

Paws To Consider

Spring/Summer 2004

Spirit

By Leslie Grabowski



Sometimes our rescued animals seem to have had a Guardian Angel watching over them. This is the story of one animal with two Guardian Angels...

Last November, Michel Hyman of Anandale was driving to Tyson's Corner when she happened to glance at an island of land at the intersection of I-495 and I-66. To her amazement, she saw a very thin black dog feeding on a deer carcass. An animal lover, Michel pulled over and traipsed through the snow to investigate. Despite an obviously injured back leg, the dog was so frightened that it ran away.

Not one to give up on an animal, Michel began to bring food to the dog daily, and even made a bed in a wooded area near a stream, but the dog continued to evade her. A call to the Fairfax County Police brought Lt. Andrew Sanderson, Animal Control Officer, into the case, and he joined Michel in the hunt for the elusive canine.

He asked for help from a medical helicopter, which was flying near the "island" and had a heat-sensing device to locate the target. The report was, "there are two deer down there and a dog." Lt. Sanderson baited a dog trap and instructed Michel to quit bringing food. A few days later, as Michel worried that the dog would be driven to cross the highway in search of food, Lt. Sanderson called to tell her that their quarry was captured and taken to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

Veterinary examination revealed that the dog, which would not bear weight on her right rear leg, had a dislocated hip, possibly from being thrown from a

vehicle or hit by a car. The leg was put back into the socket and a sling was prescribed. Apprehensive on arrival at the shelter, she soon was friendly and wagging her tail. Michel, who had assisted the SPCA of Northern Virginia with a humane investigation in 2002, prevailed upon SPCA President Edith von Stuemmer to accept the dog, and just after the new year, Spirit, as she is now called, was released to us by the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and joined the ranks of SPCA dogs for adoption.



Spirit with her new family

Jonathan and Ellen Wood saw Spirit's photo and description on the SPCA website, and knew that she was the dog for them. Her adoption was finalized on March 13, and she officially joined the Wood household, which also includes two cats. Ellen says that even though it's only been a few weeks, neither she nor Jonathan can imagine life without Spirit. Thanks to Michel Hyman and Andrew Sanderson, her Guardian Angels, Spirit has found her heaven on earth.

In This Issue:

- *Spirit* • *A Call to Foster* • *Jasper: A Victim of Pet Abandonment* • *The Flying Max*
- *Give A Shy Kitty A Chance To Shine* • *SPCA Spotlight* • *Pavarotti "Sings the Blues"*
- *Once Upon a Time* • *Fundraising News* • *Gifts In Remembrance* • *Adoption Schedules*



SPCA of Northern Virginia
P.O. Box 10504
Arlington, VA 22210-1504
(703) 799-9390
www.spcanova.org

Editor/Design

Sandy Soto

Co-Editor

Carol Levie

Board of Directors

President Edith von Stuemmer

Vice President Barbara Cohen

Secretary Dana Meeker

Treasurer Kristin LeClair

Debbie Berry, Carol Levie,
Kathleen MacKinnon, Mary Portelly

Humane Investigators

Edith von Stuemmer, Barbara Cohen

Coordinators

Cat Foster Kathleen MacKinnon

Cat Records Dana Meeker

Dog Foster Carol Levie

Dog Records Nancy Herndon

Fund-Raising Debbie Berry

Membership Dana Meeker

Spay/Neuter Lori Ward

Volunteer Sandy Soto

Web Site Mary Portelly,
Leslie Grabowski

The SPCA of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit rescue organization. We rely on membership dues, donations and fund-raising activities for revenue. Our Voluntary Board of Directors, committee members and volunteers are responsible for all SPCA activities. We do not have a shelter facility and depend on foster parents to care for domestic animals until adoption.

Paws to Consider is published by the SPCA of Northern Virginia. Permission must be granted for article reprints. If you would like to submit stories of interest or be added to our mailing list, please direct all correspondence to:

SPCA of Northern Virginia
P.O. Box 10504
Arlington, VA 22210-1504

A Call to Foster

By Lori Burkhart

As I approach my first anniversary of fostering for the SPCA of Northern Virginia, I want to share my experiences with others. I had considered fostering for many years, even having gone so far as to pick up an application to foster with another rescue group, but allowed myself to be talked out of it by well-meaning friends. They questioned the time commitment as well as the fact that bringing "strange" cats into my home might spread diseases to my own cats. After finally meeting some wonderful SPCA volunteers when I adopted my cat, Bella, I decided it was time to give something back and help homeless cats find loving homes.

My first homeless kittens came to me at the start of the dreaded "kitten season" last spring. That is when the SPCA gets many phone calls from people finding homeless momma cats under their decks or in their sheds, seeking shelter for their kittens. The SPCA takes in as many of these kittens as they can, but only if they have foster homes to care for them. Before entering foster care, each kitten or cat is checked for feline diseases and treated for other medical conditions by a licensed veterinarian at no cost to the foster parent. While some kittens are perfectly healthy from the start, it is not uncommon for these homeless kittens to have upper respiratory infections and other ailments.

Preparing for the arrival of my first three little kittens was a breeze. I chose to keep them in a bathroom and by placing a small litter box, food, water, bedding and toys within, I was ready to go. Although after purchasing toys, I found they prefer rolled up balls of paper and Q-tips! They simply need a warm shelter and a foster parent to nurture them. Once they are eight weeks of age they are available for adoption. These kittens were healthy and soon old enough and on the way to good homes. My first adoption was to a lovely grandmother living in Alexandria who was raising her eleven-year old grandson. They came together to meet the kittens, and the boy was so careful and loving with the tiny animals. It was very sweet to watch the joy they shared with their new "family."

After nurturing a handful of friendly kittens, I finally was ready to attempt socializing feral kittens, which are taught at an early age by their mother to fear humans. They must be brought in very young or they will never learn to trust people. I will admit to a little fear, because I realized if I failed to tame these two kittens, they would not be adoptable. Blackjack, a black male and his sister Twinkle, a tortie, had to start out in a small cage while they learned to trust me. They were so cute as they sat hanging in their little hammocks. As they became sure of themselves, I moved them out of the cage and into my bathroom. There truly is nothing like getting feral kittens to approach you. Before long, Blackjack and Twinkle were quite at home with me and I introduced them to the rest of the house and my own cats. My cat Bella has affectionately become known as the "kitten police," because she insists on herding them and letting them know what behavior is acceptable in her house. Maybe she realizes she was an SPCA homeless kitten too and wants to return the favor! Once socialized, Blackjack and Twinkle were adopted by a lovely young

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 2)

woman and renamed Bailey and Kahlua. The great part is I have kept in touch with the adoptive parent who has sent me photos and updates as they have grown. It really is rewarding to see these kittens adopted into good homes and mature into healthy happy cats. That is something I did not expect from fostering, the joy I have found in sending a cat to a wonderful new family.

I have been questioned by people, while waiting for vet appointments, when they find out that I have SPCA foster kittens with me. They usually remark how it's such a great thing I am doing, but that they could never do it, that it would be too hard to give up a cat or dog that has been living in their house. But I always tell them "yes, you can do it." The joy of knowing that you've saved innocent animals, nurtured them and helped find them a loving home is indescribable. And if we can't find volunteers to help these creatures, quite often they would die. I will admit it does hurt sometimes, because you often do become attached. However, I answer the SPCA phone lines one day a week and often we cannot help a caller because we lack enough foster homes. It would be so nice to be able to help every cat in need. That can happen only if more people would open their homes and hearts to a homeless cat or dog.



WHAT, WHY, HOW . . . Since the SPCA does not have a shelter facility, we rely on volunteer foster parents to care for our rescued cats. Foster parents have the unique opportunity to personally help our rescued cats and kittens heal both emotionally and physically from whatever trauma they suffered.

Many fosters are cat lovers who are stepping forward to "do the right thing" for homeless cats in their neighborhood. They are the cats whose owners moved away and simply abandoned them. They are the kittens born to stray cats. They are the cats lost, forgotten, and unanswered for by protective forces.

Why, you may ask, would someone volunteer to be a foster parent for an animal they don't even own? Why would someone take on the responsibility for an animal someone else was supposed to take care of but didn't? Why would anyone want to give up their spare bedroom, bathroom, etc. and take on responsibility for a pet they will eventually place in someone else's home?

People who choose to foster do so because they know that if they don't step up to the plate, the fate of these animals is either sub-par living conditions or death. They feel good knowing they are making a difference, every minute and every day, in the life of an innocent soul; that a few months of inconvenience turn quickly into a rewarding, educational, challenging, and fun experience they will never forget. While it's true that fosters do get very attached to their animals, they also find a special joy in sending a pet to a wonderful new family.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a foster parent for the SPCA please call (703) 799-9390 or visit our website www.spcanova.org and submit an online application. We provide training and pay all medical costs! There are few acts more heartwarming than helping to save the life of a loving innocent creature in need.

Jasper: A Victim of Pet Abandonment

For the thousands of cats & dogs abandoned each year, life is a harsh struggle to survive

By Sandy Soto

He was born a tiny ball of fluff, the world around him exciting and full of promise. Sadly, the little kitten would suffer the greatest misfortune of all—that of being chosen by an irresponsible person.

The days passed quickly and the little kitten was happy, or so he thought. As he matured from kittenhood to adolescence, his person began viewing him as a nuisance rather than a joy. More often than not, his pleas for affection were answered with a shove out the door. Meowing at the door usually got him back inside and he often took delight in curling up for a nap on a chair by the window that was bathed in afternoon sunlight. Still, he was content for this was his home.

One cold morning in December, while outside, he became aware of a lot of activity around his home, with people coming in and out. When the commotion subsided, he approached the door and cried but there was no answer. It was getting dark and still no one came to open the door. He could see lights coming from other windows in the neighborhood but there were no lights on in his home. He was hungry and cold and wanted his nice warm chair! He hid under a bush and shivered until morning wondering where his person had gone. The neighbors realized before he did that he no longer had a home but when they tried to approach, he shied away in fear and confusion. The cat returned to the empty house less and less with the passage of time, he took to wandering the streets in search of food rather than taking a stroll to the kitchen to find his dinner. He was cold and each day was a frightening struggle to survive.

The days were long and the nights never-ending. How long had it been—one month, two? One particularly cold and rainy night, while rummaging for food, another animal confronted him and a vicious fight ensued. He would not be the victor of this fight. Now severely injured and starving, the cat was growing weak. In desperation he returned to the only home he had ever known. Remembering that the lady next door had a cat, he dragged himself to

her door. The woman had often wondered about his fate and was shocked to awake that morning and find him collapsed outside her door. His skin was gouged and torn and although he was drenched from the cold rain, it was not enough to wash the blood from his once beautiful fur.



Jasper pre-surgery

The woman immediately took action and called the SPCA for assistance, and arrangements were made to get the cat to a veterinary hospital. While receiving medical treatment, the cat did not fail to voice his thanks with a long deep purr. He was so happy to have caring people in his life again that he seemed to forget about his painful wounds.



Jasper post-surgery



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

The cat, now named Jasper, found refuge because someone intervened and took responsibility. Most of these stories do not end so happily.



Every day, a significant number of people within the Northern Virginia area move away from their residences and leave their cat or dog behind. These domestic animals are not equipped to survive on their own. Many are fertile, and continue to breed and create more homeless animals. On their own, they often die from starvation, disease, predators, or infections from untreated wounds.

Many people are indifferent to the suffering of abandoned pets, but are they aware of the law? Animal abandonment is illegal in the state of Virginia, a Class 1 Misdemeanor that carries penalties of up to twelve months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,500 if convicted.

You can help break this deadly cycle by telling everyone you know about the law, reporting violations if you witness them, and spaying/neutering your own pet to prevent unwanted litters. If you can no longer keep your pet, please act responsibly and find someone who can. As a last resort, take them to an area shelter where they will have food, a safe place to sleep, medical care when needed—and a chance at finding a home. Don't abandon your pet!



Jasper — happy, healthy & dreaming of a forever home

*I sat alone and so confused, staring at my empty home,
I cried all day and into the night wondering where they'd gone.
You see my family moved away that day and left me on my own,
They said, "Don't worry Kitty, one day you'll find another home."*



The SPCA of Northern Virginia is a private, non-profit organization. We do not receive any government funding or tax dollars. That is why we depend on the generosity of people just like you to contribute towards the care these animals need before we can make them available for adoption. Your donation will help others like Jasper who need emergency medical care and our commitment to find them a loving home.

Donations can be made easily using the form on the back cover, or to make a donation by credit card please visit our website www.spcanova.org

Please be as generous as possible.

The Flying Max

By Barbara Deathe

Almost 2½ years ago I adopted Max from the SPCA of Northern Virginia. I'd grown up with a dog, but had never had a dog to call my own. I'd been volunteering as a dog wrangler for a couple of years when I met Max.

Max had been picked up as a stray on the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, VA. The base officer in charge of animal control thought Max was a good dog and deserved to find a "forever home." When he was unsuccessful in finding a home for Max he called the SPCA of Northern Virginia for help. I met Max on his very first adoption day. At first I didn't think Max was that good looking for a dog; he kind of looks like a hyena. But very quickly I grew to love him and knew I had to find a way to adopt him. But first I had to find an apartment that: 1) I could afford and 2) accepted dogs...not an easy thing to do in this area. I finally found an apartment in Alexandria that I could afford and that would allow me to adopt Max, and he finally came to live with me in October of 2001.

Max has certainly changed my life. I never realized how many things you can do with a dog. Max has a LOT of energy. During the first few months it seemed he was in constant motion. I took him to the dog park at least once a day so he could get rid of some of that energy and socialize with the other dogs. The dog park was fun, but he still had extra energy and I wanted to be active with him.

A friend of mine recommended a dog sport called Flyball. My first question was, what is Flyball? Well Flyball is a relay race with 4 dogs on a team. The course consists of a starting line, 4 hurdles spaced 10 feet apart and a box. The first hurdle is 6 feet from the start line and the box is 15 feet from the last hurdle for a 51 foot overall length. The dog jumps the hurdles and steps on a spring-loaded box that shoots out a tennis ball. The dog catches the tennis ball and then runs back over the 4 hurdles. When the dog crosses the starting line the next dog goes. The first team to have all 4 dogs run without errors wins the heat (there are usually 3 or 5 heats per race). The



Max

fastest teams in North America can run this course in under 16 seconds!

I thought this would be perfect for Max, everything he loves—running and jumping (his addiction to balls came with flyball training). Little did I know that this "dog sport" would come to mean a lot to both of us. It took several months to train Max on the various aspects of the

sport but we both benefited from spending more time together. I found that by working so much with Max on flyball he became much more attuned to me and I to him. Being around our team members at least once a week and then going to tournaments helped to improve his social skills with both people and dogs.

Max's first Flyball Tournament was a learning experience for both of us. I learned we had a lot more work to do. The first time he raced, he ran around the outside of the racing ring after getting the ball, completely ignoring me! Max learned that most tournament sites have a "wading pool" for the dogs to cool off, and that it was great fun to be around so many dog lovers (he greeted everyone that came near him).

Yes, adopting Max has certainly changed my life. I'm meeting more people and getting out and doing things I'd never thought of before. Max and I went on a Hound Hike recently with the Northern Virginia Hiking Club, and there is also a hiking club that is specifically for people with dogs, called K9 Trailblazers. It's amazing the activities you can participate in with your dog, if you just look hard enough.

For more info about flyball go to:

FBI's team web page - <http://www.flyball-fbi.com/>

The mother of all flyball websites - <http://flyballdogs.com/>

North American Flyball Association - <http://www.flyball.org/>

For more info about hiking with your dog, go to:

K9 Trailblazers - <http://www.k9trailblazers.org/>

For more info about Hound Hikes in NoVA go to:

NoVA Hiking Club - <http://members.aol.com/nvhc/>

Give a Shy Kitty a Chance to Shine

By Debbie Berry

Some cats and kittens are immediately comfortable in a new home. They love everyone and want to be a part of everything. Almost anyone can adopt one of these kitties. Love, of course, is an absolute requirement, but little special effort is necessary from their human companions.

Some cats and kittens are shy and afraid. Maybe the kitty had been on its own for a long time and chased from place to place. Maybe it was mistreated or neglected by the humans who were supposed to love and care for it. These special kitties need special human companions. Are you patient? Can you appreciate building a relationship slowly and gently? Do you like a challenge? Do you have an extra big heart? If this describes you, then maybe you could give a shy kitty a chance at a loving home.

I have four cats, 3 of which I adopted from the SPCA of NoVa. Daisy and Sabrina are outgoing and interact with anyone who comes to visit. Anna and Patty immediately run for cover at a strange voice, a knock, or ring of the doorbell. Some of my friends have never seen them and have doubts that they really exist. I love all my cats, but my relationship with Anna and Patty is especially satisfying.

When my cat Claire passed on after a serious illness, leaving Daisy without a feline playmate, I began searching for a new friend for both Daisy and myself. I met many cats, both outgoing and shy. I saw one cat, Anna, repeatedly at SPCA NoVa adoption fairs. She had been with the SPCA for quite a long time. While at the adoption fairs she would sit in her kitty bed, terrified and unmoving. People often asked her foster mother if she was a real cat or a stuffed animal. Anna is definitely a real cat, and a wonderful one at that! She just needed someone to give her a chance to shine. I wasn't sure that I was that someone or even had enough patience, but I really wanted to try.

Anna spent the first month under the bed in my guest room. She had a radio to listen to and every day I would visit with her a couple of times for a half hour or so. I usually brought a book in and lay on the bed or on the floor. Gradually, Anna would peek out and sneak a look at me. Anna was shy, but as curious as any other cat. Next, she began sitting in the window and began lying on top of the bed but



Anna

just out of reach. Most days brought a tiny step in the right direction. It was a giant milestone when she "asked" to be petted.

Today Anna loves me to brush her, to be held and cuddled, and she loves to sleep on the bed with me. She has become

quite affectionate and generously offers kitty kisses. Anna is a warm and loving part of my home and family. I invested my time and heart into building a relationship with Anna, and she has paid that back many times over. Some kitties are comfortable everywhere and love everyone. Anna has a special love that is just for me.

From time to time, the SPCA of Northern Virginia has cats in their care that are shyer than most. Anna was one of these. We currently have another shy kitty that is looking for a patient, loving home. Her name is Tabitha. Maybe you have seen her on our website?

She is a sweet brown/white tabby approx. 2-3 years old. A victim of abandonment, struggling to survive herself, she soon



Tabitha

had a litter of kittens to care for as well. Luckily for Tabitha, a kind person began feeding her and the kittens and contacted us for assistance.

Tabitha has developed a real appreciation for being brushed and will roll over with joy. She has become quite playful and continues to blossom. Now all Tabitha needs is a forever home of her own. Please look into your heart, and see if there is place in your home for Tabitha to shine.



The SPCA of Northern Virginia rescues many dogs and cats throughout the year that without our help would never find happiness. Some cats and dogs find homes immediately, while others remain in foster homes or our kennel waiting for their chance at true happiness. Won't you please find it in your heart to offer one of these wonderful pets a home of their own forever?

Searching For Happiness:



Patsy

Meet Patsy...

She's one of the sweetest dogs you'll ever know. A loving, laid-back dog, Patsy is a 3-4 year old lab mix. She's a bit of a couch potato...not a high-energy dog. She is extremely loving to people, including children. Patsy is a highly trainable dog who wants to please, and she's crate trained, too! Patsy needs to be the only dog in her home. If you're looking for a great family dog, look no further. Come meet Patsy at our next adoption day!



Prince

Prince is a big, beautiful long-haired orange and white male cat, born in March 2002. He is friendly, playful and a wonderful companion who will greet you at the door each day. Prince purrs almost continuously and loves to rub up against your leg to show his affection. He also likes to sit perched on a special living room chair like a “little prince.” He actively plays with toys, often dragging them from room to room. Prince has a lot of kitten spunk and can become carried away in his playful antics. For this reason, Prince requires a home with an experienced cat owner(s) who will love him for who he is and understand that he has two sides . . . The Majestic Prince and The Machiavellian Prince.

As a kitten, Prince was adopted from a shelter by a man who later chose to move into an apartment complex that didn't allow pets. His “dad's” response was to abandon him at an SPCA adoption fair. Once in our care, it became all too clear that as a kitten, his former owner must have encouraged inappropriate play with hands and feet. Prince seems to enjoy chasing feet going up/down stairs and will sometimes lay in wait to pounce as you round a corner. While his current foster home has had much success in altering this behavior from frequent to occasionally, under the direction of an animal behaviorist, his new owner must continue teaching Prince what is acceptable and what is not, as he will undoubtedly try to “see what he can get away with” in a new environment. All things aside, he truly is a terrific cat and has a very loving personality 95% of the time. When the right home comes along, the SPCA is committed to working with that person to ensure a successful forever relationship! If you would like to learn more about Prince please contact us—you won't be disappointed!

WWW.SPCANOVA.ORG

Visit our site to see a few of the many terrific cats and dogs now available.

Pavarotti "Sings the Blues"

By Kathleen MacKinnon



Pavarotti has a beautiful voice. And, I'm not talking about Luciano! I'm talking about a big grey and white cat named Pavarotti. He

has a beautiful voice too...I just wish I had realized sooner that my feline friend was "singing the blues."

Before daybreak in the midst of Hurricane Isabel, I woke up to a singing, whining, crying sound. At first, I thought it was a baby crying. My neighbors had a three week old baby so I thought to myself they must be out on their deck with the baby. Then I realized nobody in his or her right mind would have a newborn baby outside in the midst of a hurricane! It was pitch black outside, still raining, the wind was fierce, and the electricity was out.

Once I got my bearings straight, I realized this sound must be a cat. I sat up in bed and started counting...one, two, three. Ok, all three of my cats were in my room and accounted for. I figured something must have been going on downstairs in my "cat room." I walked downstairs and could see that my three foster kittens were a little "riled up" but not making a peep. Then I looked out of my ground level basement window and saw a big grey and white cat sitting there...singing! It was very peculiar. He didn't appear aggressive or in distress. He was just sitting there, looking into the room...singing! After a few minutes of talking to the cat through the window, he wandered away. I thought it was odd that he was out in the storm, but he didn't seem distressed. I didn't feel safe going outside in the middle of the storm to investigate, so I made a mental note to look for the cat at daybreak.

Several days passed before I heard Pavarotti singing again. The same scenario. He arrived in the wee hours of the morning, sat in front of my "cat room" window, and sang! This time I went outside with a

flashlight and brought him some food. Pavarotti repeated these performances sporadically over the next several weeks. Each time I got out of bed, went outside, gave him a pat on the head, and left food. After several encounters, he started eating and began appearing more frequently. Always at 3, 4 or 5 in the morning. Although he looked well in appearance and never appeared ravished, I concluded that even if he did belong to someone, he had no business being outside at all hours. Therefore, I began talking with neighbors and contacting area shelters and quickly confirmed that he was homeless. Arrangements were put in place to get him to a vet office to be examined and then placed in an SPCA foster home.

During Pavarotti's vet examination, I learned he was declawed and suffered from a broken back leg. The leg had not been set and had healed on its own. This led us to believe it had been broken while he was living outside fending for himself. Luckily, it had healed well enough that surgery was not needed. Unfortunately, x-rays revealed that two of his previously declawed front claws were growing back, subjecting him to pain and possible infection. Because of this, Pavarotti underwent surgery to repair the damage caused by the declawing.



Pavarotti

It was sad enough to learn that Pavarotti had suffered a broken leg. He must have been in terrible pain. But it was even worse that he had been purposely declawed. Many people don't realize that declawing is not only unnecessary...its cruel!

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Scratching is a natural behavior for cats as well as essential to their well-being. It exercises their paws, legs, and removes the outer layer of their claws. And, frankly, stretching, clawing and scratching just plain feels good! Most cats can be easily trained to only scratch on "appropriate" things. All it takes is the proper training and a little patience.

Declawing is actually "de-toeing," "toe-docking," or "de-fingering." Claw, bone, tendons and ligaments are amputated to the first knuckle of each toe. Imagine if someone did this to your fingers and toes. You would feel tremendous pain and be physically hampered for the rest of your life. This is exactly what declawing does to cats. A declawed cat suffers physical pain. They have to learn to walk all over again, and can never walk, run, climb or stretch normally. In addition, many declawed cats suffer irreversible psychological problems. Some declawed cats become biters. Others become nervous and anxiety ridden. This is because they feel like they cannot properly defend themselves. If more people were better educated about declawing, there would be far fewer cats subjected to this unnecessary pain and suffering. The U.S. is the only country in the world where cats are routinely declawed. In fact, declawing is illegal and

considered inhumane in many European countries. To learn more about declawing and how to train your cat to use a scratching post, go to the SPCA cat behavior page at www.spcanova.org.

We can only speculate how Pavarotti ended up outside, alone and fending for himself. We don't know if he was lost or purposely abandoned. We don't know how long he lived outside. Our vet estimates he is about 5 years old. Luckily,



he has shown no signs of being aggressive or having trouble walking. He has recovered well from the surgery to repair his amputated claws. However, we do know that he has suffered unnecessarily...from the declawing, the broken leg, and his search for food, shelter, and a new home. Pavarotti is a very sweet and loving cat and the SPCA is committed to finding him a home that will last a lifetime.

Prevent Pet Parenthood!

Neuter and Spay, It's the kindest way.
For low cost spay/neuter information contact:



- **Everyone qualifies.**
- **Services available in your local area.**
- **Provided by participating veterinarians.**

(703) 522-7920

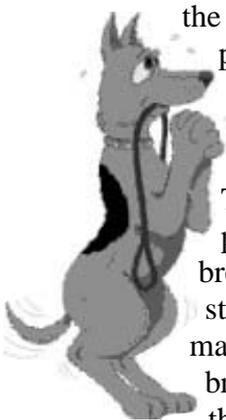
WWW.SPAY.ORG

Once Upon a Time...

By Carol Levie

Once Upon a Time...

in a land called “Wedidn’tknowanybetter,” people used some very strange methods to train their dogs. If



the dog had an accident in the house, the people would rub their noses into it. If the dog got on the furniture or chewed a valued object, he would get hit with a rolled-up newspaper. There were other uses for newspapers, too. People used them to housebreak their dogs, but could not understand why the dog could not then make the transition to outdoor housebreaking. Sadly, some remnants of this culture remain today.

The “age of enlightenment” in dog training began around the second World War, though it took many years to catch on with the general public. The military began using reward-based training methods that, simply put, consisted of (1) show the dog what you want him to do, (2) reward the desired behavior, and (3) reprimand, correct, or punish undesired behavior. The correction or punishment was not necessarily severe; it certainly wasn’t anything like hitting the dog with a rolled-up newspaper. Usually, it consisted of a “corrective jerk,” a quick tightening of a training collar...just enough to get the dog’s attention and to make him realize that his behavior was not correct. And it worked.

And so the method spread throughout the land. The military trainers begat civilian trainers. And the civilian trainers begat apprentices who, in turn, became trainers in their own right. But something wasn’t working. Many of the dogs these civilian trainers were working with were not responding to the train-

ing! Some became depressed; some became fearful. Others became outright aggressive. What was wrong? It took many years before some highly respected animal behaviorists were able to understand and address these traditional training methods and their pitfalls. Through their efforts, a new training method evolved. This method did not involve correction. Instead, it worked by rewarding desired behavior, distracting the dog from unwanted behaviors, and managing the dog’s behavior in a nonconfrontational, nonthreatening manner. Yes, it’s a little more involved than traditional obedience training. And yes, it may take longer to achieve desired results. But it’s easy and fun, for both the human and the dog. And it works...for both basic obedience training as well as dealing with problem behaviors!

As someone who spent many years doing “traditional” training with my dogs, and who has experienced the benefits of switching to the positive-reinforcement methods, I invite you to investigate these newer methods. My extremely dog-aggressive German Shepherd no longer lunges when she sees another dog. Instead, as soon as the other dog is within sight, she sits and looks at me. What joy! She’s happy. I’m happy. Life is good.

If you would like to learn more about positive-reinforcement training methods—for either general obedience training or specific problem solving—call the SPCA to find a trainer near you. Or check out some of these books to get you started:

Culture Clash, by Jean Donaldson.

Dogs Are from Neptune, by Jean Donaldson.

Don’t Shoot the Dog, by Karen Pryor.

Excel-erated Learning, by Pamela Reid.

The Other End of the Leash, by Patricia McConnell

A Great and Simple Dog Treat

Does your dog like Frosty Paws™? Try this for an easy and inexpensive treat:

1 32-ounce container of vanilla yogurt

1 ripe banana, mashed

2 T. honey

2 T. peanut butter

Mix all ingredients until blended. Pour into ice cube trays and freeze.

This amount will fill approximately 2 ½ ice cube trays.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Fundraising is such an essential part of the SPCA. We are not just raising money—we are raising awareness. Each function or event we attend as a group spreads our message. These events also bring the volunteer network closer together on a common level of interest—the animals! Several fundraising events are in the works. We need your help to make all this happen. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer for an event. Give us a call—(703) 799-9390 Or sign up for an event via our website—www.spcanova.org

Upcoming Event

• **5K Mutt Strutt—The SPCA of Northern Virginia will be joining Paws & Claws Animal Rescue at the Reston Center Town Center on May 1 for their 3rd annual 5K Mutt Strutt.** First 200 people get a FREE T-shirt and goody bag! We will also have discounted rabies vaccines and micro-chipping, bake sale, silent auction and more. The SPCA of NoVA will have a booth in the nonprofit area, so be sure to visit. A great day for a great cause! We hope to see many of our SPCA alumni Struttin' their Mutt—so register now!

- **Date & Time:** Saturday May 1 at 9:30 AM (on site registration and check-in from 8:30AM- 9:30AM).
Location: Reston Town Center. Check in at the Visitor Center. 5K walk will be on the W & OD trail.
Cost: \$20 pre-registration (post marked by April 26th) or \$25 onsite registration on May 1!
Proceeds: SPCA of Northern Virginia and Paws & Claws Animal Rescue

**Dogs must have current vaccinations *No female dogs in heat *No retractable leashes *Dogs must be leashed and under control at all times *Walkers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult *Multiple people may walk the same dog for one fee.*

----- Cut Here ----- Cut Here ----- Cut Here -----



5K Mutt Strutt



Tell us about yourself (Please print clearly):

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____@_____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ T-shirt size (circle one) M L XL

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to cover _____ #of registrants

Dog name _____ Sex M F Neutered Y N

Predominant Breed _____ Age _____

How did you hear about our walk? _____

You may send your signed waiver, and pre-registration application (must be postmarked no later than April 26th) and a minimum donation of \$20.00 (checks payable to Paws & Claws Animal Rescue) to: Paws & Claws Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 2504, Reston, VA 20195

I understand that participating in the Mutt Strutt includes an element of risk for both my dog and myself. I agree to assume all risks and waive all claims against Paws and Claws Animal Rescue and SPCA of Northern Virginia, their volunteers, sponsors, and event promoters should any injury or liability occur. I grant full permission to the foregoing to use my or my dogs name and photograph without obligation.

X _____
signature of participant (waiver)



GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

In Memory Of

KERRY ABERNETHY

Nancy Herndon

LYNN BURROUGHS

Gail Hubbard & Neil Kline

JACKIE

Susan Frikken

LACEY ELIZABETH HARMS

Chesapeake Regional Title Group, Inc

Goodwin & Slugg, Plc

Thompson & Associates, Ltd

DILLIAN LAFFERTY

Mary Portelly

MARIE MEARS

Alan & Beulah Levy

Francis and Margaret Harvey

Karen Rice

FREDERICK MICHELS

SYS Technologies and it's Crystal City employees

BRIAN MURPHY

Brian Bulman

SPCA Dog Volunteers

Mary Portelly

Matt & Terri Latham

MALLEY OUTLAW

Deborah Outlaw

SARA OVERBAGH

Bernard Gartlan

BRUCE RICHARDSON

Anne Shackelford

John Rushton

Louise Richardson

LEON SAVITT

Maria Eanes

VIRGINIA ULRICH

Paul & Joli Huelskamp

DONNA WICKER

Alice Swalm

Diane Farris

Florence Richardson

Helen Eby

Joanne Gasper

Dallas Wicker's Sunday School Class

Mark & Liz Martin

Michael & Malisa Gatje

Sue Grover

TUCKER ZAHARAK

Nancy Stewart

"KING"

Kevin Barlow

"SAMMY"

Sarah & Rob Bowers

"BABS"

Susan Frikken

"TUK TUK"

Val Garcia

Dobies "JAKE" & "GUNNER"

Nancy Herndon

"LUKE"

Debra Hollander

"SNOOKERS"

Linda Jeffers

"SAMANTHA"

Alma Mcchesney

"HEATHER" & "SUGAR"

Dana Meeker

"SHADOW" & "SAMMY"

Becky Monnot

"BOUNCY" BEARD

Mrs. Edward J Murty

"GINO" WILSON a good boy

Mrs. Edward J Murty

"SMOKEY" SIKES

Sherry Owensby

In Loving Memory of "BUSTER"

David Reser & Don Swope

"TOFU" & "JENNY"

Mr. & Mrs. John Roby

"SOPHIE" & "BOSCOE BUDDY BEAR" SHIFLET

Bill, Cheryl & Courtney Shiflet

"SMOKEY" SIKES

David Sikes

"BOBBIN"

Allon Stern

"SAPPHO"

Helene Stikkel

"BEKA LEE" SMELTZ

Kathleen Tardiff

"SAMMY" our beautiful bold leader cat

Kristina Wright

"SIMBA" our beloved husky

Michael & Brenda Young

"MOUSSIE"

Anna Zakarija



GIFTS IN REMEMBRANCE

In Honor Of

NIGEL, BETH & PEARL AZER

Jonathan Alfert

MELISSA & JEFF PANDIN

Anonymous

GULLIVER GLEASON

Meghan Barry

DEBBIE BERRY

Robert & Virginia Berry

Susan Berry

Their adopted shelter dog "BEE BEE"

Anthony & Donna Lee Cluff

"EBONY" my rescued Rottie

Barbara Cohen

DOUG FITZGERALD & "MAX"

Lynann Dumas

DEBORAH SAVITT

Maria Eanes

RICHARD FITZGERALD & SUZANNE STEPHENSON

Laura Fitzgerald

LESLIE GRABOWSKI'S PARENTS & SISTER

Joe & Leslie Grabowski

"POSSUM" COOMBS the strongest kitty I know

Karen & Mark Helm

WALLY & BELLE

Linda Jeffers

"ABBY" the love of our lives

Fred & Jill Keown-De La Sobera

ANNE & BILL GUERRANT

Megan Kiernan

"MOLLY"

Theodore Kim

"Cha-Cha"

Anthony Rowland

SPCA thank you for the help with "Mimi"

James & Chizu Kraska

VIBHU & LEILA

Sarah Lockwood

MARILYN CAMPBELL

Susan Manley

PENNY VAUGHN, "FESTUS", "MEGGY" & "JOSIE"

Kelly Matthews

PENNY VAUGHN

James McIntyre

SUSAN HANLEY

Barb O'Bryen

"CHARLIE" & "MINA"

Kevin & Julia Rafalko

EDITH VON STUEMER

Janet M Rasmussen

Mary Ellen Steinberg

CAROL LEVIE for a holiday gift

Rosalind Rickels

ANN BOGAT for a holiday gift

Carl & Rosemary Scott

PROFESSIONAL PAWS

Karen Smith

GABBY GERST

Mark Stover

MS. KITTY MELVIN'S 25th anniversary with UNIRISC

UNIRISC

Sammy's Brothers & Sisters: "SCOOTER", "EDI",

"TYLER", "SONJA", "FRITZY" & "NANAO"

Kristina Wright

"MIMI" & "GIGI"

Anna Zakarija



The SPCA welcomes donations made in honor or in memory of someone special in your life. Please include with your gift the name and address of the person you would like notified of your donation, along with the name of the person or pet being honored or remembered.





2004 CAT ADOPTION SCHEDULE

12:00 - 3:00
(schedule is subject to change)

WHEN

Sunday	May 2
Saturday	May 15
Saturday	May 29
Sunday	June 6
Saturday	June 19
Saturday	June 26
Sunday	July 11
Saturday	July 17
Saturday	July 24
Sunday	August 1
Saturday	August 14
Saturday	August 28
Sunday	September 5
Saturday	September 18
Saturday	September 25
Sunday	October 3
Saturday	October 16
Saturday	October 30
Sunday	November 7
Saturday	November 20
Saturday	November 27
Sunday	December 5
Saturday	December 11
Saturday	December 18

WHERE

Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield
Fairfax
Alexandria
Springfield

LOCATIONS

ALEXANDRIA
 Petsmart
 Potomac Yard Shopping Center
 3351 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
 (703) 739-4844

FAIRFAX
 Petco
 10708 Lee Hwy.
 (703) 352-3300

SPRINGFIELD
 Petsmart
 6535 Frontier Drive
 (703) 922-4990

Visit our site to see some of the many cats and dogs available.



A new best friend could be waiting.



2004 DOG ADOPTION SCHEDULE

12:30 - 3:00

(schedule is subject to change)



WHEN

Saturday	May 8
Saturday	May 22
Saturday	June 12
Saturday	June 26
Saturday	July 10
Saturday	July 24
Saturday	August 14
Saturday	August 28
Saturday	September 11
Saturday	September 25
Saturday	October 9
Saturday	October 23
Saturday	November 6
Saturday	November 20
Saturday	December 4
Saturday	December 18

WHERE

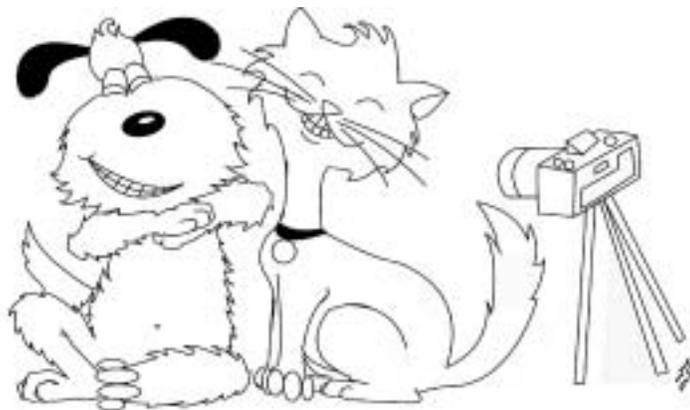
Fairfax

LOCATION

FAIRFAX
Weber's Pet Supermarket
11021 Lee Hwy
(703) 385-3766

**Remember the SPCA
with your Combined
Federal Campaign &
United Way Donations
Designate No. 8155**





Friends For Life Pet Photo Contest 2005 SPCA Calendar

Want *your* Friend For Life to appear in the 2005 SPCA Calendar? Enter our Pet Photo Contest!

Once again, the SPCA of Northern Virginia will be printing a calendar for 2005 featuring the pets of our friends and supporters. All photos that meet our specifications are guaranteed to be part of the Friends For Life montage, and the best thirteen photos that we receive will earn places of honor on the cover of the calendar, or as one of the monthly pin-ups. To enter, send your pet's photo (see specifications), plus a check for \$15, to the address below. If you have multiple pets, you may send more than one photo, but each photo you submit costs \$15.

Specifications:

- ◆ All photos must be **horizontal**, not vertical, to be considered for the pin-ups or the cover.
- ◆ Vertical photos will become part of the montage, only.
- ◆ Minimum size 3 1/2 x 5.
- ◆ Photos must be of pets only; no people should appear.
- ◆ No Polaroid photos.
- ◆ No retouching will be done; however, photos may be cropped to enhance the pet.
- ◆ If you have digital photos, the following requirements must be met:
 - ◇ If your digital camera is a 3 megapixel or greater model, submit your images on a CD as TIFF (*.tif, *.tiff) or JPEG (*.jpg, *.jpeg) files. The images must be exactly the size and pixel dimension that they are when you take them. *Do not reduce them in size, or increase the resolution.*
 - ◇ If your digital camera is LESS than a 3 megapixel model, please take your camera's memory card to a professional photo store (like MotoPhoto or Ritz), have the photo printed at the largest size they recommend, and send that print.
 - ◇ Print a copy of your image and include it with the CD, to be used FOR JUDGING PURPOSES ONLY. We cannot accept digital images printed on your photo printers for the contest. Though they may look perfect, the end result is unacceptable for high-resolution professional printing. If home-printed digital photos are submitted, they will be included in the montage, but will not be considered for the contest.
- ◆ Do not write on the back of photos. Attach a sticky note with the pet's name and address.
- ◆ Submission of a photo constitutes authorization for the SPCA of Northern Virginia to use submitted photo for fundraising purposes in the calendar.
- ◆ All photos become the property of the SPCA of Northern Virginia, and will not be returned.
- ◆ Deadline for photo submission is June 30, 2004.

For tips on taking good pet photos, see www.enchantedfantasies.com/tips.html, or www.petsinpastel.com/photo.htm.

Questions? Email Leslie at novaspca@yahoo.com

Send your photo, with your check for \$15, to:

SPCA of Northern Virginia
P.O. Box 10504
Arlington, VA 22210-1504



SPCA of Northern Virginia
 Post Office Box 10504
 Arlington, VA 22210-1504
 Phone: 703-799-9390
 Email: SPCANOVA@aol.com



Receiving more than one copy of our newsletter? Moving?

Mail forwarding greatly increases the cost of our mailings. You can help us keep our administrative costs down by notifying us directly of changes in address. Please call or write us so that we can update our records. You may also use the newsletter subscription form on our web site www.spcanova.org to notify us of changes.

Do you have a vehicle that you no longer want or need?



Would you like to dispose of that vehicle, gain a tax deduction, and benefit the SPCA at the same time? Donate it!

It's easy, and your unwanted car can help us save animals' lives. For more information, please visit our website at www.spcanova.org, or send an e-mail message to spcanova_cars@yahoo.com. You may also call the SPCA at (703) 799-9390 and leave a message.

We accept most vehicles—in almost any condition—and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. We will arrange for pickup at a convenient time. All it takes is a call!



Thank you!

SPCA of Northern Virginia
www.spcanova.org
 (703) 799-9390

A Special Thank-You to Those Supporters Who Made Our Third Annual Campaign A SUCCESS!

Richard Allen
 Virginia Allen
 Lynn Ashe
 Ronald Bettauer
 Rob & Juli Boyer
 Christopher Brazier
 Christopher & Krista Britton
 Lori Burkhart
 Walter Cardenas & Anna Walters
 Yukiko Carnes
 Cheryl Chick
 Chris & Susan Collins
 Moira Cowan
 Linda Custer
 Jeanette Davias
 Louise Davidson
 Marc, Mary Beth & Sheena Deluca
 Matt & Heather Dietrich
 Domenick & Pearl Dipasquale
 Bob & Cathy Eaglen
 Isabelle Eitzel
 Evelyn Elgin
 Richard & Joy H.W. Ellis
 C.R. & M.M. Emmling
 Melissa Fellows
 Carol Goldstone
 Mary Goodspeed

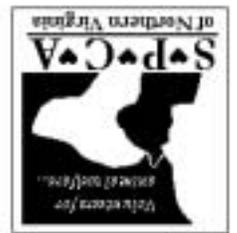
Leslie & Joe Grabowski
 David Harris
 Nick Harrison & Terry Ihnat
 Paul & Sandee Haskell
 Richard Haynes
 Sheryl Herauf
 Nancy Herndon
 David & Gay Holmes
 Katharine Hood
 Kimberly Horn & Guiseppa Fazio
 John & Carole Hunter
 Lyle Jentzer
 Fred & Jill Keown-De La Sobera
 Betsy Klingbeil
 Susan Klypchak
 Scott & Sheila Koch
 Danielle Lee
 Mary Lekander
 Carol Levie
 Danny & Sara Litts
 Dawn Lutz
 Lois Lynn
 Rob Madurski
 Anthony & Lauri Malacarne
 Susan Manus
 Doris & Milt Margolis
 Bob & Maggie Markham
 Ralph & Theresa Marston

Kathryn Martin
 Gillian Mcphee
 Jane Meadows
 Dana Meeker
 James & Velvet Moroney
 Monica Muench
 Neil & Diane Murphy
 Mrs. Edward Murty
 Katharine Norris
 Deidre O'Hara
 Laura Ost
 Laurie & Kelly Parkhill
 Shannon Pazar
 Mary Portelly
 Lisa Potter
 Carole Radin-Absalon
 Virginia Rainey
 Bonnie Ramsey
 Kimberly Reubush
 Mr. & Mrs. John Roby
 Carl & Rosemary Scott
 Sarah Scott
 Leonard Sherp & Luann Jacobs
 Philip & Jo Anne Singley
 Carol Smith
 Kallie Speller
 Jerry & Larry Spellman
 David & Carol Stinson

Dianne Tomasek
 Chad & Beth Underkoffler
 Shirley Underwood
 Penny Vaughn
 Ron Villafranco
 Cim Weiss
 Greg & Melissa West
 Anna Zakarija

The SPCA of Northern Virginia is grateful for the generous monies raised on our behalf by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Address Service Requested
Arlington, VA 22210
PO Box 10504



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Merrifield, VA 22116
Permit No. 1185

THE ANIMALS NEED YOU

Please fill out this form and send it to:

SPCA of Northern Virginia, P.O. Box 10504, Arlington, VA 22210-1504

Yes, I want to help the animals. My check is enclosed for: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

I am interested in volunteering. Please send a volunteer form.

One-year membership

Associate Membership—\$10.00

Active/Voting Membership—\$20.00

Donations

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other \$ _____

Special Donations

Bequest (Please send me information)

Memorial Gift (In memory of: _____)

(In honor of: _____)