



Pekingese and Japanese Chin Rescue and Re-homing

PNC Newsletter

Story of the year? Pets and the economy. Resolution? Adopt from a shelter or a rescue organization.

There is no doubt that the economy has been big news in 2008, and unfortunately it is bound to be the top story in 2009 as well.

As many families are trying to cope with this burdening crisis, animals in households throughout the world are feeling the anxiety of these hardships, and suffering the consequences as well. Shelters are at their capacity with companion animals that people are no longer able to care for, and rescue organizations are having a difficult time placing adoptable pets into new homes. If this is the case, then one would certainly hope that the dog farming industry (puppy mills) is suffering just as much and their production quota is acutely affected. But in case, these tough times have not deterred the business of selling mass-produced puppies, then now - more than ever - we need to spread the word of "Don't shop. Adopt".

Let us not forget - and tell everyone you know - that there is

an exceedingly large number of intelligent, affectionate, well behaved and well trained pets to be found at shelters and rescues.

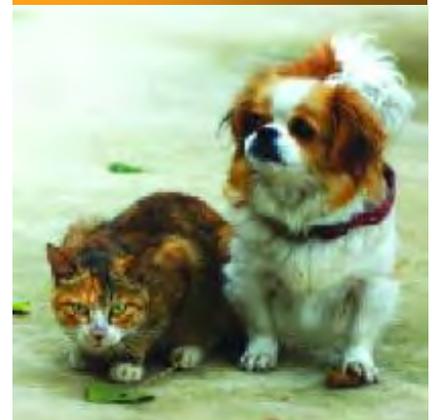
Of course displaced animals miss their families and their old routines. However, shelter and rescued pets often bond more strongly to a new family because of their experience of losing their previous one. Shelters and rescues have animals of every age and breed. And don't forget the seniors. Age does not affect a pet's ability to bond with a new family. Social animals, such as dogs, cats, horses and birds form new relationships throughout their lives with other animals including people. An elderly animal may take longer to adjust to physical aspects of a new home than a younger dog; however, emotional attachment will not be hampered by a pet's age.

Let us give hope to the hopeless, abandoned, and forgotten.

Don't shop. Adopt.

Special articles in our newsletter

- Message from Regi Goodhall
- PNC Fall Fun Fest!
- 2009 Pet Expo



Message from Regi Goodhall

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Rescue organizations around the country are swamped with animals coming in, and adoptions are slower as people have to carefully examine their finances. This situation could be depressing, but there's always the successful adoption – the happily placed dog that sticks in your mind. When I need a “pick me up”, I just look at the adoption of Cookie.

Cookie is an 11 year old senior “special needs” female Pekingese puppy mill survivor. A kind hearted family, with other small dogs, asked to make her part of their family. They accepted and are enjoying a little dog with almost no teeth and that is mostly deaf. Cookie had a lot of teeth pulled earlier in the year and her jaw bone has deteriorated so it is now primarily cartilage. BUT, she can still bring a lot of joy to people and respond to their love and affection. Yes, the world might be a more difficult place right now, but there are still a lot of caring and selfless people out there willing to make a difference in a dog's life.

We have other seniors presently being cared for by Peke N Chin Midwest, and the extra donations help keep them healthy. Unfortunately, we also have many other dogs that are not kids any more but would love a family of their own. These wonderful dogs are still “young” at 4 and 5, with a decade of love to give to a new family. I have a 9 year old Japanese Chin mix that has joined our family. He is the most faithful of my dogs – lays at my feet wherever I'm working, follows me around the house, and comes quickly when called. When he curls up next to

me on the bed, I think about his presence – not his age. When you look for a second pet as companion, or the dog you leave for 8 hours or more a day, think about a mature settled dog that will easily adjust to your household. The three dogs on page 10 (of this newsletter) were all adopted as adults – 5, 7 and 10. They are an earlier success story of adopting mature dogs.

I am somewhat dismayed by the slowdown in adoptions because we are not able to bring as many dogs into our system. Worthy family pets are left at shelters and are euthanized. That is not the worst fate, however. The worst fate is to start selling dogs rather than having them adopted, and allowing them to go to homes that won't give them proper care. Even if we are down to a handful of adoptions – we want to make sure those adoptions are good ones.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and remember that each of these lovely little dogs was rescued, fostered, and placed with a loving family of their very own.

*Regi Goodhall
Co-founder and Treasurer*



November 1, 2008 - Peke N Chin Midwest Fall Fun Fest!

"It really was a great time and a great success! I think 'dog people' just love to get together and share their passion for these great animals! There was a constant buzz in the room caused by both humans and pups alike! Can't wait to start planning for next year. Maybe if we do it a little earlier in the year we could utilize the outdoor space as well!"

- Heidi Eckers

PNC Fall Fun Fest!

Reported by Mary Bowles

The main purpose of this get-together was not merely fundraising, but more to connect with past adopters, meet the dogs and their new families, and to project more awareness of our group to the public. Many of our foster volunteers don't get to see how things end up with the adopted dogs they fostered, and many adopters never know the people that fostered their new pets. So it was nice way to put a name and a face to both humans and canines. There were approximately 50 people and 30-40 dogs that were present. We did have a day of scheduled events planned, but folks were so enthralled with each other's pets and so many stories were being shared that we didn't get to all the events we had planned. We did manage to introduce the foster volunteers to the guests, had tables with items for sale, and had some fun contests and awards. Lots of fun and laughs were had during our contests (such as Best Howl-o-ween Costume, Best Doggie Costume, Dog/Owner Look-a-Like, and Dog with the Best Smile, just to name a few), and prizes of homemade dog treat mix went to our winners courtesy of Heidi Eckers. There was a professional photographer on site taking photos of dogs and their owners and offering all proceeds from taking pet portraits to Peke N Chin Midwest. We had asked our guests to bring a dish to share and ended up with a wonderful potluck dinner at the end of the day. I think for a first time event, it went quite well and we really had a good time. The dogs were well behaved and their owners were glad to be there.



How the Economy Hurts Pets by Melissa Breyer



The current economic scenario is creating cause to worry for most of us – but we humans aren't the only ones facing crisis. Many pets are at risk when homeowners are forced to relocate due to change in employment or foreclosure, or when their owners can no longer afford to care for them.

Shelters that are experiencing an increase in pet intakes are almost without exception in areas where the foreclosure rate is high. And there's growing concern that another, perhaps bigger wave of pet surrenders is in the offing, the result of the worsening economy and growing joblessness that will affect additional homeowners as well as renters.

It's absolutely heartbreaking to think of losing your companion animal along with your job or house. Here are some tips to help avoid that situation. One thing that animal welfare agents are strongly urging against is leaving your pet alone. Many people are so concerned about entrusting their pet to a shelter that they are leaving their pets with food and water either outside their old homes, in a garage, or anywhere they think their pet might be rescued. The truth is that often these abandoned pets become sick or die, and usually end up at the shelter anyway. These outcomes can be avoided by planning ahead as much as possible and finding pet-friendly housing.

The following steps can help in the search for pet-friendly rental housing :

1. Give yourself enough time. If possible, check ads and contact real estate agents and rental agencies at least six weeks before you plan to move or when you first learn that foreclosure and/or eviction may be in your future.
2. Make use of available resources. Contact the humane society or animal care and control agency serving the area into which you are

moving; the agency may be able to provide you with a list of apartment communities that allow pets.

3. Gather proof that you're responsible. The more documentation you can provide attesting to your conscientiousness as a pet owner, the more convincing your appeal will be to your future landlord. This can include statements from current property managers and neighbors that you maintain your pet responsibly, as well as copies of veterinary records showing ongoing pet care.

4. Get it in writing. Once you have permission from a landlord, manager or condominium committee to have a pet, be sure to get it in writing. Comprehensive agreements protect people, property and the pets themselves.

Individuals facing financial hardships can reduce the cost of pet ownership in many ways. Some tips include:

- While buying expensive toys and accessories has become a popular way to demonstrate your attachment to your pet, your pet can be just as happy with less expensive toys or homemade toys. They need your love and attention more than a pricey product.
- Keep your pets safe inside or on a leash while walking outside. Animals allowed to roam freely are more prone to accidents and resulting veterinary bills.
- Let your veterinarian know that finances are tight and ask that he or she prescribe only the most vital vaccinations to keep your pet healthy.
- Consider pet health insurance to minimize the shock of an expensive bill from the veterinarian in case of an unexpected illness or injury.



WHY Sticks and Bones are DANGEROUS to Dogs

Some dog owners are very good at telling their dog "No". Others aren't. Dogs that know the word "no" will stop (hopefully) doing whatever they are doing such as running away or starting to chew on something... like a stick.

Bones are especially bad and cause the greatest number of emergency room visits for being lodged in dog's mouths or around their teeth.

This is the second most common - it is a stick - lodged in the roof of this dog's mouth. Can you see it in the photo? (It is caught sideways cross the roof of the mouth). The second photo has white arrows pointing out the stick.



Figure 1

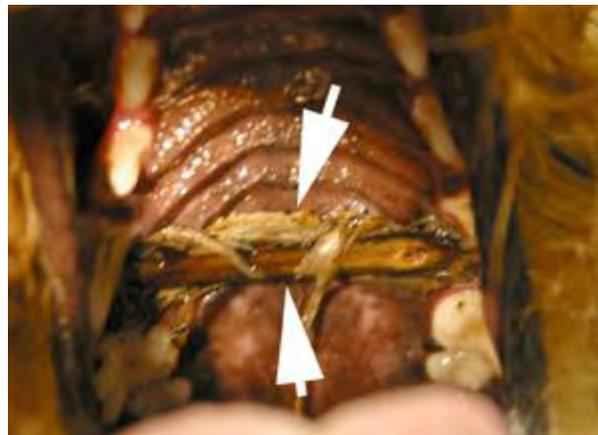


Figure 2

This is just one more example of an unplanned and expensive emergency. This dog presented to the emergency room crying and pawing at his mouth. He was so manic that the owner could not look in his mouth at home leading to the emergency room visit. He had to be sedated to examine his mouth and to find the problem (the stick).

The stick was successfully removed and the dog did fine even though the stick had also lacerated his gums.

For this family, this was an unexpected Friday night event and expense. Between the emergency fee, sedation, stick removal, and antibiotics the bill was high... and could have been prevented. Avoid giving your dog sticks or bones for chewing.

What is the #1 most preventable dog emergency? Torn nails!

Torn nails are a very common emergency. When the nails get too long - they are sharp, irregular and easily caught on items such as bedding, blankets, and carpet. When a nail is long, it gets caught and torn from its attachment and it bleeds and bleeds and bleeds. And to top it off - it hurts and dogs don't want you to touch it or look at it. And the toe continues to bleed as he walks all over your house. If you ever had this happen to you - you know exactly what I'm talking about. So...the dog and owner ends up at the vet clinic or vet emergency room.

However, this is preventable by keeping the nails trimmed. Be careful to monitor your dog's nails especially during the time of year when it is colder out - dogs are less active outside and their nails tend to grow very long. Check them every week or two and do a quick trim.



Your Pet Photos

Throughout the year, we receive many of your wonderful success stories and favorite pet photos to include on our website. But since we can't include ALL the photos you send our way, I've decided to showcase a few of my favorites on this page. Please continue to send us your great photos and updates of your Peke or Chin to share on our website or newsletter. We just love them! – Ginette Manaigre



Pet Care

Sensitive Stomach: Is Your Pet Allergic to His Food?



Allergies caused by environmental factors like pollen, mold and fleas are fairly common in pets. But what many pet parents don't realize is that Fido's excessive scratching or stomach upset could also be the result of an everyday food allergy.

The culprits? According to experts at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, the main source of protein in a pet's diet is sometimes responsible for allergic reactions—but cats and dogs can also suffer allergies to carbohydrates like wheat or soy. ASPCA Client Services Associate Jessica Rushin suggests that sweet potatoes and rice, which are often found in foods formulated for pets with sensitive stomachs, can be good carb substitutes.

"It's important for pet owners to work closely with their veterinarian to find out the source of a pet's allergy and formulate a treatment plan," says Rushin. "Often different types of allergies present similar signs, so determining the source of the allergy at home can be difficult."

Pet allergies can cause such varied symptoms as excessive chewing or licking of the skin, paws, muzzle or ears; dry, flaky skin; chronic ear issues; swelling of the lips, tongue or eyelids, and gastrointestinal signs like vomiting and diarrhea. If a food allergy is suspected, your veterinarian may recommend a feeding trial with a prescription diet to determine the cause. Food intolerance—marked by vomiting and diarrhea, but no skin problems—is often mistaken for a true food allergy, further highlighting the need for proper diagnosis.

And what about homemade diets as a remedy? Homemade diets require a substantial amount of work to ensure the final product includes a complete nutritional balance. If you wish to use a homemade diet, please consult with your veterinarian or an animal nutritionist for an acceptable recipe. "Be sure to follow the instructions exactly," advises Mindy Bough, Senior Director of Client Services at the ASPCA. "Take care not to omit or substitute ingredients unless the recipe or your veterinarian specifically states to do so." Bough also recommends having your pet's nutritional status evaluated every few months by your veterinarian.

Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays

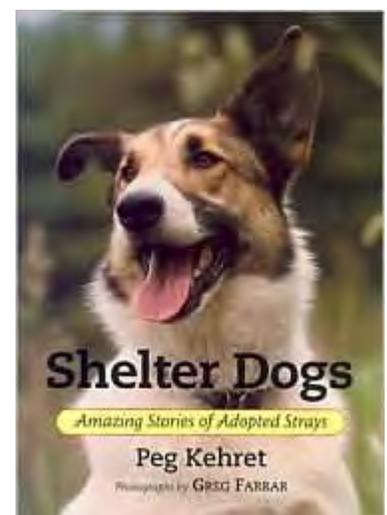
by Peg Kehret, Greg Farrar (Photographer)

Synopsis

A big, jumpy dog who's "hard to handle," a scared little dog who snarls and snaps at everyone, a blind dog who hasn't been house-trained -- all have come to the shelter. What is going to happen to these abandoned animals? Must they be euthanized? Or can they be adopted and live happily ever after? Award-winning author Peg Kehret tells the true stories of eight amazing shelter dogs and how they have changed the lives of the caring, courageous people who love them.

Annotation

Tells the stories of eight stray dogs that were adopted from animal shelters and went on to become service dogs, actors, and heroes.



Chow Chow Chicken

Ingredients:

- 2 chicken thighs – or white meat
- 1 stalk celery – sliced thick
- 3 carrots – peeled & halved
- 2 small potatoes – peeled & cubed
- 2 cups rice – uncooked

Place chicken pieces in a large pot. Cover with cold water (5-6 cups). Add carrots, celery and potatoes to water. Cover and simmer on low heat for about 2 hours until chicken becomes tender. Add the rice. Cook and cover over low heat for 30 minutes until the rice is tender and most of the liquid is absorbed.

Remove soup from heat. Pull the chicken meat off the bone and discard bones. Return shredded pieces to the pot and stir well. Let cool. Store in the refrigerator or freezer.



off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com

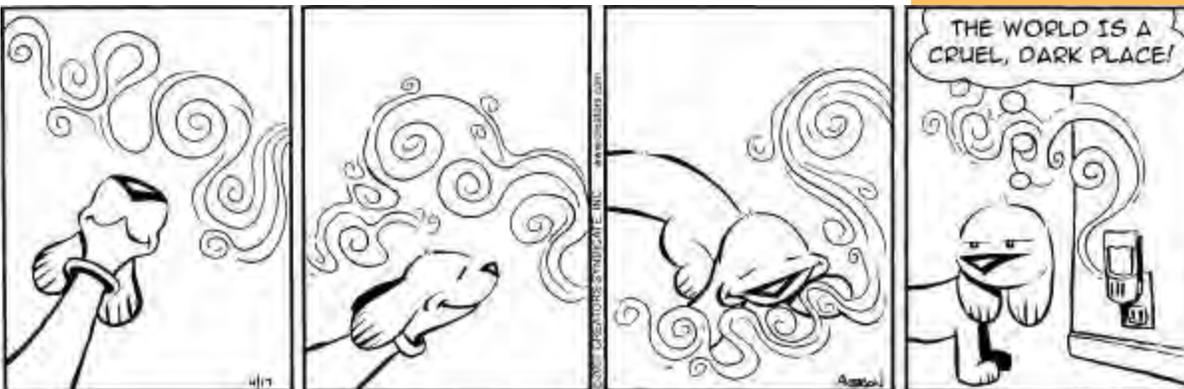


Truffles

Ingredients:

- 1 cup peanut butter, with no added salt or sugar
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1/2 cup carob powder
- 1/2 cup goat milk
- oatmeal
- unsweetened coconut

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Combine peanut butter, oatmeal and carob powder. Form into small balls. Lightly dip in goat milk and roll in oatmeal or coconut and place on a cookie sheet. Place in refrigerator until serving. For extra holiday flair, top each truffle with a sun dried cranberry. The truffles freeze beautifully in Ziploc bags.





His eyes met mine as he walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt his need instantly and knew I had to help him.

I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so he wouldn't be afraid. As he stopped at my kennel I blocked his view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want him to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the overworked shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want him to think poorly of them.

As he read my kennel card I hoped that he wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

He got down on his knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort him. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; he was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down his cheek and I raised my paw to assure him that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and his smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into his arms.

I would promise to keep him safe.

I would promise to always be by his side.

I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in his eyes.

I was so fortunate that he came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.

How pets can improve your health

Why studies show pet owners are happier and thinner than non-owners

By Adam Yerkie

Pets can make you healthier

Whether they purr or bark, nap or chase Frisbees, pets are more than just furry companions. They can also give your health a major boost

Every night, after dinner, Linda Coffey, a veterinary technician from Grand Falls-Windsor, Nfld., walks her three Belgian shepherd dogs, Krypton, Taboo and Jason. In fact, the only thing that keeps her from walking her dogs is the temperamental Newfoundland weather, she jokes. "It's like the dogs wear watches."

Sticking to a regular exercise routine can be tough, confirms Lee Scott, a Toronto-based walking coach and founder of Wow Power Walking. But Scott has found that her clients get better results when they work out with a companion, furry or otherwise.

Studies have also found that dog owners report being happier, have more social interactions and have half as many colds and headaches after only one month of adopting their pets. One American study found that dogs may help reduce stress and prevent heart attacks by lowering blood pressure.

Cat owners, too, are more relaxed than non-owners, and one study found that cat owners are 40 percent less likely to die of a heart attack than those without cats.

Pets can help with weight loss

With the help of her mini pinscher Mocha, Melissa Hohenkerk lost two more pounds each month than she did before she adopted her pooch. "Before Mocha, I'd walk for 15 minutes," says the 32-year-old, who works as a business analyst in Toronto. "Now I'm up to half an hour or forty-five minutes, because how can you say no to those puppy eyes?" Studies have shown that dog walkers trek 31 minutes longer than non-owners; they also lose an average of 14 pounds a year.



Lila, Mae and Sunny adopted by Sherry Wheeler

Twin Cities Pet Expo - Kalina Bourdeau Reporting

Pet Expo went really well this year. I was there on Saturday from 1pm to close and brought Toby with me. Cindy and Jeff were there morning to afternoon and they brought D.O.G., Paws (so CUTE!), and Taz. Heidi was there all day with Holly. It was fun to get to talk with other Peke N Chin folks like Cindy who fostered Cinnamon after I did. We had a pretty good crowd on Saturday. Jeff and Cindy manned the booth so Heidi and I could wander a little. We checked out the Exotic Shorthair Cats (smoosh-faced angels), peeked at the cat show and got some free food samples.

When we got to the Expo, my foster Toby was just terrified. We came in the back by the Dock Dogs who were all barking their heads off. Had to carry him in. But after he got a chance to decompress in the booth for a bit he gave kisses and got love from lots of passers-by, and I think he really enjoyed himself. D.O.G, Taz, Paws and Holly also were all great little ambassadors for Peke N Chin. We had folks that expressed interest in all of Jeff and Cindy's fosters on Saturday. Hopefully we'll get a few adoption applications.

It was great to meet Amy (who had applied to adopt my "Cosmo" back when he was my foster "Jackson"). She brought her Peke boy and it was a great event for some socializing for him! Wonderful they were there. Late in the afternoon I had a girl who said she really wanted to adopt Toby... so we'll see if she fills out the online application. Would love to see him get a good forever home!

It was also great to network with other rescues. Heidi really made a lot of connections with local shelters and other rescue members, making sure they know who we are and to call us when they receive Pekes or Chins in their care. Heidi was really awesome at that and getting the Peke N Chin name out there. She was really an excellent ambassador for Peke N Chin. Heidi and I also talked to the Minnesota Federated Humane Societies about becoming Humane Investigators and that was very interesting.

Lots of education... about spaying and neutering, puppy mills, and responsible pet ownership. It was also great just to get to "talk dogs" with other people who know dogs. It was great to see petitions being signed about the new puppy mill legislation they are trying to put through in MN. I think if folks in MN knew there are NO LAWS regarding the breeding of dogs and cats in MN, there would be more public outcry about it. The only laws we have are cruelty laws so without a complaint, nothing will be done. A person can own 200 to 1,000 dogs and just breed, breed, breed... and they don't ever have to be inspected unless someone calls with a probable cause type of complaint so that someone will go investigate. And if the local sheriff doesn't care to enforce the law, nothing can be done!

It was disappointing to see ads for pups for sale at a pet photography booth and ads for litters that were due as well. I wonder if that is something that should be allowed at the Expo?

A big thanks to Heidi for spearheading PNC's presence at the 2009 Pet Expo. She worked hard and did a great job. Good job Jeff and Cindy and Rose, too. Thanks everyone!



"Money will buy you a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail."

Unknown



Dog Facts

The oldest reliable age recorded for a dog is 29 years, 5 months for a Queensland 'heeler' called Bluey in Victoria, Australia. The average dog lives to around 15 years of age.



Joke of the Day:

What is a dog's favorite city?

New Yorkie!

We can't do it alone...
We need your help.

Hosting a special event for animals is a fun way for individuals, schools, organizations and companies to raise much needed funds for Peke N Chin Midwest or other animal rescue organization or shelter in your area.

- Garage Sale
- Birthday Money
- Car Washes
- Silent Auctions
- Bake/Craft Sales
- Casual Day at Work

How you can help us



*Send us
a PNC
Success
story!*

Is your dog the best dog in the World? Is he the funniest? Smartest? Or most affectionate? Does he light up your life every single day? Share your happy, touching, and memorable moments with us. We want to know what joy your special little canine friend that you adopted from us brings into your life!

Send us your story and photos and we will feature it in our next Newsletter or website.

*Please send to Ginette Manaignre at gmanaignre@shaw.ca
Stories may be edited for length and content.*



Want to say Hello?

Send us a letter, an email
or give us a call!

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Gifts of Love

Every day we rescue and accept dogs that would have nowhere else to go. Thank you to the following individuals who have helped support us through their generous donations:

On behalf of our dogs

- Sheree Vice
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- Jan DeCraene
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- Pamela Kitts
- Nancy Kibbe
- Jennifer Turri
- Cara Peirse
- Regina Goodhall



WE THANK YOU!

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Help our cause for free.



Choose us as your favourite cause and every time you shop online at over 680 brand name stores, a portion of each purchase will be donated to us! You would be helping us save more dogs! Simply log on to our site and go directly to the iGive icon... the rest is easy!

