

SHOREWOOD COCKER RESCUE

P.O. Box 584
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Winter 2006 Newsletter

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Visit us online at
www.cockerrescue.com



What A Year It Was



Wigglebutt Walk 2006

There was nothing ordinary about 2006. The year began with Shorewood receiving a large number of dogs dumped in a shelter by a commercial breeder. Suddenly we had a group of dogs who were terrified of the human touch. Dogs that would run away if they ever were left off leash. This was a challenge. Our volunteers had their work cut out for them. As the weeks went by, these dogs gained trust and learned what it was to be loved. One by one they became available for adoption. It takes a very special person to adopt one of these dogs because they then have to work to gain the dogs' trust. We at Shorewood have been so lucky. We have the finest adopters in the world. Every one of those dogs is now in a loving home.

This year we seemed to find ourselves being constantly notified of dogs in emergency situations. Time after time our own Karen Allness drove hundreds of miles to save a deserving dog's life. The stories range from family members threatening to shoot the dog to holding facilities preparing to euthanize at the end of the day. We rescued a puppy who was actually born in a dog pound. Mom Kelsie, Dad Caesar and baby were found in a cage with the other dogs. We called the puppy Miracle. She has been adopted but mom and dad are still looking for a home.

Of course fall brought the 3rd Annual Wigglebutt Walk. Although the weather was cold and threatening, it was our largest to date. Mark your calendars for September 8th, 2007. We plan it to be the best yet.



Can you adopt Caesar?



Kelsie is looking for a home.

Another group of dogs was dumped by commercial breeders in the fall. It seems that the pet shop business was slow this summer. That means that the breeding animals no longer have value to them and are considered disposable. We are currently working with these dogs and you soon will be able to see them on the website. Hopefully you will see them and open your heart and home to one of them.

Fall also brought a new improved website. Deb Kent worked hours creating the new look. You are also now able to see a current newsletter on the site as well as visit the SCR Blog or make an entry in the guestbook.

The holiday season is now upon us and we wish all of our adopters the happiest of holidays.

Why Do You Take Them?

The phone rings. It is one of the large inner city shelters calling. They have seven cockers. Why does it always seem like they come in batches? The animal control officer describes the first six dogs. They are mostly younger intact males. She then gets to the seventh. He is older, maybe 9 or 10. "I don't imagine you want him. We will just euthanize him." I explain to her that our volunteer who transports can only take three at a time. He will have to make several trips. She says, "Then I will send the two buffs and the one black." I said, "No, send me the one buff, one black and send the old guy. We will be back for the rest."

A month goes by and a local puppy mill dumps their female breeders in a shelter. The call goes something like this. "We have four mill dogs. They will never be placed from the shelter. They are too frightened. They are 4 or 5. One is older, probably 9. I am sure you don't want her. We will euthanize her." Again I reply, "We will take all four."

This scenario repeats itself over and over during the course of a year. The old dog is surrendered to the shelter to make room for the puppy. These are the lucky ones. Some are just dumped by the side of the road. The elderly family member either dies or goes into a nursing home. No family member will take the dog. The dog who gave such love and devotion for years finds itself homeless.

I would not be truthful if I said that senior dogs are easy to place. I will have to say that some of the finest people I have met since I began doing rescue are those who adopt the senior or handicapped dogs. These are people who truly love this breed and are totally unselfish. Every time we place a dog it is a heartwarming experience but I must confess that a number of times tears of joy have run down my cheeks when I realized that one of our seniors was going to have that much deserved loving home. So you see when someone asks me. "Why do you take those old dogs? Everyone wants young ones". I will have to say that I guess I am selfish. I want to be able to feel that wonderful warm feeling that I get when I know I have made a difference in an old dog's life.

Below is a list of the special people who adopted senior dogs in 2006.

Kirk and Diana Burnstad
Richard Waigland and Carolyn Theesfield
Jackie Springer
Glena and Karen Wilhelm
Veronica Witter
Deborah Wilson
Rodney and Carolyn Hammons



LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL FAMILY

Last year we made a plea for some special angels and our prayers were answered. Two wonderful families adopted two of our long time resident senior girls. It was a very happy holiday for those of us at Shorewood but especially for Honey and Willow who found their forever homes. We are again looking for a special family for a very special dog.

Kami is nine years old and came to us from a commercial breeding facility. She spent the greater part of her life in a cage with little human contact. She never knew the kind touch of a human hand or what it is to lay her head down on a soft bed. You would have thought her spirit would be broken. We have found Kami to be one of the most resilient dogs we have ever encountered. Her tail was wagging since the day she came into rescue. Although she was terrified of us, she displayed such a natural curiosity; we knew it would not be long before she would want to initiate contact. She soon discovered toys. What a joy it is to see Kami running through the yard with a stuffed toy in her mouth. Kami has a mischievous side and soon learned that if she did not want to go into her crate she could dart out the doggy door. Those first weeks we would see her nose peeking in the door to be sure that those terrifying humans were gone. Now in the evening you will find Kami waiting by her crate because she knows a reward is coming.

Kami's new family will have to understand that there will be initial shyness, because to this point she has only known a few humans. She would love a fenced yard but a loving home is most important to her.

Blue Power

We get so many requests for this old tried and true recipe that we are including it as a holiday gift to your Cocker. This treatment cannot be used if your dog has a ruptured ear drum. To be effective it must be used for the length of time specified.



Blue Power Ear Cleaner

16 oz. bottle Isopropyl Alcohol (70%)
 4 Tablespoons Boric Acid Powder
 16 drops of Gentian Violet Solution 1% (Some people have had better luck with the 2% solution)

Use a small bottle with a narrow tip. You do not want to put the solution into to the ear too fast. Run hot water over the bottle to warm the solution before applying.

Day 1: Flood Ear. Repeat. Wipe off excess with tissue. Gentian Violet does stain so be careful where you do this. The dog will shake his head and this could get messy.

Day 2: Flood ear and massage for about a minute. Do this twice that day.

Repeat this for two weeks.

After the third day you can clean the ears with a Q-tip or cotton ball. Do not clean the ears too often. Once or twice a week should be sufficient.

Weeks 3 and 4: Repeat the procedure once a day

It is then good to use the procedure about once a month to keep the ears in good shape.

If you have difficulty finding these ingredients for Blue Power Ear Cleaner, they are readily available on the internet.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____


City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Donation Amount \$ _____ Telephone: (____) _____

e-mail _____

- I am interested in becoming a foster parent
 I am interested helping to transport Cockers.

Please mail your donation to: Donna Pfingsten, Shorewood Cocker Rescue, 1100 Erie Dr. Janesville WI 53545



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

Shorewood Cocker Rescue is a 501c3 Not-For-Profit Organization. Donations are tax deductible.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP



You don't need to drop. You can do your shopping from your home computer and help Shorewood Cocker Rescue at the same time. Visit www.igive.com. Register for Shorewood Cocker Rescue and we will receive a percentage from every purchase you make. With over 600 stores participating, there is something for everyone. Even Ebay is part of the igive.com shopping mall. The great news is that you pay the asking price, the donations come from the merchant and the donation sent to Shorewood is also tax deductible for you.

YOU MADE US PROUD, SNOOPY

Snoopy is a dog that had his third home by the age of two. He found his forever home with Marty Heidner of Wausau WI in 2005. Snoopy had some separation anxiety but I think he realized that he was home now and that Marty would not leave him. As time went on we received wonderful messages from Marty. We learned of Snoopy's steady progress. On April 22, 2006, Snoopy became a certified therapy dog. It took a lot of hard work both on Marty's part and Snoopy's.



I would like to share part one of Marty's messages. *"He loves his therapy dog work, especially with the kids. We are participating in the Read To The Dogs program at the local library. This is for pre-schoolers through 5th grade who come to practice their reading by reading stories to the dogs. Snoopy never tells them if they mispronounce a word or miss one. He even has his own trading card that he gives the kids once they have read to him. His reward for listening is a carrot that the kids get to give to him. The parents are impressed that he eats vegetables. He has also been to Special Olympics and to Rainbows End Camp for severely disabled kids. He loves all the attention and will rollover for a belly rub every time."*

I know how proud Marty must be. I think we at Shorewood are equally proud. Not only is Snoopy a wonderful companion for Marty, he is giving back to the community.

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