



Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

President's Corner

by Monica LaPolt

I have said it before and I will say it again, that MAESSR's volunteers, families and supporters are the best going. With your help we have accomplished amazing things, we rescued Freedom and Maggie V from puppy mills and gave them normal lives. We pulled the Montgomery Nine dumped at a shelter by their "breeder". The next year we turned around and pulled three more after the same breeder dumped at the same shelter.

Repeatedly, we have loved and cared for litters of Springer and Springer mix puppies. We have treated numerous dogs for heart-worm infestation, kidney failure, hip dysplasia and other serious ailments. And every year, we continue to increase the number of dogs we rehome.

Once again, our resources will be put to the test. MAESSR was contacted by the English Springer Spaniel Club of Long Island (ESSCLI) for help with a problem of gargantuan proportions. ESSCLI was made aware of a proposed raid where 61 Springers were being kept in unhealthy and unsafe conditions. ESSCLI wanted to know how many of these dogs, called the "Wawayanda 61", MAESSR could be expected to take and what other resources we could bring to bear.

Many of you have been following the emails concerning this story, so I will not repeat it all here. Ten dogs were taken from the home in the original raid. A hearing is set before the judge on May 4th, concerning the fate of those 10 dogs and the remaining dogs left in the care of their owners. As the newsletter goes to press, we do not know how the judge will rule. However, in preparation, MAESSR has taken several steps.

First, MAESSR volunteers, adoptive homes, and supporters have participated in the letter writing campaign to convince Judge Gromacki to remove all of the dogs and place them with rescue. We have been lining up foster homes and assessing our financial resources. MAESSR has committed to helping 20 of the 61 Springers. We will foster as many as we can and board the remainder until foster homes are available. We will provide medical care and assess their temperament and socialize these poor unfortunates. In short, we will take every step necessary to get these Springers ready for new permanent homes should the Judge decide the dogs should be removed from their present situation.

However, we're going to need your help. We will need foster homes and adoptive homes. Considering the neglect these Springers have experienced, we expect that their medical expenses will be on the high end of the curve. Many of these Springers, if not all, will need professional grooming to clean up their coats. This is where you come in. As our treasurer recently determined that our adoption fees cover only 49% of our expenses, we will need your financial support should the judge remove the dogs.

Additionally, if you can do more, take in a foster dog, groom dogs, assist foster homes with socialization and trips to the vet, or help us transport dogs from the mid-Hudson River Valley in New York to their foster homes, we need you.

We will be posting a special page to keep folks posted on the status of the Wawayanda 61, accept donations on their behalf and other offers of assistance. <http://www.maessr.org/wawayanda61.html>

In closing, I would like to share a letter written by a Springer lover to the Judge on behalf of these dogs:

Dear Mr. Judge,
My name is Hannah and I'm 7 years old. I go to church at The Falls Church Episcopal Church in Falls Church Virginia. I have a dog named French Fry and we got him from the pound. He is an English Springer Spaniel. My mom said that before he came to live with us, his mom and dad did not feed him very much and he didn't get to go out and play. My Sunday school teacher, Miss Darby came and played with him when we went to Disney World at Christmas and French Fry had lots of fun.

Miss Darby says that we should forgive everyone who makes us feel bad because Jesus forgives everyone but I don't want to forgive those people in New York who hurt their dogs. Miss Darby says that they have lots of dogs and need help to take care of them but they don't want anyone to take their dogs away. I think that if they cannot give their dogs food and don't let them play then they should not be able to keep their dogs because it's mean and hurts the dogs feelings.

Miss Darby said that they love their dogs but just need some help and that she has friends that can help the dogs. I want Miss Darby and her friends to save the dogs and give them food and let them play. She works with mayser [MAESSR] and says that they can help the dogs. Please give Miss Darby and her friends the dogs so that they can help them. My mom said that maybe we can have one of the dogs if my dad says its okay.

Your friend
Hannah

Clearly, the children are our future.

**WELCOME NEW
VOLUNTEERS!!!**

Jennifer Cording Lansdale, PA	Lisa Roth Woodbridge, VA
Elise Passentino Great Falls, VA	Liz Watson Fayetteville, WV

We also would like to welcome Rick Gatlin who recently joined the Board of Directors of MAESSR. MAESSR is always looking for volunteers. If you enjoy talking with people, organizing events, fundraising, administrative work, or have computer skills, consider volunteering! Please e-mail our Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Foster, at RescueESS@yahoo.com to hear more about all the volunteer opportunities!

The Training Corner

By Isabelle Chewning

Training Books

When I took my first Springers to obedience school in 1983, the accepted training method was a choke collar with lots of corrections, and dog-training books were hard to find. Suggested reading was pretty much limited to No Bad Dogs by Barbara Woodhouse, and How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend by the Monks of New Skete. Things have changed! Now there are so many training manuals that it's hard to choose, so I asked a few MAESSR volunteers to recommend their favorites. Thanks to Barb Bennett, Patti Dooley, and Beth Reid for their help with this column. These books seem to fall into two categories: general training methods and problem solving.

General Training: The Other End of the Leash by Patricia McConnell stresses improving human-canine communication, and focuses on paying attention to your behavior as a handler. Pat Miller, a dog trainer for more than 30 years, explains how and why purely positive dog-training works, and offers a six week program in The Power of Positive Dog Training. In Good Dog, Bad Dog, New and Revised: Dog Training Made Easy, Mordecai Siegal and Matthew Magolis describe five basic canine types (strong-willed, shy, high-energy/outgoing, calm/easygoing, and aggressive) and then discuss training methods to match the personality types. In Suzanne Clothier's Bones Would Rain From the Sky: Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs, Clothier uses anecdotes about her clients to help us understand how dogs see the world from their canine perspective. Finally, Mother Knows Best by Carol Lea Benjamin is based on the premise that in nature, the mother is the dog's most successful teacher, and a natural way of learning is the best.

Problem Solving: Dr. Nicholas Dodman has written two books recommended by the MAESSR reviewers: Dogs Behaving Badly: An A to Z Guide to Understanding and Curing Behavioral Problems in Dogs and The Dog Who Loved Too Much: Tales, Treatment, and the Psychology of Dogs. As you might guess from the first title, Dr. Dodman addresses 26 common canine behavior problems and offers practical treatment plans. The fourteen chapters of The Dog Who Loved Too Much are case studies from Dodman's clinical practice. When Good Dogs Do Bad Things (Siegal and Margolis) addresses more than 30 specific problem behaviors from housebreaking failures to excessive barking, jumping, etc., and also includes prevention tips.

All these books are available from Amazon.com, which was also the source of some of the reviewers' notes. Happy reading, and happy training!

Training Triumphs: Savannah, adopted by Barbara Breeden in 2003, just graduated with honors from her Level 1 agility class. She placed 4th in the end of class competition, and will move on to Level 2 classes in the fall. In the interim, she will be taking Level 1 obedience. Another 2003 placement, George, is also enjoying agility. His mom, Barb Bennett, reports that George's favorite obstacle is the A-frame, and the class has taught him to focus on her despite the many distractions of a busy class. Sarah Roberts says that Zeke has graduated from Basic Obedience, Beginning Agility, and Intermediate Agility – all since his adoption in August 2003! X-Man (now known as Gromit) of the class of 2004 graduated from basic obedience class in March, and his new mom, Rachel Murray, says he was one of the best in his class at "stay". Kim Bolster reports that Duncan (formerly Sidney II, adopted in 2004) graduated from Basic Dog Obedience in April. At 9 months old, Duncan was the youngest graduate in the class. He is continuing in obedience and is working towards his Canine Good Citizen/Therapy Dog International designations so he can join his friend and housemate Tristan as a therapy dog.

THANK YOU

Gifts in Memory of:

Doug and Ann McNary – Lucy
Mary Jane Isenberg – Louise and Jessy
Debbie Lipcsey – Warren and Marcalene Reeves' yellow lab – Allison
Mary and Lee Beach – Debbie Lipcsey's Bobbi
Kim Bolster – Debbie Lipcsey's Bobbi
Linda Johnston – Debbie Lipcsey's Bobbi
Vicki Phillips – Van der Field
Debbie Lipcsey – Kim Bolster's Annabelle
Lisa Roth – my beloved 15-year-old Arthur
Jennifer Reece – Lisa Roth's Arthur
Lucia Van Pelt – Vicki Phillip's mother, Iris Hawk Phillips
Debbie and Bill Lipcsey – Vicki Phillip's mother, Iris Hawk Phillips
Luisa Ragonese – Vicki Phillip's mother, Iris Hawk Phillips

Gifts in Honor of:

Brian Murray – X-man, now Gromit
Christopher Stanton – Zorba
Jody Reitzes – Sophie's adoption
Kay Stillwagon – Sophie
Genevieve Ryan – their daughter, Jean- Marie Tate
Mary Ann McNulty – Gonzo
Bonnie Nichols – Bonnie
Jeff and Amanda Alwang – Zimmie
Kent and Kathy Nixon – Higgins aka Ernie
Beth and Mark Robinson – Covey, Rosie and in memory of Spot Bush
Barbara Breeden – Oreo

Gifts:

Carole Alderman
Joni Jones
Linda Johnston (multiple gifts)
Patricia Chenoweth
Ann Hoover
Bentley Systems Inc (Chuck Kirschman)
Mary Barnes
Howard Holland
Frances Brennan
Melissa Campbell (multiple gifts)
Ellen Friedenbergl
John Fritz

Gifts for Major's Care:

Christopher Nally
Suzanne Schnabel
Christopher Stanton
Richard and Rita Gatlin
Linda Johnston

In Memory of Tina Wright:

Ralph Weyant Strine Printing Company
Liz Ricke Ann Geare
Doy Eisenhart Laurie Crouse
Thomas Harhal Neil Touchet
Jeff Ruth Dover Area Animal Hospital
Marilyn Shaffer Melody Schlag
Douglas Walters

In Honor of Volunteer Karen Ellery:

Joy Sarnelli Barbara Bennett
Sue Baldwin-Way Linda Johnston
Laurie Garrison Angie Epling
Kelliann Gribble Lisa Wilson
Jean Marie Tate Cheryl DeMarkis
Jill Kirschman Susan Adamowitz
Sue Geckle Jayne Huston
Sandi Wright

SPRINGER ANTICS

BY TERI WILEY

Spring showers...

Gandalf is an obedient dog, eager to please. When its sloppy out and we want him to wipe his feet, he goes thru this routine on command. Place a sheet on the floor in front of the door, open the door and as he enters, we have him sit immediately on the sheet. I then say, "circle" and I pretend to be holding a treat in front of his nose (had to use one to train him) and I circle around with him. He follows the treat wiping his feet in the process. We go into a "down wait" and I actually put a treat on the floor a few inches from his nose so he has to scootch his belly on the sheet to get it. Voila! A wiped off dog..Contributed by Karen Karos, who adopted Gandalf, one of Poppy's pups.

Budde, aka JAKE, loves HUGS!

Somewhere along the line there must have been a conflict of interest during spring training for Budde. He is not a fielder for catching balls but instead enjoys a good run and a welcome home HUG! His tail is constantly wagging, no matter what. Our normal greeting is his most comforting endearment. He must have watched "While you were Sleeping" because he does the *LEAN* thing! If the hug requires a little more closeness, Budde comes up on his back feet and *LEANS* his whole body into yours.

Contributed by foster mom Alicia Gott

NEW VOLUNTEER POSITIONS WE NEED HELP!

Do you like to organize events? Marketing? Keeping up on local events? MAESSR is presently looking for volunteers to act as Regional Event Coordinators. The position involves utilizing various e-mail lists, websites, and other sources to locate and help coordinate MAESSR's participation at rescue fairs and other dog-related events. You will report to MAESSR's Fundraising and Outreach Chairperson and would be responsible for posting messages to our e-mail list to enlist the help of local volunteers/friends to represent MAESSR at the events in your region. Email is required.

Currently, we need Regional Event Coordinators for Central PA, Western PA, Maryland/DC, and Northern VA/West Virginia. If you are interested, please contact Kim Bolster at ESS4x18@cs.com or Linda Foster at RescueESS@yahoo.com.

SENIOR MOMENTS

BY NORMAN CROMWELL

There was a lot of green space and wildlife where I grew up in Pennsylvania. I was fostered in the beautiful hills of Virginia



Roanoke. So it

was a bit of a shock to find that my new home was in Washington, D.C. I live near multi-story buildings and a firehouse. We do have a small yard but a guy really can't break a sweat running across this small lawn. I do all my running around in an organized fashion at a fenced in park. So I have to tell you that I was a bit surprised to find wildlife in our little urban patch of greenery.

Earlier this year, my mom was walking Kelly (another visiting Springer), my housemate Kelly, and me from the front yard to the back yard. RIGHT THERE IN OUR YARD was an opossum! I could not believe my luck. The three of us began to pull on our leads until mom was like a rag doll flapping behind us. I reached the opossum first and caught it with my mouth! I was so pleased and turned to present my great find to my mom. She was jumping up and down screaming. Because I am hard of hearing, I thought she was saying a little cheer for me. I then realized that she wanted me to let the opossum go. Can you believe that???? My fine hunting skills going to waste. Well, I dropped it but I wasn't happy about it. It scurried off a little bit later when it deemed it safe to stop pretending to be dead. I think I at least taught it who was the king in these parts.

I must say that my little find lifted my spirits and helped hone my dormant hunting skills. For weeks afterwards, I prowled the neighborhood looking for more wildlife. The next gift I presented to my mom was a dead rat I found. It wasn't nearly the excitement of catching something that was running from me but what the heck! These days, I haven't really seen anything worth chasing but I sure am looking forward to "patrolling" the yard this spring and summer.

Do You Remember...Hero and Larry

By Mary Beach

Then..

Montgomery County, PA...September, 2001

Ten dogs arrive at the county SPCA. They are all crammed into a 36-inch crate and are covered with briars and dirt. One is a 2-year-old Springer sire, eight are 7-month-old Springer pups, and one is a 7-month-old Brittany pup. The Springers are nicknamed the "Montgomery Nine" and within 24 hours foster homes and transports are worked out for all of them. The sire, named Hero, is the first to find a forever home. A family meets him at a rescue fair and falls in love with him. They are able to adopt him and he comes to live in his new home in Hamilton Township, NJ! Hero's name is changed to Chase (short for Chase D. Birds), and he is delighted to learn about loving and living in a real home. However, his new family notices, that he really seems lonesome. On walks when he sees another dog he looks sad and actually cries.

His devoted family contacts MAESSR to see if they can adopt one of his puppies. Only one is left; Larry is in a foster home in Virginia Beach, VA. His adoption is arranged, and in December of 2001 Larry is flown by "MAESSR Airlines" to meet his New Jersey forever family! What a happy reunion for father and son!



Now..

Hamilton Township, NJ...May, 2004

Larry's name is now Chevy; hence we have Chevy and Chase. These two very lucky fellows live with Kathy and Mike Jensen and their three sons, ages 19, 17, and 10. Matt, the 10-year-old is definitely "their human". He feeds them and manages their care, and they adore him. Chevy and Chase are quite spoiled by all the Jensens, enjoying lots of exercise, walks, and the company of many neighborhood dogs and friends. These two boys are 100% devoted to one another. No matter what the season or temperature, they can be found snuggling close to one another. They are surely meant to be together!

The boys are magnets for the neighborhood children who love to play and pet them. In the summer while Kathy Jensen gives neighborhood children swimming lessons in their pool, the boys can be happily found by the pool getting love and attention from all the swimmers. For many a child – the dogs are the highlight of the lessons! Chevy, however, does have a favorite and unusual sport. He loves to jump on the trampoline and can put on quite a show!

Editors Note: Brother and son, Indy is featured in the Class of 2001 Alumni Updates while another brother Nader (now Logan) is spotlighted on the month of September in the 2004 MAESSR calendar.

Shopping with MAESSR!

This Spring, MAESSR will be introducing several new fundraising items. There will be two new t-shirt designs; both designed by the talented Laurin Howard. Ms. Howard has been the exclusive designer of all of MAESSR's specialty and collector t-shirts.

We will have a "Transport Team" shirt as well the specialty shirt. Look for these shirts to be introduced shortly. Thanks to Vicki Phillips for her creative idea to have a Transport shirt!

This year, thanks again go to Dave and Carole Mumbauer (Proline Sales of Perkasie, Pennsylvania) for their generous donation of their time and services. With the Mumbauers support and assistance, MAESSR will offer embroidered products this Spring. Look for golf shirts in three different colors as well as a heavy canvas tote. Both items will have the embroidered MAESSR logo. Plans are being made to offer an embroidered fleece for the cooler months.

Please watch the website and future newsletters for these exciting new items. Everything will be available at the upcoming picnics!



"Hunting Springers"

from the MAESSR 2004 Quilt
Springer Games!

Traveling with Dogs....

A Few Rules of the Road

As the weather gets warmer, more people take to the roads and include their family's best friend in their travel plans. A well-planned trip can be enjoyable for all four and two legged family members!

- **Never leave your pet alone in a car – even with the windows cracked- heat can soar in no time and pets are regularly stolen.**
- **Always have identification on your pet – be sure to have the address and phone of your home and your destination.**
- **Always have water available.**

Websites for more information:

www.hsus.org/ace/11854

www.petsonthego.com

www.petswelcome.com

ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 1998 - Bear is like a seeing-eye dog for his deaf Springer sister, Lady. When Lady is called, Bear gently touches her and leads her to where she needs to be. He is the cuddliest, loving Springer on EARTH!

Class of 1999 - Molly, now seven years old, has no remnants of the separation anxiety she had when adopted. She is the sweetest little princess around. She loves every person she sees and lives happily with her forever family including two other dogs..**Rockette**, the famous runaway, is now called "Sweetie Girl". She had benign mammary tumors removed recently and still loves her treats and hikes in the woods. She has an ESS rescue brother named Snoopy.

Class of 2000 - Sam participated in the "Parade of Rescue Springers" at the recent Pittsburgh Specialty. His activities include tracking, Camp Jackpot, and being read to by his owner's second grade students once a month..**Bo (now Beau)** is doing well and has developed a true love for his family. He shares the house with a 12-year-old ESS, 3 cats, 3 kids, and a hamster. He loves chasing the kids on the snowmobile up the hill, only to turn around and run back to the bottom for the next "run"..**Chance** is big brother (55 pounds) to two tiny poodles (5 pounds and 10 pounds). They all eat from the same bowl, and Chance is such a gentleman that he'll wait until one of them is finished before he begins. When the weather is chilly, they all snuggle together on a pillow. When the younger poodle wakes him to play, he'll sometimes groan and give a look that says, "Later, kid!".**George (now Max)**, once shy and a little fearful, is now a loving, active member of the family. He "assists" his 11-year-old ESS sister with loving pats and their own language. He is fun loving and energetic and loves playing with the grandbabies. He enjoys specially prepared dinners that keep him slim and healthy.

Class of 2001 - Glory (now Cookie) is happy in her forever home, which includes two feline siblings. Her favorite friends are the humans who come to visit, especially the neighborhood kids who bring her treats. She recently had surgery for mammary tumors and got a clean bill of health!.**Penny II**, now "Pretty Penny", is doing well, and with glucosamine daily, shows no indication of her severe hip dysplasia. She spins like a whirling dervish when excited and delights in chasing her youngest Springer sibling. She has completed obedience and agility classes!.**Kai** is enjoying her favorite season, Spring, as she loves sitting on the deck for hours watching the flowers, squirrels, and chipmunks. Her favorite place is the weekend condo in Kent Narrows, MD where she can take long walks filled with ducks, geese, swans, and gulls..**Pebbles**, now 7, is very affectionate and quickly became the "velcro dog", winning over many hearts. She loves to play ball, take walks, and go for car rides. At the end of each day she reminds her family its time to cuddle before bedtime— keeping her ball close by, just in case!..**Aria (now Holly)** is a longhaired Springer mix, daughter of Xena. She and her family have moved to a new home where she is in her glory in a small backyard, and her new best friend is a kitten adopted in January..**Indy** spends his time with his Springer brother Chips and Oreo, a current foster dog. He enjoys life on the dairy farm and gets plenty of exercise. He loves chasing birds and once, much to his owners' dismay, actually caught one right out of the air! When he's hot in the summer he jumps into the swimming pool, takes a lap around and climbs back out! He's a very loving and sweet boy!

Class of 2002 - Luke III is older than originally thought, but he is really enjoying his retirement. His health problems are taken care of with medications, he responds to hand signals, and he is the cheerleader when his spunky ESS sister chases squirrels and birds. He now enjoys playing with his many toys, unlike when he arrived and would only play with rocks. His owner strongly recommends adopting a senior dog like Luke!..**Chance II** is bright and sweet and feels his role is to protect Dad (sometimes in his lap) and will guard him from unknown demons while he showers. He can "woo-woo" at the top of his lungs with the best of them!..**Casey III** has two new Springer brothers as well as another brother and 4 cats! He quickly realized there's enough love and attention for everyone and enjoys romping and playing. He loves everyone, and he and his family feel lucky to have found each other!..**Shooter** is still playful—will run after a ball as long as someone keeps throwing it! He lives with another 12-year-old Springer, Caitlyn, and a cat, Rascal. He's truly comfortable and has a wonderful home to retire in..**Sam (now Tully)** and **Chloe** are preparing for a big move from NJ to Alpharetta, GA with their mom and brother **Homer** ('03)! They are sad that they'll not be able to be foster MAESSR dogs anymore, but Tully reports that he is looking forward to all those southern belles he will meet through ESRA. Chloe says she can't wait to get to the new club where they can do agility!

Class of 2003 - Horace (now Bogey) loves to swim, go for walks, catch tennis balls, play soccer (he's very good!), get muddy and dirty, play rough-and-tumble with his humans. Besides eating, his favorite thing is to crash through the woods jumping over logs chasing something. He enjoys meeting other dogs but prefers being with his humans. He's tremendously loyal and affectionate..**Spencer** is a sweet, quiet boy who has the biggest smile you've ever seen. He LOVES belly rubs more than life, tolerates attention from his new "sister" very well and is happy-go-lucky all the time. This spring he's going to the beach for his first time ever!..**Ichabod (now Dewey)** spent Easter with his "gramma" and "pap" in Pittsburgh and got to play with his many furry cousins. He's a big, lovey, beautiful boy!..**Savannah** lives with Satin and Crystal (both '04) and a B&W Springer, Kerry. Savannah will chase tennis balls until exhausted. She just graduated from Level 1 Agility!..**Homer** is moving to GA and is looking forward to his retirement in the South where he can soak up some rays and keep his joints warm!

Editors Note: Thanks to all the families who sent updates. Our mailbox overflowed with all the notes! Look for more updates in the summer newsletter and please keep the stories coming! Mail your updates to the address on the back of the newsletter or email to Mary Beach, (spanielma@aol.com).

FRIENDS OF MAESSR

All Good Dogs Daycare & Spa South Brunswick, New Jersey

All Good Dogs has been a true friend to MAESSR for over a year. They have never hesitated to assist MAESSR and have even donated full scholarships to our dogs in need of a temporary foster home. MAESSR dogs get the works - days of fun with their doggie pals, full belly, bath and a comfortable bed for the night. They have also recently; they assisted a foster home with extensive temperament testing on the new dog. MAESSR values their support and friendship.

Rocky Top Dog Park South Brunswick, New Jersey

RTDP, a members only fenced doggie park, has kindly offered free membership to MAESSR foster dogs. The foster dogs are able to run off leash, swim in the pond and mix it up with other dogs. The MAESSR dogs have won many hearts at the Rocky Top Dog Park as evidenced by the recent "adoption party" for Bandit III which was held at the park!



PICNICS 2004!!!!

Springers Everywhere! Games! Friendship! Clinics! Raffles! Lunch! Door prizes! Rescue Parade! Volunteer Recognition!

June 19, 2004 – Curtis Park, Stafford, Virginia
Open to all friends of MAESSR - adoptive families,
volunteers, supporters, and Springer fans

Microchip Clinic, games, grooming clinic, pet health clinic, raffles, boxed lunch
Registration deadline: June 11, 2004

August 21, 2004 – Central Park, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Open to MAESSR adoptive families and volunteers

Microchip clinic, games, raffles, boxed lunch, grooming clinic
Registration deadline: August 13, 2004

MAESSR PICNIC RSVP

_____ Number of People attending June 19, 2004 Stafford VA SpringerFest

_____ Number of People attending August 21, 2004 Lancaster PA Picnic

I will bring my dog - Name(s) _____

_____ I will be glad to help at the picnic (set-up, registration table, raffle tables, fundraising, clean-up, dog games, bring a raffle item) Please circle areas where you could help.

** I've enclosed a check made payable to MAESSR - # of people _____ x \$8.00 = _____

Name _____ Phone or email _____

Mail this form and check to:
MAESSR
PO Box 15354
Richmond, VA 23227

www.maessr.org

ESSENTIALS

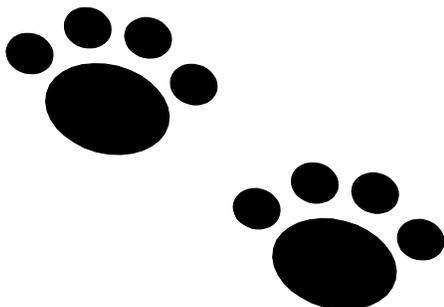
By Teri Wiley

Arfchooooooo! Spring, the time for new plants and flowers but also the time for the symptoms of hay fever. Humans aren't the only ones who suffer. Blooming plants, grasses, and flowers can trigger allergic reactions in dogs. Their allergy is similar to hay fever that humans suffer. This is known as an inhalant allergy. Dogs may be affected by inhaling grass pollen in spring and summer or ragweed pollen in late summer and early fall. But instead of sneezing, pets typically have itchy skin and will scratch, lick and bite to get relief. The areas usually affected are feet, groin, armpits, and sometimes in their ears. We humans refer to these as "hot spots."

Pets with these types of allergies can be pretty miserable and unfortunately they can't be cured. Allergies are life-long, chronic problems. The good news though, is there is a lot you can do to help them feel better. The first place to start is by consulting with your veterinarian. Once you have identified the type of allergy, relief is just around the corner. Easily said, not as easily done. You and your vet may need to determine the best treatment or combination of treatments to alleviate the discomfort.

First, get your dog tested. One method is a scratch test, which involves making a small "scratch" in the dogs skin and inserting a small amount of the materials your vet may suspect is causing the allergy. There are also several blood tests that can be used to analyze certain chemicals in your pet's immune system. These tests can determine if it is an allergy versus an allergic reaction.

Solutions include certain medications, which may provide immediate relief, however some carry certain side effects. The safest and most effective relief, although the longest to bring long term relief, is an immunization program. There are also certain antihistamines available which reduce the itching and inflammation. Although they are relatively safe, some cause drowsiness. If none of the above are completely effective, you can treat your dogs symptoms with certain shampoos, ointments, or sprays. Whichever treatment you choose, please be sure you have done so in conjunction with your vets' recommendations. Remember, though it may take some time, with patience and determination on your part, your pet will truly LOVE YOU for making his life comfortable once again!
(References: www.healthypet.com, www.canismajor.com/dog)



Springer Games!!!

The 2004 MAESSR quilt is ready for viewing and ticket sales are taking off! Quilted by friends of MAESSR from all over the country (as far south as Florida!), the quilt is a whimsical view of our "sporting" dogs.

Tickets can be purchased through the mail (back page of the newsletter or website order form) or through the MAESSR website. Ticket options are:

- 1 ticket - \$5.00
- 4 tickets - \$20.00 (1 bonus tickets)
- 12 tickets - \$50.00 (3 bonus tickets)
- 25 tickets - \$100.00 (6 bonus tickets)

This year the bonus item is a quilted table runner adorned with two Springers. The winners drawing will be October 6, 2004 at the Fredericksburg Dog Festival.

Be a part of the "Games" and support MAESSR!

Seen on the Internet.....

Believe we can all relate to these decorating tips!

- Paw prints and nose smudges on glass doors and windows break up glare and soften light in a room.
- Old towels and blankets thrown casually on upholstered furniture can add wonderful homey, country quilt look to an otherwise bland room.
- Common smooth upholstery fabrics can look velvety when lightly textured with pet hair.
- Vari-kennels, placed end to end and topped with plate glass can create an unusual coffee table, one your friends will really remember.
- Doggie beds, randomly placed around a room, can add color and texture, much as throw pillows do.
- Shredded or chewed books and magazines send a message to guests that they are free to relax and feel at home.
- Dog crates can make versatile end tables and can be slipcovered to match any décor.
- There is nothing that makes a guest feel as welcome as friendly dogs hopping in his lap as soon as he sits down!



Open Your Heart to Rescue!



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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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- Monica La Polt - Adoption Coordinator - mlapol@sbglobal.net
- Linda Foster - Volunteer Coordinator - rescueess@yahoo.com
- Gale Blackmer - Financial Coordinator - windy1421@worldnet.att.net
- Sue Geckle - Applications Coordinator - sgeckle@excite.com
- Kathleen O'Neill - Applications Coordinator - oneill@princeton.edu
- Kim Bolster - Fundraising Coordinator and Newsletter Editor - ess4x18@cs.com
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	"FRIENDS"NOTECARDS	\$ 9.25	
	QUILT RAFFLE	\$ 5.00 / TICKET	
		4 / \$ 20.00	
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		25 / \$ 100.00	
l/w b/w	SNOW MAGNET	\$ 3.50	
l/w b/w	TOP MAGNET	\$ 3.50	
ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING.		TOTAL	\$

Magnets ▼

2 Different Designs. Liver and white (l/w) and black and white (b/w.)



Snow



Top Dog

Ship To: _____