



Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

President's Corner by Monica LaPolt

When I sit back and consider the last 5 years and contemplate the over 500 dogs we've touched, all I can do is scratch my head and mutter, "wow". Not very articulate, I know. But the enormity of what we're accomplishing can take my breath away. Each year we rescue more and more Springers. Last year, 140 Springers passed through our hands, the vast majority were settled into loving forever homes.

Since our inception in May 1998, MAESSR has grown from three volunteers worried that if we charged an adoption fee, no one would adopt our dogs to an organization powered by 125 volunteers and numerous friends and supporters. The question we rarely consider when reviewing these facts is why? Why do we do what we've done?

I will be presumptive and speak for many MAESSR volunteers when I say that the reason why we do this is lying at our feet. That's right, if you're sitting down reading this newsletter or at your computer reading this on-line, chances are that there is a Springer in the room with you if not within arm's reach. When you get up and go to the next room, odds are your Springer will get up and follow you.

They watch from the window as you head out to evaluate a dog, transport another dog, or run some other MAESSR errand. Or, maybe it's those loving eyes watching you as you work on the computer or spend time on the telephone. Not always as patient as we would like them to be, yet, they wait. They know that their time will come.

You look into their face and wonder what might have happened to your beloved Springer if it had been sold to the wrong family as a puppy, or perhaps if you hadn't caught him the day he got away at the park.

It's those thoughts that drive us. We know that every dog we rehome we are giving the same loving experience that our dogs have. We are providing lucky families with that faithful devotion and loyalty that brings so much joy to our lives.

Next month, when I celebrate MAESSR's 5th birthday, I'll do so by buying a doggie cake for my boys. Without my boys, I wouldn't be here. I just do the work - they deserve all the credit.

Calendar of Events

May 15 – Deadline to submit recipes for MAESSR Cookbook

Email to Mary Beach at spanielma@aol.com or mail to MAESSR Cookbook, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227

May 16 – Potomac Springer Specialty, Manassas, Virginia

Information, quilt and merchandise sales – contact Kim Bolster at ess4x18@cs.com for information or to help

May 17 –South Jersey Yard Sale, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

To donate items and to help, Heather Young at youngh1@hotmail.com

May 31 – Keystone English Springer Spaniel Club Specialty, Ambler, Pennsylvania

Information, quilt and merchandise sales – contact Kim Bolster at ess4x18@cs.com for information or to help

June 7 – Strawberry Faire, Ashland/Hanover, Virginia

Information or to help contact Katie Smith at haymaess@msn.com

June 7 – Dog Days of Skippack, Skippack, Pennsylvania

Information or to help contact Heather Young at youngh1@hotmail.com

June 21 – Springer Fest/ Picnic – Curtis Park, Stafford, VA

Open to all Springer fans! Games, raffles, clinics, and fun! Information or to help contact Kim Bolster at ess4x18@cs.com

August 16 – Lancaster Picnic, Central Park, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Open to all volunteers and adoptive families. Information or to help contact Kim Bolster at ess4x18@cs.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Rebecca Barone
King of Prussia, PA

Angela Brooks Barton
Arlington, VA

David Carroll
Severn, MD

Alicia Gott
Ashburn, VA

Don Grigg
Bethesda, MD

Lynda Henderson
Sterling, VA

Summer Kanode
Madison Heights, VA

Marjean Krech
Mifflinburg, PA

Patti Knotts
Hagerstown, MD

Roger Lant
Alexandria, VA

Louise & Michael Perkins
Langhorne, PA

Helen Poulos
Elkins Park, PA

Karen Preissler
Cockeysville, MD

Teresa Thomas
Charlestown, WV

Hayes & Katie Smith
Ashland, VA

Volunteers are the heart and soul of MAESSR. If you would like to find out more about opportunities to volunteer, please contact **Linda Foster** at RescueESS@yahoo.com

THANK YOU!!

Gifts in Honor of:

Samantha Lomillo – Jed
The Mumbauer Family –
Paddington –
adopted October 2002
Janet and Brain Brunneske – Jed
Jody and Jim Reitzes – Dutch's
second year in the family
Patricia Cate – Jed and all the
volunteers who helped
to bring him home
Betsy and Paul Murphy –
our new addition, Butch
Jeffrey Dobrozski – Rusty III
Barbara Finnan - Gadget
Kent and Kathy Nixon – all the
love the Lipcseys and
MAESSR give to dogs in need
Sara Bubble – Baxter Bubble
Donna and Kenneth Sedlak – Kenai
Lois and Randy Boyer –
Lauren Boyer, DVM

Gifts in Memory of:

Suzanne Schnabel –
our Katie Scarlett
Betsy and Paul Murphy – Sonny
Mary Grace Dorsey – Jake Dorsey

Friends of Faith

Kathlene Lima Powell
(multiple donations)
Richard and Rita Gatlin
(multiple donations)
Barb Nickel
Karen Sultan
Suzanne Schnabel
Barbara Breeden
Celie Florence (multiple donations)

The Rhett Fan Club

Rob Pattison (multiple donations)
Richard and Rita Gatlin
(multiple donations)
Denise Velegdan (multiple donations)

Gifts

Mary Ann McNulty
Steven Tulin
Sam and Paula Knutson and Annie
Wendy Hogan
Tim Day
Ellen Horine
Janice Smith
Wendy Basehore
Helen Magee
Donna and Bernard Thompson

ESSentials By Teri Wiley

Spring Has Sprung!!

Winter 2003 has finally ended. The calendar tells us March 21, 2003 was the official first day of Spring. Our Springers are anxious to get out there and rub their noses and bodies in the new grass, sniff the flowering buds, and run around. However, beware of the dangers during this wonderful time of the year. There are over 40 kinds of flowers and shrubs poisonous to our furry friends. A great website to peruse is www.cybercanine.com/toxicplants It lists all these plants and provides a direct link to the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center at <http://www.asPCA.org>. You can call them at 1-888-426-4435 for immediate help!

Spring and summer are also great times for us to be out and about with our Springers. Unfortunately, this is also the greatest time for our pets to sustain injury and heat related problems. Educate yourself and your family to these health risks. Talk to your vet, ask a lot of questions and be prepared should the need arise. Your swift action in an emergency could save your pet's life.

First and foremost, make sure your dog is current on all their shots. Have your vet test for Heartworm, Lyme Disease and then put your dog on the preventive medication required to keep them happy and healthy. Remember, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and ear mites thrive in warm, humid environments. Just like humans, dogs are also susceptible to allergies come springtime. If your pet starts scratching excessively or chewing itself, consult your vet.

Secondly, be aware of the chemicals you put on your lawn and plants. Read the precautions carefully, and keep your pets off or away from treated areas. If your pet comes in contact with these chemicals, wash his paws, tummy and chest with clear water and contact your vet.

Heat and humidity play havoc on pets too. Watch out for hot pavement and beaches! Sensitive paws burn easily. Find a cool spot inside and out for your dog to enjoy. Make sure there is plenty of fresh water to drink 24 hours a day. Monitor your dog's level of activity, especially during the peak hours of heat between mid-morning to late afternoon. You may enjoy the warm rays of sun as your body turns to a golden brown, but our pets will burn. It is up to YOU to protect your pet.

Lastly, don't let your pets drink from pools, ponds, and streams or the ocean. Seawater is toxic in large quantities. Enjoy the season and keep it safe for your dog!

Friends of MAESSR

Cindy Brassfield lives in Knoxville, Tennessee – well out of MAESSR's geographical boundaries, but that has not stopped her generosity and kindness to MAESSR.

Cindy and her husband are the proud owners of two Springers and serve as a foster home for national Springer Rescue. She is an artist by trade, which allows her to share the love of the breed on canvas. Cindy first donated a custom portrait for a MAESSR fundraising raffle. Subsequently, she created and painted the "Rhett table" which was again raffled and raised substantial funds for Rhett's health care. On an ongoing basis, Cindy provides shoppers an opportunity to donate to MAESSR from her website.

This fall, MAESSR will be selling an original design Christmas card drawn by Cindy. The models are two MAESSR dogs and the card will be extra special! We will also be raffling of the original artwork. Check out Cindy's work at www.crbrassfield.com and watch for the holiday cards! Thanks to Cindy who is a true friend of MAESSR!

Senior Moments

By Norman Cromwell

After receiving rave reviews from my article in the last MAESSR newsletter, I have been offered my own column to tell everyone about my life as a Senior English Springer Spaniel.



By way of introduction, my name is Norman Cromwell. I am eight years old and reside in Washington, D.C. I was relinquished last September and lots of great MAESSR volunteers transported me and fostered me until MAESSR found the perfect home for me. I spent the bulk of my time with Billie Kerfoot who nursed me after I had one eye removed due to glaucoma. I went to my "Forever Home" in late October and began settling in immediately.

I find living in a house to be great fun. I was kenneled before and had no idea what I was missing. The behavior bar here is pretty low. I sleep on the bed and let my mommy have a small corner of the bed next to me. I also have my favorite chair in the

living room as well as my own chair in the den. When my mommy goes out, she leaves on "Animal Planet" for me to watch on television. I would much rather be watching HBO but she doesn't want me to pick up any of the HBO language.

I really don't like being thought of as an older dog. I have plenty of energy but the maturity and training not to chew shoes or pee in the house. Further, if I get a good exercise in the morning, I could pretty much sleep the day away until it's time to go out again in the late afternoon. Fortunately, there are some folks out there who recognize this as an advantage. I will write more in the coming months about some of the things I go through as an older dog. If there is anything in particular my readers would like to know about being a "fully trained" Springer, please write to me in care of the editor.

Editors Note: Norman is owned by Joan Cromwell and very happily resides in Washington D.C.

"Everything Is Coming Up Springers" 2003 MAESSR Quilt Raffle



Sewn by Barb Bennett

Behind the Squares-

It takes a lot of effort, organization, and skill to successfully produce a quilt like "Everything Is Coming Up Springers!" or last year's quilt – "Springer Splendor". Barb Bennett has all three! A MAESSR volunteer from West Chester, Pennsylvania, Barb has coordinated both of the MAESSR quilt projects. In addition to working with all the quilters, Barb contributed two squares plus the overall quilting of this year's quilt.

Some of Barb's fondest memories of her grandmother were of all the handmade quilts that adorned her grandmother's Paducah, Kentucky homestead. One special quilt from her grandmother's collection covered her bed while in nursing school. Barb has always been attracted to the beautiful fabrics and joy that quilts bring to people. A good neighbor and friend helped Barb get started and eleven years later – she is still quilting and passing on wonderful memories with her work!

Barb and her husband, Buzz own two rescue Springers, Maggie and George. George is our website model in front of the quilt!

Editors Note: To purchase raffle tickets for "Everything Is coming Up Springers!" see the Order form on the back page or the MAESSR website.

Do you have recipes to share?

MAESSR is producing a cookbook! It will be professionally printed and bound and will include handsome Springer artwork, excellent recipes and all profits will benefit our dogs!

Your help is needed! Please send recipes by May 15th and include your name and hometown. We also welcome recipes from your family and friends who would like to support our wonderful Springers. The categories include; Appetizers and Beverages, Soups and Salads, Breads, Main Dishes, Vegetables and Side Dishes, Sweets, and Dog Treats, Foods, and Remedies. You can send up to 6 recipes!

Please e-mail your recipes to Mary Beach (email address: spanielma@aol.com) or mail them to MAESSR Cookbook, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227. The cookbook should be published by late summer and will be a great Christmas present for family and friends. Be sure your recipes are included!

Remember...the deadline is **May 15th!**

The Training Corner By Isabelle Chewing

Clicker Training

Clicker training is a positive reinforcement training method that has grown rapidly in popularity over the past decade. In more traditional training, the handler gives a command, then rewards the good results and corrects the bad ones. In clicker training, you create a situation where Rover is likely to give you the behavior you want, and then you wait. The trick is to click at the exact instant the desired behavior occurs, and to follow the click with a treat. The clicker is good for marking Rover's desirable behavior because it is faster and much more consistent than the spoken word.

The clicker is a small plastic box with a metal strip that makes a sharp two-syllable clicking sound when pushed and released. You can get them for about a dollar at on-line sites like SitStay.com, and at large pet stores. When your dog is conditioned to the clicker, she'll understand that it means two things: (1) whatever she is doing at the exact time the clicker is heard is a desirable behavior; and (2) a reward is coming.

To start clicker training, "load" the clicker. With your highly desirable treats out of sight, click, then reward. Repeat 5-10 times at the beginning of each training session, and follow each click with a treat that your dog loves. Reward each and every time you click so that the dog begins to associate the click with the reward. Remember to click first and reward after. Don't "tip your hand" by putting your hand in your pocket or treat pouch as you are clicking.

Once your dog becomes "clicker-wise," you can begin "shaping" behavior with the clicker. Rover will soon learn that clicks mean treats, and that he can make you click by repeating a behavior. If Rover doesn't get a click, he will quickly begin to offer alternative behaviors, and experimenting to find out what you're looking for. At this point, Rover is convinced that this is a fabulous game, and that he is training you!

Try to learn how and why clicker training works before you begin, so that you don't inadvertently teach and reinforce bad behavior. The clickertraining.com website is a good place to start. Under "Clicker Basics", check out Karen Pryor's "Fifteen Tips for Getting Started with the Clicker". Have fun, and good luck!

Training Triumphs: Fran Hrastar reports that **Chip**, adopted about two years ago, has gotten his Canine Good Citizen certificate. He wasn't entirely sure about the "owner-out-of-sight" requirement, but was finally convinced that Fran would return.....Lin Heitmann and her MAESSR boy, **Griffin**, worked with a trainer to overcome Griffin's separation anxiety. Lin followed the trainer's instructions to the letter, and now Griffin is doing well, is enrolled in a beginners obedience class, and expects to graduate with honors!.....**Tristan** (owned by MAESSR volunteer Kim Bolster) recently got his Therapy Dog International certificate. Kim and Tristan are members of Caring Canines, a dog therapy group, and visit with seniors at a nursing home as well as disabled and wheelchair-bound adults.....And my MAESSR boy, **Shadow**, after many attempts, earned his AKC Novice Jumpers Agility title in March!

www.maessr.org

Do You Remember?.....Freedom

By Mary Beach

Then...

Pennsylvania Puppy Mill...Fall, 2001

Around the time of the September 11th attacks on our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shuts down a puppy mill. In an unprecedented move, MAESSR buys the only Springer found at the mill. Buying her from the "breeder" is the only way he will relinquish her. In recognition of the events of the nation and her history, she is named Freedom.

She has lived in a wire cage for five years and has produced litters of puppies. She has no idea how to be a beloved pet. After a month in foster care, she travels to her forever home with Cindy and Tony Miele in Blanchard, Pennsylvania. She immediately bonds with the resident Cocker Spaniel, Midge, but she doesn't know how to relate to people. The first few nights she is unable to sleep without the hand of her new dad on her head. Gradually, and with Midge's help, she learns how to walk and run on grass, play in dirt, go up and down steps, and how to be a beloved member of a family.



Now.....

Blanchard, Pennsylvania... Spring, 2003

Freedom enjoys a wonderful life with her adoring parents and her mentor, Midge, as well as two male cats and a new Springer sister, Marcy. (Marcy came to the Mielees as a foster but decided to adopt them!) They all have a grand time together and enjoy constant spoiling and attention. Freedom, once terrified by meeting new adults, is still a little shy but has learned to be more trusting. She is crazy about children and especially loves one of the family cats. The two of them actually lick and groom each other! The Mielees are absolutely in love with Freedom and offer advice to anyone who adopts an abused or neglected Springer. They say it takes time, understanding, love, and patience to nurture a dog with a troubled past. Freedom, though always docile and sweet, took about six months to relax and develop the adorable personality that now delights her loved ones.

SPECIAL DOGS, SPECIAL PEOPLE MISSY AND HER NEW HOME

Just wanted to give you an update on my wonderful new addition! Missy has been blossoming in her new home. She and her new Springer sister, Gia, have completely fallen head over heels for one another. Missy follows Gia everywhere!

This little gem is amazing. You would be hard pressed to detect that she is blind. Missy has completely mapped out the ENTIRE downstairs of my home and can navigate her way anywhere in the house with no problem. She almost NEVER bumps into anything anymore. We are very careful not to leave anything in her path, and she has become completely confident in her surroundings.

Missy has proved herself to be such a loving, sweet, beautiful little girl. She has such determination when learning something new. Humans could learn a thing or two about patience from this little blind baby.

Missy has been busy discovering new things in life. She has been introduced to the beach! She decided that she absolutely LOVES to dig in the sand, and she loves to stand in the water and bark, tail wagging wildly! She loves to get in the car and go, (as this always proves to be yet another adventure for her!). She has a toy that is made especially for her. It is a ball that makes a mooing sound for 15 seconds after it hits the ground, and she can locate it...YES, the blind dog now FETCHES!!! And let me tell you, she is so proud of herself - you can feel it.

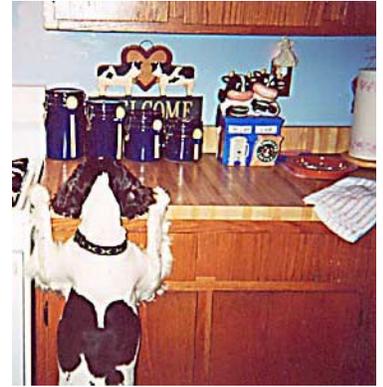
Missy has decided that her rightful place for sleeping at night is curled up cuddled between me and her Springer sister, Gia, and that is o.k. with the two of us. We are both quite smitten with her. However, the two of them give me about 10 inches of room in the bed. Yes, despite my original intentions, both dogs are officially allowed to sleep in bed with me!

I keep Missy's day-to-day activities very routine, and this has helped in her confidence level. She anticipates feedings, walks, etc. With a blind dog, I have found that she is so confident when she knows what to expect.

Missy was originally labeled as "Special Needs" because of her blindness; however, to us she is just SPECTACULAR!

Regards,
Brenda, Gia & Missy

Editor's Note: Missy was given to MAESSR by a backyard breeder once she became completely blind. When surrendered, she was heart worm positive, believed to be deaf, and had little socialization. While still hearing impaired, many ear cleanings and medication have improved her health. After 5 months at the special foster home of Heather Young, she was ready to go to her wonderful new home!



▲ Missy Quickly learned the special Springer skill of countersurfing and where the dog biscuits were kept!



◀ Krista and Eric Nelson and Friends at the MAESSR Booth at the March Paws Abilities in Harrisonburg, PA.

PICNICS!

MAESSR will be having two picnics this year. On June 21, we will hold the Springer Fest in Stafford, Virginia. The event is open to all Springer fans and promises to be great fun. Invitees also include volunteers, adoptive families as well as friends of MAESSR. We will have a grooming clinic, obedience clinic, games and lots of everything to do with Springers!

August 16th will be the Lancaster picnic. This year it will be at Central Park in Lancaster. Attendance is limited to adoptive families and volunteers. Don't miss out on either event!

CENTRAL VIRGINIA RESIDENTS

Ukrops Golden Gifts will be mailed next month.
Please send yours to MAESSR!
Send to P.O. Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227

Open Your Heart to Rescue!



P.O. Box 15354
Richmond, VA 23227
springerrescue@yahoo.com
(301) 362-0423

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Gale Blackmer - Financial Coordinator - windy1421@worldnet.att.net
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Open Your Heart to Rescue!



MAESSR appreciates and needs your financial support. Your donation will be used to rescue and care for English Springer Spaniels in the Mid - Atlantic region. Please mail your donation to the address below. Thank you for your generosity.

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

\$ 20 \$ 30 \$ 50 \$ 75 \$ 100 Other: _____

My donation is: in honor of in memory of _____

Name & Address: _____

**Please enclose this slip with your check made payable to MAESSR
Mail To: MAESSR, P.O. Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227**

Quilt Notecard Sets ▼



Sewn by Nancy Liss

8 cards, 2 each of 4 designs.



Sewn by Barb Bennett



Sewn by Leeny Glass

**Watch for the
2003 MAESSR
T-Shirt!**

QUANTITY	T-SHIRTS	UNIT COST
	DOG NOTECARD SETS	\$9.25
	QUILT NOTECARD SETS	\$9.25
	QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS	1 / \$ 5.00 4 / \$ 20.00 12 / \$ 50.00
L/W B/W	SNOW PIN	\$ 9.50
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Collectors Pins ▼

3 Different Designs. All 3 come in liver and white (l/w) and black and white (b/w.)



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Spring

Notecard Sets ▼

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**All Prices include the shipping*