

BARK Community Newsletter
March 2011

www.barkva.org

804-449-BARK

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

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Morgan's All Natural Pet Products

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Ways to Donate to BARK

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@barkva.org for a brochure.

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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

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Dine at California Pizza Kitchen on March 31st and Support BARK

Enjoy California Pizza Kitchen's great food on March 31st and raise money for BARK and our new spay/neuter clinic. The coupon to the right can be used for delivery, dine in and take out as well as delivery. Tell your friends, family and coworkers - the more people that enjoy California Pizza Kitchens great food on March 31st the more money we can raise! Be sure to print out and bring this page of the newsletter with you or have it available when takeout is picked up or delivered for BARK to get credit.

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JOIN US *for an* EVENT WHERE
**GIVING WON'T JUST FEEL GOOD,
IT'LL TASTE GOOD.**

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s



We're having a fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen. Just bring in this flyer on the date listed below, present it to your server when ordering, and 20% of your check will be donated to our organization.



**March 31, 2011
California Pizza Kitchen
Short Pump Town Center
804.364.9047**

Eligible groups include non-profit schools and 501c3 charitable organizations. Donation amount excludes proceeds from tax, gratuity, gift card and retail purchases. Valid for dine-in, take-out and curbside service. Not valid on delivery. Manager, please attach this flyer to the guest check. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant.

Heartworm Positive Dogs Need Foster Homes – Please Help!

Many of the dogs rescued by BARK test positive for heartworm, a potentially life threatening condition. BARK currently has five heartworm positive dogs that need a foster home for six weeks so they can go through heartworm treatment. We have dogs of all breeds and sizes. These dogs cannot be made available for adoption until they are treated. Fostering a heartworm positive dog now could mean that a dog would have a chance to be with a forever family by summer!

Treatment involves three appointments at the vet, keeping the dog crated and leash walking only. Would you like to learn how you can help? Contact foster@barkva.org to find out more about canine heartworm treatment.

Meet the dogs...



 Doogie



 Maya



 Rambo



 Rebel



 Spud

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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 **37** dogs found loving homes in February.

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Adoption Spotlight: Cyana, Jax, Moss & Molly, Rolph, Sally, Scotch, Scott, and Seeko

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).

Cyana is a wonderfully sweet natured, people friendly 5- year old waiting for a forever home. She appears to be a mix of Shepherd or Corgi, but is short and sturdy like a Bassett hound. Can you say flying nun? Just look at those ears! Cyana would do best in a home as an only dog, or with an adult dog who is passive and mellow in nature. She seems fine with cats. Cyana thrives on attention and loves to curl up in your lap. She would do best with someone who is home most of the time as she does suffer from anxiety when left alone too long and can jump a four foot fence despite her short legs. A volunteer favorite, here's what one volunteer says about her, "Cyana is such a sweet little girl, often overlooked since she is just so carefree. She gets along well with the other dogs - although she will not pass up an opportunity for a good ol' fashioned fence fight if offered. She walks very well on leash and enjoys visiting "Dog Beach" as we like to call the creek access on long walk. I see her living with a sweet retired couple who could shower her with as many kisses as she can stand. I just cannot believe she has not captured the heart of the forever home she so deserves."





Jax is a 3-year old wire-haired terrier mix who is ready to have some fun. Friendly and very energetic, he'd make a great companion for a family on the go, and wouldn't require any fancy primping or grooming. A good bath and a brushing once in a while would suit him fine. Here's what Jax's volunteer friend says about him, "I have been spending some extra time with Jax and love him. He is a bit hyper, but that is for need of a person or family that can give him the love and attention he needs and deserves. He is gentle and will take treats from you, sit at your feet and walk with you though he needs a little training on the leash. Would take him home in a heartbeat but I have 3 dogs of my own (one 17yrs old)...Please come see Jax..he would be a wonderful and fun loving companion."



Moss and Molly are senior lab mixes that came to BARK together in mid-November and are an extremely bonded pair. They do everything together and get anxious when apart for even a few minutes. they came to us from Buckingham county when that rescue closed up, and have likely been together for years. We think Moss (has the more chocolate undertones and the ears that sit out to the sides) and Molly (the more black one) have been best friends and soul mates for a very long time. Molly is about 7or 8 years old and Moss is probably more like 9 or 10. They are housetrained and very easy going dogs for someone who would be interested in a pair of senior labs with hearts of gold. Moss & Molly need to stay together, hopefully in a special home where they can sit on their pillows and eat biscuits all day.



Rolph is a 5-year old lab mix who loves to be hugged and to give big ol' hugs back to you. Here's how one of his volunteer friends describes him, "Rolph has been at the farm almost as long as I've been a volunteer, which is about four years! He is a very unique and handsome looking dog. He is always happy to see the volunteers' smiling faces. Lots of times he will jump up on the fence and lean



back into you while you give him tummy rubs and in return, he gives you lots of kisses. Rolph also loves to run back and forth with you in the cage. When he tires out he just lies down in the cage waiting for another belly rub. Even though he is a big dog, he will sometimes lie down in your lap and just cuddle. He loves to just sit there and be rubbed and loved on. He also loves to go on walks. He does pretty well on the leash, but he does need to be taught how not to pull so hard. With a little time and effort, Rolph would be a great walking buddy to take on long walks. Although he seems happy at BARK, Rolph has waited so long to be in a forever home. How can you not take him home when you see those big, brown puppy eyes looking up at you!" Rolph doesn't like people getting into his food so he would probably do best in a home with older kids or adults. He would probably prefer to be the only dog in a home, too.



Rolph



Sally is a precious 1 ½-year old tri-colored terrier mix. She is medium sized at around 26 pounds and has cute ears that stand up half way and flop over. Sally lives with an awesome foster mom who describes her like this, "Sally enjoys walking on the leash with you (and off after time) and she loves the dog park. She will sit quietly on command for doors to be opened and be invited to go through, usually stays out of the kitchen without a gate, is very patient with crating and waiting in the car, loves to give kisses and to play with her squeak toy, with or without you. While she had issues with men in the past, she is warming up to them with socialization at the park and her foster home. She is kind to kitties and kids, tolerates baths quite well and her big grin and floppy ears make everyone smile."



Sally

Scotch is a mature and full grown, if not overgrown, hound dog. He is around 4 years old and weighs 61 pounds. He has some extra padding on him and he needs a good work out. He doesn't appear to have anything against exercise, in fact, he has a happy lilted walk when you take him out on leash! He was rescued from a place where he's received very little attention and yet he still loves to be with people. He's a jolly boy who loves being with other dogs and with people. He does have issues with food and treat aggression around other dogs (not people) which probably stems from the conditions he was living in. Therefore, he'd do best in a home where someone had experience working with this or in a home as an only dog. Scotch's volunteer friend has this to say about him, "Scotch is one of my very favorites at BARK. I clean his kennel every week, and he is just the sweetest boy. He is very docile and loving, just sits and patiently looks at us go by, hoping one of us will stop and come into his house to visit. He loves to have us sit with him and give him hugs, kisses, and belly rubs. He does great on a leash and is a very handsome boy. The home that gets this loving guy will be a very lucky one indeed!"



Scotch



Scott

Scott appears to be a Boxer/Hound mix. He is about 3 years young, medium sized at 48 pounds, and has a handsome, expressive face. Scott gets along well with female dogs, but not male dogs. He is quite friendly and has a medium energy level. Scott didn't receive a lot of attention before coming to BARK, and he's hoping to make up for lost time in a new and loving family. A volunteer favorite, here's what one volunteer says about him, "My favorite dog this month is Scott although he just got moved from our row. He is very sweet and stands with his front paws on my chest and then lays his head between his paws. He obviously needs some extra cuddling and lovin'. He must not have gotten much where he came from. He is calm but desperately wants your attention when you clean and will stand in your way until you stop and give him some head scratches."

Seeko is a 1 ½-year old Siberian Husky mix. He currently weighs about 60 pounds and will likely end up weighing about 70 pounds once he gains the weight he needs to. He was found as a stray by animal control, rescued by BARK and is now looking for a family of his own. Seeko, a volunteer favorite, is described like this by his special friend, “My favorite dog is Seeko..but then I am an owner of 2 huskies. He is such a good looking guy and very playful. He loves his human and wants to try and please you. He is good on a leash and loves to take walks. He will stop and turn around to make sure you are still back there. He would love someone who has the time for a little training and who likes to take long walks everyday. He will chase a ball but won't bring it back. He is always looking for a good belly rub. Sometimes if you tell him down he will roll over for one. Siberians are a fun breed but do need lots of running and play time. When giving him a treat he takes it so nice that he won't hardly touch your fingers. We are not sure how he is with other dogs but seems to want to play with some of them.” Seeko has a friendly, outgoing personality and would do best in a home with someone who understands Huskies. He needs someone who can be his leader, train him and give him plenty of exercise. He is fairly new to our rescue, and he currently guards his food around other dogs and needs to be fed separately, but that is to be expected at this time as he was stray and so thin when he was found. We expect he will overcome guarding his food around other dogs soon. He is making progress everyday, gaining the weight he needs to and is much happier all around. He does try to dominate other dogs and would do best as an only dog with someone who can provide close supervision and firm leadership especially when he is around other dogs. He will make a very loyal and dedicated companion and a fun dog to do things with. If you love the breed, you will want to meet handsome Seeko.



Seeko

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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.

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: *Lisa Benson, Sofia Carter, Taylor & Jennifer Cassell, Bilal Cheema, Katie Csorba, Taylor Dayton, Lori Do, Elizabeth Dorton, Merritt Draney, Tom & Patrick Dwyer, Lyndsey Epling, Emily Hagemann, Emily Hall, Melissa Jones, Keegan Lemcke, Natalie Martos, Gracie McCauley, Matt Morgan, Amanda Nelson, Rachel Nobles, Jeffrey Palmer, Vicki Peyton, Remington Rand, Jordan Ricardo, Leslie Rideout, Simone Rodriguez, Linda Schweickert, Krystle Simms, Karina Sixbey, Jason Smith, Gretchen Swartzbaugh, Amy Taylor, Alexandra Tozzi, Jeff Vigil, Rhonda Ward, Jordan Warner, Taylor Wicke, Ryan Williams and Anna Woodburn.*

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Thank You Notes

- ❖ Thank you to Capital One employees Lynn Woychik and Ashla Hill for the yummy treats and your generous support.

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Notes from the Farm: by Rolph

Hi there friends!

We're staying busy here at the BARK farm and the warmer weather has brought out a bunch of new, great volunteers! In addition to helping out with day-to-day operations here, the farm is getting some much needed improvements. This past month, I saw the insulation and painting project get all finished up and, boy, it is much warmer in the back of the kennels. An electrician also came and installed some high efficiency florescent lights (I don't really know what that means but it sounds impressive) and special electrical boxes for the fans. That means we'll be kept warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Woo-hooo!

In other big news, one of my long-time buddies, NT finally found a forever home. He was in a foster home for only a week before he found a great new family. His foster dad must be one amazing guy! Hopefully, he'll consider taking me home next (hint, hint)! With NT's move, I also got a welcome change of scenery and got moved to a nice corner office...it's much quieter and I can really keep an eye on things.

As always, with the adoption of my four-legged friends come new ones that need new homes also. I was asked to make a special plea for some of my new friends who tested positive for heartworms. Some of them have a pretty bad case (Maya, Rebel and Spud) and really need to get treatment. So please consider opening your home to one of these dogs...it's only for six weeks, but they can't even go on the BARK website until their heartworms are all cleared up! It would be a huge help and may be life saving!

Well, until next time...



Rolph

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Doggone Good Info: Top 5 Health Benefits of Having a Dog (from Buzzle.com)

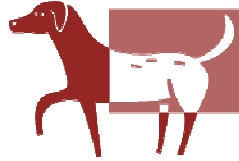
Despite the mid-night potty runs, vomit on the rug and hair coating the backseat of the family car; people love their dogs. People shower their pooches with treats, attention and in some cases, designer clothes and accessories. Whether their dog is a laid back Labrador or a pampered Poodle; people love them like members of the family. Non-dog loving people might wonder why people love them so much considering the sacrifice that goes along with raising a happy and well-adjusted dog. Dog-loving people would probably tell you that they love their dogs so much because their dog gives them so much love in return. While it is true that dogs give their people unconditional love and loyalty, they also provide real health benefits to their care takers.

- Dog owners have lower blood pressure. Several studies have shown that the simple act of stroking a dog can reduce blood pressure. More recent studies have found that these effects continue throughout the day when people are away from their dog as well. Dog owners cope with stress better and lowered blood pressure is a result of that relationship between a dog and his human.
- Dog owners have lower cholesterol levels than non-dog owners. Studies done in Australia and England have shown that dog owners have lower cholesterol and triglycerides and are at less risk of developing heart disease or other cardiovascular problems. In fact, studies show that dog owners overall are healthier than the general population. This can be partially explained by regular walks with the family dog.
- Dog owners are happier in general. Dog ownership has been shown to reduce loneliness and fight depression in their owners. When people are not lonely and depressed they are happier. Dogs can cause happiness in humans, in part, by causing the release of endorphins in the brain, which are natural anti-depressants produced by the human body. With this increase in mental health, quality of life is increased respectively.
- Dog owners live longer. Because dog owners cope with stress better and do not suffer from depression as often; they are more likely to live longer. While being happy will not heal a person it can keep them from becoming ill in the first place. According to happiness studies experts the effect of happiness on longevity is comparable to that of smoking or not smoking. Pets provide companionship, healthy relationships and become topics of conversation which aid in social interactions with others. Dogs also increase self esteem and cause humans to feel more compassion for others. All of these factors combined have a dramatically positive effect on the day to day happiness of dog owners.
- Dog owners have higher survival rates after serious illness. Some studies have shown that heart attack patients with dogs

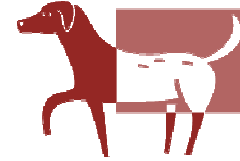
are twice as likely to be alive one year after their heart attack than their no-dog owning peers. Some experts even believe that dogs affect survival rates to a greater extent than friends or family members. This is most likely explained by the patient's desire to get better because they feel they need to in order to care for their dog.

Studies show that pet ownership in general can lower cholesterol and increase longevity; however, maximum benefits can be obtained only through dog ownership. When we look at it this way cleaning up the rug and going for mid-night potty breaks don't seem like as much of a sacrifice anymore. In fact, it seems that humans get just as much or more from their canine companions as they give in the first place. With dog owners experiencing longer, happier and healthier lives it makes you wonder why the rest of the population hasn't jumped on board.

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Happy Tails...Waggin' Good News



Next month, it will be a year since Rosa came to live with me. We are now well settled into country life in Westmoreland. She has a large play pen around the entire back of the house and her own Doggie Door to come and go as she likes. Every morning we have a long, hour and half walk. She runs free on the 60 acres of woods and fields, loving all the scents and exciting sounds of birds, squirrels, Eagles, geese, ducks, but always checking back with me.

She is such a joyful dog....and so intelligent! Now when we are ready to go out for our walk, I say "go get your lead"she runs to the bench and dances about bringing me her leash! Thank you all so much for making it possible for so many uncared- for/abandoned dogs find loving homes!!!

Katharina



Rosa

It is amazing what 24 hours will do. Right now, Lalo is sitting at the foot of the bed, fussing at me because I won't follow him downstairs to play. He hasn't quite figured out the stepstool up to the bed, but he will. He is merry and fun. We are so happy. He has found all the toys and breathed life back into the old dog -- and old folks hahahah!

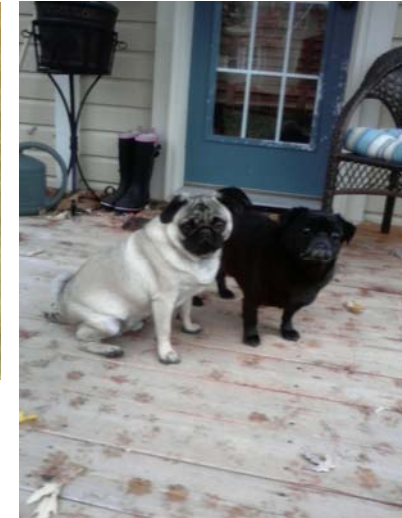
Tell Bob we are so happy!

Best,

Priscilla (no picture included)

Here are a few pictures of Norman. He is really adjusting him.

Bridgette



I just thought I would let you know how Stanley, we named him Gideon is doing. My husband and I love him very much. He is fitting into our home and is adjusting wonderfully! Gideon, I named him that because I thought he looked as though he were smiling and happy.....so Giddy. Giddy is learning the rules of the house quickly. He is becoming house trained remarkably fast, only a couple of mishaps the first day or so, he knows his new name, comes relativey fast when called, has learned to sit, and we are working learning to heel!!!

He loves our big yard; the first few days I thought he would run himself into the ground. New freedom, I suppose. We have an appointment at Blue Mountain Animal Clinic Thursday with Dr. Clark. I wanted Gideon to finish his meds for Kennel Cough before I took him.....did not want to cause any other doggies problems.

Thanks again for all you did to make Gideon a part of our lives. I really needed another companion to love after Tafi's death. It's funny, he has some of the same adorable characteristics that Tafi had and that makes him all the more loveable.

*With great appreciation,
Kristi (no picture included)*

Paypay and Bogie are doing great! They are settling in just fine. They are easy to walk and two couch potatoes. We are getting along fine. I have had a lazy day and they have been lazy along with me. Bogie let's me know when he needs to go out, which is great. Paypay is a love, she just wants to be near you. I think we will get along fine. Thank you for all your help.

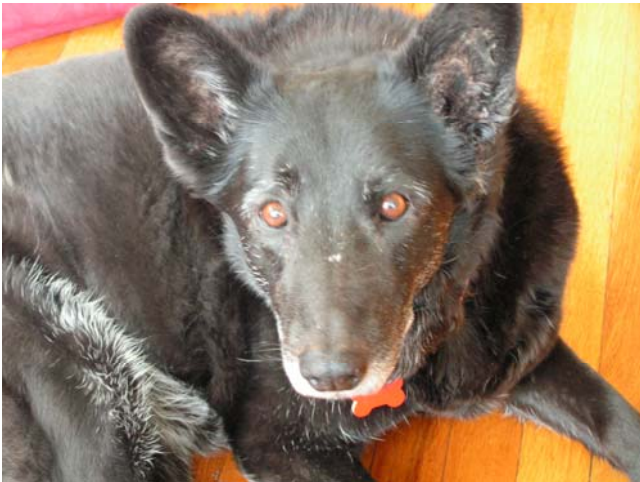
Sincerely, Marilyn (no picture included)

Two years ago we adopted wonderful Kiwi. Kiwi is now 11 years and is doing great. Her hearing is gone, but she has learned to read hand signals. When we first brought Kiwi home, she was shy and unsure about the world. But over time she has blossomed into a compassionate and caring companion to all of us.

When our former foster dog Biscuit was returned to us, sick and in need of surgery, Kiwi stayed at Biscuit's side during his long recovery. She also kept her sister Walnut company during Walnut's last months. Kiwi would lie next to Walnut – not too close to crowd her, but always by her side. In the end, Kiwi was willing to risk her own life, in order to save Walnut's. When the day came when Walnut was too sick to get up, we arranged with our vet to come to our home to give Walnut final peace. The vet had visited before, and Kiwi would normally keep a low profile. This time was different. Kiwi stayed by Walnut side. When the vet was about to put Walnut to sleep, Kiwi jump in between the vet and Walnut to take the shot herself. What more compassion could a dog show to her best friend?

Kiwi now has a new best friend to take care of. We adopted Biscuit.

*Best,
Dean and Helene*



Kiwi

It has been about five months since Lucy and I have been together and I wanted to thank Kelly and BARK for caring for her. I call her Minnie. We go for long walks on the beach, run errands, and watch movies together. She is my best friend and is doing great. She has gained weight and has a basket of toys that she loves. Thank you so much for what you have done and do.

Lynn (no picture included)

Billy's new mom, Ashley, was kind enough to share a few pictures of him enjoying his new life and new family!



Billy

Ginny (formerly Geneva) is doing very well and seems to be happy. We took her on a visit to my parents' house for about a week and she had a lot of fun playing with their two dogs. My parents also have a big, fenced in backyard and it was fun to watch her run around and be herself off leash. She's taken very well to her obedience training, although we're just doing it ourselves and didn't take her to a school. She's pretty proficient in up, down, off, sit, stay, come, and no. We are having a little bit of trouble with crate training. She freaks out for about the first five minutes or so once she realizes that she's alone (we timed her from the hallway). She doesn't seem to mind the crate itself; it's more the being left behind. She's also not left alone very often since Patrick works from home so when it does happen she gets pretty confused. However, I find that to be pretty understandable and she is making some slow improvements. She has had zero problems with house training, for which we are particularly thankful.

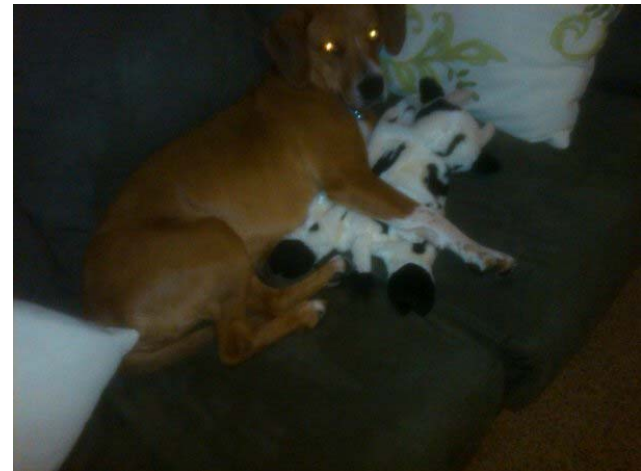
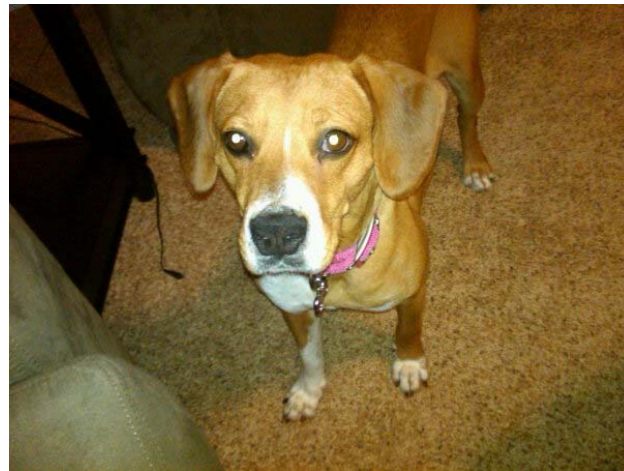
We've found her a total joy and are constantly entertained by her. We give her lots of playtime and try to take her on two big walks each day. She fits in perfectly with our personalities and lifestyles; she really is the right dog for us. Even though we've only had her about a month or so, it seems like she's been here all along. Our friends also love her and she's great with new people.

Anna (no picture included)

Ellie has come a long ways from the first day we adopted her. She was so nervous being in a new environment, she got so depressed we had to take her to the vet 3 days after we brought her home. She wasn't eating or drinking anything, the vet said she was extremely dehydrated and because of that she was throwing up. So the vet gave her some fluids and some medicine to help her and now she is better than ever! She eats her dog food and now drinks her water. I was so worried about her!

Ellie is a spoiled princess by everyone. Our friends love her even though she is still a little nervous around them. They try so hard to get her to play and she won't until I take the toy from them and play with her myself; I must say she is a momma's girl! Whenever Adam comes home, she whines like crazy because she misses him, she doesn't get to see him a lot, since he is either on base or asleep due to his schedule. She loves anytime she gets with him and she will let him know if he isn't paying enough attention to her. It is very funny to watch her. She has her favorite toy and that is the cow, the one she picked out at pet smart. She even sleeps with it, we nick named it moo moo. She just recently started to bark and growl whenever someone comes over or knocks on the door. It's really cute, because even though she is growling or barking she is backing away from them the whole time and stands behind me. She also has her own little couch now and her own blanket to sit on. She doesn't even touch her bed anymore! I am teaching her how to walk beside me when I take her for a walk. She is doing a lot better now not pulling me. The other day she was laying on my lap and I was petting her and I asked her is she was happy, she simply lifted her head back licked me and it looked like she was smiling. I almost teared up because I know that is her way of telling us she is. She plays all the time with us now. Before she was too nervous to come around. Her tail always tucked down, now sits always wagging. She doesn't like baths either! She trys to jump out every time! Adam and I both love her very much and we are so thankful we were able to adopt her. She fits in perfect with us and we couldn't ask for a better daughter. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity. I will be posting some pictures, so you can see her!

Thank you again, Brittany and Adam



On February 19th my family adopted a little female German shepherd mix named Camille. We have changed her name to Isabella, "Bella", and she has stolen our hearts! We are enjoying her company immensely & I felt like I needed to thank y'all for helping to bring her into our lives! She has been lounging on the couch with my 9 year old son William, playing at the local dog park, and visiting with kids at the bus stop every day.

Her houstraining is going well, only a few accidents, and I've also been able to teach her to sit, lay down, give me her paw, and sit up. I am attaching a picture of William & Bella cuddling. Feel free to share it on your website since we are so happy & proud of how things have turned out. Thanks for making the adoption process go smoothly & thank you again for the new addition to our family!

*Sincerely,
Jennifer*



Bella

Hope's (formerly Chris) new mom was kind enough to share some pictures of Hope in her new home. Check out her new friend and partner in crime, Mason! We think they look pretty content together!



Chris

We are all doing great his new name is Bear (formerly Bullet) and has learned it quite well. He loves everyone so much especially children so the kids are in heaven. He plays real good but is also laid back, so yes I think he was the perfect fit for us . He has loved being able to go outside sometimes when he is laying on the deck its as if he's in heaven he just looks so peaceful .

My grandson is a year old and he really loves him to Bear jus lights up around him I feel he must of come from a family full of kids but ya never know. Today I made him officialy a Hanover county resident and got his county license and his first dose of the Frontline, so my vet has his records now to. He is doing well in the crate at night and when I go out and only one accident in the house but I put him out often. So that's how its going - totally wonderful! I told my vet how wonderful y'all are and highly recommended y'all for anyone looking for a pet My daughter who's 21 even filled out an application to volunteer. Thank you again for being wonderful and I'd like to send you pics soon let me know the best way to do that.

Thanks,

Tracey (no picture included)

BARK Volunteer Rob shared a picture of Bart on his adoption day. Congratulations to Bart and his new family!



Bart

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
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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:

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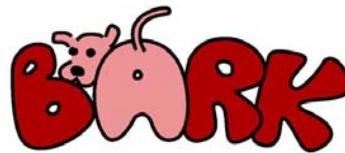
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In addition to direct donations, there are numerous options that allow you to help support BARK and its mission. You can donate needed pet care items, purchase BARK merchandise or use a search engine that donates to BARK. Using these websites is super 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>.
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