



Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Rick Gatlin

Board Meeting Highlights

I've been wondering, with a nudge by one of our volunteers who has also been wondering – do our volunteers and supporters know what the Board of Directors does when it meets? Sure you do! So, I am going to use this column after every Board meeting from this day forward to bring you highlights from each of our two yearly meetings.

The most recent semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors of Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue was held at Sykesville, Maryland on July 26, 2008.

I presented the President's Report. As of the end of June, MAESSR has accomplished the following:

- Expanded the Adoption group with more staffing.
- Developed and staffed a group known as Training and Behavior.
- Designated Pat Race our Corporate Outreach Coordinator to continue work on what has been an unofficial task of soliciting cash and in-kind donations from corporate America.
- Expanded our territory of service to include North Carolina. MAESSR will continue to step in and take any Springer from any areas that ESRA or any other Springer rescue cannot or will not help, when we have the resources to do so.
- As a consequence of territorial expansion, the Foster Home and Intake group now has co-VPs, Debbie Lipcsey and Heather Young.
- Approved by the local Federal Coordinating Committee for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of the National Capital Area (CFCNCA) to participate in the 2008 campaign.
- Awarded grant funding for educational purposes. Barb Bennett and Carol Davis are heading up the planning and coordination of our first seminar for our volunteers, foster homes, and adoptive homes.

Future issues and initiatives include:

- Continue to recruit, train, and place more volunteers in cross-trained roles.
- MAESSR's website needs further and more up-to-date development.

- Outreach will always be very important to our existence. Vets, shelters, vet schools, any other public outlets are fair game to get out our message.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Gale Blackmer.

- Financial statements through June 30, 2008 were submitted. We are still in good shape financially; i.e., expenses and income nearly matching one for one.
- Vet expenses are always a topic of interest. There were three \$1,000 dogs: Elmo, Lulu, Wig-Li Bottom; there was one \$2,000 dog: Arizona. But, 43% of dogs made their expenses during this period. This is a typical number.

The Fundraising Report was submitted by Kim Bolster. It is another very good year for merchandise sales, whether by internet or at picnics/events. Picnic revenues continue to rise. Passive fundraising efforts thru Igive, CafePress, Magazine Affiliate, and the United Way are raising more funds. Remember - these efforts by Kim and her crew go straight to the dogs! But, what's on tap for the rest of the year in Fundraising?

- 2009 MAESSR Calendar on schedule for late August/September sales.
- Holiday Ornaments, denim shirts and fleece blankets coming.
- Website Calendar of Events formatted for easy updating.
- With any good news always comes challenges – with the economic pinch being felt by everyone, donations and sales will likely slow. Postage increases are taking much of the extra benefit.

The Applications Report and Adoptions Report were presented by Kathleen O'Neill and Sue Geckle, respectively. There are fewer approved applicants on the waiting list than usual. Why? 1) Dogs are being offered to appropriate families as soon as they become available. 2) We are taking dogs in from other regions, and the increase in numbers is reducing the wait time. 3) The economy has people thinking more about adding another pet to their budget.

- There have been 245 applications assigned to interviewers since January.
- We currently have 129 interviewers of which 91 are active.
- The Applications/Approval team is in the process of creating more streamlined interviewing guidelines.
- Kathleen O'Neill and Pat Race will establish an interview coach program.

[Continued on next page]

The Dog Intake Report was presented by Heather Young, and the Owner Relinquishment Report was submitted by Angie Epling.

- There is a need for additional shelter contact volunteers.
- As MAESSR continues to grow and expand, the number of dogs in MAESSR foster homes is at its highest ever.
- Angie Epling reports that she has the BEST OR team ever, and that they are doing fantastic in such a highly stressful job!
- The following are 2008 YTD Dog Intake statistics (as of July 23, 2008):
 - Shelter Intakes: 27 strays, 24 owner relinquishments to shelters, 2 Animal Control seizure, 3 transferred from other rescues.
 - Relinquishments: 76 owner relinquishments, 2 MAESSR returnees.
 - Overall Intake Total: 134
- Of this number, there have been 110 successful adoptions (19 were 2007 dogs placed in 2008); 2 dogs released to their foster home; 1 returned and available; 6 put to sleep due to aggression; 2 put to sleep due to health issues; and 32 available for adoption.

The Foster Home Report was presented by Heather Young.

- A number of new foster homes have been added and we now have the highest number of active foster homes in MAESSR's history.
- Linda Johnston is in the process of recruiting a foster home trainer.
- MAESSR has assisted several dogs from North Carolina with our expansion into that state. Several volunteers and a foster home from North Carolina have been added.
- A new issue of the foster home manual was recently released.

The Volunteer Coordinator Report was presented by Linda Johnston.

- From January 08 to June 08, MAESSR recruited 39 new volunteers with a current population of 263 active volunteers. In addition, we have many other unaccounted volunteers who assist with transports. Of the 39 new volunteers, 18 are new foster homes. Seven have volunteered to do interviews. The rest have volunteered to help with transports, checking shelters, fundraising, and various other jobs.
- Working with Heather Young to recruit and approve additional volunteers from North Carolina.
- Implemented volunteer recognition for MAESSR 10th anniversary.
- Coordinating with Liz Watson to recruit additional volunteers in WV area.

The Training & Behavior Report was presented by Barb Bennett.

- Training & Behavior group members include: Barb Bennett, Cindy Reitz, Andie Epling, Mary Baker and Debbie Radanovic. Currently working on recruiting additional volunteers.

- Approximate number of consultations: foster homes (13); owner relinquishments (8); phone line/e-mail (6); adoption follow-up (31); rejected owner relinquishments (7); and other (6).
- MAESSR will use its recent training grant award to conduct a training seminar April 25-26, 2009 in Fairfax, VA. Details include:
 - Speaker: Sarah Kalnajs www.bluedogtraining.com
 - Date: April 25-26 Location: Fairfax, VA probably at a Shriner's facility
 - The Saturday session will be for MAESSR volunteers only; Sunday will be open to the public.
- The Training & Behavior Coordinator will also begin to research web-based training for MAESSR volunteers.

Following the Officer/Coordinator reports, we entered into open discussion of various issues. A major concern was the website. Recent issues have increased the urgency of resolving the website issues. Frank Mellon has been recruited to take the lead in coordinating the transfer of MAESSR's website to a new host. A final decision on the hosting site will be made soon.

Further discussions concerned our returned check policy, veterinary treatment policy, and whether we should set a minimum age limit for adopting and/or fostering. One other negative issue raised its head again. There have been numerous reminders by the previous MAESSR Secretaries, but there continues to be issues with foster homes and/or transporters submitting adoption contracts in a timely manner. Remember, these adoptions are not legally binding without a properly filled out and signed contract!

At the end of the open discussions, the Officers and Coordinators were excused as the Board entered into closed session. The topics ranged from kennel licensing requirements in the states we serve to the disposition of AKC registration papers. But the two most important items initiated by the Board during this session was to approve the funding of a Volunteer Satisfaction Survey, and the establishment of the Founders Award.

The survey will be set up online, and allow for completely anonymous polling of our volunteers as to their opinion of how well MAESSR operates and communicates. We want this input to know what our volunteers are thinking and feeling, and if there are ideas in any area of our work that we are missing out on!

The Board voted to establish the Founders Award, in honor of founder and past President Monica LaPolt and her rescue Springer Jeremy. It will be a \$100 scholarship awarded to a MAESSR foster home each year to be used for attendance and/or expenses incurred with any MAESSR educational seminar.

Whew.....I'm tired now....aren't you? We can vote to adjourn this meeting now! Time to go home and play with our Springers! I do hope this has given you all some insight into what your Directors, Officers, and Coordinators are doing formally twice a year to keep MAESSR running along. But, MAESSR never completely runs well without the daily efforts and sacrifices of all of you! Thanks for everything you do!

WHO'S THAT VOLUNTEER?

By Linda Johnston

Candi Lyn's first dog was an American Cocker Spaniel and so began her love of the spaniel breed. Since then, she's had a total of 5 cockers. After that came two German Shepherds and, finally, at her daughter's urging to get a different breed, Candi found Frosty, their first Springer, who she lost at the tender age of 1 ½ due to pyrometra. After that came Nestle, who is a wonderful clown and an instigator of barking, and at 3 years old, has her own health issues but a great girl.

Approximately 2 years ago, Candi met Sue Lesko and her Springer at her vet's office. When Candi mentioned her desire to help dogs, Sue told her about MAESSR. She began volunteering by fostering, conducting adoption interviews and transports. That led to doing post adoption interviews, shelter checks, owner relinquishes and volunteer coaching. Candi also grooms her foster dogs and volunteers here as well.

Candi has met many wonderful people through her association with MAESSR. She finds fostering to be such a rewarding experience and loves helping these dogs out. Many people, including her vet, wonder how she can let them go. When foster #4 arrived - a little B/W female who she picked up along with 2 other littermates - she would not leave Candi's side. She never left and this is Frosty #2 (Class of 07). Candi also has 2 cats who, unbeknownst to them, volunteer for MAESSR by testing the foster dogs!

Candi has 2 grown children who live with her along with her 82 year old mother, who also enjoys the company of all the dogs. She has worked in the medical field for 22 yrs, and has lived in Northampton, PA for the past 19 years.

In addition to MAESSR, she also fosters for *A Tail To Tell*, a puppy mill rescue, helps out at the *The Center of Animal Health and Welfare* in Easton, PA by walking and working with the shelter dogs and helps with obedience training of the dogs to get them into their forever homes. As if that's not enough, she is also involved with *No Kill Lehigh Valley* group with event-planning; does transports for several other rescues; and belongs to *LVCART (Lehigh Valley County Animal Response Team)* who respond to disasters that come thru the Lehigh Valley.

Candi's other interests and hobbies include Bible study, reading, crafts, landscaping and remodeling. MAESSR has also given her a hand in starting another interest which is writing poetry. Thru the Springer Carols that came along last Christmas season, she has started writing poetry, mostly about her passion for dogs. Some of her poems appear on

poemhunters.com and, at the urging of friends, is looking into getting them published.

Candi will continue her work with dogs in need and realizes she will never be without a dog, whether it be one dog or 4!

Calendar of Events

September 6-7 – FidoFestival, USA, Salem County, NJ

Contact: Vicki Phillips (springerlane@gmail.com)

September 7 – Furry Friends Festival, Bethlehem, PA

Contact: Candi Lynn (frostysd1@yahoo.com)

September 13 – SpringerFest, Downs Park, Pasadena MD

Contact: Kim Bolster (ess4x18@cs.com)

September 21 – Suffolk Humane Society Dog Walk & Festival, Suffolk, VA

Paige Martin (Buckym@cox.net)

September 28 – Woofstock, Harrisburg, PA

Contact: Kim Bolster (ess4x14@cs.com)

October 5 – Fredericksburg Dog Festival, Fredericksburg, VA

Contact: Kim Bolster (ess4x18@cs.com)

October 11, 12 – Pittsburgh Pet Expo, Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Pat Race (Pat.Race@comcast.net)

October 18 – SpringerFest, Little Buffalo, Newport, PA

Contact: Tammy Fisher (tnthorse@pa.net)

2009 MAESSR CALENDAR



[Bo from the MAESSR 2009 Calendar]

Don't miss out! Order your 2009 Calendar now. Enjoy 2009 with Dasher, Daisy, TJ and Gracie! Order on the website or with the Order Form on the back page. Last year, the calendar sold out quickly -- so order early!

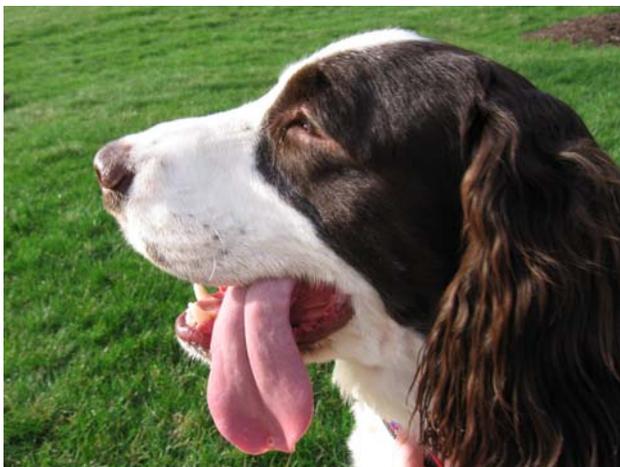
TRAINING TRIUMPHS!

Compiled by Barb Bennett



Donny (Class of '08) completed basic obedience class at the Vienna Community Center in VA. Donny did well and was a quick learner especially with hand signals, he was, however, the class chatterbox! ~ *Debbie Fugate*

Rocky Dune (Class of '06) came to MAESSR as a very shy, unsocialized member of the Springer Six-pack of '06. He has come a long way, and last spring he mastered two obedience classes. The first class was basic obedience, and he passed "with honors", so to speak. Then he aced an obedience class designed especially for shy dogs where there was emphasis was on socializing with people and other dogs. He loved that class and advanced in his obedience skills as well as becoming more confident around others. He recently visited an Alzheimer's unit and skilled nursing unit in a retirement home. He did GREAT, calmly visiting the old folks, charming them with his gentle ways and extreme good looks. He has mastered shaking hands, and he sweetly offered a paw to the folks he visited. If someone was unable to reach down to him, he would put his paw on their lap or bed. He seemed very comfortable in this role, and so he will begin working on requirements for his CGC and hopefully he'll go on to become a certified therapy dog! ~ *Mary Beach*



[Willie from the 2009 MAESSR Calendar]

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, Georgia and New York who, despite their remote locations, are able to help the organization accomplish our mission.

You too can be one of over 250 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 27 new volunteers who have recently joined the MAESSR family:

- Alan and Irene Heath – Lutherville, MD
- Frances Phillips – Richmond, VA
- Elizabeth Anne Blevins – Lexington, NC
- Linda Parker - Fort Mill, SC
- Missi Bowman – Timonium, MD
- Pam Friday – Lansdale, PA
- Elissa and Wayne Henderson – Bedford, PA
- Donna Klepper – Keswick, VA
- Ted Kunzog – Winchester, VA
- Ginny Andros – Elizabeth, PA
- Sherri Searles and Rich Welsh - Bethel Park, PA
- Elizabeth Lawson Taylor - Newport News, VA
- Lacey Burnside – DuBois, PA
- John Bachetti – Milford, PA
- Kathie Hegler – Weems, VA
- Carol Davis – Fairfax, VA
- Kathleen Toomey – Tryon, NC
- Grace Boyles – Washington, DC
- Susan VanZoeren – Woodbury, NJ
- Charles Vandegrift – Strathmere, NJ
- Danielle Riggio Armano – Williamstown, NJ
- Eva VanStratum – Aston, PA
- Carol Masica – Baltimore, MD
- Bobbie Ginnane – Clayton, NC
- Karen Peale – Westville, NJ
- Roberta Pierce – Verona, PA
- Diane Borden – Wilmington, DE

→ SPRINGER AIR →

Every now and then, a lucky Springer (or Springers) are transported via “Springer Air”, piloted by Keith Hartmann. Keith became involved with MAESSR through his neighbor, Vicki Phillips. He’s had Springers for over 24 years and would do just about anything for them.

One of Keith’s favorite stories is when he flew to Allegheny County, PA to pick up Owen, II, who was his very first foster. On Friday, Keith arrived at the airport but no one was there to meet him with the dog as planned. The shelter finally brought Owen, who was scheduled to be euthanized the following Monday, to the airport. Owen currently lives in Washington DC with his “forever” family and every summer Owen flies back to NJ to stay with Keith while his family vacations in Canada. Owen is a seasoned traveler and second only to Keith’s resident Springer, Ruby, in flight time. He has recently purchased a larger plane to be able to fit the family and Ruby for trips to their North Carolina beach house.

Keith usually has his father, who is experienced in dogs, as his co-pilot. If flying solo sorties, he will crate them. Dennis Boykin, who Keith met through a pilot’s blog, became involved with MAESSR when he helped Keith fly the “Six Pack” out of New Bern, NC.

Keith has flown 5 or 6 missions so far for MAESSR. However, since the birth of his 3rd child, he has not flown much nor been able to foster until his daughter is a bit older.

A few years ago, a local newspaper did a full front page article on Keith’s flying for MAESSR, which was very nice. The things we do for Springers!



[Springer Air Transport of Gracie and Annabelle in July]

Affiliates, Natural Balance, and Printing Cartridges!

By Kim Bolster

No, this is not the answer to a Jeopardy question, but rather several ways to help MAESSR! If you enjoy shopping by the Internet, please take a look at the Affiliates page on the website. If you go to the merchants via the MAESSR website, MAESSR will realize a percentage of your purchase. The “mega Internet mall” Igive.com is a great place to start your holiday shopping. Please take a look and help the dogs while shopping!

Do you feed your dog or cat Natural Balance dry food or meat roll? If so, you can help MAESSR receive money from Natural Balance. Please send the UPC code from the product and corresponding receipt to MAESSR. We will submit them to Natural Balance and receive a rebate from \$.50 to \$2.00 each! Please send your receipts and UPC codes to MAESSR, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227.

Lastly, don’t throw out those ink cartridges from your printers. Send them to MAESSR for recycling. MAESSR is involved in a recycling program where varying amounts of cash is paid for the cartridge. You can place them in a Ziploc bag, or original cartridge box and send to MAESSR, PO Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227. As an added bonus – if you bring cartridges to any MAESSR picnic, you will receive one raffle ticket for each cartridge. If you have any questions, please contact Ilonka Dazevedo at raregirl@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

THANK YOU

Gifts in Honor

Dana Reed – Chumley Harkins
Diana & George Williams - Lancer
Leah Watkins – Lady
Leslie, Art & Sophie Jacoby – Kim Bolster for all her hard work
Linda & Terry Johnston – Pam Walker's Willie & Sparkey
Mark & Alicia Getty – Sunny
Mary Lyons – Jessie
Nancy Downing – Faith
Pat Race – Pam Walker's Willie
Sharon Sames – Maggie
Sue Becraft – Max, Troy & Marley
The Gugliemis – Cosmo's 3rd Birthday

Gifts in Memory

Diana & George Williams - Rascal
Allen & Kathy Stevens – Katie Marie Stevens
Kathleen O'Neill – Chelsea Lipcsey
Marg & Len Sorenson – John Brockart
Mary Heitmann – Buddy Wunderly
Monica LaPolt – Sam Cox and Panda
Thomas Connelly – Trixie

General Gifts

Angie Maruka
Anne Collins
Cliff Laing
Debra Johnson (multiple gifts)
Ilonka & Bobby Dazevedo
Jane Schimek (multiple gifts)
Katherine Davies-Stankan
Liliane Schuster
Linda & Terry Johnston
Lisa Nuzzaci (multiple gifts)
Liz Watson
Lynda Lawlor
Maribeth Lawrence (multiple gifts)
Nancy Cawley (multiple gifts)
Patricia Pietriyk
Rick & Rita Gatlin (multiple gifts)
Robert Alber
Ronald & Mary Hickernell
Sherry Rohn Clancy (multiple gifts)
Terry & Warren Lewis
Vic Nicholls
Wendell Coslett

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

Recycle Your Ink printing Cartridge with MAESSR – Contact Ilonka (raregirl@hotmail.com) or mail your cartridges to the MAESSR PO Box. MAESSR will receive money for every cartridge recycled!

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

Special Needs, Special Hopes

By Kim Bolster

MAESSR is brimming with dogs that need our help on their way to a new home. We wanted to share two very special medical cases with you - Hollie and Brownie. They are very different cases but both need us – and we hope you will consider a special donation in their name for their care and rehabilitation.

HOLLIE VII was relinquished by her family because their nine month old son had become very allergic to her. A two year old, she came into rescue with a pronounced limp and an injured paw pad. It was relayed she jumped out of a moving car and injured her leg when she was six months old. After a few days in foster care, it became apparent that Hollie needed to see an orthopedic surgeon to examine her injured right front leg. The specialist determined



that the problem was with the ligaments in her wrist – having been stretched out when she landed from the fall. This has caused her injured wrist to be 15 degrees further extended than the left and resulting in damage and an ongoing open wound to the paw.

On August 8th Hollie had surgery and she is home and doing well so far with recovery from surgery. The orthopedic surgeon was forced to do a full fusion of the ankle. Hollie will have to be confined to her crate 24/7 for the next eight weeks. She has already tried to "club" a resident dog with her big yellow cast - so this spirited girl will keep her foster home on their toes when she is outside her crate to go outside to do her business.

With all her vet visits and surgery, MAESSR has incurred around \$2,700 in bills for Hollie's care and her recovery is not complete. Please consider making a donation to help defray Hollie's rehabilitation.

BROWNIE is an incredibly sweet 8 year old, gets along with dogs, kids and cats, but itching horribly and is hairless. Brownie needs your help! She has a long road ahead of her to get healthy and parasite free.



Brownie has sarcoptic mange and has had it for a long time. She probably cannot remember when she wasn't itching. Sarcoptic mange is caused by mites. The mites burrow in the dogs skin, dog has reaction, dog scratches, tunnel opens, and the mite dies. However, eggs are laid and other adults are moving to new locations to start again. Due to all the scratching and discomfort, Brownie has no hair, very red skin, and some scabbing.

Sarcoptic mange is contagious to dogs and humans. She will be quarantined at a vet's office for at least 21 days (lifespan of a mite) and treated with heavy doses of medication. The good news is that her hair will eventually grow back. The bad news is that she was left untreated for so long – the condition is severe. Preliminary estimates are in the area of \$1,500 for treatment of the mange. Additionally, Brownie has several mammary tumors that were not addressed due to her previous owner's lack of money. She will also need to be spayed, so Brownie will have quite a treatment plan ahead of her!

Please consider a special donation on behalf of Brownie or Hollie. You can use the donation form on the back page or pay on line at the website via Paypal.

Thank you on behalf of these very special girls!

Therapy Dogs – Sharing Your Special Friend

By Kim Bolster

The following information came from a follow-up interview with a MAESSR adoptive home and again indicates how sensitive and intuitive our dogs can be:

“Curly Sue now lives in an apartment complex where there are many military families and she encounters soldiers nearly every day poolside. Curly Sue has learned how to recognize the military uniform – she approaches quickly and readily. Many of these soldiers are visibly wounded; many have more subtle wounds, and seem to be a little 'edgy'. All of them LOVE Curly Sue, and when they come out of the pool, look for her. They will play ball with her for hours - it's very calming and therapeutic for them. Curly has a football-shaped tennis ball that she plays with. Brian taught her how to catch the ball in mid-air and 'toss' it back to him. This proved very useful when she encountered a wheel-chair bound soldier who had lost his legs. He couldn't bend over to pick the ball up off the ground. She very quickly learned to get the ball into his lap so he could continue throwing it for her.”

Our dogs have a special ability to sense people's needs and moods. They bring great joy to our lives and by

participating in a pet therapy program – you can share that joy. A "therapy dog" can be defined many different ways. There are programs that strengthen young children's reading skills by reading to an attentive dog and programs that bring dogs to hospices to comfort those at the close of their lives. You will also find therapy dogs at senior citizen centers, hospitals, schools, as well as following a crisis (e.g. September 11th, Virginia Tech campus shooting) filling a great emotional need.

The requirements for visiting facilities with your dog are very specific, require a basic level of training, and will change your life. In most areas served by MAESSR, you can find organizations that already have arrangements for dogs to "visit" - you just need to find the right match for you and your dog. Required certifications vary but the predominant certifications include: Canine Good Citizen (www.akc.org), Delta Society (www.deltasociety.org) and Therapy Dog International (tdi-dog.org). Dogs must enjoy interaction with all people and be adaptive to changing situations.

The MAESSR family has many pet therapy teams actively visiting and helping their community. Participating in a pet therapy program provides an opportunity to work with your dog, make someone's day a bit brighter, and is extremely rewarding!

THE TRAINING CORNER

By Barb Bennett

Training for Everyday Life

There are training commands that every dog should be taught. A dog who is taught to sit or down and stay rather than jump on visitors or beg at the table is a joy to have around. A reliable recall means he can have more freedom off leash and a prompt recall may save his life someday.

However, there are times when a dog's training may need to be customized to meet the needs of the family. This article is about teaching your dog to move when asked.

Does your dog seem to plant himself in a doorway? Mine do and it does not bother me. It is actually a

Springer trait. "How can I keep track of everyone at all times."

But let's suppose you are getting top heavy with a pregnancy or need to carry a baby or you are getting ready for an aging relative to move into the home. Some dogs may have a tendency to stake out a spot and feel threatened if someone were to try to step over him. A positive way to handle these situations is to train the dog to move out of the way when asked.

When the dog is lying in the way, a doorway for example, approach him and ever so slightly touch his hind

leg with your foot. He should then look at you. Quickly take out a treat and toss it a few inches from his face. He should get up to get the treat. As he moves out of the way, you either "click" with a clicker or say "YES" and toss another treat. You say "Thank you".

Do this every time you need him to move. As you develop the behavior, add a verbal cue just before he moves his body. "Excuse me" is a good cue. As he moves away, click or say yes to let him know he was correct and shower him with treats. Don't forget to say "Thank you".

MAESSR MEMORIES – Part II

By Kim Bolster



10 YEARS - MAKING MEMORIES - MENDING LIVES

Continuing from the last issue of Springer Tails, I would like to share the stories of the dogs featured on the Ten Year Anniversary design. The stories are a tribute to the many volunteers, families and friends of MAESSR who provide the time, energy, love and financial resources to assist Springers in their time of need.

The shirt is available in crew neck and V-neck style t-shirts and sweatshirts. You can order from the MAESSR website Marketplace or the Order Form on the back page.

Starting from the second dog on the right on the top row and going down the design:

George (on bench with ocean behind him) – When George’s owner died, he and his brother Beau were passed around family members until they were taken to a shelter. MAESSR brought both boys into foster care and gave them a new beginning with two families.

Tootsie – Left by her owner at the shelter when she was 10 years old, this vision impaired female came in to foster care and has warmed everyone’s hearts since.

Jessie – Due to an illness in her family, Jessie was relinquished to MAESSR at nine years old. MAESSR provided the safety net to help this female find her forever home.

Que – At 8 years old, Que was given up as her family decided they had no time for her. Her MAESSR foster family was taken by her sweet nature and she never left!

Faith – A show dog earlier in her life, Faith was left to fend for herself by the individual who assumed responsibility for this champion. Found as a stray, Faith promptly delivered puppies while beset with many medical conditions. Her MAESSR foster family could not part with her and gave her the life she so deserved.

Spring – At 12 years old, Spring found herself without a home when her owner passed away and no family would take her. MAESSR stepped in and Spring enjoyed her golden years surrounded by love and Springer friends.

Xerox – Found as a stray, MAESSR helped Xerox make the transition from being lost and unwanted to being the heart and joy of a family.

Duncan – In three homes before he was six months old with the last one being a shelter, MAESSR was able to provide Duncan with stability and a new home to match his exuberance.

Please consider supporting MAESSR by buying one of these special and limited ten year tribute shirts or sweatshirt.



Holiday Shopping and Help the Dogs!

Please be sure to check out the MAESSR Marketplace while shopping for gifts this coming holiday season. New items are always being added to the store! Look for the new holiday ornament which features a Springer in a tree adorned dune buggy, new denim shirts, and some beautiful glass designs. A special gift bag filled with toys for your special four legged friend will also be a new item!

Keep checking for as the MAESSR elves keep finding special items and bargains!



Number Attending	Picnic	Date	\$10.00 a person	Volunteer & family \$8.00 a person	Total
	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! _____



SENIOR MOMENTS

By Pierot Fox

I am humbled and honored to be taking over the Senior Moments column that was founded by Norman Cromwell. My story is not that much different from many other MAESSR dogs. At the age of ten, I found myself without a place to call home. The woman who loved me for nearly eight years had taken ill and needed to move into assisted living. This left me seeking a new place to call home.

I had been raised with one dog and loved him very much. He died a few years ago and I was so sad, my mom got me another dog named, Biffer. While I liked Biffer he never did replace my dear old friend. When it came time to place us in rescue, a rescue organization tried to place us together but there aren't a lot of people requesting two dogs much less requesting two dogs with one of them being a senior. So we were split up and I came to MAESSR. I was adopted by a wonderful couple named Dick and Sharon Fox. And as nice as they were to me that first week, it wasn't enough. I needed my own dog. The Foxes and MAESSR were kind enough to agree and soon Hercules (Vaughn 2007) was adopted and became my brother. And let me tell you, this is a match made in heaven. Herc is my buddy and we do everything together.

To prepare for our own version of the Olympics, we have been practicing our high jumps. I have heard the humans call this counter surfing but since there is no water, I do not understand the "surfing" reference. I live near the beach so I know what surfing looks like so let me assure you that this is high jumping. So far our high jumping skills have netted us cookies, cheese and heartworm medication. Let's just say that that particular day was a very expensive day for our parents and I am not sure they fully appreciate the skill that it took to get the meds off the counter and open the packages.

We live at the beach and we love to romp and play outdoors. In the coming months, I will write all about what our life is like in our wonderful adoptive home. So for now, stay cool and keep practicing your high jumping skills because you never know what the humans will leave out next.



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[Bentley from the 2009 MAESSR Calendar]



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springerrescue@yahoo.com
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Linda Johnston – Volunteer Coordinator – springerlove@comcast.net
Gale Blackmer – Financial Coordinator – windy1421@verizon.net
Sue Geckle – Applications Coordinator – maessrapps@yahoo.com
Kathleen O’Neill – Applications Coordinator – oneill@princeton.edu
Kim Bolster – Fundraising Coordinator – ess4x18@cs.com
Ilonka D’Azevedo – Newsletter Editor – raregirl@hotmail.com
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