



Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

PRESIDENTS CORNER

By Monica LaPolt

Part Two of a Series on Disaster Preparedness

Last issue, I discussed planning and preparedness. I continue with some additional information to consider and act on.

Tornadoes do not generally strike in the MAESSR geographical region. However, as evidenced by the tornado that hit Maryland several years ago – weather can be very unpredictable. Should high winds, severe rains occur, instruction is given to “move to an interior hallway on the lowest floor. If no basement is available, take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture in the center of the structure. Stay away from all large glass windows.” Sounds easy enough. For you, maybe...

Have your dogs been down in the basement lately? Are they agile on the stairs? How will you keep possibly panic stricken dogs in one place, in the “safest spot?” Are you absolutely sure they will respond to all your verbal commands, even in the midst of a chaotic situation when it may be noisy, dark, wet, windy, and there may be terrifying sounds, scents, and sights filling their senses?

To prepare, you should practice hurried descents down the stairs to a designated area. Grab leashes as you head downstairs and use them to keep your dogs with you. Much like fire drills, this should include your entire family, not just your dogs.

Stash several things in the basement and then forget about them, including but not limited to a crate for each of your dogs and bungee cords, an old heavy blanket, a flashlight with extra batteries, several days’ worth of kibble, ten gallons of bottled water, and a few individually wrapped Benadryl and aspirin (not Tylenol) tablets. The water, blanket, Benadryl, vet wrap, and aspirin can all be used either for humans or dogs; ask your veterinarian about guidelines regarding the emergency use of these medications for your dogs. You should sit down and think about what is important for yourself and your dogs in your own particular situation, which might be different.

If the National Weather Service has issued a tornado watch, or if the sky looks threatening, consider putting collars and 6-foot fabric leashes on your dogs. If an emergency situation develops rapidly, you can grab their leashes and be sure they are with you, no matter what other chaos or distractions may be going on around you. If it becomes necessary to take immediate shelter, you can grab their leashes quickly, and lead (or drag, if necessary) them into the basement. You can then wait out the storm with your dogs

near you, confident that they are as safe as you could make them.

Please don’t just read this article and then mentally add a few items to your “To-Do” list for “Someday.” When is the last time you really addressed that “To-Do” list and completed some of the items on it? Hmmm? (Remember my earlier column about wills? Have you done that yet?)

Do you NOW have an emergency plan that you’ve practiced with your dogs, for the most common emergency situation(s) in your area? If not, why not take a few moments to develop and rehearse one today. It is very important to practice this in advance. Dogs are creatures that thrive on familiarity. They respond well to training, which is really just familiarization and practice. This can make all the difference in the world between a tragic and a happy ending to a frightening emergency situation.

We all hope never to need these sorts of contingency plans, but if that one moment in time ever does come up when you do need it, you’ll be very glad that you already have one in place, and that your dogs can calmly follow a routine they already know in order to carry it out. Do it today. Okay? For those dogs that would do anything for you, it’s the least that you can do.

Special thanks to Ruth Ginzberg. In writing this column, I borrowed heavily from her articles, Emergency Planning I and II.

The Year of the Dog

In the Chinese calendar, 2006 is the Year of the Dog. The website, RetroCrush, has identified the 100 greatest dogs in pop culture history. For the complete listing, go to www.retrocrush.com/archive2006/dogs.

Below are the top 10 and some of the Editor’s picks. How many do you know?

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Snoopy | 8. Gromit | 62. Carl (the Rottweiler) |
| 2. Scooby Doo | 9. White Fang | 67. Spot (A Springer of Jane and Dick fame!) |
| 3. Lassie | 10. Flash | 69. Fred Bassett |
| 4. Old Yelle | 15. Underdog | 81. Beethoven |
| 5. Goofyr | 24. Rin Tin Tin | 82. Blue (Blue’s Clues) |
| 6. Ren Hoek | 45. Astro | 83. Farley |
| 7. Benji | 54. Wishbone | |

In The News – Aflatoxin

Dog food brand names Diamond, Country Value and Professional have been in the news recently. Sadly, reports indicate at least 100 dogs have died as a result of eating Aflatoxin contaminated Diamond Pet Foods.

Aflatoxin is a naturally occurring toxic chemical by-product from the growth of the fungus *Aspergillus flavus* on corn and other crops. It can cause severe liver damage in pets, which can lead to fatality. You should contact your veterinarian immediately, if your pet shows any of the following symptoms: sluggishness, loss of appetite, jaundice (yellow whites of the eyes, gums, belly), severe, persistent vomiting combined with bloody diarrhea, fever, and discolored urine.

Aflatoxin poisoning can be cured, but only if it's caught early. Since dogs can take several days to three weeks to exhibit serious signs of illness, all animals that consumed recalled food should be examined by a veterinarian as early as possible. Physical exams and blood tests are necessary to determine if dogs have been poisoned or not. Owners also should take cats that might have eaten contaminated dog food to a vet.

Diamond has recalled 19 varieties of dog and cat food after tests showed high levels of aflatoxin. The company recalled products manufactured at its Gaston, S.C., plant from around September to November 2005. Diamond narrowed down the exposure to food produced on Oct. 11 based on testing.

According to Diamond, the 23 states that have been affected are: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Vermont, and Virginia.

The FDA said it is continuing to investigate the situation and is working closely with the regulatory agencies. Some of the products included in the recall were exported to at least 29 countries in the European Union. The FDA said those countries have been notified.

Any unused portions of recalled pet food should be returned to the retailer where it was purchased for a refund or replacement. According to press reports, Diamond has also offered to compensate pet guardians who can confirm that their pet died or became ill as a result of eating the contaminated food.

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:

Abbie Adams, Sugar Run, PA	Bobbie Matherne, Williamsburg, VA
Annette Adams, Manchester, PA	Nancy O'Leary, Hopewell, NJ
Jennifer Bencks, Richmond, VA	Ann Marie Petrick, Bethesda, MD
Kathy Doerrman, Blandon, PA	Pat Race, Pittsburgh, PA
Nancy Ferrell, Fairfax Station, VA	Liz Ricke, York, PA
Shannon Gandee, Kenna, WV	Justina Russo, Chesterbrook, PA
Joyce Grieco, Yardley, PA	Carol Smith, Resistertown, MD
Paige Martin, Virginia Beach, VA	Carrie Wright, La Plata, MD

SENIOR MOMENTS

By Mason Cromwell

As many of you became aware in the last edition of Springer Tails, the previous author of this column, Norman Cromwell, went to the bridge on September 19th, 2005. While this is profoundly sad news, it was Norman's wish that we celebrate his life and move forward. As part of that wish, I will attempt to take over where Norman left off in writing about the life of a senior Springer.

By way of introduction, my name is Mason. I am 10 and fast approaching my eleventh birthday. For those of you who like to celebrate and spoil, my birthday is July 26th. Don't worry; I will remind you again when the time gets closer.



Mason Cromwell

Up until recently, my life was spent living in rural Pennsylvania in relative obscurity. In November, my owner's health took an unfortunate turn for the worse and she went into assisted living. I was transported by a lot of nice people to suburban Maryland to be fostered by a MAESSR volunteer. Alas, my desire to be loved 100% right away and my smothering approach was just too much for the teenage daughter of the household so I was moved to a more appropriate foster home in Washington DC where there was only one person to smother. I hate to admit how obnoxious I might have been that first week or two. I was just so afraid that I would be left that I followed my foster mom everywhere. When she sat, I sat on top of her. When she slept, I slept on top of her. Eventually, I figured out that she wasn't going to leave me so I began to just put my head on her lap when we sat and my head on her shoulder when we slept. Between you and me, I think she likes having me snuggle up to her.

For the longest time, my mom kept using the word "foster dog" to describe me to people. It was "foster" this, "foster" that. It really began to annoy me. Seriously, I was being about as sweet and loving as I could be and here she was planning on passing me off to the first qualified family who wanted me. I knew it was time to bring in the heavy artillery so to speak. So one night, when Kelly was snuggled up to her, I jumped up and snuggled up to both of them. We all laid together for an hour or more. I could feel her heart melting. Seriously, she had to know that we were all meant to be a family. So finally she began to toss around the word adoption.

This adoption brought me not only a new mom and a new home; it also brought me the most glorious new sister named Kelly. Kelly is fifteen but doesn't look or act a day over twelve. She has been very nice to me and we snuggle together when mom is working. She also likes to lick me which I think is very sweet.

My days are spent lounging around the house between walks. I am allergic to almost everything so my treats are limited to baked venison. My mom comes home every week with fresh venison and cooks it up. I wonder how she has time to go hunting like that every week. And where does she keep finding deer in the city? She must be an amazing hunter is all I can say because every week she shows up with fresh venison meat to cook.

So now that you know about me, let me tell you about my hopes for my column. Over the next several years I hope to tell you about my life as a senior MAESSR dog. I am not nearly as naughty as Norman was but hopefully I will entertain you with my perspective on life as a pampered pet. Thank you all for welcoming me into your home and hearts. I will do my best to entertain you in the coming weeks, months, and years.

THE TRAINING CORNER

By Isabelle Chewning

Growling as a Means of Communication

I recently read a very interesting article in the October 2005 issue of The Whole Dog Journal on growling. The article, entitled "The 'Gift' of Growling," was written by Pat Miller, a noted behaviorist from Maryland whose books include "The Power of Positive Dog Training."

According to Miller, most dogs don't want to bite or fight. Behaviors such as growling that "signal pending aggression are intended first and foremost to warn away a threat. The dog who doesn't want to bite or fight tries his hardest to make you go away." He tries first in subtle ways like a tense body, a stiffly wagging tail, or a slightly curled lip. If this doesn't work, the threats may become less subtle: more body tension, a hard stare, a low growl, a snap, or closing his mouth around an arm or hand. And if this doesn't succeed in making the threat back off, he may bite hard enough to break the skin.

The bottom line of Miller's article is that by suppressing a dog's warning signs (growling) you could end up with a dog that bites without warning. Since I've corrected a growling dog more than once, I found this analysis very interesting and thought-provoking.

Miller's basic premise is that "aggression is caused by stress (pain, fear, intrusion, threats to resources, past association, or anticipation of any of these things. . . . When you punish a growl or other early warning signs, you may succeed in suppressing the growl, snarl, or snap," but because you don't take away the stressor, you actually increase the dog's stress. In your dog's mind, you've now become irrational and unpredictable because you've corrected him for using one of his means of communication for warning away the threat; and this confusion makes him even more stressed. Miller provides this example: Your dog is frightened of children and growls when a child approaches. You correct him. You've just reinforced his fear of children because something bad (your correction) happened when the child approached. The next time a child approaches, he doesn't growl (because he has learned from your corrections that he shouldn't growl), but because he is still frightened, he bites.

Miller recommends that when you hear your dog growl, you should take stock of the situation, try to determine what is causing the stress, and calmly move him away from it. If you caused the growl by something you were doing, she recommends that you stop doing it. On the surface, this seems like rewarding

bad behavior, but Miller recommends counter-conditioning. In her example, the dog growls when you touch his paw. Start by touching his knee and rewarding with food each time he lets you touch it until he thinks that "touching his knee makes chicken happen. He'll want you to touch his leg so he gets a bit of chicken." Then you can move your hand closer and closer to his paw, rewarding as you go.

The Whole Dog Journal is my favorite dog publication. You can check it out on their website at www.whole-dog-journal.com. It's a monthly newsletter that you can get either on-line or in print, and its focus is on holistic healthcare methods, and successful nonviolent training. Even the articles that I don't entirely agree with are interesting and sometimes provocative. It is good reading.

Training Triumphs:

Jenny Ansbach and her husband Noah Schaffer report that **Robin** (class of 2004), now four years old, continues training classes with a private trainer. She is a quick study and has outpaced his lesson plans for her! She is now part of the "advanced" dog group, and is learning tracking and retrieving. Later this year, Robin is going to start rally obedience to keep her skills up. . . .

Kiko (you'll remember her as Freckles, the pup with the broken leg. Class of 2006) recently started her first puppy obedience class. Her forever family, Megan and Larry Miller, have continued the clicker training her foster family started. Kiko has a "very good" recall; a "pretty good" sit; an "intermittent" stay; and there are more and more instances of slack leads on her walks, so Kiko is definitely moving in the right direction. She has very sophisticated tastes, and enjoys a goat cheese stuffed Kong when crated!

Come to the
MAESSR
Picnics!



www.maessr.org

PICNICS 2006!!

By Vicki Phillips

Grab your calendar and clear the dates, the MAESSR Springerfest Picnics have been scheduled! Saturday May 13th, - Core Creek Park in Langhorne, PA will be the site of the first 2006 MAESSR picnic. This will be a return visit for MAESSR to this lovely park. We have reserved two pavilions lakeside and plan to start the day at 9:15.

On Saturday June 10th the picnic will be held at the Purcell Pavilion at South Park, located in South Park, PA which is in the Pittsburgh area. The park has rolling hills, lots of shade and available activities for picnic attendees.

On Saturday Sept 9th Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis MD will host the MAESSR family for the finale picnic of 2006. The highlight of this 340 acre park is the dog beach and dog park. While people are not allowed to swim in the waters off the South River Promenade, dogs are encouraged to jump in and splash around - a Springer's delight! There is a pet rinsing station for the ride home.

The picnic agenda was planned after reviewing all of the great feedback from MAESSR volunteers. The day will include: workshops on pet first aid, micro chipping, obedience training, raffles, class and family photos, and canine good citizen testing. Great food and company top off the day!

Whether you are a MAESSR volunteer, a MAESSR adoptive family, a friend of MAESSR or a Springer enthusiast, please join us for one or all of these events. Our picnics are a great way to meet the faces behind all the work that makes this organization operate and all those great dogs that have found places in all of our hearts.

If you would like to help on the day of the picnic please contact one of the following:

Core Creek Park Langhorne PA and Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis MD please contact Vicki Phillips at springerlane@gmail.com.

If you are interested in helping with the Western Pennsylvania picnic, contact Pat Race at Patm.race@verizon.net or Linda Johnston at springerlove@comcast.net.

Hope to see you there!

SPRINGER HEALTH

By Carol Getty, DVM

Many a dog owner has been horrified or embarrassed to discover that their beloved pet eats his own stool. Most people don't realize just how common this problem is.

Why do dogs do it? It is a natural behavior in dogs at certain times in their lives, such as a bitch nursing puppies eating the puppies' feces to keep the nest clean. Even in male dogs this behavior can be "hard-wired" and if triggered by environmental stimuli the behavior will surface. There are quite a few conditions that can trigger coprophagy. If your dog begins eating stool, think these over and see if there is a way to help the dog stop.

One cause can be a physical problem such as excessive hunger, internal disease or pain. If your dog is an adult and suddenly starts eating feces, go see your vet for a good physical exam. If your dog is on a diet, or just not getting enough food, or is being fed his meals too far apart, coprophagy may be the result. Check your dog food label for amount the dog should be fed, divide the total daily intake into two or three meals, and consider adding veggies like green beans and carrots if the dog needs to lose weight.

Intestinal parasites may trigger stool eating as a symptom. Regular dewormings and fecal examination (microscopic) at your veterinarian can help avoid gastrointestinal parasites as a cause of coprophagy.

Some dogs will not fully digest their food, and they view the partially digested food in the feces as edible. Any given dog may do poorly on any particular diet, so one possible fix is to try a diet change. Gradual changes are usually safest, mixing the new food in over 2-4 days to avoid upsetting the dog's stomach or intestines.

Mental anxiety may also lead to coprophagy. A sensitive dog that has been punished for defecating in the house may actually connect the presence of feces with the punishment and ingest the feces to "destroy the evidence". Remember that punishment after the "accident" has occurred will not be connected to the act of soiling in the house.

Instead, praise heavily for eliminating in the proper place, and supervise dogs carefully to avoid "accidents" from happening in the first place. Separation anxiety is another potential cause of coprophagy, but other symptoms will be present. If you have a dog with separation anxiety, which is also eating stool, then working on improving the separation anxiety should reduce or eliminate the coprophagy.

Finally, boredom can lead to stool eating. Provide lots of interesting toys to play with to help decrease the chance of coprophagy.

But how do you make the dog stop eating feces? The first step is simple: clean up after the dog each and every time he defecates. This does mean having the dog well house trained, and it also involves supervising "potty time" so that you can clean up the stool immediately. Once the dog is over the coprophagy, you may be able to relax a little, but stay vigilant.

Some people swear by adding various products to the dog's food. Some feel that they are adding something the dog is missing in his diet, while others claim to make the feces taste bad to the dog as a deterrent. Additives include commercial products such as "For-Bid" and "Deter" and natural products such as canned pumpkin and recipes for "cookies" designed to stop coprophagy. My take is that the reason there are so many different recommendations is that no one "cure" works for all dogs. In fact very few dogs respond 100% to any of the "cures" out there.

You will have better success using behavior modification by supervising the dog at "potty" time, including positive reinforcement when the dog leaves the stool alone, and use the food additives only as another aid in teaching the dog not to eat stool.

Whatever you do, if your dog has just started the habit, get on it right away, as the habit grows stronger the longer it goes on. Don't be afraid to discuss the situation with your veterinarian. Finally, if you start on a program to retrain the dog, be patient and continue supervision and positive reinforcement for a long time... the habit will fade with time.

CALENDAR – MORE EVENTS COMING!

(Contact person for information or to help follows the event)

2/18 – Pet Expo, Richmond VA (Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com)

3/24 – Greater Pittsburgh Springer Specialty, Pittsburgh, PA (Pat Race, patm.race@verizon.net or Linda Johnston, springerlove@comcast.net)

4/23 – Delaware Dog Fest, Wilmington, DE (Vicki Phillips, springerlane@gmail.com)

4/29 – Bark in the Park, Williamsburg, VA (Mary Beach, spanielma@aol.com)

4/30 – MonDaug Dog Walk, Fort Washington, PA (Vicki Phillips, springerlane@gmail.com)

5/7 – Chester County SPCA Walk, West Chester (Vicki Phillips, springerlane@gmail.com)

5/13 – Picnic, Core Creek Park, Langhorne, PA (Vicki Phillips, springerlane@gmail.com)

6/10 – Picnic, South Park, South Park, PA (Pat Race, patm.race@verizon.net or Linda Johnston, springerlove@comcast.net)

9/9 – Picnic, Annapolis, MD (Vicki Phillips, springerlane@gmail.com)

SPRINGER HEROES OF THE IRAQ WAR

Meet Buster and Blaze members of the Royal Veterinary Corps based in Aldershot, England.

Buster and his proud handler broke an armed resistance cell in Southern Iraq. Soldiers had found nothing in a home suspected to be a headquarters. Sgt Morgan unleashed the five year old Springer and within minutes he became excited. He found weapons, drugs, and explosives hidden in a deep wall cavity, covered with a sheet of tin with a wardrobe pushed in front.



Buster and Sgt Morgan

Buster is so valuable to the army that he has even been given his own protective gear in case of chemical or biological attack. When Scud or gas attack warnings sound, he leaps into a special sealed pen equipped with an electric motor that pumps air through a gas mask filter.

When not in service, Buster enjoys his family, which includes a five year old child.

Blaze, also has a special talent for sniffing out guns, explosives and ammunitions. A British newspaper, The Sun, reported Blaze survived a suspected contract killing. Also serving in Southern Iraq, Blaze escaped with only cuts and bruises when the



Blaze, undaunted by assassins' attempt

would-be killer sped up in a car, "deliberately swerved" and hit him, The Sun reported. His handler, Lance Corporal Steve Dineley, 24, said: "I was gutted when he got run over and so were all the guys. We were very angry but he has made a great recovery."

"There is no doubt that this was a deliberate

assassination attempt," a senior army officer was quoted as saying. "We are convinced that there was a price on Blaze's head."

2005 STATISTICS

220 dogs came into rescue in 2005

- ◆65 were Owner Relinquishments
- ◆155 were from shelters
- ◆34 dogs were held over from 2004 to 2005

171 dogs adopted in 2005

- ◆10 were put to sleep, 2 for health, 8 for temperament
- ◆2 seniors passed away in foster care
- ◆2 returned to owners after evaluation revealed temperament problems
- ◆1 returned to rescue after evaluation revealed temperament problems

THANK YOU

In Honor of

Lois and Randolph Boyer –
Sammy and Kaylie

Donna and Emmett –
Mr. and Mrs. Peter
Thompson's marriage

Thomas Scanlon - Murphy

Lois and Randolph Boyer –
Debbie Lipcsey

Patricia and Leonard
Paquette – Alicia Gott, foster
mom to Lady

Carole and Gary Neifert –
Dolly and Gertie

Terry and Linda Johnston –
Shug Davis

Ruth Watson – Scrapper
and Millie

Judy and Myron Mintz –
Winston

Sue Baldwin-Way –
MAESSR Volunteers

Douglas and Jane Tribull –
Lily

Gloria Steinmeyer –
Tabitha

Kent and Kathy Nixon –
Sparky and Debbie Lipcsey

Schepacarter Family –
Chris and Jim DePhillipo

Gary and Elizabeth Russell
– Jack VIII

George and Barbara
Bennett – George

Alan and Barbara Bellack –
Domino

Scott and Cathy Beam –
Montgomery Nine and
our Oscar

In Memory of

Dennis and Brenda
Oldroyd – Hazel, Cali &
Belle

Sheila Smith – Mandy

Mary and Lee Beach – Teri
& Bill Wiley's Boomer

Jim Perry – Teri and Bill
Wiley's Boomer

Michael Sulima – Scarlet,
Lady and Fritz

Beth and Thomas
Anderson – Sam

Laurie Cummings – Bandit

Rachel and Brian Murray –
Barbara Finnan's Gadget

Marion Fleming – John and
James Fleming, Freckles,
Maggie and Sam

Joan Cromwell – All
MAESSR Springers who
went to the Bridge in 2005

Scot Rogerson and Edward
Keable – Joan Cromwell's
Norman and Tasha

Debbie and Bill Lipcsey –
Tasha Cromwell and
Stetson Manley

Schepacarter Family – Kelly
DePhillipo

Friends of Buddy

Ann Marie Petrick

RS & KL Libke

Sherry Rohn Clancy
(multiple gifts)

Friends of Napoleon

Richard Conway

Maureen Forbes

Barbara Campbell

Gifts

Rick and Rita Gatlin
(multiple gifts)

Lorie Bruckhart

Beth Watson

Weinberg Family
Foundation

Jean Kneebone

Barbara Breden

Pat Nicollette

Rolando Zamora and Scott
Zeplin

Jeffrey Janas

Kenneth Stewart

TJ Davis

Maureen and John Sykes

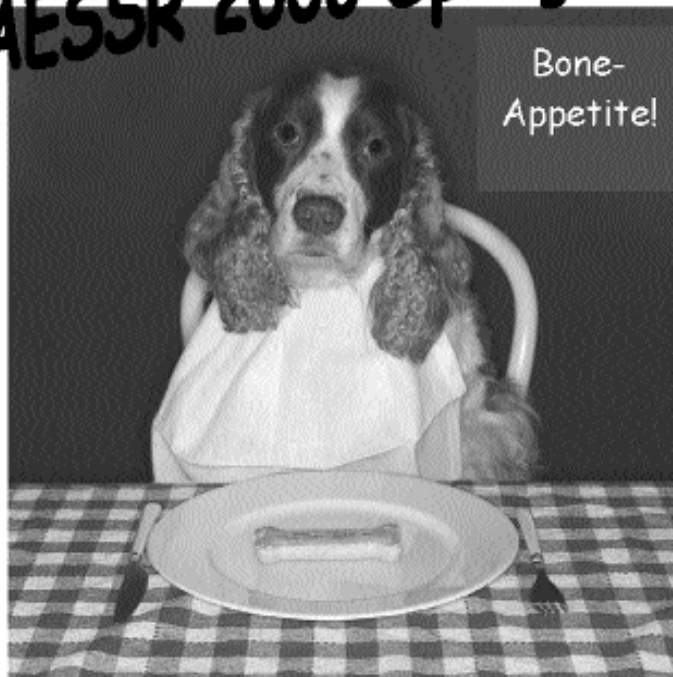
Lisa Nuzzaci

Justina Russo

Jay Matthews

Roger Kane

MAESSR 2006 Springerfest



Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday May 13th 9-4
Core Creek Park
Langhorne, PA

Saturday, June 10th 9-4
South Park, South Park, PA
(Pittsburgh area)
(RSVP form in next newsletter)

Saturday Sept. 9th 9-4
Quiet Waters Park
Annapolis MD
(RSVP form in next newsletter)

Grab your leash, pack your crate, and get ready for a fun filled day of games, good food, seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Both picnics are open to all friends of MAESSR- adoptive families, volunteers, supporters, and Springer enthusiasts.

Basic Pet First Aid Clinic	Meet & Greet Volunteers
Canine Good Citizen Testing	Door Prizes! Boxed Lunch!
Micro Chip Clinic	Meet MAESSR's Rescue Dogs
Basic Dog Obedience Clinic	Raffles! Raffles! Raffles!

MAESSR PICNIC RSVP

_____ Number of people attending May 13th, 2006 Langhorne, PA 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

Do You Remember...

Hannah IV

**Then...Baltimore, MD,
suburbs...August, 2004**

A 4-year-old liver and white Springer, Hannah, is relinquished to MAESSR, having been used for constant breeding. She is in poor shape: grapefruit-sized mats, filthy, worms as well as ear and eye infections. Her foster home, Geri and Dave Mackarevich immediately recognize a diamond in the rough.

Housetraining is difficult, but Hannah eventually catches on. She enjoys the company of two Springer foster brothers and several feline siblings. She is smart, energetic and playful but has recurring urinary tract problems. Bladder cancer is suspected. Hannah undergoes exploratory surgery and many trips to the University of Pennsylvania Vet Hospital for expensive tests and screenings. Caring MAESSR supporters donate funds for her costly treatments. Hannah doesn't have cancer, but she is infected with a very rare bacteria. It's a long battle, but she recovers! At last she is ready for a forever home!

Meanwhile, a family in Cochranville, PA, is watching website reports on Hannah's progress. They are drawn to this sweet pup and decide to wait, no matter how long, for a chance to adopt her. They wait and wait. At last.....good news! Hannah is offered to her and comes to visit and adopt her Memorial Day weekend, 2005!

**Now...Cochranville, PA...
February, 2006**

Hannah is a happy pup these days, and she brings endless joy to her forever mom. Sharon Price says Hannah is "a gift" and a perfect addition to the family. She is a typical Springer "velcro dog", staying close to her mom. She also has an incredible attachment to her canine and feline siblings. Hannah's mom shares this story to illustrate what a treasure Hannah is:

"One of the cats recently lost his battle with throat cancer. He had become quite fond of Hannah and always followed her around and snuggled with her. When his final moments came and the vet administered a sedative before euthanasia, Hannah climbed on the couch with him and laid her head on his flank to let him know she was with him".

Clearly, Miss Hannah is a lucky lady to be a part of the Price family, and Sharon and her pets are delighted to have the gift of Hannah's presence. Sharon says she can't imagine life without her!



Hannah

DEAR POPPY

Editors Note: Springers Tails is pleased to introduce a new "advice and information" column. The column will address questions from dog owners and topics/questions that your Springer may be wondering about. Poppy is a MAESSR rescue approximately 6 years old. She lives with her owner, Barbara Finnan and her two Springer brothers, Hairy - who's 10, and Chance, another MAESSR rescue - who's 8 years old.

Dear Poppy,

Lately it seems like a lot of Springers are having trouble with seizures and epilepsy. Do ESS have more trouble with this than other breeds? What happens and where can I find good information?

Shaken and Stirred,
Molly K.,
Lancaster, PA



Dear Shaken and Stirred,

You've asked a good question and one that's been very important in my family for decades. I contacted Dr. Jerry Northington, at Valley Forge Veterinary Hospital, who specializes in this disorder, and who treated one of my family's previous ESS, Baron, for years for very serious seizures. Dr. Northington referred me to a web site: www.canine-epilepsy.net. This is an excellent source of information which you should look at and read. I was totally amazed at how much info is available now.

First, the good news is that ESS are not more likely than other breeds to have these problems. Second, there is a very clear description of the types and symptoms of the forms of seizures and epilepsy that can occur and what to do about them and when.

The most common are grand mal and petit mal. Grand mal starts around the ages of 1 1/2 to 5 and are pretty awful to watch. (They're not much fun to have, either.) There's lots of gnashing teeth, thrashing around, and often loss of bowel and bladder control. When a dog is com-

ing around, they can hear, but their pupils are dilated so they don't see well. At this time, they might feel threatened or snap so it's important to just talk to them until they recognize where they are and who they're with. They might stagger when they first get up. If a dog, like



Poppy

Baron, has a lot of seizures, it can eventually affect how they see. He became partially blind. Also, if a dog has one seizure, and it lasts more than one or two minutes, or if he has one, basically recovers, and then has another, it's important to get your veterinarian involved. You'll probably be asked to write down dates and times so your vet can decide if medications are necessary. It's really important to talk to your Vet.

Petit mal, which is what I have, are still scary, but mine only happen once or twice a year or so. I just sort of stand there and my back legs shake, and then I have to sit down for awhile. Mom's had a lot of experience with seizures and epilepsy so, for now, she's just grateful that mine aren't worse.

What she does is what she did for Baron (and Boy Friend, another ESS from years ago). She grabs a towel to soak up any urine I might release (I haven't yet, but the other two did - a lot!), and then she keeps talking to me, telling me I'll be okay. She pets me and lets me know she's there. With Baron and Boy Friend, she had to stay back during their first couple of seizures because they were really scared and defensive, and doing a lot of growling. She just kept talking to them. After the first couple of times, they knew it was her so she was able to stroke their backs (not near their heads) and that made them feel better. Like them, I've learned to tell when I'm going to have a seizure, and if she's home, I get right to her for protection like they did.

Please go to the web site. There's so much more there than I can put in here. Hope this helps a little.

Love,
Poppy



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