



Springer Tails

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By *Monica LaPolt*

In the last issue of Springer Tails, I explained introduced the Board of Directors. As a continuation of recognizing those individuals who keep MAESSR functioning so smoothly, I would like to introduce you to the MAESSR Coordinators and the volunteers who assist them. As we now have had over 1000 dogs through our doors, I thought it would be a fitting time to offer some insight into the work necessary to make this all possible.

MAESSR is an all-volunteer organization. There are no paid positions within MAESSR. Space does not permit me to name every volunteer by name, but please know that we deeply appreciate all the work that is done on behalf of our dogs. This is the first of two columns on those who work tirelessly for the dogs.

Application Coordinators – Kathleen O'Neill and Sue Geckle – Dividing our service area between the North and South, Kathleen and Sue oversee all aspects of the application process from application through to approval. They assist in training interviewers, reviewing all interviews and finally making the decision on whether or not to approve an applicant. In these tasks, Kathleen and Sue are expertly assisted by **Teri Wiley** who performs the initial screening of applications and assigns them to interviewers.

Interviewers – Our Interviewers speak with applicants to assess the applicants' suitability to adopt a MAESSR foster dog. As part of the process, they also contact veterinary and personal references. Finally, they write substantial reports and provide their opinion on whether a home should be permitted to adopt a MAESSR dog. In all that they do, the Interviewers keep in the forefront of their mind that a Springer relies upon their judgment and thoroughness for their future happiness.

Financial Coordinator/Treasurer – Gale Blackmer – Talk about details! Gale is responsible for receiving virtually all income from MAESSR and reimbursing foster homes for approved expenditures. It sounds much simpler than it is. She must keep accurate records to report to the Board as well as to provide to our accountant for tax purposes. In her tenure Gale has regularized many of our functions. As she steps down, she leaves a clear path for **Russ Cherry** our incoming treasurer.

Lisa Roth, Corresponding Secretary, does an outstanding job sending personal notes to all donors acknowledging their gifts to MAESSR.

Fundraising Coordinator – Kim Bolster –

I cannot think of one person who has done more to keep MAESSR in the forefront of peoples' minds while raising money at the same time as Kim has done. Kim single-handedly masterminds our fundraising program. Much like Midas, all Kim touches turns to gold. All the while, Kim also coordinates our annual picnics, newsletters, and endeavors to expand and improve upon MAESSR's community support and presence.

Our **Regional Event Coordinators** work with Kim to get MAESSR in front of the public. They coordinate local events; bring merchandise, information and a ton of enthusiasm to many dog-related events.

Our virtual **Welcome Wagon is Mary Beach**. Mary sends out celebratory cards and condolence cards and maintains MAESSR's scrapbook and memorabilia. Having received both types of cards from Mary, I can attest to her consummate ability to say the right thing at the right time.

Follow-Up Coordinator – Clare Adams – Clare provides a very important service. She and Linda Johnston follow up with our adoptive homes after they have taken their MAESSR dog home. Their hard work allows us to identify potential problems while they are still small and solvable. In so doing, we improve our retention rate and more importantly, improve the adoption experience for both adoptive homes and our Springers.

Next issue, more of the individuals who help give all our dogs a "new beginning".

CALENDAR

5/21 - Glenside, Pennsylvania
SE Pennsylvania MAESSR
Yard Sale

Contact Vicki Phillips, email
MHAAC@aol.com or
Monica Harrower, email:
mharrower@state.pa.us

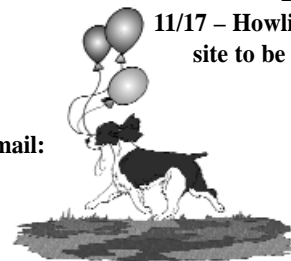
6/11 - MAESSR Picnic,
Walkersville, Maryland
(near Frederick, MD)
Contact: Kim Bolster, email:
ess4x18@cs.com

7/30 – MAESSR Picnic,
Core Creek Park,
Langhorne, PA

9/17 – MAESSR Picnic,
Goochland, VA

10/2 – Fredericksburg, VA
Dog Festival

11/17 – Howlidays Party,
site to be determined



SPRINGER ANTICS

Compiled by Teri Wiley

April showers bring May flowers, and MAESSR has had its share of tears this year. We have said our good byes to so many of our wonderful furry companions. Tristan, Greta, Nukta, Lucky Boy, Savannah, Spring, Daisy and many other MAESSR pups are now playing together at the Rainbow Bridge. We also lost one of our devoted volunteers suddenly, Rob Pattison. It appears that 2005 will be another busy year for MAESSR and there will be other sad moments ahead. Knowing that, I would like to share some lighter times with all of you.

Our adopting families tell some wonderful tales about their new pet, from the first ride home to the first week in their new surroundings. I have saved these since joining MAESSR 5 years ago when we adopted Boomer (aka QUINN). Here are just a few to lighten your heart and bring some sunshine into your day:

Sassy: Thank you MAESSR for the gift you gave us in the form of a small girl with a crooked leg named Sassy! We adore her! My sister's kids love her too, and tell all their friends about her. One of the horses has fallen in love with her and he will whinny, neigh and out and out squeal at me until I bring her out to see him. She is a delight.

Fenway: Well, I thought I'd write you and tell you how Fens first day went. He was a GREAT boy on the way home, and he slept most of the way. He LOVES his new bed and the furniture (ha, ha). I hated to leave him for work today because he was staring at me with those eyes, as I was pulling out of the parking lot. When I got home, I found out that my boy is a counter surfer! He got the bag of dog food and had it on the couch. The good part was, he didn't break into the bag, and it was just sitting with him on the couch. The best part was while I was playing tug of war with him tonight. He dropped the teddy and started howling like a wolf!! I couldn't stop laughing, I would howl and he did it all the more!! I am so happy he is a part of my life. I just keep hugging and loving on him to let him know he's going nowhere! I could tell that he was a little sad yesterday, but I had a long talk with him that I would love him with all my heart and he didn't have to worry. Thank you for letting me adopt him, he is starting to fill a very big spot in my heart. He is the BEST BOY IN THE WORLD!!

Tequilla has been at his FOREVER home for 1 week and 2 days and is very

comfy here. It took a few days for him to realize that this is his new home and when he settled in he was just fine. He loves to take naps with me on my bed and during the night he takes turns sleeping in the beds with my kids, they love him. Tequilla also has already met most of our family and they all love him. Thank you all again for finding Tequilla for us, he is already deep within our hearts!

Nike: (one of Daphne's puppies): She's doing very well and, while she isn't the star pupil in Puppy Kindergarten (giggle!), she's the sweetest puppy ever! We spend a lot of time at the farm where she has a couple of beloved playmates, a boxer named Daisy and a mini schnauzer named Sophie. Her favorite thing is chasing the barn cats and trying to figure out why she can't manage the hayloft ladder like they can! We've taken her to several horse events and she's just good as gold. She never barks at the horses, or other people and animals, and loves being there. If she gets any cuter it will be too much! Thanks again for allowing us to adopt her. She's adorable!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Conducting Home Checks

By Linda Foster

In the last edition of Springer Tails, I explained how you could make a difference by interviewing applicants that want to adopt a Springer from MAESSR. In this issue, I'd like to detail another step in the approval process, the home check.

After a MAESSR volunteer completes an interview with an applicant and secures a vet reference, the interviewer may still have some unanswered questions or concerns about the family. In such cases, our Application Coordinator may ask that a home check be performed.

In doing a home check, you would contact applicants to set up a convenient time to visit them at their homes and meet the other members of their families, including any pets. Our Application Coordinator supplies specific questions to ask or areas of concern that need to be investigated before the family can be approved to adopt. It's the responsibility of the volunteer performing the home check to make sure that any concerns are addressed, investigated and discussed with the Application Coordinator.

For instance, if a family has never had a Springer before and is not sure if

a high-energy dog is the right choice for them, you may be asked to bring your Springer along to assess how the family responds and interacts with your Springer. Or perhaps the interviewer needs someone to inspect the yard to make sure it's a secure area for a Springer to run and play. In such instances, you may need to examine the yard, check the fencing or look for any possible hazards. Or maybe the applicant doesn't know if his or her own dog will tolerate another dog, and you will need to introduce your dog to determine if the applicant's dog will tolerate other dogs. These are just a few examples of instances where a home check may be necessary.

Also, whenever new families offer to foster for us, MAESSR volunteers conduct home visits to assure us that they would provide safe, caring foster homes for our Springers. We even provide you with a list of questions and helpful hints to aid you in your assessment of the foster family.

Conducting a home check only takes a couple hours of your time and is a great way to help MAESSR and meet other Springer enthusiasts. By doing home checks, you play an essential role in helping our Springers find wonderful forever homes that are safe, secure, and filled with love.

If you'd like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Foster, at RescueESS@yahoo.com or complete a volunteer application at our website.



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MAESSR?
MARY JANE ISENBERG IN HER MAESSR FLEECE WHILE TOURING GERMANY!

SPRINGER HEALTH

By Dr. Carol Petty, DVM

Ears

Springer ears are one of their defining characteristics- without those floppy ears the rest of the dog just wouldn't be the same. However, those pendulous ears set up a very specific environment under all the cuteness and flop, and that environment often favors the production of problems.

Even without the floppy outer covering, the ear canal of any dog is set up to be susceptible to infection due to the canal having a vertical component leading down to a horizontal component. Debris must work its way upward to get out of the canal.

Disease in the ear canal often stems from the over-production of ear wax in response to irritation. Irritation is frequently caused by allergies (very common in spaniels), foreign material such as grass awns and overgrowth of hair in the canals. The ear wax contains moisture, which promotes the growth of bacteria and yeast. With springers, we add the floppy ear flap that provides a dark, warm environment and prevents circulation of fresh air, and these factors merge with the previous factors to cause severe or recurrent infections.

Signs that could indicate that your springer has an ear infection include scratching or rubbing their ears, shaking their head or crying out when their ears are handled. If the dog scratches his ears or shakes his head hard enough, a blood vessel in the ear flap may burst and a "hematoma" may result. This would appear as a swollen area in the flap of the ear.

Treatment of an ear infection depends on the severity. Your veterinarian should examine your dog in order to determine the severity and underlying cause of the infection. If your springer has not had problems before and especially if the problem exists on one side or is very painful, your vet may want to sedate the dog for comfort and safety and look down inside the canal to remove foreign material and debris. A sample of the debris can be examined under a microscope to look for yeast, bacteria and ear mites (although ear mites are rarely found in normal, adult dogs). If the infection is mild, you may be able to keep the ears clean at home and apply medication. More severe infection may require flushing under sedation.

If your springer suffers repeatedly from ear infections, you might consider

testing for allergies. Both food related and air-borne allergies can cause ear infections. Treatment for the allergy may stop the ear infections or at least decrease their severity.

There are many medicated cleaning products on the market as well as home remedies for keeping ears clean. I have had the best luck with the home remedy often called "Blue Power", but it is best to discuss your choices with your own veterinarian. Frequency of cleaning the ears varies from dog to dog, but if your products are working, you shouldn't have to clean the ears more than once every week or two and you shouldn't be seeing much wax production.

Medications for ear infections also abound, and should be used based on what examination of the debris in each dog's ears has shown. As an example, if you use over the counter ear mite remedy when there are not any mites present, you might just increase irritation, and thus increase ear wax production, leading to worsening of the infection.

Sometimes, ear infections will be severe enough to warrant systemic medications as well as topical. This could include corticosteroids if there is a lot of swelling and inflammation, antibiotics if a lot of pus is present in the discharge and antifungal drugs for stubborn yeast infections. I have resorted to using oral antifungals in patients that were too painful or too wiggly to apply topical medications effectively as well.

Besides medicating the ears, you can also help prevent ear infections by keeping the hair around the opening to the ear canal trimmed to increase air flow. I've met a few dogs that learned to wear their ears up in a "scrunchie" as well to help keep the ears dry and well ventilated.

In closing, although springers have the right anatomy to predispose them to ear infections, there are some extremely useful products out there to keep wax production down and to keep bacteria and fungal growth under control so that our dogs don't have to suffer the consequence of those beautiful pendulous ears.



www.maessr.org

JOIN THE MAESSR VOLUNTEER FAMILY!

MAESSR is always looking for new volunteers to join our growing family. Perhaps you've thought about volunteering in the past but never followed through or maybe you've recently adopted a Springer and would like to honor your new dog by donating some of your free time to helping other Springers in need. If so, we would gladly welcome you to our team!

We need volunteers for a variety of functions including fostering, helping with transports, interviewing applicants, conducting home checks, fundraising and outreach, and supporting other vital roles. If you're interested in learning more, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Foster, at RescueESS@yahoo.com or simply complete the volunteer application on our website.

Please join us in welcoming the following the following new volunteers:

Andrea Austin, Manassas, VA
Shug Davis, Philadelphia, PA
Gail Erwin, West Trenton, NJ
Alice Fisher, Reading, PA
Carolyn Grasso, Woolwich Twp., NJ
Carol Hallett, Pittsburgh, PA
Sandi Long, Walkersville, MD
Phillip Schenk, Charleston, WV
Barbara Williams, Arlington, VA

UKROPS GOLDEN GIFTS-SHOP AND HELP THE DOGS!

For those in the central Virginia area, the grocery store Ukrops is well known. The Golden Gifts program is a fund raising program that enables you to help MAESSR.

In May, you will receive a certificate showing "points" you have earned through Golden Gifts. Please send the certificate to MAESSR and MAESSR will receive a part of the contribution dollars!

This is an easy and convenient way to help raise money. Any questions, please contact Kim, ess4x18@cs.com.

DO YOU REMEMBER... ANDY?

By Mary Beach

Then...Chesterfield County, VA...
August 2000

Andy is a poor boy, less than two years old, living in filth and feces on a screened porch. His owner, an elderly woman, feeds him sporadically, never cleans up after him and pays him no attention. Animal control officers convince the owner to give him up. They take him to the local shelter and call MAESSR. Soon, foster mom Debbie Lipcsey arrives at the shelter to meet this dirty, matted, smelly dog. Once home, she begins to shave him down. He has a mat the size of a baseball under his chin, and his ears are an awful mess. This boy, however, is good as can be through the entire grooming process. When Andy goes to the vet for "the works", he tests positive for heart-worms. He starts his treatments and begins to bloom in foster care. He enjoys playing with the other dogs, and he has a

great appetite. His foster mom says he is a real sweetheart. An adoptive family that lives nearby visits and falls in love with Andy.

Now...Goochland, VA...April 2005

Andy's name is now Watson and has written to tell us about his wonderful life:

My name is Watson (aka Andy, class of 2000). Sometimes Daddy calls me Mister Watson or Doctor Watson, depending on how he is feeling. My picture shows me in my winter coat. It keeps me warm. I love to run and tumble in the snow, but I also like to snuggle in my bed when it is raining. Spring is here, so I'll soon have my spring look. I'll be much slimmer then.

I live a quiet life in the country. Dad and I go on long walks together. He likes to walk along the side of the road, but I spend most of the time bouncing through the woods on either side of the road. I also like to run ahead and then come back to check on him. He walks



Watson

so slowly! Of course, I love to check all the smells and leave a few smells of my own along the way. When I've been running for a while, I like to wade in the ditch to cool my feet. For some reason this distresses Dad. He says Mom won't let me in the house, but she always does.

I have two cats, Kate and Patches. Kate is very old and somewhat cranky. She sleeps in the chair a lot. Patches is a young calico, and she sits quietly on the window seat and watches the bird feeder outside. My yellow Lab sister now lives at the Rainbow Bridge. I miss her a lot, and I am helping Dad look for another sister. He says we're going to get one soon!

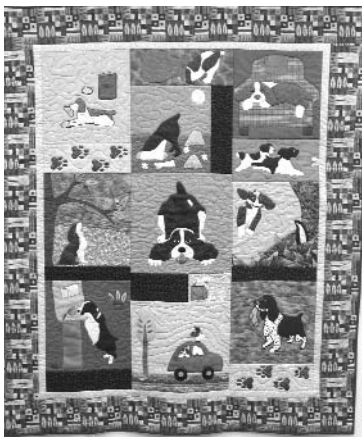
I have a good family now. I can hardly remember when I first found them. I was very sick then, but now I'm very happy. I hope all the rescue dogs find good homes like I have! Thank you!

SPRINGER MISCHIEF

The colors are vibrant and the designs are clever. Who doesn't recognize one of these skills and the dogs that practice them?

The MAESSR 2005 Raffle Quilt is unmatched. Barb Bennett and her team of quilters have done a spectacular job capturing the joys of being a Springer. Counter-surfing, chasing squirrels, digging holes and chewing socks are just a few of the mischievous behaviors captured on the quilt.

Watch the website for the quilt to see the full colors and information about the talented quilters. Raffle tickets can be purchased using the Order Form on the newsletter back page or website now or with Paypal on the website in May.



GLENSIDE (PA) YARD SALE - MAY 21

Check your basement, garage, and closets! MAESSR is having an inaugural Southeastern Pennsylvania Yard Sale. We have had great success in past years with Central Virginia yard sales – so we are branching out!

Dave and Monica Harrower have graciously offered to host the sale. It will be part of an entire subdivision/community sale – so lots of shoppers will be guaranteed. When: Saturday, May 21 at 8 AM in Glenside, Montgomery County.

We need lots of items to sell, people to help mark items on Friday night and to help the day of the sale. If you can help in anyway or have questions, please contact Vicki Phillips (MHAAC@aol.com) or Monica Harrower (mharrower@state.pa.us). If you do not have email, call the MAESSR line (301-362-0423) and advise how you'd like to help. MAESSR has raised as much as \$1800 in Virginia yard sales. Let's do it again in Pennsylvania!

WHAT DOGS DO FOR US

(Reprinted with thanks to lams)

Listen to our singing.

Treat us like celebrities when we come home.

Warm up our beds on cold nights.

Make our hearts more vigorous.

Make us smile.

Agree with everything we say.

Warm our knees with their chins.

Get us outside on beautiful fall days.

Provide a use for old tennis balls.

Alert us to the arrival of the mail.

Test how fast we can run.

Keep the squirrels from over-taking our yards.

Star in our home videos.

Teach us the meaning of unconditional love.

SENIOR MOMENTS

By Norman Cromwell

The summer season is upon us and I imagine many of you Springer owners will be going on vacation. While some of you may take your Springer's with you, many more will be leaving your beloved pets at home. Recently, my mom was out of town and she hired a dog nanny to come and stay with us. I thought I would tell all you folks what we need in a good dog nanny.

For starters, you should definitely remember that this is a vacation for us, too. That means there should be less rules and more fun. For example, make sure you aren't real specific about how much a "glob" is when you tell your dog sitter to feed your Springer three globs of canned food with each meal. My caretaker's "three globs" was about one third of a can of food. My mom's "three globs" is about one heaping tablespoon. Obviously, I liked this little miscommunication. In fact, being fed extra food is only fair as you are probably eating more food than you normally do while you are on vacation, right? Why shouldn't we get more food, too?

Make sure that that our caretaker is instructed to give us many treats while you are gone. It makes us bond with our caretaker faster if we see him or her as a treating machine. We really, really bonded with our caretaker because she brought us great treats.

Also, it is good to have a normal routine while you are gone no matter how many caretakers it takes to ensure a regular schedule. We had one person come during the day and then another person come around 5:00 pm and then our caretaker would get home from work around 7:00. It was nice to see many happy faces during the day. Mostly it was nice to get outside frequently just like when our mom is at home.

It is also important that you hire someone who will tolerate all the not so great habits we have acquired since becoming MAESSR dogs. For example, the guest room is mine. This is where I sleep almost every night. I have learned to pull back the covers and rest my head on the pillow just like a human. Therefore, if someone is going to sleep in the guest room, they are my guest and must recognize this fact. I do not mind sharing the bed at all. I do mind giving up the bed and I will make sure you know it. Fortunately, our caretaker liked to sleep

with me and Kelly and Tasha. It was a bit crowded but we did okay.

Also, it is very important to leave phone numbers for everyone you have ever met as well as a cell phone number for yourself just in case something should come up. Our caretaker had a family emergency and with just a couple of phone



Norman

calls, several people sprung into action to make sure we got fed, walked and loved.

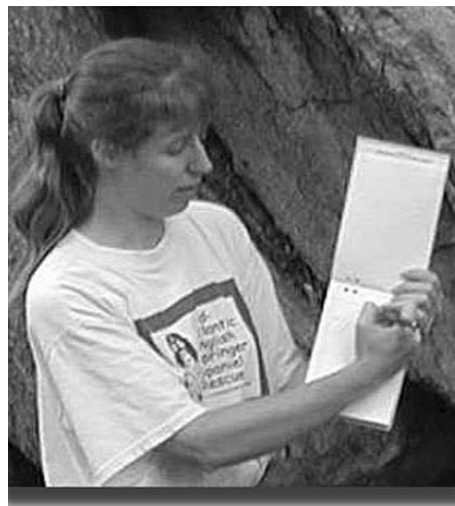
We really would prefer that you never, ever, ever leave us. However, if you must leave us, please be sure our caretaker knows all of these important tips.

Springer Tails

Newsletter Contributors:

ISABELLE CHEWNING, MARY BEACH, JOAN CROMWELL, TERI WILEY, DR. CAROL GETTY, DVM, MONICA LAPOLT AND LINDA FOSTER.

EDITOR: KIM BOLSTER;
MAILING LISTS: LINDA ABRAMS;
LAYOUT: DONNA MITCHELL.



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MAESSR?

Dr. Gale Blackmer instructing students at the Samuel Lewis State Park in York County PA. She is wearing the Inaugural MAESSR T-shirt.

ESSentials

By Teri Wiley

It's official, Spring 2005 has arrived and along with it come those cute little black and white critters we ALL want to avoid. You got it, SKUNKS! This story comes from Alicia Smith, one of our volunteers and adoptive families and her MAESSR dog, Rickie.

"She had escaped under the privacy fence, and when my husband realized she was out, went out in the front yard, and found her finishing it off. She knew she was in trouble, so he yelled at Rickie. Up the stairs she went looking for me, and hid under my bed. I didn't have my MAESSR cookbook with the great skunk scent removal recipe, so we sent our daughter out to buy tomato juice (which doesn't work) and started bathing her with regular shampoo. I attempted to go to work, but had to leave early to spare my poor colleagues because as the day progressed, more of the "skunk" smell came out. On the way home, I called our very trusted vet, and she told me to try baking soda, peroxide, and some of the dog's shampoo. After about three or four baths, Rickie wasn't too bad." What I should have used was:

Here is the recipe from our MAESSR COOKBOOK for your DOG:

- ♦ 1 quart 3 % Hydrogen Peroxide
- ♦ 1/4cup baking soda
- ♦ 1 tsp dishwashing liquid

Mix all ingredients (concoction will fizz). Wet dog thoroughly and knead solution into dogs coat. Solution is NOT toxic, but don't get it near your dog's eyes, ears, nose or mouth. Use a sponge to dab the solution on dog's head. Leave on for about 5 minutes. Rinse thoroughly and towel dry. Repeat as needed until smell subsides. Any discoloration of the coat will fade within days or weeks.

CAUTION: DO NOT STORE, can explode!

"Now, as for the house: If your Springer went anywhere specific, like under your bed...that carpet is toast. Where Rickie went and lay, we scrubbed and scrubbed, even with baking soda and peroxide, but it didn't help. We opened all the windows and turned on the "fan" portion of the a/c unit to circulate the air. We kept it that way for about 24 hrs. We sprayed ALL of the carpet and furniture down with Fabreeze a couple of times. That seemed to take care of all of the smell in the house in general...plus I burned a lot of candles for a few days! This is an experience I would not wish on my worse enemy."

THANK YOU

Gifts in Honor Of*:

Lois and Randy Boyer – Lauren Boyer, DVM
Linda Johnston (multiple gifts) – Ranger and Quincy
Michael Gromadzyn – Volunteer Vicki Phillips
Bobbie Matherne – Cooper (formerly Oscar II)
Jody and Jim Reitzes – Dutch (adopted 1/01) and Sophie (adopted 2/04)
Frederick County Esther Boyd Animal Shelter – Bernie and Donna Thompson
Liz Rusnak – Boscoe
Ken Stewart – Penny II
Lisa Roth – Bentley and Que
Kent and Kathy Nixon – All MAESSR Volunteers
Animal Hospital of Waynesboro – Luke Fears
Glenn and Susan Altschuld – Tucker VI
Carrie Wood – Evie, Hannah and the gang
Marion F. Fleming – John G Fleming – Freckles
Pam and Jerry Bordwick – Lady Abigail, Snuggles & Hamboney
Dorine Andrews and John Manzollilo – Fred – on his 3rd birthday
Rick and Rita Gatlin – Boscoe
Sherry Rohn Clancy – Boscoe

Gifts in Memory Of Rob Pattison:

Mary and Lee Beach
Elsbeth Battel
Jeffrey Zirpolo
Kenna Gossard
Gennie Ragan
Bill and Debbie Lipcsey
Phyllis Oristano

Jean Marie Ervingham
Agnes Hughan
James A Gordon August F Schmidt Funeral Home
Andrew Elliot, et al L&F Indemnity Limited
John Pattison
Isabelle and Barry Chewning
James Gordon

Gifts in Memory of Kim Bolster's Tristan:

Cindy Brassfield
Sarah Ferrell and Neal Campbell
Monica LaPolt
Barbara Jones
Della Anderson
Leeny, Caroline, Andrew and Corinne Glass
Debbie and Bill Lipcsey
Heather Young
Isabelle and Barry Chewning
Mary and Lee Beach
Kim Bolster
Lisa Roth

Gifts in Memory of:

Medical Practice Management – Debbie Lipcsey's grandmother, Opal Bell
Judy Mintz- Patrick
Debbie and Bill Lipcsey – Barbara Jamrose
Barbara Sheroke – Rocky
Katherine Mitchell – "Lily" Sandy
Monica LaPolt – Molly XV
Mary and lee Beach – Krista and Greg Beach's Bailey
Frederick Thomas – Samantha

Linda Johnston – Clare Adams' Spring
Aga Skotowski – Maggie
Monica LaPolt – Murphy Baldwin-Way

Friends of Hannah IV:

Christine DePhillip
Jim Pedrazzini
Jean Miller
Lynda LaRoche
Carol Suptin
CDR. Barbara Williams (multiple gifts)
Colleen Ruch
Heather Young
Barbara Breeden
Mark Katsourous

Gifts:

Beryl and John Keegan
Brett Warren
Karl Malessa
Melissa Campbell
Katherine Long
Susanne Bickel
Twin Cities Voyageur ESS Association (TCVESSA)
Brenda Aldredge and Hope Brickey
Linda Johnston (multiple gifts)
Brian and Rachel Murray
Martha Stewart
Susan Hudgins
Leslie Palmer
Carol DeTemple

PICNICS 2005!!!!

BOTH PICNICS ARE OPEN TO ALL FRIENDS OF MAESSR - ADOPTIVE FAMILIES, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS

**JUNE 11, 2005 – WALKERSVILLE COMMUNITY PARK,
WALKERSVILLE, MD (NEAR FREDERICK)**

MICROCHIP CLINIC, GAMES, CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TESTING, GROOMING CLINIC, PET HEALTH CLINIC, RAFFLES, BOXED LUNCH.
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 2, 2005

JULY 30, 2005 – CORE CREEK PARK LANGHORNE, PENNSYLVANIA

MICROCHIP CLINIC, CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TESTING, GAMES, RAFFLES, BOXED LUNCH, PET HEALTH CLINIC, GROOMING CLINIC.
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 21, 2005

MAESSR PICNIC RSVP

_____ NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING JUNE 11, 2005 WALKERSVILLE, MD PICNIC

_____ NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING JULY 30, 2005 LANGHORNE, PA PICNIC

WE WILL HAVE A RSVP FOR 9/17 GOOCHLAND, VA PICNIC IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

I WILL BRING MY DOG - NAME(S) _____

I WILL BE GLAD TO HELP AT THE PICNIC (SET-UP, REGISTRATION TABLE, RAFFLE TABLES, FUNDRAISING, CLEAN-UP, DOG GAMES, BRING A RAFFLE ITEM) PLEASE CIRCLE AREAS WHERE YOU COULD HELP.

** I'VE ENCLOSED A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO MAESSR - # OF PEOPLE _____ X \$8.00 = _____

NAME _____ EMAIL (PHONE IF NO EMAIL) _____

MAIL TO: MAESSR, PO Box 15354, RICHMOND, VA 23227

THE TRAINING CORNER

CGC Challenge!

By Isabelle Chewing

The American Kennel Club has instituted the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program to (1) teach responsible dog ownership to owners; and (2) certify dogs that have the training and behaviors needed to be reliable, well-behaved members of their families and communities.

To be awarded a CGC, a dog must be evaluated by an AKC certified evaluator. MAESSR is very fortunate that several of its volunteers are certified by AKC as CGC evaluators. The evaluation itself is a 10-step test consisting of items designed to demonstrate that the dog is well under control, and that dog and handler have an understanding of some basic obedience commands. The test is performed with the dog on leash, and dogs are not required to perform with the precision necessary in formal obedience. Although food is not permitted as a reward during the actual test, handlers are encouraged to interact with their dogs during the test through verbal cues, praise, and body language.

MAESSR will be offering CGC tests at all three picnics this summer, and we hope for a large group of aspiring CGCs! In fact, we've set a goal of five CGCs per picnic. So come out to a picnic, take the test, and cheer for your fellow MAESSR adoptees as they take the test. Which picnic will produce the highest number of new CGCs: Frederick, MD; Langhorne, PA; or Goochland, VA??? We challenge you to start practicing now so that you'll be ready this summer. In the meantime, go to the AKC website (www.akc.org), search on CGC, and read more about these 10 test elements:

Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger – evaluator greets the handler and the dog shows no resentment or shyness.

Test 2: Sitting politely for petting – evaluator pets the dog on the head.

Test 3: Appearance and grooming – evaluator combs or brushes the dog, lightly examines the ears, and picks up each front foot.

Test 4: Walking on a loose lead – evaluator instructs the handler to walk a course including a right turn, left turn, and halt.

Test 5: Walking through a crowd – dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people.

Test 6: Sit and down on command and staying in place – dog must respond correctly to sit and down commands. Dog must stay (in either down or sit position) while handler walks to the end of a 20-foot leash.

Test 7: Coming when called – handler asks the dog to stay, walks to the end of the 20-foot line, and calls the dog.

Test 8: Reaction to another dog – two handlers with dogs approach each other, stop and shake hands. Dogs should show no more than a causal interest in each other.

Test 9: Reaction to distraction – this test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distractions (jogger, shopping cart, umbrella, etc.)

Test 10: Supervised separation – evaluator takes dog's leash, and handler goes out of sight for three minutes. Dog does not show strong agitation or nervousness.

A MAESSR DIAMOND:

Winchester, The Therapy Dog

Winchester II became a member of the Bennett family in April 2004. He was a neglected owner relinquishment – heavily matted, rarely exercised and weighing in at 83 pounds! Once at their home, the Bennetts immediately recognized they had adopted a very special dog with unlimited and untapped potential.

Within two weeks of his adoption, Winchester was enrolled in an obedience class. He excelled and quickly earned his Canine Good Citizen as well as his Therapy Dog International certification. In addition to training, Winchester was also gaining a much missed stability and structure in his life. Lots of exercise, food control and lots of love increased his level of confidence and also brought his weight down 27 pounds!

With a treasure like Winchester, Linda Bennett wanted to share him with the community. With his Canine Good Citizen and therapy certifications, many avenues opened. They joined a therapy group and Winchester now makes visits to an area prison, nursing homes and is part of special reading program. In a program with the local



Winchester and one of his faithful reading companions.

library and school district, Winchester is matched with a 5-12 year old student who reads to him. A very successful program and concept nationwide, this work helps build the confidence and reading skills of the child.

Winchester and his family are also part of a groundbreaking program at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA). Bucknell had strict regulations that no dogs are allowed on campus or in buildings. Linda Bennett presented a proposal to the college administration advocating therapy dogs visits be offered to the students. After four months of discussion, negotiation, and education, an exception was made to the University policy. The first therapy dog visit to Bucknell was in December 2004. Eight dogs attended and close to 400 students! Students waited in lines to see and interact with the dogs. Hugs, lots of petting, tales of their family dog, and tears were all present at the first historic visit. A subsequent visit in February 2005 had several hundred students waiting to see the dogs! Winchester's campus visits average 3-4 times a semester.

This July, Winchester will be 5 years old. What a success story – a tribute to the Bennetts and to Winchester. He is an active and much loved member of his family and helping his community and individuals better their lives. A true MAESSR treasure - a diamond in the rough!

Editors Note: Please see the Training Corner article for more information on the Canine Good Citizen. This will be a regular column to Springer Tails, so if you'd like to share your dogs story, please email Kim at ess4x18@cs.com or write to the MAESSR PO Box.



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 Gale Blackmer - Financial Coordinator - windy1421@worldnet.att.net
 Sue Geckle - Applications Coordinator - sgeckle@excite.com
 Kathleen O'Neill - Applications Coordinator - oneill@princeton.edu
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MAESSR appreciates and needs your financial support. Your donation will be used to rescue and care for English Springer Spaniels in the Mid - Atlantic region. Please mail your donation to the address below. Thank you for your generosity.



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