

KGARL NEWS

Quarterly News of the King George Animal Rescue League

Volume 11, Issue 1

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Web: www.kgarl.org

Letter from the President

I first want to welcome Kim Boshela (VP) and Dani Christ (Secretary) to the KGARL Board. I look forward to working with them in the upcoming year in addition to our returning board members Deb Silber (Treasurer) and Michele Shipman (Member at Large).

We hope to continue to increase KGARL membership in 2009. Melissa Bowler joined at our January meeting and became our 1st new member this year! We are confident she's going to be a great asset to KGARL! We recently received 3 new applications so we're off to a great start!

During 2008 the Board took a hard look at the cost, both in time and money, of fostering and placing animals. We fostered and found loving forever homes for 12 dogs and 11 cats at a cost of more than \$250 per animal. Their average time in foster care was approximately 4-1/2 months. We helped a total of 167 cats and 53 dogs at the King George Animal Control Shelter at an average cost of less than \$10 per animal. Our assistance included transports, pulling for individuals (2 dogs and 3 cats) and rescues (4 dogs and 5 cats), providing medical care (24 dogs and 6 cats), etc. I'm so excited to tell you that the euthanasia rate for dogs at the shelter dropped from 41% in 2006 to 12% in 2008. The rate for cats dropped from 80% to 18%. It became very clear that KGARL can help more animals by working closely with the shelter and other rescue groups. In 2009, we plan to continue our focus on moving animals from the shelter to other rescues. Special thanks go out to Dani Christ and Vicki Tate who spend countless hours contacting rescues and arranging transports. Please read Dani's article on page 5 for more information on what made these drastic decreases possible.

Finally, we have some wonderful fundraising events coming up. You'll see us again at the King George Builder's Show. We're in the early stages of planning our 2nd Annual Trails & Tails Dog Walk and the OFB's are busy planning the 2nd Annual Poker Run. I encourage you to come out and volunteer a couple of hours – we have a lot of fun and the animals of King George benefit tremendously!

I'm excited about the upcoming year and believe that with your help, KGARL will continue to make a difference.

Paula Bailey

President, KGARL

Upcoming Events

Feb 8 – PetSmart Adoption Day

Feb 16 – KGARL Meeting

Mar 7 & 8 – King George Home and Craft Show

Mar 8 – PetSmart Adoption Day

March 16 – KGARL Meeting

April 12 – PetSmart Adoption Day

April 20 – KGARL Meeting

May 10 – PetSmart Adoption Day

May 18 – KGARL Meeting

Please see our "Upcoming Events" forum on www.kgarl.org for more details.

KGARL has Spay & Neuter Money for DOGS of King George Residents
spay@kgarl.org

888-542-7582

See page 8 for details

Recently Adopted KGARL Pets

KGARL currently does not have any pets in foster care. To see the most up to date foster pets, please visit our PetFinder page at www.kgarl.petfinder.com. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help us review applications, please contact KGARL at info@kgarl.org. KGARL has been focusing our efforts on moving the animals from King George Animal Control to other rescues. This allows us to save more animals with our limited resources.



Honey – Adopted by the Shipman Family of King George

“Honey’s life started off pretty ruff. She was living outside with two dogs from a previous litter when she found herself pregnant again. A few days away from giving birth, Honey and the other two dogs were surrendered to the King George pound! Luckily, KGARL found out about her story and decided to take Honey into our group. Honey delivered 11 beautiful babies on September 24, 2007 and they all quickly found homes. Month after month went by and Honey patiently waited for her forever home, then we passed the one year mark and she was still waiting. We were all wondering if Honey would ever find her home, but the truth was that she knew she already had. On January 31st, 2009 we filled out the adoption application and formally made Honey a permanent part of our family! “



Bones – Adopted by the Lapp Family of Fredericksburg

“Bones has a new name! The girls named him "Leroy" on the way back Wednesday night. Dr. Andi thought Leroy looked great but could stand to gain 3-4 pounds gradually. Of course, they all fell in love with him. He’s asleep on the floor behind me in our office as I type this. He’s really starting to feel comfortable and relaxed, though he’s still trying to figure out the cats.”



Bailey – Adopted by the Coffey Family of King George

“We brought Bailey home last night, and so far so good. Actually, it’s going better than we expected between him and Trouble.

With no hesitation or fear, Bailey started exploring the house from top to bottom. I think he’s covered every corner and closet in the house -- even on top of the organ! Bailey picked Ben’s room as the safe room last night, and he slept on the desk at the end of his bunk most of the night (you know Ben loved that). We’ve already found out that he’s a climber. Ben was so excited that he jumped up onto his top bunk and he loves to play with water. He’s really a neat cat and I think he and Trouble will be playing together soon. Oh....and he’s a lot bigger than Trouble, too. I didn’t realize it until I saw the two of them together. He’s tall and long. You should see him stretched out when he’s laying down! He’s only 7 months old now --- I guess he’s going to be a big cat.”

I Rescued a Human Today

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn’t be afraid. As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn’t want her to know that I hadn’t been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn’t want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn’t feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone’s life. She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her Eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven’t walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today

Past KGARL Events

AEGIS Craft Fair

On November 14, KGARL members **Paula Bailey**, **Michele Shipman**, and **Dani Christ** set up a KGARL table at the AEGIS Craft Fair on the Dahlgren Navy Base. KGARL sold dog and cat treats and toys, along with homemade lanyards and wine charms, totaling \$165 in sales, plus \$55 in donations. Not too bad for a cold, rainy day in November.



Caledon Art and Wine Festival

The Caledon Art and Wine Festival, held on November 15, was a huge success for KGARL. Although rain struck the event, the pre-selling raffle tickets was the key! **Vicki Tate** worked tirelessly before the event soliciting businesses to donate the raffle prizes, while **Michele Shipman** and **Paula Bailey** worked to keep all the sold tickets organized. Numerous KGARL supporters sold raffle tickets for KGARL. **Marie Hannick Connor** and her husband organized the KGARL bake sale for the event, while **Brandi** and **Tim Janezeck**, **Dani Christ**, **Vicki Tate**, **Deb** and **Joe Silber**, and **Michele** and **Chris Shipman** helped man the table at the event. Near the end of the event, Officer Dobson picked the winning tickets. Congratulations to the winners of our Caledon Art and Wine Festival Raffle!



Wine and Dine: Fred P.

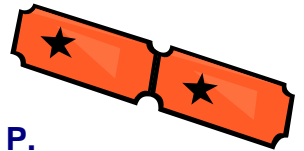
Just for Her: Jane V.

Just for Him: Lisa B.

Pampered Pup: Paul R.

Just Horsing Around: ML P.

Dinner and a Movie: Cordy D.



The table at the event brought in \$139.60, including donations. The bake sale raised \$220.51 for KGARL, while the silent auction took in \$83. With over 1800 tickets sold, the raffle brought in \$2340, for a combined total of **\$2783.11**. Thank you all for working so hard; your dedication and motivation is amazing and inspiring. The money raised will make a huge impact on the animals in King George!



Caledon Holiday Open House

On December 20, KGARL volunteers **Etta Pollack**, **Colleen Faini**, **Kim Boshela**, and **Dani Christ** participated in Caledon's first annual Holiday Open House. Etta helped children make snowflakes out of paper, and also construct a picture frame from various supplies. Dani helped children make reindeer out of clothes pins and pom-pom balls, while Kim taught children to make large bows out of ribbon. Colleen manned the KGARL table, which include a door prize with gift certificates, dog and cat treats, candles, coffee cups, and candy. Colleen also distributed information about holiday hazards for pets. Congratulations to Anita B. of Fredericksburg, the door prize winner.

Above Top: Marie and Brandi work the KGARL table. Above Middle: Vicki sells more tickets. Above Bottom: Officer Dobson pulls the winning tickets. Left to Right: KGARL Door Prize; Kim helps with crafts; Dani helps with the KGARL table.



More... Past KGARL Events

Annual KGARL Christmas Party and Monthly Meeting

KGARL's annual Christmas Party was held on December 15, after the monthly meeting. It was a pot-luck dinner that included macaroni and cheese, meatballs, pasta, homemade bread, breadsticks, salad, and cookies. There were also door prizes. A good time was had by all. In addition to the party, KGARL's new Board members were elected. Please welcome and support the new Board members in the upcoming year.

Paula Bailey – President, Foster Coordinator

Kim Boshela - Vice-President, Fundraising Coordinator

Dani Christ – Secretary, Shelter Coordinator, Adoption Coordinator, Intake Coordinator, Newsletter Editor

Deb Silber - Treasurer, Spay/Neuter Coordinator

Michele Shipman - Member-At-Large, Membership Coordinator, Grant Coordinator



Pet First Aid Class

On January 10, several KGARL members participated in an American Red Cross Pet First Aid Class. The instructor was Scott Cates, an EMT (for humans) for 6 years, in addition to a canine search and rescue trainer for 9 years. Although this class focused on canine first aid, some classes focus on both canine and feline first aid. Each participant received a canine first aid book and DVD, and KGARL received three feline first aid books and DVDs.

The class began with an overview of what is the normal for a dog. Because each dog can differ from the next, it is important to know what the norm is for your own dog. What does your dog do each day when you get home? How often does your dog go to the bathroom every day? A change in their normal behavior may indicate that something is wrong.

Next, we discussed the ABC's of first aid: airway, breathing, and circulation. Each participant practiced CPR and rescue breathing on a dog mannequin. The class also discussed other situations that could warrant first aid measures, such as choking, shock, cuts and abrasions, pad wounds, eye and ear injuries, burns, poisoning, hypothermia, heat stroke, seizures, snake bites, and bloating.

Please remember that the best first aid is PREVENTION. Your dog is relying on you to be the responsible one of your partnership. In the event of an injury or emergency, please seek medical attention from veterinarian. If you are interested in attending the next pet first aid class, please email Kim at info@kgarl.org. There is a fee associated with the class.

Top: Paula distributes a door prize to Melissa and Faith; The annual KGARL Christmas party

Left to Right: Roger feels for a pulse; Dwight practices CPR



Do You Know?

Which side of an animal is their right versus their left?

When looking at the animal from the rear, the right side of the animal is on your right side.

How to check for your dog's heartbeat?

You can feel your dog's heartbeat at about the point where their left elbow touches their chest on their inner thigh. Remember to use a light touch; if you press too hard you may not feel the pulse.

Normal temperatures for dogs?

100°- 102.5° F

Normal breathing rates for dogs?

10 – 30 breaths per minute

Normal pulse rates for dogs?

Puppy: 120 – 169 beats per minute
Small (30 lbs or less): 100 – 140
Larger: 60 – 100 beats per minute

The breaths-to-compressions ratio for dogs?

15:2 to the beat of "Stayin' Alive" by the BeeGees.

Honey?

It is a natural coagulant and antiseptic that never spoils.

King George Animal Control Update

Volunteers of King George Animal Rescue League, as well as other rescues, have been working over-time to help the animals at the King George Animal Control shelter. The final 2008 numbers are in...drum roll, please. In 2008, KGARL volunteers helped **53** dogs and **167** cats at the shelter. This included finding other rescues to take the animals, transporting the animals to the rescues, and providing vaccinations to the animals prior to transports. In addition, KGARL also helped 5 non-county individuals adopted animals from King George Animal Control, who otherwise would not have been able to adopt, such as Wendy, who is pictured to the right. We would like to send a special thanks to **Fancy Cats Rescue Team**. They pulled a total of 141 cats from the shelter during 2008. Without their incredible efforts, many of the cats would have never made it out of the shelter. KGARL member **Vicki Tate** transported the most animals from the shelter to other rescues this year, an astounding total of 37. **Kim Boshela, Stacey Hickel, Linnie Coppage** transported animals the farthest distance; all the way to New Jersey! We are always in need of transporters. Keep an eye out for the emails from KGARL's Shelter Coordinator, shelterhelp@kgarl.org, requesting transporters, and check out the decrease in the euthanasia rates below!



**D
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	2006		2007		2008	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total In:	424	100%	358	100%	417	100%
Adopted / Transferred:	138	33%	158	44%	183	44%
Euthanized:	174	41%	71	20%	51	12%

	2006		2007		2008	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total In:	297	100%	244	100%	244	100%
Adopted / Transferred:	55	18%	70	29%	186	76%
Euthanized:	235	80%	158	64%	45	18%

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Reminder: KGARL 2009 Membership Dues Are Now Due!

KGARL Membership Dues are due by the end of February each year. We are a great group of people who are united in our quest to serve the animals of King George and surrounding counties. Please consider becoming a member of KGARL today!

Membership Dues can be paid by check (made payable to KGARL) or through the PayPal link on our website, www.kgarl.org. If you choose to pay by check, you can mail your dues to KGARL, PO Box 1003, Dahlgren, VA 22448.

Membership Categories
Individual Membership - \$20 Annually
Family Membership - \$30 Annually
Student Membership - \$10 Annually

2008 Transporters

Vicki Tate
Mary Halpin
Linne Coppage
Kim Boshela
Dani Christ
Malinda Shortt
Dwight Collins
Stacey Hickel
Kathryn Coombs
Michele & Chris Shipman
Stephanie Gardner
Melissa Swanson
Dotti & Bill Wikle
Roger Martino
Chuck Ellington

2008 Rescues

Fancy Cats Rescue Team
Forgotten Cats of Delaware
Purrfect Feline Friends
Home Alone Feline
Wendy's Feline Friends
4Paws
Animal Allies
Friends of Homeless Animals
CARA
AARF
Animal Rescue League of
Sussex County
Burlington County
Animal Alliance
Bully Paws
Caring for Creatures
Chance Foundation
Fredericksburg SPCA
Hope for Life Rescue
Lab Rescue of LRCP
Lost Dog and Cat Rescue
NECPV Eikhound Rescue
Southern Maryland Beagle
Rescue
Tails of Hope
Pomeranian Club of
Greater Baltimore

THANK YOU!

A Hard Lesson in Collar Safety

By Michele Shipman

Every so often, we reprint this article as a reminder of the dangers of putting collars on our beloved dogs.

Echo and Inky are the best of buddies. They love to play and romp around the house. When they play, Echo likes to grab Inky's collar. We are always watching them because Echo has chewed up many collars in his day. Echo and Inky get along beautifully, which is why we were stunned when we heard them fighting. My boys are fighting? I couldn't believe it. My husband, Chris, yelled at them, but they wouldn't stop.

Chris and I ran over to the dogs. We tried to pull them apart, and that's when we realized that they were stuck together. Echo had grabbed Inky's collar and twisted it around his teeth. I tried to unbuckle the collar, but it was too tight. I tried to pull the collar off of Echo's teeth, but it was too tight. As the seconds ticked past, I knew I was watching Inky strangle to death. That's when I started to panic, I was screaming at Chris to get the scissors. I couldn't do anything; I tried so hard to unbuckle the collar, but it wouldn't budge. The dogs were fighting, trying to get the other one off of them. They were scared, very scared. We were all scared. It felt like minutes had passed since Chris had gone to get the scissors.

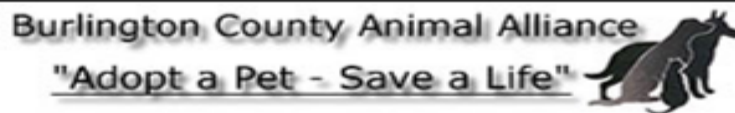
When Chris finally returned, the dogs started fighting again. After they calmed back down, Chris was able to slide the scissors in sideways behind the collar. It took two tries, but somehow, Chris was able to cut the collar off. It must have been only seconds from the time the dogs got stuck, until the collar came off. If it had been minutes, I have no doubt that Inky would have died while I stood there, helpless. After the dogs were free, I broke down and I cried and cried. The boys immediately starting licking each other's wounds. We were so close to losing Inky. What if this had happened while we weren't watching them? What if we didn't have scissors handy? We do not want to test fate again!

As pet guardians, we are responsible for the well being of our pets. If Inky had died, it would have been because of the collar that WE put on him. Please do some research, check out www.keepsafecollar.com and similar sites. Read through the stories that people have written about their horrific experience with collars. A dog's collar can get caught in crates, in porch decks, in fences, in other dog's teeth, and many other dangers. Many dogs have **died** from collar related accidents; don't let your dog become a statistic.

The KeepSafe Collar is designed to breakaway when pressure is applied. KGARL uses the KeepSafe Breakaway Collar on all of our foster dogs. Each of our adopted dogs goes home with one of these collars. The KeepSafe Collar is designed to breakaway when pressure is applied and it could save your dog's life! If you would like a breakaway collar, they are available for sale at our online KGARL Store at kgarl.org. All collars are \$13 and come in **Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Purple, and Black**. You should order a collar that is one inch larger than your dog's neck size.



Rescue Spotlight – Burlington County Animal Alliance



Even though BCAA is located in Willingboro, New Jersey, over 4 hours from us, they have been instrumental in pulling dogs from King George Animal Control over the past years. BCAA is an independent 501c3 non-profit animal advocacy group that was founded in 1999 by Lorraine Schriber and Barb Giano. There are about 60 members of BCAA. Their main focus is to make the public aware of the numbers of homeless dogs and cats in Animal Control shelters and to promote adoption of these animals. They advocate spaying and neutering of all companion animals to counteract the overpopulation of dogs and cats and to end the tragedy of euthanizing healthy, unwanted companion pets.

In 2004, BCAA was awarded a Proclamation from the Freeholders of Burlington County for the outstanding work to help the homeless animals of Burlington County, including keeping the Burlington County Animal Control website up to date and also rescuing the animals that are sick and/or in danger of being euthanized because of lack of space and money. BCAA repeatedly takes in unhealthy animals and nurses them back to health prior to adoption. Many times, this includes hospital stays for the animals, resulting in very large veterinary care expenses. Just last week, BCAA pulled a heartworm positive dog from King George Animal Control.

Similar to KGARL, BCAA relies heavily on foster homes, as they do not have a facility of their own. They also participate in PetSmart Adoption days every Saturday, at two different PetSmarts in their area. More information about BCAA can be found on their website, <http://www.bcaaofnj.org/>.

Training Your Dog with a Clicker

By Deb Silber

What is clicker training?

Clicker training is a training method that is based on behavioral psychology. The basic idea behind it is that you 'mark' desirable behaviors and then reward them. This will increase the frequency of the behavior you want. A mechanical device, called a 'clicker', is traditionally used to signal or 'mark' the desired behavior.



Why does it work?

This style of training works by creating a positive association between the sound of the clicker and the behavior that caused it. Your dog quickly learns that the clicker means a treat is coming. By pairing the dog's action with something the dog sees as a reward (usually treats) you can increase the frequency of the behaviors you want.

Why use a clicker?

A clicker is used to provide an instant, distinctive signal that marks the behavior you want. It allows you to provide positive feedback to your dog the instant he or she performs the action you are looking for. This instantaneous feedback makes it much easier for your dog to understand what they did to earn the reward and that the sound of the clicker always means a treat.

How do I get the behaviors I want?

Unlike other methods you do not ask for the behavior until it is already learned by your dog. Instead you wait until the dog performs the behavior and then click and treat. After a few repetitions your dog will understand what he or she must do in order to get the reward. Once they confidently perform the behavior for the reward, then you begin to associate the command with the action. For example, if you are teaching your dog to 'sit' then just before their rear end starts to go down say 'sit'. As soon as they complete the action click and treat. After you have started to associate the command with the action, do not click or treat if your dog performs the action without the command.

What if my dog doesn't obey?

If your dog doesn't obey your command do not assume that they are 'disobeying'. You need to ask yourself 3 questions:

- 1) Does your dog really know the meaning of the command or cue?
- 2) Does your dog understand the meaning of the command or cue in the current environment?
- 3) Is the reward for doing the behavior desirable enough to motivate your dog?

You can then remodel your training based on the answers to those questions. One thing to remember is that dogs do not automatically transition their learned behaviors from one environment to another. Just because they perform the command perfectly in your living room doesn't mean they will do the same at the dog park. You will need to teach your dog that the commands mean the same thing in multiple environments.

Why no punishment?

Research tells us that while punishment can reduce unwanted behaviors, it usually results in producing another unwanted behavior. Punishment is usually not identified with a marker and almost always comes after the event it is associated with. This leads to your dog not understanding what the punishment is for and seeing punishment as a random, meaningless event.

How can I get rid of behaviors?

Many times unwanted behaviors will disappear on their own if you don't reinforce them. Some behaviors reinforce themselves. For example, a dog who barks a lot may be bored and the barking is alleviating the boredom. As a clicker trainer you can provide a wanted behavior to replace the unwanted one. By rewarding silence you will teach your dog to be quiet.

How do I phase out the clicker?

Once your dog has learned a behavior you can stop using the clicker and just use the rewards. You can maintain the behavior by slowly replacing frequent intense rewards (like their favorite treat) with occasional less intense rewards (like a rub behind the ear).



Angels to the Pets

Very special thanks to all KGARL volunteers who consistently give of their time and support to assist with the countless tasks needed to help accomplish our mission.

Volunteering

Vicki Tate
Mary Halpin
Linne Coppage
Kim Boshela
Dani Christ
Malinda Shortt
Dwight Collins
Stacey Hickel
Kathryn Coombs
Michele & Chris Shipman
Stephanie Gardner
Melissa Swanson
Dotti & Bill Wikle
Roger Martino
Chuck Ellington
Deb & Joe Silber
Paula Bailey
Etta Pollack
Melissa Swanson
Melissa Bowler
Rocky Wells
Colleen Faini

Donations

Gloria Brown
Ken & Carolyn Freshwater
Bill & Sandy Goss
John & Carol Marques
John & Wilhelmina Perrine
Beth Cox –
In honor of M. Duffy
Jason & Stefany Veiga
Raymond & Carol Trgina
Glory Guild St. John's
Episcopal Church
Wendell & Gaynelle Laposata –
In Memory of Henry Seavey
Julia Crabtree –
In Memory of Barney Ellington
Mary Myers
Judith Harvell
Marie Conner
Cathy Markwith
Patricia Patterson
James Waits
Pamela Canfield
Robert & Rosan Hunter
Mary Halpin
Mary Cox
Charles & Tracy Taylor
Teresa O'Connor

THANK YOU!!!!

KGARL Has Money to Spay & Neuter King George Dogs

KGARL has money to assist individuals with having their dogs spayed and neutered and we have until the end of April to spend it. This money needs to be spent in King George for dogs of low income families. Our volunteers have gone door-to-door at five trailer parks in our county to hand out flyers, but we're not having much luck finding families in need. We know that there are unaltered dogs in King George that are having litters of unwanted puppies every year, but we can't seem to find them. If you know where to find these dogs, or would like to help hand out flyers, please contact us at spay@kgarl.org. If we cannot spend our remaining funds by the end of April, we will lose the money and maybe even the possibility of getting this grant in the future. We really need everyone's help to locate dogs in need.

KGARL Needs Your MVP Number

The King George Animal Rescue League is enrolled in the Food Lion LionShop & Share program. LionShop and Share is the easiest, most convenient way to raise money for your local not-for-profit organization. Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to your not-for-profit organization.

If you would like to participate, please provide KGARL with the following information and we will sign you up to benefit KGARL: (a) First and last name, (b) 12 Digit MVP number, and (c) Phone number. We need all 12 digits on your card. There are two little numbers, one before and one after the 10 digit number. It should be formatted like: 9 23456 12345 9. Also, Bottom Dollar and Bloom cards are eligible.

Even if you have previously provided us with your MVP number, please send it again so that we can make sure we have everyone. This is one of the easiest ways to raise money for our great group, and we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to help.



Blue – Adopted by the Dunn Family
“He is doing great and getting big!”



Bear – Adopted by the Dilworth Family



Bambi – Adopted by the Greer Family
“Mom & I were reading the KGARL Newsletter and thought we would like to send in an update on my charmed life on the water. I have enclosed a few photos that confirm I'm living the good life. This picture is our Thanksgiving dinner, me and Hallie at the children's table. We don't normally eat table scraps, but the turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy was a real treat.”

Upcoming KGARL Events

There are many ways to help KGARL and one of those is by donating your time for some of our upcoming fundraisers and information events. We participate in many different events throughout the year, so there is sure to be something that suits your interests. We are in need of 1 person for each event to coordinate volunteers and set up for the event. This person is in charge of determining how many volunteers are necessary for each event as well as supplies or goods to sell. The job isn't difficult, it just takes a little bit of planning, but it's well worth it. If you would like to volunteer to coordinate an event contact Kim Boshela or let the group know at one of the monthly meetings. The events are as follows:

King George Home Show - March 7th and 8th

This event is a great way to let people of the county know about KGARL. We can take the opportunity to hand out information about the rescue league and educate people about spaying and neutering as well as other pet related issues. This event also provides us the opportunity to sell some pet related products and solicit donations. Setup can be done on Friday evening. Event runs from 9-5 on Saturday and 11-3 on Sunday with tear down to follow.

Poker Run - April (exact date TBA)

This is a fun event for you motorcycle enthusiasts and was a great success last year. Look for more information to come on the KGARL website.

Earth Day Celebration at Alum Springs - April 25th 11:00-3:00

This is a laid back, low key event that brings people out from all over the Fredericksburg area. Set up is minimal for this event.

Tails and Trails - May 9th

This is the second year for this event sponsored by both KGARL and DHRT. Last year was a great success even though it was a bit cold. We've moved the date in hopes for nicer weather and an even bigger turnout.

Aegis Craft Fair - May (Date TBA)

Craft show at Dahlgren. Good opportunity to sell some of KGARL's products and solicit donations.

Market in the Park - September (Date TBA)

Another great way for KGARL to reach out to other communities such as Fredericksburg. This should be a busy event and an opportunity for KGARL to raise some funds.

King George Fall Festival - October (Date TBA but likely the 10th)

Last year was the 50th anniversary of this event and the largest King George had ever seen. This is a great event for us to promote the rescue league to King George residents.

Caledon Art and Wine Festival - November 7th, 10:00-4:00

This event has proven successful for the last few years even with inclement weather. The date has been moved back in hopes of nicer weather and an even better turnout. This event was a huge success for KGARL last year due to raffle ticket sales for gift baskets and a baked goods sale. Some setup can be done the evening prior.

Aegis Craft Fair - November (Date TBA)

Craft show at Dahlgren. Good opportunity to sell some of KGARL's products and solicit donations.

Santa Paws at PetSmart - December (Date TBA)

This is a fun event where KGARL also gets the opportunity to tell people about the rescue league and earn some much needed funds for the cause. There is little setup that needs to be done for this event.

**Don't forget about the "Upcoming Events" forum on KGARL's website.
It contains the details of events and volunteer schedules.**

Pet Memorials

When someone we love becomes a memory, that memory becomes treasure.



In Memory of Bubbles, the beloved best friend of Malinda Shortt. See the August 2008 KGARL Newsletter of an inspiring story of how Bubbles saved Malinda.



In Memory of Barney, a treasured family member of the Ellington's.

Reminders

Cans for Wendy's Felines

We are still collecting aluminum cans for Wendy's Feline Friends. Please bring your cans to the KGARL meetings.

KGARL Forums

Check out the new forums on KGARL's website. The minutes from the monthly KGARL meetings are now posted. Also, the King George Animal Shelter forum is kept up-to-date with information about what animals need transported.



First Dogs: American Presidents and Their Pets

By Dani Christ

I recently visited the Newseum, a museum about the news, in Washington, D.C. Due to the recent presidential campaign and inauguration, the museum had a special exhibit about presidents and their beloved pets. During this past presidential campaign, President Obama promised his two young daughters a new puppy if he was elected president. When asked what kind, President Obama said, "Our preference would be to get a shelter dog. But obviously, a lot of shelter dogs are mutts, like me." At the end of the exhibit, there was a section where visitors could put their change into bins to vote for what kind of dog the first family should adopt. The "shelter dog" got all of my money.

Hundreds of pets have lived at the White House, including parrots, goats, raccoons, and cats. But dogs top the list as the favorite presidential pet. More than 50 dogs have resided at the nation's most prestigious address.

Journalists helped turn some presidential pups into national celebrities with stories about FDR's Scottish terrier, Fala, who had his own press secretary, and Warren Harding's Airedale, Laddie Boy, who had his own chair at Cabin meetings. A book "written by" George Bush's English Springer spaniel, Millie, sold more copies than Bush's own book. Some dogs have helped their masters win public approval. Nixon's early career was saved by his cocker spaniel, Checkers. Defending himself on national TV against charges of illegal campaign contributions, Nixon vowed that the puppy given to his young daughters was the only campaign gift he ever kept. No matter what Americans think of presidents, they always love their pets.



Fala

In 1944, opponents falsely accused FDR of sending a destroyer to retrieve his Scottish terrier from the Aleutian Islands. Roosevelt fired back: "The Republican leaders have not been content with attacks on me...they now include my little dog, Fala."

Liberty

Gerald Ford's photographer was looking for a golden retriever for his boss in 1974 but didn't want to reveal who the owner would be. "Do they own or rent?" the breeder asked. "I guess you could say they live in public housing," answered the photographer. Ford named the dog Liberty.



Buddy

In December 1997, just before the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, Bill Clinton got a Labrador retriever named Buddy. Spokesman Mike McCurry said, "It's the president's desire to have one loyal friend in Washington."



Prudence Prim

Calvin and Grace Coolidge maintained a menagerie during his 1920s presidency, including 12 dogs and a pair of raccoons. In this photo, white collie Prudence Prim shows off her Easter bonnet for Treasury Secretary.



Barney

George W. Bush joked that his Scottish terrier, Barney, was the son he never had. Bush's "Barney Cam" videos showing White House life from a dog's view were an Internet sensation. After the November 2008 election, Barney made headlines for biting a reporter who was trying to pet him. A Bush family spokeswoman commented, "I think it was his way of saying he was done with the paparazzi."

Clipper, Charlies, Wolf, and Shannon

JFK was allergic to dogs. Even so, the Kennedys had nine, including the mixed breed Pushinka, a gift from Soviet Premier Khrushchev.



Yuki

Lyndon Johnson's favorite pet was a mutt that his daughter found abandoned at a gas station in 1966.

Johnson loved to howl with Yuki, named after the Japanese word for snow.



Are Sugar-Free Products Dangerous to Your Dog?

By Paula Bailey

A couple of the most popular New Year's resolutions that people make are to lose weight and quit smoking. They may go out and stock up on sugar-free candy, cookies, mints and chewing gum. Did you know that these products could be lethal for your dog? They contain Xylitol, as do many pharmaceuticals including oral health products such as toothpaste, breath fresheners, smoking cessation aids such as Nicorette gum, chewable vitamins and throat lozenges.

What is Xylitol? It's an all-natural sugar alcohol derived from beets, raspberries, plums, birch tree bark, corncobs and other natural sources. While popular as a sugar substitute in Europe for decades, it's relatively new to the US. While Xylitol does not require insulin for metabolism, it triggers insulin production in dogs causing normal blood sugar levels to drop rapidly. Signs include depression, vomiting, loss of balance and weakness. They can have seizures, develop internal hemorrhages or lesions, and suffer liver failure. As little as 2 pieces of gum containing Xylitol can be toxic to a 20 lb dog while 3 grams of Xylitol (roughly 8 – 10 pieces of gum) can kill a 65 lb dog.

Manufacturers use varying amounts of Xylitol in their products. If you suspect that your dog has ingested a product containing Xylitol, regardless of the amount, seek immediate veterinary care. While symptoms may develop as soon as 30 minutes after ingestion, it could take as long as 12 hours for smaller doses. Treatment includes inducing vomiting if caught early enough, glucose drips and IV fluids. Xylitol can be found in many common products such as Flinstone's Vitamins, Jello sugar-free pudding, Trident, Orbit, Stride, Icebreakers and Altoids. Remember that baked goods could contain Xylitol so unless you baked it yourself or its ingredients are labeled – don't feed it to your dog. Keep purses, bags and backpacks off the floor and out of reach of pets. Ensure visitors take the same precautions with suitcases, etc.

Friends of Fosters

*Although the dogs pictured below are **not** KGARL fosters, they are currently being fostered by KGARL members.*



Melissa and her family rescued this precious girl from King George Animal Control when her time there started to run out. Since fostering this absolute sweetie, they have learned that she loves to follow her foster family around, and that she is super curious. She picks up a front paw when she stops to look at something. They don't know yet if she is house-trained, but she hasn't had any accidents in the house. She is great with the foster family's 10 year old son. She really wants to play with the other dogs in the home, but they still aren't very sure of her, so she just kind of minds her own business. She is just very laid back. She is pretty good on a leash; she does pull a little bit but stops when you tell her to. Right now she sleeps in her crate. She actually will go into the crate on her own during day to sleep when she is ready for a nap. She sniffs everything and she loves to stretch out before she lays down. Her foster family has been calling her Reese, because she is small and sweet like a Reese's Pieces. Reese is a 2 year old Pit Bull. She is scheduled to be spayed on January 30th. She will also be tested for heartworms and receive all of her vaccinations at this time. If you are interested in adopting Reese, please contact Melissa at mbowler77@gmail.com. Please also welcome Melissa to KGARL. She is our newest member!

Squeakers was found running down a busy road and was very happy to accept a ride. She was taken to Animal Control in hopes that her owners would find her, but after a month there her time had run out. Her foster mom knew what a great dog she is, so she brought her home until her forever home can be found. Squeakers is a Pit Bull, but shhh, don't tell her that. She certainly isn't the stereotype so many equate with the breed. As a matter of fact she is like most Pit Bulls: high energy, excitable, loyal, and very loving with absolutely no aggression issues. She gets along extremely well with all 6 of her foster siblings and has taken some playful interest in the household cats. Squeakers gets her name because she doesn't bark much; she just squeaks to let us know she needs something. She is around a year old, and she is housebroken and knows how to sit and shake. She loves to run and jump and would do well in a home that can give her space and patience to expend her energy. Much of her charm is in her mannerisms. She loves to be talked to and shows her interest and attentiveness in detail on her face. She is constantly doing funny to gain attention: running in circles, running up the steps, only to jump from them like she's flying into our arms. She loves toys and enjoys flipping them up in the air and chasing after them. She would love to have a large fenced in yard with lots of room to run and other dogs to play with. She also would love to have an owner that would give her lots of love and attention, but also have the patience to train her. Squeakers is small for a Pit Bull; about 35 pounds. She is spayed, micro-chipped, and is up-to-date on all her shots. If you are interested in adopting her, complete an application on the KGARL website and it will be transferred to her foster family.

