



# Springer Tails

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

## How to Pick a Kennel

MAXINE FOX

*This article was written by fellow dog trainer Nicole L. Yuhas, CPDT-KA. She was instructing a Tricks class that I brought my MAESSR Springer therapy dog, Ginger, to last summer. Nicole also writes a newsletter for the facility that she works for. I felt this was an excellent piece to share with the MAESSR family!*

**W**hen it comes to service providers for your pets, how do you choose? How do you find a good boarding facility or dog walker? While there is no perfect answer, I want to share some questions you might use to help interview a business.

The new trend in boarding is that many boarding facilities also offer dog daycare. This falls into a tricky category for me. I don't think they are all bad, but I do know from personal experience some of the downfalls. I personally worked at two different daycare boarding facilities prior to becoming a dog trainer. I actually worked for three if you count one that I quit working at after two days once I'd determined the place was very poorly run and I wanted no part of that. My decision was more than justified when they were shut down two weeks later. The biggest problem that I saw in those places was that the staff is not always well trained on dog body language and behavior. Even if the facility was beautiful and the hearts of the staff were in the right place, the lack of behavior knowledge was problematic.

My best advice for finding a good facility would be to schedule a meeting with a manager for a tour and to discuss what sort of training the staff receives. Questions I might ask:

**Are the staff trained on dog body language?** I would follow up by asking, How are they trained? Video? Handouts? Are they mentored by a more experienced employee in real time?

**Do they get training on how to handle a dog fight should one break out?**

**What tools are at the disposal of the staff at any given time to help control play?**

**How do they interrupt or prevent problems between dogs?**

**Do they have emergency procedures if there is a need to suddenly evacuate the entire facility?**

**Are staff educated in pet CPR or first aid?**

**How long have the staff members been in service?** What I'm

looking for with this question is whether most of the staff are long-time employees or are most of them relatively new and only been on staff six months or less. This will give you an idea of the turnover rate of staff and how much the facility probably has put into training and maintaining staff. (My theory is happy workers = happy dogs.)

**How will your staff help to maintain my training?** This is a big one for me, as you might guess. I don't expect kennel or daycare staff to train my dog, but I **DO** expect that they will not deliberately reinforce bad behaviors. A common one I saw often when I worked in dog daycare was staff repeatedly encouraging dogs to jump on them. This would be a deal breaker for me.

**If a medical emergency should arise, how will you handle it?**

**Do you limit the number of dogs in daycare on any given day? Is daycare reservation only? How do you make sure to have enough staff?** What I'm looking for here is how they know/prepare to ensure they have enough staff for a given day of daycare. The last thing I want is for staff to be stressed out and overwhelmed while my dog is in their care. If they suddenly have a large number of dogs dropped off for daycare on a given day with no prior registration, they might be understaffed, which would be extremely stressful for the staff and problematic if all of those daycare dogs are going into group play. Suddenly play groups may have to be larger, or kennel staff, which would normally be doing individual walks, are forced to help with group play, leaving less time for boarding dogs, cleaning, or care taken in following feeding instructions. Stressed staff = mistakes and cutting corners.

**How do you handle peak times like holidays?**

It also never hurts to ask if you can watch the daycare for a few minutes to see the staff interacting with the dogs so you can get a feel for the environment. Does either the staff or the dogs seem stressed? How many dogs are under the care of a single staff member? Does the play seem loud and out of control?

Some of these facilities will also allow you to opt out of the play portion of the boarding in exchange for private walks/playtimes with staff members only. This may be an additional fee. I think

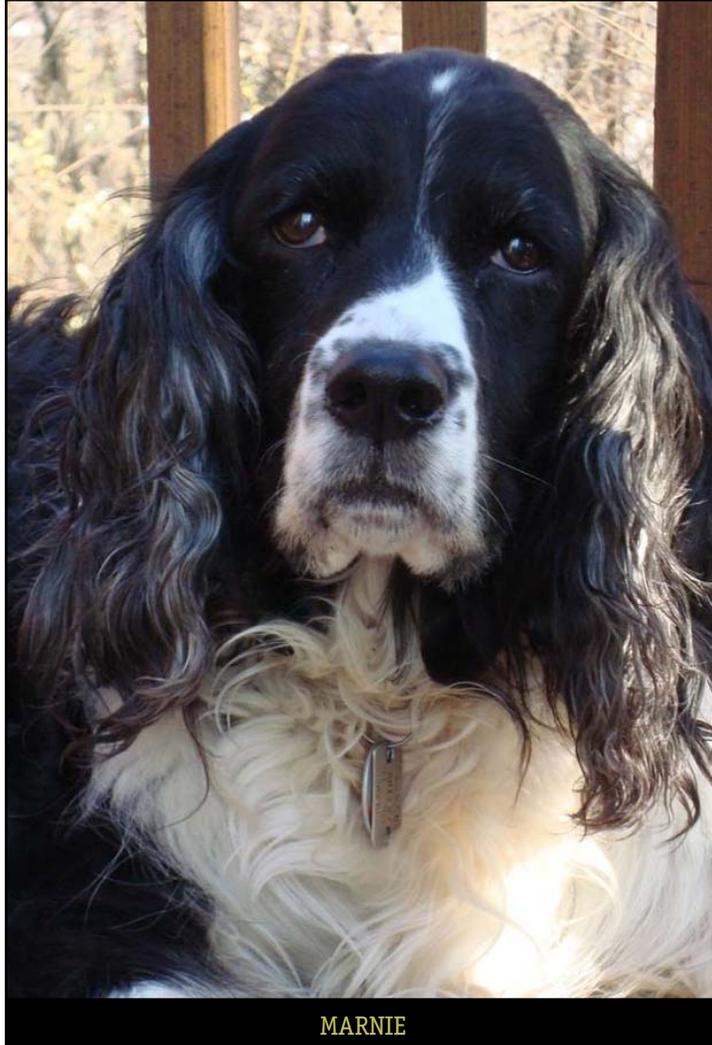
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## Who's That Volunteer? Cathy Moyer!

LINDA SHOPE

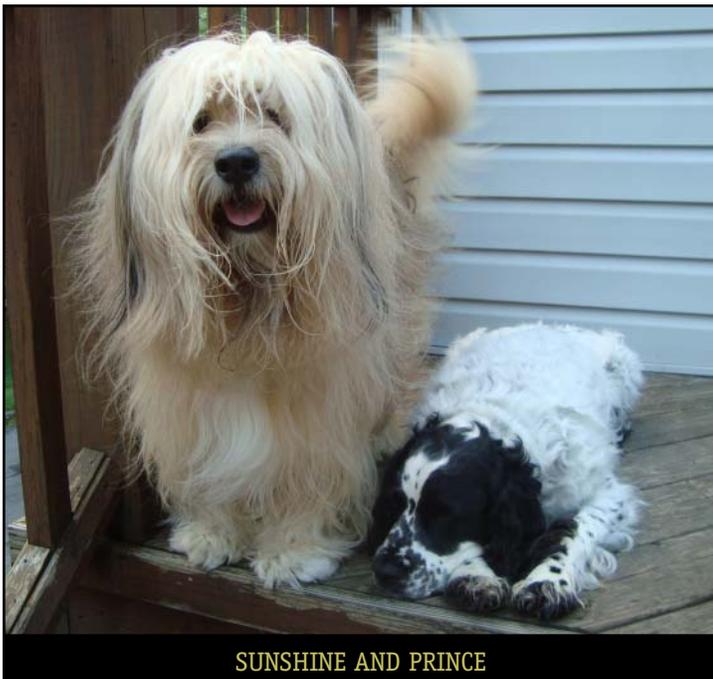
Cathy Moyer's always had dogs in her life. Growing up, her family had hunting dogs and house dogs, but she always wanted a particular breed of dog, a Springer spaniel. She finally got her first Springer, Marnie, in 1996 from a shelter. They had 14 years together and she became hooked on the breed. After Marnie passed in 2010, Cathy knew she wanted another Springer and began looking on Petfinder. There, she found Prince, a beautiful black and white seven-year-old Springer who was a MAESSR rescue. Cathy and Sunshine, her Bearded Collie, drove to Virginia to meet Prince and see how the two dogs would get along. Sunshine approved, so Cathy adopted Prince, continued her love of Springers, and started her journey with MAESSR.

Cathy has volunteered with MAESSR for almost eight years. When she adopted Prince in November 2010, she had to buy some expensive fencing



MARNIE

for her property to keep Prince contained, so she thought she might as well do some fostering and help other incoming MAESSR rescues. Through the years, Cathy has fostered 33 MAESSR rescues, some long-term, some short-term, and two foster failures. Sunshine has always helped with the numerous fosters, as did Prince. Prince was a great ambassador for MAESSR and attended many picnics and Central PA Pet Expo events until he went to the Rainbow Bridge in 2016. Cathy's longest-term foster was one of my favorites, Kelly 5. Cathy fostered him for 11 months until he finally found his forever home. Kelly was a special boy, not your typical Springer-looking boy, but beautiful. He also attended several picnics and events while being fostered. Cathy's shortest foster, Sadie, was with her for only for two weeks before being adopted. Cathy fostered MAESSR dogs for six years until she foster-failed with Roxie and Teddy



SUNSHINE AND PRINCE



TEDDY AND ROXIE

(MAESSR's Turi), two Spanish Water Dogs that MAESSR had rescued from a kennel. When Cathy fostered Roxie, she really touched her heart. She knew she couldn't let Roxie go and

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## Trimming Your Dog's Toenails

DEE PICCININI

Not all pet owners are comfortable cutting their dogs' nails, so you may prefer to take your furry friend to a groomer. On the other hand, learning to do a nail trim at home is not all that complicated once you learn how to do it properly. Please bear in mind that cutting your dog's nail too short, or clipping into the quick, is painful and definitely something to avoid. Cats and elephants are famous for having long memories, but if you hurt your dog while trimming its nails, don't count on a lot of cooperation in the future!

Always use good quality toenail clippers that are made especially for dogs. That will allow us to clip a little bit at a time and see when we're approaching the quick. Many types of good dog nail clippers are available, so shop around and review consumer literature. Invest in a plier-style clipper rather than a guillotine clipper, as they crush the toe and cause pain. Always cut at a 45-degree angle, removing a little bit of nail at a time.

Create a calming environment before starting to trim your dog's toenails. It's a good idea to do a nail trim an hour or two following a walk. The best time is right after a bath, as the nails are much softer and that means less pressure is required. Make sure that everything you need is easily within your reach. Why not fill a toy with peanut butter and provide it as a distraction? Select a well-lit room or do the nail clipping outside during the day.

If your dog's toenails are black or brown, hold a small flashlight behind the toenail before you use clippers or grind the nail. That'll enable you to see where the nail ends and quick begins. Although a dog's toenail is dense near the tip, it becomes a porous honeycomb nearer the quick. Broken toenails—and ones that are cut too short—are a pathway to infection. Don't do that to your best furry friend! Have styptic powder handy, as it's the most common and efficient way to stop a dog's nail from bleeding. It contains benzocaine, which works as a topical anesthetic to ease pain, and ferric subsulfate, which helps to stop bleeding. Styptic powder helps to clot the blood and can help prevent bacteria from entering the bloodstream. Also, offer treats as a distraction from the discomfort.

For those who use a specialized grinder, like the Dremel, to grind their dogs' toenails, do NOT place the grinding wheel on the tip of the nail and then hold it there while it grinds. Instead, hold it to the nail briefly as you gently grind **around** it. Don't rush the process and be considerate of your canine friend. If your pooch walks a lot or runs around a lot outside, especially on concrete and other rough surfaces, the nails will be getting trimmed a little bit all the time. If your dog lies around the house a lot, a monthly nail trim may be in order. Remain calm and talk quietly. No sudden movements, please.

Try to make toenail clipping a positive experience for your dog and do it on a regular basis. Use lots of praise and offer treats, as that will help. Trimming can become another moment of quiet but productive companionship with your dog.

## Who's that Volunteer? Cathy Moyer!

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adopted her. Cathy fostered Tripp and Kelly 5 after she adopted Roxie, and Roxie really enjoyed them. Tripp was there very briefly before being adopted and then Kelly 5 arrived.

After Kelly 5 found her forever home, Cathy took in one more foster, Turi, since she had had experience with Spanish Water Dogs. Cathy wasn't planning to adopt him, but she and Roxie fell in love with him, so she finally gave in. Now, Cathy can't imagine life without these two silly pups! Although Cathy has not fostered since 2017, Turi, who she renamed Teddy, and Roxie have kept her plenty busy learning all about their breed, especially with regard to grooming, health issues, and Teddy's allergies. She's also constantly laughing at all their silly antics!



Cathy certainly has been one of MAESSR's busiest volunteers. Besides fostering numerous dogs, she has done foster home training, and since 2012 has represented MAESSR at the Central Pa Pet Expo in Altoona, Pa., taking various dogs with her to promote MAESSR. In 2015, Cathy began doing MAESSR's online Weekly Update. We appreciate Cathy's regular updates, which include announcing future events and Springerfests, suggesting ways to help MAESSR, providing book reviews, publicizing special needs and senior pups, and sharing news about incoming fosters and MAESSR fosters being adopted.

When Cathy retired in 2016, she decided that she could help MAESSR even more since she had more free time. Since April Smith had taken on some new duties, Cathy agreed to take over the MAESSR library. The library currently has more than 150 books and DVDs that have been donated or purchased by various volunteers. These books and DVDs on training, health, behavior, and other subjects are available for borrowing free of charge, except for return postage. The library even has its own web page and Cathy posts a book review daily on the MAESSR library's Facebook page.

So what else does Cathy do when she's not volunteering for MAESSR? She takes daily walks with 15-year-old Sunshine and long, fast, daily walks with Roxie (4) and Teddy (6) to wear them out! She also enjoys sleeping in and staying up late, keeping in touch with friends, and just hanging out with her dogs! Cathy does miss having a Springer spaniel in the house, but wants to give Sunshine the peace she has earned after fostering so many dogs. At some point in the future, Cathy hopes to get back into fostering or adopting another Springer.

Thank you, Cathy, for all you do for MAESSR!

## How to Pick a Kennel

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that would be, in many cases, a safer option to ensure you dog isn't being stressed out with lots of that dog-dog interaction all week. I like a party, but I don't want to be at a week-long party! I think dogs get worn out with play all the time, especially if that isn't their normal routine. Secondly, you don't have to worry about bad interactions or inexperienced staff running group play if your dog is not participating in those sessions.

While many of the same questions above can also apply to a dog walker, there are a few more I would add specifically for them:

**Are you insured?**

**How would you handle a situation where my dog got off leash?**

**What was your scariest moment as a dog walker? What happened and how did you learn from that situation?** Many dog walkers are a private business and they learned from doing, not because anyone trained them on how to be a dog walker. With this question, I want to gauge a person's honesty, willingness to admit fault when they make a mistake, and see how they have improved themselves for the future.

**Do you walk dogs individually or in a group?**

**What sort of equipment do you prefer to walk the dog on?** Collar? Martingale? Harness? Head collar? Will you use my equipment or bring your own? Have you ever used a choke chain, prong collar, or shock collar on a dog? If so, who recommended it and why did you use it? Did you discuss its use with the dog's owner prior to using it on their dog?

**While walking my dog, how do you handle situations where a people or people with other dogs want to initiate a greeting with my dog?** Do you allow leash greetings with dogs? Do you allow strangers to pet dogs in your care? Can I opt out of those things and how will you handle it if someone comes up to you?

**What will you do if my dog does something you don't like? Jumping up? Stealing food? Pulling? etc.** I want to know that this person is not going to resort to hitting or otherwise physically punishing my dog for bad behaviors in a way that I disagree with.

**Would you be willing to come to a session of our dog training class with us, to learn what we are working on, so you can help us reinforce good habits?** While many dog walkers won't have time to do this, it never hurts to ask! Ideally, anyone spending time with your dog should be in on the training!

While the answers to these questions may not immediately reveal deal-breakers, they should give you an idea of how the facility or company operates and how far they go to avoid problems. Feel them out and go with your gut.

You have every right to be concerned about leaving your dog in someone else's care! HOWEVER, be a good customer! The best time to investigate a business is when they have time to spend with you. Asking to speak or meet with a manager anywhere near a holiday weekend isn't playing fair. Avoid trying to visit

facilities during their peak hours (early morning and evening drop off/pick up times or lunch hours). Whenever possible, call ahead and ask if you could stop by for a tour in the next 20–30 minutes and be prepared and gracious if they say that, "Now isn't a good time." The other option is to schedule a full meet-and-greet with a manager to ensure you get to ask all your questions. It is hard to leave our pets with anyone, and a good company will understand your need to see the facility and ask questions about the staff. I wish you the best of luck on your search!

## Transport Team Volunteers

**W**e are look for volunteers to help coordinate transports. If you can do the following, we can really use your talents on the transport team:

- 1) Check your email at least two times a day. The transport requests come in at all times of the day. If there is one that you can help with you simply reply, "I can take this one."
- 2) You should be detail-oriented and have patience when using either MapQuest or Google to map out transport routes.
- 3) You must be able to check your email daily for updates on offers for transport drivers, update the transport sheet, and post it daily.
- 4) You need to be able to arrange meeting locations. The transport coordinators suggest meeting spots but the drivers are always welcome to change them if they know of a more convenient location.
- 5) You need to be available the day that you have a transport being done so that you can monitor it. All drivers are asked to phone the coordinator once they have passed the dog to the next driver. If you are not available that day it is perfectly fine to ask another coordinator if they can monitor for you.
- 6) Our transport coordinators are always available to help you and answer any questions that you may have.

Please email [volunteers@maessr.org](mailto:volunteers@maessr.org) for more information and/or to get set up to help MAESSR with this vital position.

**The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too.**

*Samuel Butler, Notebooks, 1912*

# What the Nose Knows: An Unembarassed Tribute to Dog Noses

FROM PETMD

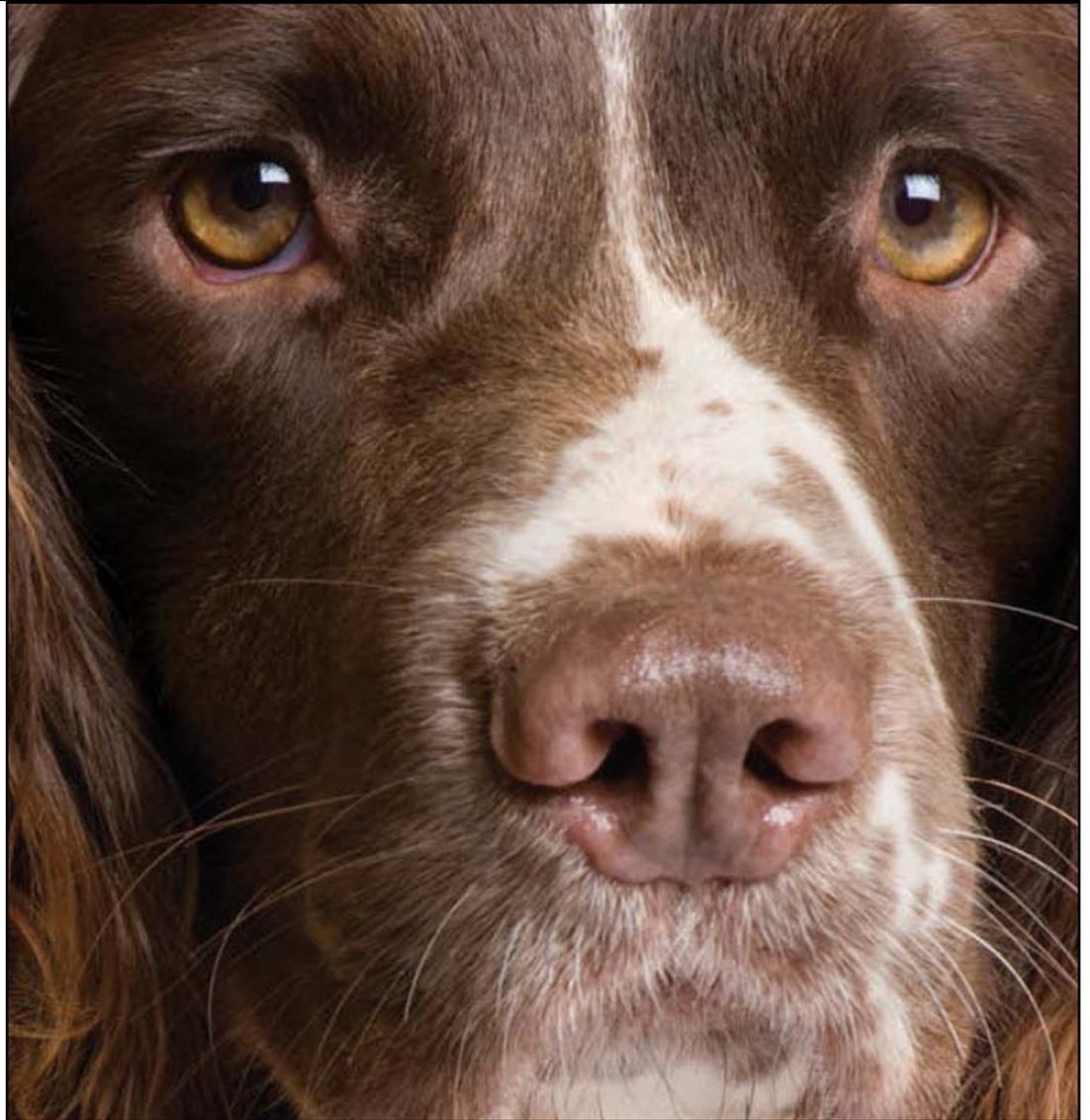
**M**ost of us realize that that when we walk our dogs, they like to spend a long time sniffing—absolutely everything! We also know that a dog's sense of smell is much better than ours, but how much better? Brace yourself! Dog noses are not only cute, they're also extremely acute!

According to PetMD, when a dog catches the first whiffs of fresh air, the moist and spongy tissue on the outside of its nose helps to capture whatever scents the breeze carries. A dog's ability to smell separately with each nostril—smelling in stereo—helps it to determine where the scent is coming from. As a result, within the first few moments of sniffing, the dog knows not only what's out there but also where it's located.

Scientists tell us that when air enters a dog's nose, a small fold of tissue divides it into two separate flows, one for breathing and one for smelling. This second airflow enters a region filled with highly specialized olfactory receptor cells, several hundred millions

(300,000,000) of them, compared to our pitiful five million. And unlike our relatively primitive way of breathing in and out through the same nasal passage, dogs exhale through slits at the side of their nose, creating swirls of air that help draw in new odor molecules and allow odor concentration to build up over multiple sniffs.

A dog's impressive nasal architecture wouldn't be so special if it didn't have something to process the loads of information the nose takes in. Again, brace yourself for our own shortcomings, because (as PetMD tactfully points out), "The olfactory system dedicated to processing smells takes up many times more relative brain area in dogs than in humans." This allows our dogs to identify and remember a remarkable variety of specific scents in concentrations that are 100 million times less than what our noses are able to detect. If you can smell a spritz of perfume in a small room, a dog would have no trouble smelling it in an



enclosed stadium and distinguishing its ingredients.

In other words, a dog can smell "an entire story from start to finish." Dogs are able to distinguish between friendly and hostile animals and a whole lot more. They can detect our various emotional states and even sense when someone is ill. They work as service and therapy dogs and in airport security, but they also serve valiantly in search-and-rescue operations and on the battlefield.

The next time your four-footed best friend wants to stop and sniff, pause and remember that this is a furry scientist at work!



## Score Points for Springers!

**P**lease join us! Even if you don't play golf, please consider volunteering! MAESSR's 7th Annual golf tournament will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at the beautiful Kiskiack Golf Course, near Williamsburg, Virginia. This year's Captain's Choice tournament will commence with registration at 8 a.m. and a shotgun start at 9 a.m. The entry fee, which is \$300 per team and \$75 for individuals, includes green fees, cart, practice balls, and a delicious lunch. There will be raffles, free range balls, and other prizes. Single golfers are welcome. MAESSR alumni will



be on hand at the tournament, which is one of our organization's major fundraising events.

Please consider supporting MAESSR's Annual Golf Tournament by participating as a golfer or volunteer, donating a raffle prize or gift item, by becoming a hole sponsor, or simply making a donation! Online registration will be available at [www.MAESSR.org/special\\_events](http://www.MAESSR.org/special_events). Registration information, checks, and donations may be sent to: MAESSR, c/o John Keegan, 104 South Cove Court, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

## New Volunteers

LINDA JOHNSTON

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

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

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

Linda Dansbury • Langhorne, Pa. | Cara DeHann • Hampstead, N.C. | Sheri Leider • Wake Forest, N.C. | Jolie Noble • Virginia Beach, Va. | Joseph Tillman • Fork Union, Va.

## Who's That Board Member? Charles Grutzius!

VICKI PHILLIPS

Chuck Grutzius, a MAESSR board member and longtime volunteer, was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. At age 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in several billets before receiving an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. After graduation, he made the Navy a career as a "destroyerman." Chuck's many tours of duty around the world included a year in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, where he commanded a SWIFT boat. He also served for a year in the Middle East and was stationed in Bahrain, a small nation in the Arabian Gulf off the coast of the Saudi peninsula. During that time, he traveled all over the Middle East. He finished his Navy service with three different commands on the East Coast before retiring as a captain in 1996. In his civilian career, Chuck worked in several sales and marketing jobs in the Washington, D.C. area.

Chuck and his wife, Jean, who is a nurse, have been MAESSR volunteers since 2008 when they became a foster home and adopted their first foster, Buddie. Over the years, they have served on the transport team and fostered quite a few Springers. They've also flunked Fostering 101 several times. Chuck and Jean have been animal lovers since they were small children, and their family has always included several dogs and cats at a time. In addition to MAESSR, they are also active volunteers in



CHUCK AND BUDDIE

SNAP (Spay/Neuter All Pets) of Louisa County, Virginia. SNAP provides twice-monthly low-cost spay and neuter services to the pets of residents of Louisa County and the surrounding area. All of Chuck and Jean's pets are rescues, and over the years, that included five MAESSR Springers. One was Buddie, adopted in 2009, who crossed the Rainbow Bridge in December 2018.

Chuck and Jean reside on Lake Anna in Bumpass, Louisa County, Virginia. Each year they graciously open their lovely home to host a MAESSR fund-raiser known as the "Springer Summer Splash," where Springers and non-Springer members and their families enjoy an abundance of good food, beautiful scenery, and an afternoon swimming in Lake Anna.

## 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.

### General Donations

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## Thank you for donating! (cont'd.)

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Martha and Carl Aschman	Gladys Deckers	Hank and Pat Weber—Amber	In memory of Sadie and Maggie—	Tim and Kristi Deaver—Cheri Sagers: she's wonderful!
Carolyn Mortgu	Neil Sands	Shelly and Gary Baum—Bailey, Quinn, Tigger, and Zoe	Vincent Hackley Patricia Van Hoof	Peter and Katherine McKellar—Freckles
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Jim and Brenda Bowersox	In memory of Jennifer Hendershot—			
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Christine Becker	Fran Fisher			
Linda Parker	Suzanne Helme—Chester			
George and Gwen Parson				
Richard and Carol Troy				
Margaret Williams				
Marti Nickoli				
Lisa Sulovski				

Home is where the fur sticks to everything but the dog.

It's impossible to forget a dog that gave you so much to remember.

## Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue

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Fundraising Coordinator – fundraising@maessr.org

Newsletter Editor – newsletter@maessr.org

Dog Intake/Foster Home Coordinator – foster@maessr.org

Transport Coordinator – transport@maessr.org

Volunteer Coordinator – volunteers@maessr.org

Shelter Dog Coordinator – shelterdog@maessr.org

Owner Relinquishment Coordinator – relinquish@maessr.org

## Springerfest Picnic Registration Form

NUMBER ATTENDING	DATE	MAESSR VOLUNTEER AND FAMILY \$8 PER PERSON (PLEASE LIST NAMES)	GUESTS \$10 PER PERSON (PLEASE LIST NAMES)	MAESSR DOGS ATTENDING AND YEAR ADOPTED	TOTAL
<b>MERCER COUNTY PARK, WEST WINDSOR, N.J.</b>					
	Saturday May 4				
<b>REEDVILLE, VA.</b>					
	Saturday June 1				
<b>JARRETTSVILLE, MD.</b>					
	Saturday June 8				

I would love to help at the picnic!

West Windsor, N.J.

Reedville, Va.

Jarrettsville, Md.

I can bring an item for the raffle to:

West Windsor, N.J.

Reedville, Va.

Jarrettsville, Md.

I can help onsite at:

West Windsor, N.J.

Reedville, Va.

Jarrettsville, Md.

Put me down to help with:

Set up  Clean up

Registration

However you need me

Enclose a check made payable to MAESSR and mail to: MAESSR, P.O. Box 807, Burkeville, VA 23063. Here is my information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_