

# Forever Friends Newsletter

A Publication of the Marion County Dog Shelter

Spring 2010

## The Gift of a Very Special Foster Dog

By Sarah (Zsa Zsa's mom)

You remember "Love Story". Boy meets girl. They fall in love. Girl is diagnosed with terminal illness. Girl dies in boy's arms. That's the basic plot and I'll warn you upfront that it's the basic plot of this story as well. Except I'm not a boy and the girl is a dog.

Last fall, I somewhat begrudgingly agreed to foster a dog for the shelter. She was scheduled to have a test for Cushing's Disease (an adrenal tumor) and would either be euthanized or put up for adoption, depending on the results. It was just for a few days. So I picked up this strange creature that looked more like a Dr. Seuss creation than a dog. She had tufts of the softest whitest hair sticking out in odd places and patches of no fur across her back and hind legs. Her tail, also without fur, resembled a pig's tail with its naked curl. And she had these brown eyes that looked straight through you with such a lack of self-consciousness about her appearance, and such love, that you couldn't help but laugh. Not at her but at the loveliness of a life that would have this little being in it. We had a day together before her test for Cushing's and I liked her okay.



Then came her test on Monday morning and this is where I get really grateful. It took three days for her test results to come back. Now, you'll remember that it was agreed that if her test came back positive for Cushing's she would be euthanized. But in that waiting period, in those three days, I fell irretrievably in love with this little dog and when the results came back with bad news, it seemed irrelevant to me. She had too much life to explore, too much love left to give and receive, and I was a goner.

That was back in early October. It's the end of March now and she's dying. Her kidneys are shutting down and I have to tell you it's the sweetest, most tender dying, and one of the most beautiful things I've ever witnessed. There is no suffering for her that I can see, and believe me, I'm vigilantly attentive. I can hardly write this because we're just days away. But it feels important because what I've experienced from sharing this path with a dog who is coping so valiantly with illness feels like one of the biggest gifts of my life. It doesn't feel like something to keep to myself.

Why did this little dog win my heart and so many other hearts? She had so many sweet quirks to her personality. How she sits at perfect avid attention, almost clicks her heels like a Marine when she meets someone new. How, in the park, when I took her off leash, it was clear that she hadn't run much in her little life and how it scared her a little bit. How she hunkered down as low as she could get to the ground with all that speed and how she would panic if she got too far from me. How, because of her lack of fur she had to wear little shirts and sweaters, and how like a placid baby she allowed herself to be dressed, even when clearly not enjoying it. How, when it's too warm for clothes, she has to wear sunscreen. And how it took her several months to play, but even now, so close to dying, she sleeps with her head on her little stuffed monkey.



Zsa Zsa with her stuffed monkey.

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Mostly though, this little cloud has taught me more than I've ever taken in before about vulnerability and trust. She has been schooling my heart. It is in her body when you hold her and in her eyes when you look at her: complete and utter softness and willingness. Even in dying Zsa Zsa is teaching me these things.

When I go to the park and see all these beautiful vital Frisbee catching dogs, I know that they are one type of dog to love and that, on the other side of that, Zsa Zsa is quite another.

For information on becoming a foster dog parent, call 503-566-6966 or email [mcdsfosterdogs@co.marion.or.us](mailto:mcdsfosterdogs@co.marion.or.us).



## Shelter Manager's Update

By Allison Barrows, Shelter Manager

The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming and the dogs are running. Spring is always a busy time at the shelter with the nice weather people are letting their dogs stay out longer which gives them a little more time to wander away from home. We have been very busy at the shelter with many dogs coming in everyday and luckily it seems many are being returned to their owners. The highlight of our day is walking a person through the stray kennels to be reunited with their dog.

We are looking forward to nice weather and being able to get out in the community and attend local events to promote the shelter. We are hoping to attend events such as the Iris Festival, Keizer River Fair, Marion County Fair, Salem Saturday Market, and several others. We have a great group of dedicated volunteers who enjoy



sharing shelter information and shelter dogs with the community.

Unfortunately, one event we will not be holding this year is Dog Fest. While it is a fun day for the dogs the financial burden of hosting the event is more than the shelter can handle this year. Last year we were devastated when we had to lose an employee due to budget cuts. This year we are trying very hard to avoid the loss of another position and our budget is being reviewed very carefully. We are minimizing costs and finding savings where we can, while still providing wonderful care for our dogs.

The success of our program relies on the support of the community. Thank you to everyone in the community who shown our shelter support.

## Volunteer News

By Sonya Heard, Office Manager & Volunteer Coordinator



Marion County Dog Shelter's volunteer program is growing in leaps and bounds! We have had a great group of Willamette University students at the shelter for the past few months working on a psychology project.

Twenty students are diligently putting in their two hours a week here at the shelter, which means our dogs are getting lots of exercise! Our volunteer orientation in February was one of the biggest ones yet with over 20 people!

I'd also like to welcome **twenty-one** new volunteers at the shelter: **Alice, Amy, Ashlyn, Chelsea, Christina, Dale, Diane, Jason, Jim, Jonny, Karisa, Katie, Kelli, Kendra, Maria, Mary, Melissa, Melissa M., Miranda, Patricia, and Sarah.**

The volunteers have been busy here at the shelter and out in the community, and as the weather gets nicer there will be more and more opportunities to spread the word about our shelter dogs. If you know of anyone who would like to make a difference in a stray dog's life, send them in to see me!

In 2010, the shelter will be holding volunteer orientations the first Saturday of each month (except July). If you or someone you know is interested, please have them call me at 503-566-6966 or visit our website at [www.mcdogs.net](http://www.mcdogs.net) for more information.

I would like to thank all the great volunteers we have here at the shelter, without each and every one of you we couldn't do half of the work we do with the dogs! Thank you!

## What's New With Fostering

By Felicia Pederson, Shelter Technician

I'm happy to report the foster program is doing well. We have a couple of new foster parents that we are very happy to welcome to the program. Recently, we fostered out three dogs and they are all doing well.

**Tanner** (*right*) was in foster care for about three weeks with shelter staff and then foster parent Victor to help him put on weight. He is now up for adoption.



Tanner

**Willy** will be in foster care for a



Willy

about a 1 ½ weeks with foster mom Chelsea while recovering from surgery to have an eye removed. Willy (*left*) looks great!

And **Lola** (*below*) was in foster care with foster mom Gail because she had food allergies and was missing hair. She now has most of her hair back and will soon return to the shelter to go up for adoption.



Lola

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all our foster parents and shelter staff these dogs will find great forever homes and have a happy ending to their lives.

# Tips for Traveling With Your Dog

By Roxann O'Bryant, Veterinary Technician

People are traveling more and more with their pets especially since many destinations offer pet friendly accommodations. Below is a handy checklist to help pack for a trip in the car with your dog. Please be sure your pet has proper identification prior to traveling that way it can be reunited with you should it become lost!

- Food and water dishes
- Bottled water from home
- Adequate supply of dog food
- Any current medications
- Coat/clothing
- Blanket/bedding
- Crate
- Leashes
- Toys
- Absorbent pads/fecal bags
- Pet seat belts/pet car seats
- Pet first aid kit (available commercially), which should include:
  - First aid supplies
  - Phone numbers for your vet
  - Phone numbers for poison control hotline
  - Your name and contact information and an emergency contact person
  - Your pets name, age, breed, gender, and identification information and any health problems or special medications.



There are several forms of identification for dogs. Permanent identification consists of microchips and tattoos. Microchips can contain owner contact information, alternate contact numbers and health information, whereas information on tattoos will vary. Other forms of identification include name tags, license tags, and collar name bands.

Have a great time traveling with your dog and remember to be considerate of others at all times. Keep you dog on a leash and remember to pick up after your dog!

## Shelter Happenings

### Volunteer Orientations

- Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am
- Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am
- Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am

### Foster Program Orientation

- Saturday, April 10th at 9am

All orientations are held at the Marion County Dog Shelter. For more information, please call 503-566-6966.

### Adoption Outreach Events

- Petsense** (in Woodburn)  
Every first Saturday of the month
- Petsmart** (on Lancaster Dr.)  
Every second Saturday of the month
- Salem Saturday Market**  
Every third Saturday of the month
- Petco** (on Lancaster Dr.)  
Every fourth Saturday of the month

All adoption outreach events are held from 10am to 3pm.

## A Training Tip from Laurie Lea

### An easy way to teach "drop-it" command

- Use two exactly alike items, such as two tennis balls.
- Throw the first ball, when your dog returns with this ball, say "drop it", wait patiently for 30 seconds to 3 minutes until this happens.
- Be ready to throw the second ball as a reward.
- Pick up first ball and repeat process.
- He will learn fast to drop his first ball on command for the thrill to chase the next one. Have fun

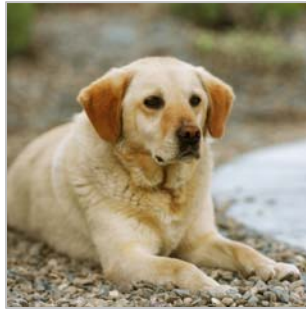


# OUTDOOR HAZARDS

The arrival of warmer weather means more time outside for you and your pets. But even in your own back yard, there are some potential hazards that could get in the way of the fun. Even certain plants and flowers can be poisonous to pets. Don't let that happen with these tips to keep your pets safe from outdoor hazards:

## Fertilizers and Herbicides

- Before applying a chemical to your lawn or in your yard, consider whether natural, organic or chemical-free remedies such as those described by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality might be just as effective for your intended use.
- Store all fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides in their original packaging and away from pets.
- Be sure to read labels before application; over application can lead to excess residue.
- Cover or remove outdoor food bowls, water dishes, pet toys and bird baths before any applications of chemicals.
- Do not let your pets in the yard while applying chemicals. Wait until chemicals have dried and even up to four days after application before allowing a pet into the area. Pets who lick their paws after walking on treated areas can be poisoned.



## Insecticides and Pesticides

- These products tend to be more toxic to pets than fertilizers and herbicides, so be even more cautious with them.
- Store all insecticides and pesticides in their original packaging and away from pets. The National Pesticide Information Center (800-858-7378) can help you make informed decisions about pesticide use.
- The most dangerous forms of pesticides include: slug and snail bait (containing metaldehyde), fly bait (containing methomyl), systemic insecticides (containing disyston or disulfoton), mole or gopher bait (containing zinc phosphide), and most forms of rat poisons.
- Store all insecticides and pesticides in their original packaging and away from pets at all times.
- Dogs can be attracted to slug bait that contains metaldehyde. Signs of poisoning include tremors, seizures, shaking, vomiting, hyper-salivation, rapid heart rate, and abdominal pain. If your pet ingests slug bait, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Natural alternatives to insecticides and pesticides include:
  - **Diatomaceous Earth:** This is made from fossilized remains of one-celled algae. It feels like talcum powder, but scratches and absorbs the wax layer on a bug's surface, leaving it to die from dehydration.

- **Fermenting Liquid:** Set out shallow containers of yeast, water and spoiled yogurt or beer, and bury the container flush with the soil surface. Slugs love the scent of yeast.

## Flea and Tick Control Products

A common cause of pet poisoning in the summer months is improper use or application of flea and tick control products. Use such products responsibly and according to package instructions. Overuse and misuse can be deadly.

- **Never** apply 45-65% permethrin "spot-on" products to cats, even in small amounts. Highly concentrated permethrin can be extremely toxic to cats.
- If you have both dogs and cats in your household, you should be aware that using a permethrin "spot-on" product on a dog may cause illness or death in a household cat.
- **Never** use flea medications intended for a dog on a cat instead. It is important to use only flea and tick products specifically designed for cats, and to administer the proper dosage.
- All flea and tick "spot-on" products—even ones with nearly identical brand names—are **not** alike. Check the label to identify the active ingredient before you apply it.

## Poisonous Plants

Ingestion of even small amounts of certain plants (for example, rhododendron or azalea, oleander, lily, or yew) can be harmful or fatal to a pet. You may want to review our list of poisonous plants. Symptoms of plant poisoning include:

- Irritation to skin and/or mouth
- Diarrhea
- Seizures
- Unconsciousness
- Vomiting (Please note that vomiting is common after cats or dogs ingest plant material. Seek veterinary care especially if vomiting accompanies other symptoms.)

## Poison Control & Emergency Veterinary Care

It's always a good idea to have on hand the phone numbers for your veterinarian, a local emergency animal hospital, and poison control. If you suspect poisoning, call the [ASPCA's Poison Control Hotline](http://www.aspca.org/poison-control) (1-888-426-4435, fee) or the [Pet Poison Helpline](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com) (1-800-213-6680, fee) or your veterinarian immediately.

*Courtesy of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association*



By Lynnette Graves,  
Volunteer Rescue Coordinator

On November 20, 2009, one of our dog control officers brought in a female Pit Bull/Shar-Pei mix that was later named **Jenna**. She was grossly under weight at only 32 pounds, and was very weak and barely able to walk with an open wound on her right thigh. Jenna immediately won the hearts of all the shelter staff. She was very sweet, had a wonderful temperament, and was very loving even with though she was horrible condition and obvious pain.

The shelter contacted **Marsha** at **Hope's Haven** to see if she was able to take this sweet dog into her rescue and she agreed to take Jenna and rehabilitate her. **Debbie West**, who volunteers for both the Marion County Dog Shelter and Hope's Haven, picked up Jenna and took her directly to **Dr. Arlene Brooks DVM at Homestead Veterinary Clinic**. Dr. Brooks, who works closely with Marsha and the dogs at Hope's Haven, performed surgery on Jenna's leg which required triple layers of stitching



(and thirty-two stitches) to close up the wound. After surgery, Jenna went to Hope's Haven to begin the healing and rehabilitation process, as well as the start of her new life.



On March 7<sup>th</sup> of this year, I had the opportunity to visit Marsha at Hope's Haven. When I arrived, there was a little adorable Pit Bull mix that greeted me at a gate. When Marsha introduced me to the "new and improved" Jenna, I could not believe that the dog I was looking at was actually Jenna! She is a completely different dog from the emaciated, wounded dog that arrived at the shelter. Her wound has healed wonderfully with a barely noticeable scar and she has gained at least fifteen pounds and looks amazing.

Now that Jenna has recovered, she is looking for her forever home. She has an incredible personality, loves attention and affection, likes to play, and has plenty of love to give to everyone she meets. Jenna is just an all around awesome dog and would make a perfect pet for the perfect family. For Jenna, finding her forever home will be a definite happy ending to a very sad beginning. For more information about Hope's Haven, please visit: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/OR91.html>.

Rescue success stories like Jenna's and Zsa Zsa's are what makes being the Volunteer Rescue Coordinator very rewarding and worth all the time and effort it takes to find dogs a rescue.

# Happy Tails!

I fell in love with **Oliver** from the first time I met him at the Salem Holiday Market. I volunteer at **Salem Friends of Felines** and we were sharing a space at the market with the Marion

County Dog Shelter. Oliver was brought to the event by shelter volunteers. When I came to work one day, my friend Kathi said, "You have to meet this little dog!"

Oh my goodness, what a sweetheart! He was very popular that day. I was hesitant about filling out an application for adoption, because I already had four dogs and thought I didn't stand a chance. A volunteer for Marion County Dog Shelter (Heather McDaniel) encouraged me to do it anyway.

I am so happy I did. He is a wonderful little guy. Tinsel (now Oliver) fit right in at my home. He is even great with the multiple cats and kittens I foster for Salem Friends of Felines.

It is so important to match your personality and life style with a pet you are considering bringing into your home. A few months prior to adopting Oliver, I adopted a small Yorkshire Terrier/Maltese Mix who was adorable! I was hesitant on adopting him at first, because I felt my lifestyle and environment would not be a good fit for him. I should have listened to myself. This little guy demanded constant attention. He didn't fit in with the other dogs, and I didn't feel safe letting him run with us (dogs and me) on the property (7 acres) because he was always disappearing. When left in a fenced-in yard by himself, he yapped.



Oliver (a.k.a., Tinsel) at the Marion County Dog Shelter.



Oliver, at his forever home, with his friend "Floppy Dog."

I made the decision to find him another home, but decided that I would not place him again unless the home was just right. I found such a home! He now has a buddy (a Maltese mix) and a safe yard to enjoy. It comes complete with a doggie door he can go in and out so there are no more accidents in the house. He is so happy and they love him to pieces!

My advice is to talk to the counselors at Marion County Dog Shelter and pick a dog that will match your home, for both your sake and the dog's sake.

Regards, Penny Mack

## Send us your Happy Tails!

If you've adopted a dog from MCDS and would like to share your story, email it to: [dogg@co.marion.or.us](mailto:dogg@co.marion.or.us). Be sure to include a digital photo!

**Our Mission** is to serve and protect the people and dogs of Marion County in a professional and courteous manner by:

- Enforcing Marion County dog licensing and control ordinances.
- Promoting the humane treatment of dogs.
- Providing shelter and care for stray dogs until they are reunited with their families or adopted.
- Educating our residents.
- Respecting the needs of our customers.



## Volunteers Needed!

Want more information?  
Call 503-566-6966 or go to [www.mcdogs.net](http://www.mcdogs.net).

## Our Staff

Bill Worcester, Director  
 Allison Barrows, Shelter Manager  
 Sonya Heard, Office & Volunteer Manager  
 Roxann O'Bryant, Veterinary Technician  
 Laurie Lea Hungerford, Shelter Technician  
 Jackie Edwards, Shelter Technician  
 Felicia Pederson, Shelter Technician  
 Julie Haskett, Field Officer  
 Karen Hilfiker, Field Officer  
 Bruce Daugherty, Field Officer  
 Charley Bay, Admin Support  
 Michelle Mosier, Admin Support

## Directory

Adoptions, Lost or Found  
 Dog & Shelter Info..... 503-566-6966  
 Licensing Info ... 503-588-5233  
 Complaints ..... 503-588-5366  
 Volunteering & Donations ... 503-588-6966

## Shelter Hours

**Licensing / Strays / Enforcement**  
 Monday – Saturday 8:00am – 5:30pm

**Adoptions**  
 Monday – Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm

**Marion County Dog Shelter**  
 3550 Aumsville Hwy SE  
 Salem OR 97317  
 Phone: (503) 588-5233  
 Web: [www.mcdogs.net](http://www.mcdogs.net)  
 Email: [dog@co.marion.or.us](mailto:dog@co.marion.or.us)

## DON'T SHOP. ADOPT!

Every day there are many wonderful dogs at Marion County Dog Shelter waiting for their forever home. Take them home with:

- ✿ Complimentary veterinarian's health exam
- ✿ First vaccinations
- ✿ Flea treatment
- ✿ De-wormer
- ✿ Spay/Neuter (if needed)
- ✿ Microchip for Identification
- ✿ Dog License
- ✿ Welcome Home Kit (includes a bag of high quality dog food!)



## "Forever Friends Newsletter" Spring 2010

**Editor:** Jolene Bray

**Contributing Writers:** Allison Barrows, Jolene Bray, LaurieLea Dickerson, Lynnette Graves, Sonya Heard, Penny Mack, Roxanne O'Bryant, Felicia Pederson, and Sarah (Zsa Zsa's Mom)