



# Springer Tails

## Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

### ONE BY ONE

This issue of Springer Tails carries a common theme – making a difference. Every volunteer, adoptive family and member of the MAESSR community has made a difference in at least one dog's life.

Over the years, MAESSR has been extremely fortunate to deal with many individuals, shelters, and veterinarian offices that have made a difference. Following are a few snapshots from the MAESSR scrapbook of memories of the dogs helped by these friends:

**Lana** – Her first owners tied rubber bands on her ears creating severe ear infections. They then advised they did not have the financial funds to treat the resultant infections and relinquished her to their vet to be put down. The veterinarian instead performed numerous surgeries and then relinquished her to MAESSR.

**Tulip** – Found as a stray in a community park. A family took her home and promptly found MAESSR on the Internet. She was in a MAESSR foster home that evening. An immediate vet visit due to the family's action saved her life as she was bleeding internally thought to due to being kicked.

**Brownie** – Her first family was unprepared for a puppy and all the activity that accompanies a young dog. They turned her into the local shelter. Concerned with such a young dog in a shelter environment, the shelter employee took her to her home and cared for her until she could come into MAESSR foster care.

A special thank you tribute to all our volunteers, adoptive families, readers, and all of those who made and are making a difference:

“While walking along a beach, a man saw someone in the distance leaning down, picking something up, and throwing it in the ocean. As he walked closer, he saw thousands of starfish the tide had thrown onto the beach. Unable to return to the ocean during low tide, the starfish were dying. He observed a young woman picking up the starfish one by one and throwing them back in the water.

After watching the seemingly futile effort, the observer said, “There must be thousands of starfish on this beach. It would be impossible for you to get to all of them. There are simply too many. You can't possibly save enough to make a difference.” The young woman smiled as she continued to pick up another starfish and toss it back into the ocean. “It has made a difference to that one,” she replied.

### CALENDAR

- **March 30** – Greater Pittsburgh Specialty (for information or to help, Pat Race, email pat.race@comcast.net)
- **April 28** – MAESSR Springfest, Core Creek Park, Langhorne, PA (Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com)
- **April 28** – Bark in the Park, Williamsburg, VA (Mary Beach, spanielma@aol.com)
- **June 1** – Submission for photos for the MAESSR 2008 calendar (Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com)
- **June 2** – MAESSR Springfest, Washington, VA (Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com)
- **June 23** – Picnic, Three Lakes Park, Richmond, VA (Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com)
- **September 15** – MAESSR Springfest, Downs Park, Pasadena MD (Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com)
- **October 13** – MAESSR Springfest, Pittsburgh, PA (Linda Johnston, springerlove@comcast.net or Pat Race)

### Celebrate Life.....



*New t-shirt by  
Cindy Brassfield*

**the Springer Spaniel way!!**

## How You Can Volunteer and Make a Difference

By Linda Foster, Volunteer Coordinator

Are you unable to adopt a Springer but still want to help? Or perhaps you adopted a dog from MAESSR but would like to give something back? Then become a MAESSR volunteer and make a difference in the life of a Springer in need.

MAESSR is an all-volunteer organization, and our volunteers play many vital roles. Some require hands-on work with the dogs entrusted to our care, while others involve the many support functions that go on behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly.

In future newsletters, we will begin to highlight some of the many volunteers who have helped us to achieve our success over the last nine years. But for now, here are some ways that you can help:

**Interviewers:** MAESSR receives many applications each month from families wanting to adopt Springers. As an interviewer, we would train you to screen potential adopters by conducting telephone interviews and securing vet and/or personal references.

**Volunteer Assistants:** Our Volunteer Coordinator is always looking for new people to contact potential volunteers, talking with them about MAESSR's mission, explaining the many ways they can help and discussing their interests.

**Transporters:** Whenever we need to transport a Springer from a shelter to a foster home or from a foster home to a forever home, we rely upon our network of transporters to help us get them there. Our Transportation Coordinators arrange weekly transports and search for volunteers to help our Springers begin or complete their journeys to safe and loving homes.

**Home Visits:** From time to time, we need volunteers to conduct home visits in their area of potential foster homes or forever homes to be sure our dogs are going to a secure environment.

**Shelter Visits:** MAESSR is always looking for volunteers to visit local shelters to check for Springers that may be impounded, to pick up a Springer coming into foster care, or just to spread the word about our service. We also need volunteers who will visit impounded Springers to evaluate their temperaments before bringing them into rescue.

**Fostering:** This is perhaps our greatest need. Because of the increasing number of Springers that MAESSR tries to help every day, we need loving foster families to care for them until they are ready to be placed into forever homes. New foster families are assigned a mentor to guide them through the fostering process and aid with health or behavioral issues. Dogs are typically in foster care for 2-4 weeks depending on the dog's health, age, behavior and adoptability.

If you can help in one or more of these areas or have a special skill or talent that might be of help, please visit our website at [www.maessr.org](http://www.maessr.org) and complete our on-line volunteer application. With your help, we will continue to meet the needs of many stray, relinquished and impounded Springers in the Mid-Atlantic region.



## MAESSR WELCOMES...

MAESSR volunteers come from locations that we service all around the Mid-Atlantic region including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, District of Columbia, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia.

We also have volunteers in South Carolina, North Carolina, Arizona, Minnesota, Alabama and Georgia who, despite their locations, are able to help the organization accomplish our mission.

You too can be one of over 200 households that volunteer with MAESSR on a continuing basis, some of whom have been volunteers since our inception in 1998. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, place contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Foster at [RescueESS@yahoo.com](mailto:RescueESS@yahoo.com), or simply complete the on-line volunteer application on our website.

Please join us in welcoming the following 31 new volunteers who have recently joined the MAESSR family:

- Charlotte Ball, Silver Spring, MD
- Debbie Bittinger, Fredericksburg, VA
- Kim Burruss, Richmond, VA
- Patti Cripps, Oxford, PA
- Katherine Davies-Stankan, Bedford, PA
- Ilonka D'Azevedo, Yorktown, VA
- Marie Everly, Drexel Hill, PA
- Lisa Ferdinando, Alexandria, VA
- Katrine Ferreiras, Stafford, VA
- Andrea Isbelle, Richmond, VA
- Leslie Jacoby, Caontonsville, MD
- Jean Klunk, Ridley Park, PA
- Brenda Kyle, Chesterfield, VA
- John LeVicchi, Freehold, NJ
- Natalie Long, West Mifflin, PA
- Candi Lynn, Northampton, PA

- Kera Martynuik, Yardley, PA
- Tish Perosio & John Benci, Audubon, PA
- Vicki Runkle, Felton, PA
- Susan Seltzer, Urbana, MD
- Terry Shriner, Lavelle, PA
- Judy Stephens, Laurel, MD
- Cathe Slocum, Atlantic Highlands, NJ
- Jennifer & Greg Sullivan, Delaware City, DE
- Sharlit Wagner, Rockville, MD
- Kim Walter, Lewisburg, PA
- Kent & Carolyn Wetherhold, North East, MD
- Stephanie Wible, Gloucester, VA
- Linn Worrall, Grantham, PA
- Tracy Yeager & Tony DeBiase, Alexandria, VA
- Joyce Yeager, Pittsburgh, PA

# Senior Moments

By Maggie Cromwell

I was brought into MAESSR care in June of last year. In very short order my foster mom decided I was a keeper and she adopted me. I must tell you that things were going really well for me for several months. Over time I pushed and pushed and pushed the boundaries until I got everything I wanted whenever I wanted it. As you can imagine, I loved this newly found power. If my mom was sitting on the sofa, I would bark and run in circles until she would go into the kitchen to get me a treat. I also learned how to limit my mom's telephone calls. I would simply whine and cry until she either began to pet me and/or she would end the call. As you can imagine, I felt I had it made. One day, I think I went too far when my Springer sister, Kelly, wanted to lay at my mom's feet and I jumped her to get her out of the way. Apparently, that was a bad idea.



Maggie Cromwell

Before you knew it mom was on the phone with another MAESSR volunteer who put all these crazy

ideas into her head. All of a sudden we, well, I had a bunch of new rules to follow. You will not believe the torture that was forthcoming. For starters, if I wanted a treat while watching television, she would ignore me or worse, make me lay down on the floor. At first I thought that if I lay down, she would get me a treat but treats were not forthcoming. Can you believe that I would not be rewarded for lying down when told???? Then, when she talks on the phone, she makes me do the same trick and still *NO TREATS!!!!* What kind of torture is this??? Now, I only get treats after my walks. I still love my mom and all but I was hoping that maybe one of you Springers out there could explain to me how to outsmart her on this one. Please, help a girl out.

## THE TRAINING CORNER

By Cindy Reitz

As members of a rescue organization we routinely have dogs moving in and out of our homes. For the dog, this requires adjusting to many new things such as environment, routine and two- as well as four-legged pack members. The time period can be confusing, stressful, and frustrating for all.

Whether we transport, foster, or adopt a new family member there are many 'little things' we can do to help these dog's transition proceed smoothly and successfully.

### Housetraining

Dogs typically prefer to eliminate away from their living space. Unlike humans, however, most don't recognize that all indoor space is living space. If you spend most time in the family room, Freckles may think that the guestroom is a perfectly acceptable potty area.

Supervision is key to successful communication. Take a few minutes each day to entertain Freckles in all areas of the house, from bedrooms to basement. Read your magazine in the dining room, watch the news in the quest room, take her to the laundry room with you to fold clothes, etc. Feed, train, play, rub tummies, and generally 'hang out' everywhere so she understands that the entire home is living space and not a potty area.

For the first few days take Freckles outside frequently and at regular intervals. Always use the same door, and as you approach it, talk to her excitedly: 'Do you want to go out? C'mon! Let's go out!' The goal is to get her wiggling and dancing as you head for the door. This will help her develop a strong signal to let you know when she needs to go out in the future.

Once outside, calmly praise her while she is eliminating, not as she returns to you. If accidents occur, say nothing and quietly clean up with a neutralizing agent so she doesn't return and repeat the offense.

### Limiting Space

When Freckles enters your home consider limiting her space. By tethering her to your belt loop she can accompany you as you proceed with your normal routine. Close doors or use baby gates to confine her in the room with you. Direct supervision enables you to head off any undesirable behaviors such as chewing or potty accidents.

### Exercise

A tired dog is a happy, well-behaved dog! Leash walking is pleasant but does little to help Freckles 'burn off steam'. If you don't have access to a safe off-leash space, head to a cleared area such as a church, park or school. Snap a fifty foot long line onto her collar and watch her go! As you walk the perimeter of the property, Freckles will run, sniff, roll and do all the things dogs do best. When you return home she will be relaxed and happy, and won't be looking for trouble. When the weather doesn't cooperate, put her brain to work. Just like a hard day at the office for you, mental stimulation will tire your dog out, too. Try training, teach her tricks, or play 'hide and go seek'.

Following the simple procedures outlined here will help your dog's transition go smoothly and successfully as she becomes acclimated to her new home and family, and alleviate much of the stress and frustration for both of you.

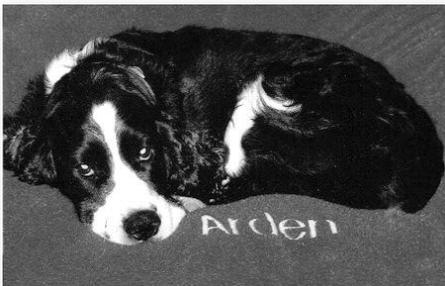
# FINAL TRIBUTE TO ONE OF MAESSR'S VERY FIRST

By Beth Bickel

I write this article with a heavy heart as I am still mourning the loss of the best dog ever! We lost Arden on Halloween and we miss him everyday. On this day when we had to let him go, we lost a part of ourselves as well. We stayed with him until the end speaking to him and holding him close. Our tears flowed as we watched his eyes close for the last time. Our hearts were broken the day he died. He was truly our best friend.

We adopted Arden in 1998. He was one of MAESSR's very first adoptive dogs and our family drove from Pennsylvania to Virginia (this was in the day before transports were a part of the MAESSR program) on January 1, 1999 to bring Arden home. We chose him sight unseen and when we saw him for the very first time it was love at first sight! He took to us as if it were a match made in heaven and heaven it was for the mere 8 years we were blessed to have him in our lives. If love alone could have saved him, Arden never would have died.

This wasn't the plan we had for him. He was supposed to be here to see our boys graduate and be here on their "BIG" day. Arden was supposed to be here to sit and nuzzle with us and watch us grow old, but God had a different plan and we are grateful for the time he was given to us. Arden left us with so much more than just memories. He taught us a great deal about unconditional love. He brought so much joy and happiness to us and everyone who knew him. It is as if he felt it his duty to make us feel good. Many times the kids in our neighborhood would get all excited when they would see him out for one of his walks! Young and old alike, Arden was everyone's favorite dog because of his loving and patient nature and he loved the attention this got him! He had this way of lifting



your hand with his head if he wasn't finished with you petting him!

People warned us that Springers are hyper and extremely active. We were prepared for this, but Arden proved to be just the opposite. He was calm and docile and enjoyed just being around people. You could typically find him lying in the middle of any gathering or in between my husband and me on our bed. He often would sit and chew on a raw hide while our boys tossed the lacrosse ball in the yard. He did not need a lot of excitement in fact; he would be the first to "flop" from exhaustion. And get wet? Forget it! He stood clear of any water that wasn't in a bowl! Arden was not a typical Springer! No nothing typical, just extraordinary.

If only we had just one more day. The chair he once occupied is now empty and no one greets us when we come home. There is no more barking when the doorbell rings and no whimpers for more attention. There are no more good morning "kisses" and no more anxious waiting for table scraps. There are no more walks to be had. Yes, if only we had just one more day... What will stay with me forever about Arden is: We thought by rescuing him we were making a better life for a dog. Never did we realize that this "one dog" would make a better life for us.

## A Birthday Party for Springers!

Regardless of age, one person can make a difference! A nine year old wanted to do something to honor her MAESSR dog, Sprite and help other MAESSR dogs while celebrating her birthday!

So instead of asking for presents for herself, Katharine asked her friends and family to bring gifts for MAESSR dogs to the party. What a celebration it was! At the close of the day, MAESSR was the beneficiary of six dog bowls, lots of toys and treats, thirteen collars and leashes and \$310 in checks.

On behalf of all the dogs you helped, thank you, Katharine for making a difference in your own special way!



### Making a Difference!

#### MAESSR 2006 Statistics

- Total Adoptions in 2006 – 205
- At the end of 2006 – dogs in foster care – 40
- Number from shelters: 44
- Total Owner Relinquishments – 129
- Most common given reasons for relinquishment – moving, no time, no longer wanted, issues with other dogs and new baby.
- Number of males – 120 (57 intact)
- Number of females – 84 (34 intact)
- Most common name - Molly

# Thank You

## Gifts Given In Honor

Alan Thielmann – Hershey  
Linda and Terry Johnston – Ranger and Reggie  
Beth Watson – Lucy  
Richard Conaway – Jenny  
Sue Campos – Liz Watson and all foster families  
Katharine Hammer – Springer Birthday Party  
Joe and Donna Harkins – our four Springers  
Mary and Jerry Seyler – Pebbles  
Jeffrey Janas – Angela Barton  
Susan Zappala- Brittain – Robert Sandy  
Tom and Dorothy Scanlan – Murphy  
Barbara Hildebrant – Duncan  
MeadWestvaco Corporation – Kim Bolster  
Robert Sandy and Bonnie Nichols – Lily and William  
Traci and George Carrera – Cleo Hare  
Daniel and Kathleen Kelly – Molly  
Cheryl and David Harrison – Rook and Susan Zuker  
Debra Paikoff – Buddy  
Brian Watson – Lucy  
Stephen and Patricia Stockwell – Dutch, Chubb and Brandy  
Ted and Barbara Smith – Sir Lancelot's anniversary  
Jeff and Diane Abel – Bart  
Jim and Libby Seybert – Patti  
Kent and Kathy Nixon – Kim Bolster and all MAESSR Volunteers  
Isabelle and Barry Chewning – Annie II  
Sue Baldwin Way – MAESSR Volunteers  
Cliff and Donna Laing – Molly  
Maria and Michael Sedor – Lisa Nuzacci's volunteer work  
Judith Parker – Kelly Cromwell's 16th birthday  
Paige Martin – Rosebud  
Judith Bennett – Simon  
Linda and Terry Johnston – Ranger's Three Year Anniversary  
Reba Erickson – Roscoe, Blue, Henry and Charlie

Colin and Margaret MacCrimble – Susie  
Natalie Keck – all the special Springers  
Scott and Cathy Beam – Oscar and the Montgomery Nine  
Doris Levin – Gus and Cocoa  
Katherine Davies Stankan – Eve, Vet Expenses  
Carole Haas Gravagno – Maggie Relinquishment  
Carole Alderman – TJ's medical care  
Pat Race – Lewie's medical care  
Linda and Terry Johnston – Lewie's medical care  
Katherine Davies- Stankan – Charlie XI and Lady Bird medical expenses  
Donald Reilly – Lewie relinquishment  
Katherine Davies Stankan – Domino III medical expenses  
Lisa Roth – Maggie XVII medical expenses  
David and Betty Nolt – Jenny and Ginger relinquishment  
Geoffrey and Megan Roswick – Lyndi medical expenses

## Gifts Given In Memory

Kristin Backstrom – Stanley  
Jay and Fran Fisher – John J. Fogarty  
Norman Brenbridge and Woody – Isabella  
The Cohill Family – Robin Sarino's mother  
Pat Alberta – all my Springers at Rainbow Bridge  
Jim and Beth Bickel – Arden  
MJ Mintz – Patrick  
The Creamettes – Sam Anderson  
Harry and Lynn Bartosik – McRobie  
Robert and Mary Lou Lowry – Mrs. Helen Alderman Harper  
Kent and Kathy Nixon – Higgins  
Warren and Marshalene Reeves – Allison  
Linda and Terry Johnston – Hunter Rinaldi  
Katherine and Allan Stevens - Mindy

## General Gifts

Nancy Cawley (multiple gifts)

Robert and Denell Haines  
Sherry Rohn Clancy (multiple gifts)  
Lisa Williamson  
Rick and Rita Gatlin (multiple gifts)  
Hayes and Katie Smith  
Lisa Nuzzaci  
Susan Becraft  
Melissa Campbell  
James Haddad  
Leslie and Art Jacoby  
Eileen Alwang  
Debra Johnson (multiple gifts)  
Joan Cromwell  
Gloria Steinmeyer  
Danielle Goodman  
Noella Bryden  
Craig and Susan Custer  
Genevieve Ryan  
Monica LaPolt  
Robert Schmeidlin  
William and Trudy Allcott  
William and Sharon Holmes  
Wachovia Foundation – matching gift for Alicia Getty donation  
Monica and Dave Harrower  
Leslie Durant  
Barbara Breeden  
Martin and Bonnie Wilson  
Megan Miller  
Cingular Matching Gift Center – matching gift for Lisa Nuzzaci donation  
Elise Passentino and Eric Warneke  
Debra Carey  
Lynne Suhayda  
Frances Fisher  
Pedigree Shelter Program

## Special Thanks

Betsy Murphy (stock donation)  
Dr Christine Learman – 25% discount of veterinarian services for MAESSR fosters  
Dr Bernard, Ringtown Valley Veterinary Hospital – 90% discount for MAESSR fosters

## DO YOU REMEMBER...GINGER?

By Mary Beach

### Then...Williamstown, NJ... June, 2003

Ginger is a sweet 3½ year old Springer with an impressive pedigree including a great-grandfather who is a Westminster Dog Show champion. Ginger, however, is not living the life of a pampered show dog. She and other pedigreed Springers live in filthy conditions in a backyard where their job is to produce as many puppies as possible. The owners profit from the dogs' miserable lives, but they are experiencing financial difficulties and relinquish Ginger and four other dogs to MAESSR.

Ginger is lovingly transported to her foster home in Absecon, NJ. She is completely matted and covered in pine-sap and puppy excrement. Her foster mom gives her multiple baths, gives her a "chop" haircut, and has the groomer shave her since that's the only way to get her clean. A very trusting and affectionate dog emerges, and Ginger begins to enjoy a better life. She spends four months in foster care. Her challenges include treatment for Lyme's disease, going through confinement when coming into season, and finally being spayed. She begins to relax and feel comfortable in her new surroundings. There's even a party to celebrate her birthday on the 4th of July! Ginger and her foster family have strong bonds after their time together, and her foster mother, Vicki Phillips, adopts her. Ginger now has a forever home!

### Now...Absecon, NJ... February, 2007

Ginger is enjoying a busy, happy life with her forever mom, three spaniel siblings, and foster dogs that come and go. She enjoys activities such as Camp Jackpot and MAESSR picnics. Her

motherly instincts are still intact, as she carefully oversees the other dogs in her home. She likes to herd them and keep order. If her mom asks her to look for a particular dog she will dutifully find and summons it.

Ginger has many jobs. She goes to work with her mom who is the Director of Mental Health in Atlantic County, NJ. Ginger is the official office greeter. She also shows qualities of a therapy dog when she visits and soothes ill relatives. In the afternoon, Ginger and her mom go to their pet store and grooming parlor called Animal House. After meeting Ginger or her siblings at Animal House, customers become interested in the organization, and some have applied to adopt – a true ambassador for MAESSR! Ginger enjoys all the "on-the-job" pampering and

will stop in at the groomer's station for a touch-up or grooming.

Ginger's mom is also the New Jersey Public Events/Outreach Coordinator for MAESSR. Ginger never fails to draw a crowd at the MAESSR public events and provides an excellent opportunity to explain Rescue and the many backgrounds of the dogs that MAESSR assists. She is certainly appreciated as one of MAESSR's most valuable four-legged volunteers!



Now: Ginger enjoying life



Then: Ginger and puppies.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP MAESSR.....

### Benevolink -

Register MAESSR as your charity and shop Benevolink partners through the Benevolink website. [www.Benevolink.com](http://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!

### Goodsearch.com -

Search the Internet by using [www.Goodsearch.com](http://www.Goodsearch.com) - designate MAESSR (spell out words to find us!) and we will get money every time you use this search engine.

**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.

### Igive.com -

Register MAESSR as your charity and shop through the Igive.com website.

### Buy merchandise from the MAESSR Marketplace -

Need a gift for a friend? Lots of wonderful items that help the dogs when you buy!

### Gift of stock-

Similar to a cash donation... please contact us further if interested in donating stock.

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



## Pet Expo – Richmond, VA – February 2007



Helping at the MAESSR table at the Richmond Pet Expo – Left to right are: Paige Martin, Jennifer Bencks, and Sally Aungier. Also assisting were Phyllis Cox, Mary Beach, Barb and Rob Greer, Kim Bolster, and the Wible family.



Clare Bencks and Donovan Bolster (modeling a dog sweater) at the February 17th Richmond Pet Expo.

❖ Start collecting and taking photos of your MAESSR dog. Deadline for 2008 calendar photo submissions is June 1. Send to MAESSR, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227 or send your digital image to [ESS4x18@cs.com](mailto:ESS4x18@cs.com). Be sure to identify owner and dogs pre-adoption name if different!

### TRAINING TRIUMPHS!

**Molly or MAESSR's Golly Miss Molly** attained her CGC and TDI in Nov. of 2006. She continues to work on tracking, obedience, rally, and agility. She loves everything. She recently performed in a demo at my husband's elementary school and was a hit. One more important training triumph.... Molly visits my second grade classroom every other month for "Read to Molly Day". The students sign up and take turns reading a book to Molly. – Beth Anderson

**Ivey- Mary O'Neill (Pevensey '06)** one of Grace's puppies has completed puppy obedience class and did very well. She is now enrolled in a listen/agility/therapy class and is learning hand/eye signals. Ivey has a hearing disability believed to be due to a problem pre or post birth. She does have one level of hearing which makes her extra special. She continues to be a little terrorist and aspires to be queen of our home! – Kathleen O'Neill

**Ranger and Reggie** have been working everyday on their new tricks. They both do, twirl, crawl, take a bow, take a nap, which hand the treat is in they must pick with their paw. They also do sit, stay, down, paw, wave, backup, sit up and wait. Ranger has mastered roll over Reggie is still working on it. He has a bad leg that was broken at one point in his past and was never treated. They also love to play hide and seek the Mommy. Both dogs have also completed basic training classes. Ranger has completed advance training and got his CGC at the MAESSR Core Creek picnic last summer. This is such an accomplishment for a dog that would not allow people to touch him. Most of all they have learned a peaceful existence and love each other. – Linda Johnston

Don't know if it qualifies, but **Sennen, previously Moshanon**, now can be given his treat in the same room as everyone else, without any carnage. And, I still have 10 fingers! He also is good for the groomer now, which was apparently not the case before he got here. And he will sit-stay until I tell him he may have his meal. These may be baby steps, but are important when one has a gaggle of dogs. – Elizabeth

## BISCUITS FOR MAESSR!

Lisa Roth has combined two loves – cooking and her dogs and is making a difference biscuit by biscuit sale. Lisa, a long time MAESSR volunteer from Northern Virginia, has single-handedly raised over \$600 for MAESSR!

Lisa started making homemade biscuits for her dogs, Bentley, Que, and Oliver as well as the many foster dogs with whom she has shared her life. Whenever Lisa would cook the treats, she always got acclaim. They were given as gifts, and always in demand. Subsequently, an idea to purchase dog and holiday themed tins, fill them with the special treats, and sell them at a MAESSR picnic was born! The tins sold well and the idea then spread to her workplace where many co-workers were aware of Lisa's work with Rescue and her dogs. Now, just six months from the original idea to fill tins and offer them for sale, Lisa sells out the treats when she brings them to work and has co-employees asking when she will bake again!

Special thanks to Lisa for sharing her wonderful treats while turning over all the sales to MAESSR – a very special person making a great difference in the lives of dogs in need!



## Springerfest 2007!

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending **April 28th** Langhorne, PA Picnic

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending **June 2nd** Washington VA Picnic

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending **June 23rd** Richmond VA 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**

# SPRINGER HEALTH

By Dr. Carol M. Getty, DVM

Volumes of information are available for somebody trying to housetrain a new puppy. However, in rescue situations, you are often dealing with an adult dog or even a senior dog, and the expectation may be that the dog should already “know” to be housetrained. Unfortunately, the issues involved in housetraining an adult dog are not always the same as for a puppy and can take some thought to decide on the best way to train.

The first concept to remember is that just because a dog understands to “go” outside at one house, he doesn’t necessarily generalize that understanding to all places. There are different floor plans, doors are in different locations, flooring is different, smells are different, humans are on a different schedule (and in some cases a time change has been involved), so overall, it is a brand new world for an adult dog. If the dog is older, their vision and hearing may not be normal, thus causing more difficulty finding exits and adjusting to the new floor plan. If they have any orthopedic issues and the new building has stairs, it may be painful for them to go outside.

Also, with many rescued dogs, you have no idea how well the dog ever understood housetraining to start. Maybe he was kept outside most of his life and never learned to go outside to relieve himself. Maybe his former owners tried to train him with inappropriate methods that led to him trying to avoid eliminating when people are around. A new owner must evaluate the dog and decide if there are psychological issues to be dealt with.

Maybe the dog is on medication (or was recently on medication, including long lasting injections) that causes an increase in how often the dog needs to void. Corticosteroids for itching and inflammation can cause a significant increase in thirst, leading to a sometimes impressive increase in urine output. Other drugs can potentially alter thirst and urine output.

With an adult or senior dog, there is always the possibility of underlying health problems. Liver and kidney disease can both cause increased thirst, and consequently increased urine output, which can lead to apparent incontinence. Additionally, there are other diseases that cause

increased thirst and increased urination including diabetes mellitus, Cushing’s disease, Addison’s disease, diabetes insipidus, lymphoma, psychogenic polydipsia and many more. A bladder infection or prostate issues can lead to urge incontinence. Incontinence related to hormones may be an issue as well. Back problems, especially in the lower spine, may cause fecal incontinence. Issues with diet, parasites or food sensitivities/inflammatory bowel syndromes may cause diarrhea that is too urgent for the dog to get outside.

So what do you do with an adult dog changing homes? First off, be patient, and expect a few mistakes. Show the dog the exits and go with him outside to the area you would prefer him to use. Praise heartily for a successful trip outside. While inside, supervise the dog. Don’t let him wander off into parts of the house he might end up voiding in. This might require you to keep him leashed at first, or crated, but hopefully, this stage won’t last long. If the dog seems to understand quickly, then you can allow him more freedom as he has earned it. If the dog makes mistakes despite supervision, re-evaluate your plan. Were the mistakes your fault? Did the dog get a chance to get out of your sight? If yes, then increase the level of supervision and continue reinforcing good behavior with lots of praise.

If mistakes are happening literally right under your nose, evaluate that situation. Does the dog seem to be drinking an excess amount of water? An average 45 pound springer should drink about one liter of water a day. They may drink more if it’s hot out or if they are exercising a lot. If you feel they are drinking more than they should and it is resulting in urine accidents, this is a good point to see your veterinarian. Is the accident occurring while the dog is asleep? This is often characterized by a puddle/wet spot on bedding when the dog rises after sleeping or sometimes just laying down. This is a sign of hormonal incontinence, and after ruling out other causes, your vet can prescribe medication to control it. If the dog seems perfectly aware of himself, but still urinates indoors despite supervision, he may have such a strong urge to urinate that he can’t stop himself. Painful conditions like prostatitis,

cystitis, and bladder stones would have to be considered. If there are formed “fecal nuggets” on the bedding after the dog sleeps, this is a sign that you may have either a back problem or a gastrointestinal problem (or both). Again, a trip to the vet will help sort it out and help decide if diet or medication will help. Finally if the stool is not formed, there is a definite medical problem and your vet should be able to help sort it out.

Sometimes with elderly dogs changing homes, you will discover that a dog who was coping fairly well in familiar surroundings can’t cope so well in a strange place. Poor vision and hearing may account for some of the problem, but dogs can also suffer from canine cognitive disorder. This is a little like people with Alzheimer’s disease. The dog is easily confused and forgetful. There is medication available which may help lessen the symptoms of canine cognitive disorder, but a geriatric dog diagnosed with CCD may never be reliable in the house and should be supervised accordingly.

Finally, many dogs changing homes may experience at least a short bout with separation anxiety. A dog who is distressed about being left alone may void urine and/or feces in response to their distress. The hallmark here would be that the dog is housetrained while people are around, but when left alone, voids in the house. Look for other signs such as panting, drooling, pacing, and destruction of property while people are gone. A dog with separation anxiety can be helped by keeping him more confined (in a crate), playing music or have the television on while you are gone, providing long lasting treats to chew on, having another dog around, and if necessary, more formal desensitization training and medication. It just depends on the level of anxiety.

Most importantly, be patient, be fair and be consistent. If you don’t see the accident occur, correcting for it won’t help at all. The dog won’t have a clue what you are mad about. If the accident was your fault for not supervising well enough, increase your vigilance. If you think there is a medical cause, seek help. In most cases of adult dogs changing homes, the dog will be back on track in no time.



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 Gale Blackmer - Financial Coordinator - windy1421@worldnet.att.net  
 Sue Geckle - Applications Coordinator - sgeckle@excite.com  
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