

THE GRAY MUZZLE TIMES

Saving One Dog At A Time

8336 WB&A Road, Severn, MD 21144

443.742.0270

Volume 4

February 2018

Edition 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

♥♥ OPEN HOUSE AT SDS ♥♥

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm
8336 WB & A Rd, Severn MD

Join us for a brief history about our Sanctuary followed by tours of the facility. See you there!

🐾 FUNDRAISER! 🐾

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 from 10:00am - 4:00pm
Cut-A-Thon Fundraiser at Illuminate Salon

1015 Generals Highway, Crownsville
100% of proceeds go to SDS!
Check our website for details!

🦴 ADOPTION EVENTS 🦴

COME MEET SOME OF OUR WONDERFUL SENIORS!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Pet Valu - Pasadena from 11am-1pm
4115 Mountain Rd, Pasadena, MD

Dog Spotlight - Roxi and Yoda

Hi. Meet Roxi and Yoda. They are a bonded pair of white Schnauzers. Their owner couldn't take care of them and they were in poor condition when they came to SDS. Roxi was in a diaper when she came in for "incontinence." However, when the vet ordered an x-ray, two extremely large bladder stones were found and quickly removed. Extremely large is not an exaggeration. She has recovered well, and she has no need for diapers anymore!

Both of these pups were in need of vetting, proper nutrition, and loving care. They came in a bit stand-offish, but they are both warming up to the staff and volunteers and are enjoying a new level of care. Roxi and Yoda, you have come a long way. Now we just need to find your forever home!



Come Visit Us! We have a monthly open house with a tour the first Saturday of each month from 12 pm to 2 pm. We have visiting hours from 10-3 every day. Call us at 443-742-0270 for more information. See you there!

Happy Tails...Skinner By Susan Razik



Above left, Skinner at Martin State Airport with Debbie and Jess. Right, on adoption day!

Skinner was in a North Carolina shelter. The volunteers knew there was something special about him. When his time at the shelter was reaching critical mass, they sprung him! A volunteer paid to have him boarded at a vet hospital able to take him. Then, the same folks who sent Ginnie and Jay to us sent us a video of this handsome 45 pounder. It was determined while he was at the hospital that he was heartworm positive. Although SDS knew this would hinder his adoptability, they came through for this senior in need. A pilot from Pilots for Paws flew him into Martin State Airport from NC. Upon arrival, Skinner was afraid of the steps in the airport. A kind transport driver drove our SDS personnel and Skinner around the building to the SDS van so he could avoid the steps. She said she was glad to do it because it let her feel like she had a little part in saving his life. It really took a village to get him here. Skinner is now with his adopter. She has agreed to continue to his costly heartworm treatment. Skinner, have an awesome time with your new awesome mom!

Loving Last Home—Maximizing Quality at End of Life

By Arleen Talley

The British writer Clive Barker wrote that it takes a big heart to make beauty out of things that make us weep. Frequently, the first reaction to news of a terminal illness is tears. At least four big-hearted people associated with the Senior Dog Sanctuary have looked beyond their tears and created beauty in the lives of dogs reaching the end of their lives.

“Fospice,” for foster + hospice, is the gift of a foster home, love, and comfort care to a pet who still has a good quality of life. SDS provides the cost of food, veterinary care and medication for the pet and staff members provide emotional support for the human caregiver.

Skye, a beautiful white and gray beagle mix, had bright, sky-blue eyes. Those eyes and her demure demeanor melted Patty Mahaffey’s heart. Determined that Skye would not spend her last days in a kennel, Patty took her into fospice. She was rewarded for over a year with a girl who danced with excitement before a walk and caught green beans and carrots tossed to her from ten feet away. As Patty puts it, “I was good for Skye, but she was also good for me;” Skye helped Patty cope with the loss of her beloved 17-year-old long-hair chihuahua.

At Debbie and Mathew Gill’s house, Mona received fospice care not only from her human foster parents but also from “the poodle pack,” their three poodles, especially Carlee. This gentle dog taught Mona how to ring a bell to ask to go outside. By example, she showed Mona how enjoyable cuddles, both human and canine, were. After a time, Carlee and Mona curled up together to sleep each night for the rest of her 15 months with the Gills.

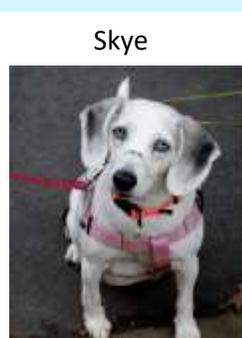
Poodle mix Lucy was much loved by her elderly owner until the latter’s death. Lucy found herself in a high-kill shelter when no one in the family wanted her. Enter Denise Piston, who said she was “determined to make the most out of however long I had with her.” 15-year-old Lucy began to eat, became stronger, and lived with Denise for almost a full year before succumbing to her kidney disease.

Certainly, fospice provides a loving last home for a dog. For their human fosters, too, it is a rewarding experience. Debbie and Mathew treasured their time with Mona because “we thought we were saving Mona, when really Mona had a few things to teach us before it was her time to go.” Patty did not regret for one second her choice to foster the blue-eyed dog with the big personality. “Skye really enjoyed her last year of life.” Denise found her experience with Lucy “so very rewarding.” She said she “would do it again in a heartbeat” and is now providing a fospice home for Roscoe.

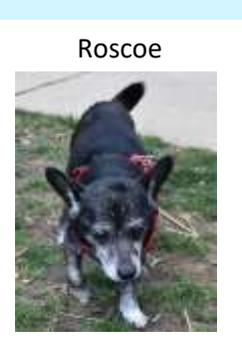
If you have room in your home and heart for a senior who might be short on time but long on love, please consider providing a loving last home. It is all about quality of life, the senior dog’s, and yours.



Mona



Lucy



The Origin of the Word Hospice—According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, “the term ‘hospice’ (from the same linguistic root as ‘hospitality’) can be traced back to medieval times when it referred to a place of shelter and rest for weary or ill travelers on a long journey.”

Staff Spotlight—Amy Tesar

By Susan Razik



Amy started working at the Sanctuary in October of 2018. She works here part time on weekends taking great care of our seniors. She brings a lot of experience. Not only is she mom to 4 senior dogs and 3 cats, but she worked as a veterinary technician for 11 years. This helps her give our pups a high level of care in-house.

She had a change in career when she started to work at Anne Arundel Medical Center helping breast cancer patients. She heard about SDS from her friend, our Kennel Manager, Hallie. When she first walked in the door, Amy remembers thinking, “These dogs are spoiled, and extremely well taken care of. Any dog would be lucky to be here!”

Amy is a Maryland girl through and through, even if she is a Steeler’s fan! She spends her free time hiking and camping with her husband and their brood of senior pups.

The Senior Dog Sanctuary has a way of attracting caring, kind, and compassionate people—and it’s happened again. We are very happy that Amy has joined the team and can help us continue to “spoil” our pups. We are “lucky” to have her here!

Thank you, Amy, for all you do for our senior pups.

Are you ready for the “Senior Prom?”

By Susan Razik

The 2nd annual “Senior Dog Prom” will be held at Kurtz’s Beach again this year. Put a hold on your calendar for March 30th. Tickets will be available shortly.

I know you are asking, “How can I help?” Glad you asked! There are plenty of things you could choose to do to help, including....

- Attend
- Invite your friends
- Donate items for silent auction gift baskets
- Help
 - Set up
 - Gather donations from businesses
 - Decorate
 - Check people in
 - Run the auctions
 - Transport dogs
 - Care for dogs
 - Have a great time
 - Clean up
 - And more

Keep your eye on the SDS Volunteer Facebook page for more information. It’s only with your help that this event can match or exceed the success of last year.

Put your dancing shoes on. You’re going to need them!

Did you know...By Eve Emerson

Dog's ears are "funnels" for sound that can hear from many directions and contain more than 18 muscles? We have all witnessed how our pups communicate with their ears. They can raise them high, pull them back, lay them tightly against their heads, and when you combine that with a head tilt - they are practically talking!! The Bark has an interesting article with 7 facts about dog's ears - worth reading!!

<https://thebark.com/content/7-amazing-facts-about-dogs-ears>



Samantha Muzzy with last year’s Queen Coco and King Sampson

Sanctuary Adds Medical Testing Capabilities

By Judy Whalley

The Senior Dog Sanctuary constantly looks for ways to improve care for our senior pups and reduce costs so that we may serve more seniors. This January, the Sanctuary purchased equipment that enables it to bring much of its medical testing in house, saving money and reducing stress on the dogs.

Rescue dogs often come into the Sanctuary with health issue, such as fecal parasites, urinary tract infections, or skin problems. These must be identified and treated before they can be adopted. Even dogs that appear healthy must be evaluated before they are placed in with the other dogs. Last year SDS built a special intake building where new dogs are evaluated in quarantine until they are determined to be healthy enough to be brought into the kennel. Before this month, all the necessary medical testing was done at local veterinary offices. This was costly, time consuming and stressful for the dogs. It also often took several days to get results, time the dogs would have to spend in quarantine. Seniors that were diagnosed and treated for non-contagious conditions, such as urinary tract infections, could be placed in the kennels, but often had to have follow-up testing at veterinary offices that was equally expensive, time-consuming and stressful.

Now the kennel managers can perform intestinal parasite, urinary, and skin scrape testing in the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary also began doing its own blood draws in January. The kennel managers can perform the 4dx Snap test which can detect heartworm, Lyme disease, or other tick transmitted diseases on those blood samples. If other blood tests are required, the samples must be sent out, but SDS has established a relationship with a reference lab that can provide results in less than 24 hours at a reduced price.

Hallie deserves a lot of the credit for this. Not only did she complete all the necessary documentation for SDS to be able to do the testing, she also met with the company to ensure we are meeting requirements and utilizing the equipment correctly. She is leading the charge to train the kennel staff to perform this testing and they are excited to be learning these new skills. This in-house medical testing is one more step forward for the Sanctuary in its mission to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home senior dogs in need.



Val Lynch bonding with Hot Shot

Bonding with an Older Rescue Pup - By Susan Razik

There is an article on iheartdogs.com written by Amber King (3/17/18) that focused on "5 Tips for Building an Unbreakable Bond with an Adult Rescue Dog." She wrote about how some people may be reluctant to rescue an older dog because they are worried that by not having raised the dog from a puppy, they won't be able to create a meaningful bond. Here are her tips to create that bond later in a dog's life, especially if the dog may have had some tough experiences. Remember, you can teach an old dog new love!

Tip 1—Be the most predictable person you can be. This helps them learn to trust again.

Tip 2—Commit to Obedience training. It helps with 2-way communication.

Tip 3—Get silly and play. Give them attention so they relate you with fun!

Tip 4—Focus on touching and talking. But give the new member of the family some space too.

Tip 5—Lose all expectations. Each dog has its own timeline and its own personality.

To read the entire article visit <https://iheartdogs.com/5-tips-for-building-an-unbreakable-bond-with-an-adult-rescue-dog/>.

Some of our Adoptable Seniors

Do you have a home for us?



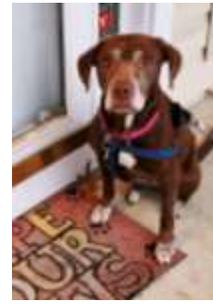
Dani



Suki



Angel



Rose



Smokey



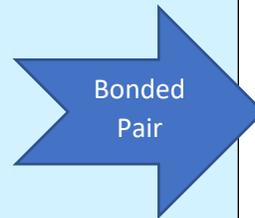
Gayle



Bubba



Mickey



Champion and Missy

Congratulations to our Staff and Volunteers Celebrating Anniversaries this Month!

Volunteers:

Three years

Pam B., Bill B., and Linda B.

Two years

Susan K., Cathie B., and Leann

One year

Sarah A., Jennifer C., and Aliyah C.

Our wonderful staff and volunteers make it possible to carry out our mission to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home senior dogs. Thanks so much.

Keep in Touch!

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