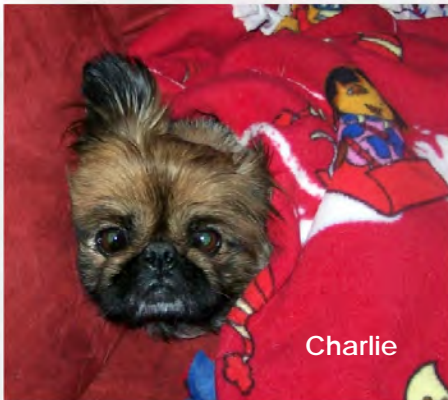
Then another situation came into play when Charlie had to be taken in to have his post lyme disease condition checked out AND meet a potential adopter. The adopter was impressed with Jeff's knowledge and care of Charlie, and took Charlie home with her.

I know we don't always have circumstances like these to deal with - thank heavens - but I have to express my personal thanks for different situations handled as I would always hope - with the care of the dog coming first.

Regi Goodhall

I am not sure what I would have done if Jeff had been unable to drop everything and come get Nacho. I had a lot of dogs. I was expecting a dog to get dropped off, another to get picked up and had blood everywhere. He showed up calm and talked me down from the ledge as well as taking Nacho away to get help. This isn't the first time he has come to the rescue, but certainly the most urgent time.

Pam (Nacho's Foster Caregiver)



Thank you VERY much Reggie and Pam for this. It made Jeff feel wonderful to read. I sometimes take him for granted watching how he handles our dogs every day until someone else recognizes the extra effort he puts in to all the dogs. We would also like to add a big thank you to Owatonna Vet Hospital. Jeff called them on his way to Waseca to let them know that we needed to swap appointments from Charlie to an emergency with Nacho. When Jeff got to the clinic everyone was waiting for him and they had pushed other appointments back so they could get Nacho in immediately.

Just an update on Nacho - he is doing wonderful and I think he'll be ready to go back to Pam's soon. He takes his meds when he needs to and is a very happy boy.

I received an e-mail from Charlie's adopter and will share her success story as soon as she gives her permission. She loves Charlie and is very happy with her adoption.

Cindy Bruce

Dear PNC,

I don't know if you remember me, my name is Norman, and you rescued me last summer. And from there a wonderful family in Onalaska, Wisconsin adopted me and gave me a wonderful home.

Last year on the 4th of July I got my freedom. I was living with Heidi Eckers in Jewel, Iowa. My family lives 4 hours away in Wisconsin, but happened to be an hour away from Jewel on the holiday weekend, and I guess it was just meant to be, because they came and met me on the 3rd and I went home with them on the 4th!

I was very shy and very scared at first, but my new family is very loving and now I really love them all. My new Mommy, Amy, spoils me and loves to give me a good tummy rub. My new Daddy John, loves to play with me and get me good and worn out! And my new sister, Isabelle and brother, Joey are just the best. They play with me. Walk me. Pet me and do a great job of caring for me. Though Isabelle and Joey do not like to clean up after me when I go potty outside! LOL!

I have a cat "friend" at my new home too. Well, I wish she would be my friend. She just won't warm up to me. She mostly hides from me, but when we are in the same room together, I always try to run up to her and greet her, but for some reason she always runs away. Weird.

I am very protective of my family and my new home. And I bark at new people when they come to the house. But after a good sniffing I can tell they are friends and then I'm more than happy to let them stay. My family and I took a class at the local Humane's Society to help me on my social skills because I get really nervous around other dogs and people. It helped a little, but I think I heard Mom say that when spring comes we might try another class again.

Thank you so much PNC for finding me the Zimmerman's to live with. They have been such a wonderful family and I love them so very much and they love me too. I don't know what they would do without me.

Thanks again,
Norman





Dogs and Dog Advice has canine articles for owners new and old. If you need training tips and advice, help finding just the right name, or guidance when choosing the perfect breed, you will find it here: <http://www.dogs-and-dog-advice.com/>. From hunting to health care, invisible fence information to crate training, puppy training to puppy care, this site could become your new best friend.

New information-packed articles are being continually written and added on a regular basis with your needs in mind.

Take a look a recent article submitted by one of their readers who shares her story of Tobie, a PNC adopted dog.

Tobie

by Ashley
(Saint Paul, MN)



My fiancé and I adopted Tobie in 2008 from Peke N Chin, a rescue organization in the Midwest focused on Pekingese and Japanese Chin dogs. His owner had him and another UN-neutered male that fought constantly and lacked potty training and was about to put both dogs to sleep.

I met my pup at a convention center and fell in love. He was very thin, and seemed so sad. But when I walked up to him he melted my heart as his sleepy head laid in my hand.

He still has a hard time with potty training. If we keep the bathroom and bedroom doors shut, he will not pee or poop inside. He thinks he owns our house.

He had two Newfoundland dogs that shared the same yard as we live in a duplex. It takes him a little while to warm up to other dogs, but he is a little snappy.

He has bitten in the past, I believe it is due to his abusive upbringing and he thinks he is protecting me. When I am not around he doesn't bite.

He is a huge cuddle bug. Right now he is lying on my legs as I type this. Pekes need to be groomed, they get terribly matted. He is so passionate and would do anything to protect me.

It makes my day, every day, when I come home and he is crying and jumping to see me! I love him so much. No matter what he loves me unconditionally and never lets me down when I need a smile.

I do want to warn some, Pekes have very protruding eyes and are very prone to corneal ulcers. Due to the lack of protection their eyes bulge.

Tobie was run into by a small dog and their heads collided. The swelling from the injury caused the eye to proptose (come out of socket). They tried to save the eye and when the sutures were removed he developed an ulcer and the eye needed to be removed.

During the second surgery he had his other eye lid opening narrowed. This will protect him from other eye injuries.

I would recommend getting a medical insurance package for Pekes. They are prone to eye injuries. Insurance is relatively inexpensive compared to the surgeries and hospital stay, which cost us over \$3,000.

**Comment by Pat Easterbrooks
Editor of "Dogs and Dog Advice":**

If you live in the Midwest or Manitoba Canada, you really should get to know the good people at Peke N Chin. They are a volunteer dog rescue organization focused in 10 Midwestern states and the Canadian Province of Manitoba.

To learn more about Pekingese or Japanese Chin fostering and adoption, or to contribute, visit the Peke N Chin Midwest website.

**Comment by Regi Goodhall
Founder of "Peke N Chin Midwest":**

Pekes Rule - Literally many Pekes do think they rule their world and need a gentle but firm and determined human companion (note that I don't say "owner"). Pekes, as with pugs and other smooch-faced dogs, do need some extra care with their eyes, but it's very individual and something to be considered when checking out a rescue site for a new family member.

Peke N Chin Midwest has helped rehome over 400 dogs and we are proud of the individual care we give each of our rescue dogs.

Is It a Good Idea to Adopt Two Puppies at the Same Time?

BY Dr. Marty Becker | OCTOBER 7, 2011

Q. I'm thinking about getting a pair of puppies, so they can keep each other company. Would you suggest choosing two from the same litter or different litters?

A. I don't usually recommend raising two puppies together. The first-year start-up costs of puppies — vaccinations, spaying or neutering, as well as unexpected visits to the ER because youngsters often get into trouble — easily outpace the routine maintenance costs of adult pets. And that's not counting all the other supplies you need for a puppy, including toys, a collar and leash, and a crate. Multiply that by two and you face some serious budget implications.

There's also the issue of time. Raising a puppy requires a serious commitment, from properly socializing a youngster to attending puppy kindergarten sessions and training classes for more mature puppies. Youngsters who miss out on early socialization and opportunities for learning are more likely to turn into problem adult dogs — and you don't get a second chance to raise a puppy right. If you have two puppies, you'll need double the time to provide each one with the socialization and training he deserves.

If you believe that you can handle the time and money constraints, you may be better off selecting puppies from different litters. Puppies from the same litter, especially those of the same sex, may have dominance issues. Reputable breeders often raise promising show or working puppies in the homes of friends or family to allow the youngsters to blossom in environments free of bossier siblings. Of course, even if you do get puppies from different litters, you still need to work with each one individually to prevent the dogs from intensely bonding with each other instead of human family members.

As an alternative, you may consider getting a puppy and a well-mannered adult dog. There are many advantages to this scenario: Adult dogs are generally less costly than puppies, especially when it comes to vet bills. If you work with a respected rescue group or shelter, you'll find many wonderful adult dogs that require far less time, money, and effort in order to become ideal companions.

Plus, an older dog can be a good influence on a puppy, as long as you allow the adult dog to settle in for a month or two before bringing the youngster home.

Regardless of your decision, I applaud your intention to provide the best quality of life for the two dogs you bring into your family. They will be very lucky indeed.

This article was written by a Veterinarian.



Shannon: Happy Earth Day PNC, from two of your former fosters, Harry Fu (aka Cicero) and Sylvie Xu (aka Foxy)!



Cindy Bruce: Twinkie & Moosh waiting for their prospective adopter to come visit them today. Cross your figures and paws!

The Feeling of Fear

By Debbie Jacobs

November 23, 2011 - I heard a trainer once say that when it comes to what dogs experience 'We have all the theories. They have all the facts'. That may be true in regard to many things, but when it comes to experiencing fear, we have plenty of facts.

What we do know about a dog's brain is that it has much in common with our own brain, and the brains of other mammals, especially when it comes to fear. Few of us need to see the research documenting which parts of a dog's brain are active when they are afraid, or that specific hormones are found in their bodies that occur when they (or we) are stressed, to agree that dogs feel fear. All we need to do is look at the dog.

Despite the fact that our own brains which allow us to take imagination and compassion to levels we believe other animals incapable of, we can be astoundingly callous when it comes to the emotional state of our pets. I am not sure why this is, I suspect that it has to do with the fact that as varied and sophisticated any animal's ability to convey their fear is, from cowering to screaming, it can never match our own. That and a generous dose of self-centeredness likely contributes as well.

This was drummed home for me recently when I tried to explain to someone wanting to adopt a dog how terrified the dog would be if he were to be handed over to strangers and subjected to a long transport. The response to my concern was basically, 'he's going to be scared one way or another so just do it, he'll get over it'. Had there been no alternative I might have understood this response (thought still would have found it insensitive), but I had offered an alternative which would not only spare the dog some of the stress, it would ultimately contribute to his success in his new home. My suggestion was declined because the person interested in the dog wanted him 'right away'. I don't think that this person was 'bad' or would not be a

good pet owner, I understood that they did not comprehend the effects of fear and stress on dogs. And so what if he would get over it? Easy for us to say, we're not the one living the nightmare.

It would go without saying that someone was being cruel and inhumane were they to subject a dog to physical suffering. You don't have to look far to find rallying cries, and petitions, against people who starve or beat dogs. We seem to fail to connect the dots and see that emotional suffering IS physical suffering. Following are some of the signs of stress in humans. Some are directly applicable to dogs and obvious to us, others we can extrapolate and make the assumption that a dog could be experiencing similar responses.

Physical Signs of Stress

Fatigue
Nausea
Muscle tremors
Chest pain
Difficulty breathing
Elevated BP
Rapid heart rate
Thirst
Headaches
Visual difficulties
Vomiting
Weakness
Dizziness
Profuse sweating
Chills
Symptoms of shock

Cognitive Signs of Stress

Confusion
Poor attention
Poor decisions
Heightened or lowered awareness
Poor concentration
Memory problems
Hypervigilance
Difficulty identifying familiar objects or people
Increased or decreased awareness
Poor problem solving
Poor abstract thinking



Misty

Loss of time, place or personal orientation
Disturbed thinking
Nightmares

Emotional Signs of Stress

Anxiety
Grief
Severe panic
Emotional shock
Fear
Uncertainty
Loss of emotional control
Depression
Inappropriate emotional responses
Apprehension
Feeling overwhelmed
Intense anger
Irritability
Agitation

Behavioral Signs of Stress

Change in activity
Withdrawal
Emotional outbursts
Suspiciousness
Change in usual communication
Loss or increase in appetite
Inability to rest
Anti-social acts
Nonspecific bodily complaints
Hyper-alert to environment
Intensified startle reflex
Pacing
Erratic movement

Think about these signs the next time you find yourself interacting with a fearful dog. There's only so much they can communicate to us by their behavior. But there's always more we can understand by using our heads.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if rescues were no longer needed?"

-- Regi Goodhall



Joke of the Day:

Who is the dog's favorite comedian?

Growlcho Marx!

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- Bake/Craft Sales
- Casual Day at Work

How you can help us

Dog Fact

Dogs have three eyelids. The third lid, called a nictitating membrane or "haw," keeps the eye lubricated and protected.



Amstel

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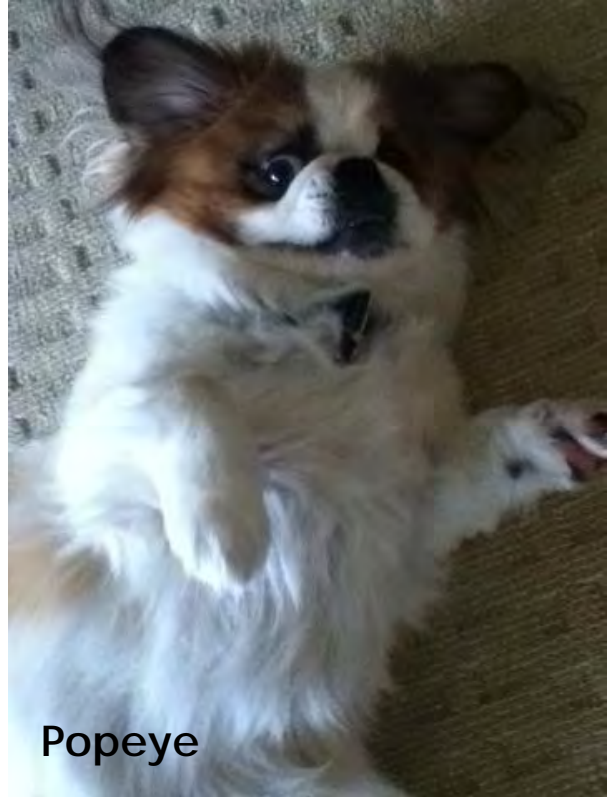
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