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Highlights:

Fostering 2

Vet's Corner 3

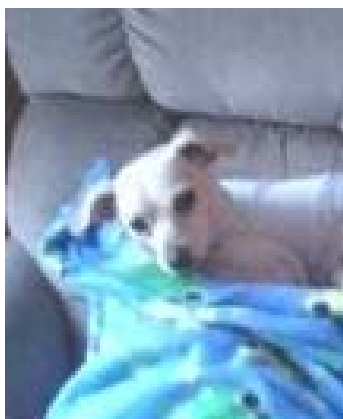
Ernie 4

Donors 6

SCHS Success Stories

SCHS members regularly hear heart-warming stories about our successful efforts....from animal rescues, fostered animals, placements with other rescue groups, and adoptions. We like to share those stories with you, our supporters, to let you know how your donations truly do make a difference. Here's one of our favorite recent success stories, as told by SCHS President Becky Bellamy.

Mia the Great Escape Artist!



Above: Mia back at home after her rescue.

Below: SCHS Pres. Becky Bellamy & Christie Robinette, the day of Mia's return home.

The Robinette family from Bristol, Tennessee, was camping at Natural Tunnel State Park the weekend of July 9, 2010. They had recently adopted a Chihuahua mix puppy, Mia, and wanted to take her camping with them. On Saturday evening, they were sitting around the picnic table with Mia tethered to it. Something scared her and she backed out of her harness collar and ran into the woods. They frantically searched for and could not find her. Mr. Robinette came close to her a couple of times, but she would run away, scared. The Robinette's, park staff, and other campers searched all night and the next day and could not find Mia. Sadly, the Robinette's had to pack up on Sunday afternoon and return home without Mia. The whole family was devastated, especially the couple's two little girls. Mia was spotted several times during the week by park staff, so the Robinette's were hopeful that Mia would be returned home!

Christie Robinette contacted SCHS to see if we could help. After talking to her, I knew we had some live traps, so SCHS member Bob Barker and I took one to the park and set it on Monday. After no success for two days, I then called Sue Williams of Holly Help Spay and Neuter in Bristol to give me a crash course in how to trap a pup. She did just that and SCHS member Ellen Barker and I went back on Wednesday and set up more traps the correct way. We finally found out that our efforts were successful after speaking with park staff on Friday morning. Park staff checked our traps early Friday morning and found that the elusive Mia was now safe and sound and could be returned to a very happy family! I contacted Mrs. Robinette and, needless to say, she was ecstatic! We delivered Mia to the Robinette family on Friday morning, July 16, 2010, around 11:00 am.



The Trials and Tribulations of Fostering

Contributed by SCHS Member & Foster “Mom” Robin Skeen

I joined the Scott Co Humane Society for one reason - to save and improve the lives of the many helpless and homeless animals I saw around me. I wanted to be actively involved in this pursuit and fostering was the way to achieve that goal. Luckily, I have the facilities to foster. I live out in the country and have extra kennels for housing as well as room for the dogs to have a little freedom.

However, fostering is not without its challenges. The dogs coming into my care have all made a detour through the Scott County Animal Shelter. Prior to that, who knows what conditions the animal has endured. Many have been abused, starved, and then dumped on a side road to fend for themselves. Needless to say, most arrive with extra baggage which must be addressed before the dog is ready for adoption into a “forever home.”

The fostering process begins by providing the dog with its own kennel and a little privacy to adjust to the new surroundings. This is also done to quarantine the dog in the event it has to be treated for injuries, illness, etc. Most are thrilled just to be out of the shelter. Over several days I gradually introduce the new arrival to my personal dogs. All of my “pack” were strays at some point in their lives, so they are usually pretty friendly to the newcomer. Of course, these meetings take place through a fence for the protection of all.

When the new dog is judged healthy and ready for interaction, he/she is released into the yard with the other dogs and the fun begins. There is much sniffing, running, yelping, and occasional playful snapping as the dogs interact with each other. Socialization is imperative for a foster dog to find a permanent home. The dog’s disposition is evaluated and attempts are made to correct any bad habits. Surprisingly, many of the dogs are already housebroken. I have found that most of the behavioral problems result from the insecurity of losing a home, hunger, and having to fend for itself for the first time. Most of these problems are solved when the dog’s basic food and shelter needs are met.

The ultimate goal of the fostering process is a dog which is healthy and well mannered with an attractive disposition. The adoption process can then begin. Some think that a shelter or foster dog is “unreliable” because no one knows its “history.” Foster parents get to know the dog during the fostering process and are good judges of the dog’s disposition. Also, the dog was previously evaluated at the shelter to make sure it was a good candidate for the fostering program.

In my opinion, nothing can match a “pound puppy” or “foster dog” for love and devotion. They are grateful and they show it throughout their entire lives. It is hard for me to explain how I feel when one of my fosters is adopted. Everyone always asks, “Don’t you fall in love with the dogs? How can you let them go?” Of course I fall in love with them—it is always difficult to say goodbye. But it is all worthwhile when the dog is released to a loving home because I know that my efforts helped save a life.

I have fostered over 20 dogs during the last year and, although it hasn’t been easy, it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

*****Editor’s Note: SCHS is very grateful to all of our foster parents. We are ALWAYS in need of additional foster homes for our rescued dogs and cats. If you are interested or need additional, contact us at 452-SCHS (7247).*****



VET'S CORNER by Dr. Marnie Head, D.V.M.

With Halloween and Christmas right around the corner, it is an important time to discuss the common items in our household that can be toxic to our pets. Chocolate certainly tops the list. Theobromine and caffeine are the toxic compounds, with theobromine causing the majority of the clinical signs. It is certainly known that baker's chocolate is extremely toxic. Originally thought to be a myth, it is now known that raisins and grapes are toxic to dogs. The toxic component is thought to be contained in the flesh of the fruit and not the seed. Macadamia nuts are toxic to pets as well, especially dogs. Certain dogs have more sensitivity to these nuts, and the amount ingested also determines toxicity. It is never advisable to give your pet spoiled or moldy food. These types of food often contain toxins that can make a pet very sick. Coffee, tea, and alcoholic beverages should never be offered to pets. Also important to address as we approach the holidays are plant toxicities. The beautiful and colorful poinsettia plant gets most of the attention for toxicity concerns around the holidays. If ingested it typically causes nausea and vomiting. However, other plants such as holly, mistletoe, and lilies are known to be more toxic.

In addition, with cold weather approaching it is an important time to discuss ice-melting products and antifreeze. If you walk your pet while using snow and ice-melting products, be sure to rinse off your pet's feet after exposure. These products can be irritating to the skin and paws. Pets will often lick their paws and can ingest the toxin. Antifreeze and windshield deicer is a common toxin and potentially very deadly. Antifreeze (ethylene glycol) is sweet-tasting and even one lick can be toxic to some pets. This type of toxin most commonly causes kidney failure. An alternative to regular antifreeze is to use a safe alternative (propylene glycol). The cost may be more, but your pets will be safer in the event of exposure.

Lastly, I would like to discuss a common toxicity that we see regularly in our clinic. It involves the application of topical flea and tick products. Fleas, ticks, and other skin conditions often necessitate the use of shampoos and topical treatments. Not following directions on these products is one of the most common causes of pet toxicity (for example, when a dog product is placed on a cat). Please read and understand all directions when using shampoos, dips, and topical treatments. We also commonly hear about clients giving their own medications to their pets. This is certainly not recommended. Dogs and cats metabolize some human drugs differently than we do, and they can be toxic. This is even true for over-the-counter products like ibuprofen and pre-natal vitamins. Please contact your local veterinarian if you suspect that your pet has been poisoned or ingested toxins. Time is certainly of the essence when dealing with toxins. The prognosis drastically improves for saving a pet's life when it is seen less than 12 hours after ingesting a toxin.

Another happy ending!!

Buddy was a stray rescued by SCHS Member Jennifer Hill & fostered by Melody Addington. A very thankful new family sent an e-mail shortly after adopting Buddy—

I hope all is well with your group. I know one practically perfect little dude who probably wouldn't have made it without you. You most certainly saved his life and added an enormous amount of joy to ours. That drive we took to get him was the best drive I've taken in decades.

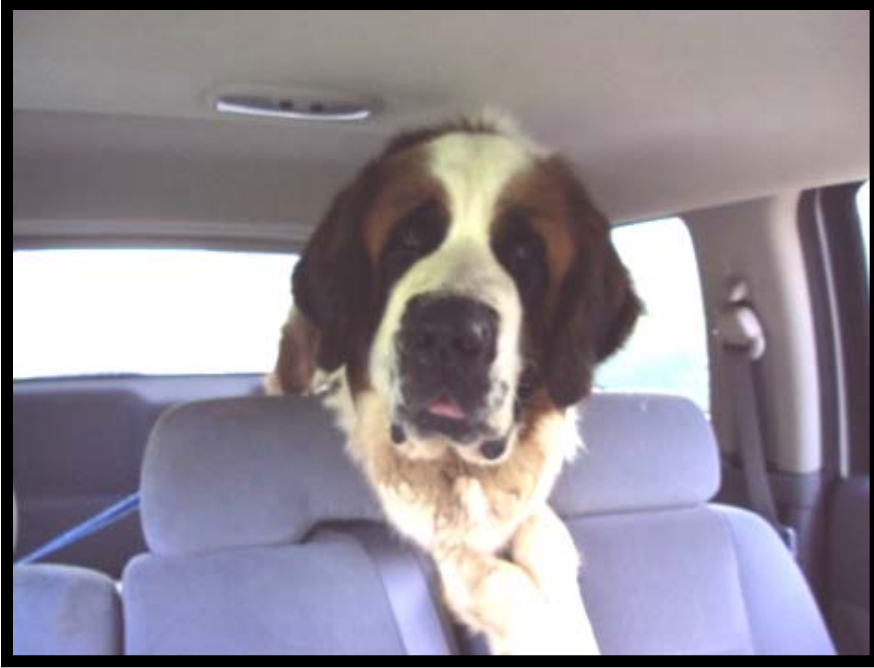
Thank you again from three cats (Vanya, Scooter, Emily), Emma (our old Aussie), Jim and Buddy, and Chris Courtenay



Buddy—now a proud member of the Courtenay family!

The Amazing Adventures of Ernie

**Contributed by SCHS Member &
Foster “Mom” Ellen Barker**



Ernie is a HUGE Saint Bernard, who showed up at the Scott County Shelter in July and was brought to our attention by volunteer Delta Purkey. He was not the most attractive dog at the shelter, being terribly malnourished with wads of hair falling out from skin infections. Our constant shortage of foster placements and the anticipated difficulty of finding an adopter for a dog needing so much in the way of rehabilitation and maintenance almost convinced us not to attempt saving Ernie. We did contact a St. Bernard Rescue and got some encouragement that they might help so Eugene Kenny and Ellen Barker pulled him, along with three other....”normal sized” dogs. That was one crowded SUV!

We continued to communicate with the rescue group and try to make arrangements for a transfer, while Ernie was fostered by Robin Skeen. Immediate concerns were just getting Ernie’s tummy full; he was so hungry that food was all he could think about. Meanwhile, he continued to go unwashed as we recruited a crew to undertake bathing him. Before we had made arrangements for the BIG BATH, we received an application from a wonderful family in New York. Their application was approved with superb recommendations from references and their vet. (The Davises already owned Emerson, a young female St. Bernard.) Plans for grooming and attempts to find a transport were hurriedly coming together when we received an email from Dawn Davis saying that she had found a transport for him that VERY day!

Now things really got crazy. The Barkers hurried to the Skeens’ and picked up the big guy in the morning, brought him home and gave him the most minimal of baths with a hose in the backyard. After air drying for a while, Ernie was loaded into the back of the Durango. He and Ellen made their way up 81 to meet the transport near Wytheville. After a long, hot wait, Ernie was crowded into the transport van, with Ellen feeling more than a little concern for him and the long trip he had ahead of him. (By the way, he was a perfect gentleman about the bath and on the road.)

When he finally got to meet his new family a couple of days later, they fell in love immediately. No, that is not true: to be perfectly accurate, they had fallen in virtual love just seeing him on the website. However, he was still in heartbreakingly rough shape. Ernie got acquainted with his “sister” Emerson and had a thorough going-over from the vet and was put on a regimen which, with a lot of time, effort and patience, should get him into tip-top shape. Dawn even sent us a video of Ernie and Emerson and her husband running through a field, and we received the following note from his new owner:

The Amazing Adventures of Ernie, continued from Page 4

Ellen-

I cannot thank everyone there enough for whatever part you played in bringing Ernie into my life. He is treasured. Whatever I have given him, he has returned to me 10 fold in love and kisses!!He was the perfect addition to our family and we could never do without him now.

Dawn Davis and family

Ernie certainly provided adventures for all involved and showed us once again that saving one animal is worth every bit of the effort required.

UPDATE: On Sunday, September 5, 2010, we received the following email from Ernie's mom:

I am so devastated to have to contact you with this news. Ernie passed away today at about 4:30 surrounded by his family. He had been silently battling lung cancer. It wasn't until Friday night that he appeared sickened and lame. Saturday the vet came to our home and recommended that we take him to the Orchard Park Veterinary Hospital for what he thought may be pneumonia. He immediately called ahead and told them that we would be coming. My husband made the 2 hour drive and took him to the best veterinarians in New York State. His illness was discovered after a set of xrays and blood work. He was brought home to be with his family. Today he suffered two seizures and went dramatically downhill. The vet returned and we had no choice but to end his pain and suffering. There was no amount of care or money that could have saved that dear sweet boy. We were so very blessed to have been loved by Ernie. In our home for such a short time, but forever in our hearts. Heaven got a damn fine dog today. Dawn

Despite this tragedy, it still seems quite worth the effort to have gotten Ernie to the home where his memory will be forever cherished. RIP Ernie.



Giving Back: Humane Education

On April 10, 2010, Robin Skeen, Jennifer Hill, and Becky Bellamy attended a Humane Education workshop sponsored by The National Humane Education Society and the Smyth County Humane Society. The workshop was held in Marion, Virginia, and was attended by local humane societies and animal welfare groups.

Humane Education is a priority in 2010 for the SCHS. Our goal in attending the workshop was to learn effective teaching methods and obtain materials which could be used to create Humane Lesson Plans. These Plans can be tailored to specific age groups from grade school to adult. While attending the workshop, SCHS members participated in role plays, created a Humane Lesson Plan designed for the 8-12 age group, and enhanced their education through discussions with other professionals in the Humane Education field.

The SCHS is now available to hold Humane Education workshops, or provide speakers, to civic organizations, school and children's clubs, boy-girl scouts or any other group desiring to learn more about humane treatment of animals. Contact us for more information!

Our Shining Stars: 2010 SCHS Donors

SCHS could not assist animals in need in our community without the generosity of our donors. For that, we offer our heartfelt thanks!!!

*****In Memory*****

- 🐾 Penny Ann Dockery, by Naomi Lane, Kathleen Culbertson
 - 🐾 Ranzy Qualls Newton, by Delta Purkey
 - 🐾 Joe Thomas ReMine, by Melanie ReMine
 - 🐾 Gilbert Smith, by Delta Purkey
- 🐾 “Danny Boy” Barker, by Delta Purkey, Robin & Eddie Skeen
 - 🐾 “Gus” Rogers, by Delta Purkey, Mary B. Edwards
 - 🐾 “Martha” Shull, by Bob & Ellen Barker, Dinah Carter

*****In Honor*****

- 🐾 “Andy & Molly”, by Tony & Elizabeth Hobbs

*****General Donations*****

- | | |
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| 🐾 Edwinna P. Baker | 🐾 Sheila H. Harley |
| 🐾 Jennifer Beavers | 🐾 Nancy Horton |
| 🐾 Carol N. Bennett | 🐾 William C. Lindamood |
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The SCHS is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by the IRS. Your support is appreciated!!

***SCHS needs your help to Spay & Neuter...
what CAN you do???***



A special "THANK YOU" to those who helped start our CAN collections: Monty Love, Tempur Pedic Productions, & Fort Blackmore Elementary School students!!

Monty Love, owner of Weber City Recycling (Wilhelm Avenue, across from Robert's Tire), has very graciously agreed to be a collection point for aluminum cans to benefit SCHS's spay and neuter program.

How can you help?

Save aluminum cans, scrap metal, old appliances, old metal furniture, grills, etc. and take to Weber City Recycling. Let the attendant know that you are dropping off the items for SCHS. Weber City Recycling will forward a check to us for each month's collections.

How will SCHS use these collections?

All money raised from the collection of aluminum cans and scrap metal will benefit SCHS's spay and neuter program.

Questions about what can be collected? Contact:

Monty Love, Weber City Recycling, 276-415-1986

Open: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

1st Annual "Flea" Market Sale

SCHS held our first ever fundraising "flea" market sale on Saturday, September 4, in the old Food City parking lot in Weber City. We were THRILLED with the outpouring of support from the community. Rainy weather failed to dampen the spirits of the shoppers who attended the event. SCHS volunteers rose early and by 8 a.m. had set up tables and tents purveying everything from matching antique oak chairs to vacuum cleaners. One of the first items sold was a 35 year old color console TV. "Hey, it still works great" said the owner of the TV, thrilled with his \$10 purchase. Sales were brisk throughout the day. Books flew off the shelves at 10 for \$1.00. Framed pictures, collectables, and glassware changed hands. At the end of the day, one lucky man offered \$5.00 for an entire bedroom suite and had his offer accepted. The SCHS member who donated the suite said "Let it go – no way I'm hauling it home!" Homemade cookies, muffins and cakes sold out. **Everyone had a great time and \$1477.15 was raised to fund Scott County's Low Cost Spay/Neuter program.**

Due to the success of this year's sale, SCHS plans to hold an annual fundraising yard sale again next year. Start saving donations for the yard sale now and stay posted for a donation collection site and date for the event.

Thanks to everyone who donated items for the sale and to everyone who came out to shop at the yard sale and support SCHS!

Newsletter Editor:
Suzanne
Kerney-Quillen

CONTACT US!
P.O. Box 1535
Gate City, VA 24290
(276) 452-SCHS
(452-7247)

Animal Shelter
Information Hotline:
(276) 452-DOGS
(452-3647)

WEB & E-MAIL:
info@scotthumane.org
www.scotthumane.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

November 15
December 20
January 17, 2011
Meetings are held at
the Family Bakery in
Gate City at 6 p.m.

The Tail End

**Are you looking for a
 new dog for your
 family?**

**Don't forget to check
 the Scott County
 Animal Shelter!!**



As we hope you've discovered from some of the stories in our newsletter, there are many wonderful dogs waiting to be adopted at the shelter. The SCHS has established a hotline to better assist the public with finding out what kinds of dogs are currently available at the shelter.

Simply call 452-DOGS (3647) to hear a listing of the dogs currently available.

Miracle is a 6 week old Shih Tzu rescued from the Scott County Animal Shelter by SCHS Member Delta Purkey. She is just one more example of the wonderful dogs available at the shelter. As adorable as she is, Miracle quickly found a forever home after being rescued!



**SCOTT COUNTY
 HUMANE SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 1535
 GATE CITY, VA 24251**

