

Newsletter

Winter 2019

Helping the Community and Saving Lives

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. Long time volunteer 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, microchips, and spays/neuters each dog, and provides appropriate veterinary care.

You can view a continuously updated list of adoptable BARK dogs on the [Adoption page](#) of our [web site](#). You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/barkva.



News from the Farm

*Hi! My name is **Michael** and I'm the BARK spokesdog. 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!](#)*



Several boys and girls had an outing with volunteers Pam Schutrumpf, Shealor Woodall, and Sarah Cary to an Adoption Event at the Shop In Chesterfield on November 3rd. I'm very pleased to say that a lovely couple fell in love with Emily and gave her a Forever Home. The rest of my buds said that they had a great time meeting lots of new people and smelling all those interesting new smells.

Volunteer David Owens has been mighty busy at the Farm....he fixed a drainage problem around the side of the main kennel building and added insulation to some leaky spots on the back of the building. David, Bill Billups, and Bob Tillack also built a new gate to allow safer and easier access to our play area. Thanks guys!!!

I am thrilled to say that Shady Grove United Methodist Church has committed to replacing a bridge that was part of our favorite walking path. We are really excited about this! And folks from Shady Grove UMC also set up and decorated our Christmas tree this year. Talk about Holiday cheer!



Two lovely ladies from Capital One came out to the Farm in early December with Christmas presents for us...a huge load of food and treats and paper products! Wow (and major yum!): Thank-you ladies and thank-you Capital One!



That's all for now. Don't miss out on a chance to **make news** by helping with our pending projects. Check them out on page 9 in the Donation section of this newsletter. Until then, we'll keep our eyes/ears/noses on things for you! *Michael*

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 are interested in meeting a Spotlighted Dog or any of the other wonderful BARK dogs, please send an email to adopt@barkva.org (our preferred contact method) or call 804-449-2275 (BARK). We currently have fifty-five dogs who are ready and waiting for their Forever Homes. Check out their photos and stories on the [BARK adoption page](#).

Ace

Ace is a beautiful, friendly boy who gets along with most other dogs and even some cats. He is attentive and interested in his person, walks well on leash, and is playful. Ace is looking for a Forever Home with someone who can help him overcome resource guarding issues by making him feel safe and loved.

Shealor Woodall



Gypsy

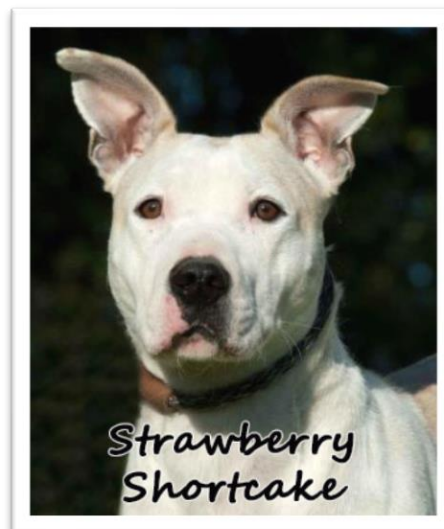
This is a super sweet girl. She is all about her person...she loves to cuddle and kiss. She is a really smart BARK Behind Bars graduate and knows all the basic commands. She is house trained and loves going for walks. *Brenda McConnell*



Strawberry Shortcake

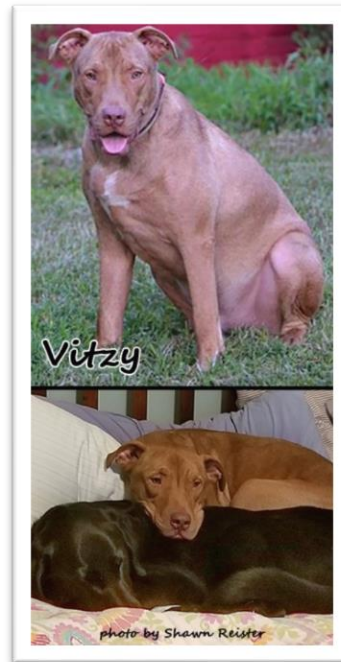
Strawberry is a little shy with new people but once she gets to know you, she will give 100% love and loyalty! This sweet girl is a BARK Behind Bars graduate and is ready to show you her many life skills. She loves going for walks and car rides. She also likes crunchy carrots and even crunchier ice cubes, especially in the summer! Strawberry needs to be an "only" dog so she can be the sole focus of her person's attention.

Brenda McConnell



Vitzy

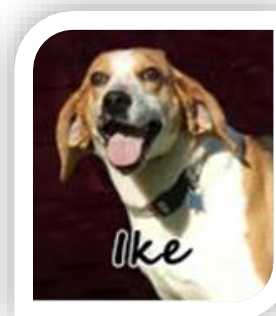
Vitzy is currently in a foster home. As you can see, he gets along with dogs and is quite a snuggler. He goes on walks always finding new friends & instigating play. He greets both people and dogs politely. He is calm, gentle and a great companion. He is also an active boy and would love to go jogging or hiking with his human. Vitzy is a BARK Behind Bars graduate and knows good manners and basic commands. He is ready and waiting for his new home. *Shawn Reister*



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.

OBG group currently includes: Ace, Cash, Clarice, Duke, Flora, Fuller, Ike, Jim Bob, Michael, Milton, Smiley, and Strawberry Shortcake. Most of these boys and girls are BARK Behind Bars graduates. 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 photos of three of our wonderful OBG dogs who would love to go home with you.



Happy Tails!

We love hearing about 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.

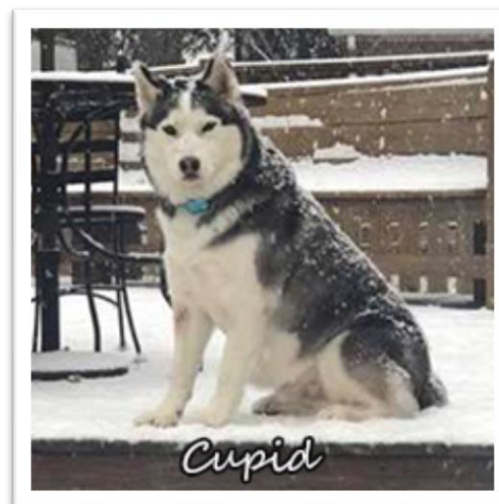
Charlie

To all the wonderful people at BARK! It has been a little over a year that we adopted Charlie (you knew him as Clyde) Charlie has made our home so very happy. He LOVES to snuggle and is all of our best friend! Chad has done remarkable with Charlie in the house and since adopting him, gets a full nights sleep since he knows once he takes off his cochlear implants and can no longer hear, that Charlie will be his "ears" and wake him if there is an emergency. THANK YOU to all of you who volunteer and place these dogs into loving homes....WE certainly love this dear beagle. Best wishes to all of you and THANK YOU!! *Lisa, Kevin, Chad, LiLi and.....Charlie Avery*



Cupid

Cupid is doing great! Loves the snow!
Carrie Terbush



Juno

Juno was adopted this year and is doing great! *Carrie Terbush*



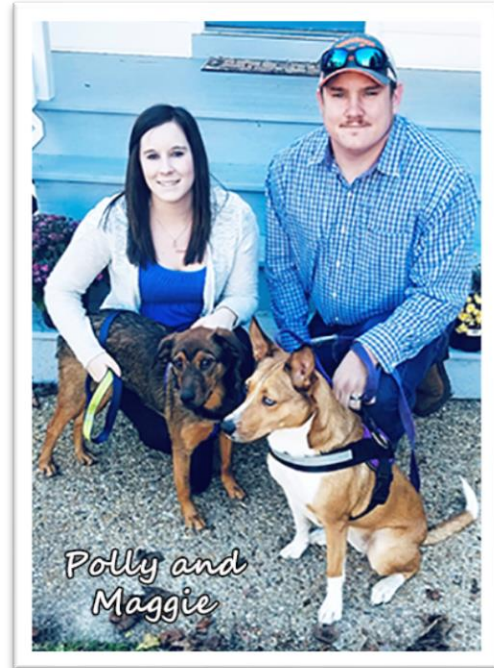
Nazzy

We recently adopted Nazzy. Here are some pictures from his first day in his new backyard with his new sister, Lulu (also BARK alum--November 2016). He's the sweetest old boy and adds so much to our family! :). *Becky McGee*



Polly

Polly has settled in wonderfully with her new sister Maggie. They play all the time & just love one another. *Samantha Mathews*



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.

Donate to BARK

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s (BARK) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible. 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 also 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!***

Cash Donation Form

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)

Note: Email is the best way to hear back from BARK.

Donate for Our Pending Projects

Graveling walkways: Put additional gravel around the main kennel building to improve access and traction. This is particularly important in bad weather.

Drainage Improvements: Permanently improve drainage in and around the outdoor “playpen” runs. The outdoor runs can flood in heavy rain. An engineered solution with permanent surfacing is needed so that the dogs can use these runs, regardless of adverse weather conditions, during their recreation periods and while their kennels are being cleaned.

For questions about these and other repair and improvement projects contact Dave Harless dwharless@verizon.net or Brenda McConnell brenda.mcconnell7@icloud.com.

Donate Food and Supplies

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
- Simple 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

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. Accessing 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!
- Now you can give to BARK just by doing what you are already doing...walking your dog. Simply download the "*Walk for a Dog*" app (available for iPhone and Android), select Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s as your rescue, and start walking. You can learn more at www.wooftrax.com. It's good for you and your dog, and now it is good for BARK!
- Did you know that if you order your pet medications through the link on the BARK website, BARK receives a portion of the proceeds? Visit our [Resources](#) page for details.
- How can you make searching and shopping for that perfect gift even more perfect? Use **iGive** with every transaction and 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.
- Sun Trust steps up with With SunPoints for CharitySM. Use your SunPoints to donate to recognized 501(c)(3) public charities in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100. Or more! SunTrust will also add to your donation to help you make a difference, so you can turn your everyday banking into everyday giving.

- 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 (listed as located in Glen Allen) 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.

Check out our web site's [Resource](#) page for great discounts on doggie related products and services AND additional ways to donate to BARK!

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!

BARK volunteers are very special people. Dave Harless, a BARK supporter and long time volunteer at the Farm, is quick to point out that BARK is truly a volunteer organization. The volunteers who give their time and energy to BARK, many of whom work full time jobs, do everything from cleaning kennels to fixing meals to walking the dogs to shopping for supplies, and much, much more...rain/snow or shine. To quote Dave, "The people that volunteer at BARK have a level of commitment, care, and compassion that is unparalleled." Volunteer Sarah Cary says that the volunteers at BARK become family by their virtue of their dedication to helping homeless dogs and by knowing that their dog "kids" depend on them for everything. She says that she ends up texting with her fellow volunteers more than she does with her friends and family! Sarah noted that when she goes home from BARK, she sleeps well knowing that the dogs she and her fellow volunteers worked with have been walked and fed, given individual attention, and shown genuine affection. Our volunteers keep the love going until their BARK dogs find Forever Homes.

We welcome new volunteers age 18 and older. This age requirement is in place to ensure the safety of both our volunteers and our dogs. Volunteers work between the hours of 10am - 2pm when our kennel manager is on the premises. Our volunteers perform a variety of critical functions such as grooming, walking, exercising, and feeding the dogs, washing dog bowls and filling water buckets, and providing kennel/shelter care and maintenance. Please note that volunteers must be dressed appropriately for cleaning kennels and walking dogs. No open-toed shoes, no slippers, flip-flops, etc. *Cell phone use is not permitted while working with the dogs.*

New volunteers must attend an approximately half day orientation program (usually held on weekends) and initially work with an experienced

volunteer. No volunteer may work alone and only persons who have participated in the orientation program may work with the dogs.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call (804) 449-2275 (BARK) or email: info@barkva.org. Email is the best way to hear back from BARK.



Remember, the dogs depend on us.

BARK volunteers make a huge difference in the lives of our deserving dogs!

Thank-You!

We thank BARK volunteers Dave Harless, Shawn Reister, Bill Stewart, Carrie Terbush, Kermit Woodall, and Shealor Woodall, and Kennel Manager Brenda McConnell for contributing their words, photos, and wisdom to this edition of the newsletter.

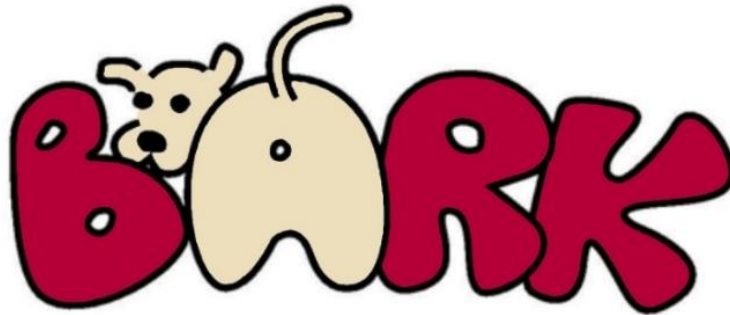
We thank adopters the Avery family, Samantha Mathews, and Becky McGee for sharing stories, memories, and photos of their furry family members. Their BARK boys and girls could not have found better Forever Homes!

We welcome your input. Please contact the newsletter editor, [Mary-Jacque Mann](#), with any questions/comments/corrections/ideas.

The Tail End....Doggie Musings

“When we are with our dogs there is no loneliness of spirit. We are connected.” *Baffin Island Inuit saying*

“Dogs are a miracle with paws.” *Susan Ariel Rainbow Kennedy, American author and illustrator of self-help books*



January 2019