

Community Newsletter
September 2014

www.barkva.org

804-449-BARK

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

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Corporate Challenge

Attention dog loving employees, employers, schools, organizations, corporations, any size business... put your energy where your heart is and join others helping us help save and care for the dogs at BARK.

Southern States , Capital One, Target, University of Richmond, Randolph Macon, [Charter House Schools](#), Virginia Commonwealth University, numerous Sororities and Fraternities ...all have organized groups of folks and teams who volunteer during the week and/or weekends, once a month and/or once a week or on alternating weeks to help care for the dogs at the farm.

We have come to rely on these groups who have become regular, die hard, dependable volunteers and would be hard pressed to take care of all the dogs without all these additional helping hands. We'll work within your schedule and do all we can to get you started.

Won't you make this a part of your giving back program, your community service outreach? Lots of people choose Habitat for Humanity, why not Rescuing Hands for Canines? Talk with your managers to see if you too can organize some of your fellow workers/employees who would love helping to care for these homeless dogs while they wait for their perfect forever home. Many people have no idea how huge a need there is for saving homeless animals.

If you are interested in learning more, call Linda Lane at 804 883 7740 or e-mail her at billindaphoto@mindspring.com.

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Mark Your Calendar

BARK will be holding the next Pups on the Patio event on **Friday, September 26th**, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. BARK volunteers, supporters, and some adoptable dogs will be on the patio of Bar Louie in Short Pump helping to raise money with some great raffle items for BARK dogs in need of extensive care. It's a great opportunity to bring your favorite 4-legged friend out for some great food, cold drinks, and good company - all for an amazing cause!

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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 **29** dogs found loving homes in August including Aster and Monday 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: Brando, Pumpkin, and Spirit

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).

“Brando is my favorite (and my son’s),” says his volunteer friend. “He’s an all-around friendly guy. Everyone wants to meet him, pet him & talk about him. He LOVES water! We always seem to mosey to the doggie pool. He loves to sit for you to pet or brush him. A couple weeks ago we found out by accident that he high fives! He rarely barks, but loves to sniff. He has a sparkle in his eye & loves to stroll along the trails. He’s a confident boy, and will listen. He would be a great catch for an active family life & would be a loyal companion.”

Named after Marlon Brando, our Brando is a handsome and regal 3-year-old mixed breed who appears to be part Dutch shepherd, Labrador retriever, and mastiff. He is quite a gentleman, and we have been impressed with him. He gets along fine with most other dogs. We think he will be a nice addition to a family and a loyal, affectionate companion. He loves to take long walks on the trails and loves to be close to you, at your side. He is attentive, a fast learner, and will do well with training as he's so eager to learn. Brando would do best in an all adult home or a home with older children as very young children can make him a bit nervous. He would make a wonderful companion for an active family and would absolutely love a home with a nice, fenced in yard where he can run and play to his heart's content! He is ready to find a family to share lots of good times with. View Brando’s classified ad [here](#).



Brando

“Pumpkin has quickly become one of my favorites in row 7,” says her volunteer friend. “She was very timid at first but now gets very excited to see me and loves her peanut butter kong treat. She also looks forward to fresh shavings so she can make a nice comfy bed. Pumpkin is so sweet and just wants to go for a walk or get a belly rub. She is a jumper so would need exercise and a high fence to keep her from escaping. She has never shown signs of aggression around the dogs in the kennel and never barks or gets overly excited with all the activity around her. Pumpkin is a true sweetheart!”

Pumpkin is an adorable 4-year-old Labrador retriever mixed with spaniel or hound. She is a good medium size at 43 pounds and has a short, easy to groom coat. Pumpkin is energetic. She loves to play and take long walks. She would make an excellent jogging partner

for an active person. Pumpkin is smart, eager to please, and loves to learn. She gets along well with most dogs as long as they are not dominant and are introduced correctly. Pumpkin is very affectionate. She loves to get attention and have her belly rubbed. She also rides very well in a car. She is ready to be your newest best friend! Pumpkin graduated from our prison training program in June 2014, and knows some nice obedience commands. View Pumpkin's classified ad [here](#).



Pumpkin



Spirit's volunteer friend says this about her: "Spirit is a sweet, loveable mixed breed. She's small and easy to handle. She's lost one of her hind legs, but that doesn't bother her. She gets along just fine and loves to take walks. When I go into her kennel, she just nuzzles up to me and wants to be loved. She's easy on a leash and gets along with most dogs. She's house-trained and a recent graduate of BARK's prison program, so she has some additional training to understand certain commands. And did I mention that she's so sweet? She's waiting patiently for that special someone out there who's looking for a loving companion. Maybe it's you!"

Spirit is a young 30-lb beagle/terrier mix. She was found as a stray but is well socialized and great with people. View Spirit's classified ad [here](#).



Spirit



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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 and volunteers for cleaning kennels (call Linda Lane at 804-883-7740).
- Donations of water at the kennels!



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 our 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. For those interested in volunteering on Saturdays and/or Sundays, ORIENTATIONS: Arranged on an as needed basis but every Saturday at 11:00 a.m., orientations are conducted by Richard or Claire. Bring your application/waiver and make sure you have completed the required reading.

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 by allowing volunteers, once they are trained, to clean any time during the day they chose to help. 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 from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm) We have morning, late afternoon and evening crews on these days. BUT we do not have volunteers there throughout the day.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: A couple of Volunteers start around noon. Others come after work.

Saturdays and Sundays: Volunteers start coming anywhere from 10:30 a.m. (or earlier).

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

For safety reasons, we need to request the following:

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 *Jess Abrams, Chris Bailey, Matt Bergthold, Justin Brewer, Ryan Carstons, Rachel Crump, Rebekah, Kimberly & Bradley Elgin, Ryan Henderson, Chris Hutton, Hannah Leedle, Jingwen Liao, Cassidy Lowther, Nicole Maurer, Christine Melnyczenko, Melaine Michaud, Michelle, Nathaniel & Alexander Newsom, Nikola Novak, Sean Pederson, Cecelia Quinones, Lauren Schutjer, Kathleen Serpa, Saifali Shaikh, Marcus Shands, Allison Tames, Thuy Tran, Henry Trinh, Jeff Weinert, and Jessica Westberry.*

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Notes From the Farm

Hi there!

I'm Kelley and I'm your new BARK spokesdog!!! My buddy Rolph passed the torch to me since he's enjoying life in his foster home (super happy for him) and it's hard for him to keep up with everything here at the farm. But, I'm happy to step in! You see, I've been here for over four years - almost as long as Rolph - and I'm hoping that this gig will get me some more exposure and hopefully a home of my own (hey, I'm 12 now - I deserve a retirement home!).

Anyway, things are going really well at the kennels. There don't seem to be quite as many dogs coming in as we've had in the past, but that's really a good thing. It's much less chaotic and everyone seems to get along much better since we all have our own space. A number of my old pals have been adopted recently, including Titus.

We've also got an awesome trainer named Bill Howard that's been coming out to work with a number of us, including my pal Biscuit and Rex. He own's Top Dog Canine Behavioral Training and he's got a lot of really good ideas and tricks to help handle some of the more challenging dogs and just really good ideas in general for the volunteers. I'm just so happy he's helping out! I can already see the difference!

Make sure you mark your calendars for the next Pups on the Patio event (Friday, September 26) at Bar Louie in Short Pump. Hopefully I'll even get to make an appearance!

Until next time!

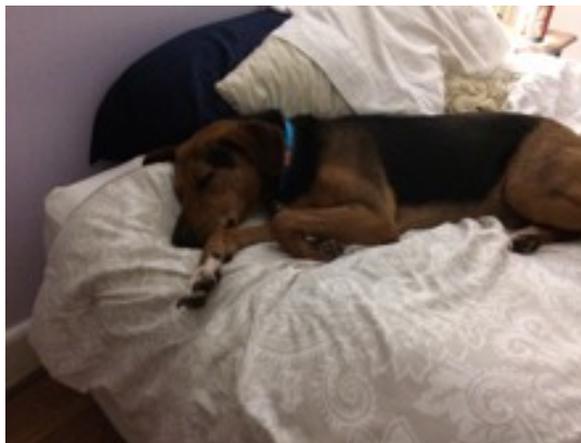


Kelley

Happy Tails...Waggin' Good News

I'm writing to give an update on Aster who I decided to rename Holden! He has been better than I could imagine! He knows all his commands, is completely house trained and loved to cuddle (my favorite part!). He loves his walks and we have started visiting a nearby dog park every afternoon and on special days we make a trip to the river! He is my shadow and an extremely handsome one at that! He has brought me so many smiles and so much joy in the short time I've had him. I can't wait for many more years with this loving boy. I'm SOOOO lucky to have found him :)

Aubrey



Holden

So, we've had Olive for a week now and she is doing great! The first couple of days she was a crazy dog:) Jumping up on the tables, trying to take our food, ect.....but she has calmed down nicely. She is so sweet and lovable! She is doing well with her crate too. She sleeps in it at night and doesn't complain:) She spends a lot of time on our bed during the day just sleeping with her rawhide! She loves our bed for some reason. She has from day one. We all love her so much and she is such a great dog! Thank you for her. I'll keep you posted and send you a picture soon.

Regards,

Cassandra (no photo included)

Thanks for checking on us! We decided to change Midnight's name to Daisy, which really suits her :) She is doing so well and has really made so much progress. She went from only wanting to stay in her crate, to being lazy on the couch with Daphne, to feeling comfortable enough to explore different areas of the house. She enjoys playing with toys with Daphne and she gets very excited about dinner time. As soon as she hears the scoop in the food bin, she jumps up and hops around like a bunny. Daisy is still very shy, but the progress she has made in the past few weeks is amazing! She is definitely feeling more confident and more comfortable each and every day. She has a such a sweet and loving personality. Madison and I are completely in love with her. Daphne and Daisy are just great together and compliment each other very well.

I am attaching some pictures of them together. They really do look like twins...they have fooled me a couple times!
Thanks so much for all that you do!

Cassidy



Daisy

Frodo, aka Fred 2, has been a wonderful addition to our family. Him and Duchess play together and seem to hit it off from day one. Frodo tends to follow me around everywhere I go. I think he has become a mamma's boy. lol.

We will keep in touch with his progress. Thank you for adding such a wonderful boy to our family. We love him and he acts like he has been with us forever already. Fits right in to the family.

Mark, Beverly, Gma and Duchess (no photo included)

We adopted Kyra and renamed her Lilly. She is already a big part of our family. She and Chloe get along well. She is such a great dog! We were thrilled to find out she already knows so many commands (sit, down, shake, drop it, come). She is still house broken and is obviously used to a crate. Nothing like adopting a pre-trained dog!! I have attached a couple pics. Thanks for your help!

Florence



Lilly

Clifford's been on the couch in front of the ac loving life enjoying the quiet! He's slept nearly the whole time !! We already love him! Call it fate I guess!

Rachel



Clifford



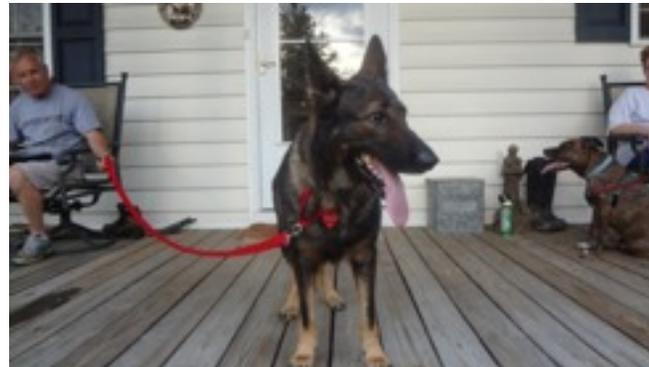
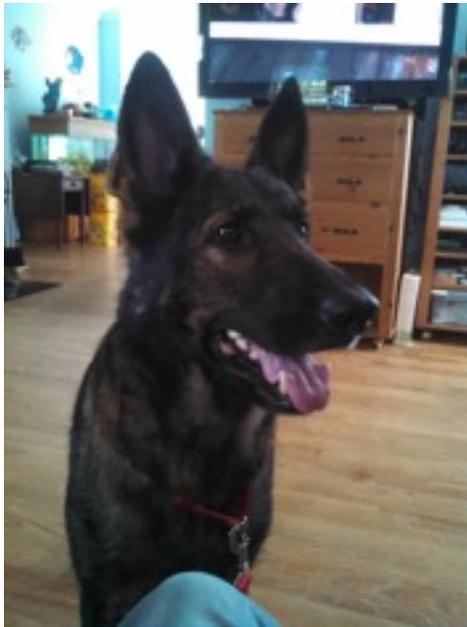
I thought I would let you know Breezy is settling in very well. She could care less about the cats. A couple of hours after she came home Coco rolled over and exposed her belly to Breezy. This is a big submissive move!

We have been calling her Reese or Reesy and she is responding to it so that is probably going to be her name.

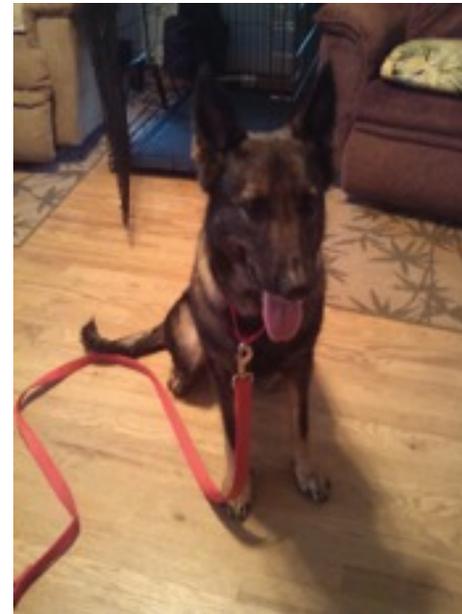
She knows sit and heel a little bit. She acts like she has been taught not to get on furniture as she will only put her front legs and chest on. Everyone went on a walk this evening with no issues. She pulls a little on the leash but I don't think it will take long to teach her not to pull. She also enjoys playing with a frisbee.

We have set up a crate for her and she goes in on her own to relax and lay down. So overall a very successful day! :)

Sue



Breezy



Here are some great new pictures from Jared, who adopted one of our oldies but goodies, Titus. He sure looks happy in his forever home!



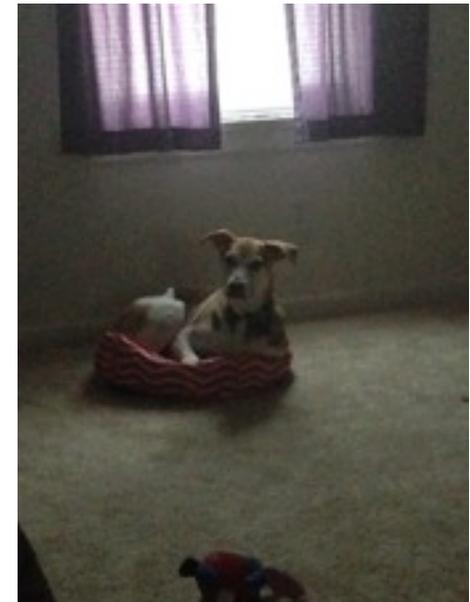
Titus

Ares (Cammo) is doing amazing. He really is a perfect fit for us. He is leashed trained and we are on week 2 of his obedience training. He is extremely well behaved. We had a few dominance problems, but that was quickly nipped in the bud. I have quite a few pictures on my phone I will send them on a different email. My wife and I were just saying the other day how lucky we were to get a call back about him. We have so many memories with Ares and we have barely had him!! Thank you so much for allowing us to give Ares(Cammo) a second chance. Perfect fit for us!

Brian and Alexandria

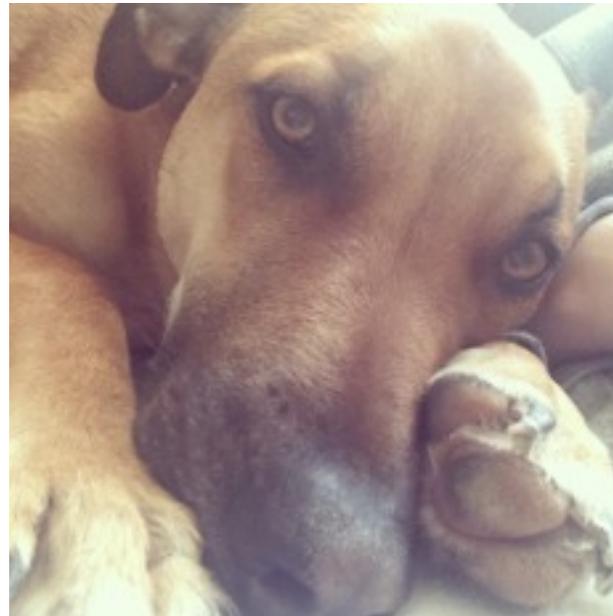
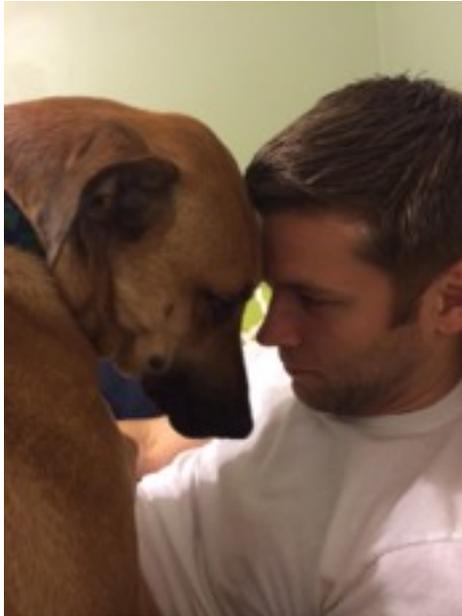


Ares



We've had Ike for a year now so I thought it was time for an update. He is just the absolute best. We are so thankful to have him. He is sweet, funny, and protective of his family. He's come with us on many adventures in the last year.. Up to NJ to visit family and down to NC to go to the beach. He brings so much joy to our family! We could not imagine life without him. We also DNA tested him and found out he is half pure bred German Shepherd and half Belgian Malinois/Belgian Tervuren Cross. Pretty interesting! Thanks for all you do for these pups and the lucky families who get to give them a home!

Tonia, Derek, Carter and Ike



Ike

We adopted Hazel (a.k.a. “Diamond”) nearly a year ago from B.A.R.K.! Some pics are attached. I wanted to let you know that I submitted a picture of Hazel and some info about her to NBC 12’s “Picture your Pet” and she was chosen!!! It aired Monday morning (9/8) and as you’ll hear (I attached the clip, as well) we gave a big, well-deserved shout out to B.A.R.K.! We thought you could possibly use it to spread the word about B.A.R.K.’s amazing work and it’s many success stories. At the very least, we wanted you all to know how much we appreciate and admire your dedication to all the Hazels out there! Update on Hazel:

We adopted Hazel in early October 2013. While she was strikingly beautiful (truly), that wasn't the reason we chose to meet her. You all had listed her as great with kids, which was a must considering we have 4 children! She was not misrepresented in the least! She is so incredibly patient with them and actually thrives on the chaos that they so often create! She's a cuddler of the highest order and asks for nothing from us but belly rubs when we can spare them.

She was by no means a perfectly trained dog when we got her and we didn't expect her to be. But she has come so far in the past year. She no longer chases our cats or eats their food, only chews up a fraction of the valuables she once did, rarely frets in her crate when we leave, and our yard is no longer a minefield of pits and holes! While she required a great deal of patience, we never once doubted our commitment to love and care for her for the rest of her years. We hope that other new adopters of shelter dogs will follow suit and patiently work with their pups and not get discouraged---all the effort more than pays off--- the loyalty they offer in return is invaluable! We've so enjoyed watching Hazel grow into the most amazing dog ever. Thank you for bringing us all together!

Best,

Emily and Timur, all the kiddos, and Hazel's two purring pals



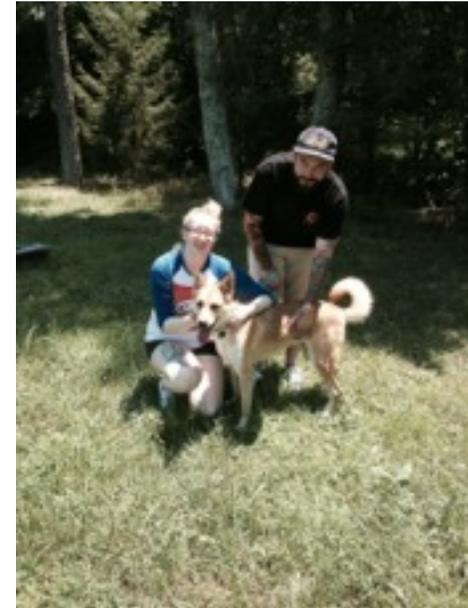
Hazel

There's a really good place right near where we live so we're taking her this week to get registered and everything, and get her nails trimmed for the first time, she likes to hug and they're getting sharp. She's doing great, we haven't even set the crate up or anything and she hasn't made a mess or had an accident or anything while we're gone. She gets walked before and after work and I come home on my lunch breaks and take her out too. She even sleeps in our bed with us. Thank you so much again for everything, it means a lot to us. I'm very glad we have her in our life. Here's the photo from that day.

Chris



Neko



Bear is doing great!! We love him so much! He and Charlotte were instant best friends, play nonstop and are pretty much inseparable. :-). Our cat Louie has gotten used to him and maybe even likes him. :-). We all love him - he is gentle and respectful and obedient and protective and sweet and soft!! He seems to be very happy here.

Melissa



Bear

We wanted to share this great picture of Monday, one of BARK's oldies but goldies, on her adoption day!



Monday

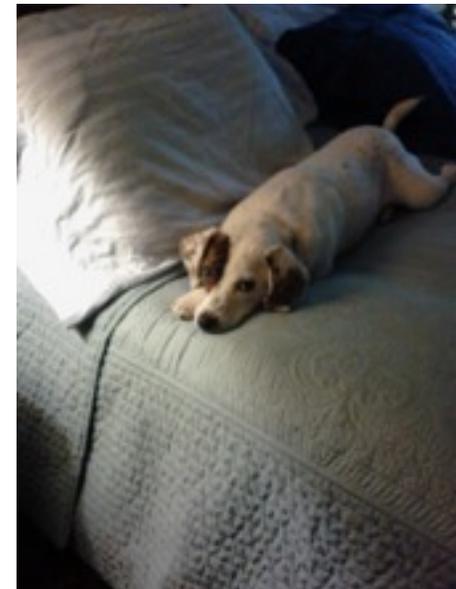


Who rescued who? That's what we are wondering! We were broken hearted when our beloved Shepherd mix (also a rescue dog) passed away. Then our daughter (who also has a BARK rescue dog) found Miss Wiggles (now named Anna) on the BARK web site and that was that! We adopted her on Father's Day last year and she has become part of our lives so easily! We adore her and can't thank BARK enough for saving all of these wonderful dogs! Anna has a "forever home" here!!

Gratefully, Dan and Christine



Anna



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.

Anytime is a
good time to
donate to
BARK!

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

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:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$75

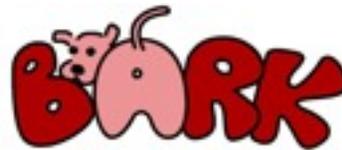
- \$100
- \$125
- Other _____

Gift given in honor of _____

Gift given in memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____



P.O. Box 1682
Glen Allen, VA 23060
info@barkva.org
804-449-BARK (2275)

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...

- ❖ 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>.
- ❖  merchandise, such as apparel for you and your pet, housewares, and bumper stickers are now available online at www.cafepress.com. Check it out!
- ❖ If you shop at Food Lion, BARK is now a charity with their MVP rewards. To register your MVP card, visit <http://www.foodlionmvpwards.com/>.
- ❖ **How can you make searching and shopping for that perfect gift even more perfect? Use iGive, where with ever transaction a portion goes to benefit BARK. Raise a penny (or more) per search and generate donations from any of the 730+ stores listed with iGive, ranging up to 26%. Also, check out the new searchable coupons and deals, where you will find all available, up to the minute offers and specials. Just visit www.igive.com.**
- ❖ GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! You can even set GoodSearch as your default search engine.

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