

BARK Community Newsletter
January 2012

www.barkva.org

804-449-BARK

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

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Everyday Heroes: Foster Families by *Jessica Dolce*

They don't have room, but somehow they find the space. When a dog is stressed from kennel life, or in need a quiet place to heal or a family to teach them the ropes, or a rescue can't take him unless a foster home is available – these families say, “We can take him home.”

They open their houses and hearts to fall in love with a dog that they know isn't theirs for keeps. They go to work providing crate and leash training, socialization, medication and extra meals as needed. They separate resident pets from foster dogs if they have to, scoop extra poop, write blogs, take photos and spent their weekends at adoption events.

They take on all of the work that comes along with bringing home a new dog, and then some.

They do their best to balance holding tight and letting go. It is a tricky dance to care so deeply for a guest, since dogs stay forever in our hearts. But when people tell them, “I couldn't foster because it would be too hard to give the dog up.” They say, “How can it be harder than knowing a dog died because no foster home stepped up?” And that is why they do it time and again.

And while they worry they might not be strong enough to let this one go, something special happens: The right adoption application arrives! They lifted a single soul up, out of the crowd and floating on their hands, their foster dog arrived in the arms of the family that has been searching for him. It was all worthwhile.

They are the specialists, the deep sea divers, working the details of a dog's life until he's ready for prime time.

They bridge the gap to a new life.

They are foster families – true everyday heroes.

And sometimes, they are the bridge to somewhere deeper, a place to rest.



They understand that the troubled souls, the weak bodied, the ancient, are having a tough go of this world. And so they step up to the loneliest plate and say, “We can take her home until it’s time. We will be her final family.”

They give some very special dogs a loving home before they leave this earth.

They commit to walking alongside these dogs until the last moments. What some of us are not strong enough to do for our own pets, they choose to do for dogs they have only known for a month, a week, a day, an hour.

Fiercely they say, “I see you. I love you. You are not a number or a mistake or a victim anymore. You are mine and I will walk with you until the end.”

They are warriors of the heart.

They are compassion, foster families. They are everyday heroes.



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Foster Corner

Thank you Vickie Fahed!

The BARK family would like to thank Vickie Fahed for everything she has done over the past year as the foster coordinator! Thanks to Vickie, many lucky dogs found their way into a loving foster home while waiting for their forever families. Thank you Vickie for all your hard work and everything you continue to do for the BARK dogs!

Foster Homes Needed!

There are numerous BARK dogs that would benefit from the experience of being in a foster home. We have dogs of various breeds, ages, and sizes and can find a dog to fit any home environment. In particular, there are over 40 dogs that have been with BARK for over a year – some for several years (examples pictured below). We would love to find foster homes for these deserving dogs. If you would like to become a foster parent, please fill out an application online at www.barkva.org or email Claire at foster@barkva.org if you have any questions about the foster process.



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Mark Your Calendars – January 21st

Please join us for our first BARKAZAAR featuring local vendors, shopping, open house, and free workouts!

Date: January 21, 2012

Time: 8:30 am until 1:30 pm

Location: American Family Fitness in Short Pump

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Morgan's All Natural Pet Products

If you, your friends or your family are looking for special stocking stuffers for your furry friends, Morgan's All Natural Pet Products has packaged their Lavender & Mint Shampoo (best seller) along with the Rosemary and Lavender leave-on conditioner together in festive bags. These special Christmas packages sell for \$12.00. Morgan's donates \$1.00 of each package sold to BARK. To purchase these great gifts, email morgansallnatural@hotmail.com or call 804/426-2470.



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Sierra's* Story: How Big Brown Eyes Changed My Life

(*Sierra is a 9-year-old member of a BARK foster family)

One sunny October morning there was a knock at the door. That was the day that we got Chica, our foster dog. Chica was a brown Chiweenie with eyes as big as saucers full of hot chocolate. When I saw her for the first time the happiness I felt was overpowering. Spending time with her made me forget the gray, cloudy days I felt after my pug Angel died.

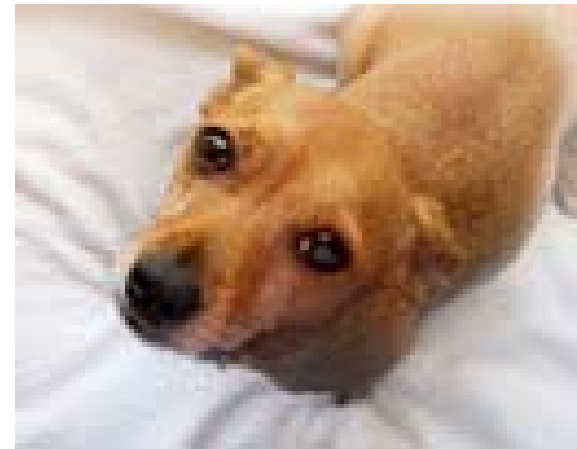
Everyone in my family said that Chica was “adventure prone.” A day didn’t go by without Chica snatching someone’s half eaten bagel off the ground or scaring the daylight out of sparrows. Chica loved adventures and the great outdoors! When we would go outside Chica pulled and pulled so she could explore every single thing, even if the “inhabitants” didn’t like it. She was always sniffing food scraps or scaring birds out of trees.

When I got home from school Chica would always be there waiting for me. After I finished my homework I would fill Chica’s bowls with food and water. Then I would take her for a long walk around the neighborhood. When we finished our walk I would give Chica one of her favorite treats. Then I would sit with her on the couch and give her lots of belly rubs with her tail wagging as fast as a jet plane.

On Sunday it was bath time for Chica. As soon as she heard the water running she would squirm underneath the couch. Once we had caught Chica we put her in the bath tub and finally started the bath. First, we put on the shampoo. Then we put on the conditioner, then rinsed it all off. Finally the bath was done. We lifted Chica out of the bath tub and set her down on a towel. Once she was out of the bath tub she shook water everywhere. Chica had made her point that she did NOT like baths.

Even though Chica has been adopted she has left a big mark in my life. She cheered me up with her quirky personality and showed me how to have fun again. She made me be more active instead of sitting front of the TV. I even found myself going outside more each day.

I will never forget Chica, the dog who changed my life.



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Doggy Manicures – February 18th

Last month we announced plans to hold monthly nail clipping sessions at the farm in Ashland. We set the kick-off date for January 7th but sadly, we couldn't get enough volunteers to make it happen. We really want to make this work, so we are going to try again on Saturday, February 18th at noon.

Having their nails clipped will help the dogs in several ways. They will look and feel better, and will begin to acclimate to the type of grooming experiences they will encounter in their forever homes.

Our plan is to go row by row through the kennel to see who needs clipping and perhaps while we have the dog out, give them a quick brushing as well. Of course these sessions will involve lots of treats and TLC, too. If you are interested, please email Tracy Thorpe at fireauxco1@yahoo.com or call 804-467-4874 (calling or texting is probably best).

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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 **81** dogs found loving homes in December for a total of **619** dogs adopted in 2011. 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: Cecelia, Lady & Sydney, and Smitty

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). 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).

Cecelia, aka Cece, is about five years old. She was originally adopted out as a young puppy from BARK and has lived in two different homes. The first time she was returned because her owner was not allowed to have pets in his apartment, but she was very well loved and did very well in the home. The second time she was in a home she had some issues with the family cat and it was not determined whether she was possessive/jealous over her person or maybe she just intolerant of cats. Cece is a very nice beagle mix who weighs in



at 35 pounds. Her volunteer friend says this about her, "Cecelia is my favorite! She is a wonderful, sweet, and very calm girl. CeCe just loves attention-she is always so happy when I take her on the long walk. She loves to stop and "smell the roses" along the way; she is good when other dogs are on the walk, also. CeCe is very polite when she gets treats after her walk." Cece has been a great playmate to her kennel companion, Suni, at the farm, and the two would make a great pair for someone looking to add two dogs to their home. They are extremely compatible. Ceci loves going outside to play and loves to go for walks. She's friendly to everyone she meets, dogs and people alike. She has a very sweet and easy going manner and loves getting attention and praise. If it were up to her, she'd cuddle in your lap and watch TV with a nice bowl of ice cream! She would love to find a forever home where she'll be loved and taken care of for the rest of her life. Check out Cece's classified ad [here](#)!



Cecelia

Lady and her sister Sydney are very beautiful 6-year-old Siberian husky mixes who have been together since birth. They came into rescue when their owner passed away and are now looking for a new home and family to love and share their life with. Lady, the darker of the two, loves to play. She plays like a puppy and loves toys. She is also very vocal and will "woo" at you in typical Siberian "talk," prompting Sydney to join in. Sydney is more laid back and a little less energetic than Lady. Neither is 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 hope they can find a home together. Lady and Sydney are favorites of one volunteer who has this to say about them, "My favorite dogs at BARK are Sidney and Lady. They are very pretty, easy to work with, have good manners and are a pleasure to be with. Even though they are not in my clean up row, I always find time to take them out, clean their area a little, walk them and give them a treat before putting them back in their cage. They are very calm and would make ideal pets. I hope they find a forever, loving home and I'm sure they will become loving members of any family, with or without kids." Please consider giving Lady and Sydney the future they deserve. Take a look at our very own classified ad [here!](#)



Lady & Sydney

"My favorite dog this month is Smitty," says Smitty's volunteer friend. "I've known Smitty for about two years and have always said 'hello' and given him treats. Now he is in our row and I get to clean for him and his kennel mate every week. Despite his size, he is a very sweet boy and walks around wagging his tail and smiling while I clean. In the kennel, Smitty is very gentle with me--no jumping or nipping and he is gentle taking treats from my hand as well. He is like a big, soft teddy bear and is very tolerant of my 'bear hugs' and my fawning over him and repeatedly telling him "what a handsome boy" he is. I think he may know it already but it doesn't hurt to tell him! I hope that this year is his year and that he gets adopted soon. The person adopting "Mr. Smitty Smit" will find a treasure of a dog."



Smitty

Smitty is a large 4-year-old shepherd/lab mix and is all black with some white markings on his chest. Smitty would do well as an only dog in a home, or perhaps paired with a female. At the current time he gets along well with his female kennel mate. He is very friendly with people and has a boisterous personality at times, but is strong and will benefit from obedience training and leash work to help him be in control. Smitty does well with training and can be very focused for treats and praise. He is also affectionate! He knows "sit" and will shake his paw, and can certainly learn more with consistent training. If you have another dog in your home and are considering Smitty as a companion, we suggest you have them meet to see how compatible they would be. View my classified ad [here!](#)

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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)



Monthly Meetings

BARK holds monthly meetings at the new spay/neuter clinic (12300 Farrington Road, Ashland, VA) every second Thursday of every month. The meetings begin at 7 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.

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.

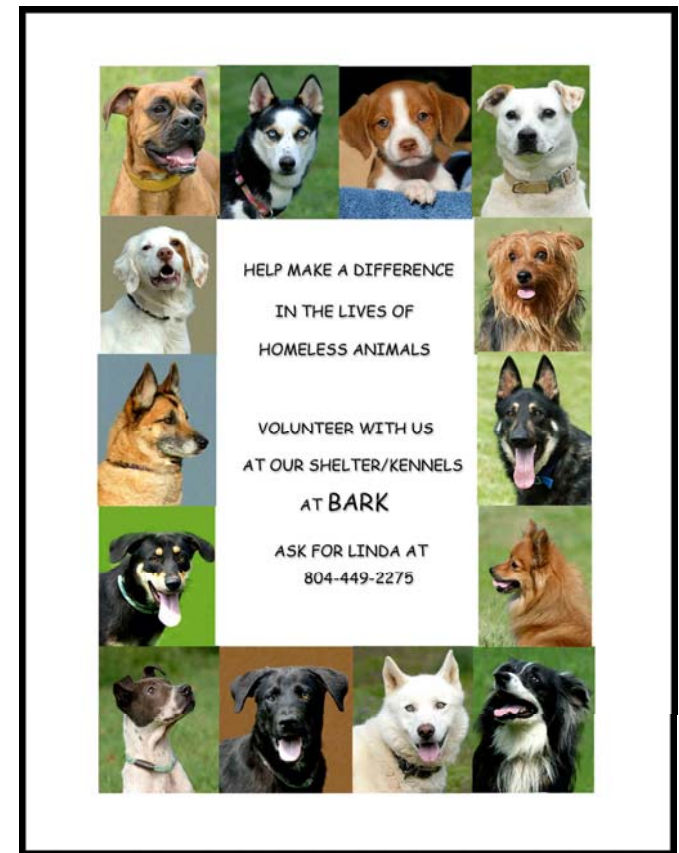
Volunteer Groups

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 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 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:

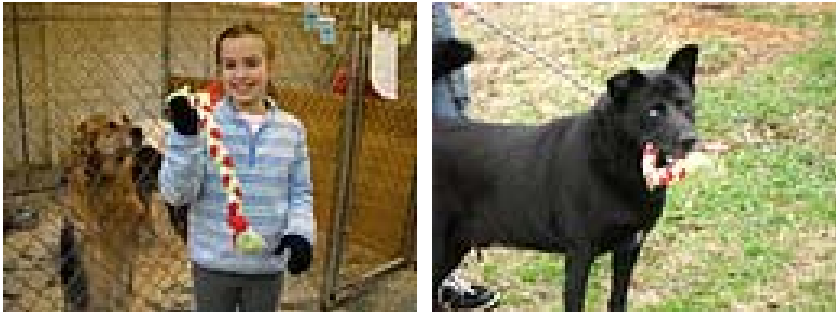
- ❖ Walking and Exercising Program
- ❖ Kennel/Shelter Care and Maintenance
- ❖ Volunteer Follow Up
- ❖ Special Projects/Facilities
- ❖ Feeding
- ❖ Transport
- ❖ Groups and Community Service
- ❖ Medical Care
- ❖ Intake

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

Welcome to newcomers *Joshua Anoff, Bob Banta, Jessica Conant, Bridget Crowley, Phillip Ducey, Byron Eubanks, Katey Fore, Alex Gavin, Tyler Glotz, Christopher Harmon, Allison Hazlett, Lauren Jameson, Adrienne & Alan Jensen, Lexi Long, Nicole Long, Randy Loving, Will Mallory, Melodie Martin, Guy Overstreet, Lindsay Prestemon, Sheree Seemonich, Patricia Selinger, Jack Staton, Lisa Stewart, David Webster and Callie Williams.*

Thank You Notes

- ❖ Thank you to the 2nd graders at Rural Point Elementary School in Mechanicsville for donating six large boxes of leashes, collars, brushes, dog bones and treats, dog food, dog snuggies, and lots of toys and puppy pads. Our toy bin is running over and our bone boxes are full thanks to your generosity.
- ❖ Thank you to American Family Fitness at Short Pump for organizing and collecting a huge amount of donations for the BARK dogs. Thanks to Kathi Sheffield, her team, and the wonderful BARK Angel Tree, we have lots of new toys, treats, leashes, collars and linens for our pups!
- ❖ Thank you to all who donated dog biscuits and canned food, which is very, very handy when giving medicines, fattening up thin dogs and lifting the spirits of depressed dogs.
- ❖ Thank you to the Glen Allen Minute Man Press for generously printing our volunteer applications and waivers.
- ❖ Thank you to Zoom Printing for printing our marketing cards.
- ❖ Thank you to 9-year-old Nicole Hays who volunteers at the BARK farm with her grandma, Connie, during school breaks. For the second year in a row, Nicole made the dogs in the back toys for their Christmas present. Blue loved his so much he wouldn't even drop it when it was time for his walk. Way to go, Nicole! You really helped the dogs have a very Merry Christmas.



Nicole with one of her
homemade dog toys and
Blue enjoying his new
Christmas gift!

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Notes from the Farm: by Rolph

Hi there friends and Happy New Year! I know I'm a little late on that one, but cut me some slack...we've been busy!

December was a super busy month for everyone here at BARK. With the holidays, it was a perfect time to add a new family member and many of my friends found their forever homes. That means we had lots of space open up, and wouldn't you know it, there were new dogs in those kennels in no time! So, 2012 has been full of new faces and new friends – both of the two- and four-legged variety. With kids out of school for the holidays, we had a ton of great volunteers come out and make our holidays special with some delicious homemade treats, lots of toys and plenty of nice, long walks. Trust me, I wish it was Christmas all year long if that's what Christmas means!

However, there are many of us that have been here at the BARK farm for quite some time, patiently waiting for our lucky day. Although the volunteers work really hard to find the perfect home for each of us, there are more than 40 dogs that have been here for more than a year. Now there's nothing wrong with them (or me, for that matter) – they just haven't found the right match yet or they're overlooked by potential adopters. So, what I'm hoping you all will consider doing is helping us out...if you have a favorite dog here at the farm, maybe you could take him or her to an adoption stand on the weekend and tell everyone why they should adopt your friend. You'd be amazed at the difference it makes just having someone talk about how great we are! Also, if it works for your home, maybe you could foster one of us “old-timers”. That way, we get experience being in a home and you get to enjoy a temporary house guest! Either way is a great opportunity to help. So please, just think about it!

Well, until next time...



Rolph

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Doggone Important News: Shelter Dogs Die at Wayne State University

In a complaint filed with the Wayne County, Michigan prosecuting attorney, [Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine](http://pcrm.org/media/online/jan2012/shelter-dogs-die-in-wayne-state-university) asked that Wayne State be prosecuted for felony animal cruelty for forcing hundreds of dogs— many former companion animals obtained from state animal shelters—to endure lengthy treadmill tests after multiple major surgeries. To learn more and help stop these practices, go to <http://pcrm.org/media/online/jan2012/shelter-dogs-die-in-wayne-state-university>.

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Happy Tails...Waggin' Good News



I wanted to give you an update on Goldie (now named Riley.) Though we have only had her 4 months she is already such a big part of our family. She is such a wonderful dog in so many ways. She is so friendly with anyone she meets and has such a happy personality. I do not think she ever stops wagging her tail except when she is asleep. She has become my little shadow, following me everywhere I go. She loves to travel and has already been on a several trips with us, including a camping trip to the Blue Ridge. I am so grateful to you and all the BARK volunteers for all you do. I wish you a very happy holidays.

Sincerely,

Andrea, Sean, & Riley



I just wanted to check in and let you know that Dolley is doing great! She is about 95% house trained and has calmed down a lot. She has also become very affectionate! She thinks she's a lap dog. We take her for runs or long walks whenever we can, which she definitely appreciates.

A few pictures of her with our other dog, Burdick, are attached. They're best buds now :)

*All the best,
Katherine*



I wanted to give you an update on little smokey who I adopted back in August. Yorkie schnauzer mix. Little Smokey is now named Yogi!

He is a total sweetheart. Loves cuddling, playing, walks, and running in circles real fast in the house! I call them puppy snits and when done he is exhausted. My husband really enjoys playing with him and is catching onto the routines and commands with the dog training but playing is his specialty.

Yogi is in the middle of dog training. We are on a break for the holidays and will start again in 2012. Have a great new year and thanks for bringing us together!

Kay (no picture included)

We wanted to let you both know that the "babies" (Hansel & Gretel, formerly Ina & Ana) are being loved so very much!!! Over the past 7 months they have nestled into our family and have stolen our hearts. They have definitely found their "forever" home.

At this time of year to count our blessings, we are so grateful to both of you for bringing these two precious dogs into our lives. We wish you and your dear ones a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of many blessings!

Merry Christmas to you and all of the caring people at BARK.

Adrienne, Jim, Stacy, & Raymond



Hansel & Gretel

We love Austin and thank you so much! He's doing well so far; he follows us around the house and has already found a couple of spots that he enjoys lying down and curling up on.

We just wanted to say thank you so much and hope you have a happy 2012!

*Thanks,
Richard and Bethany*



Austin



I want to thank you for your time and suggestions, particularly regarding Chester, as we are so happy with him. I want to thank BARK and all the volunteers as well as you all do such a good job with the dogs and know their personalities very well, saving them from some dire situations.

Chester is an amazing dog, he has settled right in and made himself at home.

We've found that he is loving the home life; so much so he doesn't like going outside at night (it's spooky!) so his potty breaks are very short at night! During the day he prances along on his lead whenever we're walking through the woods or down our road, stopping frequently to sniff all the new smells. He is completely housebroken, and sleeps by the bedside through the night. The photo I've attached is on Christmas morning, with him the center of attention! We had all our family over that day and he did wonderful around a bunch of new people.



Please pass along to everyone at BARK our thanks,
Sincerely, William and Virginia



We just wanted to send you a couple of pictures of Duke. He is doing really well, we love him.



My name is Jake, and I hope you put my story in the BARK newsletter. I am a BARK dog who was lucky to be adopted by my wonderful new parents this past Friday. I came from BARK as a puppy, but had to come back last April when my human daddy got sick. He brought me to the stand with tears in his eyes, and had to leave me. I was very afraid, and hid under a table the whole day, a volunteer felt sorry for me, and took me home to be my foster mom. She loved me very much even though I was big and "fluffy" and have a wart in the middle of my forehead. She looked past that at the kindness she saw in my eyes. I really liked living with her. She had to go on vacation for a couple of weeks, and during that time, I spent time with Mr. Tillack at his farm, he let me run all over his yard with his shepherds, and I really had fun! Mr. Tillack saw how much fun I was having, and he talked to my foster mom, and they decided I could stay there and have space to run and play with other dogs.

My foster mom has a very small home, but, she really missed me very much. Mr. Tillack would bring me to the stand each weekend so she could see me and spend time with me..I had been online for a long time, but no one was interested, or would look past my size, and the wart on my forehead. Then, one day, because I was at the stand, a nice lady and her husband saw me hugging my foster mom at the table, and thought I was a gentle dog. They talked to my foster mom, and finally decided to adopt me, and I am so happy! Please share my story, and see if there are other volunteers at the farm who have favorite dogs like me who they can be their buddy, and bring them to the stand. I would have never found my wonderful home had I not been there for my parents to see and visit with. It really helps, and I am proof of that. Thank you for listening, and for everyone who takes such good care of us BARK dogs,

Sincerely,

Jake



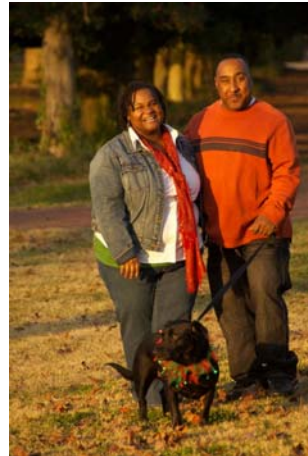
Jake

Hello everyone at BARK! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and a good start to a new year! We wanted to fill you in on how Scrape has been doing. WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE HIM TO PIECES! He is the most amazing dog and has been everything we could ever ask for and more. He is definitely spoiled rotten especially by our children that tend to leave treats around for him. He still sleeps at the end of our bed with us attempting to take up as much room as possible. We have also learned that he does not like when it is wet or cold outside so I have been making him some sweaters. HAHA!

We have had tons of fun these past few months by taking him on vacation to Folly Beach in South Carolina, visiting my mom's farm to let him run and play with her labs, having play dates with our friends dogs and going for long weekends visiting local family. He has also befriended some of the neighborhood children and enjoys their attention and treats. Recently we have decided to join the fight to re-home animals that are about to be put to sleep in local shelters. We recently adopted another bully breed to add to our family. We will be visiting your Jessica Beath Clinic next Wednesday with Scrape and our new rescue for shots and a neuter. The new best friends are getting along great and really enjoying each other's company. We want to thank everyone again for allowing us to adopt Scrape. We will be sending more updates and photos in the future!

Best regards, The Wolter Family (no picture included)

Check out the pictures of former BARK dog Gracie (known as Chris at BARK)!



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.

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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

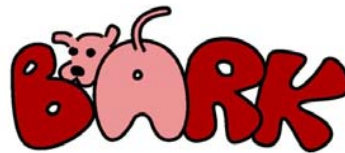
- \$100
- \$125
- Other _____

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.

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. So, by making your regular purchases through this site, you're helping take care of the dogs while they're waiting for their forever home!

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter  as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word! It's a super easy way to help support the organization.

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