



Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN

The \$10,000 Dog

By Monica LaPolt

Some time ago, I received an email from a volunteer asking if MAESSR was going to do an audit. I quickly explained that audits were expensive and MAESSR had much better things to spend its money on - like dogs. As we chatted, I got to the volunteer's real question. How much money do we spend on administrative and other non-dog related expenses? I didn't have the exact numbers but I knew that it was less than 8% of our income. His response was quick: That's great - why don't you tell people? Hmmmm.... that was an excellent question. Thus inspired, I sat down and began writing the first incarnation of this column.

That draft was a fairly mundane breakdown of numbers with lots of explanations. Honestly, I had to work hard to make it readable. Since then things have changed for MAESSR and I there is a more important point to be made.

MAESSR is at a financial low point. Why? Well, it is sort of the perfect financial storm.

First, we the economy has slowed. It is not stagnant, but I think that we would all agree that it "ain't what it used to be." More than a year ago, we realized that donations were slowing down. In and of itself, it was not too bad. We were still making good merchandise sales on the website and we were not really losing ground, just not making forward progress in accumulating capital and growing our reserve.

Second, there were several tragedies striking our world: the Tsunami and Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. Our nation reeled under the pressing need of the survivors.

People dug deep in to their pockets to help in any way that they could. We skipped on some luxuries to be able to send more. Many MAESSR volunteers and families chipped in to send MAESSR volunteers to Louisiana to help the animal victims of Katrina. Responses like these make me proud to be part of the MAESSR family and a citizen of this great country.

Sadly, there is a downside to this outpouring of support. Money sent to help Katrina victims is money that might not go to a favored charity. Many folks weighed the needs of the survivors versus other charities and chose to give to the immediate crisis. It is a valid decision. We were not seen to be serving a population in cri-

sis, nor was our organization in crisis. As a result, our donations slipped. They slipped pretty hard and fast, in fact.

Third and finally, MAESSR has had a veritable Congo line of sick and needy dogs lately. This spring we had darling Henry V who neither our love nor the skilled veterinarians at Veterinary Hospital of University of Pennsylvania could cure.

Then Mindy II. Mindy is the \$10,000 dog of the title for the column. In a month, the treatment for Mindy's pneumonia and complications worked through one third of our cash. She spent over two weeks total in a veterinary hospital fighting for her life. She rallied, fought back and defeated the pneumonia. However, the bills piled up and we continued to pay them. I do want to thank CARES, the facility that treated Mindy. Without their discount to us, the damage to our back account would be even more significant.

While Mindy was in the hospital, we took in six dogs from North Carolina. Luckily, only one of the three girls, Gracie VI, was pregnant. She gave us eight lovely bundles of joy. However each of them will have considerable medical expenses before they go to their new homes. Oh, and did I mention that in the interim, Gracie had to be treated for bloat? Cha ching. Cha ching.

But wait, I am not done yet. Just last week, Chester II was rushed to the Emergency Veterinarian to be treated for bloat. (Yes, two cases in one week.) He is doing well, but he brought home with him bills in excess of \$2,000. gulp.

The last time that MAESSR bank balance was as low as it is currently, we were a much smaller organization serving maybe half this number of dogs. Did I mention that we have not even paid the puppies and Chester's bill yet? I am not sure what our current financial status means for our ability to help new dogs coming into rescue. I have not been this uncertain about our ability to care for dogs since we started MAESSR.

Over the years, I have asked for help for particular dogs. But it has been a long time since I have come to you, hat in hand, asking for any help that you can give us. Money is tight and we are getting more dogs in every day. Please do what you can to help. You can donate money at <http://www.maessr.org/sponsor.html>. If you'd prefer, you can mail us a check at MAESSR, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227. Or if you would prefer to see some thing for your money, go on a shopping spree at <http://www.maessr.org/order.html>.

However, you can help, please do.

THANK YOU!

Gifts Given In Honor

John and Michelle Cooper - Chip
Louis and Carole Montasi - Mojo
South Brandywine Animal Club - Mr.Magoo
Claudia White - Hershey
Carolyn and Jerry Furrer - Shadow's 6th birthday
Kathleen O'Neill - Sadie O'Neill's 6th birthday
Darby Wiggins - Mr. Magoo
Liz Watson - all resident dogs in foster homes
Mary Ann McNulty - Maximillian's birthday

Gifts Given in Memory

Tom Duffy - Buddy
Darby Wiggins - my father, Vern Wiggins
Kathleen O'Neill - Shug Davis' Ben
Stephen and Patricia Stockwell - Dutch, Chubb, Brandy and Heidi
Betsy and Paul Murphy - Sonny and Butch
Linda and Terry Johnston - Quincy
Susannah Dryden - Augie and Lizzie
Debbie and Bill Lipcsey - Donna Mitchell's Chelsea and Mandy
John and Joanna Stankiwicz - Milhouse
Lisa Roth - Debbie and Bill Lipcsey's Fred
Vicki Phillips - Debbie and Bill Lipcsey's Fred

For the "Sixpack's Medical Treatment

Leslie Jacoby
Danielle Armano
Donna Wingard
Lisa Williamson
Julie Reed
Keith Hartman
Dennis Boykin
Ruthanne Smith
Carol and Dave Mumbauer
Travis Earhart
Melissa Cotta
Teri and Bill Wiley
William and Sharon Holmes
Jeffrey Janas

Mary Grace Dorsey
Susan Carson
Stephanie Wible
Ilonka Dazevedo
Angela Barton
Stella Roberts

General Gifts

Nancy Cawley - multiple gifts
Rick and Rita Gatlin - multiple gifts
Sherry Rohn Clancy - multiple gifts
Twinbrook Animal Clinic, Valencia, PA
David Kemmerer & Wendy Hill
English Springer Spaniel Field Trail Association
Col. Laurie Cummings
Candy Williams
Jennifer Montag/Randall Best
Richard Conway
GEICO Philanthropic Foundation (matching gift of the Knutson donation)
Barbara Breedon (multiple gifts)
Carla Perri

For Mindy's Medical Care

Susan Withers
Barbara Campbell
Lisa Nuzzaci (multiple gifts)
Carol Smith
Linda & Terry Johnston (multiple gifts)
Frances Fisher
Ilonka Dazevedo
Lea Meyer
Colleen Rentz
Rick and Rita Gatlin
Kathleen O'Neill
CARES (veterinary center)
Ann McNary
Dan Keppler
Patricia Guglielmi
Carole Alderman (multiple gifts)
Barbara Breedon (multiple gifts)
Jeffrey Summers
Gary Redmore
Elizabeth Ricke

Roberta Pierce
Beth Watson
George Wagner
Pat Race (multiple gifts)
Debra Paikoff
Tracy Englehardt (multiple gifts)
Mary and Lee Beach
Lisa Keen
Isabelle and Barry Chewning
Liliane Schuster
Jill Wallen
Beth and Mark Robinson
Sam and Paula Knutson
Barbara and Buzz Bennett
Stephen and Patricia Stockwell
Danielle Armano
Donna Wingard
Barbara Prince
Ruth Watson
Paige Martin
Carol Vanderway
Carrie Wright
Pamela Walker
Jean Kneebone
Brian Watson
Ken Knipmeyer
Anthony Buzzeo
Gina Hardin
CDR Barbara Williams, USN Retired



Mindy

HOW YOU CAN HELP MAESSR.....

Benevolink - Register MAESSR as your charity and shop Benevolink partners through the Benevolink website. www.Benevolink.com

Employer Matching Gifts - Will your employer match donations to non-profit organizations? Ask at the Human Resources Department. If so, your donation to MAESSR will be matched by your employer or doubled!

Donate to MAESSR to honor a friend's birthday, wedding anniversary or special occasion. Don't need any more "stuff"? Ask your friends to donate to MAESSR in your name. Their gift will be acknowledged and you will receive notification as well.

Buy quilt tickets or merchandise from the **MAESSR Marketplace** - Need a gift for a friend? Early holiday shopping or a thank you gift...shop at the Marketplace or buy quilt tickets as gifts.

Tell everyone about Rescue....many volunteers and adoptive families find us through word of mouth.

Open Your Heart to Rescue!



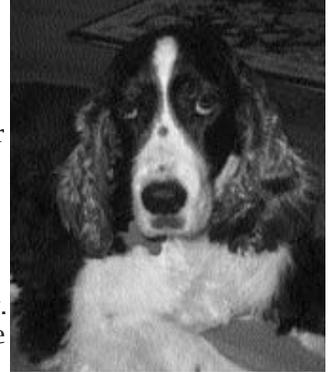
Where in the World is MAESSR? – Linda Foster visiting Homer, Alaska while sporting her MASESSR sweatshirt

Senior Moments

By Maggie Cromwell

For years now this column has been about the boys. First with Norman and then followed by Mason. I begged and whined until my mommy finally said I could take a turn at writing "Senior Moments".

For starters, my name is Maggie. I am twelve years old and from the comments I hear from friends and strangers alike, I am quite a looker. I came to MAESSR as a much beloved only child. I am still not sure what I did that made me need a new home so badly. There was some talk about me not being nice to the grandchildren and also my family had started to travel a lot.



Maggie Cromwell

I miss my old home sometimes but my new gig is pretty good. We get the most amazing treats from a dog bakery in Virginia. I am really kind of shameless the way I will perform for a treat. First my mom would have me do the basics, you know sit or shake. Now her favorite thing to make me do for a treat is dance. I would rather not have to do an aerobic workout for a treat but as I said they are pretty amazing treats so I dance around the kitchen like a disco diva if it will get me a treat.

In my new home, I also have a new sister named Kelly. She is very, very old (15 and a half is what they tell me) but she is sweet and it is clear our mom adores her. We lay on the floor together with our backs touching. It is really nice to have a friend to snuggle with when Mom is at work.

When I go for walks, I just love to sniff everyone and everything. My mom has taught me a new command called, "Pull over." When people are walking toward us on the sidewalk, we pull over to the side to let them pass. I try to sit all nonchalantly and usually they say how sweet and/or pretty I am and then they pet me and coo all over me. As you can imagine, I love all the attention. Another thing I love about my new neighborhood is all the children. I am very careful not to growl or bark at any of them because I have found that if I am nice and do not scare them away, they will give me treats, too. They also like to rub my belly. I especially like Markus who lives next door because he loves to give me treats. He has a new sister, too. I wonder if he lays on the floor with her?

So this is my introduction to the readers of "Senior Moments." I will write more about my adventures in the months to come. I hope to meet many of you at the Annapolis Springerfest in September. You will know me because I will be wearing a black and white fur coat and will be wearing a sign that says, "I will do anything for a treat."

Calendar

(Contact for information or to offer help follows event)

8/19 - Amber Dog Days, Ambler, PA
(Justina Russo, justinarusso@comcast.net)

9/8 - Springerfest, Annapolis, MD
(Vicki Phillips, springerlane@gmail.com)

9/17 - Pet Festival, Galloway, NJ
(Vicki Phillips, springerlane@gmail.com)

10/1 - Dog Festival, Fredericksburg, VA
(Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com)

10/1 - Bark in the Park, Virginia Beach, VA
(Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com)



Date to Be Announced -
Howlween and
Holiday Bash - Central
Virginia

Just a dog....

By *Darin Cox, WudaFace Kennels*

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog." Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise." "Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man." So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog," just smile, because they "just don't understand."

DO YOU REMEMBER...MARLEY IV?

By *Mary Beach*

Then...Williamsburg, VA...June, 2005

Marley is tied out and left at a shelter in Williamsburg, VA. Very little is known about his background. He has an unexplained wound on his nose but appears otherwise in good health. He is black and white with nice markings and a handsome head.

Coincidentally, MAESSR volunteers are meeting nearby to select photos for the 2006 calendar. Three volunteers go to the shelter, meet him, and start his transport to his foster home. In the shelter play yard he is disinterested in playing and doesn't seem to understand any type of communication with humans. His journey to a new life begins, and he travels to Fayetteville, WV, where he meets his foster mom, Liz Watson.



Marley

As Liz gets to know Marley she wonders about his aloofness and works to help him enjoy people and other dogs. His nose heals nicely, and his health is good. Liz finds him to be a very smart boy. He is quite handsome after grooming, and he seems to know it. He is well-mannered and content when many guests come and stay in his foster home.

Marley's favorite thing of all is following a scent. He can be totally consumed by it! After happy weeks in the Watson home, Marley wonders if there will ever be a family to take him home forever.

One day in September, Marley's dream comes true! Brenda and David Roger have been watching Marley's web page and are drawn to his story. The match is made! Clearly, Marley is their boy. They drive him home and take him to a park to meet his new sister Lulu. Much to Lulu's surprise this handsome boy comes home with them and stays!

Now...Murrysville, PA...August, 2006

Marley is thriving in his new life with the Roger family! His mom says he and Lulu are like an old married couple....opposites in many ways but definitely partners forever. One humorous thing they do together is circle the dinner table "shark style" whenever something aromatic is being served. Because of this, they have shark-fin costumes that they love to wear.....a hit on Halloween and prize winning at the MAESSR Springerfest in Pittsburgh. Marley also enjoys social events now, and was a part of the Rescue Parade at the Greater Pittsburgh ESS Club Specialty. His personality is in full bloom.

He knows it's time for fun and raucous games when Daddy comes home each day, and he happily participates in hide-and-seek and ball fetching. He definitely knows now what toys are for, and he enjoys swimming, walks, and playtime at the park. His mom spends a lot of time with the dogs, and helps Marley overcome any little quirks he once had.

Marley's tale clearly shows the difference every person can make as a dog takes the journey from a shelter to the perfect forever home. At this summer's calendar committee meeting, Marley's handsome and smiling face was there with other beautiful Springers who live happy lives and bring joy to their families because of the efforts of so many MAESSR volunteers.

THE TRAINING CORNER

Good Manners Are A Way Of Life

By Cindy Reitz

Ever wonder why your dog is perfect at home but acts like a fool when you take her on an outing? Or why she can lie down every time you ask her to during your training session but refuses to comply when you're trying to enjoy dinner with your family?

One of the reasons could be that dogs don't generalize. This means if they've always done something one way or only in one place, they will be unable to perform that skill in other situations or locations. The simplest example of this is: if you've taught your dog to only sit by your left side, she probably won't understand she is also capable of sitting at your right side, if asked to do so.

Taking this idea further, if she only uses her skills at home and at training class, she won't understand how to perform in other places such as the veterinarian's office or your favorite pet store. If Freckles is asked to use her manners only during your training sessions, she won't understand that good manners are expected everywhere and every time.

In order for our dogs to be truly well mannered, they must be taught to use their manners in many different places and when distracted. To help your dog become polished, begin by changing the location of where you normally train. If you usually only train in your backyard, randomly change the location each session to other areas such as your front yard, your neighbor's yard, or the sidewalk across the street. Mix in training during walks and play time. Walk or play

for five or ten minutes, train for three minutes, etc.

When you run errands take Freckles with you and train for a few minutes whenever possible. Although it's not advertised, many businesses will allow dogs to come into their stores if the dogs are well-behaved. Hardware stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's, post offices, banks, and dry cleaners are just a few. In the beginning you'll want to do this when you have the time to calmly work with your dog as it will be quite stimulating for her. If she is unable to focus, you may need to start outside and at a bit of a distance from the distractions then work your way closer in later visits.

New places bring new challenges and distractions. You'll most likely need to re-teach some of the skills by stepping back and using the training methods you first used. Begin this process at places where there are few distractions. When your dog is able to focus, you can move your training sessions to places with more stimulation. The more places and distractions you expose your dog to, the better her overall manners will become. If your dog is having trouble focusing, it's important to remember that she is not being defiant. Keep anger and frustration at bay in order to help her succeed.

Mix it up at home too. Ask Freckles to perform throughout the day. She can 'sit' or 'down' for meals and treats; 'down-stay' while you brush your teeth; 'roll over' before you throw the ball; 'shake' before entering the car; 'sit-stay'

while you make the bed; etc. Mix up the commands so Freckles doesn't know what you might ask her to do at any given time or place. This will help build a wonderful, cooperative working relationship with your dog.

How do I remember all of this and when will I find the time to do it all, you ask? It's not as difficult as you might think and takes only a few seconds of your time. Consider starting this program on a weekend when you'll have more time and less stress. You'll need a few small containers filled with treats and Post-It Notes. Write one-word reminders to yourself on the Post-It Notes and stick them everywhere... on your mirrors, by the doors, at the kitchen sink, on the television or your computer monitor. Place the treat containers close to the notes.

Each time you see a note, call Freckles to you and have her perform the task. Don't forget to praise her when she comes and to praise her and give her a treat after she's done what you asked. Every few days move the notes to new locations. This will help your dog learn to listen to you anywhere you ask.

Our dogs are our companions, our very best friends. Spending time with them and going places together should be an enjoyable experience for everyone. The more manners we teach our dogs, the more welcome they will be no matter where we go, and the richer their lives and ours will be.



Be sure to purchase your raffle tickets on the back page or through the MAESSR website for "Hats Off to Springers", a one-of-a-kind quilt!

Mocha...just one of the special 2007 calendar dogs. Look for the calendar on sale in early September.



"Springer Air" Provides Fast Transport Service for the "Springer Sixpack"



Volunteer pilots of Springer Air with two of the "Sixpack" starting their new lives.



Springer Air in action as two of the "Sixpack" start on their way to MAESSR foster homes.

MAESSR 2006 Picnic Action



Liz Watson and her crew at the Pittsburgh picnic



Terry, Linda, Reggie and Ranger Johnston enjoy the Pittsburgh picnic!

Some of the attendees at the Little Buffalo Springerfest during the Rescue Parade.



Judy Beebe with Spencer and Tracey Race at Little Buffalo.



Springerfest 2006 September 9th Annapolis

_____ Number of people attending September 9th Annapolis Picnic

Names of those attending _____

I will bring my dog (name) _____ if MAESSR dog - year adopted _____

**I will be glad to help with: (Circle) Set-up Registration table Clean up
Dog games Bring a raffle item**

I have enclosed a check made payable to MAESSR # of people _____ x \$8.00 _____

Name _____ email (or phone if no email) _____

Mail to: MAESSR, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227



Dear Poppy...

By Poppy Finnan

Dear Poppy,

Help! I need a manicurist!! My nails grow really fast and then they get caught on stuff and split and even hurt. What can I do?

Talons, Bethlehem, PA

Dear Talons,

Boy, this can be tricky! This is one thing even my human gets nervous about. My nails grow really fast, too, and she usually chickens out and has the Vet clip them on one of our regular office visits (I have to go every 2 to 3 months for follow-ups). Then one of my big brothers, Hairy, is black and it's really hard to see where the quick ends in his nails so that's a problem. See, on a dog like me, you can actually see the quick (looks sort of pinkish) inside the nail. Then there's a transparent part of the nail at the end that's longer and that's what can be trimmed a bit shorter. On Hairy, his nails are black, too, and not much is transparent. If the nail gets cut too short, then it also cuts the quick which causes pain and bleeding, and a dog that really gets ticked off at their

person. I mean, come on! This isn't the lawn! The most common nail clipper is called the guillotine and a lot of folks like this type. The nail is put in a hole and a blade slides across it to cut off the part you want to get rid of.



Poppy

Just like the heads on the real guillotine. This is the kind that makes my human insecure. But just yesterday she learned about a different type - and went and bought one today - that works a bit differently.

It's called a Safety Pet Nail Clipper. It has a "safety bar" that slides across the bottom of the place where the nail goes in and keeps the nail from going into the hole too far and then being clipped too short. It only takes a small amount of nail off, but it should keep accidental over-trimming from happening. This should work out better for all of us. Now she can stop biting her nails when she has to clip ours. Hope this helps.

Love,
Poppy

MAESSR Welcomes...

MAESSR is always happy to welcome new volunteers to our growing organization. Help is needed in all areas, including fostering, transporting, interviewing applicants, fundraising and other vital activities.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Foster at RescueESS@yahoo.com, or simply complete the on-line volunteer application on our website.

Please join us in welcoming the following new volunteers to our family:

- Fran Fisher, Bethlehem, PA
- Donna Mitchell, Richmond, VA
- Lisa Nuzzaci, King of Prussia, PA
- Pam Walker, Houston, PA



PRSR STD
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 RICHMOND, VA
 PERMIT NO. 1179

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

Monica La Polt - Adoption Coordinator - mlapolt@sbcglobal.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
 Debbie Lipsey - Dog Intake Coordinator - springerfarm@aol.com
 Joe Harkins - Transport Coordinator - jhharkins@comcast.net
 Angie Epling - Owner Relinquishment Coordinator - BrocksPalace@aol.com
 Stephanie Donofrio - Petfinder Updates - edonofrio@aol.com

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:

\$ 25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$125 Other: _____

MY DONATION IS:

GIFT IN HONOR OF: _____ GIFT IN HONOR OF: _____

GIFT IN MEMORY OF: _____ GIFT IN HONOR OF: _____

BIRTHDAY/ANNIV. GIFT/SPECIAL OCCASION: _____

MY NAME AND ADDRESS: _____

MY NAME AND ADDRESS: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: _____

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

QUANTITY OF ITEMS	COST INCLUDES SHIPPING
_____ QUILT TRIVET	\$15.00
_____ QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS	1 FOR \$5, 5 FOR \$20.00 OR 12 FOR \$50.00
_____ 2006 TWO DOG T-SHIRT	S M L / XXL / XXXL \$17.25 / \$19.25 / \$20.25
_____ OPEN YOUR HEART T-SHIRT	S M L \$17.25
_____ OPEN YOUR HEART T-SHIRT	XXL \$19.25
_____ OPEN YOUR HEART T-SHIRT	XXXL \$20.25
_____ TRANSPORT T-SHIRT	S M L XL \$17.25
_____ TRANSPORT T-SHIRT	XXL \$19.25
_____ TRANSPORT T-SHIRT	XXXL \$20.25
_____ COOKBOOK	\$18.00/2-\$34.00
_____ EMBROIDERED TOTE BAG	\$28.00
_____ MAGNETIC NOTEPAD	\$ 5.50
	TOTAL \$ _____

New!!



2006 Two Dog T-Shirt

SHIP TO: _____