

## Picture Perfect: Photo Contest Winners Unveiled

The SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County announced a "My Adopted Friend" photo contest in the summer issue of *Heads & Tails*, asking for entries by September 11. The contest was judged by professional photographer Edwin Remsberg. See the grand-prize winner below and view the runners-up on page 6.

### Grand Prize: Phoenix and Samoa

*Photo by Theresa Shute, text by Mark Shute*

Samoa is one of two kittens my wife, Theresa, and her post-college roommate adopted, and Samoa spent her formative months being bullied by her bigger, more aggressive brother. She was quite happy when Theresa and I moved in together and she became an only pet with a whole apartment to herself. After we married, we bought Samoa a house, and she allowed us to live there with her.

Samoa's eight years old now and a world-class bug catcher, although she also has one mouse and one snake to her credit. Spiders are her favorite. For most of her life she's been very shy and very leery of strangers, running for safety under the bed whenever the doorbell rings. She's opened up a great deal though, since we got Phoenix about two years ago.

Once Theresa and I decided to adopt a dog, we did some research and found that whippets fit our lifestyle and had the traits we both desired. We met with the local representative of Whippet Rescue And Placement (WRAP) and played with her pack. We were hooked.

We put in our application with WRAP, began watching their website for the dog that was right for us, and found Phoenix about eight months later. She was four years old and had spent a year in a kennel while her owners' marriage dissolved and they decided what to do with her. She came into our home very excited to have a family again and she was very tolerant of the cat.

As a sight hound, Phoenix loves to chase squirrels (all of which have learned to avoid our yard). She also loves to curl up on the sofa with her head in a warm lap and to snooze in the sunlight—one point on which she and the cat agree completely.

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#### Judge's comments:

*I love the interaction between the two animals in this photograph. It really conveys the personality of each and goes beyond a simple record of anatomical features. The fact that it takes place in such a striking setting—with that dramatic chair and bold green color—really makes it strong.*



It's About  
the Animals

## It's About Sustainability

**H**appy 20th to us! On November 3, 1985, the SPCA of Prince George's County, Inc. merged with the Prince George's County Humane Society, creating our current organization: the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County, Inc. (PGSPCA/HS). Two decades later we're still working hard for the animals of Prince George's County. Earlier this year, I wrote in this space about my respect and appreciation for each and every one of our donors—our investors, if you will—and of our need to honor the public trust that enables our success. I promised we'd manage the money carefully. Now, the numbers are in, and I am pleased to report that we have kept that promise.

In the first fiscal year that I've been PGSPCA/HS president (July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005), we cut our expenses by 20 percent from the previous year, without equally reducing our programs or services (see below). And for the first time in at least three years, we have no year-end shortfall. (Since 2001, our annual expenses have averaged about \$20,000 more than our income each year.) If we are to achieve long-term growth, expand our programs, and continue serving those who need us, we must "live within our means" and this year we managed to do just that.

And that's not all. We achieved a clean audit (the first of its depth and scope for the PGSPCA/HS) and instituted stronger accounting practices and financial controls; we've redesigned our logo and website; we've recruited new board members and new volunteers. And all the while, we've kept our major programs running: We altered more than 4,500 animals at our low-cost spay/neuter clinic and we placed more than 200 animals through our dog and cat adoption programs. We investigated more than 400 cruelty reports (and consulted on numerous others). Through our 24-hour voicemail lines and answering service, we assisted thousands of callers. We provided financial assistance to several needy citizens whose pets required emergency medical treatment they otherwise could not afford. We participated in a wide range of community outreach efforts and strengthened our cooperation with the Prince George's County Animal Management Division, as well as with other local rescue and humane groups.

So in all, we've enjoyed a very successful year. And we're not finished yet. We will continue to make changes and improvements where necessary, and next year I'll report even stronger numbers and more progress. Because we want to make sure the PGSPCA/HS is still around—and even better—in the next twenty years. It's not enough to help the animals today; we have to be there for the animals tomorrow, for a thousand tomorrows. We will not let them down.

Tamela Terry, president  
SPCA/HS of Prince George's County, Inc.



CFCNCA #7439

The PGSPCA/HS is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to animal welfare. All activities are funded solely through contributions, dues, and special events. To learn more, visit our website at [www.pgspca.org](http://www.pgspca.org) or call 301-262-5625.

## Meet Humane Hero at General Membership Meeting

Come to the next PGSPCA/HS general membership meeting and meet humane hero John Smathers. A local captain in the Army Reserve, Smathers rescued Scout, a Canaan dog, from the bloody streets of Baghdad. He will talk about his experiences overseas and share the story of how he spent 17 months overcoming obstacles to bring Scout to the United States.

Afterwards, you'll learn how you can become a hero to local animals just by volunteering with the PGSPCA/HS. See you there!

**Date/Time:** Thursday, December 1, 7:15 p.m.

**Location:** College Park Volunteer Fire Department, 8115 Baltimore Boulevard (Rt. 1), College Park, MD.

**It's About  
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## Canines Can Give the Gift of Life

**W**agging her tail, my two-year-old Lab mix Kira happily follows the veterinarian at the Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank (EVBB) into the exam room. She quickly searches out the pile of treats hidden under the pillow on the examining table. The treats are meant for consumption after the donation, but the EVBB staff let her gobble them up anyway.

Kira is then lifted onto the table and the vet tech lies down next to her and holds her still. Kira thinks it's cuddle time and she loves it! As the vet shaves a small spot of fur from her neck and inserts the needle, Kira bathes her face with kisses. Her tail thumps with joy! When it's over, she is showered with attention and more treats.

What Kira doesn't know is that she has just helped to save a life, something her new red bandana proudly announces. Just like people, dogs may need blood products after sustaining an injury, during surgery, or for treatment of a disease. Emergencies like Hurricane Katrina place a special demand on the national canine blood supply.

EVBB was established in 1993 to create a humane volunteer donor source for canine blood products. Donors must appear comfortable and relaxed; if at any time a dog appears uncomfortable or agitated, the process is halted. Employees test, type, and store all donated blood at distribution centers around the country.

As with human blood, the need for donations is great. If you have a healthy dog between 9 months and 7.5 years old who weighs more than 35 pounds, please consider asking him or her to donate! Dogs may donate once every two months. Blood is collected at EVBB's location in Severna Park, as well as at veterinary hospitals in Maryland and Virginia. Regular donors receive free blood typing and routine tests, as well as free blood products if they are ever needed.

You can check out the EVBB website at [www.evbb.com](http://www.evbb.com) or call 410-224-BANK for more information or to make an appointment. Just tell them Kira sent you!

*Meggan Wheat*



*Blood donor Kira gets treats following her donation at the Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank.*

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### PGSPCA/HS Board of Directors:

**Tamela Terry,**  
president

**Janel Brennan,**  
vice-president &  
treasurer

**Ginny May,**  
secretary

### At-large Members:

**Mary Bayless**  
**Jenn Evoy**  
**Judy McClain**  
**Pam Townsend**  
**Sandy Twigg**

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**It's About  
the Animals**

# It's Easy to Help Animals this Holiday Season

**T**he holiday season is full of terrific opportunities to enjoy yourself while helping us help the animals of Prince George's County. Here are a few fun-filled ideas:

## Holiday Magic at the Mill

Kick off the holiday season in style! Stop by Tresses & Shears at Savage Mill on November 19 and 20 for the mill's "Holiday Magic" events and vote for the salon's decorated holiday tree; your "vote" will benefit the SPCA/HS of Prince George's County and the New Orleans SPCA.

We'll be at Tresses & Shears on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. with some adorable adoptables. So stop by and visit us and then enjoy some holiday music and refreshments while shopping at your favorite Savage Mill stores.

Tresses & Shears is a full-service hair salon, and walk-ins are welcome (301-776-5600).

For more information about Holiday Magic at the Mill, please email [info@pgspca.org](mailto:info@pgspca.org).



## Pictures with Santa Claws

Come to the Bowie Petsmart on Saturday, December 3, or to the White Flint Petsmart on Saturday, December 10, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and get your pet's picture taken with Santa Claws. You will receive two Polaroid photos of Santa and your pet(s) in a festive frame for \$9.95—\$5 of which will be donated to the SPCA/HS of Prince George's County.

For more information, please email [info@pgspca.org](mailto:info@pgspca.org).

## Dinner at the Silver Diner

Take a break from holiday shopping and enjoy dinner at the Silver Diner in Greenbelt on Thursday, December 8, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. A portion of the evening's sales will be donated to the SPCA/HS of Prince George's

County. For more information about this event, please email [info@pgspca.org](mailto:info@pgspca.org).

*Jenn Evoy*

## Make Your Gift Giving Mean Even More

**W**ho hasn't uttered the words, "I wish there was something I could do to help"? Now you can. Just start shopping! You can increase the joy your holiday shopping brings by becoming a member of [www.iGive.com/pgspca](http://www.iGive.com/pgspca). It's FREE, no invisible costs or tricky obligations. Shop for gifts and everyday items at the more than 600 stores at the Mall at iGive.com, like Barnes & Noble, Office Depot, Lands' End and Expedia.com. Up to 26 percent of each purchase will be donated to SPCA/HS of Prince Georges County. Wow! What better way to get in the holiday spirit!?

**Join now at [www.iGive.com/pgspca](http://www.iGive.com/pgspca)**

Information is subject to change. Visit [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) for current details.

**And don't forget our other fundraising programs: You can give us used printer cartridges and cell phones, for which we receive donations. You also can donate your used car (1993 or newer, running or not) and get a tax deduction. Call 301-262-5625 and leave a message. We'll get back to you ASAP.**



**iGive.com™**  
Change online shopping for good.



## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Out and About

### Camden Yards Goes to the Dogs

Volunteers—both human and canine—joined Orioles fans on Labor Day, spreading the PGSPCA/HS message. While the humans handed out buttons, bookmarks, and publications, Elvis (an adoptable American Staffordshire terrier) wiggled in ecstasy and kissed everyone he met. Says foster mom Mary Bayless, “He was shameless, but he raised a lot of money.” Not to be outdone, Bayless’s adopted dog Briscoe (profiled in the summer issue of *Heads & Tails*) poured on the charm...resulting in several adoption offers. All in all, it was a home-run event for everyone involved!

### Cats Cross State Line for Adoptathon

On September 20, some of our adoptable cats—and their foster people—trekked over to Virginia to participate in the second day of the Alexandria Petsmart's Adoptathon. Several other groups also participated and there were some adoptions, but unfortunately none from our group. However, Zorro, a stunning white feline with one blue and one gold eye, got lots of attention. Some admirers said they stopped by just to meet Zorro after seeing his star performance the previous day on W\*USA's “PetLine 9” segment, which highlights animals available for adoption from local organizations. As always, we have some adorable and very deserving cats, so anyone who can help us find permanent homes for them should contact us at [info@pgspca.org](mailto:info@pgspca.org) or leave a message on 301-262-5625, Box #5.

### The PGSPCA/HS Goes to Town

On September 25, the PGSPCA/HS went to town...Old Towne Bowie, that is. Several volunteers attended the Old Towne Bowie Fall Festival, talking to the public about who we are, what we do, and ways that they can help. While the people conversed, their adopted and foster dogs let it be known how glad they were that visitors had stopped by. Says volunteer coordinator Tina Grunstra, “My foster Scruffy will not be forgotten by anyone who met him!”

### A Blessing in Bowie

Volunteer Roe Tana and her adopted dog Lucy were among those on hand at a “Blessing of the Animals” ceremony at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Bowie. This special service is conducted around the world on or around October 4 to commemorate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Reverends Andrews and Babnis read a Psalm reminding participants that there is no other relationship as special as the bond between a person and their pet and blessed each of the four-legged participants. In addition to hosting the ceremony, Holy Trinity parishioners contributed several bags of dog and cat food and made a monetary donation to the PGSPCA/HS. Plan now to attend this wonderful service next year on the first Saturday in October. “After all,” says Tana, “we can always use a little extra blessing!”

*Mary Bayless, Peggy Buckley, Tina Grunstra, and Roe Tana*

## JUST FOR FUN

# Sit, Stay, Surf! Websites for Animals and Their People

**T**he Internet offers a wealth of information on every imaginable subject, including all things pets. We hope to share a few of our favorite websites in each issue of *Heads & Tails*. If you have some free time this holiday season, here are some you may want to check out:

The MetroPets site—<http://metropets.org> is THE local source of animal information. In addition to links to shelters and rescue groups, MetroPets’ Animal Yellow Pages includes listings of just about all the organizations and services you need to know about if you’re thinking of adopting a pet or already have one. There is also a calendar of local pet events and local animal-related news.

**About.com** has wonderful sites about cats and dogs, with a variety of topics; <http://cats.about.com> is all about cats, from behavior and care to litterbox essentials; <http://dogs.about.com> is a similarly comprehensive site for dogs...without the litterbox information.

Pamper your pets by trying some of the recipes at <http://www.recipegoldmine.com/pets/pets.html>, like grassy goodness, mackerel munchies (yum!), and beagle biscotti. You’ll also find health tips on such topics as motion sickness and travel stress treatments.

*Faith Weiner*

## PHOTO CONTEST Runners-up Revealed

### First Runner-up: “Trisha”

*Photographed by Lorraine Fordham*

We adopted Trisha (originally Honey) from the SPCA/HS of Prince George’s County in the fall of 2000. Now about six years old, she weighs 35 pounds and is clearly part Lab and probably part American Bull Terrier. Trisha loves our other rescued dog, Toby, teases our 18-year-old Maltese, Brie, and is generally the sweetest dog I have ever owned—well-mannered, quiet, and fun loving. She is a fearless, and relentless, mole hunter and our yard shows it! But she is a beautiful and wonderful addition to our family and has brought great joy to our lives. We are grateful that she found us.



**Judge’s comments:** *Go back to the Greek roots of the word photography and what you get is the phrase “to write with light.” This image really shows the power of lovely and dramatic lighting. In addition I was very impressed with the nobility and dignity of the subject. So often, animals (and especially small dogs) are treated in a way that makes them cute or adorable. This dog has the unexpected bearing of a Roman senator .*



### Second Runner-up: “Mo & River”

*Photographed by Jon Klapper*

Our guys were adopted off the street—kind of an open-air shelter. This image captures their personalities perfectly. Mo, in the foreground, is the Alpha, who gets in your face and looks you in the eye. He’s friendly, brave, and fearless. We call River (background) “The Acolyte.” He is shy and fearful of any intimidating situation and always turns his head when confronted. He’s a gentle soul who just wants love.

**Judge’s comments:** *The combination of black dogs on a sunny beach has the makings for a photographic disaster but this photographer has pulled it off with a striking composition that keeps bringing the viewer back. I would still like to have more light in the fore dog’s eyes, but I love the bold beach colors around the stark blackness of the animals and the single splash of red of the tongue.*

## Find your own special adopted friend at one of our adoption shows!\*

### First Saturday of the Month

**Cats:** 12-4 pm, Bowie Petco, 301-805-4447

### Second Saturday of the Month

**Cats:** 12-3 pm, Columbia Petco, 410-290-1313

**Dogs:** 12-3 pm, White Flint PETsMART, 301-770-1343

### Third Saturday of the Month

**Cats:** 12-4 pm, Bowie Petco, 301-805-4447

**Dogs:** 12-3 pm, Columbia Petco, 410-290-1313

### Fourth Saturday of the Month

**Cats:** 12-3 pm, Fairfax Petco, 703-352-3300

**Dogs:** 12-3 pm, Bowie PETsMART, 301-352-7286

**Volunteer Orientation:** 11 am, Bowie PETsMART

\* Schedule subject to change! Check our website—[pgspca.org](http://pgspca.org)—for the latest information.

## SPECIAL THANKS

# Memorials & Honorariums

*Special thanks to  
Antharia LLC for website design  
services, photographer Edwin Remsberg for  
judging our photography contest, the Big Bad  
Woof for donating the grand prize, the College  
Park Volunteer Fire Department for donating  
space for our dog obedience classes, and, as  
always, College Park Animal Hospital for  
taking such good care of  
our fosters.*

### Special Donations

Oseh Shalom fifth-grade class

WAVE Animal Welfare Committee:

*H. Foster*

*Lisa Bowen*

*Maxine Carmel*

*Matilda Salamy*

### In Memory Of...

Maggie Todesco

*Janel Brennan*

Kelly & Terry

*Jean Pifer*

Gregory T. White

*Margaret Jones*

Scooter

*Joan Rollins*

Buffy

*Gisela Rau*

Wilma A. Smith

*Joan Jordan*

*Kathy Rager*

*Beverley Malcom*

*Jacqueline & Robert  
Smith*

*Juanita Schneider*

*Laura Schneider*

*Linda Noel*

*Charles Bristor*

*West Lanham Hills*

*Citizen's Association*

*Robert & Carolyn*

*Sullivan*

**The SPCA/HS of Prince George's County relies on contributions. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you want to help, just fill out and return the form below.**

## Membership Application/Donation Form

SPCA/HUMANE SOCIETY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, INC. \* P.O. Box 925, Bowie, MD 20718 \* 301-262-5625

PLEASE CHECK AS MANY AS APPLY:

MEMBERSHIP (circle one):      Single (\$20)      Family (\$30)      Lifetime (\$100 per person)

RENEWAL: Please check here if this is a renewal membership.

ADDITIONAL DONATION: I am enclosing an additional gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose the additional donation IN MEMORY OF:

A person: \_\_\_\_\_ A pet: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose the additional donation IN HONOR OF:

A person: \_\_\_\_\_ A pet: \_\_\_\_\_

VOLUNTEER: I am willing to help in the following capacity:

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE SPCA/HS OF P.G. COUNTY, INC.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

All donations and dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please complete this form and mail with payment to the address above.

## Sit, Stay, Become More Adoptable: Foster Dogs Go to School

**F**oster dogs get pretty excited at adoption shows, and that excitement sometimes looks like out-of-control behavior! In the interest of the dogs' adoptability—not to mention their foster people's sanity—the PGSPCA/HS is partnering with local dog trainer Liz Marsden of The Logical Dog ([www.thelogicaldog.com](http://www.thelogicaldog.com)).

A weekly obedience/manners class began on October 5 to help fosters learn how to keep their canines calm and attentive in public...increasing the chance of someone falling in love with them! During the eight-week session, the dogs are also learning such basics as sit, down, come, and polite leash walking.

*Mary Bayless*

**Editor's note: "Paws up" to the College Park Volunteer Fire Department for donating space for the class!**



*Volunteer Lisa Lawrence rewards her foster dog Grady for focusing on her during class. He has since been adopted.*

### HEADS & TAILS

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*Individual membership to the SPCA/HS of Prince George's County is **only \$20** and includes a subscription to Heads & Tails. Your vital support will help us reduce animal overpopulation, homelessness, and mistreatment in Prince George's County. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

## It's About the Animals

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bowie, MD 20718  
P.O. Box 925

SPCA/HS  
Prince George's County

