

# FOREVER FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009



[www.mcdogs.net](http://www.mcdogs.net)

503-566-6966

**MARION COUNTY DOG SHELTER, 3550 AUMSVILLE HWY SE, SALEM, OR 97317**

## SHELTER MANAGER'S UPDATE by Allison Barrows

As a fairly new shelter, we are still working out the kinks in some of our additional programs. We are excited to announce that our Foster Dog Program is moving forward without too many bumps in the road. I'm happy that Felicia Pederson, one of our Shelter Techs, was so willing to be a major player in the Foster Program. Felicia has been very busy conducting Foster Orientations, learning how to perform home checks from Officer Haskett, pairing up great foster parents with dogs in need, and following up with questions the foster parents may have. Felicia has even fostered a few of our dogs herself. We have had some wonderful foster successes recently. I would like to thank all who helped those dogs, especially their foster parents. Without you those dogs may not have had a second chance.



Scooby is a little dachshund puppy who arrived at the shelter hypothermic, very underweight, and with sores all over his body. He stayed with Felicia for about a month while he was on antibiotics and spending a lot of time growing. His new owner has been more than happy to provide for him, and when he stopped in for a visit a couple weeks ago, he didn't even look like the same dog. He has grown a lot, his coat is full and shiny and he has a wonderful attitude.

Skipper is a pug who came to us with a severe trauma to his left eye, which was so severe that it actually caused his eye to dislodge from the socket. Skipper had surgery to have his eye removed. He spent his recovery with his Foster mom Sheila Hart. She couldn't have done a better job helping him get well and teaching him proper Pug manners. Skipper was quickly adopted into a home with two other Pugs.

Nora is a Shih Tzu who came in a matted mess. Under all her hair we discovered she had a very bad eye infection that appeared to be due to a foreign body in her eye, causing her to go blind in that eye. She too had to have an eye removed. Nora spent her recovery with her foster dad Vic. After a couple weeks, Nora was ready to look for her forever home. The perfect family came along and they are spoiling her as much as possible. She is the queen of their home!

Felicia took on another puppy to foster. This fuzzy little guy seems to be a dachshund, poodle mix. He arrived at the shelter with Puppy Strangles, which is an immune deficiency disease that occurs in some puppies but can be treated. After a few weeks of treatment, he looks and acts just like a healthy pup. He is already adopted and will go to his new home shortly.

We are so happy to get the foster program under way and we look forward to more people taking an interest in helping to foster our dogs. We also hope to make more dogs adoptable by giving them the added care they deserve. Thank you to everyone involved in making our new foster program a success.



Scooby & foster mom Felicia



Nora, "before" & "after"



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## VET'S CLINIC by Dr. Terry Gerros, DVM



*Dr. Gerros and office assistant Tracy*

Your pet's dental health depends on you. Pets can't brush their teeth, and just like people, dogs and cats are at risk for dental problems that can cause pain and serious health issues without proper care. Your pet is counting on you for dental care to stay healthy and happy.

Dental disease does not just affect the mouth, there are several ways it can interfere with your pet's overall health and quality of life. Dental disease can lead to problems in the heart, liver, kidneys or other organs.

Plaque is a colorless film containing large amounts of bacteria that can build up on your pet's teeth. Plaque can cause infection, destroying gums, bone and other tissues that support the teeth. Your pet's mouth may develop small wounds that allow bacteria to enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body.

Signs of dental problems: Bad breath, yellow-brown crust on teeth, red or bleeding gums, change in chewing or eating habits, loose, chipped, broken or missing teeth, change in behavior, or drooling. Just as people should have regular checkups by their dentists, your pet needs regular dental care by your veterinarian. Every regular exam at our clinic includes a thorough dental exam. We'll also recommend an at home care plan to help you keep your pet healthy. If we find disease, we will recommend a treatment plan.

Part of your pet's dental treatment plan may include a professional dental cleaning under carefully monitored anesthesia. We'll provide antibiotics and pain medication for your pet as needed. Occasionally dental X-rays are needed to show us what is hidden below the gum line. The tooth's structure below the gums and the bone that anchor it can help us determine whether extractions are needed.

Did you know chewing is good for your pet's teeth? There are several chew toys and treats especially designed for helping control tartar and promote healthy teeth. Samples of these items are available at our clinic. Home dental care includes monitoring your pet for changes in behavior and inspecting your pet's mouth regularly. We can show you what to look for and discuss steps you can take to prevent dental disease at any stage in your pet's life.

You may find it difficult to imagine brushing your pet's teeth, but daily brushing is one of the best ways to help your pet avoid dental disease. Ask us to show you how to brush your pet's teeth. It does take practice and dedication but your pet will adjust to the strange feeling and the wonderful flavors of animal toothpaste.



*Pepper, Hammer, and MC enjoying a bounce on the trampoline*

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## ADOPTION "HAPPY-EVER-AFTERS" *By Don Newell*

**Pug and Play!** Over the years, the Newell household has enjoyed the company of pugs, but when their adult daughter moved out they were "pug-less" for several years. While pug-less, they weren't "dog-less" as they shared their home with a lab-mix named Diamond and an older calico cat named Summer. Last summer, they decided to adopt a black male pug from Marion County Dog Shelter that would be a companion to them and a pal for Diamond, and named him "MC" for Marion County. He and Diamond had two great fenced dog yards (one yard being ½ acre!) in rural Clackamas County and had great fun running and playing together.

In the spring of 2009, a fawn male pug at the shelter needed a family, so home he came to join the mini-pack. When they were deciding on a name, what flowed off the tongue was "Hammer". It was easy to get the two dogs' attention, and the neighbors quickly remembered their names.

Shortly thereafter, Diamond unexpectedly became ill and went to doggy heaven. Although greatly missed, the two pugs still had each other. Although they thought their little pack was complete, a week or so later, a brindle male pug named "Pepper" came into the shelter.

Pepper had lost an eye to abuse and mistreatment and while at the shelter had received surgery and then recovery in a foster home. With the great, safe dog yards, and MC and Hammer serving as pug-seeing eye dogs, it was a natural fit for Pepper to join the two. They run at the same speed, and their noses are the same height, so Pepper could keep up or lead anytime. In fact, with Pepper and Hammer being closer in age, they enjoy their "rough" play and chasing each other. MC, the new-old man, exercises his alpha role, keeping the two younger pups in order when needed. It is usual to see the three different color pugs at one time – but at least it is easy to tell them apart.

All three are more than fine and more than happy. They enjoy chasing each other when placed on the kid's old bouncy trampoline. And the highlight of Summer the cat's day is watching the three of them play like only pugs can play.

*Did you know?...* The Shelter gladly accepts donations for our **Emergency Medical Fund**, which supports surgery and other special care for sick and injured dogs. Please ask our staff for more information, and ask your tax advisor if your contribution is deductible.

## **BARKING DOGS--What Do You Do?**

*By Sonya Heard*



**Why All The Racket?** **Barking** is one of the ways that dogs communicate. It can signify anything from playfulness to danger. Dogs also bark in response to situations that cause discomfort, such as when chained to a fixed point without enough room to move; spending long periods of time alone without any attention; kept in a space which is too small; provoked (deliberately or unintentionally) by people or roaming dogs; lacking exercise or socialization; sick or injured; hungry, thirsty, or on the wrong diet; stressed; or separated from their pack (you) or other family members.

**Barking** excessively should not be part of a dog's life. **Barking** can be the signal of a distressed animal, and chronic excessive barking is considered a nuisance. **Barking** continually may be interpreted as a sign of a poorly cared-for and/or trained dog. **Barking** excessively may also be viewed as cruelty by some people.

### **Changing Barking Behaviors**

Making situational changes, and investing a little time and training can eliminate most excessive barking. For example, you need to provide enough space for your dog to move freely within your enclosed backyard. Exercise your dog regularly and adequately for its breed and size. Take your dog to a dog trainer, who specializes in barking dog problems, and/or go to obedience training and spend some time bonding. Purchase a bark collar. There are different variations, so do some research and talk to the retailer who sells them. Purchase a "Scarecrow Motion Activated Sprinkler". Retailers sell a few variations that work with a garden hose. When your dog gets near the "stimulation" that triggers his barking (e.g., fence line), the motion detector is activated and the dog is shot with a burst of water. Hire a dog walker or take your dog to doggie daycare. This will give them regular exercise and socialization, which will help with any anxiety. Make your dog feel like part of the "pack." Dogs are pack animals, and when they are left outside all the time, they feel alienated from the pack and become vocal. They want and need your affection. Both you and your dog will benefit from the time you spend together.

### **Your Dog and The Law**

Marion County Code 6.05.00 section 6.05.050 states "the keeper of the dog commits a civil infraction if the keeper's dog(s) commits any of the following acts: Runs at large; disturbs a person by prolonged or frequent noise; scatters garbage; trespasses on private property of others; damages or destroys property of others; chases vehicles on roadway; is a female in heat at large."

**Marion County Code 6.05.00** section 6.05.050 describes a disturbing dog noise as barking, whining, howling or similar sounds. If one or more dogs bark, whine, howl, or make similar sounds for more than fifteen minutes on at least three different days within a ten-day period, or for more than five minutes during at least three different nights between 10:00pm and 7:00am within a ten-day period, this is a violation of this ordinance. The fine for violating this law is \$250. There are many noise nuisance issues, and dogs barking is just one kind. Marion County encourages neighbors to communicate with dog owners to resolve barking issues. Marion County offers **mediation assistance** to aid neighbors with solutions to dog barking issues, including Neighbor-2-Neighbor mediation. Their contact information is: 503-585-0651 or 503-375-6269, or via email at [n2nmediation@gmail.com](mailto:n2nmediation@gmail.com).



## **SHELTER STAFF UPDATE**

We'd like you to meet Shelter Technician Felicia Pederson. Felicia came to the shelter in Sept. 2008, and she previously worked at the Oak Hill Vet Clinic for 3 years. As a Shelter Tech, she helps with vet exams, checks in stray dogs, helps with temperament tests, performs adoption counseling, and is assisting with the foster program. Felicia's favorite part of the job is the behavioral screening. Since every dog is different and unique, she enjoys seeing a variety of behaviors which helps her learn more about dogs. Felicia is married and has a lab, a blue heeler, and 3 horses. Felicia is a great addition to our staff, and we're glad to have her with us!

# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS by Sonya Heard



Sonya & Wendy

**Shelter Volunteers are the best!** There have been some exciting changes with the Volunteer Program in the past few months. I've been asked to take on the new position of Volunteer Director, with our multi-talented Jolene Bray still at my side. She'll continue providing vital administrative support and other assistance. I've been in the role of Office Manager here at the shelter for just about a year now, and since all the dust has settled, I'm ready for some more excitement.



Jolene Bray

We're getting ready for "Dog Fest '09" being held on September 12 at the Chemeketa Community College Campus. Once again, this will be the dog event of the year for us here at the shelter. We'll be putting the call out for volunteers to help us at the event in many capacities. So call your friends, sign them up, and lets have some fun!

I'd like to invite new volunteers, current volunteers, and prospective volunteers to stop by and let me introduce myself in person. My door is open, and my time is yours. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone who has made our shelter what it is today, watching our Volunteer program continue to grow, and working with Jolene in our new roles.

I'd like to add that Jolene has really distinguished herself as our volunteer coordinator, among many other duties she performs with great professionalism and always a smile. Our volunteer program has grown to the point where I felt it was time to spread the work to more hands. Jolene will continue to coordinate many events, publish the Bow Wow Bulletin, and has graciously agreed to take over Forever Friends, starting with our Fall edition. I know I speak for us all in thanking Jolene for her ongoing and tireless support of our program.  
--Bill Worcester, Director

## Volunteer Spotlight:



Sheila Hart

Congratulations to all of our more than 50 shelter volunteers for winning this year's Volunteer Program Award, and to Sheila Hart for her individual Division Award. We want to thank all these deserving people for the many hours they spend walking our dogs, taking them to outreach events, assisting with office work and locating rescues and foster homes for special-needs dogs. Public Works uses more volunteers than any other county department, and their efforts are vital and greatly appreciated!



Volunteer Program award

★ Saturday, September 12th

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ★



## Dog Fest '09

Dogs enter for \$3

and receive a bandana entitling them to participate in activities and contests.

Humans get in FREE!

The Annual Marion County Dog Fest will be a day of fun, games, prizes, demonstrations and treats.



For everyone's fun and safety, your dog must be:

- On leash
- Current on all vaccinations
- Sociable with other dogs and children
- Comfortable in a loud and festive environment
- At least 4 months old (puppies have weak or no immune systems)

Please be aware of your dogs personal health before bringing them to the event.

Dog Fest '09 will be held at Chemeketa Community College. Take the Cooley Drive exit and park in the main parking lot on the southwest side of the campus.

For more information, contact Marion County Dog Shelter at 503-566-6966.

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