

BARK Community Newsletter
May 2014

www.barkva.org

804-449-BARK

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

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Happy Belated Mother's Day from the Rescue Dogs - "The Reason"

I would've died that day if not for you.
I would've given up on life if not for your kind eyes.
I would've used my teeth in fear if not for your gentle hands.
I would have left this life believing that all humans don't care
Believing there is no such thing as fur that isn't matted
skin that isn't flea bitten
good food and enough of it
beds to sleep on
someone to love me
to show me I deserve love just because I exist.
Your kind eyes, your loving smile, your gentle hands
Your big heart saved me...

You saved me from the terror of the pound,
Soothing away the memories of my old life.
You have taught me what it means to be loved.
I have seen you do the same for other dogs like me.
I have heard you ask yourself in times of despair
Why you do it
When there is no more money, no more room, no more homes
You open your heart a little bigger, stretch the money a little tighter
Make just a little more room...to save one more like me.
I tell you with the gratitude and love that shines in my eyes
In the best way I know how
Reminding you why you go on trying.

I am the reason
The dogs before me are the reason
As are the ones who come after.
Our lives would've been wasted, our love never given
We would die if not for you
Happy belated Mother's Day to you from all your rescue dogs

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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 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 **17** dogs found loving homes in April including Jack Bassett 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.



Jack
Bassett

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Adoption Spotlight: Corey, Digger, Fudge, Ghost, Jessie, and Gray

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).

“Mr. Corey is a water loving bundle of energy,” says his volunteer friend. “Every week when I arrive to clean his kennel he’s usually wearing more of the water than he actually drank. Corey would do best in a home with someone that loves to be outside walking, hiking, swimming and running. He’s ok on a leash but coming along. I’m not sure how he is with other dogs but doesn’t seem too phased by all the activity around him. If given the chance he will try to jump up in your face for a sloppy kiss which usually ends up in a chin or head butt. The poor boy is so hungry for attention and love. Peanut butter Kongs are his favorite treat. If you are looking for a very loyal loving workout partner Corey is your guy!”

Corey is a 2-year-old Rottweiler/Labrador retriever mix. He weighs 53 pounds and was found as a stray by a rural county animal control before being rescued by BARK. He loves to be with his person and go on long walks. He has a soft, shiny coat. He would do well with obedience training, as he is attentive to you and very treat motivated. He is strong, but he is a very nice boy, and is he getting better about walking on a leash. He is all ready to find a family of his own and would love to meet you! View Corey’s classified ad [here](#).



Digger’s volunteer friend says this about her, “I have come to love seeing Digger when I come to the farm. She is so excited to see you and looks like she will be overpowering before you enter her kennel. However, as soon as you enter she is nuzzling and seeking your attention. All she wants is to have some attention paid to her. Walking her is a dream and then just sitting and spending time is her dream. Even being brushed with a shredder doesn’t bother her. I read she doesn’t like other dogs but I don’t believe that as I have seen her nose up to many as we go out to walk. In fact she was trailed with Hope, a sweet shepherd mix and they seemed to get along

sniffing and dancing around each other. If someone is looking for a loving dog Digger is the one. She just needs a new name as this one really does not suit her.”

Digger is a mix, maybe Labrador retriever, shepherd, and possibly some hound. She was found as a stray. She is medium sized, at around 52 pounds, and is about 6 years young. She loves her person and prefers the company of people to other dogs. She would likely be happiest in a home as an only dog. She has a beautiful smile and loves to go on walks on the trails and take a stroll on a sunny day. She is fairly easy going and likes to be right at your side. She has a gentle, kind personality. She is looking forward to having a family of her own to love and cherish. She came to BARK with her sons (Chester 2 and Magic). View Digger’s classified ad [here](#).



Digger

“My favorite BARK dog is Fudge!!” writes her volunteer friend. “She is so laid back and gentle and her story is a heart breaker. She walks exceptionally well on a leash, too. She is super affectionate and loving. What a gentle sweet temperament, that paired with how absolutely adorable she is should get her a forever home soon. Love her to death!”

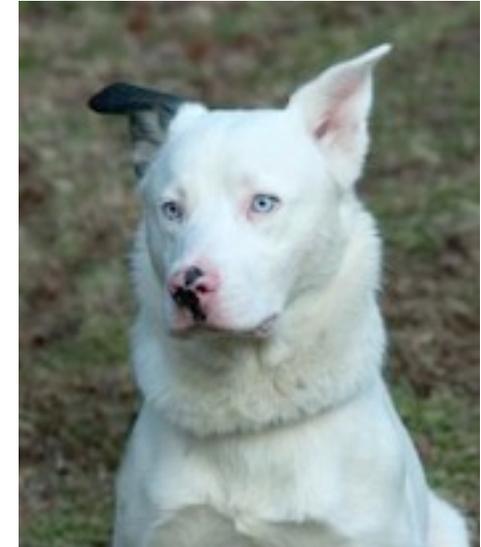
Fudge came to BARK from a rural county animal shelter. She was a stray that everyone in the neighborhood fed but no one could give her a forever home so when the weather got cold, they called animal control to come pick her up. She LOVES children, so the children in the neighborhood named her "Fudge" as she is so sweet. She was spayed before she was found as a stray, so has lived in a home before. She is around 7 years young, and weighs 33 pounds. She loves to go out on a walk and then relax with you. She gets along with some dogs, but can be choosy about her dog friends. She seems to prefer laid back male dogs who are a bit larger than she. She would probably be just as happy being the one and only dog in the home, getting all the attention herself. She is living in a kennel environment but seems to be housetrained. View Fudge’s classified ad [here](#).



Fudge

“Ghost is my favorite dog,” says his volunteer friend. “He is coming out of his shell and is a really sweet dog. He loves to show his belly and get his tummy rubbed. He even will point with his paw where he wants to be scratched. He’ll lean up against your legs and slide down. He is very comfortable being hugged, too. So far I haven’t see him show much interest in toys but maybe he will. Ghost seems more interested in getting the human touch and it seems to make him very happy. He is a great dog and I hope he will find his forever home soon.”

Ghost is a gorgeous 10-month-old shepherd mix. Ghost’s favorite part of the day is when the volunteers come to play with him. As soon as he sees them he starts turning on the charm - Big Time - showing his belly and leaning against them for a hug. He has even figured out if he looks really cute and uses his paw to point, they will scratch him. All this attention makes being in a shelter not too bad, but Ghost would sure like to have a real home to call his own with a soft bed and a permanent belly scratch-er. Ghost is house trained and will do his best to be a good boy and make you as happy as your belly rubs make him. View Ghost’s classified ad [here](#).



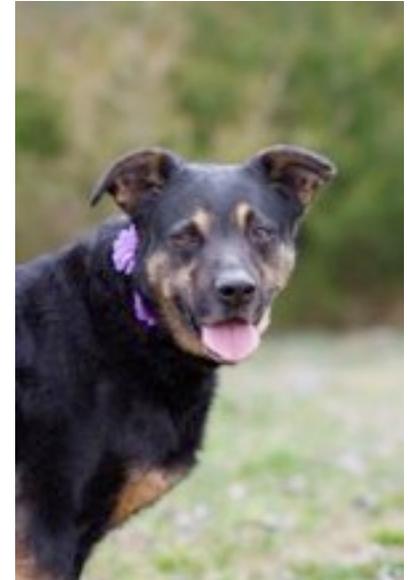
Jessie’s special friend has this to say about her, “My favorite dog vote is for Jessie. I’ve been cleaning for Jessie for what may be a couple of years. Her roommates get adopted but she still remains. Jessie has a good energy level and is very smart. She knows at least ‘sit’ and is very food driven so she should be good to train. Jessie loves a peanut butter Kong and is very dexterous and can hold the Kong with one paw while eating the peanut butter. She can be quite the lover. Without a kennelmate she seems to really enjoy getting all of the attention. Jessie just smiles and smiles while you pet her. She’s a great dog and I hope her forever person will find her soon.”

Jessie is an almost 4-years-young shepherd/Lab mix. A good medium size at 52 pounds, she has a short, easy-to-groom coat. She is athletic and loves to walk and run. Jessie would make a great jogging partner. She can jump a four-foot fence and enjoys chasing cats, so we do not recommend her in a home with furry felines. She gets along well with her male kennel mate and loves to play. Jessie needs regular exercise and would love an active family to adopt her. View Jessie’s classified ad [here](#).



“One of our special Oldies but Goodies, Gray, got a special outing on Saturday,” says shelter manager Linda. “She went to both the Fireman’s Extravaganza and The Pet’s Mart Adoption Stand. She just loved every minute of it, soaking up all the attention she could and leaning in on every human she could find. She even let kids lean over her. On the way back to the shelter she got her own hamburger on a bun. Gray rides very well in the car without a crate. She wasn’t sure what to make of the open car windows but I’ll bet by the next outing or two she’ll learn to stick her head out and let her ears flap away. She is an older girl and has been at the farm far too many years. It is way past time for her to have a loving family and forever home. She is easy to handle, no tugging, and would be great as a companion. She is very low energy and I think could be a good couch potato. Gray is a little dog picky but seems to ignore most other canines. She was fine among all the other dogs and many, many people. She is a love.”

Gray is a shepherd mix who is a little over 6 years young. She is a nice medium sized girl who weighs approx. 47 pounds. She absolutely loves people and really enjoys taking walks and being a part of your day. When she's with you, you become her whole world and she has total focus on you! Gray has been with us for awhile now. When she first came in, she was not very well socialized with other dogs. She really tried, but she was just pretty grumpy with others dogs. She is now in a part of our rescue where she has a large area to run and play, along with many other dogs to play with. Gray is just happy as can be, running with the big (and little dogs) having the time of her life! With the right environment this girl will thrive and be an absolute joy. She is a wonderful mature dog who loves people and she will flourish with someone that will take time to be with her, train her and most of all love her. Training will not be hard as she is very treat motivated and thrives on attention and praise. Please consider this sweet, loving and very loyal girl for adoption. View Gray’s classified ad [here](#).



Gray

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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!!!

What better time than now - while we are all considering how we can improve ourselves, our lives and out little part of the world - to make a resolution to help the less fortunate! I have a terrific suggestion. Why not start volunteering at BARK! You will make a difference in the lives of many homeless dogs! BARK dogs are safe under our care, no matter how long it takes to find them a forever home, and they are always welcomed back should the need arise. Once a BARK dog always a BARK dog. Rescue dogs are grateful for everything they receive and will spend the remainder of their lives showing their appreciation.

Did you know that on any given day in the STATE OF VIRGINIA ALONE there are approximately 6,900 dogs in animal pounds? This does not include those dogs at rescue groups like ours. Here are a few more statistics about dogs that will knock your socks off:

Did you know that in Virginia during 2012 -

36,542 dogs were surrendered by their owner

56,800 strays were caught and taken to the pound

24,200 were reclaimed by their owner

44,566 were adopted

900 died in the pound, all alone

27,500 were euthanized for whatever reason?

So, the more volunteers we have, the more dogs we can rescue. But it takes a lot of work and we need 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 just enjoy their great personalities in a pretty rural setting. There are lots of activities that are very helpful: cleaning, walking, feeding, helping with medicines, grooming, even laundry! WE ALSO REALLY NEED DONATIONS AND FOSTER FAMILIES!!! Foster dogs get adopted much more quickly. Many dogs are calmer and better socialized when they can stay in a home instead of the shelter. There are loads of ways to help!

We appreciate all the help we can get and so do the dogs! Thanks for thinking about this and please pass it on to others. You can contact me, Linda Lane at: billindaphoto@mindspring.com or call me at 804-883-7740 to set-up a time to try volunteering, consider fostering or arrange to drop off donated supplies.

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 alone 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 *Samuel Alam, Cliff Ballena, Bailey Shae Boyd, Moriah Carper, Ashley Cook, Sarah Douglas, Mark Eckert, Waell Elmisorati, Michael Hackett, Harry Hamilton, Emily Ho, Simon Kang, Richard Katz, Janet Lewis, Samantha Lint, Tom McPeck, Kara Oley, Bridget Panas, Sabastian Peebles, Emma Stafford, Stewart Wesley and Mikhail Zaborskiy.*

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Mark Your Calendar

Friday, May 16th- Pups on the Patio!!! BARK is excited to start another fun season of our Pups on the Patio fundraisers. After the initial kick-off, the events will be held on the fourth Friday of the month (weather permitting) from 5:30 - 8:00 on the patio of Bar Louie in Short Pump. We'll have various items to raffle off each month to raise money for BARK dogs in need of extensive vet care. If you have an item that you'd like to donate to the raffle, or would like to help solicit donations from local vendors, please email claire@barkva.org. We hope to see you at Bar Louie in April for an evening of good food, friends, and supporting a great cause!

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Notes From the Farm: By Rolph

Hi there friends!

April was a pretty good month at the BARK farm! The weather was really nice, so I enjoyed going on lots of long walks (my absolute favorite thing to do other than riding in a car) and I got to see a lot of my favorite volunteers. The new and improved outside play pen has really been useful and it truly is escape-proof. Even my buddy Larry can't get out! That was such a great idea and I can't wait until we have more like it.

Unfortunately, our scheduled kick-off for Pups on the Patio got rained out, but we've rescheduled for Friday May 16th. Fingers crossed the weather cooperates because it sure is going to be a good time. I might even make an appearance! There will be adoptable BARK dogs and volunteers helping to sell raffle tickets to raise money for some of my friends that need extensive medical care. I heard there are going to be some pretty cool things there like a handmade end table with a dog bed underneath, doggie themed gift baskets, and plenty of gift certificates. Hey, even if you just come out and grab a drink and a bite to eat, it's worth it! And, if you want to swing by and pick me up (or another of my friends) for a night out on the town, that's even better!

Lastly, I've mentioned it before but we still desperately need some more volunteers to help on Mondays and Wednesdays at the farm. If you can help, just shoot her an email at billindaphoto@mindspring.com.

Until next time...



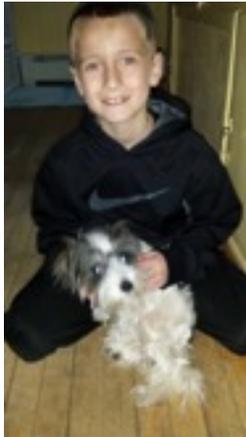
Rolph

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Happy Tails...Waggin' Good News

Chance is doing great. It's hard to get a picture of him as he is so active. Here's one of him with one of my grandsons, and one sitting with my husband, and one with myself. We have changed his name to Charlie, which everyone says fits him well, and he already responds to it. He is eating well and playing and does well sleeping at night in his crate. I made some videos of him which I will send if you are interested. He's a cutie and making friends with our little Shi-Tzu, Porche. I'm sure they will be best of friends in the near future. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely, Carol



Charlie

Hi, this is Trixie. I just wanted to tell you that life is good and I want to thank you for finding me a forever home that has sooo much love!



Trixie



Just wanted to give you a quick update about Ellis. He is doing great!

He and Trixie love being around each other and they play together a lot. He's so affectionate and fun! Thank you very much for facilitating the adoption. It seems like he has been with us for a long time but it has only been a couple of months.

Liz and Jewel



Ellis

I had a feeling that I was adopting one of BARK's favorites when I took him home. It was pretty obvious that he'd been there for a long time and it seemed like everyone there, you included had a bond with him. I'm not surprised that you miss him and I'm happy to send stories and pics periodically if you or anyone else wants to see them. But, I'm happy to have him and he's been a great pal.

As far as adjusting to the house, I'd say I did more than he did. I'm a neat freak so adjusting to cleaning up shedding fur a couple times a day was about the worst of it (and nose prints on the door). He did a lot of shedding when he first got home and kept it up when the weather warmed up. But he's had a couple baths (which you probably know, he hates) and it's under control now. I couldn't have asked for a better dog in the house, especially when I'm gone. There's never a thing out of place that I haven't given him (toys, stuffies, chewables). Everything else, shoes included, is always right where I've left it. He's started sleeping on his bed at night and if I'm sitting on the couch, that's usually where he wants to be.

I eased him into my work schedule and I usually drop by in the afternoon to take him out if I'm going to have a long day. He's made friends with co-workers who



have been with me when we're on our way to lunch. Every morning that I run since that first week he's been with me, and when I get home at night we go on a long walk or to a park nearby until he's about played out (he once picked up his frisbee, walked it over to a shady spot under a tree and plopped down for a nap). In the morning he's better than my alarm clock and he's always excited to go out and run, hike or play. Sometimes he gets excited enough that he'll start hopping around. He's met a lot of my other friends (I think there's a certain 2 year old who thinks he's just the best thing ever), including a friend's golden retriever puppy that he hit it off with and this morning he met some friends with a whippet. He's got some socializing to do with other dogs (especially the high energy ones) and people. So, that's what we do. On the weekends, if I'm going somewhere I can take him, he's with me. This afternoon, he hung out with his water dish at an outdoor cafe while I had lunch.

We do have some training issues we're working on (alpha dog stuff mostly) but he's learning. And I think as he socializes more he'll calm down around strangers. But people I introduce him to, he loves and the feeling is mutual. He's sweet and he's gentle and turns into their best friend as soon as he gets a scratch. He's great off leash so if I'm in an open area away from roads or that's fenced in, I'll let him run and he's great at recall and has learned that he gets certain things when he does those commands. So sometimes he'll try to cut to the chase and get a reward by just doing it.

In a nutshell, things are going very well for him and I think he's a pretty happy hound.

Jared



Titus

Just wanted to say THANK YOU for taking the time and putting in all the effort to save Riley and her pups one year ago. One of the puppies (Jake) became our Charlie. Charlie had a rough start to his life, being born on the side of a road is not the best way to come into this world. Thanks to you guys, mom and her pups were rescued, taken care of and adopted out to their forever homes. We had the privilege of adopting Jake, now named Charlie, and he has been a wonderful addition to our family. He has a sweet and loving personality and adores everyone including his doggie sister Daisy (another rescue) and our 3 girls. We could not imagine our lives without this wonderful guy.

The Farrey Family



Charlie



I was reading the newsletter. I thought I would give you all an update on Rocky (aka Raccoon). We adopted him in end of April 2010, so coming up on our 4th anniversary. We could never had asked for a more well behaved dog. He has some phobias like scared of rain! He does get a little pushy about the treats sometimes, but he is such a member of the family. He even gets along well with the cats. We even take him on vacation with us, he loves to ride. Above picture Rocky is sunny himself on enclosed porch while we were vacationing in the Outer Banks. He loved the beach walks. Thanks again for all you do and such a great dog.

Louis and Kathy



Rocky



A while ago we adopted a beagle mix called Big Tom. I never thought that I would love a pet as much as Tiny, the fox terrier I had as a child. Well, we have come to love Toby (Big Tom just didn't fit) even more than Tiny. I'm sorry to say that we discovered by accident that he was abused by a previous owner. A few months ago I had a yard stick in my hand to measure something. When Toby saw it, he ran into a corner and cowered there, shaking. Poor guy! We do not punish him for anything. His favorite thing to do is to go with us in the car. Of course, we have to be very careful about the weather. We would never do anything to harm him. My wife calls him my Velcro Dog. He follows me from room to room. Well, I just wanted you to know that this is another success story for you. He is happy, contented, and has NEVER growled or snapped at anyone. Our neighbors all love him.

Dan and Joan



Big Tom



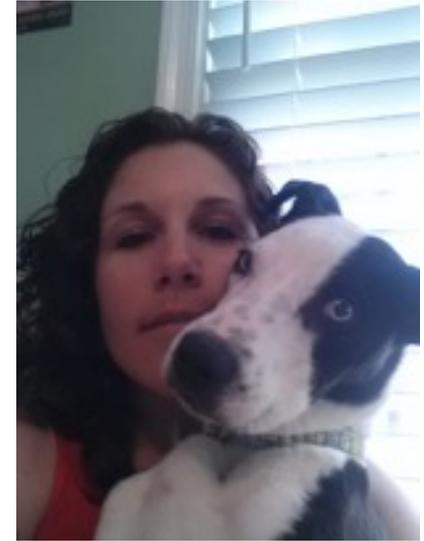
Ben seems to be doing great!! He is doing well. We had a tough time with the crate; he does not like crates at all!!! So he is free roaming the house, the kitchen and den....and is doing well. He seems to be adjusting VERY, VERY well. I have to admit, this dog is not a dog, he is a child! He is so super amazing and just loving, I have never seen anything like it!!!! He is at home will lots of toys that he really doesn't play with much and a big old KONG stuffed with treats, if he can get them out!!! It keeps him busy. And he watches cartoons all day. He has a pretty cool life I hope. Oh, and he sleeps in the bed with me - I know very bad, but I love it because he is soooooo snuggly and awesome.

He will crawl into my lap at the dinner table, sit there and just lay his head on my shoulder. He is by far the most amazing dog ever. He doesn't like cats - I found that out walking him in my neighborhood!!!! I take him on lots of walks. We have been to the park and the dog park-he loves it. And I walk him in the am before I go to work. I have gotten some of those dog chews for anxiety just so he doesn't nut out and seems to be doing extremely well!!! He loves the treats and I think they keep him chill...I did take off work yesterday and worked all day with him, leaving for a few hours at a time and coming back chilling with him and then leaving again, so he knows his mommy is coming back. And this week and next I will be going home each day just to say hello and check on him. Today when I got there, he was good. I miss him so much- I can't wait to get home.

He is a VERY, VERY smart dog-he really is. I need to get him into some classes so he will learn more things. He has a vet appointment next week so I can get him on some heartworm meds. So far, Ben and I are EXTREMELY compatible and I hope this continues. It's only been two and half days....I just pray he and I make all the adjustments necessary to spend the rest of our lives together because he is amazing.



Ben



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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- \$75

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Other Ways to Support

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...

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