



Shorewood Cocker Rescue

www.cockerrescue.net

Holiday 2012

Hypothyroidism Unwrapped



I received a call from my local animal shelter. They had a dog that they would like to send to rescue. Translated this means, we have a dog that no one will adopt. I was told that Charley “just had a food allergy and needed grain free food”. I drove to the shelter and was told he was in a run outside. I went out to take a look. Here was a pathetic obese dog covered with scabs. As I looked down on him that little tail was just wagging away. Needless to say I took him. I was reasonably sure that this problem was not a food allergy. Upon closer examination, I saw that this poor boy also had infected ears and eyes. Before taking him home, I took him to the vet and requested that he run a thyroid blood panel. The results came back the next day. Yes, Charley was hypothyroid. His T-4 and free T-4 results were well under the reference range and he weighed 53 pounds. Charley’s weight should probably be between 25 and 28 pounds. The saddest part of this story is that Charley had been bounced from shelter to shelter and from home to home. During

a two year period, he was seen by several vets and no one thought to check his thyroid,

although he showed the classic signs of hypothyroidism.

Today it seems like everyone thinks that food allergies are the magic bullet. If you spend any time speaking to a holistic vet, you will find the dogs are usually allergic to chemicals in the diet and not a particular food ingredient. That is one reason that people have so much success when they feed raw. The truth is that hypothyroidism can appear as apparent food allergies or intolerances. It can also appear as aggression, fearfulness, thin, scaly or greasy coat (secondary seborrhea), chronic ear infections, dry eye, seizures, slow heart rate and the list goes on. The classic signs (weight gain, lethargy and cold intolerance) do not normally appear until more than 70% of the thyroid gland is destroyed. Unfortunately, according to the Whole Dog Journal, our beloved Cocker Spaniels are one of the ten breeds with a definite predisposition to hypothyroidism.

Hypothyroidism can sneak up on you. It happened to me. My dog Pumpkin showed no real signs. My groomer noticed some hair loss around her tail. I took her to the vet and had her tested and sure enough she was hypothyroid. What is the solution? Once a year it is good to have a wellness panel run on your dog. Consider adding a thyroid panel. You may be glad you did.

Dr. Jean Dodds, in her book “The Canine Thyroid Epidemic” suggests that some dogs who test at the low end of normal will benefit from thyroid supplementation. This would have to be determined after running a full Thyroid panel (T4, free T4, T3, Free T3, and TgAa).

If your dog has been diagnosed as being hypothyroid, here are a few things to remember. Have your dog tested yearly. The blood draw must be done 4 to 6 hours after the dog received his medication. Many vets have not updated their knowledge of hypothyroidism since vet school. (Dr. Jean Dodds is one of the leading authorities on thyroid function in North American.) According to Dr. Dodds many things have changed. Some vets are still recommending giving the medicine just once a day. Dr. Dodds insists there is no longer a controversy. The meds must be given twice a day preferably 12 hours apart. Given the medicine once a day results in the dogs heart being elevated for half the day and down for the other half. Thyroxine loses half of its strength in 12 to 16 hours. The pill should be given either one hour before or 3 hours after a meal. If Thyroxine is given with food It may not be absorbed completely. This would result be incorrect reading on lab tests.



Charley is a new man after diagnosis



Charley is looking good!

Do not give the pill wrapped in either meat or cheese. Dr. Dodds suggests either creamy peanut butter or a small marshmallow.

Now lets get back to Charley. He gets his thyroid pill twice a day. Once or twice a week he goes to the groomer to soak in a medicated bath. His scabs are slowly disappearing. Charley's eyes and ears are looking much better. When he weighed in on November 3, he weighed 42 lbs. 10 oz. He is on his way to becoming a new man. He is a sweet gentle dog. When he looks up at you, those eyes seem to be saying thank you. It hard to believe that this wonderful dog nearly lost his life. Now he can look forward to the day, that next to his name it says adopted.

Written By: Elaine Baumann, President of Shorewood Cocker Rescue



Rescued Dog

By: Arlene Pace



Once I was a lonely dog just looking for a home. I had no place to go, no one to call my own. I wandered up and down the streets in rain, in heat, in snow. I ate whatever I could find, I was always on the go.

My skin would itch, my feet were sore, and my body ached with pain. No one stopped to give me a pat or gently say my name. I never saw a loving glance, I was always on the run. For people thought that hurting me was really lots of fun.

Then one day I heard a voice so gentle, kind and sweet, with arms so soft that reached down to me and took me off my feet. "No one again will hurt you," was whispered in my ear. "You'll have a home to call your own where you will know no fear."

"You will be dry, you will be warm, you'll have enough to eat. And rest assured that when you sleep, your dreams will all be sweet." I was afraid, I must admit, I've lived so long in fear. I can't remember the last time when I let a human come so near.

As she tended to my wounds and bathed and brushed my fur, she told me about this "rescue group" and what it meant to her.

She said, "we are a circle, a line that never ends. In the center of it, there is you protected by new friends. All around you are the ones that check the pounds, and those who share their homes with you after you've been found."

"All the other folks are searching near and far, to find the perfect home for you, where you can be a star." She said, "there is a family, they are waiting very patiently, and pretty soon we'll find them, just you wait and see."

"And then they'll join our circle, they'll help to make it grow, so there'll be room for more like you who have no place to go."

I waited very patiently. The days, they came and went. Today is the day, I kept on thinking, my family will be sent. Then just when I began to think it wasn't meant to be, there were people standing there gazing down at me.

"I could tell they felt it, too, for a special dog like you."

Now every night I say a prayer to all the gods that be. Thank you for the life I live and all you've given me. But most of all, protect the dogs in the pounds and in the streets. And send a Rescue Person to them to lift them off their feet.



Snoopy
A sweet boy who walks well on a leash.

A Dog Wags Its Tail From Its



All of us who have four-legged friends know how it feels to be greeted by our pups, with tails furiously wagging, when we return home. We might have been gone all of 5 minutes, but you mean the world to them and they are so happy for your return.

And likewise, our dogs mean the world to us. Their unconditional love can, even if just for a few minutes, take our minds off our problems and take the edge off stress. If we're not feeling well there's nothing like a warm little snuggle to help us feel better. It's these few minutes of well-being that many pups can offer others.

It was with these ideas in mind that many hospitals introduced animal assisted therapy programs. My local hospital, Palos Community Hospital, started the Wags program in 2008. My Sarah joined in September, 2009 and her new brother Bear followed in her pawsteps in May, 2012. We have greeted hundreds of people and our visits take us through many sections of the hospital. Wagging tails are so very welcome, especially in the following scenario.

Patient room: Imagine, or maybe you've been there, bedded down sick or in pain in a hospital room. Nurses coming and going to check vitals, give you medications, draw blood; doctors come in to examine you; breakfast, lunch and dinner with the TV as company. A knock on the door, "Would you like to visit with my dog?" Sarah, happy and merrily wagging her tail, is excited to meet the patient. I pick up Sarah, and the patient's face brightens and she breaks out into a big smile. Recently a patient told me that Sarah's visit was the only bright spot in his three-day hospital stay.

Nurses' station: The cardiac unit has been very busy with several new patients and more than usual number

of crisis events. The staff has had a very stressful day. Bear and I walk up to the nurses' station and smiles have returned. Many come up to get their 30 second "dog fix". A little bit of sunshine has just replaced the dark clouds from earlier. The gentle pup has done it again.

Waiting room: You've come, or have brought someone, to the hospital for tests, or are awaiting the return of a patient to his room. Sarah, with her tail going to town, and I enter the room. The atmosphere changes when people see this little girl. Looks of

**Sarah,
wearing her
hospital I.D.
and posing
for her formal
graduation
photo.**



**Bear,
wearing his
hospital I.D.
and posing
for his formal
graduation
photo.**

concern change to smiles, even if for one minute. I recently encountered a man who lit up when he saw Sarah and me walking toward him. He reminded that Sarah and I had visited him several weeks earlier when he was in a hospital room getting chemotherapy. He said how much he enjoyed and appreciated the visit. Amazing, the impact of one little pup.

Sarah, Bear and I are one of the 64 teams who are part of the Wags Animal Assisted Therapy Program at Palos Hospital and both are Shorewood Cocker Rescue alumnae. Sarah 081 was picked up as a stray in the summer of 2008. Shorewood Cocker Rescue took her in and I soon became her foster mom. She was treated for giardia, given medicated baths and with a little bit of work, became housebroken. In spite of her problems, this little pup had a tail that wouldn't stop and she soon won my heart. So on September 16, 2008, at our Wigglebutt Walk, I decided she was coming home with me for good.

Both a neighbor and friend who had met Sarah were familiar with the Wags program at Palos Hospital and suggested I look into it. We took two obedience classes (mainly for me!) then signed up for the hospital temperament testing. She was one of two pups from a group of 14 that passed. I think her constantly wagging tail won them over!

A short time later, we attended the three day long training program at the hospital with two trainers qualified to certify dogs as registered hospital therapy dogs. And so began Sarah's career. The Wags program director said that Sarah should be the "poster dog" for our program entitled "Wags" because her tail never stops. Sarah and I have made approximately 200 visits. (over)

Certified therapy dogs make a world of difference



Roberta and Sarah

On July 16, 2011 Sarah got a new brother, Bear 111, who was also found as a stray. As soon as I met him I immediately noticed that this gentle, loving and lovable pup had an excellent disposition. Bear and I attended two obedience classes, and in March 2012, Bear passed the hospital temperament test. In May, 2012, we completed the three days of hospital training. So Bear has proudly joined his sister Sarah as a Wags Animal Assisted Therapy dog.

If you have a pup that's very loving and have a little extra time, think about the joy your pup could bring others. Contact your local hospital to see if they have a therapy dog program. Check online for therapy dog organizations. Visit a nursing home, most do not require that a dog be certified. Some schools have programs involving therapy dogs.

A dog wags its tail from its heart, and our pups have so much heart to give. To share our pups' love with others is a wonderful experience for all. There are a lot of people who need a little sunshine in their day, even if for a minute or two. It makes a world of difference for them.

Written By:
Roberta Kobb, Shorewood Foster Mom



Buttercup and Demon Hope To Find A Special Family To Call Their Own



Buttercup

Four year old Buttercup and her two year old son Demon are looking for a home and a family to love. They were surrendered by their owner, an Iraq War Veteran who found himself in a difficult situation and was unable to find housing for his beloved cockers. He requested that they be placed together and knowing that we have the best adopters Shorewood agreed.

Buttercup is a very mellow young lady with the emphasis on lady. She is not a "lap dog" but is a beggar for sure. Most of the time you would not even know she is in the house as she is so quiet. When she arrived in rescue, she had not had a haircut in a long time, but she was not matted at all. Now we understand why. While she doesn't sit on your lap, she loves to sit next to you and have you brush her beautiful hair.

Demon, on the other hand, would love nothing more than to sit on your lap and be petted. If you are not petting him enough, he will take his head and put it under your hand until you start petting him. He is a little bit more active and

outgoing than his Mom. He loves to run and play fetch and is working on learning to bring the ball back so it can be thrown again.

Both Demon and Buttercup love to spend time outside. Their foster mom reports

that they have learned the routes that the squirrels take as they pass through the backyard and have discovered the squirrels' nest in one of the trees. Demon will sit and watch up in the tree as long as he thinks there is a squirrel there.

Their foster mom says, "Buttercup and Demon are as close to my idea of a great dog as you can come. They are most definitely attached to each other and enjoy being with their foster siblings. We have been truly blessed to have these two wonderful dogs share our home."

In this season of hope, can you give this mom and son a new life filled with love like they knew once before and with peace of knowing that you are their forever home?



Demon



2012 Senior Adoptions



Over the many years, Shorewood has rescued hundreds of seniors. Our commitment to them cannot be questioned. We willing step up and step in to rescue the "old dog" that no other shelter or rescue will take. Some of our senior rescues have come within days, if not hours of losing their lives.

There is nothing inherently wrong with these dogs. Seniors make wonderful family companions. They are experienced in life. They are content with life's basics; food, a warm bed, medical care and someone to love who loves them back.

We continue to be thankful for our wonderful adopters who take these seniors in and give them a terrific new life. Anybody who has ever adopted a senior dog knows that the love they give you in return is a far greater reward than anything else. To date, Shorewood Cocker Rescue has placed twenty-one senior cockers into new, loving homes. Shorewood would like to thank and recognize this years senior adopters.

- Baci - Elaine Zablotki, Chicagc, .L
- Boaz - Katie Holahan/Adam Kates, Glencoe, IL
- Brownie - Dennis Anderson, Kenosha, WI
- Goldie - Donna Cullen/Shannon Carey, Downers Grove, IL
- Hovan - Laurel Caldwell, North Aurora, IL
- Jazmine - Jack & Mary Bridges, Brookfield, WI
- Latte - Sara Madsen, Southgate, MI
- Libby - Joe & Bonnie Blick, Wild Rose, WI
- Luke - Paul & Barb Madsen, Greendale, WI
- Maddy - Tom Byelick, Hammond, IN
- Mocha - Jeff & Robin Bryant-Stoeger, Manitowoc, WI
- Molly - Paul and Barb Madsen, Greendale, WI
- Radar - Elizabeth Herrling, Janesville, WI
- Rudy - Julie Staggs, Des Plaines, IL
- Scooby - Julie Jones, Sheboygan Falls, WI
- Snoopy - Sue Welle, Lake Villa, IL
- Sydney - John & Chris Strong, Fontana, WI
- Sugar - Anne & Bob Thomas, Arpin, WI
- Tootsie - Dea Engelbrecht, Peoria, IL
- Velvet - Elaine Zablotki, Chicago, IL
- Wylie - Joyce Synek, Woodstock, IL



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

These wonderful seniors are waiting for their forever home this holiday season. Could that home be yours?



Moses

An active and affectionate boy who likes to play with other dogs and snuggle with you,



Mazzy

A wonderful girl who loves to be around people and will follow them everywhere.



Sheba

A former backyard breeder who likes loves long walks and all that freedom offers.

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Donation \$ _____

- I am interested in becoming a foster parent.
- I am interested in helping transport.
- I am interest in helping SCR in another way.

Your generous donation will help us provide care for homeless Cockers.



Lydia

A former breeder who is starting to enjoy the good life.



Please mail your donation to:
Donna Pfungsten, Shorewood Cocker Rescue
1100 Erie Street, Janesville, WI 53545



Owner Look Alike Contest

*Can you see yourself in this picture?
Adopt a Shorewood Cocker!*

Come See Us

If you are interested in adopting, we welcome you to come meet our cocker spaniels at any of our events. We have several rescue events scheduled for 2013 throughout Illinois and Wisconsin. Please, consult our website for a schedule of date and times.

*Help Shorewood as you shop online this holiday season!
Every cent counts.*



Shop at over 680 fine stores at igive.com and select SCR as your charity of choice. Up to 26% of each online purchase goes directly to your charity.



US Bones is a great friend of Shorewood. By clicking the Rewards Fundraising a portion of your purchase is donated to Shorewood. US Bones has more than just bones. They also have items for you cat.

The mission of Shorewood Cocker Rescue, Inc. is to assist homeless Cocker spaniels find permanent homes with responsible, loving families. We spay or neuter all Cocker spaniels prior to placement and check references on all adopters. We make every effort to carefully match each Cocker spaniel with the right family to maximize the adoption's success." SCR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

*Shorewood Cocker Rescue
P.O. Box 584
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Seasons Greetings!