



Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

President's Corner by *Monica LaPolt*

I was in college when my childhood dog developed heart problems. My mom and I talked about it and decided that we would do everything we could as long as it was benefiting him.

Finally, the day came when my mom called to say that Cleo was suffering. Treatments were not working and it was time to let him go. I drove home to take him into the veterinarian.

A big dog in a little dog body, he never liked to be carried. On the day I was to take him to the vet, he laid quietly in my arms. My mother and grandmother said their good-byes and we left.

Normally, he would have spent the car ride with his head out the window doing his best Red Baron imitation. Not that day, he curled up next to me,

with his head in my lap. At the veterinarian's office, they quickly escorted me into an examining room.

Cleo had been their patient for years. I could feel their compassion and sorrow. I already had decided to stay with him until the end.

He always had been there for me; I could do no less for him. Slowly he drifted away, quietly, without pain or fear, my beloved dog was gone. I thought I was prepared, I thought I was ready. I wasn't. I was devastated.

He was my childhood pal. He tolerated being dressed up in clothes when I was younger and was a patient audience as I practiced oral presentations.

He had listened to all of my dreams, aspirations, and as I aged, my teenage angst.

He commiserated with every imagined wrong and celebrated with every moment of joy - no matter how small. And now, he

was gone. Even through the pain, I knew that I had made the right choice. He was failing and he was in pain.

Cleo had been a member of our family from his arrival as a pup. He had given his all to us. I could only do the same for him. I can still get teary-eyed when reminiscing about Cleo.

But, in my heart of hearts, I know that we did the best thing for him.

We gave him the final gift of love. As I write this, my 11-year-old Springer, Nukta, sleeps at my feet, resting his head on my foot.

Overall, he is exceedingly healthy for his age. A bum shoulder he can predict the weather with is his only complaint.

He is a true clown, loves everyone, but will not permit any human in the house when none of "his" humans are home.

The bottom of our pack, he will not tolerate ill-mannered

foster dogs. A real mudder outside, he has perfect manners inside.

This is the dog that got me "into" Springers. Because of him, I adopted Jeremy who got me "into" rescue in a way I had never imagined.

You could say that Nukta is MAESSR's godfather.

Without him, I might never have taken part in starting MAESSR. I wonder if I will be strong enough when Nukta needs me to be.

In this age of high-tech medical treatments, will I chase a miracle trying to keep him alive?

Or will I love him enough to let him go with dignity and comfort, saving him the pain of experimental treatments?

As I look down at my funny old man, I can only hope that I will again be wise enough to know when to give the final gift of love.

Fly Goodhand Airlines!

MAESSR volunteers bring a wide variety of skills to the organization, but perhaps none as unique as Michael & Angi Goodhand. A pilot and owner of a private plane, Michael comes to the aid of MAESSR and our dogs when we need to move a dog in a special needs situation. Last year, Poppy & her puppies were in Ohio and needed to get to their Virginia foster home - "Goodhand Airlines" to the rescue!

Michael has also moved several arthritic or orthopedically challenged dogs that would not do well in a long car transport. His efforts have eased the way for many a dog and has enabled many homes to add a special new friend. Special thanks to these volunteers who always stand ready to help a dog in need.



Gracie is the latest Goodhand Airlines passenger. She poses with her new owner, Rosane Garczek.

**Don't forget to buy your quilt raffle tickets!
The drawing is November 2nd.**

THANK YOU!!

Gifts in Honor of:

Sara Bubble - Baxter
Sherry Higgins - Clyde
Amy & David McCracken -
Debbie Lipcsey, Teri Wiley
and Karen Ellery
FJ & Mary Barnes - Snoopy II
Steve Tulin - Sammy (Davis)
Patty McDonnell - Murphy
Mount Nittany Dog Training
Club - Rosie (Sadie) Irvin's
Graduation
Rose Jaros - Vinnie
Ruth Watson - MAESSR dogs
Scraper and Miss Millie

Gifts in Memory of:

Martha Johnston - our Springer/
border Collie mix - Ookie
Lois and Randy Boyer - Ginger

Gifts

Lindsey and Walter Green
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Foster Realtors - who donated
when client sold house
Sam Knutson
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Lynn Feller
Melissa Campbell
Rita and Richard Gatlin
(multiple gifts)
Dave Sewter
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"I looked at all the caged animals in the shelter, the castoffs of human society. I saw in their eyes love, hope, fear, dread, sadness and betrayal and I was angry. "God this is terrible! Why don't you do something?" God was silent for a moment. Then He spoke softly and said, "I have done something, I created you."

- Author Unknown

SPRINGER ANTICS Compiled by Teri Wiley

Jackson (April 2001) is our first adopted dog and really *adopted* me right away.

He still, to this day, will *'sniff'* me out if I've strayed away inside!

I think he attached himself to me first because I was the first one to reach out to him. The day that we adopted him was one I'll never forget.

We met Jackson in a parking lot in NC...he came *sauntering* up with his 'foster family' and *wagged* his tail like we were old friends.

I stooped down to offer my hand and he immediately *kissed* my face as if we'd always known each other.

The van door was open and after we had all talked and the

boys had gotten acquainted with Jackson, he *spied* the wicker basket that we'd taken down with us (it had been our old Springer's' basket) decided it looked comfy and *hopped* right in the van as if he was meant to be our dog!

We had things piled in the basket for the journey and I couldn't get them out fast enough before he tried to lie down!

I think he (Jackson) knew that he was coming home with us and never once looked back or even tried to go home with the foster family.

Even though he is the family dog, Mom is the one who gives him the most care. He will *sit* faithfully by my side.

Jackson *barks* at me when he wants food, *jumps* up at the first sound of my alarm, (set for pick-up time for the boys after school) anxious to walk to school and

pick them up!

I think this is the difference between dogs we raise as puppies and those that we adopt. The ones we adopt have been through such varied experiences... not all good and not all bad.

But, nonetheless, experiences, which make them, feel uncertain and perhaps a bit lost.

When we reach out to them, they reach back in a way that I have never experienced before.

We may say that we have adopted a rescue dog...when in actuality...they have adopted us!

MAESSR helps us to facilitate the reunion! *Jackson is owned and this story contributed by Karen Bobic.*

Editor's Note: *This is our first Springer Antics story—if you have a great ESS story to share, please send it to Teri Wiley at mizkyote@fast.net or the mailing address on the back of the newsletter.*

Introducing...



It is with great pride we premiere the 2003 MAESSR Holiday Card.

Drawn by Cindy Brassfield, the card features two MAESSR dogs and a snow friend.

The color cards will be available at the August 16th picnic and will be sold in sets of 15 cards and envelopes for \$12.00.

You can order the cards with the order form on the back page and after September 1 order through the website.

Misty's Story Adopted June 8, 2003

Misty had always known she wanted to live with the Kansiers. The stories were transmitted from dog to dog, whenever they got together about the big yard, the people there to serve every whim, and the space under their antique bed where dog surveillance was at its best but humans never knew. The only problem was that she was in Virginia Beach, hundreds of miles away from dog paradise in Silver Spring, MD. How would she get there? Misty had heard of the underground railroad during the Civil War and would use a similar route. First she had to find a person who would help her. She had heard that she was 12 years old, was blind and deaf so they would put

her on death row. Then she would recruit an Army of Marys - Baker and McElhaney, to plan her escape. They would hide her in a foster home among a Yellow Lab and a German Shorthaired Pointer. The last step was using advanced technology and MAESSR to make her whereabouts known. The plan took about a month but went like clockwork and the heroine was able to reach her goal where Joann, Bill, Elizabeth and her doggy sisters Mandy and Chamois waited to give her kisses, clean her eyes and share their bed. The journey was tough but the rewards for all of us are worth it. Thanks to everyone who helped bring us together. **Editor's Note:** *The following was written and read by Joann Kansier during the Parade of Rescue Dogs at the June 21 MAESSR SpringerFest.*

www.maessr.org

**The MAESSR
2004 Calendar is
available!**

**Featuring all-color
pictures and
stories of these
special dogs, you
can order yours
with the Order
Form on the back
page.**

Senior Moments

By Norman Cromwell

I sometimes hear humans say, "In my next life I am coming back as..."

Well, let me tell you, in my next life I want to come back as Norman Cromwell minus the aches and pains of old age. My life is good.

I run around the dog park every morning with my friend, Olie. I cuddle up next to my sister, Kelly, while my mom is at work. And every afternoon my girlfriend, Dawn, comes to take me for a long walk. She is very nice to my



sister and me. But sometimes I can't walk as far or run as well because of my arthritis.

When I was relinquished by my owner, fostered and adopted, it was such a crazy time for me.

The doctor thinks that I had a lot of anxiety and, therefore, a lot of adrenaline keeping me going. When I finally started feeling comfortable in my new home, I discovered that I just couldn't walk. I went to the vet and he said that I had very severe arthritis. My arthritis had progressed past the stage of being helped by buffered aspirin.

I began to take a prescription drug called Etogesic. Almost immediately, I was able to walk without limping. However, Etogesic has some side effects in some dogs that my mommy wanted to avoid. She posted on the MAESSR listserv and I think every single member of the list wrote to her

with suggestions and encouragement (and more than a few hugs and kisses for me). The prevailing opinion was to put me on Glucosamine/Chondroitin.

Three days after I finished the Etogesic, I could not walk again. This time my mommy started me on Glucosamine/Chondroitin. The results have been nothing short of remarkable. I can run and play as well as the young punk dogs at the park on most days. Occasionally, I can't walk as far or run as well but those days are good days, too because I get extra attention.

So you see, my life, as a MAESSR Senior Dog is good. I highly recommend it to those of you senior dogs who are thinking about joining a MAESSR family.

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

ALUMNI UPDATE

Class of 2000 -from Linda Parker: "**Holly** (or Molly as we call her) has gone from the princess of the house to the queen of the neighborhood. When she goes out for a walk, kids come from each yard to pet her. The parents ask how we got such a lovely, good tempered dog and we tell all about the rescue society and the good work they do. Molly is older than originally thought, being 7 when we got her, rather than 4 as we had thought, but really healthy. When she is called to go to greener pastures, we will ask for an older dog again, as they are so sweet and grateful for a home. Thanks again for her company."...from the Tomko family: "We just passed **Spencer's** 3rd anniversary...He continues to bring such joy to our home and completes our family zoo quite well. We had to say good-bye to our older rescue shepherd mix in early March. Spencer and Lilly took over for a very depressed Blackie (lab mix) who was inconsolable with the loss of her mate. We are now one large and happy fur-ball flying family. To those who are considering an older rescue—go for it! I know we will be MAESSR supporters for life!

Class of 2001 - from Russell Powell: "We adopted **Harley III** in 2001, then a 5 year old. Today he is very healthy. He is not head shy anymore, loves his head and ears rubbed. He is like a big kid now...He's a big tease with toys. Lies there with the toy by his nose, waiting for you to grab it. Hold it in front of him and he bats it down with his large paws. Used to sleep with us in the bedroom, but now likes to sleep on the sofa downstairs at night. Sneaks up to my wife in bed when I come down in the morning. If I run upstairs he jumps off the bed as though he was never there."

Class of 2002 -from Mark Purpura: "Bo (formerly known as **Goober**) is one year old! We have never seen a dog that is as loving and cuddly as Bo, and he just loves playing with his older Springer sister Bridget, and chasing the birds around the backyard. He has already brought us much love and joy, and we can't imagine our house without him."

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Mary Barnes
Onancock, VA

Beth Schuster
Narberth, PA

Brenda Cuomo
Brick, NJ

Linda Swayze
Ashburn, VA

Amy McGuire
Silver Spring, MD

Volunteers are the heart and soul of MAESSR. If you would like to find out more about opportunities to volunteer...

Linda Foster at RescueESS@yahoo.com

Coming Soon: MAESSR Cookbook!

Our cookbook is scheduled to arrive in August! With 392 recipes sent by Springer lovers from many states as well as the UK. The design is particularly appealing to dog lovers, but the book will be useful & treasured by all. The assortment of recipes is vast—everything from "Whackey Cake" to "Pollo Compagna". There is a section of recipes and remedies for dogs. Additionally, there are pages of useful information including Cooking Terms, Microwave Hints, Measurements and Substitutions. There is special Springer artwork throughout the book. Make your gift list today and plan how many you'd like to purchase. Every MAESSR home should have one, and they will make wonderful holiday gifts for your family and friends. The BEST part is that over 2/3 of the purchase price will go directly to our wonderful dogs! The books cost \$16.00 each or two for \$30.00, plus \$3.00 postage for one or \$5.00 postage for two. See the back page order form and get yours today!

www.maessr.org

The Training Corner

By Isabelle Chewing

Training Treats

One of the most important elements of a good positive reinforcement training program is having great treats for your dog. Make your treats something really special that your dog only gets when you're training. If you use Milk Bones for your normal everyday treat, don't use them for training! Food is not a guaranteed motivator for all dogs, but it usually works well for our Springers since they're such notorious "chow hounds." Treats don't need to be big, just flavorful and enough of a reward to make your dog want to work. Try to pick something that's not too high in fat or calories. Our favorites are: turkey pepperoni (Hormel's has 70% less fat than regular pepperoni); low-fat beef hotdogs (cut into small pieces & microwaved); chicken (Purdue already cooked Shortcuts are great); cheese; or tablescraps (order the 12-oz prime rib instead of the 8-oz one, and bring the leftovers home!) If you have a training session where you use lots and lots of treats, reduce the amount you feed at mealtime that day. Use a variety of treats so your dog isn't sure just what he's going to get. Keep a container in the freezer with your training treats, and take out what you need for your training session. As your supply starts to get low, mix in a couple of new items. However, if you've made your treats so delectable and desirable that your dog can't concentrate on the task at hand, make your "trail mix" a little more mundane by mixing some of your dog's regular kibble.

Training Triumphs: Carol Mumbauer reports that **Paddington** finished his beginner obedience class with special recognition for "best effort."...**George Bennett** has learned what his family members consider a very useful trick: he retrieves the plastic golf balls they use during chipping practice in their back yard!...Teri Wiley's **Boomer (aka Quinn)** just completed basic agility training, and after some initial trepidation about the tunnel, really seemed to enjoy himself...Rob Pattison reports that both **Chance** and **Penny** have completed "Household Manners" classes, and Penny (Miss October on the 2003 calendar) is currently halfway through her first agility class...MAESSR boy **Sam** (with the help of his owner, Beth Anderson), recently completed his AKC Companion Dog (CD) title and will soon start working at the Open level...Gay Norton Edelman reports that obedience training has made a huge difference in her household's relationship with **Shadow II**. Shadow now knows that she has to earn her rewards, and that her jobs are to greet enthusiastically each family member as he or she enters the house; patrol the floors for stray crumbs; lie quietly in the kitchen doorway to supervise dinner prep; accompany family walkers on their journeys; and be there to receive hugs and pets...MAESSR volunteer Joy Sarnelli reports that ESSCLI rescue **Russell** earned his CGC in March, joining his ESS brothers Ricky and Reggie in becoming canine good citizens...Carol Alderman's **Mickey** just completed an obedience class, and is signed up for agility training. In his spare time, he has learned how to remove his sister **Daisy's** collar...Having all of these dogs do so well in their training is a fantastic advertisement for rescue in general and MAESSR in particular. Keep up the good work!



The 2003 MAESSR T-Shirt

Concept by Lisa Wilson, Art by Laurin Howard and Printing by Pro-Line Specialty (Carol Mumbauer).

T-Shirt is navy blue with white text; logo on back is liver and white dog on tan oval.

www.maessr.org

Do You Remember?.....Xena

By Mary Beach

Then...

Edinburg, Virginia... Summer 2001

A sweet, emaciated Springer is dropped off at the local shelter the day before she delivers eleven puppies. MAESSR is contacted and volunteer Debbie Lipcsey rushes to the shelter and takes the mother and pups to her home for foster care.

Xena is a devoted mom but because of her neglected health she has to be fed and helped around the clock so that she can become strong enough to raise her pups. Soon the puppies are thriving and begin to display a variety of physical and personality traits. Many friends of MAESSR make donations to cover the costs of caring for Xena and the little ones.

It's an exciting time for MAESSR and the Lipcsey family! After a while the eight surviving pups, strong and healthy, go to their happy forever homes. Xena also says good-bye to the people who have saved her life and taught her about love.



Now.....

Columbia, Maryland... Summer 2003

Xena lives a charmed life with the Caffrey family in Maryland and is dearly loved by the mom, dad, and three children ages 14, 11, and 7. She is sweet and mild-mannered, but she has become quite frisky now that she is secure in her forever home. She is very healthy and finds many ways to brighten the lives of all the family members.

She sleeps at the foot of her dad's side of the bed each night. In the morning she waits outside the bedroom door of the 11-year-old who takes her outside bright and early each day. During the school year she happily greets the kids as they come home and enjoys playing outside with them. She loves chasing tennis balls, squirrels, and chipmunks.

She frequently goes on walks and enjoys going after sticks thrown into water. Xena is an active family member; attending soccer games and other family activities, and this summer will go with her family on a vacation at the Outer Banks in North Carolina. It will be her first time seeing the ocean and her family hopes she'll enjoy it as much as the puddles and lakes at home. Clearly, Xena and her family are perfect match!

ESSentials

By Teri Wiley

“On the road again, just can’t wait to get on the road again..”

Yep, it’s that time of year again. Families are packing up their gear, beach chairs, sports equipment and heading to points unknown. But hey, what about the family dog? If he or she comes along, are you prepared? Here are just a few tips to keep your furry family member safe and comfortable as you head out.

1. Make sure you have a secure leash and collar with the license & nametag firmly attached.
2. Carry a photo of your pet in case you are separated.
3. Micro-chipping your dog can be done quickly at your vet. Vets, shelters and even police in some cases can scan this chip. A quick and efficient way to locate YOU!
4. Pack you dogs’ favorite blanket, toys, food and treats. Be sure to

bring water from home or use bottled water – guaranteeing you will always have water for your dog.

5. Take along any medication your pet needs and have your vet’s phone number handy.
6. If this is your pet’s first long car ride, work up to longer periods in the car BEFORE you leave, so your dog is prepared.
7. Designate a special spot in the car for your pet or use a crate to keep them safe & secure. Make sure there is enough room for your dog to stand up, turn around and lay comfortably.
8. **NEVER, NEVER, leave your pet ALONE in a parked vehicle.** People and kids have been known to tease ani-mals, even break windows and let the dog run free! Take turns sitting with your pet in shady spots, it’s a great time to play one on one.
9. Clean up after your dog, no matter where you are. It’s the RIGHT thing to do.

10. Plan ahead. Make sure the hotels, motels, parks, and even Grandma is OKAY with pets!

Here are just a few places to contact as you set your vacation plans in motion: Motel 6 and Super 8 allow pets at most of their properties. Holiday Inn, Ramada, and Red Roof Inns allow pets on a property-by-property basis. If you are an AAA member you can call and ask AAA for a travel book. It will list AAA hotels allowing pets. You can also try these websites:

- <http://www.doggonefun.com>
- <http://www.travelpets.com>
- <http://www.petswelcome.com>
- <http://www.petfriendlytravel.com>
- <http://www.virtualcities.com/ons/pets.htm>

PetTravel.com has the scoop on the world’s most pet-friendly hotels and cities. The site lists more than 10,000 accommodations worldwide that welcome pets, as well as cities that have pet-friendly parks, pet groomers, veterinarians, & pet sitters. It also has information on vaccination rules and tips on how to travel on a plane with your dog.

Andrew and Sue Geckle with Cassie.



SpringerFest Memories

Stafford Virginia was the site of this years’ SpringerFest. Over 48 dogs and 90 people enjoyed the day. A grooming clinic led by Hayes Smith and a microchip clinic conducted by Debbie Lipcsey were well received. The Parade of Rescue Dogs and the sharing of Springer tales were the highlight for many attendees.



Reta Goldman assists Sammy & Socks with owner Steve Tulin.

Joan Cromwell with Kelly and Norman.



Some of the guests!



Tom and Annie Bigford with Holly.

2003 Lancaster Picnic – Attention Volunteers and Adoptive Families

Join us August 16th for the annual Lancaster picnic. This year the event will be held at Central Park in Lancaster. In addition to all the friendship, dogs and great shopping, we will conduct a Microchip clinic. Advance registration is required. See registration and more picnic information at www.maessr.org/2003picnic.html or you can register by mail. The fee for a family is \$18.00 and individuals are \$8.00. To pay by mail, send your check to the Richmond PO Box listed on the back page. See you there!



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

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Monica La Polt - Adoption Coordinator - mlapolt@sbcglobal.net
 Linda Foster - Volunteer Coordinator - rescueess@yahoo.com
 Gale Blackmer - Financial Coordinator - windy1421@worldnet.att.net
 Karen Ellery - Applications Coordinator - kellery@faegre.com
 Kim Bolster - Fundraising Coordinator and Newsletter Editor - ess4x18@cs.com
 Debbie Lipsey - Dog Intake Coordinator - springerfarm@aol.com
 Dave Sewter - Transport Coordinator - zoothockey@aol.com
 Angie Epling - Owner Relinquishment Coordinator - BrocksPalace@aol.com
 Pat Jaeger - New Jersey Shelter Liaison - wjaeger@monmouth.com
 Meg Dickey - Delaware Shelter Liaison - thedickeys@comcast.net
 Diane Chaves - Pennsylvania Shelter Liaison - chaves-diane@aramark.com
 Renee Weidman - Maryland Shelter Liaison - weidman2@prodigy.net
 Barb Moseler - Eastern Virginia Shelter Liaison - bmoseler@aol.com
 Mary Ellen Maloney - Central Virginia Shelter Liaison - vamreluvr@aol.com
 Angie Epling - Western Virginia Shelter Liaison - brockspalace@aol.com
 Timothy Day - DC Shelter Liaison - tim.day@ncr.com
 Kelly Gribble - Website and Petfinder Updates - kfg0304@aol.com

Springer Tails Newsletter Staff

Editor: Kim Bolster
 Contributors: Isabelle Chewning,
 Mary Beach, Teri Wiley, Monica La Polt,
 Joan Cromwell
 Mailing Lists: Katie Smith



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.

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