



Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue is a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) animal welfare organization dedicated to rescuing and re-homing English Springer Spaniels through rescue, rehabilitation, training, humane education, and community outreach.

Score Points for Springers

Come one, come all! And even if you don't play golf, please consider volunteering! MAESSR's 6th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at the beautiful Kiskiack Golf Course near Williamsburg, Virginia. This year's Captain's Choice tournament will commence with registration at 8am and a shotgun start at 9am. The entry fee, which is \$300 per team and \$75 for individuals, includes green fees, cart, practice balls, and a delicious lunch. There will be raffles, free range balls, and other prizes. Single golfers are welcome. MAESSR alumni will be on hand at the tournament, which is one of our organization's major fundraising events.



Please consider supporting MAESSR's Annual Golf Tournament by participating as a golfer or volunteer, donating a raffle prize or gift item, by becoming a hole sponsor, or simply making a

donation! Online registration is available at www.MAESSR.org/special-events. Registration information, checks, and donations may be sent to MAESSR c/o John Keegan, 104 South Cove Court, Williamsburg, VA 23188.



Who's That Volunteer? Heather McAuliffe!

LINDA PLATE

Heather Young McAuliffe is no stranger to rescue. She's a very dedicated and valuable volunteer with many years of experience and an overabundance of love. Heather recalls that her love of Springers began back in 2001, when her family's first Springer, Blue, was diagnosed with cancer. She says, "It was the very saddest moment for all of us. Here we were, three adults, my mom, my brother, and me, all totally in love with this dog. He went hunting with my brother, spent weekends galivanting to various friends' houses and pools, and spent each night navigating from bed to bed to ensure he spent time with each sleeping human in the house." She added, "He was a lover, a great hunter, a comedian, an adventurer, and a loyal best friend to each of us." After his diagnosis, Blue moved out of the family home and into Heather's apartment so he could be nearer to Penn, where he was getting his treatments. Although Heather's landlord usually didn't allow dogs as fulltime residents, he made Blue an exception to the rule. It was while living there with Blue that Heather realized that she never wanted to be without a dog. She also found MAESSR around that time and began helping at rescue events and conducting adoption interviews.

Heather eventually found an apartment in a home with some friends that also loved dogs. At the time MAESSR was caring for a litter of puppies that appeared to be a mix of Springer and Labrador Retriever—"Springadors." Heather fondly remembers the day when Monica, MAESSR's then-acting President, called and offered her "Sam." With



the looks of a black Lab and an English Springer, Heather felt that he was perfect. Shortly thereafter, she bought a home, where she and Tully (formerly Sam) could live. Only two days before her big move, Heather learned of a Springer in a South Jersey shelter that was in dire need of help. She quickly put aside her personal agenda and drove there to save that dog. Chloe, as she was called, hopped into the car, gave her a big old Springer smile, and never looked back at the life she had left behind. Chloe and Tully bonded quickly and Heather knew that she would foster other dogs in the future. Since then Heather has opened her heart and home to more than 200 fosters. Most have been fostered for MAESSR, but some were fostered for ESRA, as her career landed her in the state

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Then and Now: from Castro to Kasper

LINDA SHOPE

Every now and then a foster dog comes to MAESSR and really touches your heart because it takes a lot longer to find a permanent home. Castro is one of those. He is a beautiful, mostly black eight-year-old Springer mix, who experienced some hard times when his original owner in North Carolina had to relinquish him and his brother. Although a relative tried to find them a new home, that didn't work out. Castro's brother went to an all-breed rescue and because there was no room for Castro, he came to MAESSR.



In July 2016 Castro's new life began when April Smith became his foster mom. A routine vet exam resulted in the discovery that Castro had hip dysplasia in both hips. Over the next four months, he had two hip surgeries and rehab. According to April, he was a sweet and loving boy throughout his treatment and recovery. In fact, April, who fostered Castro for almost a year, said that Castro was the sweetest boy she had ever fostered. What a compliment for a beautiful boy with such an adorable face!

Castro quickly demonstrated that he's a good learner and enjoyed learning new things to please his people. He didn't really play with toys, but he liked to collect stuffed toys, socks, or even paper, put it all into piles, and then lay on them. Oh, silly boy! He also would talk to April, and even grin, especially at supper time, and do a little dance, too! He loved to go for long walks, especially as his hips began to heal and his back legs got stronger. He also loved to ride in the car, hang out, and just be the typical Velcro Springer. Despite Castro's sweetness, many months went by without a potential adopter's showing interest. Finally in June 2017, when the Senior/Special Needs Team decided to do a story about Castro, hoping to generate interest, I offered to write it.

As soon as Castro's story appeared, Susan and Rick Wolfe of Florida, who had lost their precious Bailey a year-and-a-half earlier, decided that they were ready to welcome another pup into their family. They adopted Castro on July 15, 2017 and promptly renamed him Kasper because they thought he was much too cute to be called Castro. Susan, who is a MAESSR volunteer, even emailed me to say that they had adopted him.

Kasper has had a lot of firsts since he became part of Susan and Rick's family. He survived his first hurricane last summer. He also has begun asking to climb up on the bed and couches. He likes to play with stuffed toys and to be chased by his family. Kasper loves to chase bunnies, squirrels, and geckos, and he jumps on his hind legs, trying to reach the squirrels. Pretty

impressive for a boy who had two hip surgeries! He loves car rides, enjoys lying in the shade, and watching birds and other wildlife. He also likes to go to two dog-friendly parks and even a restaurant where he can sit outside with his Mom and Dad, watch people, and get lots of pets and attention! He simply wants to be with his family wherever they are. Susan and her husband say that he's a real sweetheart and has their hearts forever. Kasper still has the blanket April sent with him when he was adopted and he sleeps with it every night. April says that they still miss him but are so glad he has his own family that loves him dearly.



Who's that Volunteer? Heather McAuliffe!

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of Georgia for a three-year stint. Chloe, a bit of a social butterfly, was the perfect companion to Heather and Tully and also to the new fosters that entered their home. She was an extremely intuitive and observant dog and taught Heather so much about body language between canines. Her remarkable "reads" guided Heather as she learned about each foster and how they interacted with her and her little canine family.

Heather lost Chloe to gastrointestinal lymphoma at age 10 and with her went a little piece of Heather's soul. Tully passed last year, having survived two hepatic incidents only to succumb to a bleeding tumor on his spleen. Besides these two dogs, Heather adopted Homer, a senior, in 2003; Dusty, a senior, in 2006; Sanford ... you guessed it ... another senior, in 2009; and Louis, a "mystery Hound" from North Carolina. She also adopted Gunther from ESRA in 2004. Then came Ruby in 2007! After Heather returned to New Jersey, her "crazy dog lady" moniker was altered to "crazy dog family." In 2011 she married her best friend, David, and gained two wonderful stepdaughters, Caeley and Annalisse, and their dog, Gizmo, a Shih tzu. Gizmo fit right in with the rest of the pack, and now, Gizmo, toothless at 15, enjoys her golden years snoozing, eating, and sitting with her daddy. David and Heather agreed to foster a 5-month-old "Heinz 57" mix a few years ago and, after two failed adoptions, through no fault of his own, Graham found his permanent home with the McAuliffes. Graham and Ruby are inseparable, except when Ruby is in the pool, because Graham hates the pool, and they spend their days running and playing together. Nowadays, Gunther, at nearly 15, is basically handicapped and has limited use of his back legs. Even so, he's happy and loves to chill with his mama.

Since Heather began volunteering, she has helped MAESSR by writing website bios, conducting adoption interviews, and doing vet checks and home visits. She has also mentored and trained foster families and served as intake coordinator, adoption coordinator, and foster home coordinator. She also has helped with training questions and foster dogs that proved challenging and has written articles for *Springer Tails*. At events, Heather has provided grooming demos using Chloe, and with Ruby's



assistance, she's demonstrated how a dog **shouldn't** behave. Her favorite way of working with MAESSR dogs is when Debbie Lipcsey calls her and says, "Nobody but you or I can handle this dog." Heather derives great satisfaction from helping to tire a wild "fieldie" to teaching her four-legged students to be good dogs. She

loves seeing the numerous dogs she has fostered through the years find happiness in their new homes. Heather takes great pleasure in seeing her husband and stepdaughters learn about caring for dogs that need a little extra help. That includes giving them time to adjust, but also teaching them how to let a dog go to its new home so they can make room for another.

As the McAuliffes' dogs have aged and need more care, Heather's human family has blossomed and her career has become more demanding. Although the family is taking a break from fostering, Heather says that she hopes they can do it again soon because she enjoys it so much. Meanwhile, she is happy spending time with her little pack of four and says she wouldn't have it any other way. She now spends most of her volunteering time locating new products and creating new designs to sell at MAESSR events and traveling to as many of them as she can. She has also attended the ESSFTA National Specialty event in St. Louis to help work the MAESSR booth. Behind the scenes, Heather keeps track of MAESSR's year-end dog intake stats that are used for financial reporting; trends of intake versus adoptions; and sex, age, color, and state of origin. These important records enable the Board to understand changes in the MAESSR "landscape" and decide whether anything needs to be done differently for the overall health of the organization.

Heather and her family reside in Williams Township, Pennsylvania, having moved from New Jersey a few years back. She works as a VP of Product Development for Nielsen.

In closing, Heather says, "Over the years, I have fostered and volunteered for multiple groups, and there is not a single one that can compare to MAESSR. The people, the mission, the organization, and the structure are unparalleled. All because a dog named Blue got cancer and I found MAESSR, I've found some of my very best friends and a focus, love, and purpose, of which I could never have dreamed all those years ago."



TWO OF HEATHER'S FOSTERS: BOGEY, AKA THE BIG BROWN BOY, AND HIS SISTER, STELLA, ARE ACCOMPLISHED THERAPY DOGS. BOGEY WAS A PUPPY THAT MAESSR RESCUED FROM A BREEDER.

Find It in the Library

MAXINE FOX

The MAESSR Library affords a wealth of information for everything dog related. The best part is that it is free to use! The library is run by our own Cathy Moyer and below is its history and how it operates.

The library was started in 2009 with 25 books and DVDs on the shelf. April Smith set up and managed the inventory and lending system. A few years later, Cathy asked her if she could help with the library. Shortly thereafter, "helping" changed to taking the library over, and Debbie and Bill Lipsey brought all the books to the Jarrettsville picnic in September 2016 to give to Cathy!

Cathy set up a descriptive list of materials and sent it to the Training Team as an update and to insure the content of the materials was current regarding the use of positive-based methodology for training. The list is also used to highlight library resources in the Weekly Update which Cathy also writes. The updated list can also be printed so that it can be taken to MAESSR picnics for people to see what is available.

The library's goal is to help owners learn more about being the best pet parents they can be! This includes anyone in the continental U.S., not just folks associated with MAESSR. Borrowing books from the library is also a great way to preview a book or DVD before buying it for yourself.

To date, we have grown to 254 books, DVDs, and CDs, some of which are missing/not returned. In the first seven months of 2018, 32 books/DVDs have been lent out.

Categories of library materials are basic training, behavioral issues, health and wellness, general information, sports/activities, other reading, grief/loss, and grooming. They are arranged alphabetically in each category on the website. Most of our books/DVDs are from the APDT, which is the Association for Professional Dog Trainers' recommended list for pet owners.

We have a Wish List on Amazon.com if anyone would like to purchase books for the library. (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1YSR57XGZDZXV/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist.) Many MAESSR volunteers have donated books. Cathy developed donation labels for those items to acknowledge their generosity.

The librarian's job duties are to add books to the inventory program, to the MAESSR website, and to the descriptive list; to fill requests, which includes documenting it on the Library Loans/Returns worksheet; to package items and include a padded envelope with return mailing label to simplify the return and set up USPS pickups; and to send out emails to borrowers plus reminders when items are due back. Additionally, Cathy sends out reminders when folks are a little slow in returning the materials.

We also have a Library Facebook page. We have gone from 90



followers in November 2017 to 135! Cathy highlights individual authors and their resources on a daily basis. Additionally, videos and articles from other Facebook pages are linked to provide valuable information. Just look under "Pages liked by this Page." There are links to other Facebook pages which include our authors, organizations, and other pertinent resources.

The library can be linked to on Facebook. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/Mid-Atlantic-English-Springer-Spaniel-Rescue-Library-418491395012363/?ref=bookmarks> or it can be directly linked through <https://www.maessr.org/training/library.aspx>.



Don't Lose Your New Best Friend!

All of us know how important it is for adopters to transfer their newly adopted dog's microchip into their own name. However, members of the post-adoption team know that some people forget and others have trouble dealing with the microchip company's registration process. MAESSR has now made it easier than ever to transfer the chip! All the adopter has to do is send an email to microchip@maessr.org providing the newly adopted dog's name and its owner's contact information. A MAESSR volunteer will then see that the microchip is registered properly.

The Reedville Springerfest 2018

DEB SELL-PUGH

On September 15, 2018, pack up your doggies and head for picturesque Reedville, in Virginia's Northern Neck! There, at my and my husband's home, you'll have a chance to see old friends, meet new ones, and enjoy the company of Springers, *lots and lots of them!* Dogs and people will have a chance to swim in the Chesapeake Bay, play trivia and other games, and participate in a MAESSR auction.

MAESSR's own Angie Epling, our guest speaker, will cover topics such as enrichment and how to discourage and redirect unwanted behaviors. She'll also share ideas for providing your dog with mental stimulation, and pups will have a chance to try out some new toys. A photographer and a demo in Lure Coursing for the dogs has been tentatively scheduled.

My husband Blaise Pugh will be providing a special lunch that includes delicious barbecued chicken and a special seafood dish. To celebrate MAESSR's 20th anniversary we will announce the winners of the Bubba Awards.

Don't forget to register at <http://www.maessr.org/2013pittsburghpa-1-1-1.aspx>

FIRST UP—ACCOMMODATIONS If you are planning an extended stay, these hotels allow pups. (If you are staying in the area, please let me (Deb) know. I can help with "things to do and see" in the Northern Neck. Our area is full of history and cool things to do while you're here.)

➤ **QUALITY INN** • 4522 Richmond Road, Warsaw, VA, 22572, US
<https://www.choicehotels.com/virginia/warsaw/quality-inn-hotels/va715/rates?checkInDate=2018-09-14&checkOutDate=2018-09-16>

➤ Numerous vacation homes for rent on VRBO. Check nearby towns of Reedville, Heathsville, Lottsburg, Kilmarnock, and Callao.

SECOND IS FOOD, FOOD, AND MORE FOOD If you are looking for places to eat while staying or on your way home after the picnic, these are some favorite places. Almost all of these restaurants offer carryout.

➤ **The 360 Grille** • 15354 Northumberland Highway, Burgess, VA 22432-2020. \$\$ ****

➤ **The Crazy Crab** • 902 Main Street, Reedville, VA 22539.
<http://www.crazycrabreedville.com/main-menu/> \$\$-\$\$\$ ****

➤ **Tommy's** • 729 Main Street, Reedville, VA 22539. Fine dining; food is good but a bit overpriced. \$\$\$\$ ***

➤ **Fairport Marina aka Lead Belly's** • 252 Polly Cove Road, Reedville, VA 22539. (Owner is dog-friendly, allows dogs on screened patio in limited numbers. Call first.) Food is great. \$\$ ****

➤ **TJ Dairy Barn** • 718 Jessie Dupont Memorial Highway (Rt. 200), Burgess, VA 22432, 804-453-4455. Call ahead to order takeout. <https://dairybarnva.com/>

➤ **Newsome's** • 235 Jessie Dupont Memorial Highway, Burgess, VA 22432, 804-453-9071. <https://www.newsomesrestaurant.com/>

➤ **Los Patrones 2** • 15017 Northumberland Highway, Burgess, VA 22432. Good food. Ask for extra spicy if you like any heat or spice in your food.

➤ **Lee's Restaurant** • 30 South Main Street, Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Offers takeout, great home-style food. Family-owned since 1937.

AUCTION ITEMS Please bring an item for the auction. Dee Piccinini is the coordinator of everything auction. Please let her know if you are bringing something. If you know what it is, you can tell her that now too! You can email her at summerfire@comcast.net



General stuff to bring along to the picnic

WATER for you and the fur kids. There will be some adult drinks available for a donation to MAESSR at the picnic. Humans only. If your pup likes to swim, bring a towel, toys, and balls to play with. If you like to swim, bring bathing suits, towels, and sunscreen. Some bug repellent would be good to tuck in your day bag as well. We have people coming to spray all over the yard with Pet Safe and Wildlife Safe repellents for ticks and mosquitoes, but it's best to be extra careful. Bring doggie waste bags, 'cuz no one likes to walk on the sand with ickies left behind.

Speaking of being careful, sand on the beach can get hot, and there is that "beach stuff" (shells, fishing stuff that washes up in the water) that might hurt a pup's paws when swimming. Doggie water boots are available here: <https://www.alldogboots.com/Dog-Water-Shoes-Pool-s/65.htm>. After all, long periods in the water can make paws soft.

Most importantly, bring \$\$\$ for the MAESSR Store—a limited supply of items will be available.

Don't forget your nominations for the Bubbies. Send nominations and photos/videos to bubbaawards@gmail.com.

Don't forget! Come to Reedville on September 15 and enjoy a fun-filled day!

The Saga of Jed and Molly: A Tale of Two Springers

ANDY AUSTIN

It's spring, and at my house, that means yard work. Cleaning out the last of the leaves, fertilizing, mulching, and planting new plants that will hopefully survive Springer paws, Springer butts, and Springer bellies. (I've tried "stepables." Clearly those plants were not Springer tested!) Of course, all of this requires a great deal of Springer supervision. I can't possibly do work this complex (or go to the bathroom) without Springer assistance!

The back yard has a few new "features" this spring. No idea where they came from. None. I saw noth-thing! I know noth-thing! Nothing, I tell you! These new features may be related to a story I wrote about my MAESSR boy, Jed (Pooh Bear), and my mother's MAESSR girl, The Pretty Precious Perfect Princess (P4M) Molly, a couple of years ago.

Mom: "Look! Jed is telling my Pretty Precious Perfect Princess Molly to dig in the dirt like a dog!"

Me: (Laughing) "Mom! You know Pooh Bear isn't smart enough to tell Princess Molly to do that!"

Mom: "Yes, he is! Look at them!"

Me: (Laughing harder) "Just look at Jeddy's face ... he can't figure out what Molly is doing!"

At this point, Molly sits back, looks pointedly Jed, then at the "hole" (barely a depression at this point, but I'll be generous), then back at Jed. Jed stands up, wiggles all over, and pounces on the "hole." He starts digging for all he's worth. Dirt is flying to the side. Dirt is piling up between his back legs. He's putting his back into it and really going to town. I'm laughing so hard my Dad comes upstairs to see what is so funny.

Dad arrives just in time to see Princess Molly reach out one dainty, royal paw and tap Jed on the tush. Jed sits back, with a huge happy grin on his face, and Princess Molly inspects the hole (it's a good sized hole at this point). Princess Molly is apparently unhappy with the hole, as she uses one delicate royal paw to scratch the ground twice. At which point, she sits back



with a grin on her face and looks at Jed again.

Me: "So ... who is telling whom to dig? Huh? Huh?"

Mom: "Hush. It's all Jed's idea. I know it is!"

Dad, a wise man, says nothing.

Mom: "You are going to have to bathe both of them!"

Me: "Why both? The Princess is YOUR dog!"

Mom: "You were her foster mother. If you hadn't spoiled her absolutely rotten ..."

Dad, a wise man, says nothing ... but now, he's biting his lip to keep from laughing out loud. We **all** know who spoils The Princess ... Jeddy-the-Pooh dives back into the hole. Butt up in the air, his head and shoulders disappear into the hole. Dirt is flying. Suddenly, Molly knocks Jed aside, dives into the hole, and ... drum roll, please ... comes up with a **rabbit!**

Me: "I'll grab mine and take him to the bath!"

Mom: (screaming incoherently) "My baby! She's getting her sweet mouth dirty! Jed told her to do it!"

Me: "The Princess is all YOURS!"

Fortunately, the rabbit survived. The hostas and ferns that used to be there, not so much. And it's not just the digging. Jed likes to just lie down on the plants, especially the ones in raised flower beds. Both Jed and Molly just stomp all over anything I plant. Neither one seems capable of walking around anything smaller than, say, a tree. **The person who comes up with perennials that are Springer proof will be a millionaire!**

You can usually tell that a man is good if he has a dog who loves him.

W. Bruce Cameron, A Dog's Journey

Thank you for donating!

"I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." — Etienne de Grellet

MAESSR would like to acknowledge the generous support of our donors. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our MAESSR family. Your donations are essential to ensuring the continuation of our mission to rescue and re-home English Springer Spaniels.

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Andrea and Larry Austin in honor of Jed and Molly
Robert and Patricia Guglielmi in honor of Deacon (Bandit 11, Class of 2017)
Jody and Jim Reitzes in honor of MAESSR's 20th Year!
Linda and Gerald Shope in honor of Tiffaney and Hazel Cat from Sammy Cat
Noelle Wertz in honor of Shirley Wertz

Some Q and A

- Q.** Is it ok for my dog to eat toilet paper?
- A.** Stealing toilet paper is more about playfulness than it does with hunger, and rarely a cause for concern. However, if your dog ate lots of paper, wretches, vomits or becomes constipated, you need to call the vet.
- Q.** How can you tell if your dog is overheated?
- A.** His tongue gets wider!
- Q.** Did you know that some "premium" dog foods actually cost less than "economy" brands?
- A.** Higher-priced dog food is so densely packed with nutrients you can feed your dog less of it.
- Q.** Is it ok to let your dog drink from the bird bath?
- A.** No! Birds carry a fungal disease that infects both dogs and humans. Give your dog an outside bowl and put it where the birds can not get to it.

Reference: Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, *Your Dog: The Newsletter for Caring Dog Owners*

New Volunteers

LINDA JOHNSTON

Our MAESSR volunteers come from locations that we service all along the Mid-Atlantic Region, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, Delaware, and West Virginia. We also have volunteers in South Carolina, North Carolina, Arizona, Minnesota, Alabama, Tennessee, and New York, who, despite their remote locations, are able to assist our organization in accomplishing its mission.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Johnston, at springerlove@comcast.net, or simply complete the online volunteer application on our website.

Please join us in welcoming the following new volunteers who recently joined MAESSR.

Karen Alexander • Charleston, S.C. | Gene and Christine Gumenick • Baltimore, Md. | Melinda May • Fredericksburg, Va. | Debi Moir • North Chesterfield, Va. | Michelle Tasker • Chesapeake, Va. | William Trousdale • Littlestown, Pa. | Maria Wescoe • Northampton, Pa.

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue
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20 Years and Counting