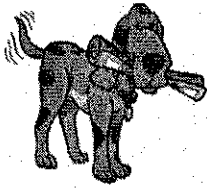


Oberlin, OH

www.OASISanimalshelter.net



Oasis
ANIMAL SHELTER

Newsletter
Spring 2009



Tinker can't wait to unpack the super doggie basket donated by a special young friend.

Correction: In our last newsletter, Time For Treats was miswritten in our list of friends. Thanks to this fine business for sponsoring an Oasis dog.

Pet Alert: Cocoa Mulch, a garden product made by Hershey's, is HIGHLY toxic to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and attracts dogs. Ingestion has resulted in several canine deaths. This is not a hoax. Please spread the word to pet owners.

Contact Information

OASIS Animal Shelter
www.OASISanimalshelter.net
P.O. Box 11
Oberlin, OH 44074
Phone: 440.775.4101
OASISanimal@wmconnect.com

Dear Friends,

After what seemed like a never-ending winter, even the muddy yard is a welcome sight at the shelter! Hopefully, spring will deliver green grass and lots of forever families for the Oasis dogs who wait. Our spring wish list also includes more volunteers. We are especially in need of cleaners and walkers Tuesday-Friday mornings. If you can spare an hour or two at least one of those mornings, please call or e-mail Kathy at 839-2848/ travelcrew@verizon.net to learn more. Most of our college walkers will be leaving for the summer in a few weeks. Their service and dedication to our dogs has been awesome, and we hope they will join our Oasis team again in the fall. Thanks to all friends of Oasis who have contributed time, money and/or support. Your contributions make canine second chances possible.

Spring Dog Celebration Coming Soon

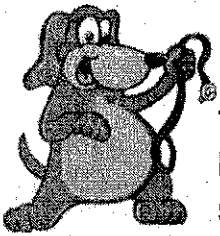


On May 31,
Lorain County

Metro Parks will sponsor Dog Dayz Celebration at Vermilion's Mill Hollow Reservation, 51211 North Ridge Road. Volunteers from Oasis and other local animal shelters will be on hand from 1-5 PM with information, pictures and some wonderful animals in need of good homes on display. Dog lovers are invited to bring their favorite canines to take part in the "doggie walk" and costume contest. The afternoon will include demonstrations by a police K-9 unit, obedience trainers and an appearance by Spartan, the new Lorain County ranger dog. This family and dog-friendly event offers something for everyone including human food and dog food at nominal costs. The Oasis staff encourages friends to join us for a fun-filled Sunday at the park in celebration of dogs.

Some of our walkers' favorites:

The Oasis dogs pictured below are great on their leads. To learn more and see more dogs who wait, please visit our web sight or call the shelter. (Contact info, page 1)



– Loves people, easy-going



Roxie



Jenny

–A bit shy, but warms up quickly

– Large and endearing, has many shelter playmates, a vol favorite



Addy



Minnie and Fluffy

–Gentle friends who wait for a new family

“Older” Dogs Deserve A Second Look



No doubt, ours is an age conscious society in which *younger* often translates to *more desirable*. Just ask anyone over 40 who is searching for a new job or considering a few nips and tucks in order to create a more youthful image on the dating circuit. It comes as no surprise that most people apply the same ageism when they select a dog. Puppies are most popular, followed by dogs under two. Sadly, chances for adoption decrease sharply as the animals age, and some of the best potential friends don't get a second glance from perspective owners.

Since Botox is not an option for our canine friends past the “popular age,” the burden falls on those of us who volunteer at shelters like Oasis to speak up for them. To that end, a list of compelling reasons to look beyond the young pups when choosing a pet follows (in no particular order):

1. Yes, you CAN teach an old dog new tricks. The secret is to use different commands than those the dog ignores according to dog trainer Kathy Santo, who frequently appears on *The Martha Stewart Show*. If the dog doesn't respond to *come*, for example, try *here*, or substitute *let's go* for *heel*. Use a foreign language if you prefer. With patience, consistency and a little know-how gleaned from training books or classes, owners can teach older dogs everything from new name recognition to proper walking and bathroom etiquette.
2. What you see is what you get in the case of the older dog. A young dog has yet to develop his personality. Knowing a dog's personality upfront helps an owner judge how he'll fit in to a household. Shelter adoption counselors can help people make good matches with adult, developed dogs.
3. With the current unsteady economy, more and more people are leaving long-time pets at shelters because of financial difficulties. These abandoned dogs, often very well mannered, wait for new forever families to love. Dogs who are victims of neglect and unrealistic expectations wait, too. Giving any one of these unlucky animals a second chance is a noble act and a feel-good experience.
4. The prospects of chewed up shoes, nipped fingers, and interrupted sleep caused by whining decrease with the age of the adoptee. In short, calmness usually accompanies maturity.

Please help us spread the word: Perfect pets come in all sizes, shapes and **ages**. The staff at Oasis would love to find homes for *all* our canine residents including the adult and senior dogs pictured at left and far right.

Happy Endings: Ebony's Story

Ebony is a friendly black, mixed breed dog, perhaps a bit too large to call medium-sized. Her endearing warm, low maintenance personality, loved by the volunteers who cared for her, did not stand out to most people who visited the shelter. Though she was approaching middle age in dog years, Ebony was still quite playful and affectionate, but most visitors wanted younger dogs and didn't give her a second look. Ebony's friends began to fear she might never find her forever family.



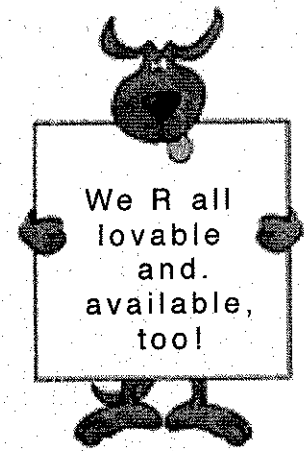
But as the headline suggests, this story has a happy ending. Pat gave Ebony that second look and knew she was a keeper. Ebony had finally found her forever family. Upon hearing the news, staff members were ecstatic. The Oasis volunteers celebrate every adoption, but those involving dogs like Ebony really pull at the heart strings.

Ebony is sweet and photogenic.

While Pat faced challenges with Ebony because of her lengthy shelter stay, she believes any adoption has some hurdles. She and Ebony bonded almost instantly, and Ebony's devotion and desire to please Pat have been instrumental in her adjustment.

"Sometimes she seems fearful of something I want her to do, and I can almost see her thinking, 'I don't want to do this but for you I will,'" said Pat. "If I sit on the floor, she comes over and literally 'melts' into me."

Ebony and her canine sibling Snickers have become friends and interact well. Ebony also loves Pat's children and grandchildren. Pat is happy she brought such a caring dog into her home. "There will always be some challenges, but there are with any animal," admits this adoptive parent. "I don't think anyone should be scared off if a dog has been in a shelter for a long time. Give it a try - you might be glad you did."



Pearl

-Big, active, but gentle girl, loves to play, smart and eager to please



Andy

-Handsome lab mix, active and ready to learn



Mama Beagle

-Affectionate gal with simple needs

- Friendly beagle with a unique dappled coat, loves to sniff



Trouble



Spunky

- Calm cocker, enjoys people but not a clinging vine

Spring Wish List Addition

Oasis is looking for some big-hearted, dog loving volunteers interested in fostering. To discuss opportunities, please contact Vera, the shelter director. (Contact info, page 1)

WILL YOU HELP US GIVE HOMELESS DOGS A CHANCE?

Thank you for your generosity in any amount. All donations are used to help care for and place homeless dogs.

\$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Kindly mail with donation to: OASIS Animal Shelter
P.O. Box 11
Oberlin, OH 44074

OASIS Animal Shelter is a 501 c3 non profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

OASIS respects your privacy and does not sell or otherwise share its mailing list. If you choose to not receive Canine Chronicle, we respect your decision and ask that you help us eliminate postage costs. Contact us and we'll make the change.

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Return Service Requested.