



Newsletter

Spring 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!](#)



First of all, we want to thank **James Hughes**, President Jim's Roofing Co. in Chesterfield, for fixing a major hole in the kennel building roof in March. With all the rain we've been having this winter, that hole was making one of the kennels uninhabitable and was leaving a lot of water on the floor in the building. When it came time to pay him, James said that after seeing what BARK does for us dogs, there was no charge. Wow! Thank-you James!

Speaking of fixing things, we want to give a special bark out to volunteer **David Owens**. David is a 70 years young, semi-retired field engineer. About 5-6 years ago his neighbor and long time BARK volunteer Dave Harless invited him to come out to the Farm and lend a hand. He's been coming back ever since. He does kennel duty on Fridays and Saturdays and after that's done, he fixes things. Lots of things. It seems that some of my more rambunctious pals have a habit of chewing, breaking, and knocking down just about anything that's standing between them and going out to play! Then there's normal doggie wear and tear. When something goes down, it is David to the rescue! He has done many, many fix/repair/replace jobs at the Farm over the years. His most recent project, for instance, was to install metal panels on the outdoor kennel gates to keep my escape artist buddies from shimmying out. And he supplies materials for these jobs at his own expense! David's philosophy is that "retired folks should get out and do things, such as volunteering, to pay back society and community, and as a result, enjoy a better and longer life". He says that "**BARK needs and welcomes**

volunteers. The reward comes from knowing that dogs that had troubled, neglected, or even abused lives will never again experience anything but love and care.” David, you and all our dedicated volunteers are, quite literally, life savers. Thank-you!

Brilliant Idea! One of our wonderful volunteers, **Heather Woodring**, recently had a birthday. She let her friends and family know that instead of gifts, she wanted folks to donate food and supplies to BARK. As a result, we got lots of yummy food, treats, and kennel necessities. Way to go Heather and Happy Birthday!!

BARK in the spotlight! **Zipcar**, a subscription/membership service for hourly or daily use of cars, has an annual competition for college students to show how they use this service to benefit their communities. This year University of Richmond students made the contest’s national finals with a video about helping out at BARK. Check it out (and vote for U of R) at <https://www.zipcar.com/universities/students-with-drive>.

*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*

Something to BARK About

We have an update from Erich Krause about the BARK Behind Bars prison training program. Erich is the professional dog trainer who donates his expertise and time to BARK Behind Bars. He and his buddy, retired physician and longtime BARK volunteer Bill Shafer, drive to participating prisons throughout the state once a week, every week, to train, mentor, and oversee the program.

We BARKed about the prison program in the Spring 2018 newsletter...each BARK rescue dog is paired with two offenders in Virginia’s male and female correctional institutions. The dogs live with their offenders for about twelve weeks while they are gently given behavioral training that will help them find Forever Homes. The offenders receive experience and potential job skills as animal trainers. It is a win-win situation for everyone concerned.

Erich contacted us recently to share an observation about the progress of this program. He had just returned from a day at the Nottoway Correctional Center. Some of the offender trainers have been with the program at Nottoway since its inception about two years ago, others are relatively new. The current batch of four BARK dogs has been there for 8-9 weeks.

Erich and Bill watched in amazement as the dogs and their offenders gave a demonstration of what they had accomplished to date. Erich told us that in all his years of experience as a professional trainer and participant in AKC Obedience Trials, he has never seen dogs responding as well as these Nottoway BARK dogs in such a short period of time. The concentrated efforts by the offenders and the relationships they had built with their assigned dogs were producing results that one normally only sees in competitive obedience trial dogs after two years of training.

What a wonderful affirmation of the effectiveness of BARK Behind Bars. Thank-you, Erich and Bill, for all you do to make this program a success and thanks, Erich, for sharing this story with us!

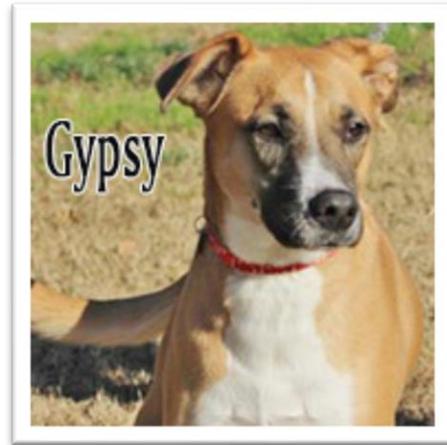
Adoption Spotlight

Dogs featured in the Adoption Spotlight were selected as personal favorites by BARK staff and volunteers. We hope you enjoy reading their comments about these special 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 dogs who are ready and waiting for their Forever Homes. Check out their photos and stories on the [BARK adoption page](#).

Gypsy

Gypsy is a sweetheart love bug. She totally loves people and being close to her special someone although she is not particularly fond of other dogs. She is a BARK Behind Bars grad. She'd like nothing better than to spend her evenings quietly watching TV with you.

Submitted by Brenda McConnell



Mokie

Mokie is a one and a half years old (just a kid!) Shepherd mix. He's a really friendly and beautiful boy and a proud BARK Behind Bars graduate. He'd love to be in a home with an active, loving family and maybe even a doggie sibling to play with. *Submitted by Brenda McConnell*



Swizzle

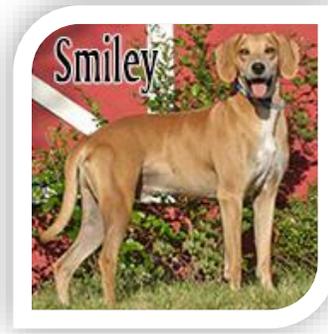
Swizzle is a two years old hound mix who is super sweet and a talented BARK Behind Bars Graduate. She is very affectionate and gets a special look in her eyes that says "I love you" when people are with her. For Swizzle, everyone she meets is a friend. Let her be yours. *Submitted by Brenda McConnell*



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.

The OBG group includes: Ace, Cash, Duke, Flora, 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.

China

China's new Mom and Dad, Rachel and Zack, sent a photo of this happy, sweet girl in her new Forever Home. Forwarded by volunteer Carrie Terbush.



Ike and Jim Bob

They went on their first weekend trip this weekend to Asheville. Jim Bob especially has come out of his shell so much! *Forwarded by volunteer Carrie Terbush from Ike & Jim Bob's Mom Olivia*



Jodie

Jodie has been with us for almost three weeks now and is making strides and building her confidence every day. She loves long walks with mom and dad, sitting outside in the sunshine (when we actually see it these days), and is still figuring out these weird, smaller creatures who meow! *Forwarded by volunteer Ann Hall from Jodie's Mom Rachel Ann Hood*



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

Stella Bella

When I saw Stella at BARK I knew she would come home with me and I starting fostering her on January 31, 2015. At the time I was living with my parents, and I told them if it didn't work out I would take her back. My father said, "We knew when you started volunteering you would eventually come home with a dog, but don't act like a dog is going to walk in that door and walk back out!" He was right, I officially adopted Stella in June of that year when I bought a house across from Pocahontas State Park. She

spent her days on her front window perch barking at neighbors and keeping squirrels in check, going on lots of walks, spending time with family, and playing with her favorite toy, a ball that dispensed treats. It was Stella's world and I was allowed to live in it. She battled several illnesses her last year and I had to make the heartbreaking decision to put her down on December 27, 2018. Stella kept me on my toes and life was definitely more fun with her around. I loved my girl and miss her every day! ♡ *Ryan Knott*



Inspirational YouTube Videos Links

Contributed by volunteer Linda Lane

[So God Made A Dog 1](#)

[So God Made A Dog 2](#)

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. [Update: Engineers have visited the site and given their opinions about how to proceed. Now it is a matter of time and money to get the project done.](#)

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

BARC 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.

- [Genworth](#) has programs that encourage and support employee volunteerism in non-profit and charitable organizations, including BARK, and they reward employee volunteers with cash that can be donated to the non-profits they worked with. They also have donation matching programs. Go to their web site for details.

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 or snow or shine. To quote Dave, "The people that volunteer at BARK have a level of commitment, care, and compassion that is unparalleled." 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 or in the kennel area.*

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 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 Ann Hall, Dave Harless, Linda Lane, Erich Krause, David Owens, Carrie Terbush, and Kermit Woodall, and Kennel Manager Brenda McConnell for contributing their words, photos, and wisdom to this edition of the newsletter.

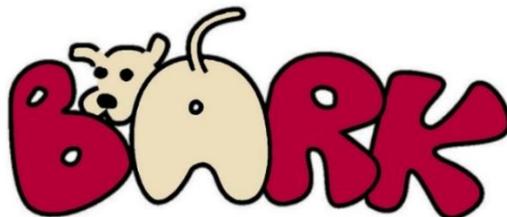
We also thank adopters Rachel Ann Hood, Olivia, Rachel and Zack, and Ryan Knott (who is also a BARK volunteer) for sharing stories, memories, and photos of their furry family members. Their BARK boys and girls could not have found better Forever Homes!

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

The Tail End....Doggie Musings

“Before you get a dog, you can't quite imagine what living with one might be like; afterward, you can't imagine living any other way.” **Caroline Knapp, American columnist and writer**

“My fashion philosophy is, if you're not covered in dog hair, your life is empty.” **Elayne Boosler, American comedian**



April 2019