

BARK Community Newsletter  
February 2012

[www.barkva.org](http://www.barkva.org)

804-449-BARK

**Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s**

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## 10 Canine Commandments

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. **Any separation from you will be painful to me.** Remember that before you buy me.
2. **Give me time to understand** what you want from me.
3. **Place your trust in me.** It's crucial to my well-being.
4. **Don't be angry with me** for too long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your entertainment and your friends. I only have you.
5. **Talk to me sometimes.** Even if I don't understand your works, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, **I'll never forget it.**
7. Remember before you hit me: I have teeth that could easily crush the bones of your hand, but **I choose not to bite you.**
8. Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, **ask yourself if something might be bothering me.** Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, or I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is getting old and weak.
9. **Take care of me when I get old.** You too will grow old.
10. **Go with me of difficult journeys.** Never say: "*I can't bear to watch it*", or "*Let it happen in my absence.*" Everything is easier for me if you are there.

**Remember that I love you.**



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## Morgan's All Natural Pet Products

"Morgan's All Natural" pet care products are formulated to soothe and calm skin irritations while maintaining a shiny, healthy coat. pH balanced for all breeds. Safe for daily use.

- Clementine Zest & Lemongrass Doggie Shampoo
- Lavender & Mint Doggie Shampoo
- Crushed Organic Lavender & Rosemary Dry
- Dog/Cat Shampoo
- Crushed Organic Lavender & Rosemary Leave-on
- Doggie Conditioner

"Morgan's All Natural" pet products donates \$1.00 of each product sold to BARK Rescue.

Email: [morgansallnatural@hotmail.com](mailto:morgansallnatural@hotmail.com)



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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 **59** dogs found loving homes in January. 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](http://www.facebook.com/barkva).

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## Adoption Spotlight: Nick, Comet, Sparkle, Suni, Sox & Milton, Lady & Sydney, Max & Lucas

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](mailto:adopt@barkva.org) or call 804-449-BARK (2275). You can also view each dog's "Classified Ad" by clicking the appropriate link. Please print and post these ads wherever you see fit (with permission of course).

Nick is one of the sweetest dogs on the farm. He appears very puppy-like, but is actually two years old. He is full grown and weighs a nice medium size of about 50 to 55 pounds. Nick was found as a stray by animal control in December 2010. This sweetie was roaming around eating trash trying to survive on his own and was quite thin back then. Animal control took him to the shelter, but no one came looking for him, and fortunately this boy was rescued by BARK. He has been waiting patiently for over a year to find a loving family who will take care of him forever. Nick is a fun, social dog who just loves to be with people and with other dogs of all sizes and genders. We have found we can put pretty much any dog in the kennel with Nick and he will welcome them. When he was in foster, he got along with a 90-pound male Rottie and Chihuahuas but he is not good with cats. We had Nick's eyes checked out by a veterinary eye specialist and found that his condition is a birth defect where he has small eyes, and his corneas are underdeveloped. His sight should not get worse and he can see, but his depth perception is off. Other than that, we think he's the PERFECT dog. Our volunteers adore him and we hope you will get a chance to see what a great boy he is. Take a look at his classified ad [here!](#)



Nick



"Comet is without a doubt the sweetest, most attentive dog," says his volunteer friend. Comet is a tan and white hound puppy who is now over a year old and weighs about 60 pounds. He has a soft coat and loves to be petted and given attention. We do not have history on Comet as he was a stray that was picked up by animal control. Comet plays nicely with other dogs and is active and playful and he LOVES toys! He would love to have a family of his own and a soft bed to sleep on. You can read more about me on my classified ad [here!](#)



Comet

Sparkle is a sweet, energetic girl who is about three to four years young and weighs about 45-50 pounds. She has strikingly expressive eyes that are brown with eye liner drawn around them. She is a smart girl who is responsive to direction and loves getting attention and affection. She would do well with basic obedience training and regular exercise. Due to her exuberant personality, she might be too much for smaller children. She will chase cats. She seems to ride well in a vehicle and is pretty good on leash. Sparkle gets along well with submissive dogs. If you are choosing her to be a companion for another pet in a home, we suggest you bring your pet to meet Sparkle to make sure they are compatible. Here's what Sparkle's volunteer friend says about her, "Sparkle has been at Bark for a very long time, but just seems to roll with the punches. I don't think I've ever heard her bark when things get rowdy in the back. She has a beautiful coat and is a perfect medium size dog. When I go in to clean her kennel, she seems so happy to see me and is full of doggy kisses. She really deserves a forever home and a person of her own to love." Share my classified ad [here!](#)



Sparkle

Says one volunteer friend, "My vote would have to be for Suni because she has been here a very long time and has given up on finding a forever home that is willing and able to help her get over her fear of vets and distrust. She needs a family with no children, a person who is willing to work with her and give her a chance. If we just knew something of her past it would help us help her, but we don't. We have a certified trainer who is willing to give free guidance and instruction to the person who adopts Suni. But this training can not be accomplished while she is still in the kennels so until Suni is fostered or adopted, she really can't get any help. Won't someone give her a chance?"

Says another, "Sunni is my favorite dog!"

A third volunteer chimes in, "Even though there have been some issues, Suni is still my favorite. She is one of the sweetest animals I have ever known. However, she must go to a home with no kids and no other animals, where she is one on one with her new family." Please help me find a forever home by sharing my classified ad [here!](#)



Suni

A BARK volunteer who knows them very well has this to say about Sox and Milton: “Sweet Sox and Milton, her best friend in the world, came to BARK about 2 1/2 years ago. Both were under a year old-Sox was about 10 months and Milton only 6 month-and these two have been pen mates their entire time here. Milton seems to see Sox as his mom. He looks up to her and she is the "boss" of the pen. Most Saturdays they enjoy a little playtime in an outside playpen wrestling and playing catch me if you can with one another. I picture that little bit of joy for them, but not in a playpen at the farm, I envision that in an adoptive home. That is my dream for these two special dogs. I don't want them to give up hope of finding a home. I encourage them every time I see them, but I see their faces when they see dogs pass their pen on their way to outings. Milton is leery of a few women, not sure why, but we all have our quirks. He also cannot be in a home with cats. He is getting stressed, as he is eating the plastic off of his dog house bottom, in a week's time a doghouse bottom looks more like a huge plastic paper plate on the floor of the kennel, which can't be good for his teeth. They are wonderful dogs and would make a really unique pair of dogs to adopt together. Sox rolls over on her back for a belly rub every time she sees me, so submissive. She is very outgoing and friendly, but prefers similarly sized, more submissive males as playmates. Sox walks well on a leash and enjoys long walks along the BARK trails. She would love a home with a nice fenced in yard (perhaps with a couple of children to play with) where she could enjoy some outside play time. She would benefit from a leader type of owner who will take her to obedience training. She'll roll over for pets and attention and she loves to have her belly rubbed. Sox would be absolutely fine as an only dog in a home, as she loves people and only wants to have your undivided attention. But her dream would be to find a home with her best friend Milton. Check out her classified ad [here!](#)



Sox



Milton, a Jack Russell Terrier mix, needs to know there's a home for him somewhere out there, and some special person or family to love him. This boy has been waiting a long time and has a special place in the hearts of all of our BARK volunteers. We see how he longs to find a better place and he's oh so tired of waiting in his kennel for someone to come find him and take him home. Milton is a very sweet young male who is now full grown and weighs only about 40 pounds and is now about two and a half years old. He is still very much a puppy at heart and he loves to play with you and with his toys. He would be great being an only dog, spoiled rotten and being the center of your universe, because he is a very sweet and affectionate young dog, but he loves his kennel mate, Sox. Milton likes to run and explore, and he would love a home that could give him play time and a safe place to run or to go for walks. Milton is most confident at the farm because it's all he knows, and becomes shy and fearful when taken out of his element, so he doesn't always show well at outings. He would benefit from a great home either as a foster or as a permanent home so that he could feel more confident and secure and get all the loving attention this sweet boy deserves.” You can read more about me on my super fancy classified ad [here!](#)



Milton

Sydney and her sister Lady are very beautiful Siberian husky mixes and have been together since birth. Sadly, they came into rescue as their owner passed away. They are now looking for a new home and family to love and share their life with. "It seems the rare occasion they get adoption interest, maybe because everyone thinks being 7 or almost 7 years old is "too old," says their volunteer friend. "Good grief!!! Dogs are like a fine wine, they get better with some age. But the girls aren't even old. So many volunteers have said 'If I didn't have such and such a number of dogs already, I would have adopted 'the girls' as they are lovingly known.' Lady serenades the volunteers with her husky "woo" and playful nature and Sydney is the constant companion, easy going and both are the nicest girls. They deserve the best and I know there is someone out there that will realize it and give them a chance to be adopted. Their owner died of old age over 2 years ago and the girls still await another family to love. I adopted one of my dogs from BARK in March 2007. She was about 3 years old then and will soon be 8. She is spunky and spry as she ever was! I wish potential adopters would realize that about Sydney and Lady."

Sydney is the lighter of the two and is more laid back and not as energetic as Lady, who loves to play. Lady is very vocal and will "woo" at you in typical Siberian language, and then Sydney joins in. Sydney is content to be with you, close at your side, and loves to be with her sister Lady. They are not good with small dogs or cats. They do get along with some larger dogs, but not all. We were told they love children. They are very bonded to one another and we are hoping they can find a home together. View their classified ad [here!](#)



Lady & Sydney

"I wanted to make sure to include Max and Lucas as two of my favorite dogs. I love all my doggies in row 7 but Max and Lucas have a special place in my heart. They have quickly become buds! Mr. Max is full of energy and just a blast. I enjoy playing ball with him and watching him run around with Hank in the outside pens. He would be the perfect match for a young couple or someone that likes to working out and is active. He LOVES to play ball and knows how to sit. In fact he sits when he see the treat, you don't even have to ask." See my classified ad [here!](#)



Max



"Lucas is another gentle giant. He allows Max to jump all over him and shares toys very well too. He's not as active as Max but also enjoys chewing on his kong and will try to play ball with Max and I. He would be perfect for a less active family but seems like he's gentle enough to be around active dogs. He has a wonderful temperament." View Lucas's classified ad [here!](#)



Lucas

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## Mark Your Calendar

If you would like to help with our annual Sarris Easter candy fundraiser, BARK volunteers will be selling delicious chocolate and candy selections to raise money for BARK's Hope Fund. Sales brochures will be available at the weekly adoption outings as well as at the Ashland farm. Simply ask a BARK volunteer for a sales brochure! Completed sales brochures and money will be due by Saturday, February 25th. If you are unable to pick up a brochure at one of these locations, but would like to help out, just email [claire@barva.org](mailto:claire@barva.org). You can also view the full brochure online at [http://www.sarriscandies.com/fundraising\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.sarriscandies.com/fundraising_brochure.pdf). The more we sell, the more BARK can help dogs in need!

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## Volunteer Corner

### Volunteer Wish List

This month we especially need:

- Experienced dog handlers at the Short Pump adoption stand
- Evening feeders at the Ashland farm (call Linda Lane at 804-883-7740)
- Fosters for dogs of all shapes, ages and sizes (email Claire: [claire@barkva.org](mailto:claire@barkva.org))



### 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 and food and drinks are provided. 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

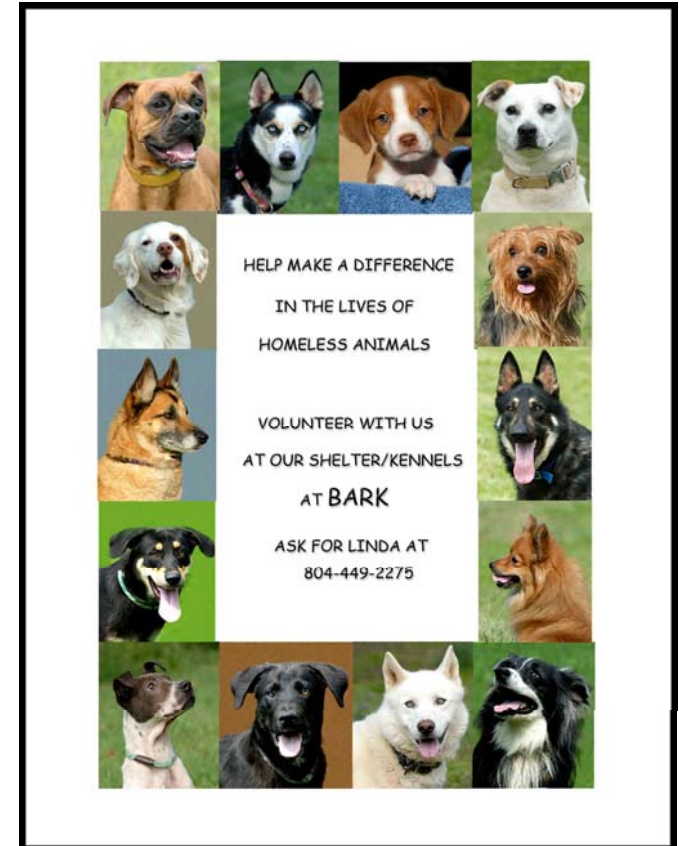
We need your DOGGIE story too! Since BARK has so many dogs, it is difficult for volunteers to get to know each of them in the limited time they share at the farm or at an adoption stand. In an effort to better showcase some of the wonderful dogs currently awaiting their forever homes, we are asking volunteers 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](mailto:robin@barkva.org).

### FARM DOGGIES NEED MORE HOUSEKEEPERS and FRIENDS!!!

**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](mailto:murrsan@verizon.net) to arrange a date.



## **Current Schedule for Kennel and Dog Care**

We are pleased that our flexible work schedule has proven a success. Once a volunteer receives an Orientation and gets a little experience, he/she can come on out and clean when it is convenient on the day they have chosen to volunteer – morning, noon or night. We prefer no one come alone unless very experienced and that you let the crew lead know your schedule beforehand. Having a buddy system makes it more fun anyways. Grab a friend or family member. Volunteers are there 7 days a week at various times throughout the day, so we are sure one of those times will work for you. Everyone must have an Orientation, hand in their paper work to a crew lead at the farm (not only on line), and read the required material before becoming a volunteer. Orientations are scheduled with a crew lead at a mutually convenient time. Children under 14 must be supervised by an adult. If 14 or older, the young person must have written permission to volunteer and be a very responsible young adult. Everyone is required to read the guidelines for both cleaning kennels and walking dogs.

Every New Volunteer will receive an “Informational Package” by e-mail. Contact information for crew leads is included in along with the required reading, the application/waiver and directions. If you misplace that contact information, write Linda at [billindaphoto@mindspring.com](mailto:billindaphoto@mindspring.com) or (804)883-7740 before coming out and she’ll let the crew leads know and send you another copy. Additionally, please make sure you don’t forget to mark the two chalk type boards: one for the row(s) you cleaned and one for dogs you walked; this helps the volunteers who come after you know what is left to be done.

**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.

## **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](http://www.barkva.org).

**Welcome to newcomers *Tim Abajian, Wendy Alexander, Alex & Taylor Clark, Kevin Cooke, Christy Dispennette, Leslie Ann Englent, Thomas Hungerford, Georgia Jones, Christie King, Michael Lease, Sam Lee, Catherine & Chris Mallory, Abigail Markel, Meghan McGehee, Kristen Morrow, Shawn Riester, Brittany Seaton, Spencer Seda, Brian Snipes, Lisa Spenik, Alyssa Stamey, Victoria Stein, Kara Stephens, Emma Taylor, Lisa Thornton, Judy Twigg and Matt Zimmerman.***

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## Notes from the Farm: by Rolph

Hello to all of my friends!

We've finally had a chance to relax from all of the craziness that surrounds the holidays at the BARK farm. With so many dogs getting new homes, it can be a little chaotic and I know the adoption team was ready for a little bit of a break! Not for long though as they're always working to help us find new, forever homes. Needless to say, if you come and visit us, you'll see many new faces and many of the old gang are no longer here. It's a really good feeling!

It also seems as if winter is done with us (knock on wood)! This warmer weather has opened up all kinds of opportunities for us. We finally have nice enough weather to enjoy more long walks along the BARK trails – and even a few dips in the stream for the very brave dogs! We have also started a partnership with the American Family Fitness in the West End. At least once a month, a bunch of my pals get to go on something they call a “dog jog”. I hear it is great fun for all involved and I'm sure it's good exercise – for them and for us! We all had a little more than we should have over the holidays☺ Hopefully I can go on this jogging thing one weekend!

I also hear that there are plans to finally fix the two bridges on our long trail. We have a great group of guys that are working to repair the one damaged bridge and totally replace the bridge that was washed away by that pesky hurricane. Having those fixed will sure be easier on the volunteers and, hopefully, result in lots more long walks! I know I'm keeping my fingers crossed!

Well, until next time...

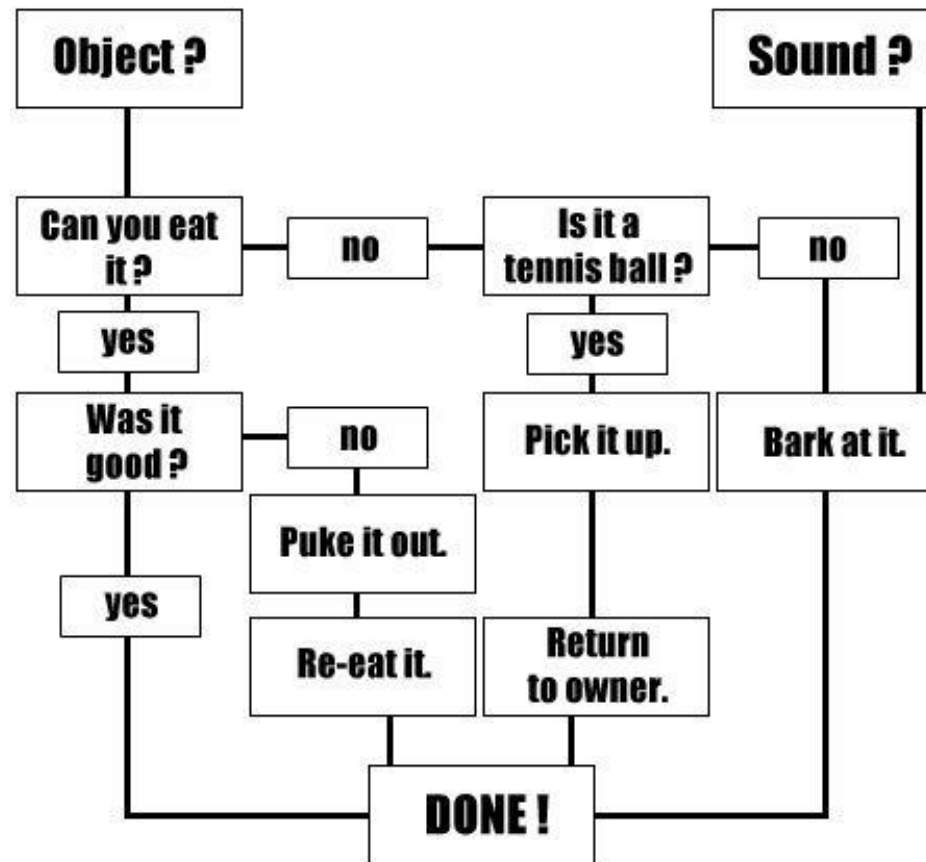


Rolph

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# Doggone Funny!

## HOW A DOG'S BRAIN WORKS



Warning: Don't be addicted to 9GAG.COM

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## Happy Tails...Waggin' Good News



Sorry to have taken so long to send an update. My husband and I adopted Crystal, a white Husky mix in July 2009. Once she settled into her new surroundings, it has been smooth sailing ever since. She has been nothing but a joy to our household. She is very attached to my husband, will walk the floor when he is not home LOL, my husband says she whines when I'm not home, but when we are both home, she is truly in her comfort zone!! But overall, she has been a blessing to us, as we are unable to have children of our own. As of today she is a very happy, rounded dog, who loves to lounge in the backyard by day and snuggle on her bed at night. Thank you for allowing us to adopt such an amazing, beautiful dog.

*Carolynnette & Brian*



 Crystal

Sorry my person has not gotten in touch with you all yet, but I have been keeping him super busy. We get to take many walks and I have all sorts of toys to play with along with my sisters Kaylee and Beenie (both BARK dogs as well). We get plenty of exercise running in our yard playing with each other and the outside toys as well as lots of games of tug of war with the ropes inside. We all take turns laying in front of the wood stove on cold nights, and even sneak up on the bed to sleep where it's warm with our people.

Thanks for all you do for us dogs,  
*Hobo*



 Hobo

This January has been two years since my husband and I adopted Laska, earlier known as Abby, from BARK, and I would like to give an update about our beautiful and wonderful dog!

When we first got her, Laska was certainly a handful - young, headstrong.... and looking for someone to be her Alpha. We were not quite there at the beginning - we didn't know how. Weighing in, then, at 63 (and now 78) lean pounds, she could almost take my arm off if she saw a squirrel, deer or another dog during a walk; she would take us for a walk rather than we take her. She was also unpredictably aggressive towards other dogs, which made me somewhat uneasy while walking her.

Nonetheless, we loved our doggie and saw great potential for her. We saw her intelligence and sweet, playful nature. I watched many Caesar Milan videos and learned a lot. Things got better when I began to understand how her doggie mind worked, but we reached a point where we really needed professional help. After some research, I found a wonderful trainer who initially came to our house and worked to train us on how to be the Alpha. That helped a lot, but there was still a problem of her being aggressive towards other dogs. Our trainer, Phyllis, suggested that Laska come to live with her pack for a month and go through further training and socialization.

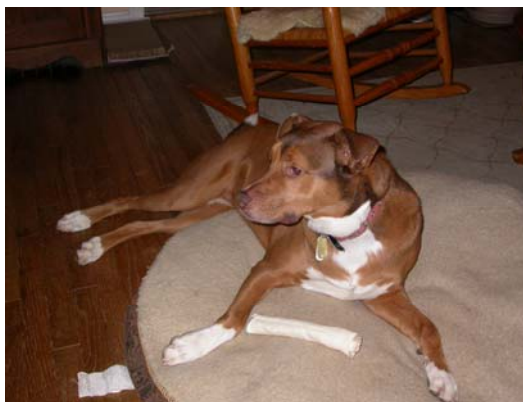
Well, when we got our pooch back, she was a transformed doggie! Laska obeys, we can let her off lead to fetch, she walks by our side and heels beautifully. I can tell her to sit, stay, and then walk away 200+ yards without her moving until I release her! She is an incredibly smart dog and loves to play hide-and-go-seek games with me, she loves to fetch and swim. She is a dog that needs a good amount of exercise and we are happy to give that to her. Laska is so graceful when she runs, and a delight to watch. She has certain doggie friends that she likes to play with, and she now can even heel at our side and obediently walk by strange dogs while off lead. She is a delight to walk with! She can get goofy playing outside, but when Laska gets home she is a calm and peaceful dog.

We are so, so happy with our Laska. I am enclosing a couple of pictures. One is with her favorite buddy, Abby, our son's dog, also an adoptee from BARK! We get so many compliments on what a beautiful and sweet dog we have. Thank you BARK for our wonderful dog!

*Darya*



Laska



Our pup, Ike is a joy. We have no regrets and he doesn't either...

He is good friends with our cats and bulldogs. He is extremely attached to my husband, Kevin.

*Georgia*



Ike



Hi! We just wanted to send you a picture or two of our Gabbi. We adopted her quite a few months ago and she had some major stomach issues when we got her. She required surgery to remove a softball size wad of grass that she kept eating more voraciously than a cow eats grass. She ate it so fast and so much of it that she could not digest it or get rid of it. Once we removed it and got her on pepcid every day and a special diet she has simply thrived. We LOVE LOVE LOVE her and can't believe how perfect she is for our family and for our other dog, Tanner. They love each other even though there is about ten years between them.

We just wanted to update you and thank you for all you do for the dogs and cats of our area. I don't know how we got so luck to find Gabbi...she is simply PERFECT! Thanks again!

*Melanie, Joan, Gabbi, Tanner, and Pumpkin (the cat)*



Gabbi

Yesterday, January 20th, we celebrated that it has been 4 years since we brought Batman (formerly Josh) home to live with us. He had a little bit of cake and received a few doggy toys. He's now around seven years old so he's a senior now and has started to go a bit gray but he's still as playful as any puppy and incredibly adorable. He loves playing fetch and chasing squirrels around the yard. He's very happy and healthy and we love him to pieces. We thought we'd let you know how happy we are that we found him when visiting one of your outings and how infinitely grateful we are that you rescued him in the first place for us to find. We are definitely blessed to have him in our lives. Thanks again so much for the incredible labor of love that you do for the dogs.

*Ivette*



Batman

We wanted to send an updated photograph of our BARK dog. We adopted Toby (originally named Ruff) three years ago from BARK. We cannot imagine life without him. He is an amazing, loving, sweet dog and we are so grateful that he became part of our family. Our first dog, Ainsley, ignored every other dog but Toby. The moment she saw him she immediately wanted to play. We knew he would be the perfect fit and the two dogs continue to be the perfect companions.

Thank you so much for all the work you do.

*Sincerely, Andrew and Sarah*



Toby



I adopted Nick from you all about 4 years ago. He is my baby and everybody knows it. From the moment I brought him home he's been by my side and everyone that meets him likes him. Hes like and old man one minute yawning stretching and snoring and like a kid the next. He's always been very vocal, when I get home he gives me yowl to let me know I've been gone to long and when Im not moving fast enough to do whatever he wants he does the same. He spends his free moments stalking squirrels in the yard, which he does from the lawn chair on the porch. He must've been a hunter in a past life because that seems to be his passion. When he's not stalking or snoring (loudly) he's in someone's bed with his head on their pillow (often uninvited). I just want to thank you again for pairing me with my biggest baby. Nick aka Da-doo.

*Thanks again,  
Sonja and Nick*



Nick

We celebrated the 1 year anniversary of our adoption of Redford "Red" T. Bear (he is in the back on the picture) on Feb. 6, 2012. He and his sister Chloe enjoyed splitting a petite filet that my husband grilled. Just wanted to let you know how much he is loved and we feel so blessed to have him.

*All the best,  
Judy & Scott*



Redford T.  
Bear



Hey, I miss you and I miss all the floor space and open vistas at Mesa Montpelier... but I will admit that my new family is pretty cool. Yesterday when I arrived, I checked out the whole house and caught a glimpse of a young tabby cat – who seems pretty bent out of shape about meeting me. Don't know what that's all about. I got fed my normal meal, plus some treats, plus my medicine and plenty of water. I got a special blanket to lie on in the sunroom, and my chewy bone is nearby if I get bored.

I checked out the new yard and discovered it ain't so bad. Has a nice big tree in the middle of the fenced-in area and lots of soft grass and plenty of room to stretch out and watch the squirrels. Here in Mech'ville, as they call it, there's no squirrel season... so, as a result, no shortage of those little buggers. I've got plenty to watch.

A young man named Jake came home shortly after my arrival and played with me a bunch and took me for a walk to meet the neighbors. He's pretty cool, and he seems to think I'm the cat's meow. (I knew it wouldn't take long.) Last night I stayed with my new stepmom while she listened to the radio and read some books. She pets me a whole lot and talks my fool head off. When Jake got back from visiting friends, he took me upstairs to sleep with him. That was quite a challenge – finding his bed, I mean – but once we got settled in, we watched a movie together and he was so happy. It's like he never met a dog quite as nice as me before. What's up widdat?

This morning my stepmom let me out in the yard early to do my business. I had a little upset tummy from all the new sights and sounds here, so I ate a bunch of grass to speed up the “healing process.” I have not eaten much today, but did down the food in the cat bowl in a few quick slurps while no one was looking. My mom added warm water and chicken broth to my regular food, but I just don't feel like digging in yet. Maybe later when nobody's paying attention. This afternoon I settled in to cat patrol position in the bedroom, while that crazy striped cat hid under the nightstand. Her name is Malibu, and she's so pretty. Wish she would let me give her just one good lick from head to tail. Tonight my best buddy Jake is having friends over to suffer through some dumb football game in between the year's best TV commercials. We're ALL looking forward to that. He thinks his friends are gonna love me. Uh... duh.

He has promised to play with me tomorrow and take me for a long walk at mid-day while my stepmom is at work. That should help me pass the time in between my new favorite napping spots. I think it's gonna be a good week. I've already heard them tell everyone who comes to the door what a sweetheart I am. And... they seem to want to take real good care of me.

Tell all my buddies hello. And come visit anytime, okay? *Love, Bear*



**Bear**



Cocoa is much better now. He's doing great with his crate. He's a fast learner and loves to play. He is a bit of an escape artist as he found a place where my fence touches the ground that he could slide through. So, I had some people come out and check my entire fence and fix any problems. The good news is that once he got out, he ran around the neighbors yard a bit and came right back when I called him. He loves his daily walks, playing ball and all his toys. He did very well upon meeting my mom's cats and it will take some time, but I think they will all get along. I can't imagine why it took so long for this little guy to get adopted, he is such a sweet heart and so eager to please!

We will be going to obedience classes at Petsmart, but I'm not sure when yet--probably start sometime next month. I'm so glad that other family brought him back that day. He's perfect for me. I may look into getting him a playmate from you guys at some point. I can tell he misses being around other dogs and he has so much energy. I'd probably get a female about his size or a little larger. I'll check your site from time to time.

As soon as I get some pictures, I'll email them to you. Thanks so much for all your help with the adoption.

***Best, Kim (the proud owner of Cocoa) (no picture included)***

*Effie's new owners proudly shared this picture of her enjoying life in her loving, forever home!*



Effie



Trooper and Bianca are doing great! They look adorable together and Bianca's coat is starting to look amazing! Thank you so much for that shampoo. It worked wonders on her. She is snow-white! I just can't believe how well they are getting along. Bianca is very affectionate towards Adam and I. We absolutely love it! I think she has finally settled in. We will try and come out to another adoption outing soon so you can see them together:)

***Casey (no picture included)***

Milk's one year Adoption Day (as we like to call it!) is coming up and we just can't believe how much love he has brought to our lives! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

*Ashley*



Milk



I have had Gummy since December of 2010 and he and my older dog do beautifully together. The major problem I have had with him is housebreaking. He does fine as long as I am in the house, but sometimes when I have to be gone he will leave me a deposit to say “see what I can do when you are not here?”. He doesn’t do it all the time, but it is a nuisance nonetheless.

At first he was not completely comfortable meeting other dog walkers and their dogs – he is much improved in this respect – and also likes to be petted by just people who might just be out for a walk. I have enclosed several pix of the two of them on the couch in my sunroom – their favorite place to watch the world go by.

Thanks for finding Gummy for me.

*Betty*



Gummy

Many thanks for helping me connect with my new love, Carson! He's great!

*Ginger*



Carson

If you have adopted a dog from  and have a Happy Tail or other contribution for the monthly newsletter, please forward it to [robin@barkva.org](mailto:robin@barkva.org).

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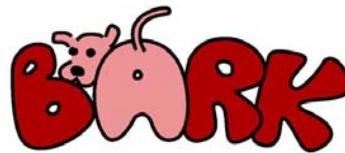
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## Other Ways to Support

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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