

Calendar

ADOPTION EVENTS

January 18th, How to Adopt a Shelter Dog, 1-3 Especially for Pets in Sudbury, MA

January 24th, 3-5 Adoption Event, Especially for Pets, Sudbury

Please refer to our Web site as these dates are subject to change.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

Jan 11th — Benefit Auction for Save A Dog, Sheraton 4 Points, 430 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA 1 PM silent, live bidding starts at 2pm.

June, TBA — Paws in the Park Dog Walk, VA Hospital Grounds in Bedford, MA.

The Dog Who Deserved a Chance



It was just before Thanksgiving when we got an email from a rescue friend in NJ. She spoke of a nice, seven year old Australian Cattle Dog who had been sitting in a shelter on Long Island for about a month and that his

Dear Save A Dog,

We wanted you to know that Chance is doing fine. We renamed him Asher which in Hebrew means "blessed, fortunate, happy." That seems to describe both him and his situation.

Alison, Allen, Sarah, Liz, & Asher (& the not too unhappy guinea pigs, Click & Clack)

time was just about up. Thanksgiving is the worse time of year to be an abandoned pet because foster homes are few and far between and potential adopters have put the search on hold until after the holidays. I told the rescuer that if she could vouch for his temperament, I'd take him, but I needed to check with my volunteers

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Shirley's Year in Review!

Hi Everyone,

I've been meaning to write to you all ever since the last newsletter, which was nearly a year ago, so my New Year's resolution this year is to write more letters and updates on all our adoptions. It's been another banner year for Save A Dog with the purchase of a new van -- thanks to you all for coming through with the donations -- and a record-breaking fund raiser, Paws in the Park. First a note about the van. If you haven't seen it yet, it's a beauty. We now own a 2002 Ford cargo van and boy is it roomy, plus it's very comfortable to drive with nice leather seats and huge drink holders (a much needed option when you're on the road with a lot of dogs). We've been able to fit twice as many dogs as with my old minivan and we were able to rescue close to 30 dogs on our maiden voyage to Hagerstown, MD last spring. Now we were faced with a new problem -- where to put so many newly rescued dogs. We quickly hooked up with the Dakin shelter and a few other rescues and shelters so that when we come back from a trip we can share our joyous bounty with other folks who are just as crazy as we are about saving dogs. We've been working closely with Donna Clark from the Animal Rescue Network of New England (<http://www.ne-arc.org/>) in Pelham, NH to bring

home a lot of the death row dogs of WV. What a great group of folks to work with and no matter how late the hour or how many dogs in the van, they greet you with a smile. They even feed you! We're blessed to be connected with such a dedicated team of rescuers.

We're also working very closely with Diana Charles and her staff from the PAWS animal shelter in Paris, KY. There are so many nice, friendly, family-quality dogs down in that part of the country. They just don't have enough homes for all the dogs down there so the only option other than death is to ship them north where there's a chance they can find good homes. Diana picks out the nicest dogs for us and then drives them 9 hours one way to meet us at the halfway mark between here and there, in Hagerstown, MD. We usually go down and spend the night and while we're sleeping Diana is driving all night with her little fur kids packed in her van. She shows up at 6:30 AM, has a quick breakfast and starts unloading and potty walking the dogs for us before we're barely coherent. Once the dogs are loaded up, she turns around and drives all the way back to KY. Unbelievable. She would do this every week if I let her, but we keep it down to one trip a month. Diana and her team are an endless source of inspiration to the Save A Dog team.

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Meet Volunteer Sheila Loayza



Sheila Loayza in her cool shades!

Starting with this issue we'd like to acknowledge a volunteer who has gone far above and beyond the call of duty. The first person who comes to mind is Sheila Loayza of Wayland. Sheila will volunteer wherever the help is needed and has a wonderful way with both dogs and people. A nurse by profession, Sheila is happy to lend her medical experience to us by administering meds, removing spay stitches, and keeping an eye on the dogs to make sure everyone is healthy. She has worked with big dogs, small dogs, fat dogs, young puppies, and older dogs. And she loves them all! I don't think Sheila has ever met a dog she didn't like. Many of you have met Sheila as she's always working the crowds at our adoption events -- she's our best sales person. She's the tall blonde woman with a big smile and an infectious laugh. She is one of the most upbeat people I've ever met and no matter how messy or arduous the task, she always keeps things light and finds something positive to say about everything and everyone.

Sheila is my favorite co-pilot for road trips and is always ready to go on a moment's notice. She finds humor in everything and keeps me giggling most of the ride with her endless stories of dog's she's known and loved. Her stories and laughter are what keep me awake on those long trips to and from West Virginia. She has endured many white-knuckled drives around the mountains of Scranton, PA with me on the way to Hagerstown, MD too. I'll never forget the time we were coming back with a van full of dogs at 2 AM when an eighteen wheeler pulling a double load went off the road in front of us. The front half of the rig went down and the back half fish-tailed, blocking both lanes. It was like a scene from a movie. Somehow it righted itself and the driver kept on going, leaving us in wake of dust and gravel. After we said a few thankful prayers to God for saving us, Sheila looks over and says, "Well, at least now we're wide awake. We should be making good time now!"

One of the great things about volunteering for an organization like Save A Dog is meeting people like Sheila Loayza.

Thank you, Sheila Loayza from Shirley and all the volunteers! 🐾

Save A Dog is Ready for a Home of its Own! We Need Your Help!

Adoption Center Building Capital Campaign

If you have adopted a dog from us, you know we rely on our volunteers to take rescue dogs into their homes and foster them until they are matched up with their new families. Unfortunately, we rarely have enough foster homes for all of the dogs that shelters and individuals ask us to take in. To continue to rescue as many friendly dogs as possible who would otherwise be euthanized, we are planning to build an Adoption Center Facility.

The Adoption Center will allow us to take in more great dogs in need of homes, providing boarding for dogs even if we do not have enough foster volunteers. This will also allow temporary boarding for dogs before they go into our available foster homes so that we can evaluate their health and temperament. In addition to helping us house our dogs, the Adoption Center will provide us with a space to hold adoption and training events. We envision our new facility as a place not only from which to adopt a dog, but to return to throughout your new dog's life to enjoy training and learning events, have your dog groomed, boarded, or to buy unique dog-related merchandise.

Although the focus of Save A Dog is on dogs, we plan to also have a Kitty City in the new building to house and showcase some of the adoptable cats that come through the Feral Fix program.

We have designed a schematic design for our Adoption Center that will meet the immediate and future space needs of Save A Dog. Emphasis has been placed on creating a quiet, low stress environment so the dogs can be as relaxed as possible. Integral to the planning is the goal of keeping energy operating costs low through sustainable design such as passive and active solar elements. The Adoption Center also will include two functional areas that will earn money for our organization and help us defray the ongoing operating costs of the building: a grooming, retail and dog day-care business open to the public and a meeting space for individuals and groups to rent out for their events.

We are pursuing many different avenues to raise money for our new building: writing proposals for grants from foundations and holding fundraising events.

Our proposed budget is 1.2 million dollars. We welcome your donations! We are also currently in need of volunteers with experience in Capital Fundraising Campaigns to help undertake this project!

Chris Cuttitta, Save A Dog Volunteer
Cuttitta and Gillig Architecture



Year in Review!

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Paws in the Park was a tremendous success this year. Each year we are joined by more rescue groups and vendors and each year the crowds grow larger. We added games for the dogs such as bobbing for hot dogs and an agility course that dogs could try out. We had more activities for children too, including a trampoline and face painting. Dawn Giovannucci, our new fund raising coordinator, was instrumental in making this year's event a huge success. She has a lot of business savvy and is not afraid to ask for donations from local businesses. Dawn also won the award for personally bringing in the most pledges. We had a terrific team of volunteers helping out and several groups of young adults who showed up with their own walkie-talkies and ran the doggy water games, face painting and several other events. We are truly blessed to have so many enthusiastic volunteers. The weather was perfect and we raised over \$15,000. Amazing! This money was used to pay for outstanding medical bills and to supplement our operating costs. Thank you to all who supported this terrific fund raiser. We hope to do even better next year.

Save A Dog is approaching its five year anniversary and we're really longing to have our own adoption center where we can show the dogs and also house some cats. We will be talking about this more in the next few months and looking for folks to help us put together a capital campaign so that we can buy or build someplace not too far from the Framingham/Wayland area. We will continue the foster program as it is the best way to get to know the dogs, but we need a place to board dogs who have no place to go until a foster home opens up. It would be great to have a place where people can come and learn about the plight of homeless animals. So keep this in mind and if you would like to help, please let us know.

Until next time, take care everyone!

Shirley Moore, President of Save A Dog 🐾

Chance, cont.

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first. Along comes Mary Dillon, foster/savior, with a quick reply that she'd foster him. Another volunteer, Jane Weir, drove down to get him on her day off. She could see that he was in pain from a rotted tooth so a quick trip to the vet's and six extractions later he was back with Mary. I can't imagine the months, even years of pain this dog suffered through, yet the vet tech said that he was as gentle as can be through the painful exam and operation. Back at Mary's he was soon his old self, dropping toys and balls at Mary's feet and staring them down until she picked them up and threw them. Chance's gentle nature became quite evident as Mary's blind cockapoo, Loki, kept inadvertently stepping on Chance's head while he snoozed in front of the television. Chance would simply lift his head up, glance at Loki with an "oh, it's you again" look and then resume his nap. The day after he arrived from New York, Chance joined us for a fundraiser at Petco and stole the heart of a young woman named Sarah. She came to support our cause and to let us know that the centerpieces for her Bat Mitzvah would contain leashes, collars, and toys for our foster dogs. Well, she stayed the day and played with Chance.

Chance, with his sweetness, and Sarah with persuasive lobbying, won the whole family over and they have now renamed him Asher, which in Hebrew means "blessed, fortunate, and happy." Save a Dog volunteers feel blessed, fortunate, and happy to have such a wonderful adopting family. I'm so glad that we took a chance on Chance!! 🐾



A Mid-Summer's Tail by Mary Dillon

Thanks to the generosity of Save a Dog's supporters, our new van made a transport trip this past July. Shirley Moore and first-time transporter Mary Dillon rendezvoused at the Palisades Mall in Nyack, New York with Sandy Fisher of Pennsylvania, who had received the shelter dogs in Hagerstown, Maryland from rescue volunteers from North Carolina. High temperatures made this leg of the trip particularly tough on the dogs that had started their journey north the day before. As hot and tired as they were, it was clear from the get-go that we had some very special dogs on board. Among the passengers were Blondie, a matted and emaciated Golden Retriever who gave birth to a still-born puppy the next day. She developed sepsis after being spayed, requiring multiple admissions to veterinary hospi-

tals and more surgery. Today she is healthy and happy!

Also on board was Cookie, a sweet, gentle, dog who had apparently always been an outside dog in North Carolina. She was afraid of just about everything when she arrived at her foster mom's house, constantly pacing when indoors, terrified of going in and out the door; she was so unfamiliar with being in a house that she would run as fast as she could to the far side of the house every time the toilet was flushed! Cookie was a trooper, adjusting fairly quickly and now ironically, she goes along with her new mom, a real estate agent, to post signs for open houses!

These are just two of the wonderful dogs that we have been able to save thanks to your support. Look for more "stories from the van" in future newsletters. 🐾

Framingham, MA 01701-1108

P.O. Box 1108

Save A Dog, Inc.

FYI: Important News

New Auction Date, Jan. 11th

Our first benefit auction set for early December was postponed due to a snow storm, so we're trying again on January 11th. It will be held at the same place, the Four Points Sheraton at 420 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA. The silent auction starts at 1 PM and live auction at 2 PM. I hope everyone can come as we have a ton of great items. See our Web site www.saveadog.org for more details. 🐾

We need Volunteers for Paws 2004!

Paws In The Park is Save A Dogs biggest fund-raiser for the year. This year's walk was a great success! Next year's Paws in the Park is coming up soon and we anticipate an even larger turnout! Our event coordinator, Dawn Giovannucci, is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at saveadog@saveadog.org.

We're also looking for corporate sponsors, vendors, photographers and musicians. 🐾

No Ordinary Christmas Eve

by Shirley Moore

It's Christmas eve 2002, just about dusk and I'm driving through the center of Concord, Massachusetts, a quaint little New England town where life is perfect. It's lightly snowing and as I pass through this picturesque town, I see couples holding hands walking toward a brightly lit church. I feel a twinge of guilt as I'm reminded of my family at home getting ready for the same and realize that once again I'll be late for our own candlelight service. But I've got my own Christmas miracle sitting in the back seat of my minivan -- a big friendly shepherd/rottie mix named Squirt who had no place to go this Christmas, that is until a foster home opened up at the last minute. Laurie and Sol Aragon, from Carlisle, had just returned from a trip abroad and said they'd be happy to take him -- once again my prayers were answered just in the nick of time. They



Squirt, now Chopper, was rescued by June Vegas of Ritchie County Humane Society and driven to Save A Dog by volunteers of the Canine Underground Railroad.

met me in the driveway along with their big lab, Buddy. I open the van door and Squirt came bounding out and soon the two dogs were racing around the yard having a ball in the snow. Ahh, life is beautiful! After leaving them with a few candy cane rawhides, I race home, throw on a long, dressy wool coat to hide the jeans and head off to meet the family at church, just in time for Silent Night and the lighting of the candles. I'm thankful for my "manger experience" on this most holy of eves and am in awe at the realization that my Lord chose to be born with an audience of four-

footed creatures. I feel a closeness to Him in this humble calling to care for his precious critters and feel so blessed to be doing what I was meant to do, even if it occasionally causes me to enter the formalized worship a bit late and smelling a bit like I've just come from the manger. 🐾