



July 18th LHS Meeting at Lake Anna

I am dispensing with the traditional meeting minute format and just briefly capsulating our meeting at the Lakehouse(?) restaurant July 18th at Lake Anna. It is always difficult to capture the whole membership, and since it was mostly new and recent members we concentrated on profiling our organization; history, structure, mission, successes, needs and the political aspect. While only a small amount of time was allotted for discussion on fundraising we nevertheless moved forward with the rest of the year's prospective events; Raffle, Holiday Dog Wash, Donation Box collections and Cat Group project (all discussed below). We had a great time and lots of laughs, flyers of dogs were distributed and ideas shared. A special thank you to our illustrious president, Andrew Kenny, who kindly and quietly paid for all our drinks and foods.

September 8th, 2008



Matilda (Tilly), fostered by Patty, needs a home.

Tilly is a 3 yr old lab/hound mix. Knows her commands, house-broken, crate-trained, doesn't run away, not a digger or howler. Fabulous with kids, all people, other dogs, will chase cats outside but okay with them inside. Needs a home with kids, another dog and exercise. Playful and calm. Small, only 36 lbs.

Recent Adoptions

Sometimes we get into the grind of this endeavor and forget to give ourselves thanks and a pat on the back for all the good we do accomplish. Let's not forget all the people and dogs/cats that we have made very happy! Michelle fostered both Marshmellow and Katie, and while she had them "forever" it seemed, they both found their perfect forever homes. Marshmellow went with a young lady in vet school and gets to take Marsh to work with her everyday! Katie is loving life with a couple that dote on her and think she is the best dog ever! Also, Michelle found little Sammy by the side of the road and was able to adopt him to her neighbor and our new member, Lyn. Now that is sweeet, a double-header! Jeannie saved an older lab, Butchie, who had an enormous growth on his neck (which was slowly strangling him) and after recuperating was adopted to a wonderful loving family. I found Hennessey surrendered to my vet to be PTS. The woman signed him over to me. Poor Hennessey's collar had to be surgically removed from his neck (where the collar had grown into his flesh). Jeannie adopted Gideon to a lady whose friend was seriously trying to steal Gideon away from her. Not to worry, we had another adorable pitty on hand and so Hennessey (now Moto) went to live with her friend and is greatly loved and treated like a rock star. Sheryl stepped up when we pleaded for homes for some of our older dogs. So Graham went to live with a lady who volunteers at the feral cat spay/neuter clinic in Albemarle County. Graham has his very own family and best of all, his own couch. While Alaska did not work out for my auntie, he got a PERFECT home with a lady in Louisa that already had two German Shepherds. He's in 7th Heaven! I got lucky when a lady that adopted Ralphie from me, tried but failed to resist our deaf little pitty, Zeena. She returned for her a couple of days later and now Ralphie and Zeena live on a horse farm. Also, Zeena's new mom taught her sign language!



Marshmellow



Katie



Butchie



Gideon



Moto



Alaska



Ralphie



Zeena

Financials



We always have large vet bills, and we are always so happy when we can pay them down. But lately with surgeries for Hennessey, Butchie and Bo Derek (Jeannie's foster girl who was mauled by a bear or lion), our vet bills have reached digits that we can only gasp at. Thank heavens for the cash deposits I made from our adoption fees. There was also a notable cash deposit I made recently; adoption fees for kittens that Michelle's friend was fostering (\$400), and monies from Lyn and Michelle's Bunko game (their group donated their evening winnings of \$60), and Lyn's collection box at Dickerson's store (\$77.39), totaling \$537.39. Thanks so much Michelle and Lyn...we needed that! While not completely covering all our vet costs it felt good to be able to send Old Dominion a big chunk of money. This helps our relations most positively as we continue to take animals to be treated! Needless to say, but I will, we need money (and who does not, I know). Which brings me to our next topic...



Rainn, lovingly fostered by Michelle, needs a home.

Rainn is a sweet, shy little darling girl. Michelle is doing a great job helping her to trust people. Every day she gains more and more confidence. She is house-broken, crate-trained, great with other dogs, cats. Shy at first she warms and is very loving. She's small, playful but has a quiet temperament. Very well mannered. A wonderful companion!

Fundraising



One of my ideas has been to develop small fundraising programs that function all year delivering us small but steady cash amounts. Keeping in mind our small (but vigorous) group of volunteers, the criteria I employed was simple; very little of our involvement, and having other groups raise money for us.

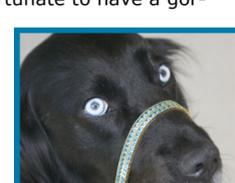
Donation boxes: I purchased 12 (cute) dog house donation boxes (my contribution) to be distributed in several towns (Louisa, Mineral, Gordonsville, Orange, and Culpeper). I have already mentioned the donation box Lyn put at Dickerson's store that produced \$77.39 for LHS (I think that the box was there for about 3 weeks?). Just think if all 12 of our boxes could produce that! Jeannie, Michelle and I have yet to collect my boxes but will do so at the end of this month. [If anyone has any ideas on projects that fit the criteria, please let me know asap!]

CAT Group: This is a community group that Michelle administers to in the Mineral Middle School. Jeannie and I conducted a small presentation early this Spring; Jeannie explained our organization's role and lectured on training a dog. I was, well, the Dog; Stripes. I think it is the most fun a middle-aged woman can have with her clothes on, and a dog suit, of course. We were a big success, and are anticipating having the kids collect cartridges and send in for refunds for LHS. It was a double-success in that believing strongly in educating the next generation we were able to engage and teach these kids about the reality of animals and their needs. A big, big thanks to Michelle for orchestrating this. Stripes will be back this year!



Now for something completely different; actively seeking big ticket items or events that can earn us significant funds. [Again, if you have an idea that can earn us big bucks and are willing to spear-head the effort, please let me know asap!]

Raffle for 18K Topaz Bracelet: We have been very fortunate to have a gorgeous 18K topaz bracelet donated to us worth \$4,000. Our goal is to sell 100 tickets at \$50/ticket to reach \$5,000 by Christmas. If worse comes to worse and we don't sell 100 tickets, people have a better chance of winning and we still have lots more money than we do now! I have created a flyer (that's my Marina with the bracelet draped across her muzzle) and the raffle tickets themselves. I have sold 15 tickets so far without breaking a sweat (family members and friends). I have a boutique dog/cat store and 2 jewelry stores that I will leave the bracelet and flyer with for public raffle sales. Also, I still have several more friends that can sell for me. There are some fall events coming up that I would like to attend with bracelet and tickets (Martha Jefferson Hospital Fundraiser and Cooper Winery). [If anyone can attend with me or alone to sell tickets, I could use the help.] Let's try to sell 100 tickets! Let me know if you need a flyer and some raffle tickets to sell. [If you have other suggestions of retail shops or events that we could sell these tickets at, please let me know asap!]



Holiday Dog Wash: Everyone likes to have their pooches freshly laundered just before the holidays so that friends and extended family members think you are a domestic goddess! In her former life Jeannie was a dog groomer and a darn good one too. She still has her former grooming salon in Louisa and has offered her expertise and her skill to host a holiday dog wash around the holidays. We can advertise with flyers, radio announcements and utilizing our data base and Jeannie's former client database. If we get a good response, we might even do it twice! We will need volunteers to wash, brush, towel dry, manage dogs, greet clients, walk adoptable dogs and I am considering setting up a photography booth to take photos of the festive pups, with costume elements of course. Jeannie, having been in the dog grooming business, will determine the best date for us to hold our holiday dog wash. We're thinking that this would be a full day and make us some serious cash. Stay tuned.

Seriously, dogs are craaaazy for baths!



Happy Tails!



Awwww, who's the happiest little girl in the world? It's Butter! This sweet little pitty was adopted by a friend of mine in Maryland, Krissy and her lovely family. Butter lives happily with two other adopted dogs of ours; Sneakers and Bonita. The best part is that she has a little girl to love on. This was taken the very first day of Butter's arrival! I think she'll do alright, don't you? They love, love, love her and she them! Krissy is home all day, so all three dogs are her babies. We all know how hard it is to adopt pit bulls; Butter is their first rate ambassador for the pit nation! We're so happy for you Butter.

Requests

Encourage your adopters to send us photos of dogs and cats LHS adopted to them. We can highlight them on our Happy Tails page on our website. They can either mail us the photo or send us a jpg with happy, glowing words. By staying in touch with the people we adopt to we create a vital database and positive relationships. Many of my dog adoptions are repeat customers!

I would like to create a volunteer directory in order to communicate more efficiently with each other. Just think, no more calling someone else for someone's numbers...oops, they're not home, what'll I do now...imagine all the information you need at your fingertips. Please send me an email listing your address, the phone numbers and email address that we may reach you at. Never give out a volunteer's number to a prospective adopter without receiving the volunteer's permission first.