



1st Quarter
2008

Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Rick Gatlin

Looking Forward

MAESSR ended 2007 much as it ended 2006; growing and successful. We do a fantastic job doing what must be done at all costs: rescuing English Springer Spaniels. Of course, we would rather not have to do it, but in our throwaway society the numbers of dogs needing our assistance continues to rise.

Organizational change was inevitable. But it was not unexpected. In the last 3 months we named a new Volunteer Coordinator, three new Board members, a new Secretary, and a new President. Fortunately, our volunteer base continues to grow. The dedication and the love our people give unselfishly are traits you cannot cultivate. However, I believe there are areas we can develop. There are processes we can expand upon.

MAESSR belongs to all of the volunteers. In that vein, I ask for your assistance in bringing new ideas forward and further delegation of responsibilities. We have well over 200 volunteers, including those who only run transports. The potential exists for as many as are able to contribute their time and talents far beyond our imagination.

In 2008, I propose the following goals for our MAESSR family:

- To expand the Adoption group with more staffing.
- To formally develop and staff a group known as Training and Behavior.
- Additionally, we will seriously begin to take a long look at expanding our territory of service. Late in 2007, our Intake group began to look in other areas as it became painfully obvious that other Springer rescues could not effectively cover those states. We will step in and take any Springer from those areas that other rescues cannot or will not help.
- We are already pursuing grant funding for educational purposes. If we are awarded the funding, we will be conducting seminars given by various canine experts for our volunteers, foster homes, and adoptive homes.
- Implement cross-training. There needs to be more than just one or two people to be able to immediately step into any role. We are a volunteer organization. We cannot expect our people to always work or always be with us. We all have other, very full

lives. Sometimes they require life changes. Burnout is to be expected. This year I want us to study how we might begin learning more roles. The majority of our work is accomplished via email or telephone. How impossible would it be to change hats now and then?

- Outreach is also very important to our existence. Most shelters know us, but there still some that do not. Veterinarians need to know more about our work. Toward that end, I want us to pursue more personal contact with these entities. We are already offering to give informational talks to vet schools. Other ideas of how to reach these sources are open to discussion.
- Our website needs further and more up-to-date development. This is a critical area of opportunity we will address.

Are these goals achievable? I believe they are, but perhaps not all of them in 2008. I will not ask anyone to sacrifice our primary goal, rescuing as many Springers as we are able.

So, forward we go into 2008. Thanks to all of you, for everything you do!

Calendar of Events

April 19 – LUCAS Paw Wow, Montclair, VA
Contact: Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com

April 26 – Bark in the Park, Williamsburg, VA
Contact: Mary Beach, spanielma@aol.com

May 3 – SpringerFest, Core Creek Park, Langhorne, PA
Contact: Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com

May 4 – Chester County SPCA Walk, West Chester, PA
Contact: Justine Vinci, justinavinci@comcast.net

June 7 – SpringerFest, South Park, Pittsburgh, PA
Contact: Pat Race pat.race@comcast.net or Linda Johnston springerlove@comcast.net

June 21 – SpringerFest, Three Lakes, Richmond, VA
Contact: Phyllis Cox phyllis430@clearwire.net

September 13 – SpringerFest, Downs Park, Pasadena MD
Contact: Kim Bolster, ess4x18@cs.com

October 18 – SpringerFest, Little Buffalo, Newport, PA
Contact: Tammy Fisher, tnhorse@pa.net

2009 MAESSR Calendar – Start sending submissions!



Start sending pictures of your MAESSR dog for the 2009 MAESSR calendar! There is no limit on the subjects; Springers with toys, getting into trouble, travel, multiple dogs, sitting pretty, action shots, funny shots, and seasonal shots -- anything goes!

Guidelines:

1. Deadline for submission is June 1, 2008. Mail to MAESSR Calendar, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227 or email the photo (jpg) to ESS4x18@cs.com
2. Preferred photo size is 4"x 6" or 3.5" x 5". Both landscape and portrait (up and down) pictures are acceptable.
3. Each family can submit up to 5 photos.
4. No humans, pets only.
5. Make sure you include information on the dog, either historical adoption information or current adventures. If you have changed the dog's name, please note the adoption name.
6. If you are submitting a photograph of a dog that has passed away, please note that in your information.
7. Please note that the photos will not be returned and may be used in future MAESSR publications or merchandise.

Some photo tips:

Make it fun! Fill your viewfinder with your dog. Background is nice, but show your dog! Watch the background for busyness. Try to capture your dog's personality. Keep your loaded camera close -- you never know when or what your Springer is going to do!

Questions? Contact Kim at ESS4x18@cs.com, please help make the 2009 calendar the best ever!

Who's That Volunteer?

By Linda Johnston

Mary Beth Baker began her love of springers many years ago when her mother gave her the book "Millie" for Christmas. When their springer, Lovey, had her first litter, the lone puppy left was named Orphan Annie. Mary took her to puppy class, Annie did very well and subsequently earned an agility title. She was a typical Velcro dog, they were soulmates and so began Mary's love of the breed.

Mary began volunteering for MAESSR in 1998. Her first project was finding a foster home for Rusty, a 7-8 year old 60 lb. boy. A co-worker gave Mary's name to a family who were looking to get rid of their springer. Rusty was blind in one eye, had bald spots and sores from fleas. He was the most loving dog with a huge heart. Having 4 springers of her own, Mary thought 5 would be too much. She contacted Monica LaPolt and Rusty became a MAESSR rescue. Rusty opened Mary's eyes to the sad fact that many good springers find themselves homeless and need people who care enough to find them loving, forever homes.

Rusty found that home thru MAESSR and Mary found her passion volunteering for MAESSR. She has learned much, but there is still more to learn. Her specialty is working with fosters who are hard to place and never turns down a plea to take in another. Her kennel name is "Baker's Dozen" – her dad told her she won't be happy until she had a dozen springers, her love for them is that big! On a given weekend, you surely will find a dozen at her home in Moyock, NC.

Mary's interests include reading (anything dog or Christian related), needlepoint, cross stitch, making cards, bookmarks and flyers on her computer.

Mary we take our hats off to you! Thank you for all you give and for always making room for just one more.



Start pulling together your recipes! As part of the MAESSR ten year anniversary celebration, we will be publishing a commemorative cookbook. The previous cookbook was very popular and a complete sellout! Look for more information in the next newsletter and via the Internet MAESSR lists.

MAESSR Welcomes...

By Linda Johnston

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, Tennessee and Georgia who, despite their remote 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 10 years ago. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Johnston at springerlove@comcast.net, or simply complete the online volunteer application on our website.

Please join us in welcoming the following 20 new volunteers who have recently joined the MAESSR family:

- Juliana Brangers – Springfield, VA
- Frank Mellon – Philadelphia, Pa
- Tracey Pressley – Lewisberry, PA
- Diana Cervantes – Harrisburg, PA
- Barb Moyer – Blandon, PA
- Kim Ramelli – Butler, PA
- Charles and Jean Grutzus – Bumpass, VA
- Michelle Hastings – Milesburg, PA
- Bonnie Chew – Alexandria, VA
- Donna Wingard – Wyoming, DE
- Mary Jo Borden - Newport News, VA
- Debra Martin - Alexandria, VA
- Ana Alston – Clifton, VA
- Susan Altemus – Windber, PA
- Carol Smith - Reisterstown, MD
- Sue Ann Skiekowski - Glen Burnie, MD
- Karen Porter - West Chester, PA
- Linda Lee Loose – Leesport, PA
- David Lesser – Bethesda, MD
- Arthur and Judith Sutter - Charles City, VA

Celebrate Life.....



the Springer Spaniel way!!

TRAINING TRIUMPHS!

Gromit completed Intermediate Obedience. The instructor recommended that he repeat the class rather than moving on to advanced right away. But he did ace the final exam! The key has been to entice him with the right treats. Being a total boy-dog, he says, "forget dog treats, I will do anything for bologna"! - Rachel Murray

Andy (Class of 2007) maneuvers very well – he can find me in the bathroom, wanders safely through the landscaped yard, knows where the car is, and is considerate enough to do his business at the base of trees so that no one is likely to step in it. At night, he navigates the yard better than I do and can go up/down steps without prompting. Andy knows when I'm getting ready to prepare his food (as opposed to getting up for no reason) and immediately runs out to the utility room, where he does the "Andy Dance" , accompanied by a happy food song. He's the greatest. ~ Elizabeth Smith

Molly (Class of 2006) received her AGI title (UKC agility) in September and Level 1 rally title in November (APDT) - Beth and Tom Anderson

Sweetpea (AKA Tina) went to obedience training at the local PetSmart. One command which has really come in handy is "leave it". This works well with Sweetpea. If the hamster is rolling around in her ball and Sweetpea gets overly interested I just tell her to "leave it" and she does. It also works when out walking and she spies a rabbit. - Marie Cavey

Frosty proved to be a quick study at her first day at puppy obedience. Having great eye contact and being highly food motivated she learned her sit, stay, down and other commands easily, however, she's not too good at "leave it". She has learned that "OW" means she's playing too hard will stop immediately. One trick she is starting to master (watching her "sibling" Nestle) is to spin for her treat. She will sit, shake first and when the treat goes in a circle she knows this is the time to "spin". It's awesome watching both "spin" together, just like 2 dolphins doing tricks at an amusement park. - Candi Lynn

Moses has learned how to herd. I had been having problems getting two of my female dogs into the fenced yard. I began to notice that Moses would keep track of them. One evening, Moses was waiting at the door for his biscuit and I told him to get the girls. I kept encouraging him to find them. He circled them, barked at them and ran to me. I rewarded him with a biscuit and asked him to have them come around to me. Within minutes both girls were up and running to the door with Moses circling them. So, I have my Moses trained to "go get the girls". - Mary Beth Baker

Do You Remember...Britney IV?

By Mary Beach

**Then.....Campbell County, VA...May,
2007**

A small female Springer Spaniel lies by the roadside, bleeding and weak. An Animal Control officer picks her up and assumes she's been hit by a car. She is rushed to a veterinarian who determines her injuries are not caused by an automobile, but are the result of a gunshot to the roof of her mouth. She needs several surgeries, extensive care, and a lot of good luck to recover from this devastating injury. MAESSR comes to her rescue and raises the funds to cover medical bills which rise to thousands of dollars. Little Britney has a large number of fans who follow her progress daily, send contributions, pray for her, and send good thoughts as she undergoes three surgeries and recuperations. She also suffers from a urinary tract infection, and she's very thin. Sweet, shy, and resilient, she appears to have been used for breeding.

As soon as possible, Britney moves to a MAESSR foster home. She is welcomed by the Reeves family in Goochland, VA. Her foster family includes Patches, a calico cat who scares Britney terribly on the first encounter, and the resident Springer Spaniel, Dr. Watson (MAESSR's "Andy", Class of 2000). When the wound in her mouth closes, she is allowed to eat kibble and does so without much trouble in spite of the loss of her upper front teeth. Soon she gains weight and her shaggy, thin coat grows thick and shiny. At first she spends a lot of time in her crate (with the door open) just watching what's going on. Gradually, she comes out more and starts enjoying her new life!

The Reeves family flunk "Fostering 101", as the saying goes! They adopt Britney and change her name to Elizabeth, honoring Queen Elizabeth II who visited Virginia during Britney's perilous time. An adoption announcement is sent by e-mail!



Now.....Goochland, VA....March, 2008

This trusting, affectionate little lady is enjoying a royal life in her forever home!

Elizabeth's story raises interest in faraway places. One day she's visited by a gentleman from California. He is a retired Maryland police officer, an ESSRA volunteer, and he's been following Elizabeth's story online. When in Virginia for a wedding, he calls and arranges a visit to meet the now-famous Elizabeth. She is shy and hesitant at first but then shows true Southern charm as she greets these fans from far away.

Dr. Watson and Elizabeth are very close now, and they've bonded like brother and sister. They enjoy cuddling close and snoozing in the sunshine on the front porch or back deck. It's reported that Elizabeth LOVES food and delights in chewing on toys, even with her missing teeth. She's become a real "snuggle bunny" and rarely goes into her crate except to bring out a toy. Patches still enjoys antagonizing Elizabeth by ambushing her whenever possible. However, Elizabeth maintains her dignity and has become happy and lovable in her forever home.

Every afternoon Elizabeth and Dr. Watson go on a walk in the woods with their dad. Elizabeth no longer sticks to her dad's side as she once did. Now she's quite confident and delights in exploring and chasing things.

Sadly, efforts to punish the one responsible for Elizabeth's pain and suffering have come to a dead end. However, we hope the story of sweet Elizabeth's dreadful past will encourage people everywhere to be vigilant and to persevere in the fight to abolish cruelty to innocent animals.

THANK YOU

Gifts in Honor

Kent & Kathy Nixon – All MAESSR Volunteers
Brian Murray – Barb Finnan and her pack – Kim, Judy, Joe, Carol, Karen B. and R&G
Don, Sherry, and Dana Clancy – All MAESSR Volunteers
Hal Fleming - Bogie
Lynne Safrit – Elizabeth Safrit
Peggy Hraster – Fran Hraster
Dale Lenahan – Heather Graham for her assistance in re-homing Freckles XII
William & Pat Jaeger – Helmi Konderock for her help with Farley in his last days
Joe & Sue Ivarone - Ivy
Eileen Alwang – Jeffrey & Amanda Alwang
Richard Conaway - Jenny
All American Appraisal Service – Linda & Terry Johnston
Don, Sherry, and Dana Clancy – Birth of Eden
Wendy Hogan - MAESSR Volunteers
G. Keith & Sharon Sames – Maggie XIII
Thomas & Dorothy Scanlan - Murphy
Scott & Cathy Beam - Oscar
Kenneth Stewart - Penny
Linda & Terry Johnston - Ranger's 4th Anniversary
T. Michael Wrabell – Remington and all MAESSR volunteers
Beth & Peter Whitehead – Rosie & Winston and all the wonderful rescue Springers
Beth Watson – The Weidman Family
Christine Vint – Vicki Phillips for her assistance with “Cardi”
Sylvia Dovenon - Winston
Jim & Beth Bickel – Zachary III

Gifts in Memory

Timothy & Mary Alley – “Ben” Henderson
Carol Smith - “Ben” Henderson
Peg & Bill Henderson - Ben
Vicki Phillips – Helen Crane
Linda & Terry Johnston – Chelsea Lipscey
Ray & Linda Ruhling - Ellie
The Bordwick Family - Hampton
Lynne Safrit – Hannah Safrit
Kevin & Beth Higgins - Harley
Kent & Kathy Nixon – Higgins (Ernie)
Randolph & Lois Boyer – Hudson Matter
Pat & John Alberta – All our Springers at the Rainbow Bridge
Barbara Breeden - All our Springers at the Rainbow Bridge
Debbie & Bill Lipscey – Kai Cherry
Don, Sherry, and Dana Clancy - Lucy
Maureen & John Sykes - Max
Bert Taurman - Molly
Ilonka and Bobby D'Azevedo – Chelsea & Romeo
Beth & Tom Anderson - Sam

General Gifts

Richard McCullough (multiple gifts)
Susan Adamovitz
Sandra Tirnauer
Lorrie Bruckart
Elizabeth Arnold
Dave Sewter
Linda Dean
Liliane Schuster
TJ Davis
Lisa Nuzzaci
Frank Langill
Megan Phillips
Danielle Goodman
David Lesser
Patricia Kyle
Lisa Williamson
MJ Mintz
Warren Reeves
Noella Bryden
Joe Harkins
Miriam & Joe Cromwell
Randall Huggins
Thomas Frank
Bill Gelatka
William Henderson
Thomas & Mary Herster
Timothy & Reba Ericksen
Thomas & Roberta Schmiedlin
Stephen & Patricia Stockwell
Doris Oniskey on behalf of Natalie Keck
Judy Bennett
Melissa Campbell (multiple gifts)
Debra Johnson (multiple gifts)
Sherry Rohn Clancy (multiple gifts)
Jane Schimek
Rick & Rita Gatlin (multiple gifts)
Sherry Rohn Clancy
Jane Schimek (multiple gifts)
Alesa Rottersman
Fran Fisher

How You Can Help MAESSR.....

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

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 – 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.

Buy merchandise from the MAESSR Marketplace – Need a gift for a friend? Lots of wonderful items that help the dogs when you buy!

Shop MAESSR Affiliates found on the MAESSR website – MAESSR will get a percentage of your purchase

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.

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

THE TRAINING CORNER

By Barb Bennett

Living with Kids and Dogs ...Without Losing Your Mind

A book report by Phylis Chan

I just finished reading *Living with Kids and Dogs...Without Losing Your Mind*, by Colleen Pelar. She is also the owner of www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com. When I emailed her regarding permission to list her URL on the GA-AL [springer rescue] website, she gladly consented and said that she grew up with Springers. She currently has one Lab, and three sons. Like she stated in the book, I agree that most "parenting books say 'control your dog'", and most "dog training books say 'control your kid.'" I've read Brian Kilcommon's "Childproofing Your Dog" before, and it was good but not excellent. However Pelar's book is so good, with lots of practical advice, that I am planning to keep one on hand at all times, so I can send one to every friend who has a dog and is planning to have kids, or who has kids and is planning to get a dog.

The book starts out with what kinds of dogs can be considered kid-friendly. I like it that she emphasizes on adopting adult rescued dogs (not all great trainers do that in their books), especially for families with kids, and that she said that individual personalities and traits are more important than picking out a dog based on a breed that is supposedly kid-friendly.

The book also devotes one chapter on bite prevention, as half of the kids under the age of 14 in the United States have been bitten by a dog before. The chapter includes pictures of canine calming/stress signals.

I always appreciate it when the author devotes at least a section on training equipment, and Pelar has a chapter on it too. There are the usual baby gates and crates and tethers, but some I hadn't thought of, like cordless phones, tip-proof bowls, and diaper pail with locking lids!

Then the book is divided into various stages of childhood and what to expect having a dog with that age of kids around: pregnancy/infants, toddlers, elementary school age, and teenagers. I don't know what ages her sons are right now, but Pelar mentioned that her youngest is past the kindergarten age, and her oldest is at least near teenage. And with 3 boys, I'm pretty sure she has learned a lot about how to juggle kids and dogs together.

The last chapter of the book is about how to help kids cope with the loss of the dog, not only from death, but also if the dog has to be rehomed.

Pelar understands that busy parents might not have the time to read the entire book from cover to cover, so she wrote the book in a way that the parent can read each chapter independently. She includes a short section in the last part of each chapter summarizing the important points from each chapter, if the reader doesn't have time to read the entire chapter.

The appendices of the book includes a list of recommended readings (all positive reinforcement based), resources for trainers and canine activities, and how to choose better dog foods.

Overall, this book is practical, succinct, easy to read, and of course, based on positive reinforcement methods. If I foster again, I would send the book along to every adopter who has kids.

My name is Ellie...

By Ellie Ruhling

My name is Ellie. I am in a really cool place. I crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on January 7, 2008. Let me tell you my story.



I was rescued by some MAESSR angels way back in 1999. They are extra special people! I don't remember much of my life before I was rescued, but the "forever" home they found for me was perfect. My "forever" parents welcomed me with open arms, even after I threw up in my crate on the way to my new home. I loved the abundance of attention from my family, friends and piano students who came to our house. I watched especially for those students who brought me treats as well as extra love. I listened to a lot of sour notes from beginning students and beautiful music from the students who practiced lots. I think I was partial to Mozart. I enjoyed walking my parents every day, especially on snowy days when I could scoop snow. I also enjoyed the bird sanctuary that was part of our property, though sometimes I got into trouble for enjoying those birds a little too much. My dad loved me more than most, and thought I was better than rye bread and peanut butter.

And now since crossing over, I am in a park that goes go forever and ever. In one corner is the greenest grass, which is great for rolling in or eating. Another corner has piles and piles of leaves where I can spring into action and search for treasures. There is water where I can take a dip and then shake water on anyone who gets too close. And my favorite is the spot with all the snow. I love snow scooping, so I can do it now any time I want. And, oh my, there are so many birds here!! And I'm guessing they're here just for me to chase. What a great place to wait for my family. This must be heaven!

Thank you MAESSR angels for making sure I had everything a Springer could ask for in life!!



All about Raisin...

By Mike Evans

In year 2000, when we were waiting in cue for our turn to adopt, I kept looking at available Springers on the website, thinking which one(s) I would like. I saw Raisin and thought to myself "Look at that little squirt. ...and what a name! That's the one pup I *wouldn't* like to get".

When our turn finally came, I was asking about Max III and several others, but the answer was always "No, he's already taken". Frustrated, I finally asked "Well who *is* available then?" ...and the answer came back "Well" (long pause), "There's Raisin" (like: "I know he's not much, ...but there's Raisin") "Oh no!!" I thought. "Of all the dogs! That little squirt with the ridiculous name!" But we had been waiting so long, and he was nearby, so we went to see him anyway. He *was* a little squirt (albeit with long legs and very big feet), and a total rascal. Of course, we loved him immediately and took him home. It turned out to be a great decision.

He immediately took to his roommate/companion Isabelle, our 11 month old (at the time) Chow Chow, and the two of them are now inseparable. Raisin takes toys from Isabelle in an effort to provoke a chase, and soon the toy is forgotten in favor of the chase itself. They even reverse the chase for no apparent reason other than just to prolong it. She grabs his back leg, he grabs her tail and holds on, they wrestle for a moment, then back to the chase!

Raisin is a very talky boy--he mutters and mumbles all day long about everything that goes on, and will leave no doubt as to when it's dinner time. And he paws you...and paws you...and paws you. It never stops. Anytime he sits next to you (which is always), you can count on being pawed, and probably talked to. Then comes the licking. He loves to lick, especially small children. One little girl complained to her mother: "ewww, mom, this dog won't stop licking me!"

His favorite activities (besides chasing the mailman and counter-surfing) are playing soccer and singing, and he is very good at both. No soccer awards yet, but he did win a certificate for singing at our local "Bark in the Park", and since one of his vets witnessed his song, she requested an encore on his next office visit. The girls on the phone weren't crazy about it, but the other patients and their parents were all very impressed. He really has quite a voice, and sings on request.

I've had dogs my whole life (even a previous Springer), and I must say that this is the funniest boy I have ever had. His constant pawing, licking, talking, soccer-playing, singing and overall disposition make him unforgettable by all whom he meets.

I tell Raisin every day how lucky we are that he found us. Thanks for helping Raisin find us, and excuse me for thinking he was a little squirt.



Senior Moments

by Missy Cromwell

As a gal of a certain age, I find it necessary to take a few pills every day. I don't particularly like the taste, shape or texture of these pills and find my mother to be completely without imagination in the way she administers these tablets to me. As many of you know, when you are first getting situated in your new home, it is important to go along with the routine lest your new family think you are difficult to please. Once I managed to get my mom wrapped around my paw, it was time to get her to up the reward for pill taking.

For starters, my mom smears a bit of peanut butter on a pill and then just hands it to me. Seriously, does she think this deserves an "A" for effort??? After I got comfy in my spot as top dog, I started licking the peanut butter off the pill and then spitting the pill out. Immediately my mom began to up her game. Next she tried wrapping it in a piece of ham. I thought she deserved a little reward for camouflaging the pill in something so nice so I actually ate the first ham wrapped pill. When she served me the second ham wrapped pill, I ate the ham and spit out the pill. I really admire her tenacity. After the ham she tried to hollow out a cheese cube and stick the pill in there. No dice. Then she tried the same thing with apples. Does she think I am stupid? Finally she smeared the pill in liverwurst. I could not control myself. I gobbled it up and waited for more. Every day I promise myself I will show a bit more restraint but then she pulls the liverwurst out of the refrigerator and I am unable to contain myself. My hard work has paid off. It really is rewarding for me to see how well my mom responds to training this late in life.

And for all you MAESSR dogs out there, I encourage you to find an adorable way to score better rewards for taking your pills.



Central Virginia – remember to donate your Ukrops Golden Gifts to MAESSR. Look for your certificates in the mail and send them to MAESSR, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227.



Springerfest 2008!

The 2008 MAESSR SpringerFests are coming fast! There will be five picnics this year – as far south as Richmond and as far west as Pittsburgh! Make plans to attend at least one!

The picnics are a wonderful time to meet fellow Springer fans, MAESSR families and volunteers. Dog games, special speakers, Rescue Parade, lots of Springer merchandise, and friendship all are a part of the picnics.

Should you have any questions, please see the Calendar of Events within this issue which shows the contact person for each picnic. Hope to see you there!



SPRINGERFEST 2008 !!!!

Number Attending	Picnic	Date	\$10.00 a person	Volunteer & family \$8.00 a person	Total
	Core Creek, Langhorne PA	May 3, 2008			
	South Park, Pittsburgh, PA	June 7, 2008			
	Three Lakes, Richmond, VA	June 21, 2008			
	Downs Park, Pasadena, MD	September 13, 2008			
	Little Buffalo, Newport, PA	October 18, 2008			

Check enclosed, made payable to MAESSR

Name _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone if no email address: _____

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

I would love to help at the picnic:	
Will bring a raffle	_____
Set up or Clean Up	_____
Registration	_____
However you need me!	_____



Springer Health

Dr. Carol M. Getty, DVM

Pets face threats from their environment every day. Some are obvious, while others seem completely harmless until the animal gets sick. The following is a list of plants in and around the house that can be toxic to dogs. Some of these items are also toxic to cats, but for the sake of the article, I will address only dogs.

Plants can be a common hazard in the house and yard. Many dogs will chew on and ingest plant material and can end up in distress because of this habit. Some plants simply cause irritation or mild upset of the digestive tract, but some plants are lethal. There are many plants that people think are benign that can cause serious problems.

Many plants will cause mild digestive upset if ingested. Asparagus Fern, Bird of Paradise and Privet are a few of the plants that may cause mild vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Some plants will cause more definite digestive upset including vomiting and/or diarrhea. Examples of such plants are Andromeda Japonica, Buddhist Pine, Lantana, Striped Dracaena and Wisteria (seeds).

Some plants will cause a syndrome that will include vomiting and/or diarrhea with or without blood in the vomitus or the diarrhea, depression, weakness, drooling, painful abdomen, and even coma, shock and death. Some of these plants include Autumn Crocus, Buckeye, Corn Plant, Cyclamen, Florida Beauty, Gold Dust Dracaena, Gladiolas, Iris, Nightshade, Rhododendron, Ribbon Plant and the Tulip.

The Ivy family can cause gastrointestinal signs such as vomiting and diarrhea, but can also cause tremors, seizures, hyperactivity, fever, difficulty breathing, and dilated pupils. Branching Ivy, English Ivy, Glacier Ivy, Hydrangea, Needlepoint Ivy and Sweetheart Ivy can all cause these symptoms. Some non-Ivy plants can cause a similar syndrome. Amaryllis, Bittersweet, Daffodil bulb, Heavenly Bamboo, Hyacinth, Jerusalem Cherry, Narcissus, and Yucca are such plants.

Some plants will cause gastrointestinal symptoms, but will also cause cardiac symptoms of either too fast a heart rate, too slow a heart rate or an irregular heart rate. Many of the cardiotoxic plants are fatal. Examples include: Azalea, Belladonna, Black Locust, Foxglove, Jimson Weed, Kalanchoe, Mountain Laurel, Oleander and Yew.

Some plants can cause kidney failure, which also results in vomiting and/or diarrhea and often will cause death. Castor

Beans and Precatory Bean (rosary pea) are very toxic and deadly. Even Aloe can cause kidney inflammation and discolored urine.

Some plants will cause liver failure, which generally causes vomiting, diarrhea, the gums and whites of the eyes may turn yellow, and the dog may have trouble clotting their blood, and death is a common result. Cycads and the Sago Palm are examples in this category.

Less severe, the seeds from the Morning Glory plant may cause diarrhea and hallucinations. Ferns, such as the Emerald fern among others, may cause an allergic dermatitis with repeated exposure.

Finally, there is a large group of plants that contain calcium oxalate crystals that will cause irritation of the mouth, drooling, swallowing hard and vomiting if chewed or ingested. Calla Lily, Ceriman, Clematis, Cordatum, Devil's Ivy, Dffenbachia, Dumbcane, Elephant Ears, Fiddle Leaf Philodendron, Golden Pothos, Hurrican Plant, Marble Queen, Mother-in-Law Plant, Nephthysis, Panda, Philodendron, Red Emerald, Satin Pothos, and Schefflera are all calcium oxalate containing plants that can cause this syndrome.

Most dog owners go to great lengths to prevent exposure to known toxic plants around the house & yard, but sometimes it is not obvious what plants are a problem. If you know, or suspect that your pet has been exposed to a toxic plant, a trip to your vet or the emergency vet is in order. If the dog is stable and you have time, a phone call to the Animal Poison Control Center is well worth making. They will give you immediate advice of how toxic the substance might be, give you first aid advice and be available for consult with the veterinarian for ongoing decontamination and treatment. The Poison Control Phone # is 1-888-426-4435. Even if your dog still looks perfectly fine, a call to the vet is still warranted because some poisons won't show signs for hours to days, and if addressed right away, you can decontaminate the dog and avoid the toxicity altogether, or at least decrease the severity of the symptoms.



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QUANTITY OF ITEMS

_____ SPRINGER POWER T-SHIRT	S M L / XXL / XXXL	\$17.25 / \$19.25 / \$20.25
_____ LEASH HOLDER		\$20.00
_____ TRANSPORT T-SHIRT	S M L XL	\$17.25
_____ TRANSPORT T-SHIRT		XXL \$19.25
_____ TRANSPORT T-SHIRT		XXXL \$20.25
_____ EMBROIDERED TOTE BAG		\$28.00
_____ MAGNETIC NOTEPAD		\$ 5.50
_____ DEVOTED TO DOGS (BOOK)		\$22.50

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