



President's Notes

Sue Millman

In this issue I would like to speak about volunteering. For those of you who have contemplated being one, I hope to answer a few questions you may already have.

The two basic requirements to be a good volunteer are a spirit of adventure and a little time. You do not have to possess any special talent, just love Siberian, have a little common sense, and be willing to take a chance on doing something new. Our most urgent need is for folks to answer the call-in line, return calls, and as part of that responsibility, manage the "match ups" for dogs needing homes and applicants to adopt.

If you are wondering if this is something you would enjoy doing, here are a few questions to ask yourself: Do you enjoy speaking to people and interacting with them? Do you have between a 1/2 and 1 hour a day, Monday through Friday, for two months a year to volunteer? Do you have access to a computer and the internet? Would you like to experience a great feeling of satisfaction when you have facilitated finding a new home for a dog that desperately needs one? If so, you are the just the person we are looking for!

If you are like most Siberian lovers, you would probably want to adopt all of the ones in need, but we know that is just not practical. As the individual matches are made, the wonderful sense of accomplishment is the reward in itself. Not to mention the fantastic group of folks that Patriot has to work with.

If you would like more information, please e-mail us or leave a message on our phone line at 413-498-4455. I will personally call you back to discuss your questions or concerns you may have.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Dog of the Month--Nikita



Nikita is a black and white, blue-eyed cutey. She has a sweet disposition and is full of spunk and ready for a walk or play whenever given the opportunity. She is approximately 5 years old. She was originally a stray but has been in a home for 2 years. She is spayed, up to date on her shots, weighs 45 lbs. She is not good with cats and she does better with male dogs than with females. She is a foster dog of Patriot Rescue living in Greenfield, MA.

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Bleu finds a warm and loving home



Rescue News

Kira Fund, Donations, Vote, Recent Adoptions

Michelle Cunha

Kira Fund

Kira is our newest foster dog who came from a local shelter. She has the greatest temperament, getting along well with children, cats, and other dogs as well. She is warm and friendly and loves attention (but what husky doesn't!).

Her greatest challenge for placement is expensive diagnostic tests to determine the best medical treatment for the chronic incontinence she suffers; before she can be adopted out, she will need this medical attention. As a small all volunteer group, Patriot does not have the funds necessary to expend on one dog with such extensive needs. This is the first time we have taken to making a plea for financial assistance on behalf of one single dog. To date, everyone who has met Kira has fallen in love with her. She has inspired donations toward her care on her own. If you would like to help her, we are earmarking any donations sent in her name for the "Kira Fund", and they will be used exclusively for her medical care.

Donations

PSHR has finally reached the new century! You can now donate to the rescue through Paypal, now on the website.

In the same vein, we are now a 501(c) which means PSHR is a tax deductible organization. We can send you a receipt if requested, although canceled checks and credit card statements can be used at tax time for receipt purposes.

And speaking of donations, one of our volunteers has generously

included PSHR in her will. She wrote to encourage other members to think of unique ways in which PSHR huskies will continue to benefit from someone's love long after that person no longer walks this

realm. "Since PSHR is a non-profit, all volunteer rescue group, we encourage interested parties to contribute in many ways. Some donate their time and talents, while others donate financially.

We welcome all types of donations and encourage parties interested in financial donations to make

those donations now but to also consider long term endowments as well. Some supporters have named PSHR as a beneficiary for life insurance policies or have remembered PSHR in their estate planning." PSHR hopes that said money will not be paid out for decades to come and wholeheartedly thank this member for thinking of us.

Exercise Your Right to Vote!

Some of you may have noticed that this newsletter does not have a name which is something we would like to change. Please fill out the coupon on the back page and mail it by September 1st with your preference checked. The top three names will be posted on our webpage by October 1st for which a second vote from you will be needed. The name will be announced in the December 2005 issue. Happy voting!

From May 1, 2004 to May 1, 2005 PSHR placed a total of 26 huskies: 21 referral dogs and 5 fosters.
Good for us!



Recent Adoptions

John Foye

Here are a few pictures of some of the adoptions we have placed. If you have a picture of a husky that you adopted, please send it along to PSHR so we can spotlight him/her in our next issue. Please provide any new information about your husky including quips, stories, anecdotes and/or health updates.



Stoli



Max Jax



Toby



Making Peace Between Cats and Dogs

Is Coexistence Possible?

Q: I want to adopt a retired racing Greyhound but I've heard they chase cats. I don't want anything to happen to my cat! Can I teach them to get along together?

A: Yes, most dogs can be taught to tolerate cats if their owners are willing to be patient and consistent. Some dogs take longer to train than others and the difference is usually due to the dog's level of "prey drive".

Nature designed canines to be predators — to chase and catch smaller animals for food. Although dogs have been domesticated for thousands of years, they still act upon the instincts nature gave them. Through generations of selective breeding, people have modified these instincts. By decreasing the effects of some and enhancing the effects of others, we've been able to develop a wide variety of different breeds of dogs, each meant to serve a different purpose or perform a certain function.

A dog's instinct to chase and catch something is called his "prey drive." Throw a stuffed toy for a puppy and watch his prey drive in action as he chases it, catches it, then shakes it to "kill" it. Breeds and individual dogs vary in the intensity of their prey drives. Breeds created specifically for killing other animals — most terriers, for example, were intended to kill rats — have very high prey drives.

In other breeds, the prey drive has been altered to suit an entirely different purpose. In the Border Collie, a herding breed, the instinct to chase and catch animals has been modified to chase and gather them together. Prey drive can also be modified by training. Drug sniff-

ing and arson detection dogs have high prey drives that have been redirected toward objects - these dogs are taught that illegal drugs and fire accelerants are "prey." Although we think of the Greyhound as a racing dog, it was originally bred for hunting, using its great speed to chase down hares and other fast creatures. Consequently, it has a high prey drive and is inclined to chase cats.

There are several effective ways to train a dog with a high prey drive to live peacefully with cats or other small pets. I prefer to teach these dogs that cats are off limits altogether and are not to be disturbed. Using a friend or family member to help you, set up several short daily training sessions. With the dog wearing a training collar and leash, put him on a sit/stay beside you. Have your friend hold the cat on the other side of the room. Your dog will probably be very curious and even excited at seeing the cat, but insist that he remain in the sit/stay position. Praise your dog for sitting calmly.

Have your friend bring the cat a few steps closer. If your dog continues to stay quietly at your side, wonderful! Praise him for it. If he tries to lunge at the cat, though, give him a stern, fierce-sounding "NO! LEAVE IT!" along with a short, sharp jerk on the lead and put him back in the sit-stay position. As soon as he is sitting calmly again, praise him sincerely. Continue bringing the cat closer, a few feet at a time, repeating the corrections as needed and making sure to praise the dog when he sits quietly and ignores the cat. Have patience — depending on the intensity of your dog, you might only be able to gain a few feet each session.

When your dog is able to sit calmly even when the cat is right next to

him, you're ready to proceed to the next step. Release the dog from his sit/stay and let him walk around the room with the cat present. Leave his lead on so you can easily catch him and give the necessary correction if he gives any sign of wanting to chase the cat. Your supervision at this point is critical - to be effective, you must be able to correct the dog each and every time he even thinks about going after the cat. If he's allowed to chase her, even once, he'll want to try it again and you'll have to start your training over from the beginning.

Some dogs learn quickly, others may take weeks to become trustworthy around cats. Until you're sure the dog will remember his training, don't leave them together unsupervised!

A Siberian Husky owner combined a dog crate with the "LEAVE IT!" command to help introduce her cats and dogs. Sometimes the dog was crated with the cat free in the room, at other times, the cat was crated while the dog was free. The dog was allowed to investigate the cat but not to harass or bark at it.

Another owner uses a technique that's often practiced to help dogs adjust to a new baby in the household. By giving the dog extra attention and even special treats when the cat (or baby) is in the room, the dog soon learns that having the cat around means very good things are going to happen to him!

<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/dogscats.html>

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around."

--Cowboy Wisdom

Reader Response and Deskunkify



Zinc Deficiency, hotspots, and Zinpro

In our last newsletter, Chewie's mom wrote to Dr. Christine asking about hotspots. Corina Alexander had this response:

Please let Chewie's mom know that her dog could have a zinc deficiency which is very common in Northern breeds. I have seen dogs treated for skin conditions (like hot spots) when the deficiency remains the root problem.

The symptoms of zinc deficiency range from bumps around the mouth, eyes, inside the ears, or around the vulva, if it is a female. If this goes on for a long period without treatment, see hair loss and "hot spots" appear. This ailment is VERY common in red Siberian for some reason but you see it in all colors. Some vets will recognize a zinc deficiency although these professionals are not always aware that Siberian only respond to zinc methionine. You can buy it in tablet form at a health food store, but I recommend a supplement called Zinpro.

Zinc is present in every body tissue and every tissue fluid. Among the trace minerals of the body only zinc is found in greater concentration. Zinc serves two broad functions: Enzyme Function (necessary for a strong immune system and good digestion) and Protein Synthesis (cell reproduction in skin, coat, footpads, nails which are mostly protein - 85%).

Some of the signs and symptoms are of a zinc deficiency are:

- *Chronic hair loss
- *Excessive shedding (not associated with seasonal shedding)
- *Dull coats with slow & sparse hair growth
- *Dry flaky skin, & itchy conditions
- *Poor quality footpads & nails
- *Hotspots and rashes

At times, dogs that have been

diagnosed as having allergy conditions such as skin scabs on the abdomen & thigh.

Zinpro is not harmful as it is not a drug. It causes no side effects and is not toxic. I order my Zinpro from: Kennel Gear, 888-765-2164 <http://www.kennelgear.com>

EDITORS NOTE: PSHR DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY PRODUCTS.

Deskunkify Your Pet

*William F. Wood
Department of Chemistry
Humboldt State University*

To neutralize or deodorize skunk spray, the chemicals in the secretion must be changed to a different type of molecule. Tomato juice does not work (see below for an explanation).

For pets that have been sprayed, bathe the animal in a mixture of 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide (from drug store), 1/4 cup of baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) and a teaspoon of liquid detergent. After 5 minutes rinse the animal with water. Repeat if necessary. The mixture must be used after mixing and will not work if it is stored for any length of time. DO NOT STORE IN A CLOSED CONTAINER - it releases oxygen gas so it could break the container. This mixture may bleach the pet's hair. I have heard of one black Labrador retriever that was chocolate colored after this treatment. (Paul Krebaum's Recipe from Chemical & Engineering News, October 18, 1993, p. 90).

Some additional tips. Do this outside so the volatile skunk spray does not contaminate your house. To remove residual skunk odor from your clothes and any towels or

rags used in this clean up procedure, wash them with one cup of liquid laundry bleach per gallon of water.

For buildings, decks, etc., a solution of liquid laundry (Chlorox®) bleach (1 cup per gallon) will work. CAUTION - THIS MAY BLEACH THE BUILDINGS, DECKS, ETC. Try it on a small area if bleaching may be a problem. The bleach must come in contact with the spot where the secretion was sprayed. Repeated applications may be necessary for large amounts of the skunk spray. DO NOT USE THIS ON PETS. It will not work for skunk spray that has drifted over a large area or is trapped in a house. Only time and adequate ventilation will help in this case.

Why tomato juice is believed to eliminate skunk odor. Bathing an animal in tomato juice seems to work because at high doses of skunk spray the human nose quits smelling the odor (olfactory fatigue). When this happens, the odor of tomato juice can easily be detected. A person suffering olfactory fatigue to skunk spray will swear that the skunk odor is gone and was neutralized by the tomato juice. Another person coming on the scene at this point will readily confirm that the skunk spray has not been neutralized by the tomato juice.

I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive.
--Gilda Radner

Ask not for whom the dog barks, she barks for thee.
-Unknown

Is Your Dog Lost?



Here's how to increase your chances of getting him back!

Norma Bennett Woolf

If Ranger digs under the fence and takes off to seek his fortune or if Fluffy runs out the door past the kids and disappears, don't lose hope. Most dogs will come home within 24 hours if at all possible.

Your best bet to get your pet back is to make sure he's easily identified with license tags or a microchip. If he's found by a good Samaritan or picked up by a dog warden, the license or chip number is his ticket home. Counties keep records of all license numbers, and chips are registered with local or national databases. Most shelters have scanners that can read the chip; the staff can then call the company's 24-hour hotline to get your name and phone number.

If Fluffy's not identified, there are

still several steps you can take.

1. Place a lost dog ad in the daily newspapers, giving your area of town and a brief description of your pet.
2. Call animal shelters in adjoining counties, including the private, no-kill shelters, and report your dog missing.
3. Plan to visit the public shelters every day or two as these shelters will rarely give out information about particular dogs over the telephone. Ohio public shelters are required to keep unidentified stray dogs for only three days before placing them for adoption or killing them, so don't take a chance.
4. Make some posters with a colored picture of your pet and post 'em around the neighborhood, in convenience stores, near schools,

etc.

5. Call the neighborhood school and ask if you can tack a poster to the bulletin board. Kids have sharp eyes and are likely to know if Ranger's around or if someone three streets over found him and doesn't know how to find you.

If you find Ranger at the shelter, pay the fine and the license fee and thank the shelter folks for their trouble. If he's returned by Mrs. Smith from the next subdivision, give her a box of chocolates or a bouquet of flowers and go buy Ranger a license or make arrangements for microchip implantation. And don't forget to cancel the ad and take down the posters.

<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/lostdog.html>



Donations

Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue is dedicated to finding good homes for good dogs. We are a completely volunteer organization whose funding comes from donations.

Before going to a new home, all foster dogs are tested for heartworm, spay/neutered, and taken to the veterinarian for an exam to find out their general health and get up-to-date on their shots. This costs an average of \$300.

Name:

Amount Donating:

PSHR General Fund yes or no (circle one)

Kira Fund yes or no (circle one)

Please make checks payable to PSHR and send to:

Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue
c/o 107 Tyler Road
Tewksbury, Massachusetts
01876

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous donation and support. Please consider volunteering.

Please note that we are now capable of online donations at our web page.



Happy Tails

Bleu finds a warm and loving home

Andrea Fedele

Bleu was just a puppy and had been found running along a busy interstate in southern New Hampshire when my husband and I took her in on an emergency placement basis in April 2004. Initially, we were apprehensive about taking Bleu in because we were not sure how our eight year old Sibe, Kosmo, would react. Once we got her home, and settled in, things worked out just fine. Less than a month later, we decided to adopt and keep her.

When Bleu came to us she was filthy; it was obvious she had not been taken care of and had probably been on the run for a considerable length of time. She weighed a mere 32 pounds and was found to have whipworm. She had to undergo three months of treatment for the whipworm and also had to be spayed.

Bleu could not be left alone when we first brought her into our home. We believe she had a mild case of separation anxiety. So, along with obedience training, she had to be crate trained. It was a long and tedious process, but it was not without rewards.

Nearly six months have passed and Bleu has a clean bill of health. She has gained weight and is now healthy, not to mention, she's slightly more obedient than when she first came into our home and she loves her crate!

Kosmo has adjusted to having a hyper puppy in the house. In fact, we both agree that Bleu has taught him about playing and sharing and has kept him from becoming too lazy in his old age.

She is an absolute doll! After

some time, our eleven year old cat, Bessy also adjusted to having Bleu in the house--if she gets out of line, Bessy lets her know in no uncertain terms. While they know enough to stay out of each others way, they both spend time cuddling on our bed, daily.

Like her brother, Kosmo, Blue spends her days inside relaxing in the sun in our kitchen. She loves to sit in front of our atrium doors and watch the birds and squirrels at the feeders. She loves walks and treats. Most of all, Bleu loves our bed. If allowed to, she would spend all her days there.

We are so thankful for the bundle of joy and mischief that Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue helped bring into our home and I think Bleu is especially thankful as well. She knows that she is now in a safe, comfortable environment where she will be well-cared and provided for. Blue has a personality like no other and she has truly made our family complete. After such a positive experience with your rescue agency, my husband and I would undoubtedly rescue another Siberian.

Do you have a Happy Tail? Please mail it, along with a picture (.jpg format) to newsletter@pshr.org or to 107 Tyler Rd., Tewksbury, MA, 01876



When I Got My New Dog
Unknown

I asked for strength that I might rear her perfectly;
I was given weakness that I might feed her more treats.

I asked for good health that I might rest easy;
I was given a "special needs" dog that I might know nurturing.

I asked for an obedient dog that I might feel proud;
I was given stubbornness that I might feel humble.

I asked for compliance that I might feel masterful;
I was given a clown that I might laugh.

I asked for a companion that I might not feel lonely;
I was given a best friend that I would feel loved.

I got nothing I asked for,
But everything that I needed.

"Do not respond to a barking dog." -- Moroccan Jewish Saying

"Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun."
--Indian Proverb

"If you are a host to your guest, be a host to his dog also."
-- Russian Proverb

"A house without either a cat or a dog is the house of a scoundrel."
--Portuguese Proverb

"If you stop every time a dog barks, your road will never end."
--Saudi Arabian Proverb



Health Corner/Homeowner's Insurance

Ask Dr. Christine

Dr. Christine Johnston, DVM

**Dear Dr. Christine,
There are so many dog foods out there, I don't know what to give my Sibe. I have heard that dog food from grocery stores cause cancer, so I don't want to give it to her. I know I want to give her something good for her but I don't know the difference between "holistic" and "organic." Please explain the difference.**

--Naturally Concerned

Dear Naturally Concerned,

Yes, indeed, there is a dizzying array of dog foods on the market. No food, however, has been found to "cause cancer." Some chemical preservatives have been connected to certain cancers, but the studies involved feeding large amounts of these chemicals to laboratory animals; the amounts in pet foods are negligible, which are necessary to preserve nutrients and prevent fats from becoming rancid. You certainly would not want to feed moldy or rotten food to your dog.

In choosing a food look for a product made by a reputable manufacturer--avoid generic products-- containing good quality ingredients and labeled as adequate for the current life stage of your dog. It is recommended that the majority of the first 4 or 5 ingredients listed on the package be of animal origin, but the nutritional value of grains and vegetables should not be discounted.

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is the group that determines nutritional requirements for animal foods and defines various terms to describe foods or ingredients. AAFCO has no legal definition of the term "holistic;" this is a meaningless word when used in reference to animal foods. In reference to medicine or philosophy it means looking at a person or animal or situation as a whole that is more than the sum of its parts.

The word "organic" is defined as human food whose ingredients were raised and produced without the addition or use of synthetic pesticides, antibiotics, growth hormones, etc. Farms must be registered and approved by the federal government in order to label their products as "organic." The term is not used in describing pet foods due to the near impossibility ensuring that every component of the food was derived from an organic source.

If you are thinking about concocting a homemade diet or feeding one of the currently popular "raw" diets, think again. It is very difficult to make a properly balanced diet on your own, and the raw diets have been found to contain bacteria such as salmonella that can pose a danger to you as well as your dog.

In choosing a food, you want to find a good quality product that your dog will enjoy eating and that she does well on: a food that helps make her coat thick and lustrous, keeps her at her proper weight, give her plenty of energy and lets her produce well-formed stools.

*Do you have a question for Dr. Christine?
Send it to our snail mail address or to
newsletter@pshr.org*

IT'S THE DEED NOT THE BREED!

John Kenny

Insurance companies can refuse to grant homeowners insurance coverage to families in Massachusetts just because they own a particular breed of dog, even if the dog is well trained and has never demonstrated aggression. Other families who have had coverage for years with a given company have suddenly lost their homeowners insurance just because they own a specific breed: it does not matter if they have ever filed a claim. Or the premium may be drastically raised!

Siberian huskies are on this list!

A bill supported by Dog Breed Clubs has recently been introduced into the Massachusetts legislature. This bill will protect responsible dog owners and allows insurance companies to raise rates or refuse coverage only if a specific dog has been deemed dangerous based on nondiscriminatory dangerous dog laws or by actual individual incidents of dog attacks and bites.

Currently 2 states have enacted similar laws, and 10, including MA, ME, VT and CT, have proposed legislation currently being considered.

Why enact this legislation? This legislation will prevent unwarranted penalties on responsible dog owners and focus attention on those dog owners who are irresponsible. All experts, including the American Kennel Club, Siberian Husky Club of America and

the US Center for Disease Control oppose breed specific rules / laws and agree that education and training is a paramount element of reducing dog attacks and bites.

Current status in Massachusetts is that the bill has a House Docket number (HD 4390) but not yet a House Bill number. It is supported by several legislators. A hearing will be scheduled later.

BILL

No insurance company offering homeowners insurance coverage in Massachusetts issuing a policy or contract insuring against liability for injury to any person, or injury to or destruction of property arising out of ownership or lease of residential property shall refuse to issue or renew, cancel or charge or impose an increased premium or rate of such a policy or contract based in whole or in part, upon the harboring of any specific breed or breeds of dogs upon such real property.

However, if any such dog has been designated as a dangerous dog pursuant to current statutes, the provisions in this section shall in no manner prohibit an insurer from refusing to issue or renew or from canceling any such contract or policy, nor from imposing an increased premium or rate for such a policy or contract.

All dog bites / attacks that result in medical attention must be reported to: the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) within ??? days of the incident, using a standardized format.

The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- * Time, date and location of incident
- * Name, address, phone number of the dog's owner(s) and the same for the victim(s) of the attack
- * The breed of the dog: Actual breed, mixed breed including two breeds, beyond two breeds the breed should be listed as unknown mixed breed.
- * A narrative description of the circumstances of the attack
- * Other?

The MDPH shall compile statistics regarding the nature of each dog incident, which shall be made available to all insurers and the general public upon request.

Failure to report such dog bite / attack within the required time shall release the insurer from the liability of paying for damages incurred.

Help us decide on a name for our newsletter!

Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue needs your input! We would like your opinion in helping us decide on a name for this newsletter. Please place a checkmark next to the name you like most. Send in or email your vote by Sept. 1, 2005.



- Patriot Periodical
- Husky Herald
- Canine Quarterly
- Paw Times
- Siberian Sentinel
- Patriot Quarterly
- Rescue Review
- Your suggestion:*

*If your suggestion is chosen in the final vote, you can expect a small basket of PSHR goodies.

This newsletter created by
McFoye Schemes
Bad Influence Division
For info please contact McFoye@yahoo.com

Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue
c/o 107 Tyler Road
Tewksbury, Massachusetts
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Place
Stamp
Here