



Shorewood Cocker Rescue

WI License Number: 267260-DS

Holiday Newsletter 2019



Where are all the cockers?

There are fewer cockers coming into rescue these days. We receive cockers from various area shelters and owner relinquishment. This year, only a few of our rescue cockers have been able to be placed in a forever home quickly. As always, all cockers are made up to date on shots, heartworm tested and a preventative is administered monthly. We also spay or neuter if necessary and microchip. Today we are seeing that more often the dogs are in need of advanced medical care (See Sydney's story below) or behavior modification that takes time and money to overcome.

My family has been fostering Wyatt since March. He came in with a case of mange which turned into a bacterial infection. He was treated with medication to kill the mange and then antibiotics to clear the secondary infection. This made his stomach and digestion a problem.



He was thin and has yeast infections all over. We have been treating him with various anti-yeast washes and

ointments while increasing his gut bacteria again through his diet. He still has a way to go but we are seeing progress.

We have seen quite a few cases of ear infections that need extended treatment. We are blessed to have a volunteer who diligently works with a vet to clear these painful infections. The ears are tested to determine

the specific medication that will target the infection. Often clearing one infection invites another. Application of medication can often be needed multiple times a day to achieve success.

We are finding that more of the cockers are coming to us at an advanced age or very ill. These dogs have various medical needs that make it nearly impossible to find a home so they are more or less in hospice. We take care of these sweet souls in our loving foster homes until their final day.

We do have quite a few approved adopters waiting. Keep an eye on the website because when a cocker is ready for adoption they often go quickly.

❁ Smart Tip ❁

Purchase memory foam bath rugs to put under your dog beds for older cockers that need more cushion to ease arthritis pain. They also make great crate liners!



Microchips

If your cocker came from Shorewood Cocker Rescue, he or she has a microchip. We currently use HomeAgain but if the cocker was already chipped then we would not add a new chip but change the data on the old chip. **It is very important to register your pet's microchip!** If you have moved or never registered now is the time to find out the company and register.

If you pet did not come from us, the average cost to have a microchip implanted by a veterinarian is around \$45, which is a one-time fee and often includes registration in a pet recovery database. Some companies charge an annual fee while others charge one-time fees to update the registration. Most companies also provide a collar tag with the chip number and company phone number.

If you are still wondering if your dog has a chip you can contact your vet or a shelter. Generally, they will scan for a chip for free. Each microchip contains a registration number and the phone number of the registry for the particular brand of chip. A handheld scanner reads the radio frequency of the chip and displays this information. An animal shelter or vet clinic that finds your pet can contact the registry to get your name and phone number.

Competing microchip companies use different frequencies to send signals to scanners, and until recently there was no universal scanner that could read all the different frequencies. That was a problem if a pet had a microchip that a particular scanner couldn't detect. Universal scanners can now detect a competing company's chip, but they may not be able to read the data. And if shelter or vet clinic personnel don't use the scanner properly, they may fail to detect a chip.

People often wonder if they can feel for the chip but the answer is no because the chip itself is the size of a grain of rice. The chip is usually implanted between the collar bones so this is where they will scan first. There is a small chance that the chip could migrate to another part of the body, but it can't actually get lost. Your pet's subcutaneous tissue usually bonds to the chip within 24 hours, preventing it from moving.

Microchips have no moving parts and require no batteries, so there's nothing about them that can break or wear out. It is a passive device that sends a signal to the scanner when it passes over the microchip. The microchip contains only a number that connects it to a database. It cannot be used as a tracking device.

It is important to note that there is no app for your phone that can scan for microchips. For your pet's safety, you should have a secondary source of registration such as a simple collar. If your pet wanders a short distance, the collar can help bring them home quickly and without the need to transported to be scanned.

There are now Microchip smart products. Check with your microchip company for smart products such as the microchip pet feeder that will only open for the right pet, keeping cats, dogs and even children out of your pet's food. Microchip enabled pet doors will stop unwanted animals from entering your home and give your pet their own door key.

Until one has loved an
animal, a part of one's soul
remains unawakened.
-Anatole France

Sweet Potato Treats

Dogs (and kids) will go crazy over these easy to make treats. At this time of year, you can usually find some amazing low prices on sweet potatoes. Plan to make these on a day you will be home all day.

Items needed:

3 Sweet Potatoes

4 Baking sheets

Parchment paper (a must)

Cooking cooling rack (optional)

2.5 – 3 hours

❄️ Preheat your oven to 250F

❄️ Line a couple baking sheets with parchment paper

❄️ Use a knife or mandolin to cut your sweet potatoes into circles for cockers or lengthwise for larger dogs

❄️ I like to cut them pretty thin to keep drying (oven cooking) time to a minimum.



❄️ Arrange them in a single layer. It is fine to have them very close together. They shrink as they dry.

❄️ Timing is dependent on how thick you make the slices. This batch only took a little over an hour.

❄️ check on them about every half hour. Flip them every half hour to hour.



❄️ store in an airtight container and watch those wigglebutts!



We are so thankful to all our volunteers who give their time, talent and love to raising funds and participating in the journey each cocker makes to his or her forever home. We are also thankful to our adopters who love our Cocker into successful forever homes and all who donate to keep our rescue alive.

Sydney, Little Cocker with a Big Heart

Sydney came to us from an animal shelter hundreds of miles away. His owner was elderly and sick and no longer able to care for him anymore. One volunteer picked him up at the shelter and drove him part way and handed him off to another volunteer driver who handed him off to another and then we came and got him and took him the rest of the way home. He was a lively 11 year old, 20 lb. male with scruffy black fur and a very cheerful disposition. He couldn't hear but we are fairly used to that, and like many dogs fresh out of a shelter, he smelled really bad so we gave him a bath.

During that first bath we noticed that he had a fist-sized growth on his belly. We were immediately concerned so we took him to our local vet, who told us it was probably cancer. We decided to have him treated and the first step was a blood test. When that came back negative we brought him back to have the growth removed and awaited the biopsy results.



From the first day he entered our home he made himself immediately at home. We see so many dogs who have been a little shell-shocked by what they've been through that it was good to see a dog with such confidence and so sunny an outlook. It was clear that he came from a happy home with an owner who

loved him and took very good care of him. The dogs we have all find places in the bedroom to sleep, either in the chair or in a dog bed on the floor or on the floor itself, depending on their preference. Even though Sydney got along very well with the others, the very first night, he made it clear that he would be sleeping in the bed with the humans.

It was hard for us to watch such a happy dog, whose attitude always seemed to be, "what fun are we going to have now?" while knowing that the biopsy results were unlikely to go his way. He's not a perfect dog, but he has such a winning personality that we were really pulling for him.

Finally we got the call from our vet. The biopsy showed no cancer at all and he said the growth was unlikely to return. We were so happy for this little guy!



Our Dogs can teach the important things in life if we allow them:

- ✧ Presence – pet your dog and clear your mind
- ✧ Patience – training and cleaning up messes
- ✧ Joy – when you return home
- ✧ Peace – watching them sleep
- ✧ Love – you opened your heart to bring them home...open your heart to the people around you.

Wigglebutt Walk 2019



Matching Gifts

Many companies offer a matching gift program to encourage charitable giving by their employees. Most of these programs match donations dollar for dollar. Some will double or triple the amount of your gift and others will even match charitable gifts made by spouses and retirees.

Check with the Human Resources Department to see if your employer offers a matching gift program and contact SCR at gogrngold@charter.net with your employer's information.



Your generous donation will help provide care for homeless Cockers



Or go to CockerRescue.net & click on the PayPal link near the bottom of the page

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Donation \$: _____

- I'd like to learn about being a foster parent
- I am interested in helping transport rescue dogs
- I have skills or time I can contribute to help SCR
- My employer offers Matching Gifts

Please mail to:
Donna Pfingsen
Shorewood Cocker Rescue
2106 Blackbridge Road
Janesville, WI 53545