



Misha May Mutterings

We know you love the animals like we do....



A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Dog Rescue

Thank you for all you do and how much you care. We receive so much from you that benefits the precious dogs. This third issue of the newsletter will be sent primarily by email and will be available on the home page of our website for printing. We are in need of printing and postage sponsors. Thank You and Blessings from The Misha May Mutts.

SANCTUARY WISDOM

Buddy, Puppy Protector



One of my jobs here at Misha May is to protect the puppies when they go out for their middle of the night house training exercises. Here are some of those puppies now, adopted into their wonderful homes!

Hi Auntie Lorraine, **It's Ringo calling.** I am doing so well in my new home. Life is good here with my new brother, Ice. We played in the sprinkler, went to pick out some more toys and went for a fun walk on the leash. I climb stairs both up and down, run through the back yard with my toys and have been sleeping so nice and quietly. Oh what a good boy I am. Pup, puppy, Ringo & Dan and Denise



"Daisy's" new name is Po Po Msichana—that is Swahili for "bat girl". Chang and I just couldn't get over her big beautiful ears and how much they resembled a bat's.

She is so much fun and so very quiet! Po Po snuggles with our 15 yr old Beagle, Flash and loves to play with his long ears. She is completely house trained and has slept through the night from day one!

Po Po was introduced to her big, big, big brother, our horse Shea (Shea loves dogs). At first she wasn't real sure what this behemoth of an animal was, but after sniffing and spending time with him she gave her approval. Then we all went on a walk and had a picnic.

She is such a joy and has captured our hearts—thank you again for all your hard work and everything you do.

Thank you, Robin

MUTT MUSINGS

Brucie aka Bruce Willis: Sweet Pet or Dangerous Monster? Which is it?



When you look at Brucie, what do you see? As Brucie's foster mom, I predict that he will be a loving, fun, full of life pet for someone who is responsible and experienced. His appearance alone does not reveal who he is.

Being a pit bull, even though he is a puppy, he is having more difficulty finding a home. Being a pit bull, he is often judged harshly.

Brucie, like many other lively dogs, comes with certain recommendations: a large yard with a sturdy 6 foot privacy fence; play dates, monitored to avoid overstimulation, with one friendly dog at a time; reward based positive training that results in a 100% reliable Calm Down, Stop, Sit and Come, and most important, a loving respectful relationship with an owner who has time and energy.



I call Brucie 'a real live action figure'. But seriously, he sits, waits at doors, comes when called, is house and crate trained, and brings a BIG JOY to life. I hope someone reading this is right for him!

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We couldn't do it without...
OUR VOLUNTEERS

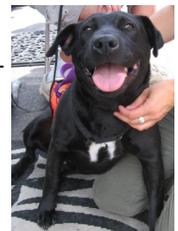
What About the MOMS?

This column is dedicated to our MOMS and the foster / volunteers who have cared for them, sometimes for months. The puppies get all of the attention and get adopted quickly, even though the MOMS have done all the work. Misha May does not take pups without also taking the MOMS. This is in part because it is healthier for the pups to stay with mom through a minimum of 8 weeks. But it is also because the MOMS sacrifice themselves for months, missing their own adoption possibilities. Misha May makes sure the MOMS have good lives too. It is easy to find homes for puppies, it takes a deeper commitment to see the MOMS home safely as well.



Madge (Mama Madge, Madgie, Madgeroons) was dropped off at a local shelter, ready to give

birth. Her owner explained it this way, "We didn't want puppies." Misha May took pregnant Madge and gave her a safe place to birth and care for her puppies. She was truly a wonderful mom, nurturing and protective. All of the beautiful puppies were adopted, but here she still waits, happy and sweet all of the time.



Can you make it her turn?

Bonnie was abandoned inside her foreclosed upon home. Thank goodness someone found her in time, but without



her recently birthed pups. Bonnie, an American Pointer, was nervous and grieving at first, after such losses. Fortunately, she came to

Misha May where we gave her a safe place to unwind. But this girl needs lasting security in a loving home.

Can you give her what she yearns for?

Email info@mishamayfoundation.org to find out how you can foster or adopt these special dogs - Brucie, Madgie & Bonnie - or use Paypal to make a donation for their long term care!

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
"FREE TO GOOD HOME" ADS**
By: Stephanie Janard

Internet community boards like Craigslist and Freecycle provide a great service for those of us looking to save a buck on anything from furniture to baby clothes. Unfortunately, they also serve as a boon to unsavory people looking to nab a free or almost free pet for dishonest, even cruel purposes. What's really disturbing is that many animal rescue organizations believe these people make up the majority of responders to pet ads.

Some reasons they might want your pet could be: to use as "bait" for dog fighting rings, to turn around and re-sell at flea markets or other Internet sites, to re-sell to medical labs that use animals for horrific "experiments," to use as food for exotic reptiles (it's almost unimaginable to believe, but some unscrupulous snake owners actually use kittens and rabbits), or sadly, simply to abuse or horde. A quick Internet search on the subject of animal abusers and "bunchers" getting animals off Internet sites can provide even more information.

Here's how you can flush out the con artists - who by the way, may come across as the most persuasive and friendliest folks you could meet. These slick scammers will go to any lengths to assure you they're legit - from claiming to work at a vet's office, to bringing their children with them to meet your pet. This is because they have their scam well-honed and practiced.

1. Charge an adoption fee
2. Have them fill out an adoption form.
3. Verify they are who they say they are and really live where they say they live.
4. Ask a lot of questions to make sure your pet will be the right fit for their home.
5. Avoid the "Wanted" ads.

Following these steps may sound like a bit of extra work. But remember - a helpless animal in a bad situation can't call you to come rescue them. And in reality, the screening tips only take a day or two, while giving you peace of mind that you did all the right things to find a safe home for your pet.

(To see the full-unedited article, visit:



www.mishamayfoundation.org)
Pictured: Annie's adorable Corgi pups

**MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Misha May is willing to accept each dog that shows up, applying and creating the resources needed to increase their adoptability. We have demonstrated time after time, *with your generous assistance*, that we can modify behavior, raise funds for expensive surgeries, locate foster and adoptive homes (80 in a few days during Katrina), network with other groups to save lives, and stand by our dogs, even when returned, for as long as it takes to find their forever homes.

When folks learn that we have no building, an inconsistent budget and an unpredictable amount of income, they are inspired by our ability to do so much with so little. They also realize, however, that the journey to becoming the fully realized version of the innovative, cutting edge, effective organization that we already are, currently depends upon expansion and consistency in two specific areas.

One major goal is to have our own building, which would increase the number of dogs we can take in, as well as our ability to generate revenue through training and other services, in addition to donations. **Please see "A Dog's Eye View of the Misha May Sanctuary Training & Adoption Lodge" article on page 7-8 to understand why our building would make an enormous positive impact for homeless and abandoned dogs. Then, please help us realize this dream in any way that you can.**

The second area of focus is to establish a dependable monthly income. Being a 501(c)(3) non profit, we are allowed, and encouraged, to solicit donations to fulfill our mission and purpose. In return, the donors are granted tax relief. **While we appreciate donations at any time and in any amount, we are specifically asking those of you who are able and willing, to commit to a monthly amount.** Then each month, we can plan ahead based upon what we know we will be receiving.

At the beginning of this year, we accepted many dogs who had absolutely nowhere else to go. Nearly all of them were destined to be euthanized for either correctable behavior issues or medical conditions. Unfortunately, because we rely on donations, and they are not consistent, **for the first time our expenses well exceeded our income.** For that reason, we decided to take out a loan with interest. While we certainly don't regret having accepted these dogs, rehabilitating them, and finding homes for them, we were then faced with another financial challenge. For the first time **we could not pay our credit card bill and lost money paying out interest.** We know that this is not the best way to run our non-profit business. If you can help, please do. Thank you.

**If you can help monthly,
Please send a check or
use the Make A Donation button
on the website each month.
Or call 303-239-0382 & sign up with your
credit card, handing the "remembering" to us.**

The larger goal of Misha May is to influence society to treat dogs with respect, compassion and commitment, and to end the need for rescue. To that end, we, as an organization, follow the 'excellent owner paradigm', rather than traditional rescue models. We believe it is incongruent and confusing to tell the public how to treat their dogs, but to not adhere to those principles and guidelines ourselves.

OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

*To provide options, training and rehabilitation for homeless mixed-breed dogs, or any dogs who need us, until they find a permanent home.

*To design creative foster partnerships and innovative programs which maintain or improve the health, social skills and overall well-being of these dogs as they wait for their perfect people.

*To consistently support other non-profit organizations that aid and benefit animals.

OUR COMMITMENT

*We believe there is a home waiting for nearly every dog. Therefore we are committed to the forever placement of each animal for whom we assume responsibility. Euthanasia, or a 'good death', is reserved for those animals who are suffering without hope, as well as those animals whose dangerous behavior is beyond rehabilitation.

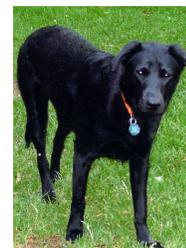
*We are committed to the end of euthanasia as a means of canine population control, as a solution to behavioral issues, or as justification for human error, apathy or irresponsibility.

*We are committed to using healing, compassionate methods, not force, with the animals we rescue as well as any animals we help.

SPECIAL ARTICLE:

**"A DOG'S EYE VIEW OF THE
MISHA MAY SANCTUARY
TRAINING & ADOPTION
LODGE"**

**LOCATED ON PAGE 7 & 8
DON'T MISS IT!**



We are so happy to have found Luci. She is a beautiful black lab, who is a playful companion for our cat "Charlie". ~John and Gerri

Licensed under the Pet Animal Care Facilities Act, CO Dept of Agriculture
Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers
Member of the International Association of Animal Massage & Bodywork

Services and Classes: Dog Training— private / group classes, in-home or office; Boarding; Pet Sitting; Reiki; Flower Essences; Yoga

We appreciate ANY and ALL donations!
Thank you for caring and sharing.

Please mail your donation to
MISHA MAY
PO BOX 151166, LAKEWOOD, CO
80215-1166

or you can use
THE MAKE-A-DONATION BUTTON
on our website at:
www.mishamayfoundation.org

Monthly Mutt Mentors

*Be a monthly mutt mentor
to the Misha May mutts
by contributing money monthly.*

**This allows us to meet the expenses
of our current animals, as well as to
meet the cost of rescuing new ones.**

**My monthly contribution of \$ _____
will be paid by CHECK, CREDIT
CARD, or PAYPAL
(please circle one)**

Special Donation To: BABY BEAR MEDICAL FUND

Some of the dogs who have benefited from
Bear's legacy are Wendall, Elvis (Alex),
Shasta, Huck and Gypsy (Priscilla)

\$ _____

MEMBERSHIP

- ___ \$25 Student/Senior/Low Income
- ___ \$50 Puppy Club
- ___ \$100 Training Club
- ___ \$1,000 Lifetime

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Please make checks out to: Misha May.

Credit Card: Visa, MC, DISC, AX (Circle)

Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Identifier No. _____

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A
COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER
VIA EMAIL. (IT'S IN COLOR!)

ADOPT OR FOSTER US!



ANDY

1 yr. old, un-
groomed, but neu-
tered poodle.
Smart, Fun, Lov-
able and Loving.



SHASTA

3 yr old female pure-
bred Min Pin. The old
me: hit by a car, shot
by a gun, alone and
scared. The new me:
safe, loved and ready
for a new life!



NEEKA

7 yr old pure
bred German
Shepherd.
Loves people,
kids & dogs. NO
CATS. Free
Misha May train-
ing for anxiety.



ROSCOE

Big teddy bear. 99%
Loving Lab. 1%
Husky Talker. 6 years
old, never had a yard.



MISTER BUMPERS

Elder small
shepherd mix.
Is blind, was
abandoned. A
very special
loving dog who
will make your
home special.



MISTY

2 yr old Husky
mix. Still waiting
although her
pups were
adopted.

We are the lucky ones; look who we adopted!



Diana Tink,
the babysitter,
adopted
Sage, Stephanie &
Tony



SuzyQ

adopted
Sara, Floyd &
Sunny



Wendall

fostered
Diahnna,
adopted
Jamie
He is doing well,
thanks to his many
supporters. Watch
for his full story in
November's edition.



Jazzy

adopted
Lisa & Ron



Annie (Angel Rose)

adopted
Chris, Eddie & Mi-
chelle



Elvis (Alex)

adopted Diane &
Hannah
Just in case you didn't know by
now, I love this little boy so
much, and he loves this crazy
family right back! Thanks you
guys for giving us this gift.



Lily

Lily was 6 months old when
we adopted her in March
2006. She was very energetic
and full of life even though she
has settled down some over
the last couple of years, she is
still a hand full, but we just
love her. We don't know what
we'd do without her.



Animal Communication Sessions are available to help with animal behavior and health issues. Email info@mishamayfoundation.org.

MARVELOUS MISHA MAY MUTT MOMENTS

Hurricane Huck



"Hurricane Huck" is enjoying the good life in Colorado. As a puppy less than 1 year old, he managed to survive a category 5 hurricane. It took several months to connect him to us as foster parents. We were *sure* he was just a foster; charitable service for a hurricane victim. He was the "wrong size and wrong breed" - or so we thought! We've now had the pleasure of Huck's company and love for well over two years. When he came to us, he was starting treatment for heartworms, he had tape and/or round worms, plus a BB-gun pellet was lodged in his privates! Now, completely healed, he really is a miracle and a special gift from God.

The only baggage we notice is Huck's hatred of all flying bugs; he just wants to kill them until there are no more in the world! Otherwise, he is a marvelous, well-behaved, and most loving dog. He and our 12 year old cattle dog, Millie, are our "furry kids". We camp, hike, and snowshoe together. Our favorite activities are outdoors and cherishing that short sacred window in the morning when we wake up but don't have to get up quite yet. That's when we invite our "kids" up on the bed for "morning snuggles". Thank you, Misha May, for rescuing our 2nd "child", HuckleBeary Hound! He's a keeper!

~Matt and Heather

Gus is one happy dog!



Gus is coming around - our customers love him - he is a hoot. He greets everyone and wags his tail off. He loves children. He steals things and runs with them through the greenhouses and entertains the customers. He washes the balls off in the ornamental fountains. He gets customers to play ball with him. He loves to explore. The staff and even customers notice and say they have never seen a happier dog. (pictured: Gus and Patsy)
~Mary

Shawnee and Cascade



Our new pups, Cascade (Layla) and Shawnee (Nina), are doing great! They LOVE our backyard and have spent much of the week back there with our boys exploring! They are eating and playing well, and sleeping plenty. Something funny we noticed is that when we got them, they both had both ears standing up tall. One day, one of Shawnee's ears began to droop, then the other. Cascade has followed suit and currently has one ear up and one down. We researched it & found out that it's from teething (their calcium is going to their teeth, not their ears) and when they are done teething the ears will most likely stand back up. We think it's cute!
~Karen

Lacey: Growing up and loving it



Lacey is a really sweet girl! She loves to share her toys with Snoopy, the beagle puppy next door. They play together and give each other kisses through the fence. (photos: Lacey at ages 4 weeks and 5 months)

Tristan's new buddies



Tristan (aka J.T.) is doing great and fits right in to the family. He loves hanging out in the backyard with the tortoises. The biggest news is we had blood-work done to find out what he is and he came back as a mix of Australian Terrier, Boxer, Bulldog, French Bulldog and Vizsla. He has no Lab or Pit-bull in him.

Sincerely,
Jennifer and Jason

A New Home for Rosie



Colleen, who now goes by the name of Rosie, is giving me 'the look' as I'm making mashed potatoes for Thanksgiving last year. We had her DNA tested this year and she came back as predominantly German Shepherd Dog, Lab, and Chow with traces of Malamute and Irish Setter. Quite the mix!

Barrie (Rosie's foster/trainer) came down to visit this spring and you could tell the two of them still had a very special connection. Not a month goes by where either Anna or I don't mention how grateful we are to you for rescuing Rosie from the pound.

~Brock and Anna

Jack, the Three-legged Wonder Dog



It has been 4-1/2 months since Jack (Utah) came into our lives. His kind hearted spirit, desire to be loved, and silly-spunky personality have melted each of our hearts. I love him so much and feel blessed to have him in my life. I can't thank you enough for putting us together. He has completed a basic obedience class and did wonderful! He and my other dog, Foxy, are truly soul-mates! They snuggle, rough-house, share, fight, and love each other all within the same 5 minutes! They're so funny...just like kids! He is in great health and no longer really skinny and arched over like he was. Being on a special high quality diet with added Glucosamine (for his existing rear hip) has given him a beautiful coat and a strong rear leg! He looks fantastic! Losing his hind leg really hasn't impacted him much. He's a trooper! Did I mention he LOVES the water? He will be getting his own backyard kiddie-pool any day now. We just love him!

Thank you for all your kindness and help in the adoption process, and for all you, and your organization, does for our furry four-legged friends...and 3 legged too! You are amazing people and we appreciate all the work you do and all of the help you give to the animals in need. Thank you and best wishes!

~Aimee

MARVELOUS MISHA MAY MUTT MOMENTS

In Their Words...



I had given up on my life and my will to live after being hit by a car and forgotten at the shelter. The car accident left me blind in one eye, with broken ribs, and I was covered with cuts and bruises. My owners didn't want to take me to the Dr.'s because they felt it was cheaper to get a new dog than to fix me. I was truly thrown away and unwanted. I will never forget the day Lorraine with Misha May picked me up from the shelter. The first thing she did was hold me tight and told me I would never end up homeless and abandoned again. She also promised me that Misha May would find me a loving forever home. Little did I know how quickly my life would change! Diahnna became my foster mom. The first 3 weeks I was there I didn't leave my little bed because I was so broken. During those 3 weeks Diahnna & Larry decided to adopt me and be my forever mom & dad. I just love my new brothers & sister too. Ti, Tank, & Little Joe are very good to me, they are the best! This was just great! Now that I had gotten a forever home with constant unconditional love, I began to thrive and heal. In time I adjusted to being blind in one eye and I was able to get over all of my abandonment issues too!

These days I really enjoy my huge backyard and hanging out with my brothers and sister. Did I mention that I get to go everywhere with my mom, even to work with her! Boy do they spoil me at her work. I practically own the place!

My mom still fosters other dogs on occasion. Every time we get a new foster I make sure that they feel right at home. I even give them reassurance that their life is going to be great now that Misha May is involved. I can't thank Lorraine and Misha May enough for saving my life and getting me the best home I could ever wish for!

Love, Paco



My name is Max (aka Red). I was adopted in December 2007 by a loving family. I have two new brothers and a mom and dad who love me very much! I like to chase rabbits and squirrels in the back yard, and I also like to "wiener roast" in the sun on the deck. Life is good! My brothers Adam (4) and Joshua (2) keep me busy; they like to build forts out of couch cushions for me to play in, and take me on walks to the park. As you can see in my picture my brother Joshua likes to use me as a pillow when he naps. Thank you Misha May for rescuing me and giving me my forever home!

~Max (and Aaron, Jennifer, Adam & Joshua)



Nelson Mandela Keller will be two years old on Labor Day. His passions are the dog park and raw beef bones. He also enjoys camping, hiking and chasing the neighbor dog along the chain-link fence that separates them. He graduated from session 1 of training school and is considering additional education. His best friend is a boxer named Gunner (pictured with Nelson, above).

Trixie's Update



We adopted Trixie (aka Alex) mid-February 2008. She was approximately 2 months old and weighed 9 lbs. Now, she is about 7 months old and weighs nearly 30 lbs. She is the light of our lives. She is energetic, joyful, friendly, playful and smart. She has learned to walk nicely on a leash, come when called, sit, lie down, stay, and roll over. She loves to chase her soft Frisbee and tennis balls. We give her lots of chew toys; she loves to chew and to be busy. We are retired, so we have lots of time for daily walks and outings to the park and up to the mountains. She has a best friend in the neighborhood; a female terrier mix that is about her size and also has lots of energy. Trixie has taken on the work of keeping the squirrels and the neighbor's cats out of our yard, thus protecting the many birds that come to our feeders. Trixie patrols the yard constantly; she takes this work very seriously. Trixie is a very beautiful dog; we always get lots of compliments from neighbors when we walk her. ~Georgia and Fred

"Sweet Sandy"



We adopted Sandy on April 16, 2008. She is such a blessing to us because she is the sweetest dog! She loves to play with us and our older dog Amber. She is great with our kids and she just has a gentle and loving manner about her. We are so lucky to have adopted her and brought her into our home! We couldn't be happier with our new addition to the family. Thank you so much Misha May!

Rusty and Bailey: Two Happy Pups



Rusty and Bailey are doing really well! They are getting so big, and their little personalities are developing by the second. I was bracing myself for the 4th of July since they haven't had contact with loud fire-crackers yet, but people were setting them off last night, and the puppies couldn't care less! They just went about their business as usual.

We took them with us to our volleyball tournament, and they got to hang out under our tent all day with us. They must have been our lucky charms, because we placed first! They are the calmest puppies I've ever met, which has been a nice surprise. It makes it really easy to take them everywhere with us. I even took Bailey to a bridal shower, and she was a hit. People constantly tell me "I want your dogs." They both enjoy their daily walk, though Rusty seems like he could walk forever, and Bailey is pretty much ready to lie down as soon as we get home. I am planning on taking them running soon, separately at first.

~Andrea, Jared, Rusty and Bailey

Samson: Home at Last



Samson (aka Aussie) joined our family last October. In the past 9 months he's worked very hard to show that he can socialize with other dogs and strangers that he was otherwise aggressive toward. He's doing great! He has proven to be a typical little brother to our other dog, Abby. He loves to rile her up in order to get her running around and playing. They've been really good for each other. He loves to give kisses and is learning to not be afraid of his shadow during walks. He also LOVES being brushed. He'll bounce around and whine when he sees his brush in our hand, then he'll flop down in our lap and flip over for his brushing. He'd let us brush him all day if we had the time. We feel lucky that we were able to make him a part of our family.

Best Regards, Shaun and Alisha

MARVELOUS MISHA MAY MUTT MOMENTS

Kali a.k.a. Tess



Kali is a very playful and happy puppy who loves to play with anything, and any other dog that crosses her path. She is growing up so fast and she just got her rabies shot a week ago (it still seems like just yesterday that we got her!). Since she has been a part of our family she has traveled with us all over the place; she especially loved Western Colorado and California where she could run around and play with her new friends (a boxer, and two black labs that our parents own). Thank you again for bringing Kali into our lives, she is so loved (and probably a little spoiled—seeing as how she has more toys than she knows what to do with!).

Sincerely,
Josh and Lauren

Inspirational Max



Max (Butch) came to our home almost 2 years ago and every day since we are in awe of our perfect dog. Max is the most gentle, loving, & personable dog. He has many expressions that we are capturing on camera & that are inspiring me to paint! Max is always up for an adventure and very social. He loves attention from anyone & instantly wins the hearts of all of our friends and family. Recently we went on a camping trip to Telluride & he even caught the eye of perfect strangers who could feel his loving energy. We found out that Max is quite the camper and enjoys hiking & being on the go. Luckily we live in the mountains where there are many smells and trails to keep him happy. And the large amounts of snow do not phase him. He also loves leaping and pouncing in large drifts. We just can't say enough great things about this dog. Thanks Misha May!
-Phil and Andrea

Want to help other dogs in danger??

Visit:
www.dogsindanger.com

This website is a service to dogs who are running out of time and about to be euthanized, and their cooperating shelters who want to save them. Overpopulation and needless 'euthanasia' are not a myth. Millions of abandoned very adoptable pets are still killed each year. Please do anything you can to help. We know you love the animals like we do...

“The last chance to save a life, and gain a buddy.”

Saved from Katrina



My mom named me Beau because I'm bowlegged. We came from a place in Louisiana where there was a big storm. They called it Katrina. Misha May brought me and a bunch of other homeless animals to Colorado. I was so little that volunteers would carry me around a lot.

I'm much better, but I still get a little nervous if other dogs come near my "valuables"—food, chewies, bones, treats. I eat my meals in my crate to feel safe. Sometimes my mom hand feeds me from my bowl. I trust her -- I don't think she wants to eat my food. If I let her have my bone, she gives me something even better!

My family is: Mark & Linda, my humans. Sugar (recently went to doggie heaven) and Tippy, my sisters. And Charlie, my brother. I'm learning how to be good with other dogs. Tippy lets me know if I bite too hard on her ear. She yelps real loud and won't play anymore. We are getting along great, I see a long happy future with my new family! Thanks to all the people who took such good care of me and got me where I am.

Your friend always,
Beau.

Grey's Story



My dog, Grey, is a happy, joyful dog. My family adopted him in August, 2007. He is so joyful because he plays his favorite game in the whole world, Frisbee. His favorite place to snooze is in his “bark-a-lounger”. My favorite things about him are his nicknames and how cuddly he is. His nicknames are Greybe, Mr.Magoo and Mr. Prance-a-Lot. His favorite kind of toy is stuffed animals with squeakers in them. He likes to take the stuffed animals and rip them open and take the stuffing out, little puff by little puff!! I think it is the funniest thing. His other favorite game after Frisbee is “running the track.” He runs up and down the hallway as fast as he can, as if he’s running around a race-track.

Grey is a wonderful dog and we love him soooooo much.

By Madison

A Marvelous Day for Marvelous Mutts



Misha May Adopt-a-thon Event, Bel-Mar Farmer's Market, Sponsored by Best Pets
(Pictured):
Ted & Bonnie
Diahna & Paco (adopted)
Anne & Wendall (adopted)
Lorraine & Shasta
Doug & Blue aka Amigo
Moira & Madge

AVSAB Position Statement on Puppy Socialization

The primary and most important time for puppy socialization is the first three months of life. During this time puppies should be exposed to as many new people, animals, stimuli and environments as can be achieved safely and without causing over stimulation manifested as excessive fear, withdrawal or avoidance behavior. For this reason, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior believes that it should be the standard of care for puppies to receive such socialization before they are fully vaccinated.

Because the first three months are the period when sociability outweighs fear, this is the primary window of opportunity for puppies to adapt to new people, animals, and experiences. Incomplete or improper socialization during this important time can increase the risk of behavioral problems later in life including fear, avoidance, and/or aggression. Behavioral problems are the greatest threat to the owner-dog bond. In fact, behavioral problems are the number one cause of relinquishment to shelters. Behavioral issues, not infectious diseases, are the number one cause of death for dogs under three years of age.

While puppies' immune systems are still developing during these early months, the combination of maternal immunity, primary vaccination, and appropriate care makes the risk of infection relatively small compared to the chance of death from a behavior problem. Veterinarians specializing in behavior recommend that owners take advantage of every safe opportunity to expose young puppies to the great variety of stimuli that they will experience in their lives. Enrolling in puppy classes prior to three months of age can be an excellent means of improving training, strengthening the human-animal bond, and socializing puppies in an environment where risk of illness can be minimized.

The Process of Socialization

Puppies should be handled from birth, learning to accept manipulation of all body parts. Every effort should be made to expose them to as many different people, well-socialized animals, situations, places, etc. as possible. Puppies should be encouraged to explore, investigate, and manipulate their environments. Interactive toys and games, a variety of surfaces, tunnels, steps, chutes, and other stimuli can enrich the puppy's environment. Puppies should accompany their breeders/owners on as many car trips as possible. These exposures should continue into adulthood to maintain

In general, puppies can start socialization classes as early as 7-8 weeks of age. Puppies should receive a minimum of one set of vaccines and a first de-worming at least 7 days prior to the first class. They should be kept up-to-date on vaccines throughout the class. The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior believes that it should be the standard of care for puppies to receive such socialization before they are fully vaccinated.

Visit www.AVSABonline.org for more information

an outgoing and sociable dog.

Puppy socialization classes can offer a safe and organized means of socializing puppies and more quickly improve their responsiveness to commands. Each puppy should have up-to-date vaccinations and be disease and parasite free before entering the class. Where possible, classes should be held on surfaces that are easily cleaned and disinfected (e.g. indoor environments). Visits to dog parks or other areas that are not sanitized and/or are highly trafficked by dogs of unknown vaccination or disease status should be avoided.

Classes and at-home training should be based on positive reinforcement with frequent rewards praise, petting, play and/or treats. Positive and consistent training is associated with fewer behavioral problems and greater obedience than methods that involve punishment and/or encourage human dominance.

Time must be scheduled for puppies to play alone with their favorite toys (such as stuffed food toys) or take naps in safe places such as crates or puppy pens. This teaches puppies to amuse themselves, and may help to prevent problems of over attachment to the owners. Continuing to offer dogs a wide variety of experiences during their first year of life is also helpful in preventing separation-related behavior.

Proper confinement training using pens or crates helps to ensure that puppies have safe and secure places for rest and confinement. Puppies that are used to being crated will be less stressed if they must be hospitalized or be confined for travel by plane or car. Crates should serve as comfort or play areas.

Early and adequate socialization and programs of positive training can go a long way to preventing behavior problems and improving bonding between humans and dogs. While the first three months is the most important socialization period in a puppy's life, owners of puppies that have passed this milestone are strongly encouraged to continue to socialize their puppies to as many people, pets, and locations as is practical. However, owners of puppies displaying fear should seek veterinary guidance.

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Misha May Dog Training class: Lorraine & Buddy, Andrea & Luna, Sue & Katie, Eva & Ella

Special Feature Article A DOG'S EYE VIEW OF THE MISHA MAY SANCTUARY TRAINING & ADOPTION LODGE

Please read on to understand our dream of a non-traditional rescue home, and then help us to realize it...

Dawn: Our Overnight Human Caregivers awake and prepare for the day. They immediately let us go outside. Some of us are more isolated due to medical or behavior issues; the rest of us slept in groups with the dogs we like the best. Our Caregivers sleep with, and check on, us all night long in our home-like environment. You will not find this level of 24/7 attention and care in very many animal settings.

My name is Darlin', your guide through this amazing dog-centered, yet human-friendly facility. I have been here the longest, since I have so much to learn, and also had so much to forget.

A Safe Haven for Learning What We Need to Know:

Some of us are learning to like humans after mistreatment at their hands, so we get enough attention to make us happy but not scared. Others are learning that being alone is safe, after developing anxiety from being abandoned or frightened, so they receive less attention than they want, but enough to help them feel secure.

The Morning Humans Arrive: Upon arriving, the Morning Humans clean our sleeping areas and dish out our breakfast, while outside we relieve ourselves, stretch our muscles and get reacquainted through greetings and play. There isn't much waste to clean up inside since our routine is supportive of house training - just like in a real home (sigh). Special attention is paid to accidents to ascertain if someone is ill, needs more house training, or needs to join the "go-out-in-the-middle-of-the-night" gang.

The Big Question: The Mornings join our Caretakers to discuss us. Who needs what? Who did what? Who is improving? And the biggest question of all - howls, barks & yips! Who chose, and was chosen by, a Forever Caregiver yesterday? There is laughter and tears and excitement. There is also some disappointment for those who didn't find a match. But we aren't worried since we know that Misha May will make sure we get our turn.

Food, Glorious Food: Here we are, running inside (politely, of course) to get our breakfast. Food, glorious food! Soon, there is only the sound of munching and crunching, demonstrating our delirious satisfaction with each mouthful. After eating, we rest quietly, digesting, maybe even dreaming about this day's possibilities and adventures. Each moment, each day, is so very special at the Misha May Lodge. (Continued on next page)

The Office: Some Mornings will remain with us, allowing us to have outside time as needed. Everyone else heads to The Office, a very important place. Preparation for the day is important in order to offer what we call Great Customer Service to anyone who contacts Misha May.

This is one of the places where Big-Heart Volunteers help us. They are so smart - they know about using computers, answering phones, finding money, cleaning, fixing, planning and leading and well, everything! Some of them also spend time with us walking, training, playing, bathing and comforting. I have so many favorite Big-Hearts!

The Front Door: It is very exciting to watch the front door. So many good things come to us through there: food, toys, donations, money, human friends, and dog friends who need us. People bring their Owned Dogs for training classes, traditional and holistic medical care, boarding, and that 'special operation.' Radiant Rescuers bring their foster dogs for training and care as well. People borrow from our extensive library, listen to Dogsmart Speakers, watch DVDs, and share and learn at our Monthly Meet and Greets.

Misha May Excellent Owner Model: Rescue colleagues visit from other states and countries. They leave, feeling confident that by following our model, they will demonstrate to their communities how to value, choose, and commit to a new best friend.

I Remember: When I came through the front door, I was very confused and frightened. Immediately, the Greeting Friends helped me feel safe, and over time, convinced me that I would be able to trust and love again. I believe them now. I believe them so much, that I am ready to watch for the Forever Caregivers.

The original intention of animal shelters was to protect the public from dangerous animals, and to provide a safe place for lost pets until they were united with their owners. The traditional shelter model is obsolete in this current time of millions of family pets being abandoned. Meantime, these unfortunate throw-aways deserve a life, as we work to change the public's consciousness about when and where and why to get a pet, and how to create a lifelong joyful relationship.



Pictured: Zeb and Corgi pups exercising

At least **25%** of homeless dogs are purebreds or designer mutts. This means that an irresponsible, uncaring store, puppy mill, or breeder profited from their initial sale. The ultimate price is paid by the dog, and the burden is carried by the rescue system. Only about **10%** of people getting a dog choose a rescued dog.

Watching for the Forever Caregivers: They come in looking and talking and wondering. Will they find their friend? We respond by watching, smelling and considering. Are they my new, forever family? Sometimes it is love at first sight; sometimes we are all awkward; sometimes our expectations and dreams match perfectly; sometimes it just doesn't work out like we all had hoped.

Quality Companion Animals: Most of us will make a better companion, than any typical non-socialized, caged animal you will buy at a pet store, who has been separated too early (8 weeks is the minimum) from their parents, who are living their lives in torture at a puppy mill, for breeding purposes only. (No reputable breeder would allow their pets to be sold through a pet store, where they have no control over their placement and future.) We are also right up there with any bought bred dog since we receive comparable or better care, plus training. Some of us have quirks which Misha May will be honest about and help the Forever Caregivers work out. None of us brings more money from our reasonable adoption fees than Misha May has spent on our care. Profit is not the focus at Misha May, our futures are.

Not Watching the Leave Behinds: The only time we don't like to watch the front door is when a Leave Behind arrives with his owner. Sometimes they grasp their situation right away - their pain and confusion is difficult to witness. But, of course, we know that if there is space, Misha May will accept whomever is next, and get them what they need.

Examples of Rehabilitation: The training is reward based, anxiety reducing and primarily instructive in nature, rather than corrective or punitive. Each individual case, including Separation Anxiety and Human or Dog Aggression, is evaluated by an experienced behaviorist, after which a professional team creates a treatment plan. Everyone at the Lodge, from employees to volunteers, joyfully reviews treatment plans, and keeps all of their contacts with each animal consistent and supportive of the goal of adaptability.

Fearful dogs engage in confidence building activities. Unruly dogs receive instruction in manners and etiquette. Puppies are socialized and socialized and socialized some more. Clever, intelligent dogs are stimulated and challenged both physically and mentally. Very active dogs are exercised and entertained. All of us receive supplements, love, training and the time we need prior to facing

adoption. Forever Caregivers are informed of everything known about the chosen dog, with the reminders that training is a lifetime process and all dogs are required to be returned if they don't work out.

Discrimination Policy: Misha May does not turn away any breed, age, behavior, condition, illness, size, etc. The Caregivers are prepared to face each individual situation with compassion and creativity, finding and making available what this being needs. I have seen puppies of all kinds and very old dogs, too. I've seen mutts of every combination and purebreds of every type. Forever Caregivers are informed of everything known about the chosen dog, with the reminders that training is a lifetime process and all dogs are required to be returned if they don't work out.

More on Our Schedule: The remainder of our day until dinner, (food, glorious food!) will bring us what we need and want. Some of us will see a vet or a trainer. Others will play in a supervised group or in a game like agility (we have to keep those active breeds busy). Hikes and field trips are provided - so are swims. Our Lodge was designed for us, and our Humans understand. We aren't just waiting; we are living. The plan is to help us improve everyday to remain or become exceptionally adoptable!

The Chosen: Forever Caregivers will choose some of us today, and it will be obvious that we have chosen them too. References are called, homes are visited, contracts are signed, and then...what we have dreamed and been patient about, what we have built trust and waited for, is really coming true. As those fortunate ones leave us behind, they feel confident that they have the skills, understanding and matches to live well with their new families. They are also relieved to know that we, their friends who are left behind for now, will have the same opportunities. They are proud to be Misha May success stories, proving that there is a home waiting for nearly every dog.

Evening: For those of us still here, we eat and rest and play and have one last time outside. We bless all living beings and give thanks for our merciful reprieve.

Quiet Time: We settle in with our buddies in our comfortable, and comforting packs, to live and love and play another day.....

**Imagine our doggie lives without
The Misha May Sanctuary,
Training & Adoption Lodge -
It isn't here yet but it will be, won't it?
Will you please donate, fund raise,
and network to help us get the safe
haven we so badly need? Please...**



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Large or small business support always welcome
Please contact us: www.mishamayfoundation.org



Hooray! Niika is home!

THE MISHA MAY FOUNDATION GIVES SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MANY INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS WHO HELP MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE:

Special Dedications

Alex Diane J
 Amber Grace Peg & Alice
 Beau Linda & Mark
 Blaze Linda O
 Chief Diane K
 Chloe Bay & Pam
 Grey Dana, Jay & Madison
 Jack Brent & Jill
 Ringo Dan & Denise
 Peanut Sharon S
 Blue (Amigo) Chad, Tiffany, Einstein & Mallory
 Misha the Cat Bettye P

In Memory of our Beloved Emme -Kathleen M

In Honor of Sophie. -Jill & Peggy

I wanted to support your efforts. -Marypatricia

Thanks for helping our dog find a new home. -Julia & John

Thanks for making Biscuit a 'print star!' -Jill & David

In memory of Kodiak, a beautiful and loving friend. -Patty, Dennis & Masuma

I just love your organization! Everything I read that you do is just so amazing! Keep up the good work. -Rhonda H

Blaze will come to a whistle. He went hiking for the first time and had a ball! He is a very happy boy! Thanks for all you do!!! -From Blaze's new mom, with love, Linda O.

For Wendall, the mutt. -Patti H

For a Special Mutt. -Ralph H

Thank you for your work and caring. -Kenneth S.

Thanks for all you do. -Bobby & Eleanor B

Hope all goes well, from a friend. -Charles R

For smiling Wendall. -Charles & Marietta D

Wendall's story in the Rocky Mountain News was wonderful and his smile so touching. -Linda J

We know you will take good care of Wendall. -Robert & Mary Jane J

Long may Wendall live & prosper. -Deborah B

Richard C, a dog lover

**** Special thanks goes out to those who made this newsletter possible: Gina Dreesen, Lorraine May, Kris Sunshine, Katherine O'Connor, and others. The dogs thank you!**

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(We apologize if your name didn't appear; you aren't forgotten, please watch for it next time)

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Physical:

Walk our dogs in nearby parks.
 Clean Misha May West with a friend.
 Bathe and/or brush fresh new dogs & stinky old ones.



Mental:

Join a committee like PR, Events, Funding or Grants.
 Organize Misha May West's Office to increase our effectiveness.

Emotional:

Donate money and items for a dog you wish you could adopt.
 Ask others to join with you in a donation drive for our dogs.
 Bake doggie and/or people goodies for our bake sales.

Interpersonal:

Help return telephone calls and emails.
 Solicit donated door prizes & silent auction items.
 Get involved with the TEA, Casino Night, or Golf Tournament.

Social:

Join like-minded Misha May folks. Who knows what that could lead to?
 Transport & handle a dog, or help at events
 Network for Misha May's needs - facility, donations and professional services.

Spiritual:

Foster a dog.

Contact Lorraine at: info@mishamayfoundation.org or 303-239-0382.



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To purchase tickets, go to wooftrainer@msn.com or call 303-979-6232.

7TH ANNUAL MISHA MAY T.E.A.

(Training, Education, Action)

Thurs, Sept 18 at 6:30 pm.

Red & Jerry's, 1840 W Oxford Ave, Littleton (off Santa Fe Drive)

The evening will include: Appetizers/Desserts, Casino Games, Slide Show, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Animal Communication, Commemorative Favors

Wear your Misha May T-shirt for 10 Door Prize tickets!

****We need volunteers** to help with door prizes, silent auction items, sponsors, readers.

Tickets: Early discount price: \$30 / members \$25; Price after Sept 1st: \$35

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Use our Make A Donation button at www.mishamayfoundation.org; or Call 303-239-0382



Duke adopted the Kroogs



Keifer adopted Siz

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when: Friday, Aug 15th, 2008

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attire: doggie casual

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