A Message from the Editor

I’ve known about BARK for years. I also knew that a St. Gertrude High School classmate, Linda Lane, was deeply involved with this organization. A few months ago, Linda proposed that I take a shot at restarting the BARK newsletter. I accepted the challenge knowing that I’d have some pretty big shoes to fill following all the years of hard work by former editors Robin Sponaugle and Claire Tetrick.

The basic newsletter columns will continue. We will also be trying a few new things such as occasional columns on BARK history and programs. The biggest change will be switching from monthly issues to quarterly. Starting with this newsletter, we will be publishing Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall editions. This should give me and the folks who contribute to the columns more time to organize our thoughts, be creative, and then put pen to paper, so to speak.

This is a work in progress. I welcome suggestions, comments, corrections, etc. Please don’t hesitate to contact me by email or by phone. Your input is critical to the success of this endeavor and I look forward to working with you.

But first….You probably don’t know me but I’m guessing that if you are a BARK volunteer, there’s a good chance you know our dogs. My husband Wayne Ferguson and I adopted two beautiful senior BARK girls in June of 2017: Bristol (renamed Crystal) and Sadie. Before Crystal and Sadie, there was Molly.

We adopted Molly in 2004 from a rescue organization in the Raleigh area. We found her through Petfinder.com. She was a medium sized, black and tan, 9 months old girl with a purple tongue! It seems that her previous owner traded hubcaps for her thinking that she would grow up to be a big Rottie or Dobbie guard dog. This poor sweet baby was tied outside, alone and neglected until a good Samaritan notified the authorities.

Molly was full of life and love right from the start. She bonded immediately with her eighteen months old sister Sophie, a Petfinder boxer, also from NC. Molly and Sophie snuggled together on the sofa while Wayne and I watched TV in the evenings, and they joyously chased squirrels around the back yard and dug holes in Wayne’s garden during the day. They especially loved our twice yearly, week long trips to Hatteras Island where they could watch the world go by from the
ocean facing porch and take walks with us on the beach.

After sweet, beautiful Sophie was taken by brain cancer in September of 2014, Molly and I began walking, just the two of us, around the neighborhood. She was over eleven then, a senior by anyone’s calculations, but when the leash came out, she became a youngster again. Jumping, smiling, whining, barking. It was the highlight of both of our days for two and a half years until she became too ill to continue. On a perfect Spring morning in April of 2017, Molly joined Sophie at Rainbow Bridge.

Molly and Sophie returned our love one hundred-fold. They were there when we were happy and when we were sad. They made us smile and they gave us permission to say silly things to them just because it felt good. They were warm companions on cold winter nights and enthusiastic guard dogs when someone rang the doorbell. They were always ready to look into our eyes and tell us that we were everything to them.

Before Molly and Sophie, there was Jake (a malamute cross found wandering in the mountains near Santa Fe, NM), Annie (a medium sized, tan colored mix who we found in a Medford, OR restaurant parking lot - her choke chain collar was so tight it had to be cut off!), and Ursa (a black half Kelpie who was discarded from an accidental breeding in Ashland, OR). We also had one AKC boxer, our first-born fur baby, Segan. We loved and cherished each one of them. Now it is Crystal and Sadie on the sofa and chasing squirrels in the back yard, and we couldn’t be happier to have them in our lives.

Except for Segan, all our dogs came to us because they had been possessed by irresponsible owners. They were tossed aside like so much garbage or they were deemed unworthy of the basics like regular meals, a warm, dry place to sleep, or an occasional kind word. They were abused, neglected, or ignored. And in each case, despite what they had experienced at the hand of man, these extraordinary dogs forgave the human race and, without reservation, allowed us to try again. The bottomless reservoir of love they were born with remained ready to be shared with that special someone who genuinely wanted, needed, and was happy to return it.

This is why rescue organizations like BARK are so very important. They give wonderful, sweet souls like Crystal and Sadie a second chance to live and love, and these dogs make our lives immeasurably better in return. Thank-you volunteers, donors, adopters, and others who support and live the BARK mission.

Mary-Jacque Mann
fergmann@aol.com 804-288-8818
**Helping the Community: Adoption News**

Most BARK dogs are rescued from local public shelters. These shelters are open admission facilities, meaning that they are required by law to accept all unwanted dogs, such as those picked up as strays or surrendered by owners. When public shelters run out of room to house the dogs, they often euthanize as a means of population control. BARK and other rescue groups offer lifesaving alternatives by transferring at risk dogs to their facilities where they are housed until Forever Homes are found. Kennel Manager Dave Harless sums up the mission of BARK: “We rescue dogs that have been passed over. We keep them until they find a home. In the rare case that a dog doesn’t find a home we give that dog a home at BARK.” In addition to finding Forever Homes, BARK also vaccinates, and spays/neuters each dog, and provides appropriate veterinary care.

We are proud to report that 350 BARK dogs found Forever Homes in 2017. If you would like to keep up with the dogs adopted each week, please become a fan of BARK on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/barkva](http://www.facebook.com/barkva).

**Adoption Spotlight**

Dogs featured in the Adoption Spotlight were selected as personal favorites by BARK volunteers. We hope you enjoy reading their comments about these marvelous dogs. If you want to know more about a dog, go to [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) for their bios. If you are interested in meeting a dog featured in the Adoption Spotlight, please submit an application online at BARK, send an email to adopt@barkva.org, or call 804-449-2275 (BARK). All the dogs who are ready and waiting for their Forever Homes can be seen on the [BARK adoption page](http://www.barkva.org/adoption). With the exception of Wally, all following dogs were nominated for Adoption Spotlight by Laura Southworth. Wally was nominated by Sarah Cary.
**Batman**
This adorable guy has certainly had a rough past but he's looking forward to a bright future. Batman is a handsome male Dutch Shepherd with gorgeous markings. He is about five years old, weighs around 60 pounds, and has an incredibly soft coat. He was rescued from a local animal shelter. He had a dislocated hip and had likely been hit by a car. BARK is providing the FHO surgery that he needs. He walks well on a leash, is a social dog, and loves being with humans. He is also a very bright boy and learns quickly.

**Cash**
This handsome boy is a perfect mix of Lab and terrier. He is medium sized, brindle and white, and around six years old. Cash is a proud graduate of our BARK Behind Bars program. He walks wonderfully on leash, rides well in a car, knows basic commands, and is crate trained. He is eager to please and super smart. He loves playing with his toys and going on adventures with his human companion.

**Clarice**
Clarice has a lovely tan coat, beautiful eyes, and a wonderful smile. She's about four years old, medium sized, and appears to be a Lab/terrier mix with possibly a bit of Shar Pei thrown in. Clarice very active and loves people. She thrives with one-on-one attention. This talented girl is a prison program graduate and has very nice manners. She needs a well fenced yard and to be the “one and only” doggie of the house.
Grace
Grace is a beautiful pure-bred German Shepherd. She is about eight years old and weighs around 100 pounds. She is incredibly smart, eager to learn, spirited, loyal, and quite active for her age. She loves people and walks nicely on leash. Grace absolutely adores playing in water and frequently dunks her head in her water bucket just for the fun of it! She is housebroken and has lived in a home before. She needs to be an “only pet” and should be loved by a person who can give her leadership and attention.

Gracie and Irene
These two Husky girls are a bonded pair and would be happiest if adopted together. They came from the same home and were rescued by BARK when their owner could no longer care for them. Gracie is about eleven years old and weighs 45 to 50 pounds. Irene is seven and weighs about 60 pounds. Gracie has a beautiful singing voice! She’ll sing on command or just when she’s happy. She is well socialized and walks nicely on a leash. Irene is a bit shy and is mothered by Gracie who is helping her learn how much fun leash walks are. They love people and they get along with other dogs. They would do best in an all adult home because they need a quiet, calm environment...especially Irene who startles easily.
Recon
Recon is a gorgeous black German Shepherd. He’s about four years old and weighs around 75 pounds. He loves his person but is a bit finicky about his food…he prefers dog food with shreds in it (go figure). He has a beautiful smile and is super smart. He needs to be the only pet in the house and to be the best friend of an active person who can keep his mind and body busy. Recon tested positive for heart worm, a very treatable condition. BARK will cover the cost of that treatment by our vet.

Wally
Wally is a handsome 6 years old beagle sweetheart who loves to be with his person. Wally is housebroken, enjoys walks, and is very easy on the leash. He would do best in a quiet home where he can be king of the castle and can get all of the available attention and snuggles. And he loves his snuggles! Wally has been treated for heart worm and will soon be ready to take on the world again. (Photo provided by Sarah)

Oldies But Goldies
There’s no age requirement for the dogs in this special group…they’ve just been in BARK’s care for a year or more. The Oldies But Goldies (OBG) Program was started in December of 2012 to give additional exposure to these patient and deserving souls and help them find their long-awaited Forever Homes. This extra effort has resulted in 141 OBG adoptions since 2012, including 14 in 2017.

BARK gives a huge thanks to volunteer Oldies But Goldies Program Coordinator Cyndie Brady Jones for all she has done for the OBG boys and girls since its inception.
Unfortunately, Cyndie had to step down from the Program in late 2017 and a new coordinator is needed. Cyndie has generously agreed to help the new coordinator get the Program up and running again. Could that person be you?

OBG group currently includes: Ace 2, Alimere, Barnabus, Bart, Casanova, Cash, Clarice (2011) Clarice (2016), Corin, Daisy, Duke, Flora, Fuller, Gokou, Haley, Jeffrey, Kelly, Kimmie, Lady 3, Lewis, Michael, Mya, Rex, Sakari, Stacy, and Walker. You’ll find their photos and bios along with those of the other BARK dogs on the adoption page. Give them an extra look. They are so worth it! In the meantime, here are three dogs with the most OBG seniority:

![Casanova](image1.png)  ![Flora](image2.png)  ![Haley](image3.png)

**News from the Farm**

Hi! My name is Barnabus and I’m the official Spokesdog for BARK. If you want to know what is going on around the farm, just ask me. I should know...I’m a member of the elite Oldies But Goldies corp. My OBG buddies and I have eyes, ears, and noses everywhere...nothing gets past us. Especially at meal time! So let’s get caught up on the latest news......

PS Even though I love my job, I’m ready to go to my Forever Home on a moment’s notice. Check me out on the BARK adoption page!
**Escape Proof Playpens**

Bill and Linda Lane who are not only BARK volunteers but also have taught Nature and Wildlife Photography for the last 23 years, organized a Day of Photography the proceeds from which went totally to the completion of making the 10 outside doggie playpens ESCAPE PROOF. Years ago, when the play pens were first erected they were only about 4 feet high. Of course, almost every dog was capable of jumping out and having a field day running loose in the yard much to the dismay of the volunteers who were cleaning their kennels. They would put us out in a play pen, turn around to go back inside to continue cleaning and we’d come chasing behind them. Lots of fun and games for us but not so much for them. So, they decided to raise the fence some but soon realized a lot of us could still climb out. But now they really are escape proof and the volunteers can put us outside with peace of mind knowing that we are all safe until they are ready to put us back into out kennels.

The Stewart School let the Lanes use their facility, a wonderful auditorium, free of charge which allowed for being able to escape proofing all the rest of the playpens. Thank you “muchly” to all those at the school who were involved in getting Bill and Linda that wonderful working space; a special thanks to Allison Buchick of Stewart School who helped coordinated the event.

And of course, many many thanks to Michele Dunn and her wonderful husband, John, for all the weekends they put in constructing the play pens for which they did not charge us for any labor. We would not have had enough money to have completed them all had we paid for labor too. So, thank you very much from all us canines. Now let’s Play!!

**Let There Be Light**

Wow! We can see the morning light now seven days a week! No more barking in the dark! Thanks to an Anonymous Volunteer, an automatic light system was donated and installed in the kennels early this year so that the lights come on automatically on Tuesday and Thursday Mornings…volunteers don’t usually come out on those days until late afternoon so we were left in the dark until then! Between these lights and the skylights that were installed in the back building about four years ago, we have the illumination we need to be happy and comfortable at BARK while we wait for that special someone to take us to our Forever Home.

**Rock Solid**

The volunteers tell me that traveling across the BARK farm road bridge is a lot safer now because of Tony Gilman and the generous folks at Luck Stone. This summer they donated a truck load of rocks to line the creek bed around the bridge so that it would not wash away in a storm. Thank-you Tony and Luck Stone!! And we also thank Gary Johnson, his family, and other strong and willing volunteers who not only built the bridge
several years ago but also came back to shovel the donated rocks around it this summer. Way to go to BARK!

That’s all for now but watch this space for more *News from the Farm* in the next issue of our newsletter. Until then, we’ll keep an eye/ear/nose on things for you! Barnabus

**Happy Tails!**

We love to hear how our dogs are doing in their Forever Homes. We are delighted to share the following updates and photos sent to us by members of the BARK adoption family.

**Baylee**

BARK is the organization that helped with our German Shepherd “Baylee” back in 2014. I wanted to let you know she is the life of our party and really helps us look forward to everyday life. She is ‘head of household’ with 2 pit bulls, Lucy and Bentley, and they are best friends. It’s been over 2 years and every day just gets better with her antics. I remember weighing her at 54lbs and today she is a beauty at 78lbs and everyone compliments how good she looks. She does have the GSD attitude but will climb up in my lap at the vet’s office. She will not let you leave her sight and I believe this is due to her earlier trauma of being passed on and locked in a cage. But she won’t have to worry about that again! She lives a very happy life free of cages and a large yard to play. Thanks again for everything BARK does for the animals we love so much. Randy

![Baylee Pictures]

**Bentley**

Hi there! I wanted to share an update with you all about Bentley, who we adopted a little over a year ago (Oct 8th 2016). His pawrents are getting married in April and he was the spotlight of our engagement shoot!! We really can't thank you all enough for everything you do for these pups. We can't imagine our lives without this little man and are so grateful you found him for us! Kristen and Nick (Photo Credit: Aurelia Studios)
Cosmo
What a joy the last four months have been! We adopted Cosmo back in August and I can’t imagine our lives without him in it. Cozzie loves to snooze in his living room chair by the window but his favorite spot is snuggling in our bed and trying to steal all of the pillows. He has become besties with our friend’s yellow lab Charley and loves to give her kisses and chase tennis balls with her. He is the best sharer and even lets her take his squeaky toys. Always trying to be a helper, Cosmo won’t let you leave the room without following and will lay on your feet so you can’t move without him knowing. Cosmo’s favorite activity is going for car rides and we can’t wait to take him on so many more adventures. Love, Jamie, Eric, and Cosmo

Crystal and Sadie
Crystal (formerly Bristol) and Sadie have adapted quite well to their new home since we adopted them in June. Crystal had a rough transition. She was terrified of stairs and carpets would not even enter the house for several days. Now she flies up and down the
stairs would rather be in than out. She is my not-so-little shadow throughout the day and she sleeps next to me at night. Sadie declared our home as her kingdom the moment she crossed the threshold and she has been in charge ever since. She is a real huntress, too. She loves stalking, chasing, and treeing squirrels in the back yard (her sister helps). She even managed to catch one once 😞. Both of the girls are love sponges and they adore tummy rubs and treats. Sadie is a bit goofy, Crystal is more mature and contemplative. My husband and I love them dearly and can't imagine life without them. Thank-you BARK! Mary-Jacque and Wayne

Graham
He’s fantastic. I really can’t get over how calm and sweet he is. He’s come to work with me the past two days and will walk around for some pets to other offices, but then ends up napping on my office floor most of the day. After work we’ve been playing catch in the dog park which has also been good (its fenced in) to keep up all his training. He’s made some new friends, too there. He is simply perfect! Such a good boy and a perfect fit. Jennessa

Henrietta
Sunny and Henrietta are best friends, they play all day taking naps when they get tired. Henrietta, we call her Etta to make it easier, is slowly settling in. She comes to me for attention and sometimes comes if I call her. She can now go in the back yard without the leash, it's easier for Etta and Sunny to play without the leash. Today, she heard a loud truck go by, stopped but then resumed playing after it drove on. It will be more challenging this weekend when more
people are out in their yards but she's coming along quite well. She is still leery of Clyde, I can't remember if someone told me she was scared of men, but she is definitely nervous when he first comes into the room. We are slowly working on it and I have to give him credit for being patient. She does need some basic training on what I call "house manners", grabbing for food etc. but we will work on that later. I wish I knew more about her previous owner what her living conditions were like but I understand that may not be possible. I'll let you know how things are going in the next month or so. *Jeann and Clyde (no photo submitted)*

**Kira**
I just wanted to let you know that adopting from BARK years ago was such a great experience! Kira has the best temperament, loves her life in the country and is doing awesome. She has seen me through some pretty tough times in life and I couldn't ask for a better canine best friend ❤️. *Jean*

**Maverick**
One year ago yesterday – December 10, 2016 – we met Maverick. Was it fate? Was it luck? I don't know, but it worked out great for everyone. He looked kinda sad on the day we meet him. But boy was he happy the day we took him home on December 29th!! We are now preparing for our first Christmas with Maverick!! *John*

**Wally**
Just wanted to give you an update on Wally. He's added so much to our lives already. He travels great in the car and is completely house trained. He had mastered "sit" and is getting pretty good at "stay." We're currently working on "down" as he's getting more comfortable and starting to jump on the bed. Lol. He loves his antler chews, and his tennis ball is his favorite toy. We've taken him to meet a few of our friends' dogs and he
loves to run and play with them! He's also really enjoying exploring the city, there's so much to smell! Thanks again for your help in the adoption.  Jen

If you have adopted a BARK dog we’d love to hear from you and share your Happy Tails in the newsletter! Please send your stories and photos to adopt@barkva.org.

**In Memoriam**

I brought Pepper home from the farm to doctor her up over a weekend, she had an upset stomach -- but just never got around to bringing her back to the farm - she was such a wonderful girl and fit into our household immediately. It was obvious that someone had spent considerable time with her training, she was very obedient (unlike her foster siblings!). She LOVED to chase after a ball, had the fastest and slightly crooked run - she left clouds of dust in her wake. Anticipation of chasing a ball was the only time she ever barked. She loved sleeping in the sun, was a huge love bug and a constant companion, always by your side. Pepper had an adoption that didn't last long due to the adopters change in circumstance and she was quite ill upon her return. We tried our best to help her heal, but it just wasn't meant to be. Pepper left us on October 25th. This girl is still tremendously missed, everyone loved Sweet Peps! Dana
Kara and Patrick, the bonded senior mother-son pair adopted in April of 2013, are back together again. Patrick became an angel on October 26, 2016 and Kara became an angel one year and one week later on November 1, 2017. I had concerns about how she would do without her son, but Kara showed us all she had more to give and explore. She came with me to run errands to the drive-up window at the bank (where they sent her treats), to mail letters at the post office, to the drive-up pharmacy (where she also got treats) to pumping gas (she would stick her head out of the backseat window and supervise my gas-pumping techniques). We would go to the dog park where she enjoyed sniffing every blade of grass… and enjoyed greeting the other dogs. Unfortunately, her arthritis made it difficult for her to be as active as she would have liked, even with prescription drugs. Kara loved being outside and resting under the trees closest to the deck. Luckily, we had that long stretch of beautiful weather and she would spend all day outside. I would keep a water bowl close to her and bring out her breakfast and dinner so Kara could dine alfresco! We spent a great deal of time outside together. Kara stayed mentally sharp but her body had succumbed to the toils of age. She deserved to transition with dignity so I made that heartbreaking decision to set her spirit free. Kara enriched my life greatly and it was an honor to have had Kara and her son, Patrick, with me. I picture them running around together, her hip-checking him and stealing his toys. Then, they would settle down and fall asleep, rolling over in their sleep until their backs are pressing into each other. Thank you again, BARK, for rescuing these two wonderful souls and giving me the privilege of having them as part of my family. Jacquie

Elsa was a short term medical foster for our family in August as she recovered from her spay. In reflection - we are not sure if Elsa ever had the opportunity in her life to be a
"house" dog - but she took to it quickly! Especially the snuggling on the couch part. We laughed that she didn't have an awareness of "personal space" - she'd get as close as she could to you and put her face in your face to get her snuggling in and due to her size had no issues with blocking her smaller foster siblings to get attention. She loved to sun outside on the deck. She had beautiful brown soulful eyes; but at snack time her eyes would go "boing!" with her whites showing all the way around, like in the cartoons - she loved her snacks!! A very sweet soul, we miss you girl, RIP precious Elsa. Dana

When **Elsa** came to BARK she was overweight and scared. I had the pleasure of interacting with Elsa every Wednesday and Sunday. Initially she was quiet but as she came to know all of us at the farm she became much more vocal and her personality came out. She was sweet and loving with beautiful big brown eyes. She slimmed down and became very spunky. She loved attention and long walks on the trail. She loved to eat. We gave her vegetables, like green beans, peas and carrots with her food to make her feel full. She was able to eat around the vegetables she didn't like, which I thought was funny. On the Sunday before she died. I walked her about 4:30 PM. She was happy and I was noticing how good she looked. She had slimmed down and was jumping all around. After our walk, I remember loving on her and holding her sweet little face and giving her a kiss on her nose. She loved attention but she loved treats just as much. Every Sunday, certain volunteers make rice with meat and vegetables. We mix some of that with the dog's food. Elsa loved that and we think it brings little home features to the farm. Sheator  

**Editor's note:**  Elsa went to Rainbow Bridge unexpectedly on November 12th 2017.


In memory of **Fergi**, adopted on February 20, 2010 and a graduate from the prison training program. She passed away on November 27, 2017. She was a great dog and a beauty! She was my best buddy, and I miss her very much. Thank you BARK for all you do for these wonderful pups. I am so grateful I was fortunate to adopt Fergi from you. *Rachel*
Donate to BARK

Bandit’s Adoption and Rescue of K-9s is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible. BARK is operated entirely by volunteers, so 100% of your donation will go to the dogs. Your donation will help fund spay/neuter operations, medical treatments, and daily care and feeding costs for the dogs at the Ashland farm and in BARK foster homes. You can donate to the Hope Fund, to the general fund, or you can designate your donation for a specific special project.

You may mail your donation directly to us using the following form and address, or you can make a secure donation online at donate.

Remember, every penny makes a difference in the life of a BARK dog!

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

$25  $50  $75  $100  $125  Other _________

Gift given in honor of ____________________________________________

Gift given in memory of ____________________________________________

Name __________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________

12300 Farrington Rd. Ashland, VA 23005

info@barkva.org  804-449-BARK (2275)

Other Ways to Donate to BARK

In addition to direct donations, there are numerous options that allow you to help support BARK and its mission. You can donate needed pet care items, purchase BARK merchandise or use a search engine that donates to BARK. Using these websites is super easy and a portion of your purchase will go directly to BARK.

• BARK merchandise, such as apparel, housewares, and bumper stickers are now available online at www.cafepress.com/barkva. Check it out!
• How can you make searching and shopping for that perfect gift even more perfect? Use iGive where with ever transaction a portion goes to benefit BARK. Raise a penny (or more) per search and generate donations from any of the 730+ stores listed with iGive, ranging up to 26%. Also, check out the new searchable coupons and deals, where you will find all available, up to the minute offers and specials. Just visit www.igive.com.

• If you shop online using Amazon, you can also raise money for BARK simply by shopping! Use Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com), select “Bandit’s Adoption and Rescue of K-9s” as your charity of choice, and shop away! Amazon will automatically donate a percentage of your purchase to BARK.

• www.GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! You can even set GoodSearch as your default search engine.

• www.GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy’s and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you’ll be supporting your favorite cause. So, by making your regular purchases through this site, you’re helping take care of the dogs while they’re waiting for their forever home! Just go to GoodShop then click on How It Works? Be sure to enter BARK as the charity you want to support. And spread the word! It’s a super easy way to help support the organization.

• kuranda.com You can go to this web site, click on Donate A Bed, and select Bandit’s Adoption and Rescue of K-9s (BARK) in Ashland to donate a comfortable, elevated kennel bed. See the details on the BARK and Kuranda web sites.
**BARK Wish List** .... Here are few examples of what we currently need:

- Small bottles of water for the volunteers at the kennels

- **Canned and dry dog food** (always a priority), *grain free dog food is preferred*, and American single wrapped cheese slices

- Large and medium Milk Bones, Pup-Peroni, and Kong toys! *No stuffed toys please, and no rawhide chews…these items can be choke hazards*

- PDZ Stall Freshener for kennels - found at Tractor Supply

- Paper towels, laundry detergent, dryer sheets

- Simply Green detergent and heavy duty wet mop head refills for kennel cleaning

- Trash bags (heavy duty 50-gallon industrial size w/wide opening and tall kitchen garbage bags)

- Shovels (Ridge Aluminum Scoop - available at Home Depot; not snow or garden)

- Large, heavy duty 20-gallon plastic bins that lock tightly (Brute Rubbermaid style)

- Stainless steel water buckets (8-9 quart size)

- Kuranda beds (see the donation section)

- Medium and large dog crates (metal collapsible)

- Bug spray for dogs and people

- Gift Certificates to pet stores in or around Richmond

- Gift Certificates for Brook Run Animal Clinic (804) 262-8621

*More information and options for donating to BARK, and a detailed, continuously updated wish list are available on our website, barkva.org. Click on the Donate tab.*
Volunteer Corner: We Need You! We Love You!

Special Projects

Who would like to get some exercise on the farm and help spruce things up at the same time? We have projects planned/budgeted and others on the pending list - now all we need are donations and volunteer labor on the weekends to knock them out. If you are interested in helping with BARK projects, please contact Dave Harless at dwharless@verizon.net or Rebecca Fox at foxteaches@comcast.net. In the meantime, our most pressing need is for volunteers.

BARK Dogs Need More Caretakers and Friends!

We need volunteers now more than ever! If giving back to the community or making a difference in the life of another is one of your New Year’s resolutions, consider volunteering at BARK. Volunteering is a great way to make a difference in the lives of some very deserving dogs, while giving back to the community, and feeling great at the end of the day. Sadly, there are always dogs in need and government shelters that are full. The more volunteers we have, the more dogs we can help rescue. It’s a very rewarding experience, but it certainly takes a lot of work and we can always use more help. Come alone, bring a friend, or make it a family endeavor. You will have fun, learn about caring for and working with dogs, and simply enjoy their wonderful personalities in a pretty, farm-like setting. There are a variety of ways that you can get involved including cleaning, walking, feeding, helping with medicines, grooming, and even laundry! We are also always in need of donations, fosters, and forever families. The BARK volunteers appreciate all the help we can get and so do the dogs! If you’re interested in volunteering (or fostering/adopting), please fill out an application form at www.barkva.org. You can also email volunteer@barkva.org or call 804-449-2275 with questions about volunteering or to set up a time to drop off donations.
Volunteer Groups

We always appreciate groups of volunteers but groups must be scheduled in advance. We do our best to satisfy every request, but we have to limit the number of volunteers on any given day to ensure the safety of the volunteers and dogs. If you’d like to schedule a date for your volunteer group, please email Amy Talbot at hankinsamy@verizon.net.

Volunteering for Kennel and Dog Care

Our flexible work schedule has proven a success by allowing volunteers, once they are trained, to clean any time during the day they chose to help. Every new volunteer will receive via email (and be expected to read) introductory materials that detail our processes and volunteer guidelines and every volunteer must have an orientation and provide a completed BARK application/waiver to a crew lead at the kennels (not only online).

If you are interested in being a BARK volunteer, please complete a volunteer inquiry form on our website: www.barkva.org. Note: The majority of our volunteers work full-time jobs in addition to the time they dedicate to BARK. Please allow up to 2 weeks to receive a response to a volunteer application submitted online.

New volunteers must complete a volunteer application and attend an Orientation session. Please sign up for this session before you come at Orientation Sign up. Orientations are scheduled on a one by one basis. Orientations are always held on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 am. For volunteer questions contact volunteer@barkva.org or call 804-449-2275.

Kennel Schedule Overview

• Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: Volunteers are at the kennels at various times between 8:30AM and 7:30PM. (Fridays from 10:00AM to 2:00PM). Actual onsite times vary by day and are subject to change. We have morning, late afternoon, and evening crews on these days. Please note that we do not have volunteers onsite throughout the day.

• Tuesdays and Thursdays: Volunteers generally arrive around 5:00PM, although some may start earlier in the afternoon, and are onsite until around 8:00PM.

• Saturdays and Sundays: Volunteers typically arrive between 10:00AM and 11:00AM. Saturday volunteers are on site until about 5:00PM. Sunday volunteers are onsite until 2:00PM. Volunteers feed the doggies a special homecooked dinner every Sunday.
Remember, the dogs depend on us. Even just an hour a week can make a huge difference in the life of a deserving dog!

Kennel Guidelines

For safety reasons, please adhere to the following guidelines:

• No volunteers under the age of 18 may work at the farm/shelter or adoption stands.

• Please clean up after yourself. If you groom a dog, please sweep up any hair and return the tools to the proper location. In general, always try to leave the kennels cleaner than they were when you arrived. We are all volunteers and must help one another.

• Cell phones may not be used when handling the dogs. We strongly recommend that you leave your cell phone in your car while you are on the property.

Thanks to a core of dedicated volunteers, we are constantly improving the Quality of Life for our dogs. Here are our basic volunteer duties:

• Walking and Exercising Program
• Kennel/Shelter Care and Maintenance
• Volunteer Follow Up
• Special Projects/Facilities
• Feeding
• Transport
• Groups and Community Service
• Medical Care
• Intake

Volunteer Doggie Stories

We need your DOGGIE story too! Since BARK has so many dogs, it is difficult for volunteers to get to know each of them in the limited time they share at the farm or at an adoption stand. In an effort to better showcase some of the wonderful dogs currently awaiting their Forever Homes, we are asking volunteers to share their stories of working with spending time with the BARK dogs. Please “nominate” for your favorite dog and explain what makes “your” dog deserving of his or her very own forever home. Does he walk well on a leash? Does she know how to sit or shake? Does he love the water? How does she act with volunteers and other dogs? Can he fetch? Is she a good kisser? The “winning” dogs, along with the volunteer descriptions, will be featured in the adoption spotlight portion of upcoming BARK newsletters. These stories will help readers get to know the dogs and hopefully generate adoption interest. Plus, they’re a lot of fun to read!
Remember, your personal experiences could make a difference in the life of a very deserving BARK dog. Submit your “nominations” to the newsletter editor at fergmann@aol.com. Please include “BARK dog faves” in the subject line of your email.

Thank-You!

We thank the following BARK volunteers for contributing their words and wisdom to this edition of the newsletter: Sarah Cary, Michele Dunn, Rebecca Fox, Dave Harless, Dana Harris, Cyndie Brady Jones, Linda Lane, Shawn Riester, Pam Schutrump, Laura Southworth, Carrie Terbush, Amy Wanderer, Kermit Woodall, and Shealor Woodall. You guys are great! We could not have done it without you! We also gratefully acknowledge Peg Childress for providing the excellent portraits of BARK dogs that appear in this newsletter.

We thank adopters Jacquie, Jamie & Eric, Jean, Jeann & Clyde, Jen, Jennessa, John, Kristen & Nick, Rachel, and Randy for sharing wonderful stories, memories, and photos of their furry family members. Their BARK boys and girls could not have found better Forever Homes!

The Tail End….Doggie Musings

“You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, “Wow, you’re right! I never would’ve thought of that!”  

Dave Barry, humorist and author.