

SPCA/Humane Society
of Prince George's County, Inc. (SPCA/HS)

P.O. Box 925
Bowie, MD 20718

301-262-5625
www.pgspca.org

HEADS & TAILS

Spring 2005

A Pit Bull by Any Other Name

We've now fostered more than a dozen dogs with the PGSPCA/HS, and have become accustomed to the vagaries of "designer dogs"—those with a little bit of this, a little bit of that. But we were a bit nervous when we realized that our foster Pippi has a fair amount of pit bull in her ancestry. Sure, there's German shepherd, probably some rottie or dobie, and maybe even some Australian kelpie; we could handle all that. But pit bull? The name conjures up images of illegal dogfights, unstable temperament, and overwhelming aggression. I mean, we've watched Animal Cops!

American pit bulls sprang from a cross between the bulldog and the terrier, created in England in the mid-1800s specifically for dog fighting. They were bred for aggression to other dogs, unrelenting bravery, a high pain threshold, a willingness to fight to the end, and affection for people.

Although the "sport" of dog fighting is outlawed in the United States, dog-fighting rings still exist. And the pit bull's tough reputation has prompted inner city drug dealers to use them to guard their drug supplies and cash. Many owners not involved in illegal activities still take pride in having a big dog with a frightening manner and don't try to socialize their pets.

To further complicate matters, people who breed pit bulls for fighting today are not as careful as early breeders were to preserve the dog's strong instinct to bond with humans. So, today, "pit bull" strikes fear in the hearts of many and leads

lawmakers in jurisdictions around the country—including Prince George's County—to ban pit bulls, or any dog that looks like a pit bull, from their communities. Even dogs like Pippi, who is sweet and funny and delightful.

Like Nipper—who listened to "his master's voice" in old RCA ads—Pippi watches us carefully and her ears perk up expectantly when we talk to her. And like Petie—canine star of the "Our Gang" comedies—Pippi's entire body wags with excitement when she sees us. As she cuddles next to us on the couch, it's easy to understand how the pit bull became America's sweetheart breed in the early 20th century. We're glad we live in Montgomery County, where we can be Pippi's foster family.

Despite the breed's reputation for dog

aggression, Pippi has fit easily into our pack; she doesn't object to letting our older dog be the alpha and has delighted our year-old shepherd mix, Phoebe, with her willingness to play. Sometimes, the playing sounds a little rough, but it doesn't seem to bother Phoebe. Pippi also is eager to please and seems to enjoy learning commands. She is headstrong, though, and tenacious, and needs a firm hand.

Each designer dog is a true original, a blend of genetics, history, and potential. Pippi has a misunderstood breed in her genetic makeup and an unknown history, but also the potential to become a wonderful "pet" bull for a new family.

Faith and Alan Weiner



*Meet Pippi and other wonderful
pets at one of our adoption shows
(see schedule on back).*

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**It's About
the Animals**

It's About the Animals...and Accountability

Every month, we receive a check for \$12, written in a slightly labored and deliberate hand. I do not recognize the donor's name, but I imagine him to be a dedicated animal lover on a fixed income: someone who wishes he had more to give, but sends what he can because he believes we will do the most good possible with it. Given how many worthy charities exist, I appreciate the trust he has placed in us and I take seriously the responsibility of using his hard-earned money well.

But he is not the only one to whom we are accountable. We also answer to the public in general, because we are exempt from federal and state taxes and enjoy other publicly funded benefits reserved for nonprofit charities. To earn this special status, we have promised that our programs will benefit the community as a whole and that our funds will *never* be used for personal advantage. All of us must work to keep this promise.

Since becoming president last summer, I have made financial responsibility and accountability our top priority. All of us on the Board of Directors are working hard to ensure that the money is being spent wisely and honestly, that we are doing as much with it as we possibly can. This means we are taking a close and careful look at every single program, policy, and procedure, and at all the factors that determine how we spend our hours and our dollars.

One step in that review is a comprehensive financial audit of the last two fiscal years (June 2002—July 2004). It has taken several months to pull together the necessary data and accounting records, but I'm pleased to announce all our hard work has paid off: We have received a clean audit opinion for both years. This is a major accomplishment, and we are very pleased. With this milestone met and vital feedback from the auditor in hand, we will continue to work on improving our operations.

A detailed review of all our programs, policies, and procedures is not a fun or easy process, but we are learning a lot about where we can do better. You will likely see changes and enhancements in the coming months, and when you do, you will know that we are making progress. But know also that amidst any changes, we remain committed to our mission: to reduce animal overpopulation and to prevent animal cruelty and suffering. We're equally committed to our major programs: our low-cost spay/neuter clinic, our dog and cat adoption programs, and our cruelty/abuse investigations. We know that using our limited resources more carefully will enable us to help even more animals.

The SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County doesn't belong to me, to our employees, or to our volunteers. Rather, all of us serve the Prince George's community and we each must be fully accountable for how we use the precious resources entrusted to us. We must work together to keep earning our nonprofit status, to accomplish our mission, and to honor our promise to the citizen who sends \$12 a month...and to all those like him. Thank you for your trust and support. We will not let you or the animals down.

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

**COME TO THE NEXT
General
Membership
Meeting**

**7:15 pm, April 7,
College Park City Hall
4500 Knox Rd.**



**SPCA/HS Board of
Directors:**

**Tamela Terry,
president**

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

**Ginny May, acting
secretary**

**At-Large Members:
Mary Bayless,
Jenn Evoy,
and Judy McClain**

**It's About
the Animals**

Don't Be a Fool! Come to the Dog Adoption Reunion

It's no jest. PGSPCA/Humane Society fosters, adopters, and friends will be gathering at the Third Annual Dog Adoption Reunion. So plan now to join us between 1 and 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at Wheaton Regional Park (near the carousel) for an afternoon of canine camaraderie. Fun, food, and drink for humans and their canine companions will be provided. For more information, call Jennifer at (301) 775-0110 or email info@pgspca.org.

**“See
you
there!”**

Protecting Pets During an Emergency

The concept of emergencies has taken on new meaning in the post-9/11 era. But as Maryland residents well know, emergencies can take many forms. Hurricanes, tornadoes, snowstorms, train wrecks, hazardous waste spills, and other natural and manmade incidents can all cause emergencies, some of which require evacuations.

What should you do with your pets in the event of a mandatory evacuation?

Don't leave them behind, advises Dr. Jacob Casper, coordinator of disaster services for the

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Even if you think you'll only be away from home for several hours, unforeseen circumstances may result in a prolonged absence.

Friends or relatives may welcome both you and your pets. However, if you must stay in a Red Cross shelter, you'll have to make other arrangements for your animal companions because these shelters won't accept animals.

Fortunately, Maryland has a statewide Pet Sheltering Plan that goes into operation whenever

there is an emergency severe enough to require the establishment of Red Cross shelters. MDA, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and county governments maintain a list of veterinarians,

kennels, and other facilities in each county willing and able to provide shelter for pets during such emergencies.

Once an emergency has been declared, a contact number (for each county) is broadcast via the emergency alert system. Pet owners who call the number are directed to a person who will help them find an available pet shelter facility. They are responsible for getting their pets to the shelter, although arrangements can be made to assist physically challenged pet owners. Any fees are a matter for individuals and the care provider.

Once the emergency has passed and the Red Cross has closed its shelters, pet owners have 48 hours to pick up their animals or to contact the shelter and make arrangements for extended care (for example, if they've lost their house in a hurricane and must stay in a motel). If contact with the shelter is not made, the animals will be considered abandoned.

With luck, none of us will ever need this information. But if an emergency occurs, it's nice to know that our pets can be cared for.

Pam Townsend

Maryland has a statewide Pet Sheltering Plan that goes into operation whenever there is an emergency.

At an Emergency Shelter, Make Sure Pets Have...

- ✓ Identification information, including their names and phone number/s where you can be reached;
- ✓ Health information and necessary medications; and
- ✓ Food, water, toys, and leashes that will provide comfort and a sense of familiarity for your pets.

Did You Know...?

According to 13,000 people who responded to a survey conducted by the ASPCA in October 2004...

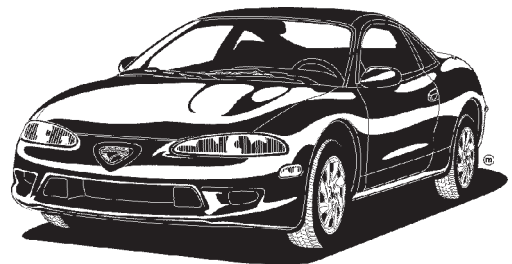
76 percent are dog parents;

60 percent are cat parents; and

33 percent are parents of other types of pets.

Donate Your Used Car for a Tax Deduction!

Despite changes in federal tax laws, you can still donate your used vehicle (1993 or newer). Running or not, we'll tow. Call 301-262-5625 (choose option 3). We'll return your call promptly, answer all your questions, and arrange pickup of your vehicle.



CAT ADOPTIONS

We May Not be Purrrfect

Greta

Little Greta is a 9-month-old female torbie who has a slight wiggle in her “get along,” but that just makes her that much more adorable. Greta can be a bit shy and would do best in a quiet household. The other evening, she curled up on her foster mom’s lap and purred non-stop for a solid 45 minutes. Do you have room on your lap for Greta?

James and Victoria

These delightful twin 9-month-old brown/black tiger kitties are visually impaired. They were discovered as kittens by a PGSPCA/HS volunteer in an auto parts parking lot where they had been dumped. They were accepted by a nursing mom, but they had a bad upper respiratory infection that went to their eyes. James is visually impaired in his right eye, Victoria in both, but that doesn’t slow this playful pair down. They race around the house with the other fosters and have no difficulty locating the litter box and food dish. They particularly like to be rubbed and petted, and although they get a bit anxious when picked up, they love curling up on their foster mom’s lap.

Patches

This 2-year-old short-haired tuxedo male can be a bit hesitant at first but loves to suggle in bed and on the couch with his foster mom. Patches has a slight wiggle when he walks; we think his mom may have been exposed to distemper when she was carrying her litter and that this exposure had a slight effect on his neurological system. Other than his wiggle, Patches is in purrfectly good shape. Do you have room on your couch for him?



United Way
of the National Capital Area

CFC# 8977

The PGSPCA/HS is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to animal welfare and rights.

All activities are funded solely through contributions, dues, and special events. To learn more, visit our website at www.pgspca.org or call 301-262-5625.

Dining for a Cause!



Join us at the Silver Diner in Laurel on Thursday, April 28! PGSPCA/HS volunteers will be helping wait and bus tables, so sign up to lend a hand, or just stop by for a great meal between 5 and 9 p.m. A percentage of the evening’s sales will be donated to the PGSPCA/HS of Prince George’s County! So please your palate while showing your support. The Silver Diner is located at 14550 Baltimore Avenue.

CAT ADOPTIONS

Adorable Adoptables

You've heard of Herbert Hoover's 1928 campaign pledge of "a chicken in every pot." Well, the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County has "a cat for every lap." The felines featured on these two pages are just a few of the many kitties—males and females of all ages, colors, and fur types—currently looking for loving homes of their own. Meet them for yourself at one of our adoption shows (see schedule on back page)!



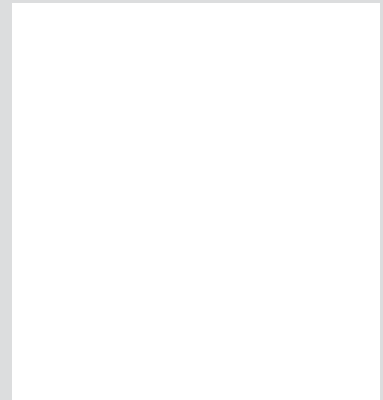
Debbie

This 2-year-old short-haired tortoiseshell was pulled from the shelter with her three kittens. They've all found their forever homes—now it's Debbie's turn. This affectionate cat spends her morning running from room to room with her foster mom, supervising the filling of water and food dishes. Once all that is squared away, Debbie makes sure that her foster mom is properly groomed for her day at the office, paying particular attention to teeth brushing. If you need assistance with your morning routine, this sweetheart is ready for that assignment.



Woody

This 2-year-old gray tiger-striped boy has been in foster care for nearly a year. He was given up by his previous owner through no fault of his own. Woody is one of the gentlest and sweetest kitties. He gets along well with other cats and thoroughly enjoys the company of his foster mom and dad. Woody would thrive as an "only child" or in a home with one or two other feline companions. He has been waiting for a family to make his own. . . could that be yours?



Coral

Coral is a 10-month-old calico rescued from the county shelter several months ago. She's a bit shy around new people, but warms up quickly and enjoys spending time in the laps—and beds—of her foster family. Coral will make a wonderful playmate for another kitty and, given the necessary adjustment time, would get along with a dog just fine. A quiet household would be best because Coral's not a fan of loud noises, although she, herself, is a boisterous bundle of fur. If you're interested in a talker, she's your girl!

Happy Tails from the Homefront

Jake (aka Starburst)

Here is what 9-month-old Starburst (now Jake) has to say: Hi from my new home in Bowie, MD. I never thought I'd be here... I had a rough start. I was rescued from the side of a major highway where I was left in a sealed box with my two brothers. I was in foster care for some 6 months until my new mom met me. She just couldn't help but fall in love with me...I pulled all the "cuteness" strings I had. Now I'm living happily with my new mom and dad, plus two new kitty playmates. I have adjusted quite nicely and my new mom says I act like I own the place. Well, don't I?

the theory of CAT GRAVITY

By Robin Wood (<http://www.robinwood.com/Catalog/Books/BookSet.html>)



©Austin Cotton Company 1988

T-shirts & Sweatshirts

Available in a variety of colorful designs, including the one above, at our spay/neuter clinic. All proceeds go toward the care of animals we rescue and rehome.

This slim volume (32 pages, paperback) explains the “science” behind the phenomenon known to every cat person: that cats, as they sun themselves on window ledges, are actually collecting solar rays, which they transform directly into gravity. (As the author notes, when cats jump onto a ledge, they make no noise, but when they jump down, they go “thud.”) However, what many cat people—and almost certainly everyone else—may not realize is that cats then transfer this gravity to a person.

You may have noticed how difficult it is to get up if there is a cat on your lap; this is because the newly-created gravity is being pumped directly into your body. The author goes on to explain how the gravity is then transferred from your body into your bed, where it builds up—sucking you into a horizontal position whenever you walk near it—until it reaches its Gravity Saturation Potential. The remaining first half of the book details how the extra gravity gets from your bed to the core of the earth, where it helps hold everything more firmly to the planet’s surface.

Ms. Wood presents several proofs to support her theory. For example, she states that there is more gravity now than in the past since cats have been constantly making it. Think about how easy it was to jump, run, and do cartwheels when you

were young...and how hard those activities are now; all that extra gravity is holding you down!

And, as with any theory worth its salt, there are corollaries to the Cat Gravity Theory. This reviewer’s favorite is the Dog Corollary. Cats want people to be feeding them or lying down. They can use their sharp claws to get people up to feed them, but they have to use gravity transfer to keep people lying down. Dogs want people to be active, playing with them or taking them for walks. When a puppy figures out what the cat is up to, it realizes its only hope is to use up as much gravity as it can. It does this by lying down (the horizontal position uses more gravity than the vertical) and moving its tail very rapidly. This uses up gravity that would otherwise pin you to your chair.

The science in this book is explained in easy-to-understand terms, even the logic behind the interaction between gravity and levity, which is contained in water. Clear drawings illustrate the various concepts, such as the dramatic effect the application of levity (in the form of a bucket of water) has on a gravity-laden cat.

Anyone who has a heavy relationship with a cat, and even those who don’t, will enjoy this book. And at \$4.95, anyone can afford it!

Faith Weiner

Three Easy Ways You Can Help

- 1. Shop & Share.** Join the Food Lion Shop & Share program. Food Lion MVP members can link their savings card to our group, and we will receive a percentage of the purchase dollars spent. You can link your card at www.foodlion.com/IntheCommunity/ShopAndShare/ or by visiting any Food Lion location or e-mailing the MVP card number to jevoy@umd.edu. You can sign up for a Food Lion MVP card at any Food Lion.
- 2. Printer Cartridge and Cell Phone Collection.** Send us used inkjet or laser toner cartridges. We are working with an organization that will give us a donation for these items. We also accept used cell phones. Please send these items to: SPCA/HS of Prince George’s County, P.O. Box 925, Bowie, MD 20718. Or drop them off at our White Flint or Bowie adoption events (see schedule on the back). For more information or to request promotional materials for your workplace, please call Jenn Evoy at 301-775-0110 or e-mail jevoy@umd.edu.
- 3. iGive.com.** Start shopping for everyday items at the more than 400 stores at iGive.com. It’s free, and there are no hidden fees or obligations—just donations to us of up to 26 percent of every purchase you make. Join now at www.iGive.com and select the SPCA/HS of Prince George’s County as your cause.

Special Thanks

*Special thanks to
artist Liz Holm for creating our
2004 holiday card, hair salon Tresses & Shears
for their fundraising efforts, Antharia LLC for
website design services, and College Park
Animal Hospital for taking such good
care of our fosters.*

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of People

- Pat Glaser**
Kellie & Stephen Johnson
Thomas & Marsha Lawn
John & Linda Mechak
- Pearl Simmons**
Harry & Patricia Bowman
- Ninie Murray**
Clarice Lane
Shirley Biewlawski
Carol Pelosi
- Ninie & Lorraine**
Evelyn Weil
- Joan Barsky**
Donald & Alice Hirschfeld
- Julia Sumner**
Patricia Sumner
- Pearl Simmons**
Harvey Beavers Jr.
- Rose Gayan**
Coworkers of Ken Heiser,
Worcester Eisenbrandt Inc.
Genevieve Duarte
Jeffery & Shereen Fuqua
Jo-Anna Conrey

- Mary Jane Doolittle**
Howard Doolittle
- Larry Danilson**
Paul & Jane Cassidy
Norman & Rosemary
Bronzert
Stephen & Ann Davis
Anita Bronzert
- Jack Peyton**
Bettie Frey
Dianne Shangold
Harry Trunnell
Kevin Eagan
Cora Boyce
- Anna Jaunzems Lejietis**
Anna Jaunzems Lejietis Estate

In Memory of Pets

- Pussita**
Stanley & Virginia Gadomski
- Satchmo**
Linda Buel
- Snickers Lambert**
Florence Casertano-Bird
& Family

- Smokey**
Angie Snow
- Felix**
Regina Bryant
- Muffett**
Rebecca Livingston
- Cleo**
Susan Stayer & Wendell Albright
- Mandy**
Karen Kidwell
- Wynke & Mac**
Jo Schultz
- Good Ol' Odie Dog**
Dr. & Mrs. Robert McGuire
- Shasta**
Virginia Taylor
- Lulu**
Frank Branchini

In Honor of People

- Irv & Janet**
Roberta Soslow
- Joni Marginot (and Buster & Barney)**
Nancy Hadley

- Pat Thorne & Steve Stacey**
Sharon Thorne
- Barbara Mertz**
Donna Beatley
- Mary & John O'Dea**
John & Sandra Hooker
- Michele Bissonette & Karl Boehle**
Ron & Karen Lowman
- Craig & Patti Henderson**
Virginia & James Atkins

In Honor of Pets

- Onyx and Mac**
Elizabeth Jay
- Brandy & Duchess**
Gary Ulmer
- Aggie & Rupert**
Donna O'Berry
- Brandy & Precious**
John & Anna King
- Duffy**
Carol Smith
- Kirby, Sophie, & Buster**
Kevin Brown

.....
In memory of Dickens, beloved pet of Roger and Judy McClain, a most wonderful wire fox terrier and the best boy ever. From the PGSPCA/HS Board of Directors

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.

Visions of Sugarplums

Kona, who now lives with Jennifer and Michael Schuster in Laurel, Maryland, is just one of the many dogs and cats who enjoyed the first holiday season in their forever homes last year thanks to adopters, fosters, donors, and other friends and supporters like you.

Interested in welcoming a dog or cat into your home? Come to an adoption show.*

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

Volunteer Orientation: 11 am, Bowie PETsMART, 301-352-7286

Dogs: 12-3 pm, Bowie PETsMART

*Schedule subject to change! Check our website for the latest information.

HEADS & TAILS

is published by the SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County (SPCA/HS). Editing and layout: Pam Townsend

*Individual membership to the SPCA/HS of P.G. 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

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