



# Springer Tails

## Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

### PRESIDENTS CORNER

*By Monica LaPolt*

There are many people who work "behind the scenes" at MAESSR. This issue, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce the MAESSR Board of Directors.

**Gale Blackmer** - As a foster home and our treasurer, Gale has been a member of MAESSR since 1999. Amazingly, Gale doesn't own a Springer and never has. Gale loves training exuberant foster dogs and firmly believes that a good Springer is a tired Springer. In her other life, she is Dr. Gale C. Blackmer, a geologist with the Pennsylvania Geological Survey.

**Russ Cherry** - Our newest board member, Russ Cherry is the first MAESSR adoptive family member on our Board. Russ, Barbara, and kids adopted Kai, in 2001. Russ has a long dedication to rescue. During his career in the Coast Guard, he and fellow reservists helped to rehome stray dogs that had washed ashore. Russ is a Certified Public Accountant and has recently agreed to assume the Treasurers position.

**Karen Ellery** - Living in Minnesota, Karen is our most geographically challenged volunteer. Thanks to the wonder of the Internet, Karen was our Applications Coordinator for several years. Karen and her husband, Kevin, are owned contentedly by their cat, Miranda. Soon to be leaving the Board, Karen's contributions and perspective will be sorely missed.

**Rick Gatlin** - Rick has been showing and breeding English Springer Spaniels since 1981. In addition to his administrator's position at the University of Virginia, Rick is also a dog show superintendent. Rick and Rita have six Springers. Rick was a solid MAESSR supporter before being asked to join the board. His dedication to the breed and rescue makes him a true asset to our Board.

**Sue Geckle** - Sue has been devoted to MAESSR since 2001. Through the years she has fostered dogs, interviewed adoptive homes and adopted a foster dog! Now, the Applications Coordinator for MD, VA, and WV, Sue brings her broad range of volunteer experience to MAESSR. Married with three children and working full time, Sue has always found the time for MAESSR.

**Dave Lake** - The Lakes are one of MAESSR's oldest foster homes. The Lakes found us in 1999 and asked to volunteer. Since then, Dave and Rosie have always had at least one foster in their

home. The Lakes have two wonderful girls who take an active role with their foster dogs. In addition to MAESSR and his full time job, Dave performs in a Christian rock band.

**Monica La Polt** - As a founding member of MAESSR, I have done just about every job that MAESSR has. In this, my husband, Al, always supports me. In my "other" life, I am an attorney. Currently, not practicing; I am focusing on raising my son, Jack.

The Board of Directors is primarily responsible for charting the course for MAESSR by setting long and short-term goals and objectives. As well, the Board makes policy decisions that are then implemented by MAESSR's officers and volunteers. I state it rather succinctly, but fulfilling these responsibilities takes a great deal of thought, communication and compromise.

It is my goal to bring all serious requests for policy changes to the Board. If you have an issue that you think the Board should consider, please email me at [mlapolt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlapolt@sbcglobal.net).

Thanks and have a great year!

### CALENDAR

**3/20- Pottsville, Pennsylvania - Northeast Pet and Breed Rescue Expo**

Contact: Vicki Phillips, email: [MHAAC@aol.com](mailto:MHAAC@aol.com)

**4/15 - Camp Jackpot Raffle Drawing**

Contact: Debbie Lipcsey, email: [springerfarm@aol.com](mailto:springerfarm@aol.com)

**4/23 - Wilmington, Delaware - Delaware Dog Fest**

Contact: Vicki Phillips, email: [MHAAC@aol.com](mailto:MHAAC@aol.com)

**4/23 Williamsburg, Virginia - Bark in the Park**

Contact: Mary Beach, email: [spanielma@aol.com](mailto:spanielma@aol.com)

**5/21 Glenside, Pennsylvania - SE Pennsylvania**

MAESSR Yard Sale

**6/11 - MAESSR Picnic, Walkersville, Maryland**

(near Frederick, MD)

**7/30 - MAESSR Picnic, Core Creek Park,  
Langhorne, PA**

## THE TRAINING CORNER

By Isabelle Chewning

### Positive Reinforcement

Although some dog trainers consider corrections a necessary part of training, most believe that reward-based positive reinforcement is a more effective method. Two of our MAESSR family members recently provided me with excellent examples of how they have creatively used positive reinforcement in training their dogs.

Beth Reid described her step-by-step plan for making nail-trimming a positive experience for her new puppy. (This takes time; it won't happen in a day!) First, she put a pile of hard treats on the grooming table, and let the puppy spend time on the table eating the treats. Since the treats were hard, and he still had puppy teeth, he was occupied for quite a while. When the puppy was comfortable with that, she progressed to touching each paw and nail, again with lots and lots of treats. Beth uses a mini-mite sander to grind her puppy's nails, and step three was to put the puppy on the grooming table with a good supply of treats, and to turn on the sander and let him get used to the sound. Finally, she progressed to actually grinding his nails, with treats after each. The result of this process was a pup eager to get on the table, and willing to have his nails done. Now at 16 months, Beth's puppy tries to leap on the table, and allows her to cut or grind a few nails or a paw at a time, followed by a treat. She does his nails every one to two weeks so that it is a regular part of life.

In March 2003, Brenda Cuomo adopted Missy from MAESSR, who, at four years old, had had at least one litter of puppies, had been treated for heartworms, and was sight-impaired. Missy is now completely blind, but with Brenda's creative use of a clicker and positive reinforcement, she is confident, happy, and more independent. Brenda began walking Missy on the beach near her home, and snapped her fingers to give Missy a sound to follow. Brenda soon graduated to a clicker for a more consistent sound, and rewarded Missy with treats when she followed the sound of the clicker. Missy learned to stop when the sound of the clicker stopped, and to come towards the sound of the clicker for treats when she needed to get her bearings. Now Missy holds her head up while walking, and even jogs by Brenda's side. Brenda clicks every few steps, and even in unfamiliar surroundings, Missy is secure knowing that all she has to do is follow the sound, and all will be fine.

Thanks to both Beth Reid and Brenda Cuomo for sharing their training tips!

**Training Triumphs: Savannah** (adopted July 2003) completed her Level 2 Agility class in October. Savannah's entire family has enjoyed agility. Savannah and ESS Kerry (adopted locally from the animal welfare league) participated in the class along with their mom, Barbara Breeden. MAESSR seniors **Satin** and **Crystal** (class of 2004) attended class to watch and cheer for Savannah, Kerry and Barbara. . . . . Becky and Josh Thomas report that **Daphne** (class of 2004, and mother of 11 MAESSR puppies) has a new career: after graduating from Pre-Novice Obedience in December, she visited a nursing home and a hospital as a therapy dog. In Daphne's obedience class, the dogs were scored on heeling, sit and down stays, recalls, etc., and Daphne graduated first in her class with a perfect score! She received a blue ribbon, a certificate, and plenty of doggie biscuits, and the Thomases are, understandably, extremely proud of her accomplishments. We're sure that Daphne's puppies will be very proud of their mom as well!

Congratulations Savannah and Daphne!

## SENIOR MOMENTS

By Norman Cromwell

This month I would like to talk to you about what a helpful boy I am. Maybe a few of you Springers will recognize yourselves. If you do not, maybe you should stop being so lazy and follow my good example.

I love treats. I will do anything for treats. In fact, if my mom seems to be having a problem getting them out of the box, bag or canister, I will jump up and offer to help her. Somehow this always seems to result in less treats, not more. But I know deep down she appreciates my efforts to help her.

Another thing I like to help my mom do is clean up spills. Bless her heart, she tries so hard but sometimes she will drop food or crumbs on the floor when she is cooking. I always lick the floor completely clean for her. She pretends that she doesn't like me licking the floor, but inside, I know she is grateful to have a clean floor.

My mom likes it when people ask her about her dogs so I am always certain to brush up against her newly dry-cleaned clothes right before she leaves the house. The resulting dog hair is a sure conversation starter and I know my mom appreciates having the opportunity to tell people about rescue in general and MAESSR, in particular.

At nighttime when my mom is getting ready for bed, I like to jump up on the bed and warm a spot for her. She will then crawl into bed and snuggle up to me. The sigh she lets out tells me how much she loves me and how happy she is for all the things I do to help her around the house.



### You Can Make a Difference!

If you'd like to make a difference in the lives of homeless, unwanted, or neglected Springers, we would love to have you join the MAESSR volunteer family. We are continually looking for new volunteers to foster, help with transports, interview applicants, conduct home checks, assist with fundraising, and support other vital rescue functions. If you would like to help, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Foster, at [RescueESS@yahoo.com](mailto:RescueESS@yahoo.com) or simply complete the volunteer application on our website.

Please join us in welcoming the following new volunteers:

Lacie Absher, Brogue, PA	Phyllis Mahoney, Montgomery Village, MD	Edna & Ralph Rinaldi, Front Royal, VA
Carrie Cicuto, Glen Allen, VA	Sharon Maynor, Picture Rocks, PA	Cindy Sentelle, Woodsboro, MD
Stacie Crain, Blacksburg, VA	Bill & Lesley Nelson, Sewell, NJ	Becky Thomas, Milesburg, PA
Katie Faulk, Berryville, VA	Kathleen Oettel, Chesapeake, VA	Craig Walker, Rockville, MD
Joe Harkins, Bel Air, MD	Misty Peal-Auville, South Charleston, WV	Beth Watson, Milford, NJ
Wendy Hogan, Alexandria, VA	Warren Reeves, Goochland, VA	Darby Wiggins, Arlington, VA
Ann Hoover, Tall Timbers, MD		Gerri Wray, Hamburg, PA

## "The Culture Clash" by Jean Donaldson

A book review by Barb Bennett

If you were brought up in the "choke collar, leash jerk" generation the way I was then this book will be a revelation to you. In several chapters there is a lot of fancy training language that I needed to read over several times and mark with a yellow high lighter but the author eventually puts the concept in concise language with relevant examples.

In chapter 3 she explains socialization, why it is so critical and the reason dogs act the way they sometimes do. "In a natural setting, it is highly adaptive to increase distance between yourself and anything unusual and then to proceed with extreme caution when approaching....

Animals are very into social distance. So are we, if you think about it. We tolerate someone standing right against us in a crowded elevator but would be instantly spooked by the same person standing that close if we were the only two in the elevator...We can also, like animals, be very weird about people touching us."

In chapter 5 she states "Behavior which works gets stronger. This is a law which applies to all living things." I just love that and would all dog owners please write that down and tape it to the refrigerator! I think Dr Phil has been

trying to get this across on his show.

She goes on to say "Dogs and humans learn to recognize when a given consequence, good or bad, is likely...Putting money into drink machines will get you a soft drink. Putting money into garbage cans doesn't. Putting money into slot machines usually gets you nothing but occasionally gets you something and, rarely, gets you something really, really good. So, humans put money into soft drink machines, never put money into garbage cans and get addicted to slot machines..."



The process of training outlined in "Culture Clash" is more enlightened than the old jerk the dog around methods. Using those methods "the dog is made a passive victim for the training rather than an active participant, and so learning is slower." Luring is getting the dog to target a food treat with his nose. Using this method properly you can train your dog to do an amazing amount of behaviors. I learned this first

hand when George (MAESSR 2003) and I started agility. None of my training repertoire worked for him. He would not do a sit stay to save his life. So I decided we needed a big change of tactics and blammo!!! He eagerly performs behaviors I never would have dreamed.

"Culture Clash" sells for \$12.56 and can be found in most bookstores. It is not the easiest book to read but there are so many "light bulb" moments that I feel it is a must read if you want to understand the culture of "dog".

## RAINBOW BRIDGE

A Tribute to the MAESSR "Community" of Volunteers, adoptive families, and friends offered in thanks for all that was accomplished in 2004!

The young pup and the older dog lay on the shaded sweet grass watching reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets and cross the Bridge together. The young pup playfully nipped at the older one. "Look! Something wonderful is happening!" The older dog stood up and barked. "Quickly, get over to the path." "But that's not my owner,"

whined the pup, but he did what he was told.

Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the path to the Bridge. As the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed its head in love and respect. The figure finally approached the Bridge and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together they all walked over the Bridge and disappeared.

The pup was still in awe. "Was that an angel?" he whispered. "No son," the older dog replied, "that was more than an angel. That was a person who was involved in rescue."

## 2004 MAESSR STATISTICS

178 dogs taken into MAESSR care

### Disposition:

- ◆ 159 dogs were adopted by homes
- ◆ 6 dogs were withdrawn by owners before changes in the OR program
- ◆ 6 dogs were put to sleep - 4 for temperament, 2 for illness
- ◆ 1 died of unknown causes
- ◆ 22 dogs held over from 2004 to 2005
- ◆ 172 dogs completed rescue/adoption cycle and placed
- ◆ 26 were dogs taken into rescue in 2003 (carry over)
- ◆ 146 were taken into rescue 2004

### Age Breakdown

- ◆ 28 dogs were under the age of 1 year (11 were Daphne puppies)
- ◆ 46 dogs were aged 1 - 3 years old.
- ◆ 75 dogs were aged 4 - 8 years old.
- ◆ 19 dogs were 9 years old or older

### Sex Breakdown

(note - on average more males are born in every litter)

- ◆ Females - 74
- ◆ Males - 120

### Reasons for Surrender

(other than strays)

- ◆ Moving
- ◆ No time for dog
- ◆ Too much to handle
- ◆ Owner illness/death/nursing home

### Applications

- ◆ 380 assigned for interview and follow-up

### Top Ten List

Anyone with these names at your house?

Top Ten Most Popular Pet names:

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Max    | 6. Sam    |
| 2. Maggie | 7. Molly  |
| 3. Buddy  | 8. Nicky  |
| 4. Bailey | 9. Coco   |
| 5. Jake   | 10. Sadie |

# SPRINGER HEALTH

By Dr. Carol Petty, DVM

## Epilepsy

Idiopathic Canine Epilepsy is the name given to describe the syndrome of seizure activity in a dog when no underlying cause for the seizure can be found. It can describe classic generalized (grand mal) seizure, partial seizures affecting only a part of the body or psychomotor seizures which manifest as strange behavior such as circling, howling or snapping at invisible flies.

Seizures can be triggered by many things, including low blood glucose, low thyroid levels, exposure to toxic substances, failure of major organs (liver, kidney, etc.), trauma to the brain (which could have occurred long ago), infectious diseases (viruses like Distemper, tick related diseases, protozoa such as Toxoplasma or Neospora) and brain tumors. Usually the first step following a seizure is to run tests to rule out the above possibilities. Blood tests, x-rays, an eye exam, Cerebrospinal tap with fluid analysis, and even brain imaging such as a CT or MRI may be needed to prove there is no other disease going on.

The age of the dog at the time of the first seizure helps determine what tests are the most appropriate. If they are very young (say under a year), infectious diseases like Distemper and low blood glucose are the most like causes. If they are more than six years old, brain tumors and diseases related to organ malfunction are more likely. Springers between one and six with no abnormalities on their test results are the most likely to be epileptics. For most breeds, the cut off is 5 years, but a recent study found that 20% of epileptic springers had their first seizure between the ages of five and six.

The type of seizure in springers is not as useful in differentiating causes. In most breeds, a partial seizure means some sort of insult to the brain- infection, trauma, cyst, tumor, etc. The same study showed that many of the springers with focal seizures had no underlying cause, and were considered to be epileptic.

Remember, epilepsy is considered to be genetic in nature. It is suspected to be either polygenic or partially penetrant autosomal recessive. This means it is very difficult to always know where in a pedigree it may turn up. Any springer who has epilepsy should be neutered/spayed to prevent them from passing these genes on. For female dogs, spaying also decreased the hormonal stress of a heat cycle and in many cases makes treatment more successful.

Treatment is generally indicated if the seizures occur in clusters (common in springers). This means the dog has one seizure after another with little to no break between them. Other criteria to base treatment on include isolated seizures occurring once a month or more, or if it is difficult for the owner to tell how often seizures are occurring. In springers, it is common for them to progress from isolated seizures to clusters, and they tend to have very hard to control clusters, so early treatment is wise in many cases. Focal seizures may progress to generalized seizures, but not always.

The right medication or combination of medication is best left to each dog's individual veterinarian. Different dogs do better on different drugs and dosages. Phenobarbital and potassium bromide are probably the most commonly used drugs to control epilepsy at home. In an emergency, Valium may be used to stop a seizure as well. Be sure to have confidence in your vet's treatment plan for the dog, and if the seizures are not reasonably well controlled, it is always a good idea to check blood levels for the medications and schedule frequent follow ups. No drug regimen will eliminate all seizure activity, but if you can keep the seizures to less than once a month, the dog should have a good quality of life.

*Editors Note: "Springer Health" will be a regular feature of Springer Tails. Special thanks to Dr. Petty who has graciously offered to share her wide knowledge of Springers and health issues.*

## ESSENTIALS

By Teri Wiley

### **Is your 2005 resolution a diet for your dog?**

We are always being told - you are what you eat...and so it is with our pets. Our dog may look perfectly healthy, while his overall condition maybe lacking the right nutrients. We first notice it when our dogs' demeanor changes, he stops eating, perhaps putting on weight, or is now very choosy about what he will eat. So what DO we feed them to keep them healthy?

Dog food manufacturers are striving to diversify their product lines to meet the public's demand for every type of allergy, skin condition, size, breed, and temperament of the wonderful array of existing breeds. In general, these packaged dog foods come with a balance of Omega 3 and Omega 6 fatty acids, to help improve joint and skin conditions. Some foods with moderate protein con-

tent are best for non-working dogs; foods with meat as a source of protein are best for almost every breed. Watch out for those foods based on corn or containing soybean, as it may not be best for some dogs.

There are also many dog owners who believe "BARF" is the right diet for their dog. Bones and Raw Food users, prepare uncooked meaty bones, muscle and organ meat, raw eggs, vegetables, fruit, yogurt, cooked cereals, cottage cheese and herbs, enzymes and other supplements for their dogs. These dogs are not tied to the same diet every day. It changes, as does the human diet. BARF believers say a dog should be fed the foods they are evolutionarily suited to eat. They feel commercially prepared foods lack key enzymes, nutrients and promote allergies.

Well, the best judge of diet is the condition of YOUR DOG! Some dogs do very well on the BARF diet; others thrive on commercial brands or vet recommended brands. Take the time to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of a certain diet and be sure to talk with your vet before switching. Remember, YOUR decision affects your dog's health and happiness!

### **Or is it to exercise them more?**

Everyone needs more exercise, including our pets! Dogs, just like humans, enjoy getting outside for a nice long walk, especially with YOU by their side to enjoy the fresh air. It doesn't matter if its in the yard, park or a near by school yard. Get out there!!

If you are new at this or your dog is very young or very old, take your time. Gradually increase the time and distance depending on your abilities and the condition of your pet. Young pups are full of energy, but don't try running and jogging until they are at least 18 months old. If you have a senior dog with arthritis or a dog with hip dysplasia, it is still very important to give them daily exercise. Don't deprive them of this much-needed activity. Let them do as much as they can, EVERYDAY.

If you are up for a little competition, why not try agility, obedience training, rally obedience, fly ball, frisbee, dog dancing trials. Check out some of these great activities on the "[Dog Owner's Guide](http://www.canismajor.com/dog/index.html)" website <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/index.html> Or how about letting your dog train to do Therapy work? The need is great and so rewarding.

Just remember to keep an eye on your dog's overall condition, no matter what you choose to do. Every week be sure to run your hands over your dogs body, checking for bumps, lumps and bruises. Strive for daily exercise, which includes fun and fresh air for both of you!

## DO YOU REMEMBER...SHADOW?

*Then...Waynesboro, PA....  
August, 1998*

A sweet eight-month-old English Springer Spaniel, Castle Greens Shadow, is turned in to the Antietam Humane Society because

his owner changes job shifts and has no time for him. MAESSR (newly formed!) takes this young dog into foster care. Shadow's hips are so unstable and weak that his back feet cross when he runs. Vet exams reveal severe bilateral hip dysplasia, and MAESSR begins a special fund drive to raise money to have expensive corrective surgery done. A compassionate veterinarian, Dr. Michael Forney in Chestertown, Maryland, offers to do the surgery at a generous discount. By October 1998, there is enough money to have surgery done on Shadow's left hip. He recovers well, and in November MAESSR has enough funds for surgery on his right hip. Shadow begins growing and thriving and is soon ready to find a forever home.



*Shadow*

Meanwhile, Barry and Isabelle Chewning in Virginia are looking for a special Springer to round out their family, which includes a 10-year-old Springer, Abby. When they meet Shadow, it feels like a perfect match! In late December Shadow is on his way to his forever home with the Chewnings in Falls Church, Virginia!

*Now...Raphine, VA...  
February, 2005*

Shadow now enjoys live as a country gentleman and assumes the role of assistant vineyard keeper in the mountains of Virginia. He helps his mom and dad care for their vineyard and new country home where they moved last summer. It is reported that Shadow enjoys "hanging out", and his daily routine consists of long walks, vineyard time, and lots of ball retrieving and "kong" time.

Shadow is definitely a dog that needs a job to do, and he holds an amazing array of titles. Shadow holds a CGC (Canine Good Citizen), a NJP (Novice Agility Jumper Preferred) title, a NAP (Novice Agility Preferred) title, an OJP (Open Agility Jumper Preferred) title, as well as the United Agility I title. Shadow's most recent and very impres-

sive success is that he placed 1st in the 16 inch height class when he competed in the agility trials at the ESSFTA Nationals in Perry, Georgia last November! What a stash of honors for a little pup that once crossed his back legs when he ran!

Not to rest on his laurels, Shadow and Isabelle are now working on his tracking skills. He has been certified to enter tracking trials so watch for his titles to grow! His official name at this time is UAGI Castle Greens Shadow NAP OJP CGC.

Shadow is an outstanding example of the abilities and potential of the dogs taken in by MAESSR. Even when the future appears dismal, our dogs can have a grand life when given the love of many people, the skills of a kind vet, and the opportunity for enjoyable activities. It is important to note that Shadow was thoroughly examined and evaluated at John Hopkins to be cleared for his activities. He is a loving and happy dog, and he's much appreciated by his family and friends.

## CAMP JACKPOT!

Do you enjoy spending time and doing things with your dog? Then consider Camp Jackpot -a camp for dogs and owners that provides training and explores skills for you and your dog! From agility to pet tricks - there is something for everyone!

The raffle is for a "scholarship" to Camp Jackpot, which will run from June 16th through June 19th. Donated by Donna and Bernie Thompson, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to "go to camp" with your dog. More information can be found at [www.campjackpot.com](http://www.campjackpot.com), the MAESSR website, or contact Debbie Lipcsey ([springerfarm@aol.com](mailto:springerfarm@aol.com)). Raffle tickets are \$ 5.00 a piece or 6 for \$25.00.

The winners' drawing is April 15, 2005. You can order tickets with the newsletter (back page) order form or through the MAESSR website.



[www.maessr.org](http://www.maessr.org)

## SPRINGER ANTICS

Well, we were really wondering how Molly was able to counter surf without stilts in some of the locations that food disappeared from, but ended up in her mouth. Until one day as we came around the corner, we watched Tuxedo (the cat) finish munching on some cooling stewed (whole) chicken, take a long look at the dogs on the floor below, and calmly, wham, bat the whole darn thing down to the dogs.

Yes, the cat was dragging the biggest things he couldn't finish himself and happily sharing with the dogs! I'd like to think Molly and her friends would NEVER counter surf if it weren't for the dastardly training program instituted early on by the cat! HA! HA! Yeah right!

*Thanks to Maggie Rotunda  
for sharing this antic!*

## 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 programs that enables you to help MAESSR.

MAESSR is participating in the Ukrops Golden Gifts Campaign. The program runs from January 31 through March 26, 2005. Whenever you use your UVC card during this period, your purchases will be electronically recorded (one point for every dollar spent!). Then in May, you will receive a certificate showing "points" you have earned. 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](mailto:ess4x18@cs.com). Please shop often!

## ALUMNI NEWS

Compiled by Mary Beach

**Class of 2000...**Sam definitely proves an old dog can learn MANY new tricks! At the age of 9 he acquired his CD (Companion Dog) title. He makes monthly visits to his owner's second grade class for "Read to Sam Day". Due to a punctured lens, he is now blind in his right eye. That handicap didn't keep him from attaining his TD (Tracking Dog) title last September at the age of 11! He resides in Martinsburg with Beth and Tom Anderson and Kelsey (Irish Setter), Chance (ESS), and Ben (Golden Retriever).

**Class of 2003...**GINGER III and her two sisters, also MAESSR adoptees, were recently featured in an article about MAESSR published in *Animal Logics*, a supplement to The Press of Atlantic City, NJ. Her mom says she is the princess and comes to the office to keep everyone in line!...**Renee** (Now Missy), also featured in *Animal Logic* with her two sisters, is a very sweet dog who tolerates every foster dog that steals her toys, eats her food or sleeps in her bed, never complaining!

**Class of 2004...**Rocky is the February "Dog of the Month" for the Friends of MonDaug Bark Park (Upper Dublin Township, Montgomery County, PA). He is 50 pounds of Springer high energy! He loves tennis balls, paper towel rolls, running, and swimming. He lives with his Springer brother, Rebel, in Coopersburg and is a lovable addition to his family...**Daphne**, who recently got a blue ribbon, certificate, and doggie biscuits when she graduated first in her obedience class, has a real purpose in life. Her mom and dad took her to a hospital to visit patients on Christmas Day!

**Class of 2005...**Cricket II, new sister to MAESSR's Ginger and Missy, shared the limelight with them in *Animal Logic*. She is the tomboy of the crew and wants to play ball and roughhouse, never mind diving into a mud puddle to retrieve her toy!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES... WHAT DO INTERVIEWERS DO?

MAESSR volunteers fill many important roles within our organization. One way you can help is by interviewing families that have applied to adopt Springers from us.

Working closely with our Application Coordinators, MAESSR interviewers contact potential adoptive families and conduct telephone interviews to determine if they would provide appropriate homes for homeless Springers. All new interviewers are given personal, one-on-one training by a member of our staff of Interview Coaches who explain the interview and adoption process and assist you as you do your first couple of interviews. MAESSR provides detailed instructions on how to do the interview, along with a questionnaire and forms to use to verify veterinary or personal references. Interviewing applicants is a great way to meet new people who have a common interest, a love of English Springer Spaniels.

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

## CHASING SQUIRRELS!



Just one of the many "skills" found in the MAESSR 2005 raffle quilt "Springer Mischief". Watch for the finished quilt and ticket sales!

## SEEN ON THE INTERNET.....

**How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?**

**Border Collie:** *I can do that, no problem. And while I'm at it, let me re-wire the house.*

**Lab:** *Oh, me! Pleeze let me change the light bulb? Can I? Can I?*

**English Sheepdog:** *Light? You mean there's supposed to a light in here?*

**German Shepherd:** *Zero! Shepherds aren't afraid of the dark!*

**Springer Spaniel:** *Light bulb? Light bulb? That thing I just ate was a light bulb?*



## SPRINGER KISSES AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU

### *Gifts in Honor of:*

Sarah Ferrell and Neal Campbell - deep appreciation to all MAESSR volunteers  
Ellen Friedenbergs- Casey  
Beth Watson - Lucy  
Rick and Rita Gatlin - Moe  
Kimberly Moritz - Moe  
Deanna Johnson - Molly XVI  
Beth and Tom Anderson - Sam  
Ingrid, Bill and Kristin Paradise - Roscoe (multiple gifts)  
John and Diana Hoffman - Sadie V  
Scott and Cathy Beam - "Oscar" Beam  
Donna Wingard - Sabrina  
Suzanne and Gale Schnabel - Snoopy  
Linda Johnston - Ranger and Quincy  
Barbara Breeden - Boscoe  
Rolf Rykken - Shelby  
Noella Bryden - Rudy  
Carol Smith - Maggie Mae  
Debbie Boss - Chase, Roscoe & Lacey, Fritz, Precious, Gracie and Moe  
Sherry Clancy - Boscoe (multiple gifts)  
Eric Stein - Molly XV  
Kristina Sage - Patches IV  
Lois and Randy Boyer - Randy III

### *Gifts in Memory of:*

Aga Skotowski - Maggie  
Debbie and Bill Lipcsey - Gale  
Blackmer's Gretel and Monica LaPolt's Nukta  
Karen Ellery - Gale Blackmer's Gretel and Monica LaPolt's Nukta  
Joyce and Raymond Thomas - Monica's Nukta  
Gale Blackmer - Monica's Nukta  
Monica LaPolt - Nukta  
Mary and Lee Beach - Gale's Gretel  
Dave Sewter - Gale Blackmer's Gretel and Monica LaPolt's Nukta  
Jean Marie and Murray Tate - Roofus, a sweet puppy who died too soon  
Frederick Thomas - Samantha  
Kathy Pugliese - Calli  
Linda Abrams - Bob Peters  
Dave Sewter - Bob Peters  
Irmgard Peters - my son, Bob Peters  
Jean Warkentin- Mac  
Mary Deppa - Dickens  
Monica LaPolt - Lucky  
Isabelle and Barry Chewning - Barbara Jamrose  
Noella Bryden - Duke  
Carol Smith - Abby Jo  
Pat Alberta - My uncle and Baron

### *Friends of Hannah IV:*

Toby Mattingly  
Colleen Ruch  
Carol Vanderway  
Gail Steinweg  
Jeffrey Janas  
Mark Katsouros  
Jeffrey Janas - from Jeff, Angela, Jessie and Spencer  
CDR Barbara Williams  
Barbara Breeden

### *Gifts:*

Tom and Anne Bigford  
Denise Velegdan  
Joanne and Jack Hatch  
Sharon Sames  
Karen and Joseph Lindsay  
Penelope Bowen  
Rosemary Lewis  
Melissa Campbell (multiple gifts)  
Mary Grace Dorsey  
Barbara Breeden  
Leslie Palmer  
Rolando Zamora  
Michael and Cheri Wrabell  
Brian and Rachel Murray  
Donna Stayduhar  
Sandi Long  
Helen Watson  
Dan and Colleen Keppler  
Carrie and Chris Wood  
Tamara McFarren  
John Harvey  
Chuck Kirschman - Bentley Systems Corporate Challenge  
Linda Johnston - multiple gifts  
Suzanne Schnabel - multiple gifts  
Susannah Dryden  
Robert Haines  
Judy Stupka  
Gary Neifert  
Wendy Hogan





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**(301)362-0423**

Monica La Polt - Adoption Coordinator - mlapolt@sbcglobal.net  
 Linda Foster - Volunteer Coordinator - rescueess@yahoo.com  
 Gale Blackmer - Financial Coordinator - windy1421@worldnet.att.net  
 Sue Geckle - Applications Coordinator - sgeckle@excite.com  
 Kathleen O'Neill - Applications Coordinator - oneill@princeton.edu  
 Kim Bolster - Fundraising Coordinator and Newsletter Editor - ess4x18@cs.com  
 Debbie Lipcsey - Dog Intake Coordinator - springerfarm@aol.com  
 Joe Harkins - Transport Coordinator - jhharkins@comcast.net  
 Angie Epling - Owner Relinquishment Coordinator - BrocksPalace@aol.com  
 Kelly Gribble - Website Updates - kfg0304@aol.com  
 Stephanie Donofrio - Petfinder Updates - edonofrio@aol.com

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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___ "Springing into Action" T-shirt	S M L XL	\$17.25
___ "Springing into Action" T-shirt	XXL	\$19.25
___ "Springing into Action" T-shirt	XXXL	\$20.25
___ Transport T-shirt	S M L XL	\$ 17.25
___ Transport T-shirt	XXL	\$ 19.25
___ Transport T-shirt	XXXL	\$ 20.25
___ Cookbook		\$18.00 2/\$34.00
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___ Embroidered Tote Bag		\$ 28.00

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