The Pathway to Adoption: A Series of Careful Steps

Rescued Springers come into MAESSR’s care on a regular basis. Almost as soon as their bios are posted on MAESSR’s Web site, emails start pouring in from folks who tell us they “love that dog” and they want to adopt him or her. Well, it’s just not that simple! This article will present an overview of the MAESSR Adoption process.

MAESSR’s goal is to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that each of our adoptions is a success. We want virtually every Springer we adopt out to stay with that family for the rest of its life. Through the application and interview process, we ask a lot of questions and learn as much as we can about the applicant. This allows us to make sure that the dog and prospective adopter are a good match. Ultimately, our available dogs are offered to the most appropriate family on the waiting list.

Once an application is submitted and reviewed, and the applicant’s references have been checked, we schedule an interview. During the interview process, we find out as much as we can about the applicant. For example, we learn whether there are toddlers or older children in the home, whether there are other pets, and whether the yard is fenced. We also discuss exercise plans, whether the home has many steps, how long the dog will be left alone, and so on. As soon as an applicant is approved, he or she is added to the “waiting list.” We almost always have a waiting list of families who want to adopt a MAESSR dog. That’s a very good thing for the dogs, but sometimes it’s disappointing for families who really don’t want to wait weeks, or perhaps months, for a dog.

Hopefully, the process we go through when matching dogs with the families on the waiting list will be better understood if we explain our “matching process.” First of all, the Adoption Coordinator learns as much as possible about each dog while it’s in foster care. Is the dog good with children, other dogs, and cats? Is the dog house-trained and does it have leash walking skills? Has there been any obedience training and if so, to what level? Once all of this is known and the dog is ready for adoption, he or she is offered to the most appropriate family on the list. This is MAESSR’s “matching process.”

MAESSR’s Adoption Coordinator tries to “match” the needs of each dog with the family that would best meet those needs. Sometimes it’s necessary to drop down the list to find the most appropriate family. As a result, one family may be offered a dog quickly, whereas another may have to wait a while. For instance, let’s say that we have a dog that isn’t good with cats. We simply drop down the list to find a family who doesn’t have cats. If that family says, “That’s not the Springer for us,” they remain where they were on the waiting list, and we go on to the next family without cats. The same procedure is followed if the dog isn’t good with other dogs, young children, and so on. We do this while also keeping in mind the applicant’s preferences in terms of age, sex, and color.

Ironically, the majority of folks on the waiting list want young females, and unfortunately, that’s the age and gender we get the least of. Therefore, the wait for young females can be very long. The wait for older dogs and special needs dogs is much shorter. The list of dogs that we have in rescue is very fluid and the situation changes from day to day. The key to not having to wait a long time is keeping your preferences as general as you can.

One long-standing MAESSR policy is not discussing specific dogs with families on the waiting list until the dog is available for adoption. We have this policy for a couple reasons. First of all, the foster home has the first right to adopt the dog that they are fostering. Secondly, a dog may have some health or temperament issues that make him or her unadoptable. Therefore, we don’t want to raise an adopter’s expectations by discussing a specific dog until it has become available.

Once a match is made, a “Good news from MAESSR” email is sent to the family that is being offered the dog. In that email, the potential adopter is given the foster home’s contact information. That enables the adopter to discuss a specific dog with the folks who know the most about it and its needs. Once the foster home and adopting family agree that the dog would be a good “match” for them, arrangements are made to get the dog to the

continued on page 4
Who’s That Volunteer? Nancy Hale

JENNIFER WHITEHOUSE

You may recognize Nancy Hale’s name from our Weekly Updates or perhaps you encountered her when you adopted your dog. She’s a dedicated member of the MAESSR team and her story is all about perfect timing.

So what brought Nancy to MAESSR in the first place? A love of Springers! Nancy and her family, who are long-time dog owners, adopted their first three Springers from the English Springer Spaniel Club of Long Island—Rescue. When their third Springer died unexpectedly and ESSCLI had very few dogs available, Nancy found MAESSR on the Internet. Her pre-adoption application and interview went smoothly, and since she was more than willing to adopt a senior, the adoption happened quickly. As it turned out, Nancy happened to be in the right place at the right time, for when she was notified, she was in Kentucky at an RV convention. Therefore she made a “detour” through Virginia to pick up Patches XI. Thus began her life as a MAESSR rescue mom! Patches was followed by MAESSR’s Maisie (Miss Muffet), whom Nancy thinks (with apologies to all of her four-footed predecessors) is the best of the bunch. Or maybe she came into Nancy’s life at just the right time, and sometimes the right timing is all you need.

Prior to becoming involved with MAESSR, Nancy taught Special Education and spent 10 years as a Learning Consultant on a Child Study Team. Later on, she opened two bookstores. After selling them, she and her husband began traveling around the country in an RV. They spent the winter months in the Florida Keys where she volunteered a day or two each week at what she calls “the most wonderful place in the world”—the Dolphin Research Center. When not volunteering, Nancy could be found kayaking, sailing, or perhaps knitting, quilting, or reading. She was always snuggling with at least one of her many pets—one dog plus an assortment of other animals.

Nancy began volunteering with MAESSR in the fall of 2011, sometime after her post-adoption interview. As a retiree with some free time on her hands, she jumped at the chance to volunteer. Because Nancy lives in the extreme northwest corner of New Jersey, far from the main routes used for transporting and fostering dogs, her volunteer options were somewhat limited. Also, when she first started volunteering, she was traveling for nearly six months a year, so she knew that whatever she did for MAESSR had to be accomplished through email contact.

These days, when Nancy’s not volunteering with MAESSR, she’s enjoying life near a lake. She describes her home as a wonderful, calm, and peaceful place for a person, but for Springers, it’s heaven! There are rabbits, deer, groundhogs, and all kinds of birds to chase, along with a lake for swimming, trails for hiking, and a nice quiet road for morning walks.

Sometimes, the right things do happen at the right time and for the right reason. MAESSR has provided more than a volunteer opportunity for Nancy, for it’s been a support group as well. Members of the MAESSR family, though many miles apart, quietly supported Nancy through a very rough time in her life. It’s yet another example of how you become part of the MAESSR family as soon as you adopt a MAESSR dog. Now, when Nancy helps others, she wonders whether the adoption she approves is exactly what that family needs at just that moment—exactly like it was for her.

Nancy’s volunteer duties started small, but quickly gained momentum. At first, she answered Web site questions and moderated the group site. Then, she agreed to do interviews and, eventually, train interviewers. Now, she is the Applications/Adoptions Coordinator for the northern region. That means she reviews and assigns would-be adopters’ applications, contacts applicants’ vets, reads the summaries prepared by our hard-working interviewers, and serves on the Adoption Team. And because Nancy loves to write, she does some of the Web page write-ups and updates, along with the Weekly Updates.

Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe. We are the focus of their love and faith and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made.

Roger Caras
As all of us know, one of MAESSR’s most important goals is finding good homes for adoptable Springers and making sure that their needs are being met. Members of the Post-Adoption team play a critical role in that process and strive to see that each adoption is a success. Team coordinator Pat Alberta and her 21 volunteers make, on average, 40 calls a month, contacting adopters at three-month and 12-month intervals.

Here’s how it works. Three months after each adoption, a member of the Post-Adoption team telephones the newly-adopted-dog’s owner and asks a series of questions listed on a printed form. Basic questions include verifying—or perhaps updating—the dog owner’s contact information and inquiring who has become the dog’s primary caregiver. Those topics are followed by queries about the dog’s interaction with household members, people of all ages, and visitors to the home. Next comes a set of questions about behavioral issues, such as problems with anxiety and clinginess, incontinence, excessive barking, or destructive chewing. Then come questions that focus on health issues, such as whether the dog has visited the vet, how well dietary and exercise needs are being met, and whether vaccinations are up-to-date. One stumbling block for some adopters is remembering to transfer the microchip into their name. Owners of young dogs (that is, pups) less than a year old are reminded of the need to enroll in an obedience training class.

Interviewers always ask for the specific brand name of the heartworm and flea preventative medications being used, simply because administering those products on a regular basis is critical to each MAESSR dog’s wellbeing. Another important part of the interviewer’s interaction with the adopter is making sure that he/she is aware of the resources available in the MAESSR training library and mentioning that members of the training team are willing to work with the dog owner to make the adoption a success. Each adopter is asked how long the adoption process took and how MAESSR might be able to improve its adoption protocol. The adopter also is invited to become a volunteer. As the interview draws to a close, each adopter is reminded to notify MAESSR if their dog is lost or stolen and that if the dog has to be relinquished, it has to be returned to MAESSR. Afterward, the information obtained in the interview is transmitted to Pat so that she can make sure that it gets into the proper hands. The goal of every interview, which takes only a few minutes, is assuring that every MAESSR dog is placed in an appropriate home and is receiving the care and training it needs.

Whenever an adopter has a change in contact information, team coordinator Pat Alberta updates the MAESSR database. Pat, a former secretary who lives in western Pennsylvania with her husband and MAESSR alumni Duke and Jeb, is a longtime MAESSR volunteer. Every month except December, she sends each Post-Adoption team member the names and contact information of two or three adopters who are due to receive a call. She’s always looking for more interviewers, so if you’d like to lend a hand, please contact postadopt@maessr.org. Besides leading the Post-Adoption team, Pat also coordinates MAESSR’s Pre-Adoption interviews for the southern states and serves on the Adoption Team.

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 to accomplish 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 Web site.

Please join us in welcoming the following new volunteers who recently joined MAESSR (as of March 15).

Angela Batten and Jane Lew…..W.V.
Melissa Burkhart Monroeville, Pa.
Dawn Demuth Landenberg, Pa.
Donna Donato Newark, N.J.
Randy Everett Virginia Beach, Va.
Norma Keller Pine Grove, Pa.
Joelle Kircher Waterford, Pa.
Rachel Martone Pittsburgh, Pa.
Celia McIay Lewisburg, W.V.
Serena Mullet Fairfax, Va.
Kathleen Oettel Chesapeake, Va.
Marion Royal Dunfries, Va.
Beth Smith Towson, Md.
Amanda Wren Mechanicsville VA
Rebecca Zullo Milford, De.
I’ve observed that about half of my training clients who have children haven’t taught them how to behave around dogs. This is probably because they themselves need to be educated. On the other hand, they may not understand what can happen if a dog becomes frightened, or worse yet, is mistreated by a child. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), approximately half of this country’s dog bites (about 4.5 million annually) occur in children under 10 years of age. That statistic alone should make adults realize how important it is to teach children how to act around dogs, unknown ones and familiar ones.

Many dogs end up in rescue organizations or shelters, or worse yet, are euthanized, on account of this lack of basic education. Sometimes dogs bite because they’re fearful or they’re protecting something that is valuable to them—that is, guarding—a concept that is often misunderstood. Dogs rarely bite without warning, and so the key to preventing dog bites is recognizing when a dog is in an uncomfortable situation.

Below are some of the guidelines that can be found on the CDC Web site and at Positively.com. Many of these recommendations may seem like common sense, but they need to be taught to children to prevent a problem from occurring.

- Do not approach an unfamiliar dog.
- Do not run from a dog or scream.
- Do not play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
- If you see a stray dog or a dog displaying unusual behavior, report it to an adult.
- Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
- Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
- Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
- Remain motionless (e.g., “be still like a tree”) when approached by an unfamiliar dog.
- When you have permission to pet a dog, whether familiar or unfamiliar, try not to invade the dog’s body space. Allow the dog to come up to you and sniff your closed fist (palm down, knuckles facing the dog). If the dog doesn’t want to come and greet you, respect that decision and leave him alone.
- Approaching a dog from behind or petting him directly on the top of his head can be threatening and uncomfortable for him. The dog’s back or chest is the best place to pet.
- If a dog moves away while being stroked, he’s telling you that he’s had enough. Allow him to have space and don’t follow him.
- Never stare at a dog or kiss or put your face close to a dog’s face. Look at the dog briefly and then look away, look and look away. These are calming signals, which tell the dog you’re not a threat.
- Dogs don’t like being teased.
- Avoid touching a dog that has been tied up or left at the end of a chain in a yard, outside a store, or behind a fence.
- How would you feel if a dog came up to you while you were eating and tried to take your food away? It probably would make you angry and you would try to prevent the dog from getting your food. Dogs are much like people. They don’t like anyone to approach them or touch them while they’re eating their dinner or chewing a juicy bone. Let eating dogs eat alone!
- Avoid taking a bone or toy away from a dog if she is playing with it.
- If you want to sit on a sofa or chair that a dog is sitting on, don’t pull him off. Always get an adult to remove the dog for you by luring him/her off the furniture.
- If you are at the home of someone with a rambunctious dog that makes you feel uncomfortable, don’t feel embarrassed about asking an adult to put the dog in a different room.
- Remember that a dog is an animal, not a cuddly toy. Most dogs don’t like being hugged or kissed. Hugging in dog language can mean fighting and that is definitely not an expression of affection.

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continued from the front page

family. MAESSR has a terrific Transport Team that can help by arranging a transport if a dog needs to travel more than two hours to its forever home.

One of our volunteers uses the phrase, “It takes a pack to place a pup,” which is very true. Each application that comes into MAESSR is tracked by April Smith. Pat Alberta and Nancy Hale review the applications and assign them to an Interviewer, review the Interview Summaries, and approve applicants for adoption. We have about 30 Interviewers who do an awesome job in learning all they can through the interview process and then communicating it to the Adoptions Team. More than 250 interviews were completed in 2014. Pat Race serves as the Adoption Coordinator and in consultation with Pat Alberta and Nancy Hale, matches the dogs to waiting families.

On behalf of MAESSR and the hundreds of appreciative adopted dogs and their families, we would like to recognize the hard work that Kathleen O’Neil put forth during her many years as the Adoptions Coordinator. Kathleen is taking a break from the day-to-day operations of the Adoptions Team, but is available for consultation to the current team. A giant THANK YOU to Kathleen!
The retina, the part of the eye responsible for vision, is the equivalent of a digital camera’s memory card. Anatomically, the retina is divided into two components. The uppermost portion, or tapetum, which plays a role in progressive retinal atrophy (PRA), consists of a layer of reflective cells that lie just beneath the retina. Because it allows light coming into the eye to be reflected back, the retina is stimulated twice. The retina has two types of photoreceptor cells: the rods, which are responsible for dark vision, and the cones, which provide light vision and color. A dog’s retina is comprised of more than 90 percent rods. Therefore, dogs have much better night vision than we do. It’s also the reason why dogs have only partial color vision.

PRA is an inherited degeneration of the retina. Because dogs have so many more rods than cones, this degeneration initially is seen as diminished vision in dim light. Although the rate of degeneration varies, it’s progressive and usually leads to blindness. Some dogs compensate so well that a deficit in vision isn’t noticeable until the dog is taken to an unfamiliar environment.

The diagnosis of PRA, which is made by a veterinary ophthalmologist, is based on a history of decreasing vision. Discernable changes in the retina include thinning of the retinal blood vessels, atrophy of the optic disk, and hyper-reflectivity that’s attributable to thinning of the retina. Further diagnostics may include an electroretinogram (ERG), a test of retinal function that involves determining the retina’s response to a series of flashing lights. It is not unusual for cataracts to form in association with PRA. However, since the retina is no longer functioning normally, surgery is not recommended. Often, when cataracts are seen and surgery is being considered, an ERG is done to determine the health of the retina.

PRA is an inherited form of progressive rod-cone degeneration (PRCD). Although it is most commonly seen in pure-bred dogs, it also occurs in mixed breeds. In the English Springer Spaniel, PRA is inherited as a recessive trait, and one abnormal gene needs to be inherited from each of the dog’s parents. Both parents may have normal retinas, but if each of them is a carrier, they may produce offspring that experience PRA. The age of onset for PRA can vary from two to nine years of age. Traditionally, veterinary specialists thought that the English Springer Spaniel was vulnerable to two forms of PRA. However, more recent research has determined that there is only one. Although a genetic test was available at one time, it is no longer offered due to the high percentage of false-positive results. Further research is necessary before the test is re-introduced.
The words intelligent, friendly, patient, and adaptable best describe beautiful Brody, a six-year-old black and white Springer Spaniel. Brody came to MAESSR because his owners were unable to provide him with the care he needs. When he strolled into his foster home, he quickly showed his foster parents just how quickly he can adapt to a new situation! The resident dogs and people that Brody encountered there immediately became his new friends. Brody thoroughly enjoys running around outside with his canine buddies, investigating everything in his new yard! On one particular day, he spotted a squirrel that clearly didn’t see him. Slowly, putting one paw in front of the other, Brody patiently crept toward the unsuspecting squirrel and came within five feet of him. The squirrel was so surprised by the audacity of the sneak attack that he didn’t scurry up a tree that was right in front of him! As a result, he took Brody on a high-speed chase that didn’t end until the squirrel had scampered up the tree that was furthest from their starting point! What a sight this high-speed chase must have been!

Besides mounting stealth attacks on squirrels, Brody loves to go on walks! He voices his excitement when he first starts out, but quickly quiets down and starts investigating the new territory in front of him. Brody’s learning proper leash manners from his foster family and also by observing what his canine buddies are doing! He simply wants to check out his new world and savor every aspect of it! When Brody goes on car rides and his favorite person is in the front seat, he calls “shotgun” so that he can be right there, too! But if someone else is driving and his person is in the back seat, Brody moves back there, too, and lets the family “chauffeur” drive on!

When Brody first came to MAESSR, he was a bit on the hefty side. However, his new diet and exercise routine have helped him shed a few pounds and move toward a healthy weight! He also needed a dental and to get rid of some nasty whipworms. Both of those treatments have been completed now. Sweet Brody has been diagnosed with PRA, Progressive Retinal Atrophy, a degeneration of retinal tissue, and is on some special eye drops and a supplement that will slow its progression. This lifelong treatment plan is fine with Brody and he doesn’t let poor vision stop him from doing whatever he wants to do! In fact, to Brody’s way of thinking, limited vision isn’t really a handicap. It’s simply a reason to fine tune the ability to use his nose and his considerable intelligence! This smart boy knows sit, come, and offer a paw. He’s also becoming proficient with the stay command!

Brody’s wonderful personality and temperament has earned him the name “Mr. Wags,” as his long and beautiful tail is constantly wagging, showing everybody just how happy he is! He loves his people, meets and greets new folks with a big smile, and creates a breeze with his tail! Thanks to Brody’s constantly wagging tail, even the groomer and the vet get to experience his sunny and gentle disposition.

So what does Brody need in a forever home? Simple things like cuddles, petting, and belly rubs, any sort of loving attention, and of course, his eye medication and supplement. Although Brody would be a perfect fit for most homes, he’d love to share his new abode with another dog who would keep him company and be his new buddy! Brody’s happy, exuberant, and easygoing personality would make him an asset in any forever home!
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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November
Marjorie L. Harbeck Koly
Elie II (from 2010)
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Victoria Phillips—Chase Holt
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Noella A. Bryden—Merlot (2006)
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Wayne Roberts—Stella
Janet Smith—Desmond Crackerbrall Smith
David Tartaglia—Dottie
Steve and Ruth Graham—Rocky
Thomas Chambers—Morgan
Rebecca L. Zullo—all my friends at Rainbow Bridge
Wendy M. Hogan—Hattie (Ladi MAESSR 2001)
Patricia Johnson—Brady
David Harida—all our boys and Divot
Bill Gelatka—Jessica
Rachael Gelatka
Kathleen Adams—Dixie
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Miller’s Christmas—Freda and Paul Pennock
Heather McAluliffe—holiday—Beverly Young

December
Cayanne and Bud
Handy’s Oreo—Cayanne Yates
Megan Stevenson’s Zoey—Robert Stevenson
Ryan and Amanda’s holiday—Rebecca Boulie
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www.maessr.org
Dogs in need of placement come to MAESSR for a variety of reasons. In the case of Turi, now known as Teddy, a kennel that was closing needed MAESSR’s assistance in finding homes for some of their dogs. One such pup really looked nothing at all like an English Springer Spaniel. That’s because he’s a Spanish Water Dog! MAESSR offered to help find Turi a loving family to call his very own, one that would nurture him, work on building his confidence, and deal with his obvious insecurities.

When Turi first came to MAESSR, it was late in the spring of 2014. He was just a year old and was very timid. He apparently had not spent much time with people and needed to learn to trust them. The foster home that was chosen for him enabled him to begin blossoming into the beautiful boy he is today. It wasn’t an easy road, however. Turi’s transformation from an extremely anxious, fearful, and shy little boy to a cherished member of his adoptive family certainly came with its fair share of challenges.

Turi’s foster mom, Eva Van Stratum, says that when she first took him under her wing, he was very shy and afraid. He took up residence under the table and initially spent a lot of time hiding or retreating to his crate, where he seemed to feel more secure. He got along well with the resident dog in his foster home and seemed to look to her for some guidance and reassurance. Before too long, he began interacting with the people in his foster family, and he started coming out of his shell. That didn’t happen overnight, however, for it took some time for him to learn that he could trust the new people in his life. Eva says that his beautiful eyes began to follow everyone around and he started to open up more and more. He learned what a leash was for and he loved the baby pool that was set up for the dogs to enjoy. Turi would jump in repeatedly with his newfound canine buddy and slowly but surely, he was learning about himself and the new world around him. This was a big change from spending most of his time in a kennel.

Finding an adoptive home for Turi was somewhat of a challenge, due to his extreme shyness and past history of limited socialization. Although a family did fall in love with him and offered him their home, the change proved to be a little too much for him to handle and he bolted away two days after his adoption. Needless to say, they were devastated, and worked tirelessly to find their new family member, who spent 10 days running around loose and badly frightened. Finally, after humane traps were set and baited with food, Turi was caught. This scared little boy, who was feeling overwhelmed by the world, was returned to MAESSR so that his training could continue and he could gain more confidence.

As fate would have it, in August 2014 Dennis and Mary Wool of Toano, Virginia, who had been waiting to adopt a Springer Spaniel from MAESSR, met the very handsome Turi. They had attended one of MAESSR’s many annual picnics, which are held so that members of the Springer rescue community can interact. The Wools met many dogs that day, and although their hearts had been set on adopting a Springer, it didn’t take long for them to decide that they’d like to adopt Turi. After all, this sweet young pup with the soulful eyes was adorable and he really needed someone to give him another chance. The kindhearted Wools took Turi home and made a commitment to give him all of the love and care he needed. This cute and fluffy little furball started his transformation on the car ride home, beginning with a name change to “Teddy.”

The Wools have opened their home and their hearts to Teddy and given him their unconditional love, enabling him to discover his inner dog. As his confidence builds, he has learned that people aren’t so bad after all! In return, Teddy brings the Wools great joy. He is particularly fond of Mary. Teddy’s new dad, Dennis, reports that Teddy loves to run and play, both in and out of the house, and that he can be extremely affectionate. He loves long walks, car rides, and has many “favorite” toys. He is well-behaved, and while he enjoys sitting under the table at dinnertime, he never begs for his people’s food. Although Teddy has started his transformation, he is still a very young dog with many new adventures ahead of him. Dennis says that he and Mary continuously remind themselves that some dogs require time, training, and patience to override the trauma of their previous lives. They’re quick to add that they are delighted that Teddy is letting them help with this process. It sounds like Teddy has found his forever family and that he is enjoying this wonderful opportunity to love and be loved. We at MAESSR couldn’t be happier for all of them!

As a side note: Turi (aka Teddy) came to MAESSR with a sibling named Sunflower. At this time, Sunflower is still in foster care and undergoing her own transformation. If you’re interested in learning more about her, you can read about her progress on our Web site. Like Turi, she’s a sweet little thing, and we hope she, too, will find a special family to love.

Over the next few weeks, Turi demonstrated an affinity for the family’s dogs, especially for a male named Pope, and slowly but surely, he was learning that people aren’t so bad after all! In return, Teddy brings the family great joy. They’re quick to add that they are delighted that Teddy is letting them help with this process.

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Springerfest Picnic Registration Form

Dude Ranch, Glen Allen, Va. • Saturday, April 11

Core Creek Park, Langhorne, Pa. • Saturday, May 2

White Oaks Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. • Saturday, June 6

Enclose check made payable to MAESSR. Here is my information:
Name: ____________________________________________
E-mail Address: ____________________________________
Phone: __________________________________________

Mail registration form and payment to:
MAESSR
P.O. Box 15354
Richmond, VA 23227

Put me down to help with:
- set-up
- clean-up
- registration
- however you need me

I would love to help at the picnic!
- Glen Allen, Va.
- Langhorne, Pa.
- Pittsburgh, Pa.

I can bring an item for the raffle to:
- Glen Allen, Va.
- Langhorne, Pa.
- Pittsburgh, Pa.

I can help onsite at:
- Glen Allen, Va.
- Langhorne, Pa.
- Pittsburgh, Pa.

** Registration via the Marketplace available now **

GAMES!
RAFFLES!
SHOPPING!
EDUCATION!
FRIENDSHIP!
PET PHOTOS!
FUN!
LOTS OF SPRINGERS!

Come and Join the Fun!
Annual Richmond Springerfest!

MAESSR Store!
Micro-chipping!
CGC Testing!
Raffles!
Lunch (humans)!
Socializing (humans & dogs)!
Ask The Vet Session!

When: April 11, 2015
Where: The Dude Ranch Pet Resort
Glen Allen, VA
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Register online Now - Go to the MAESSR marketplace or Special Events tab on the Menu at maessr.org -
A Trip to the Nationals!
HELEN SCHOENE

Going to the Nationals is the goal of most sports teams! For owners and handlers of competitive English Springer Spaniels, the National Speciality Show by the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association is THE Nationals. The 60th anniversary of the event, which was held from November 2–8, 2014, was hosted by the Purina Farms, Gray Summit, Missouri. There were seven days of Agility, Obedience, Rally, and Conformation Trials involving hundreds of dogs, owners, handlers, and a few MAESSR folks including Vickie Phillips, Debbie Lipsey, Steve Schoene, and me.

This is the final “Best in Breed” parade.

For MASSER folks, going to the Nationals is an opportunity to promote our mission to rescue, re-home, and train ESS dogs and to educate their owners. For years, MASSER volunteers have set up a vendor booth at the main judging ring, selling ESS-related goodies and spreading the word that we are a community of Springer enthusiasts. This is a valuable networking event as well as a fundraising opportunity.

For my family, the Nationals were a hoot! We worked the sales table. We watched the agility competition with open mouths. The obedience trials were amazing, too. We also cheered the wonderful “Top 20 Extravaganza” winners. But the best was when we participated in the Parade of Rescues.

Hubby and I have adopted Charlie 21 (2012), a former show dog. Charlie knew how to stand for the judge and move around the ring. He also caught the eye of the Rescue Parade Chairperson, who asked that he take an extra turn in front of the crowd. We were so proud. At home, he is just our love-bug. But in the ring, he was very much at home, too.

If you want to have a wonderful ESS experience, just go to THE Nationals!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015
Williamsburg Golf Classic for MAESSR
Kiskiack Golf Club
Williamsburg, Va.

Shotgun Start • 9am
Everyone welcome!

Captain’s Choice

Entry Fees
Individuals • $65 Teams • $260

Hole Sponsorship
Gold • $250 Silver • $200 Bronze • $150

Hole sponsorship plus team • $375

Entry fee includes greens fees, cart, practice balls, all-American cookout lunch, and allows participants to vie for many prizes. Golfers are required to wear proper attire.

Checks should be made payable to:
MAESSR
c/o John Keegan
104 South Cove Court
Williamsburg, VA 23188
www.MAESSR.org
The Shelter Challenge, an Important MAESSR Fund Raiser

WARREN REEVES

The Shelter Challenge, sponsored by the Animal Rescue Site, is a nationwide online fundraising contest that attracts competing rescue groups, animal shelters, and other animal welfare groups from all across America. By voting daily, each competing group’s members and supporters can increase their group’s chances of winning. All votes count toward winning the national contest, but they’re automatically entered in a separate contest that’s for the competitors in that state. MAESSR, which is registered in Newville, Pennsylvania, has been fortunate enough to win the state contest several times. The Animal Rescue Site holds about four rounds of contests each year. The Shelter Challenge can be accessed at www.shelterchallenge.com. The simplest way to vote is to register.

Here’s how you do it!

When you access the site’s home page, you’ll see a large purple block on the right at the top of the page. It says, “Click here, it’s free.” It indicates that by clicking on the button, food will be given to a shelter animal. On the upper left side of the page, you’ll see a message saying, “Thank you, your click counted.”

Then, on the right side of the page, you’ll see, “Help Shelters.” Click on that to access the “New Shelter Challenge.” As soon as you click on that, you’ll see the Shelter Challenge page.

The folks at the Shelter Challenge are currently rebuilding the site. However, you don’t have to wait until they’re finished to create a Shelter Challenge account. Simply click on the words “Create a Shelter Challenge Account” and then provide your name and email address. Next, indicate that you accept their terms and verify that you are over 13 years of age, assuming that you are.

When asked to choose a shelter, write in Newville for the city and PA for the state. You’ll see that Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue is the only rescue that comes up.

Hit the purple button for “Choose” and then the purple button “Create Account.”

I created an account several years ago and haven’t received any spam that I can trace back to this site. If you’d like to receive a daily reminder to vote, just write your email address in the blank that’s on the upper right-hand side of the first page, the one that has the large purple, “Click here, it’s free” button.

MAESSR has won several thousand dollars, dog beds, and inoculations for rescued dogs because our supporters and friends have voted daily in the Shelter Challenge. In fact, MAESSR won $500 in the last contest, a holiday mini-round in which we captured first place in the state voting. More nonprofit animal welfare groups across the country are discovering the Shelter Challenge and so it’s becoming increasingly difficult to win. MAESSR needs your vote, so please register today and be on the alert for the next round of the Shelter Challenge, which will begin soon.

We wish you a happy Springer, we wish you a happy Springer ...

MAESSR Marketplace

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOW MANY</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION/CIRCLE CHOICE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flappy Dog Dogs BLOWOUT SALE</td>
<td>XL Toy (1)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Large Toys (set of 2)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Medium Toys (set of 3)</td>
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<td>2015 Calendar</td>
<td>Desktop</td>
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<td>Pocket</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Very Special Springer Christmas Cards</td>
<td>Springers with Wreaths (10-pack)</td>
<td>1/$13.50 2/$25.00 3/$37.00 4/$50.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Springer by Christmas Tree (10-pack)</td>
<td>1/$14.00 2/$27.00 3/$40.00</td>
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<td>Pink T</td>
<td>I adopted a member of the senior class</td>
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<td>MAESSR Garden Flag</td>
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<td>Brown Flag with Liver Springer Spaniel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HOUSE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hand-Painted (USA) Wood Ornaments Featuring Springers (liver/white or black/white)</td>
<td>Canoe w/bones</td>
<td>L/W B/W</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>ESS on paddleboard</td>
<td>L/W B/W</td>
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<td>ESS on toboggan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pink ESS Bandana</td>
<td>Generous pink bandana w/screened ESS standing silhouette</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
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</tbody>
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Phone # ____________________________________________ E-mail Address ____________________________________________
Ship To: ____________________________________________

Prices include shipping. Please enclose this slip with your check made payable to MAESSR.
Mail to: MAESSR, P.O. Box 15354, Richmond, VA 23227