

BARK Community Newsletter
February 2011

www.barkva.org

804-449-BARK

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

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Sarris Easter Candy Sales Benefit BARK Dogs!

For the fourth year in a row, BARK will be selling Sarris Candy for Easter to benefit the BARK dogs. Sarris Candy fundraiser proceeds will go to BARK's HOPE fund, which is used to cover extensive medical costs like surgeries and other non-routine expenses that go beyond basic vaccines and spay/neuter surgeries.

The HOPE fund was established in memory of a little pit-bull puppy named Hope. She came to BARK after her owner tied her legs together with electrical cord to keep her from scratching the mange she had contracted. The cord cut deep into Hope's legs, exposing her to massive infection. Once at BARK, Hope felt love and compassion for the first time in her short life as we tried to heal her. She put up a good fight but unfortunately was too weak. In her memory and honor, we created this fund so that BARK can continue to help other dogs requiring extensive medical care.

The Hope Fund has helped so many of our dogs in the past like Flax, Whiskey, Aiden, Dawn and so many others but there are more that need help. Please participate in the Sarris Candy fundraiser so many more animals can receive the care they need. Just take the brochure to work, show neighbors and friends and let's see how many sales we can get to help the dogs.

To purchase Sarris Candy, please contact Info at info@barkva.org for a brochure.

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Jessica Beath Foundation Matching Funds Opportunity



BARK is pleased to acknowledge a generous sponsorship grant from the Jessica Beath Foundation. Jessica Beath started the Beath Foundation in 1991 to honor the memory of her husband Dr. Thomas Beath, her parents, and her sisters. The Foundation's mission is to provide for general charitable purposes, most notably the care and rescue of animals. Mrs. Beath, who was born in Toronto, passed away in Richmond, VA in June of 2010 at the age of 106.

To further its mission, the Beath Foundation has agreed to a matching gift program for donations made to BARK through February 2011. Please help promote this mission and the mission of BARK by making a cash donation to the BARK organization before the grant period expires.

Checks payable to BARK may be mailed to P.O. Box 1682, Glen Allen, VA 23060 and checks and cash are accepted at any of our weekend outings. Click here (<http://www.barkva.org/Home.aspx>) for a complete list of outing times and locations.

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Game Day to Benefit the BARK Dogs!
Jefferson Lakeside Country Club's Game
Day

Thursday, March 24, 2011



Bring your friends, Mah Jongg set, or any other cards or games, and enjoy a day of fun, friends and food. The cost of \$25.00 includes your table, coffee/tea/juice, afternoon refreshment, and lunch. \$5.00 of each entry will be donated to BARK, Bandit's Adoption & Rescue of K-9's. Make plans early...the tables go fast!

RSVP by Friday, March 18, 2011 to Jody Godsey 804.266.2456 or jody.godsey@jeffersonlakeside.com.

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 9:00 am | Check-in, coffee and juice |
| 10:00 am | Tables open |
| 12:00 pm | Buffet Lunch |
| 3:00 pm | Refreshments |

Registration Form

Player 1. _____

Player 2. _____

Player 3. _____

Player 4. _____

Player 5. _____

Player 6. _____

Payment enclosed: \$ _____
Payable to: JLCC

Return form with payment to:
Jefferson Lakeside Country Club
Attn: Jody Godsey
1700 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23228

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In Memoriam: Lauren

Lauren was a 12-year old, tri-colored hound who made her way to the BARK farm in December. She made an indelible mark on us all, especially her foster mom who wrote these words just days after her passing,

"I fostered Lauren for just 3 days...but, so very worth it. She was just someone's hunting dog that they no longer wanted. She had a very hard life before coming to BARK. Being with us on the hill was a gift in that she had warmth, a bed, hay, a clean place to sleep, and decent food and water probably for the first time in her life. She was a very gentle, docile girl who would just look at you and enjoy being petted when you came into her kennel. She was old, and her bones tired...you could see it in her face, but, at least she knew love and attention and comfort those last few weeks. Bob took her to the vet, and when he brought her to my home, I thought I would have her a while to fatten up and spoil, even though we knew she was very old. That was not meant to be; he told me she had cancer. I did not share that at that time, thinking I might be lucky and have weeks with her. The short time she was with me, she was quiet, gentle, and seemed so appreciative of all she got...EXCEPT she fussed at her bath and howled her outrage at the end. I was laughing and wet...but afterward, when she was all clean and shiny, she was happy. She loved her soft blankets, and would lay over on her side for a belly rub...so there were gifts we could give her those final days...even though it was not long enough, it was still sweet. We are all blessed to be able to help God's creatures...and to have the hearts we have."



Lauren

(Pictured at the farm and later enjoying the warmth of her foster mom's flannel pajamas after her bath!)

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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 **60** dogs found loving homes in January including Nicki, Vivian and Jazzy who were with us for over a year. [\(Return to Top\)](#)

Adoption Spotlight: Bree, Chester, Daisy, Molly Sasha and Sophie

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).

For years and years and years, BARK had an older black lab named Charlie. We all loved him, but thought he'd never get a home because he was getting older and black dogs are probably the hardest to adopt out. Thankfully, he now has a fantastic loving home. Now we have his female look-a-like, sweet Bree, and hope the same fate is in store for her. Bree is a very gentle, friendly and outgoing female Black Labrador Retriever mix. She is 6 or 7 years old and weighs 50 pounds. Bree gets along great with other dogs, is quite playful and at times spunky, and would make an excellent companion for most any home. She is eager to please and loves being with you. A volunteer favorite, here's how one volunteer describes her, "Bree is such a sweet girl. When I go into her kennel she has to jump up and put both paws on my shoulders and stare into my eyes while I pet her. She is very calm and easy on a leash. She will make someone feel like the most important person on the planet. She would definitely be good for a calm, older couple. One thing that I find amusing about her is that she assists in the escape plan for her kennel mate Cinnamon. If you go into the kennel to clean or love on them and do not put the clip on, she will use her nose to push up the latch and open the door which lets her kennel mate get out because she is not very interested in getting out. Bree is very intelligent."



Bree

Chester is a 2 1/2 year old Labrador Retriever/Shepherd mix with a soft reddish coat, handsome face, and stunning eyes. A volunteer favorite, here's what one volunteer says about him, "Chester is a sweet guy. He so appreciates his walks and any extra attention you give him. He's on his own in his kennel and I've seen him play with toys just on his own, too. He has a lot of energy and has been able



to hold up in the kennel situation without getting too stressed. He would be a really loving, fun and appreciative companion." Chester enjoys long walks in the woods, walks beautifully on a leash and listens well. He has lived in a home before and got along well with his previous family's small children and even their cat. They also said he has good house manners and is house trained. Chester has a medium energy level and will need some regular exercise. He can climb out of a 6-foot tall kennel, and when outside in a fenced play area, he can dig under the fence if he wants to be with you so leash walking is best for our sweet Chester. Chester tested positive for Lyme's disease in early September. He can be choosy about his dog friends so if you have another dog, we suggest you bring your dog to meet him.



Daisy came to BARK after animal control found her alone and starving on the side of the road at 3 months of age. She is about 9 months old now and still waiting for that loving person or family to discover her and take her home forever. Daisy has a sweet, friendly, happy-go-lucky personality. She can be a bit of a food hog, maybe because of what she went thru to just survive as a baby. She gets along with her current kennel mate fine but may do best as an only dog. Like any puppy, Daisy would benefit from puppy classes. She is an avid learner and loves to work for treats and attention. Here's what her volunteer friend has to say about her, "When Daisy is in the kennel she is a nipper and very wild. Once you get her outside she is a completely different dog. She walks extremely well on a leash, does not nip and is very calm. She loves snuggling against you and being loved on. She would make an excellent companion for someone who is active and likes to be outdoors. She loves wading into the water and then running around like a crazy girl once she gets wet. I hope someone takes this sweet girl home soon."



Molly is a very beautiful mixed breed-maybe golden retriever, Labrador retriever and perhaps some collie. She is just over a year old and weighs about 35 lbs. Molly simply loves other dogs and has been fine with cats in a home, but she has a strong prey drive and might give chase given the opportunity. She's playful, sweet and very affectionate and cuddly with her people. She's crate trained and prefers a cushy mattress in her crate with some covering over the crate to provide her with privacy. She's nearly potty trained and learns well, and given the opportunity to go outside she should do well without having accidents in the home. She does extremely well on leash, loves going for walks and will sit with a soft voice command or with the fist command held at chest level. She is afraid of small children and would do best in a home where there were older adults, and also would do best with other dogs to socialize with (or have the opportunity to have other dogs to play with.) She can jump fences and will protect her family and yard. This is a wonderful and very intelligent, loving dog who is looking for the right home! Here are some observations from one of Molly's volunteer friends, "Molly is a complicated little dog! She is shy of being put on a leash but she seems to want to be around people. I looked over at her in her kennel after it had just been cleaned and she was jumping around with a little piece of blue plastic. So I got her a denim tie and she just went nuts playing with this little thing like it was a rabbit or something. Not sure if that is the best if someone has cats, but the point is she is very playful. She has seemed to get along quite well with the other dogs as they rotated through her kennel. Her own shyness makes it hard for her to get adopted I guess."



 Molly



Sasha, a white Siberian husky, will be 4 years old in April. She is a social butterfly who loves cheese, peanut butter and cheeseburgers! Sasha gives tons of kisses and loves to snuggle. She would do best with a single person, couple or a family with older kids who can engage her in activities and let her be part of their lives. Sasha loves to ride in a car and is house trained. She loves trail walks and exploring and would be a great jogging partner. She "woos" like huskies do, loves to talk to you when you talk to her, and knows commands like sit and give paw. The volunteer who voted for Sasha as one of her favorite dogs had this to say about Sasha, "Sasha, the new white husky, I can't help it. She's so beautiful! I know she has hardly been there a week or two and others have been there so long, but she is a great dog!!! She is so gentle and easy on a leash. We wanted to put the leash on her in the pen outside to bring her in and she lay down on her back and rolled around to show her belly in a playful way."

 Sasha

Sophie is a petite little girl, perhaps a beagle shepherd mix. She is 2 ½ years old and weighs about 26 pounds and is looking for a special home with an experienced owner who can manage some behavior issues. Sophie has shown some food aggression and has issues at times with other dogs. Since this is a new environment, we expect she might calm down and get used to us and used to being handled. Right now, she's a bit scared, temperamental and a bit unpredictable and we think would be best not adopted into a home



with small children. She's a nice size for a small home and given a securely fenced in yard or someone to walk her, she'd make a nice pet. She would benefit from one-on-one attention and some positive reinforcement training. Even with her challenges, Sophie is a volunteer favorite. Here's what her special friend has to say about her, "On the website, Sophie's description makes her sound a little standoffish and aggressive but I have been working with her for the past few weeks and she is so sweet. Because she is part beagle she does have quite a howl when she gets upset but I have gotten her to give hugs! If you squat or sit down on the ground she will actually hug you like a person and lay her head on your shoulder. Her "aggression" I feel is just because she does not like being in a loud environment where she does not receive love. I think that she would make a great dog for an older couple who would have time to spend loving on her. She has a lot of love to give and is excellent at walking on a leash and loves walking through the water."



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Volunteer Corner

We need your volunteer 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?

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!!! **We’ll work with your schedule and time constraints**

Once again it is that time of year when students have gone back to school and folks back to work (boo-hoo) and 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 get you set up.

Volunteer Groups

The good news is that we have so many new and wonderful volunteers. 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

Flexible starting and ending hours – The number of volunteers determine how long it takes to clean.

To attract more volunteers we have very flexible working hours and will work with your schedule. We discourage working alone at the kennels unless very experienced. Volunteers are there 7 days a week at various times so we are sure one of those times will work for you. Everyone must have an orientation before becoming a volunteer. They are held at 12:00 p.m. Saturdays and/or Sundays unless otherwise pre-arranged with the crew lead. Orientations for other days of the week are held Mondays through Fridays and will be arranged for you with a crew lead. 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.

If you are not a regularly scheduled volunteer but wish to come out and help at various times, that is great. But you must have received your orientation, turned in your paper work to a crew lead at the farm (not only on line), read the required readings and have some experience. You should coordinate with the crew lead for that day so you won't show up alone. We are always happy to have the extra help and look forward to it especially during the holidays and vacation times. Just drop the crew lead for that day an e-mail or call. Contact information for crew leads is included in the new volunteer's welcome package where you'll also find required reading, the application/waiver and directions. If you no longer have that contact information, write Linda at billindaphoto@mindspring.com or (804)883-7740 before coming out and she'll let the crew leads know. 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 those who follow behind you.

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.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: We have volunteers who arrive at 5:00 p.m. or later but again, flexibility is the name of the game. Once oriented and experienced, you can come anytime morning, noon or night – again, preferably not alone. Just make sure the crew lead knows and that you mark off the row(s) you clean and dogs you walk.

Saturdays: We start anywhere from 10:30 a.m. (or earlier) and go until the dogs return from the adoption stands late in the afternoon or until you have to leave. These are good days for individuals and groups (if scheduled) to help clean and then walk/exercise dogs. If you are with a group, please make sure we know your group plans on coming out – we can only handle so many groups at a time. Also, we 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 above for Saturdays holds true for Sundays.

Remember, the dogs depend on us. We are all they have until a forever home is found for them. Give a piece of yourself. Maybe

volunteering with BARK for a few hours once a week could be your New Year's Resolution. The dogs would love you for it and so would we! Hope to hear from you.

BARK's Special Project Crew Needs Your Help!

It's time to spread the word to anyone interested in helping out on special projects at the BARK. There are quite a few projects outside and inside that can be addressed while the weather is good but we need your help.

If you've got the skills, come share with others and help out. If you just want to get out and get some exercise and learn how to do some new work with your hands and muscles, we will be happy to teach you what you need to know. There are always projects in need from building and construction, to kennel work and maintenance to cleaning and repairs.

Every hour that anyone can help can make quite a difference. We also welcome corporate project teams, talent and contributions of all kinds! And we even try to have fun at it, of course.....If you want to get on our projects volunteer list, please contact Bob directly at robertcadams@verizon.net and we will get in touch with 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 in volunteering, please visit our website, www.barkva.org, and fill out a volunteer inquiry form. The phone number for BARK is 804-449-2275. Linda Lane, shelter coordinator, is always available at billindaphoto@mindspring.com or 804-883-7740.

Finally, welcome to newcomers: Kory Arkwell, Tamara & Jon Burkhart, Meghan Carey, Mark Carpenter, Bill Carroll, Steven & Kari Cook, Meagan Crawford, Kayla Diggs, Sarah Earman, Susan & Jeanne Floyd, Caitlin Hoffman, Twyla Jones, Stephen McNamara, Jacqueline Morin, Patrick Phalen, Audrey Phillips, Pamela Pien, Elizabeth Snyder, Christopher Witt.

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Thank You Notes

- ❖ Thank you to the Ruritans for sponsoring a bingo session at the old Farrington Volunteer Firehouse. It was really a blast!
- ❖ Thank you to Zoom Printing, again, for the yellow BARK informational cards that we use to promote BARK. Our box is now full!!
- ❖ Big thank you to Creative Conservation in Ashland for installing/spraying Icynene insulation in the rear building at the kennels. It will certainly help make the building warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Thanks to you, the dogs that live in that area now have sunlight, bright walls and warm houses.
- ❖ Thank you to Home Depot for their generosity during the rear kennel project. You certainly made it a little less painful.
- ❖ Finally, thank you to all the volunteers without whom this project could not have been accomplished. You are phenomenal. We had a wonderful crew of folks who showed up at 6:00 a.m. on a Friday to help shuffle dogs around and make room for the process. Many volunteers stayed all day, leaving at around 6:00 p.m. - a long but very fun and rewarding day. We had all sorts of eats and treats and lots of fun with all the dogs. The following day the primer went on so it was out with the dogs again for the entire day! The final coats of paint will be applied soon. Again, many, many thanks to all those who helped pull this off. It was a logistical challenge but we did it!!



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Notes from the Farm: by Rolph

Hi there my BARK friends! January was another exciting month here at the farm thanks to lots of great volunteers. We got a decent bit of snow (which I personally love!) and the biggest news was the installation of the new insulation in the back of the kennels where I live. I guess Santa got my message about wanting to be a bit warmer...

Anyway, thanks to a lot of volunteers, the installation process seemed to go pretty smoothly. Some of my favorite 2-legged friends showed up bright and early (6 am!) to help get us all out of our kennels so the Creative Conservation crew could spray the insulation. Talk about strange looking – it went on the walls like some sort of foam, but seemed to be dry almost instantly! We got a lot of outside time that day and then enjoyed a nice, much warmer night in the kennels.

My good friend Bob Adams came back the next week to start the painting process and boy, did it look like a pain! They had to spray the entire area (ceilings, walls) with primer before they could even paint. He came to visit me a couple of times while we were outside and he was completely covered in paint! Finally, Bob and Bo brought us back inside for the evening. The best part of the whole scenario was seeing my doggie buddies with drips of paint in various places! Poor Duke had a single drop of paint right between his eyes for about a week. Bob promised Duke he'd take care of it and he did!

So thank you again to all of the volunteers who made this possible. We've all rested much better since the insulation was installed. Instead of shivering, now we can enjoy a cozy nap in our beds! Well, until next time...



Rolph

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Doggone Good Info: Keeping Your Dog Happy

Your dog's happiness is not something you should take for granted. Dogs are aware, sentient beings that need a number of things in order to be content and to enjoy life. Dog owners need to get out of the mindset that dogs are mere possessions and begin to establish caring and responsible relationships with these fine animals. For all the loyalty and love dogs give to humans they deserve consideration in return. Bearing this in mind, here are some tips you can use to keep your dog healthy, motivated, and happy.

Pat and be affectionate with your dog. This seems simple enough, but in the general bustle of a busy schedule it can be forgotten. Take at least a few minutes each day to just pat your dog and show your love. If you don't understand how this leads to a happier dog, then perhaps dogs aren't for you.

Let your dog have a chance to run outdoors. This is neglected even more often than the previous tip. Dogs are naturally active, athletic animals. Both to for simple physical exercise and to maintain their sense of psychological zest dogs need to run and jump. So take your dog to dog parks, on hiking trails, or out to a safe yard (fenced or far from roads) and let it actually run or at least vigorously walk.

Clean fresh water. Many people leave water in bowls for days on end. It accumulates dust and dirt, becomes stagnant, and if outdoors even provides a breeding ground for insects. Change your dog's water daily, and make sure to use clean, fresh water. Also make sure the bowl doesn't run dry for long periods. Just as it is for humans, drinking enough water is one of the keys to efficient and balanced physical functioning. Insuring your dog has good, fresh water is an important step toward insuring good health.

Give your dog high quality food, and food it likes. Dogs need good high quality, healthy food of course. There's some controversy as to what the best dog foods are of course, but one thing to keep in mind is that your dog should also like the food he or she gets. Experiment with both canned "wet" dog food and dry - ones that are high in nutritive value and protein, and recommended by professionals. Though you may hear it advised, don't feed your dog only dry dog food. Dogs are primarily carnivores and need actual meat in their diet.

People may also tell you not to feed a dog leftovers. But as a matter of fact, any meat leftovers are fine. You can also give your dog bones from the butcher (never of fowl, only large animal bones), which they love. As long as you do these things responsibly, your animal's diet will be more varied and they will be both healthier and happier. Reminder: never feed your dog scraps directly from the table or you will train it to beg and stare every time you eat dinner. Feed dogs any scraps in a separate room and at a different time than your meal times.

Play with your dog and/or give it an activity to learn. Dogs need stimulation, activity, and learning. They are susceptible to boredom and need something to give their time purpose, just as humans do. So whether indoors or out, spend time being active and

playing with your dog. This could take the form of simple wrestling or playing fetch with your dog to more complicated teaching/learning activities such as training your dog to fetch the newspaper.

Take preventative health care measures. Health and happiness go hand in hand. So take measures to protect your dog's health, preferably before any problems occur. Give your dog heartworm prevention medication and check regularly for fleas and ticks, especially during the season when these pests are a problem. Here's some news you may not hear often - major brand flea and tick defenses such as Frontline and Advantage have been shown to contain neurotoxic compounds and have resulted in health problems for dogs and other animals, and even deaths. There is a product called Best Yet that uses cedar oil to fight fleas, and cedar oil in itself is a natural flea killer with no harmful effects. Read up on any health products you use on your dog.

Pay attention to changes in your dog's energy level, temperature (an overheated dog will usually have a warm dry nose, while one at the optimal temperature will usually have a cold, wet nose), appetite, and excretory patterns. If any seem abnormal for an extended period, it may be for a veterinary examination.

Train and keep good control of your dog. Dogs understand authority. If you're vague on control you'll confuse the dog. This does NOT mean to strike, repeatedly yell at, or otherwise abuse the dog. It simply means that in a firm and friendly way you make clear to the dog that you are in control. More often than not this will be in the form of training that involves positive rewards rather than scoldings and yellings. It is proven fact that dogs learn far better with positive as opposed to negative reinforcement. Your dog will respect and obey you much better if you are kind and firm at the same time.

Give your dog adequate shelter and bedding if it is outdoors a lot. If your dog spends a lot of time outdoors, make sure you have provided adequate shelter in the event of rain, snow, cold, and so on. This will generally be a dog house or other sheltering structure such as a porch. Provide clean bedding in dog houses and change it at least one every few weeks.

Don't chain your dog up or leave it outdoors for long periods. In general the "dog on a chain" idea is long overdue for a change. Chaining a dog up and leaving it outdoors for long periods is abuse, plain and simple. It limits the mobility of the dog, exposes it for over long periods to the elements, and deprives it of needed contact and interaction. If you must use a chain, make sure it is fairly long (at least 15 feet) so that it allows your dog to move around relatively freely. And make sure that the dog is on the chain for only part of the day.

Leaving your dog outdoors for extended periods is inhumane. Even though dogs have fur, they can only remain warm to a limited degree. In winter temperatures leaving them outdoors for more than a few hours should be avoided. And they definitely shouldn't be left out over night. Inside a house or warm garage is the best place for dogs to sleep, especially in the winter.

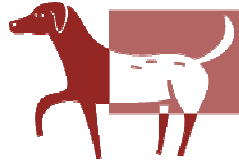
Let you dog interact with other dogs and people. Dogs are social in nature. Indeed, they are pack animals. So if possible, let your dog meet other dogs and play. Dog parks (preferably large ones where people are allowing their dogs to run and play) and dog

socialization/training classes are good places for this to take place. Even on an ordinary walk to can let your dog meet and sniff other dogs as long as they don't seem to be snarling at one another. Another option you might consider is simply getting a second (or third) dog. Dogs that can group together and play in yards or your living room will be extremely happy - and a lot of the responsibility for entertaining will be off your shoulders.

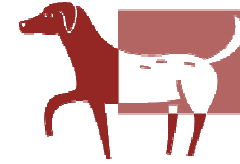
If you can't arrange any of this, at least allow your dog greet friends, guests, and people you meet. Don't keep them straining at the leash while you chat. As long as you train the dog well there is nothing wrong with it being friendly and making contact.

Following these tips will help keep your dog happy. Dog's are not merely playthings for you're your amusement. They need you and are intelligent, aware, and active creatures. They are capable of suffering, depression, and boredom, and equally capable of happiness and excitement. Treat them well and they will surprise you with their energy, joy, and ability to learn.

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Happy Tails...Waggin' Good News



I just wanted to update you on Rollo's transition to life in NOVA. He is the absolute love of my life and everyone who meets him tells me that we were meant for each other. I call him my little prince, because he's spoiled rotten with regular walks and trips to the awesome Shirlington dog park, tons of toys and treats, several Facebook photo albums devoted to him, and even a booster seat so he can see out the window in the car! He has his own doggie bed, but he has never once used it, because he thinks that my "people-bed" is good enough!

He traveled home to NH with me for Christmas and LOVED the snow, as well as playing with the family dogs. He is a great traveler and had no problem flying with me as my carry-on! For Christmas my mom got us a "Doggie DNA" test so that we could find out what he actually is, just for fun. Turns out he's a Pekepoo! Definitely explains his adorable underbite!

Thank you so much for the work you do at BARK. Rollo is my best friend and has brought me so much joy.

Kelsey



Rollo

Each time the BARK newsletter arrives, I'm reminded that I want to send you photos of Bob. He's been with us for a year now, and even though he still is afraid of EVERYTHING and EVERYONE (other than me), I think he feels safe and happy. He jumps around like a puppy when no one else is near.

He loves his sofa (his safe spot), long walks, sleeping in the middle of my bed and sharing the sofa with his big sis, Kasey. They run full throttle through the back yard hoping to catch a squirrel or bird! It's hilarious how he leaps through the air! We still have a long row to hoe, but he'll always be safe, warm and well fed and I think he knows it.

Claudia



Bob

Emma is doing great! We love having her and she loves being with us. We just came back from our walk at the school near our house. On Christmas day we took her with us to Lynchburg to visit my daughter and grandchildren. She did so well with the children and they loved her. She also loves playing with the little girl next door. When Emma hears her coming to the door, she gets so excited and runs and gets her tennis ball and is ready to play!

Next month we are going to take her on a little trip to the Eastern Shore for a few days. When she sees us get her leash she gets so excited because she knows that she is going to go with us. Our family feels complete now that we have her!

Charlotte (no picture included)

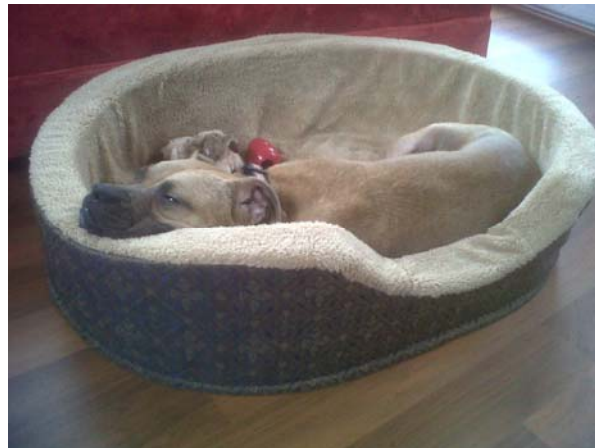
Our BARK Adoption Story...

William, man of the house supreme, age: damn impressive 40: Love this dog. I was so happy to give a pit bull a chance at a loving home. They get sent to the pound and people just disregard the love they can bring to families. When Nina lays her square head on my leg as I watch TV, it makes this house even more of a home. I'm glad to see my boys enjoy the company of a family dog. When she greets me as I come home from work, it reminds me of what a great choice I made.

Ashanti, son age 14: Our family recently got a fabulous pit mix named Nina (formerly Princess). She is the most adorable dog in the world. She doesn't bark and she greets new people like it was her job. She is fun to have around and she's a bundle of love. I love having her around and I can't imagine my house without her. She is the coolest dog on the planet. I love her so much.

Amiri, son age 5: I like Nina in my room. Sometimes she messes up her bed and my dad claps real loud to make her listen sometimes. Nina always licks my hands, and when she does, my dad says "ahhn-ahhn!" Nina always messes with my Ernie doll, but it's ok because I don't need it any more. She licks my mommy in the face so hard it makes mommy's glasses fall off. That's funny.

Tameka, wife (oh, what's a number after all): I was not keen on the idea of having a pet in the house. With two boys at home and enough to clean up already, I was very reluctant to open the door for anything that would add to the heap. My husband, however, loves dogs, and I love him, so I gave him the green light for his 40th birthday. That said, I'm very glad to have Nina as a part of our household. She is a sweet dog and I get the sense she's had a very hard life. I'm glad that we are able to give her a loving home. She makes my family very happy. If she would stop trying to lick me in my face, she would be perfect. I look forward to taking her out for walks when the weather warms up.



Nina

Hi my name is Daisy. Others may have known me as Fannie or even Tattoo. I was adopted around a year and a half ago. Unfortunately I was separated from my sister Suzette and although I miss her a lot I am really enjoying my new home. I get tons of attention, and about all the treats I could dream of! I have many toys that I love taking out of my basket! I spend my days cuddling on the couch with my new family and rolling around on the carpet. I get to go on a walk everyday so I get my exercise. I have learned many new tricks, and getting treats for sitting never gets old. I just learned how to paw shake.

Although I have two main owners (Alexa and her mom) I have made many new friends. My favorites are the Bernese Mountain dogs across the street. At first I had to adjust to being separated from my family while they were at work and school, but now I just think of it as time to take a relaxing nap without people trying to coddle me. I know when they get home I will get double the praise. In the winter I love prancing in the snow, and in the summer I love basking in the sun. I am so happy that a little dumpster dog like me can be living like a princess now. Well it's getting late, so I'm going to go take a nap, so I got to go get ready on my favorite spot- Alexa's lap. I am just so happy that I have found my perfect home with people that have nothing but love for me☺! Say hello to all the newcomers at BARK, and send my happiness to all who were adopted!



Daisy

Buddy (Figaro) is a complete joy - playful, affectionate and well-behaved. I can't imagine a more perfect dog. He seems to be completely at home at my house; we're enjoying plenty of exercise, play times and quiet times. There have been no accidents, he slept through the night and he seems very happy. Clearly, we're the perfect match.

Thanks again!

Jane (no picture included)

Thank you again for helping us adopt Buck! It has already been 5 days, and Buck is taking quite nicely to his new home. At first, he was quite nervous/anxious, but he's settled in quite nicely. You should have seen the excitement when we heard him bark for the first time (a couple days later)! Yesterday, when we took him to the park near our house, there were children playing in the snow, and Buck let everyone know he was there! It has been a lot of fun watching him slowly coming into his own. He's certainly getting tons of attention - and lots of energetic walks!

I took him to the vet last night for his first check-up. The vet agreed that he was less than 2 yrs old (judging by his teeth), and looked quite healthy (yay!). He got a vaccination (step 1 of 2 for something that can be transmitted from our local wildlife - I forget the name), and I picked up a year's worth of heartworm and flea/tick protection. We're good to go! The only thing of concern was his heart: apparently he has a sizable heart murmur (3 out of 6) that we'll have to keep tabs on. We'll have the vet re-check him in a couple weeks when we get the vaccine booster. Hopefully nothing that will require medication. He certainly is full of energy and loves to run on and on - so something must be compensating somewhere! Since he's still young, there may be some amelioration as he ages. So we'll keep our eyes on that. Other than that, no worries!!

We're so happy that we can provide Buck is "forever" home!

*Thank you again,
Philippe*



Buck

I just wanted you to know that Gretchen and Seamus are settling in nicely. They enjoy playing together. Seamus is being a great big brother and helping us teach Gretchen some nice doggie manners. She is sitting nicely and is working on down. I have attached a picture of the two of them. Thanks for helping us bring Gretchen into our family. Oh, we are changing her name to Lilleth, but are calling her Lilly. She seems to like it and responds to Lilly when we call her.

Thanks for everything,
Lisa (no picture included)

Ashby is doing great...we just really love having him around. This is a story that my great niece wrote about her dog...

My Dog...by Yasmine

My dog's name is Ashby. He is 7 years old.

I think he is the best dog in the whole world.

Me and my dog like to play, he does not chew on toys...but I still love him.

One day I asked my Aunt...can we go and see if we can look for a dog...she said yes.

We went to the pound. We did not find a dog, so we went to PetSmart, they had a big thing going on.

When I looked at the dogs I saw.....him! It was Ashby, my dog! I ran to him!

I had to wait a week to get him.

One day I almost lost him. I got scared, but I was brave that I will not lose him.

I found him!!! I'm so happy!!!

That is my soft dog.

The End

P.S, I was hiding under the tool shed in the back yard and didn't mean to scare anybody...love Ashby



We love Luna!!! We are so happy to have her and she has become a wonderful part of our household. We kept her name since it really suited her pale pretty colors and her shy sweet personality. She is still shy around new people, but once she has had a good time with a guest she wags her tail and her whole butt, puts her ears back and smiles to meet people she knows. She gets a long run every morning and lots of walks in the woods. She has lots of friends at the dog parks and Pets at Play and seems to be good at bringing out the play in other dogs. The main comments from people at the dog parks is, "she's so cute...is she a puppy?" She does have a quiet naughty side though and has taken on the role of Chief Household Trimmer - trimming little bits off of many fabric things around the house, e.g. snipping shoelaces, purse strings, leashes, back pack straps and most lately a seat belt! But we are figuring that out...She is a doll and most beloved.

Mary



Luna

Charlotte is a joy and just what we wanted. She came home and had 1 accident which is to be expected and then settled right in. She and my daughter spent the night together but we discovered that Charlotte snores so Nicole is sleeping in and Charlotte is hanging out with me and our other dog. The 2 dogs have already become great friends and are so cute when they get to playing together. Baby has even decided to share her new chew bone which is an amazing feat.

Please let everyone at BARK know that we are very happy with Charlotte and are looking forward to spending a long happy life with her. I will send pictures once I get some. *(Pictured at right on her adoption day!)*

Thank you for all your help,

Laura, Nicole, Kelley, Bill, and Baby



Charlotte



I've been in my new home about a week now and things are going pretty good. When I first got here, the BIG cat that lives here hissed at me. All she does now is stare at me with her big green eyes. I got in her indoor bed one day to try it out and she didn't seem to mind. I have a really soft and nice bed of my own.

I have a nice big yard with trees and bushes, and I also have a porch to sit on. There's a big dog next door and she barked at me, but I think she wanted to play.

The people who adopted me seem to really like me. They brush me and pet me. The man took me with him one day to take food to an elderly man. The old man said I was a nice dog. I heard the woman say she wished I didn't look so sad. She said we would work on that problem. She is always telling me what a good dog I am.

I went to the Vet and he said I was healthy, but my ears were a little dirty. He cleaned them and I feel better because they don't itch anymore.

"Thank You" to everyone for taking care of me.

Love,

Joe (no picture included)

I just wanted to send a note on Dutch. He is doing great (up to 80 lbs.) and he enjoys his time with my girls. He is the perfect pet for our family. Thanks.

Eugene (no picture included)

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

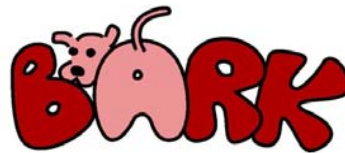
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Other Ways to Support

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...

- ❖ 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!
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- ❖ 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.
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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!

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