

BARK Community Newsletter
January 2014

www.barkva.org

804-449-BARK

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

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10 Compelling Reasons to Adopt a Shelter Dog (by Julia Szabo, Dogster)

1. It's a form of recycling - As the environmentally conscious recycling movement has proven, it's easy (and fun!) being green, and dog adoption is the noblest form of recycling. You don't need to buy... just adopt from a local shelter!

2. It helps end homelessness - Every year, millions of healthy, sweet, soulful dogs are killed at animal shelters across this country just for lack of cage space; as with people, bad luck can cause good dogs to become homeless through no fault of their own. By adopting a shelter dog, you're doing your part to help end the nationwide crisis of homelessness.

3. It's cool - With so many charismatic celebrities walking around with adopted dogs by their side -- [Lenny Kravitz among them](#) -- it's clear that adoption isn't just the right thing to do, it's the cool thing to do. To your adopted dog, you're the resident rock star!

4. You can flaunt your pride - You know all those people who are so proud of their honor-student kids? Well, adopted dogs are super-smart, the Mensas of mutt-dom. So skip the bumper sticker — flaunt stray pride with a [cool collar](#) or [T-shirt](#). Even your [coffee](#) can proclaim pride for pound pups!

5. It eradicates loneliness - Don't you want somebody to love? Somebody who will actually love you back? For anyone who's ever suffered the pangs of unrequited affection -- and who hasn't? -- rest assured that an adopted dog will return those tender feelings tenfold. No more lonely nights!

6. The love is unconditional - If you've had it up to here with criticism from your nearest and dearest, get used to unconditional adoration. Years of psychotherapy can't beat an adopted dog's uncomplaining, adoring presence. "Dinner's late? Again? I adore you!"

7. You'll be embarrassment-proof - Got performance anxiety about trying out a new hobby or activity? With an adopted dog as your nonjudgmental audience or workout partner, there's nothing to fear. Exercise routines? Gourmet cooking? Knitting? No matter! Your efforts will get an A+ even if they deserve a D!

8. It shows your depth - Adopting a dog proves you're a person of great inner depth who values substance (a mystery dog of unknown parentage) over style (a predictable pedigreed purebred).

9. It shows your style - But hey, if you're a style hound, there's no more stylin' statement than a shelter dog -- she coordinates beautifully with any outfit or style of decor! And there are plenty of breed specific rescues to choose from.

10. It shows faith in democracy - Are you a political animal? Then reaffirm your faith in the democratic process with an adopted dog. After all, shelter mutts are the people's dog: E Pluribus Unum, one dog out of many. Uncle Sam wants YOU to adopt today!

What are you waiting for?



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BARK Promotional Videos - Now Available!!!

Many of you will remember the contest that BARK entered earlier in the year from Metro Productions. Thanks to all of your support, BARK was the winner of \$20,000 worth of video production from this wonderful, Richmond-based business. We are so excited to announce that the videos are complete and available for viewing! There are multiple videos - each focusing on a different area of interest - and one, longer, all-inclusive video that gives an excellent overview of BARK and the variety of ways that folks can get involved. Please view the videos and feel free to share them as you see fit!

A huge thank you to Ryan Farriss and the team at Metro Productions for all of their hard work. Thank you also to the wonderful volunteers that agreed to be featured in the video and share their stories!!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxkoKI0xk8c> - BARK Overview - long version

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75jXn67IOiU> - BARK Overview - short version

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEwA9z-O4AA> - BARK Overview - adoptions

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rooOBwelo2w> - BARK Overview - fostering

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-EqJtBuX4U> - BARK Overview - volunteering

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oaigi_spt4o - BARK Overview - donations

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Christmas Cheer

This year, Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Mechanicsville collected donations of bleach, dog bones, dog food, and Vienna sausages for BARK. Hanover High School students Nick, Cole, Adam, and Zach bought a tree and decorated it for the sweet dogs and dedicated volunteers at BARK. Merry Christmas!



Thank you so much to everyone who donated items off of the dogs' "wish list" for Christmas this year. Included in those donations was Natalie Farrey, who coordinated a donation drive for her 8th grade project at St. Mary's School!



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Helping the Community: Adoption News

BARK's New Saturday Adoption Site - Saturdays Only

Our Saturday adoption outings have moved from PetSmart in Short Pump to the Jessica Beath Clinic at the Farrington Firehouse (12300 Farrington Rd, Ashland). This change is a result of new policies put in place by PetSmart that will greatly affect our ability to showcase the dogs on Saturdays. PetSmart's new regulations prohibit outside adoption outings when the weather is below 50 degrees or above 90 degrees (which it will be very soon). In addition to being restricted to inside the store, PetSmart has notified BARK that we can only walk dogs in half of the store because another rescue group on site will be walking dogs in the other half of the store. Since Saturday is our busiest day for adoptions with 12-15 dogs routinely brought out to be seen, the new restrictions raise some important safety concerns (too many unfamiliar dogs in too small of an area and very young children attempting to walk dogs unsupervised). The spay/neuter clinic is air conditioned, has a kitchen, community room and bathroom, and gives BARK plenty of room to promote adoptable dogs in a safe manner. Currently, adoption outings will only be held on Saturdays until further notice.

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 sometimes 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 adoptive homes are found. In addition to finding forever homes, BARK vaccinates, spays/neuters each dog and provides appropriate veterinary care.

We are proud to report that **34** dogs found loving homes in December including Roscoe, Kaison, and Brandy from our Oldies but Goodies program. If you'd like to keep up with the dogs adopted each week, please become a fan of BARK on Facebook at www.facebook.com/barkva.

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Adoption Spotlight: Bailey, Hershey 2, Lexus and Domino, and Titus

Dogs featured in the Adoption Spotlight were selected as personal favorites by BARK volunteers. We hope you enjoy reading their comments about these wonderful dogs. If you want to know more about a dog, [click here](#) for Petfinder bios.

If you are interested in meeting a dog featured in the adoption spotlight, please submit an application online at <http://www.barkva.org/AdoptionApplication.aspx>, send an email to adopt@barkva.org or call 804-449-BARK (2275).

“One of my most favorite dogs at BARK is Bailey,” writes her volunteer friend. “I think she overlooked all of the time. Bailey has a beautiful black coat and a very wiggly butt. She is always happy to see you and greets you with kisses. Bailey has loads of energy and loves to walk/run on the long trail....always looks to you for your approval that she is a "good girl". She does know the sit command and is very playful. I am not very good at writing this kind of stuff. All I know is that she is a wonderful dog and she would make someone or some family a wonderful and devoted companion.”

Bailey is a 2 ½-year-old terrier/Lab mix. She is medium size and weighs around 55 pounds. She gets along well with some male dogs and loves to run and play. She loves to play with toys. Bailey would do best with an active family who can spend plenty of time with her. She would make a wonderful companion for a runner or jogger and would do best with a fenced in yard so she can romp around to her heart's content! Bailey was surrendered to a rural county and her owner said she had wonderful house manners and is just a wonderful companion. View Bailey’s classified ad [here](#).



Bailey

Hershey 2’s volunteer says this about him, “Most people think of hounds as not being good house dogs or companions. They think of hounds as wanting to always be on the hunt, running through the woods. Well, that's not the case with Hershey. Hershey is a big loveable homebody who wants to be with his person. When I go into his kennel to take him outside, he never fails to give me a big hug. He's a handsome boy with the looks of a tri-colored hound, but there's something else in the mix, because he has a wiry coat on his back. When he's in one of the outside playpens, he keeps his eye on you hoping to again be right next to you. He's easy on a leash. This good ol' boy is looking to be somebody's loyal companion.”

Hershey 2 is a handsome young male hound mix. Just over a year old, he is a medium size at 50 to 55 pounds. He was rescued by BARK, along with his brother Reese, from a rural county shelter. Both boys are just as sweet as their names suggest. With adorable markings and slightly wiry coat Hersey is certainly a looker. He is shy, but warms up pretty quickly toward the possibility of some love and affection. A true hound dog, Hershey loves to go on walks and quickly shows his excitement with a few hound-dog-howls of joy. Hershey 2 can be adopted separately or with this brother Reese (which they tell us they sure would prefer). Either way, he will do best in a home with another confident, playful doggie friend and a fenced in yard where he can run and play safely. Hershey is looking forward to his future where he (and hopefully his brother too) can be spoiled and have a nice soft doggie bed to sleep on. View his classified ad [here!](#)



Hershey 2

“No dogs are more ready for a home than Lexus and her sweet baby Domino,” writes their volunteer friend. “They are SO HAPPY together, and so happy when they get special attention. We took them to a pet stand recently and Lexus rode in the van. Domino rode shotgun in our car, and was the perfect family dog. He's very well-behaved and loves to sit on your lap and be petted. He's a mama's boy though, so it was heartwarming to witness the reunion at the end of the drive with Lexus. Lexus is a sweetheart on her own; a tiny little bundle of energy whose one job in life is to protect her baby boy. She'll bark down anyone dog who tries to bother him. I can't wait for the day when I know they've found a forever home and all she has to worry about is playing with her son and their new family.”

Lexus is a 5-year-old shepherd/Lab mix. She was turned in to a rural county shelter along with her son Domino, a 3-year-old. We don't know why they were turned in, but we do know they are very nice dogs. They are both housetrained and good with children. They get along well together and Lexus seems to like looking out for her son Domino. Lexus is medium sized at 39 pounds, and has a short, easy to groom coat. Lexus tested positive for Heartworms, which is a very treatable condition. BARK will pay for the cost of her Heartworm treatment at our vet. Lexus is good on leash, loves to take walks, likes to be near you, and she likes to play some, too! Lexus and Domino are living in a kennel now, and really miss being in a home. They will be wonderful companions. View their classified ad [here!](#)



Lexus & Domino

“Titus is a very active big boy,” says his volunteer friend. “He loves to play ball and Frisbee. After all of the BARK dogs have been put back in their kennels, I take Titus out by himself to play. He is so well behaved. He doesn't pay attention to other people or dogs- his entire focus is on the Frisbee. Therefore, I don't even need to take him out of the kennel building on a leash, he just follows me and the Frisbee right along. This boy loves to play and will go back and forth with his ball or Frisbee forever. He fetches and brings the toy back to me and lays it down after he chews on it a minute or so and then waits expectantly for the next throw. When I have to leave, I pick up the Frisbee and head for the kennel. Titus knows the signal and runs in front of me and goes directly into his kennel without leash or other encouragement. Not only does he fetch, he has the lean body and long legs of a runner. If you are training or enjoy a daily jog, Titus would like to be right there with you.”

Titus is a young 6-1/2 years, and weighs a lean 69 pounds. He is ok with cats and once even rescued a small flock of hens from an evil fox and coyote who were up to no good. He is easily entertained and enjoy chasing leaves and shadows. He does best walking with a gentle leader but even better jogging! After exercise, he just wants to be a lap dog. He loves to lean on you when you are standing and will gladly climb onto your lap if you let him. Titus dislikes garden hoses, sprinklers and/or spraying water. He loves to howl at annoying sirens and misses having a family and soft bed of his own. You can view Titus's classified ad [here!](#)



Titus

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Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Wish List

This month we especially need:

- Donations of **canned dog food!** We are in really short supply!
- Evening feeders at the Ashland farm, volunteers for cleaning kennels, and office help (call Linda Lane at 804-883-7740).



Monthly Meetings

BARK holds monthly meetings at the new spay/neuter clinic (12300 Farrington Road, Ashland, VA) on the second Monday of every month. Please check the BARK home page for confirmation of the exact date! The meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Topics include such items as how to make BARK better, Fundraising, Clinic and Marketing the Clinic to bring in business, Adoption Success Stories, Issues from the Farm, as well as open discussions. Please plan to attend!

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 “vote” 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 he know how to sit or shake? Does he love the water? How does he act with volunteers and other dogs? Can she fetch? Is he 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 “votes” to robin@barkva.org.

FARM DOGGIES NEED MORE HOUSEKEEPERS and FRIENDS!!!

It may seem like we are always looking for additional volunteers and you know what? We are. People come and go, so we are in a constant state of finding additional volunteers. As it stands there are not enough of us to go around much less cover for one another during illnesses, vacations... The dogs must be taken care of properly on a daily basis and that task falls upon us, you, those who care about saving the lives of innocent homeless animals. We brought them to BARK so they are ours to care for. Right now we have two, occasionally three, volunteers on a certain day who clean the front **and** back buildings as well as the Intake. That is just way, way too much for anyone. But they are diehards and have been here for a good number of years. They just keep on keeping on hoping for additional volunteers. That pace causes TOTAL BURN OUT and we can't afford to lose our diehard volunteers. We need you to make a commitment to help clean kennels once a week or maybe alternate with someone for every other week. The kennels get cleaned every day, 7 days a week; Wish they got cleaned twice but once is hard enough. We are the highlight in the lives of these dogs and their best friends. They Need Us! Please consider lending a helping hand. We'll work with your schedule. Just let me know and I'll get you started with a thorough orientation. Call me at 804-883-7740 or email billindaphoto@mindspring.com

Thanks,

Linda Lane, Shelter Coordinator

Please come out and help. We'll work with your schedule and time constraints. With the constant change of schedules and the juggling of jobs and children and "LIFE", we are constantly looking to replace volunteers. The regular long term kennel keepers who clean the kennels and care for the dogs find themselves needing more cleaners. We have walkers, but not so many cleaners. So if you can spare some time, enough to do even just 4-6 kennels, once a week or so, please call Linda at 883-7740 and we'll welcome you with open arms.

Volunteer Groups

The good news is that we have so many new and wonderful groups volunteering. The not so good news is that sometimes too many show up at the same time. So, all groups must be scheduled before they can visit the farm (experienced or not) to walk and/or help take care of the kennels. We are limiting the number of visiting groups on any one day for the safety of all. Please contact Carol Murray at murrsan@verizon.net to arrange a date.

Current Schedule for Kennel and Dog Care

Our flexible work schedule has proven a success. It allows volunteers, once they are trained, to clean any time during the day on which they have enlisted. Only experienced volunteers can come alone. Grab a friend or family member if you are new or come at a time while other volunteers are there. Volunteers are there at irregular times throughout the day but we do not have volunteers there all

day long. Surely one of those times will work with your schedule.

Every New Volunteer will receive an “Informational Package” by e-mail and every volunteer must have an Orientation, provide their paper work to a crew lead at the farm (not only on line), and read the required material. Orientations are scheduled on a one by one basis. Children under 16 must be supervised by an adult. If 16 or older, the young person must have written permission to volunteer and be a very responsible young adult. For any questions or to schedule an Orientation contact Linda Lane at billindaphoto@mindspring.com or (804)883-7740.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: Volunteers are there at various times between 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (Fridays start at about 10:30 a.m.) We have morning, late afternoon and evening crews on these days. BUT we do not have volunteers there throughout the day.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: Volunteers start arriving in the afternoon, clean their row or two and then others come later after work to finish up. Again, flexibility is the key to caring for the dogs and kennels.

Saturdays: Volunteers start coming anywhere from 10:30 a.m. (or earlier). If you are with a group, please make sure we know your group plans on coming out (see above). Also, Bob could use help loading and unloading dogs for the adoption outings.

Sundays: We never seem to have as much help on Sundays as Saturdays. All the above for Saturdays holds true for Sundays except they start a little later.

Remember, the dogs depend on us. We are all they have until a forever home is found for them. Won't you consider giving them a little part of your week – just a couple of hours or so? The dogs would love you for it and so would we! Hope to hear from you.

New Kennel Guidelines

Because we are concerned about the safety of all including the dogs, we are putting some new guidelines in place. Actually they are not totally new -we just need to make sure everyone abides by them.

1. No one under the age of 16 may walk on the LONG trail without the presence of a parent and without explicit permission from a crew lead. Any exception to this can only be made through the crew lead.
2. Children under the age of 16 may not be left along at the shelter to walk dogs at any time. A parent must be with them, helping them get in and out of kennels and making sure they know how to handle the dogs. Very experienced volunteers are

the exception. Again, this is at the discretion of the crew lead. It is not wise to have youngsters running in and out of kennels or up and down the aisles for obvious reasons. It just gets too chaotic and causes the dogs to become too rambunctious and excitable not to mention noisy. Please make sure you read the attached guidelines for walking if you have not already and read them to your children.

3. Groups that come to help walk dogs need to make sure that there are enough adults to supervise the young people at all times. Please stay with them and help them get the dogs in and out of kennels, leash them properly, follow the walking precautions/ rules and stay safe – dog and child.
4. If you groom the dogs, PLEASE put all grooming tools back where they belong AFTER cleaning all the dog hair off the brushes and combs.

Volunteer News:

Kennel Volunteer Programs:

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

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

If interested, please complete a volunteer inquiry form on our website: www.barkva.org. Please note that 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.

Welcome to newcomers Carly & Jillian Bates, Michael Blair, Angela Carroll, Lauren Dailey, Tammy & Dean Daniel, Lauren Davis, Madison Dover, Timothy Esther, Rachel Fidlow, Brian Ford, Jennifer French, Hollyanne Gandy, Lynn Greer, Emily Hewitt, Dawnica Horton, Sierra & Leslie Hughes, Jason & Amanda Hunt, Rachel Johnson, Suraj Kandalam, Sonali Kanitkar,

Sindhu Karnam, Patrick Kennedy, Laura Kim, Amy Ladevig-Day, Suvin Lee, Vivian Lee, Ben Lemons, Meredith Little, Sarah Matheson, Ryan Miles, Kristy Montoya, Julie Palanca, Cheyenne Palmo, Kevin Paxton, Sarah Peck, Katherine Pornchareon, Mattie Reynolds, Joanna Senseng, Luke Shapiro, Katy Soden, Abigail Sohkhlet, Cody St. Clair, Heather Stewart, Debbie Styron, Wayne Styron, Katie Tanner, Tatiana Tartarotti, Elliott Taylor, Danielle Teal, Trang Tran, Hannah White and Cole & Holly Winkler.

Thank You

Thank you to Mary Ekker for the 10 homemade Kuranda beds!

A hardy "Thank You" to Dionne Waugh who donated a large Kuranda bed (now assembled and being enjoyed!) to the BARK dogs that arrived just before Christmas!!!

A belated shout out and thank you to: Terry Leatherman of Henrico for the generous donation of an all aluminum Kuranda bed for the Bark dogs. It was an extra for a short while but is now in full service and being enjoyed by the farm dogs!!

A big THANK YOU to Dave Harless who oversaw electrical improvements at both the brown building (where the big dogs are housed) and the hilltop kennels. The brand new junction box at the hill kennel has the capability of having a portable generator plug in to provide power for lights and water should there be a utility outage. The brown building has new outdoor lights which is especially a big help during the short winter months.

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Notes from the Farm by Rolph

Well Happy New Year! I know I'm a little late but it's the thought that counts right?!

Christmas is officially over, and boy was it a great one! Even though I didn't find a home of my own, it was a good month here at the BARK farm. I saw a lot of familiar faces over the holiday, and a number of new ones as well. It seemed like the volunteers were really trying to make sure we all felt loved, even if we spent the time in the kennels. They brought us all kinds of treats and goodies and tried to take us out for even more walks than usual. It was a little brighter because of all of you!

A number of my old-timer friends found their forever homes, either in time for Christmas or for the New Year, so that really gives me hope that there's the perfect home for me. Although I'll miss them, I know they're in a better place now! Of course that also means that there are lots of new doggie faces here, which is always fun.

We also got tons and tons of donations, which I'm so thankful for! It looks like we've got toys, treats (lots of Milkbones and rawhide chews which are my favorite), and wet food for weeks! I also heard a number of wonderful folks made monetary donations, which is always greatly appreciated since they help pay for our every day care! So, on behalf of all of us here (4- and 2-legged), "thank you"!!! Until next time...



Rolph

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Happy Tails...Waggin' Good News



Gloria's doing great - we're calling her Dolly now (she didn't really answer to Gloria for us). She is enjoying chasing squirrels and going on brisk walks. We're still working on leash manners and plan to take her to training classes after the holidays. Our vet checked her out and she's gotten her rabies and other vaccinations that were due at the beginning of January.

Here are some recent pics. As you can see she's made herself right at home.

Amanda



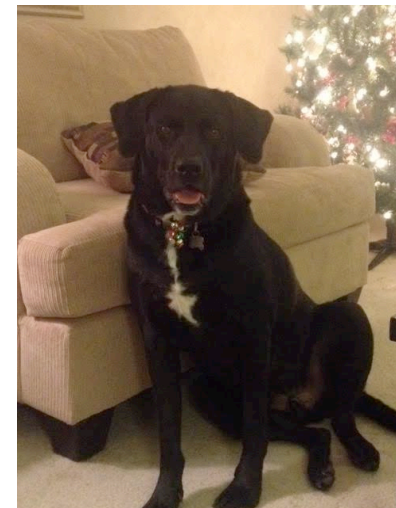
Dolly

I attached pictures of Sully, but you all know him as Shadow. He is a great dog. He has a wonderful disposition, he LOVES his toys (I've never seen anything like it) and he is the happiest guy. He just turned 2 in November and its hard to remember not having him.

Thank you, Christine



Sully



Trixie is a joy to have in my home. She settled in immediately and is a very happy girl. She chases the squirrels, birds and anything else that dares to invade her yard. She loves to play Frisbee and spends lots of time romping around the yard. Walking on a leash is a challenge because there are so many distractions but that will get better.

Barbara



Trixie

Just wanted to give you an update on Thor before the holidays! He is doing great, he has become my little buddy and constant companion. We go everywhere we can together and he sleeps in bed with us, curled right up next to me. He enjoys walks around the neighborhood (when the weather is nice) and going to Stoney Point and Tractor Supply Company where we get his food (Taste of the Wild). He has a basket full of clothes and toys and is getting used to having his teeth brushed at night. He enjoys sitting on the seat in the bay window of the house where he can survey the entire cul-de-sac and bark at any moving creature and vehicle out there. I am just so happy to have found him, he's such a love!

I attached a picture of Thor with his backpack, which he sometimes wears when we are out on walks, not that I can fit much of anything in it, but it drains a bit more energy even when empty. There's also a picture of his shameless begging! We don't feed him much from the table, but if we're not paying close attention he's right there to snag a bite! Hope you all have a great holiday!

Elaine



Thor



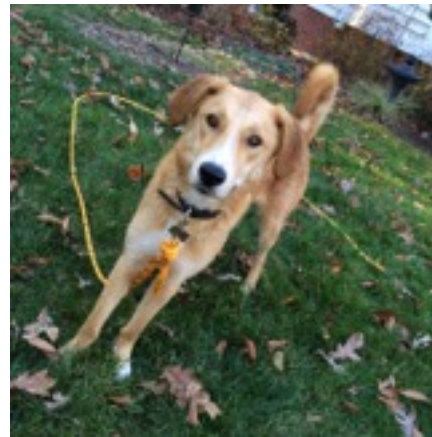
I wanted to let you know Kyle (now, Dubya) is back in Richmond and doing great! He has some separation anxiety when I left for work for a few hours but he's adjusting well to his new schedule. There's definitely a lot of puppy left in him but he's eager to listen and learn.

You'll be happy to know he has a new best friend, Butterscotch who was with BARK for a number of years. Turns out his unwavering enthusiasm is the perfect compliment for Butterscotch's aversion to other animals; they spent all of Christmas playing together in my parent's backyard!

Attached is a picture of the two of them eagerly awaiting their presents. Thank you again for your help in the adoption process and all the work you and your team at BARK do for these animals.

Happy New Year!

David



Kyle

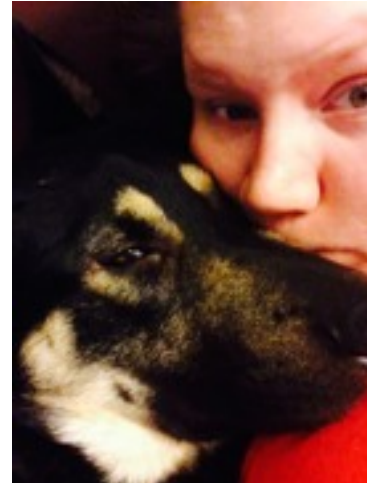
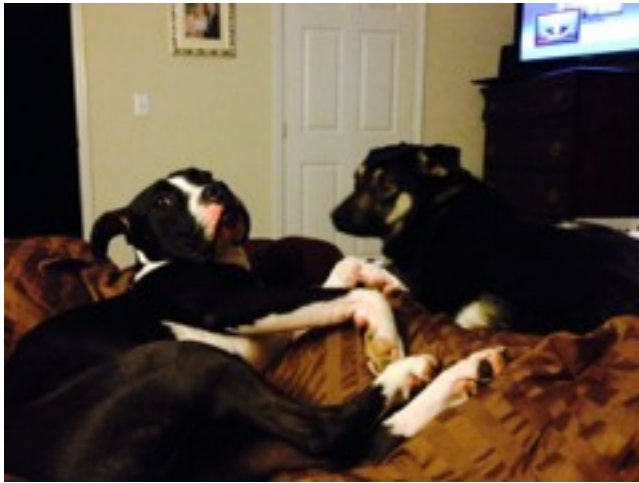
I just wanted to send an update about how Rocky is doing so far in our home. He has done amazing so far! We've been keeping him on our current schedule with our other dog, Elody, and he is adjusting so well. He has even joined us at night on our bed sleeping with us and Elody. We couldn't be more pleased with how he has been adjusting. This is a perfect fit and we are so happy we found him! We wanted to just let you and the Taylor's know that he is doing very well. Thank you all and I hope your week is going well.

Sincerely,

Vincent and Brittany (And our two lovely dogs) (no photo included)

Everything is still going great. We took Dean to the vet because he vomited frequently in the car and had diarrhea. Since he was thin when we got him and he was diagnosed with eulichia (which we were unfamiliar with all of its symptoms) and he had no appetite, we thought it best to him checked out. The vet said he was just stressed and would reevaluate him if symptoms did not subside in day or two. But he definitely did better once he had some meds and plenty of rice and beef to settle his tummy.

Anyways, he is much better now and I think he's even out on some weight. Daisy is doing better with sharing her food as well. Dean seemed real laid back and independent at first but he is definitely opening up more each day and getting comfortable. He is pushy about attention and super attached to me. (Which makes the sharing the love seat with him and Daisy difficult sometimes!) We've taught him to give paw and to sit. And he is becoming more mischievous in his comfort as well. Which is cute and manageable. So, we have ourselves a winner!! I'll send more pics as time goes on. (Though Dean seems to be camera shy!)



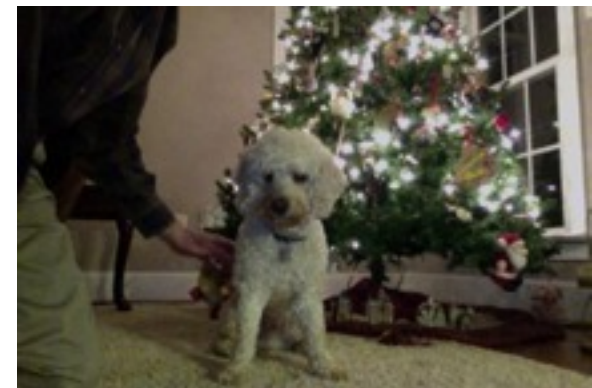
Dean

Here is Louie (previously Sir Captain Frazier) under our Christmas tree! He has been a great addition to our family and a wonderful friend to our older dog. Thank you for all you do to save animals and help families find pets. Happy New Year! May it be filled with lovely forever homes for our furry friends!

*Respectfully,
Catherine*



Louie



I've been meaning to send you an update on my pups for a while now. I just got their Christmas picture back from their daycare and thought it was too good not to share. We adopted Traci in October of 2011 and started fostering Harley & Daisy (Peanut & Precious) in June of 2012. They were about 5 ½ weeks old at the time and, of course, we all became very attached so we decided to adopt them as well. Our first year was a little crazy with all three of them but they all get along really well now.

Harley and Daisy have been to Obedience classes and Traci is just so darn sweet and well behaved she didn't need any! They have been going to daycare at least once a week for about a year now and have really developed some great socialization skills and a bunch of new friends too! Once the weather breaks we are going to start working on some agility training! They still have tons of energy! They are all doing so well, we are thankful for all the enjoyment and love they have brought to our home. BARK does an amazing job finding these wonderful dogs forever homes. Thank you for all you do!!!

Karen & Mel



Traci,
Harley, &
Daisy



We adopted Queenie 2, now Dutchess, last December. We wanted to up date you on her first year with our family. Dutchess discovered air conditioning this year and loved being the indoor princess. Oh, her nickname is Fatty Patty.

She still thinks any food available needs to be eaten. This includes horse feed and goat food, which sometimes creates a hostile goat encounter. It is a good thing she gets to run long with the four wheeler every evening to check on the horses, or she would be hefty.

Jeanette



Dutchess



Well - it has been an adjustment a few ups and downs. Bernie will stand on back feet next to bed and hugs ya - very sweet. He wants to crawl in bed but can't get his back legs up. We have spoiled him allowing him to get in bed with us. Then he gets out on his own. Sunday after we had been outside for awhile he came in with me, I went to the bathroom, when I came out he had lifted a leg and peed on the sofa! Very surprised. Could be he smelled our old dog and was marking his spot? He threw up Sunday night and again Monday just a little when coming home in the truck. So I am hoping throw up thing a fluke.

We have yet to hear a bark, not sure if he has a voice. Today was the first day since Saturday that he had been left alone. He did his business this morning and was left in the house for about 4 hrs - did great! He didn't destroy anything, no bathroom in the house. All is good. hR really came to life with throwing of tennis ball - loves it! He retrieves and brings it back - very playful. He is skittish with loud noises - who knows what happened to him in his previous life. He appears appreciative and is very loving. I think my husband posted one picture of him, he is camera shy - turns his head as soon as you try to take his picture. He is very laid back - mellow. I think he is going to surprise us with a loud bark but we will see. Thanks for everything.

Rose (no photo included)

I just wanted to let you and the others at BARK know about Sally's first Christmas in her new home. As you can see from the picture, she is relaxing in her favorite spot after an exciting Christmas morning. Santa Puppy was good to her, Rebel and Baegel. They got toys and lots of dog treats, their stockings were full. I want to thank everyone at BARK for the work they do. I have gotten 2 dogs from you and they have been wonderful additions to my family. Please keep up the good work. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and I hope you have a Happy New Year.

Alexis



Sally



Hey there! Just wanted to give a Christmas update from Milo (formerly Milton) and Sox. In June, we moved from our apartment into a home with a huge fenced-in yard and the doggies have never felt more at home. I guess you never really know if your dog is a digger until they have a chance to show you their skills! Within minutes of arriving at our new home, Sox had dug out to go and meet the

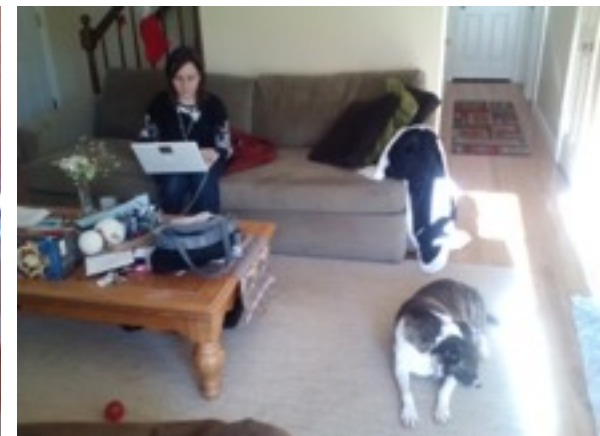
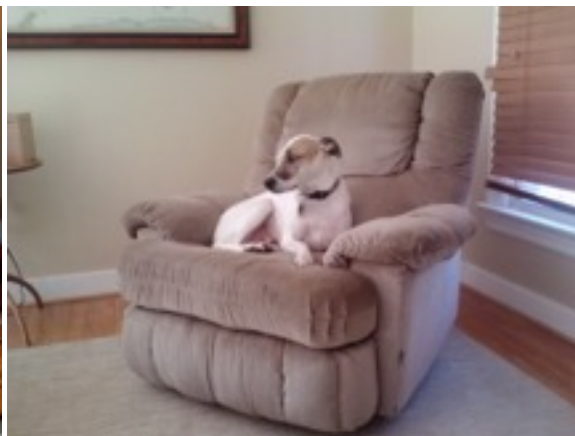
next door neighbor while I was taking luggage into the house. Cue the chicken wire at the bottom of the fence! Milo prefers to dig straight, deep holes to China when I'm not looking. I love seeing him run around. Sox's favorite thing to do is nap in the path of the sunbeams that come through the glass doors.

Sox has had an eventful year. In mid-June, I think she ate a weird mushroom in the backyard one day and she got really sick. It made her start chewing on non-food items and she ended up eating part of my tutu! I can laugh about it now, but it was scary then. In late June, she started limping and we found that she tore her ACL and had surgery with an 8 week recovery. At the end of 8 weeks, she was still limping and we found that she has a degenerative joint disease. We went to several vet offices to try and figure out the problem and eventually got it straightened out. Then the day after Christmas, she somehow got on top of the table and ate 6 chocolate bars from S'more making when no one was looking. Luckily we caught it right away and went to go and see her best friend again (Dr. Ware!). Everyone loves her and always remembers her name, because through it all she just wanted love and belly rubs, no matter what they were doing to her. :)

Milo and Sox have made lots of new friends. For those of you who knew Milo, you know that this is a pretty big deal. In August, we took in my parents' dog, Brody, while they moved to Ohio. He's still here chillin' with us until my parents can get settled with jobs and a home, and I don't think he really needs to leave. Ever. We also took in a foster dog, Poindexter, from a rescue in Sandston, VA from August til late December (he got adopted, YAY!). Milo and Poindexter definitely became BFF. They would just run, play, and tumble for forever. It was so wonderful to see Milo play like that with another dog. We also got to meet my sister's dog when they visited for Christmas.

I hope you all enjoy these pictures of our little doggie family. Thank you so much for rescuing Milo and Sox and not giving up on them for years and years. We love them so much!

Andrea



Milo &
Sox

Balu's adopter shared these pictures of him enjoying his first Christmas in his forever home!



Balu

You guys might remember Max (now “Woody”), the shepherd-hound mix that you got from Powhatan in the latter part of 2011. I adopted him from you on 3/25/2012. He LOVES to chase a ball, and when he returns it, he puts it on the picnic table bench EVERY time, so that you can pick it up and throw it again! He’s a smart, sweet, funny, demanding, and very energetic dog. He barks too much (grrr!), but he’s part shepherd, so there you have it.

I just thought you might enjoy knowing that he is doing great and gets LOTS of attention EVERY day!

Liza



Woody

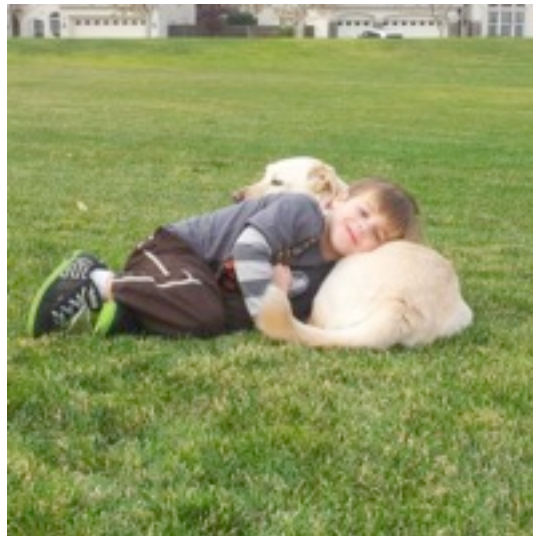


Seasons Greetings from the Harryman family! We just wanted to give you an update on "Sugar" formally named Paige. We adopted her in the spring of 2008. Sugar has been the most amazing family dog!!! We love her so very much..and our 3 kids are Sugars favorite people. She still has some fear issues with strangers...especially men..But she has gotten so much better. She is about 7 now..and in great health. We hope BARK is doing well ..We are so thankful for your organization and all that you do placing animals in their forever homes.

Blessings to you!

The Harrymans

Lisa, Eric, Gracie, J.C and Nate



Sugar

If you have adopted a dog from BARK and have a Happy Tail or other contribution for the monthly newsletter, please forward it to robin@barkva.org.

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Anytime is a
good time to
donate to
BARK!

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Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductable. 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 mail your donation directly to the address below or make a secure donation online at www.barkva.org. Remember, every penny makes a difference in the life of a BARK dog!

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

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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. Please consider using these sites when shopping for your friends and loved ones this holiday season...

- ❖ In addition to monetary donations, is always in need of various pet care and administrative items. To view a complete inventory of “wish list” items, please visit <http://www.barkva.org/Volunteer.aspx>.
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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!

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