

Calendar

UPCOMING MEET & GREET AND OTHER EVENTS

Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble,
Shoppers' World Framingham:

12/16/06—7to11PM

12/18/06—4to11 PM

12/20/06—4to11PM

Get your B&N purchases wrapped by
Save A Dog Volunteers—all donations
go to support the dogs!

Please check www.saveadog.org for
the most up-to-date information
on our meet & greet events!

Bridgette Loves Babies!



Bridgette, one of the "Rottn' Cute" puppies born in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina turned one in October 2006. She earned her CGC in September and currently enjoys obedience and Rally-O once a week. She was adopted by Melissa Riley and absolutely loves babies!

Don't Breed or Buy While Shelter Pets Die!

Insight from a Southern United States Shelter Manager

Caution! This article contains graphic depictions of euthanasia, and may not be suitable for all audiences!

If you are a breeder, affiliated with a pet shop or a consumer considering buying a dog from either of these people, you should know what it's like in a southern animal shelter. Maybe if you saw the life drain from a few sad, lost, confused eyes, you would change your mind about breeding and selling *or buying* a dog instead of adopting one from a rescue group. That puppy you just sold *or bought* will most likely displace a dog languishing in a shelter right now. Store-bought puppies end up in my shelter when he's not a cute little puppy anymore. So how would you feel if you knew that there's about a 90% chance that that dog will never walk out of the shelter where it will be dumped?

"But these dogs are purebred!" you exclaim. *Doesn't matter.* About 50% of all of the dogs that are "owner surrenders" or "strays", that come into my shelter are purebred dogs. The most common excuses I hear are; "We are moving and we can't take our dog." *Really? Where are you moving to that doesn't allow pets?* Or they say "The dog got bigger than we thought she would." *Really? How big did you think a German Shepherd would get?* "We don't have time for her..." *Really? I work a 10-12 hour day and still have time for my 6 dogs!* "She's tearing up our yard..." *How about making her a part of your family?* They

always tell me "We just don't want to have to stress out about finding a place for her...we know she'll get adopted, she's a good dog". *Odds are this dog won't get adopted and what about the stress she'll feel being in the shelter?*

Let me tell you...a dog has about 72 hours to find a new family from the moment he is dropped off...sometimes a little longer if the shelter isn't full and he manages to stay completely healthy. *If he snuffles, he dies.* A dog is confined to a small run/kennel in a room with about 25 other barking or crying animals. He will have to relieve himself where he eats and sleeps. *He will be depressed and he will cry constantly for the family that abandoned him.* If this dog is lucky, I will have enough volunteers in that day to take him for a walk. If I don't, he won't get any attention besides having a bowl of food slid under the kennel door and the waste sprayed out of his pen with a high-powered hose.

If this dog is big, black or any of the "Bully" breeds (pit bull, rottie, mastiff, etc...) he was pretty much dead when he was walked through the front door. Those dogs just don't get adopted. If he doesn't get adopted within 72 hours and

(Continued on page 3)

2006 End-of-Year Review

Hello Save A Dog Friends and Supporters,

What a year 2006 has been for Save A Dog! In January, after wrapping up our rescue work in the New Orleans area following hurricane Katrina, we brought the Rottie puppies (born in the aftermath of the storm and fostered in Florida) north for placement in New England. After seeing so much devastation in New Orleans, taking care of these puppies was just what we all needed.

After all the puppies were adopted we started helping the backlog of dogs waiting for rescue while the Katrina work was in progress. *Every shelter in the country was impacted in one way or another by that storm.* All shelters were packed with "Katrina dogs" in addition to the homeless local dogs who were already there. We had a busy spring, an insanely busy summer and a crazy fall. We had a steady flow of incoming dogs all year long. Check out our "Recently Adopted" link on our Web site www.saveadog.org to see all the of the dogs we have rescued in 2006!

We had three important fund-raising events this year: the Spring Gala, the 6th Annual Paws in the Park, and our 4th Annual Auction. The Gala stands apart as a new event as its goal was to kick off fund-raising efforts for the capital campaign to build Save A Dog a facility. It was our first such event and hopefully we'll have many more like it! Our building plans were put on hold because of the Katrina work, but we still desperately need a place to show our available dogs.

In addition to the record number of dogs rescued, this year will be remembered as a year of tremendous learning. One of our veterinarians, Dr. Ronna Kabler, introduced us to holistic medical care for the incoming dogs and we've had great success with it. In fact, we haven't had a single case of kennel cough all year. We give buffered vitamin C to the dogs under 40 lbs. and grapefruit seed extract to the larger dogs. This protocol seems to be able to take care of most of the upper respiratory problems before anything has a chance to develop. We are also successfully using pro-biotics for a healthy digestive tract and other supplements as well.

During the year we have also learned about the potential danger of over-vaccinating your dog. We now follow Dr. Jean Dodd's vaccination protocol, as many of the veterinary teaching schools now also implement. We also use homeopathy, a gentle healing protocol, for treating chronic and acute diseases. We're so excited about this new level of care and what it can offer our incoming dogs, that two of us are enrolled in a homeopathy course so that we can learn even more!



Shirley and Muffy O'Dell at Save A Dog's 6th Annual Paws in the Park.

This year has brought two new members to the Save A Dog Board of Directors, Valerie Alterio and Lisa Bilozur, both long-time volunteers as well as Save A Dog adopters. They joined Dave Bernier, Dawn Giovannucci and myself on the board earlier this year. Both bring wonderful new perspectives and ideas to our team. We look forward to working with them in the months to come. Welcome, Val and Lisa!

2006 has been an exciting year with many positive changes and we anticipate 2007 will be even better. Thank you for supporting our ongoing rescue efforts. Every day is a new challenge, but we feel better equipped to face these challenges with our new board members and an improved method of caring for our incoming dogs.

Have a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

Shirley Moore
President and Founder
Save A Dog, Inc.

Success Story!

"Snickerz", (formerly "Speckles") on the right sits with 5 year-old "Copper," a redbone rescue. They are scanning the trees anticipating their next adventure in the woods! Snickerz at 5 months is 45 pounds, a big boy from the litter of Aussie-mix puppies adopted in July 2006. Snickerz developed demodex mange following her vaccinations and was treated holistically by Dr. Kabler. Thanks for all the support, Shirley and Ronna!

~The Cheever family



They Are What They Eat!

Garbage In, Garbage Out

You know the old saying, "Garbage In, Garbage Out?" That applies directly to your dog's health. The most important thing you can do to keep your dog healthy is to provide him with high-quality food and water. More than anything else, the quality of the food you feed your dog can make the biggest difference in his overall health. Premium food builds her immune system, helping her body to naturally fend off illnesses, deal with stress and help alleviate many allergies. You get a couple of benefits, too! You'll notice your dog's feces will be less smelly and there'll be less of it! (High quality food has no indigestible "filler" grains like soy and corn found in many inferior brands.)

I have personally experienced the impact the switch to high-quality food and water has made on my dog. Her overall health and comfort has improved dramatically, and her allergies symptoms have disappeared since making the switch! I prepare her food



myself and then add a bit of high-quality, all natural kibble, to it for some "crunch." I also add fresh garlic, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, kelp powder, lecithin, and nutritional yeast to her meals. I filter all of my dog's water with a Brita® filter. I haven't given her tap water in over 6 years!

Whether you buy high-quality prepared food or make it yourself, be sure you transition your dog to it slowly. Over a week's time, replace a little of the old food with a bit of the new, each day increasing the amount of the new, so at the end of the transition time you've replaced all the old food with new, high-quality food! (Take your time, if you rush the transition you may have a dog with an upset stomach and diarrhea.)

This is the first in a three-part series by Sylvia Peretz, a Save A Dog volunteer since 2003. She lives in Arlington with her husband and 11-year-old rescued beagle, Tavish.

Don't Breed or Buy While Shelter Pets Die!

Insight from a Southern United States Shelter Manager

(continued from page 1)

the shelter is full, he will be destroyed. If the shelter isn't full and the dog is good enough, or of a desirable breed she may get a stay of execution. Not for long though. Most get very kennel protective after about a week and are destroyed for showing aggression...even the sweetest dogs will turn in this environment.

If she makes it over all of those hurdles...chances are she will get kennel cough or an upper respiratory infection and will be destroyed because shelters just don't have the funds to pay for even a \$100 treatment.

Here's a little "euthanasia 101" for those of you that have never witnessed a perfectly healthy, scared animal being "put-down." First, the pet will be taken from her kennel on a leash. They always act like they think they are going for a walk...happy, wagging their tails, etc... Until they get to "The Room," where every one of them freaks out and puts on the "brakes" when he or she gets to the door. It must smell like death or they can feel the sad souls that are left in there. *It's strange, but it happens with every one of them.* The dog or cat will be restrained, held down by 1 or 2 vet techs depending on the size and how freaked out they are. Then a euthanasia tech or a vet will start the process...they will find a vein in the front leg and inject a lethal dose of the "pink stuff." They all don't just "go to sleep", sometimes they spasm for a while, gasp for air and defecate on themselves. When it all ends, the dog's corpse will be stacked like firewood in

a large freezer in the back with all of the other animals that were killed...waiting to be picked up like garbage.

I hope that those of you that have read this are bawling your eyes out and can't get the pictures out of your head...I do everyday on the way home from work. I hate my job, I hate that it exists and I hate that it will always be there unless some changes are made and people realize that the lives they affect go much farther than the dogs you buy at a pet store.

Between 9 and 11 MILLION animals die every year in shelters and only you can stop it. I do my best to save every life I can but rescues are usually full, and there are more animals coming in everyday than there are homes.

My point of all of this...DON'T BREED OR BUY WHILE SHELTER PETS DIE! Hate me if you want to - the truth hurts and reality is what it is. I just hope I maybe changed one person's mind about breeding their dog, taking their loving pet to a shelter, or buying a dog. I hope that someone will walk into my shelter and say "I saw this article in a newsletter and it made me want adopt." That would make it all worth it!

The author is a manager in an animal shelter in the southern United States. She wishes to remain anonymous.



Volunteer Spotlight



Kim Santilli

I've been volunteering with Save A Dog now for several months and I am so impressed with what a caring and well organized group this is! I've been active in rescue and transport now for over a year. After learning more about how many pets are euthanized in the United States alone (an estimated 5-10 million annually!) I knew I had to do something to help. I started joining lots of yahoo groups for rescue and transport and working closely with shelters in the Midwestern states to help them find rescues groups and assist them in getting their animals to those safe havens. My husband, Brendan, and I recently bought our first home in Framingham and after becoming more active in rescue, I decided I really wanted to work with a local group. That's when I found Save A Dog! They have a wonderful group of caring volunteers which I am now lucky to be a part of! They are a truly wonderful organization and I look forward to volunteering more of my time with them! We have two wonderful rescue dogs of our own, Snoopy (Left) and Sasha (Right), brother and sister who came from a kill shelter in Indiana. They are two of the most loving and appreciative pups and I would recommend to everyone that they open their home to a rescue dog! Volunteer! You can make a difference!



Make a Difference!
Volunteer!

Visit www.saveadog.org/volunteering for more info!

Need Nook: Transportation

Lisa Bilozur, a three-time Save A Dog adopter, active volunteer and newest member of the Board of Directors made an appeal to the attendees at the 4th Annual Auction. The following is what she presented on November 5th, 2006.

This Is A Story About Cher

Four years ago in the middle of the night, a kind soul left a cardboard box containing two tiny puppies outside an animal shelter in West Virginia. This angel "rescued" these puppies from a nearby farm where they would soon be shot if no one would buy them.

Scrawny and scared, "Sonny and Cher" (as they were first named), were found when workers arrived for the day. The folks at the shelter placed a call to Save A Dog and soon Sonny and Cher were on a transport headed north. Finding themselves in the loving arms of our volunteers Sonny and Cher were the lucky ones.

Unfortunately, their situation is not uncommon. Dogs in other parts of the country are often treated as commodities and due to over-population, pups are often disposed of in horrible ways.

Save A Dog works with shelters throughout the south to find these dogs loving homes. Our 2002 Ford Econoline cargo van is what we use to bring dogs to Massachusetts.

Also, we loan the van to other groups so even more dogs can be rescued. Save A Dog volunteers used this van to rescue hundreds of dogs in Louisiana for months after Hurricane Katrina.

Our van is 4 years old and clocks 30-40 thousand miles a year rescuing unwanted dogs. The cost of keeping this vehicle on the road, however, is great. Your participation here today warms my heart, knowing you are contributing to our mission of a goal of no more homeless dogs! Our conviction is the belief that a few people can make a huge difference in the life of many dogs. I am asking you now, to support specifically, this transportation need.

Cher, (remember Cher? This is a story about Cher!) Cher thanks you on behalf of all her fellow rescued dogs! Cher, now known as Gracie Lou Bilozur, was adopted by my family and is living happily ever after.

Thanks in advance for your generosity – Gracie will be watching!



If you'd like to help Save A Dog with transportation expenses, please mark your donation (check or on-line with PayPal) with the word "transportation." Thank you!



Success Stories!

Baxter



Baxter (formerly "pup") is doing just fine and is surely a part of our family. I still get compliments on how handsome he has become. He is very active and full of it!

Often people ask what breed and gender he is. I tell them the whole story including where we got him. The name **Save A Dog** always gets included and I encourage others to give a look on your excellent web site. With so many great dogs in need of a loving home, why would anyone look elsewhere?

~Gary and Michelle Porter (and Baxter, too!) 

Kylie



We adopted Kylie (formerly "Bones") in 2003 when we attended one of your adoption days at the Especially for Pets in Wayland. Bones was a West Virginia dog taken from a "kill shelter" scheduled to be euthanized.

She loves other dogs and is just the perfect fit for our family. She loves to take walks and is so people oriented that she will stay right with you when off-leash, no matter what trails you are on or what other animals are nearby. Thank you Save a Dog, for saving Kylie and for bringing more happiness into our family.

~The Erickson Family 



In January 2007, two Save A Dog volunteers will be climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro (often referred to as the "roof" of Africa) to help a Save A Dog raise enough funds to build a permanent adoption facility - a much-needed "roof" over Save A Dog's head! They are paying for ALL of their own travel and climb expenses, and will be asking corporations, local organizations, and individual families and friends to support them by donating money directly to Save A Dog's capital campaign.

Please check out their website at www.roof2007.com for updated information on sponsors, training, fundraising events, and more!



Save A Dog, Inc.
P.O. Box 1108
Framingham, MA 01701

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMINT NO. 7
ASHLAND, MA

Save A Dog's 4th Annual Auction Thanks for your support!

The Happy Chanukah, Doggie! gift basket, Chocolate Fondue Set, Floral Arrangements, Dog Beds and one of the more popular items, the "Dunkie Junkie" Coffee Lover gift basket were just a few of the over 150 silent auction items gracing the tables at the Natick Elks on Sunday, November 5th, 2006. The Balloon Raffle, Heads 'n Tails Blinkie Paw Game and the Lucky Dog 50/50 cash raffle were also part of the fun!

Over 140 Save A Dog supporters joined together to raise much-needed funds for the dogs. Thank you!

A new addition to our auction program this year was professional auctioneer Kathy Kingston. Kathy, a dog lover herself, brought much excitement and fun to the day.

Paddles were flying into the air as the bidding began on terrific live auction items such as a stay at the Hotel Marlowe, Boston Red Sox Tickets *in Theo Epstein's Box*, lunch with Save A Dog's Executive Director, Shirley Moore and even *two* African Safaris trips!

Many thanks to those who planned, worked, attended and bid upon items to help Save A dog reach its ultimate goal of no more homeless dogs.

Did you miss out on the fun? Not to worry! Save A Dog's 5th Annual Auction will be held in early November, 2007. Be sure to check www.saveadog.org for information soon!

(Please see a re-cap of the appeal for transportation funds made by Lisa Bilozur on page 4.)

Do you like to shop on-line?

Is it important for you to support Save A Dog?

Now you can do both at the same time!

Visit the Save A Dog web store!

<http://www.saveadog.org/comersus>

It has all kinds of goodies for you and your dog, including Save A Dog clothing and other items!

Toys! Treats! Books! Balls!

Also available—

Rescued Dogs 2007 Calendar!
Only \$15!



Items for the "dog lover!"



New Items added often!