



# Lifesaver Club Newsletter

July 2013

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## Inside this Issue:

- Success story of the Month
- Recent Rescue News
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- Keeping your Pet Happy and Healthy
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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**Establish a Service, Assistance and Therapy Dog program for those who have disabilities.**

**Establish a Humane Education Program to provide a better understanding of animals.**

**Establish a Disaster Relief Program to provide temporary emergency care and shelter.**

**Establish a Program to Reduce the Number of Animals being abandoned or sent to shelters and killed.**

## This Month's Success Story: Annie and Godfrey



Ever since she joined Paws for Life, Annie has been amazing us all, powering through training and accomplishing her goals. Together with Godfrey, Annie



attends all our events and activities, and makes sure her boy goes to work! Godfrey, or "G," went to Annie when he was four months old, and has been going to the office with her ever since. This team has learned a lot in working together; G knows how to touch, bring various objects to his mom, and he is getting better and better at pulling. Best of all, G is a great companion to Annie.

Paws for Life has seen this team all over the metro Atlanta area: at the Sandy Springs farmers' market, at Piedmont Park, at swimming lessons in Roswell, and of course at training lessons. Keep your eyes open, you could run into this duo anywhere!

G and Annie have passed all their basic training courses, and have been awarded their AKC STAR puppy and Canine Good Citizen's. Next step, Service Dog Certification!

Way to go, guys!

Photo: Annie and Godfrey together

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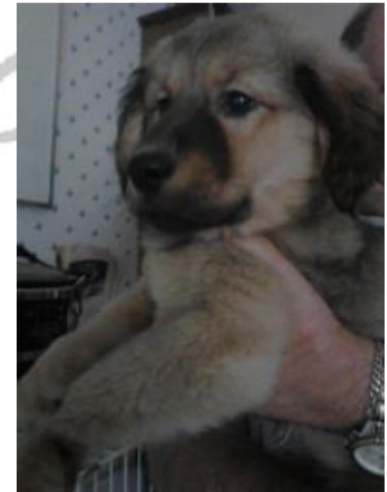
## Recent Rescue News: Growing and Learning

Animals Deserve Better, Paws for Life, does its best to stay busy. Just this month, we took two more puppies into the rescue, and helped coordinate a rescue for a litter of pups, their mom, and their aunt.



One of our latest additions has been showing great potential, proving himself every day, despite his previous situation. One of our volunteers found a little black flat-coated retriever on the side of the road, alone and separated from his family. The veterinarian gave the little boy a clean bill of health, and Animals Deserve Better was able to take him in. We decided to name him Bagheera, after the Black Panther from the *Jungle Book*. At just two months old, Bagheera is already crate trained and knows his manners in a house. He quickly adapted to life in a rescue community, surrounded by dogs just like him, and has great fun playing with his foster siblings.

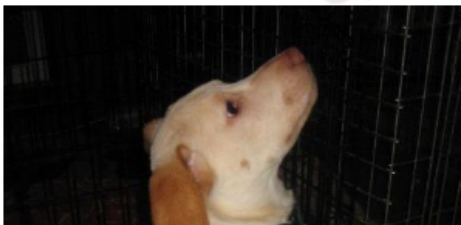
Just one week after Bagheera joined our team, Animals Deserve Better was asked to jump back into the field. A woman in need contacted us, and we were glad to help. We found that Bunny (a Newfoundland), her litter of puppies, and her housemate all needed to be relocated and taken into rescue. From there, we coordinated with a rescue in Connecticut and a big journey began for the family. Bunny and her housemate left first, driving up the East coast to Connecticut. Then, five of the six puppies went up to Connecticut via volunteer transport; the trip lasted three days, and they arrived safely to join their mom and auntie. But what about the last puppy? She stayed in Georgia with Animals Deserve Better. We named this beautiful girl Lola, and she has been growing and learning nicely.



Both of our new additions to the rescue have been doing well, and we are happy to see our family grow more.

Photos: Left, Bagheera. Right, Lola.

## Service Dog of the Month: Kato



Kato is a 10 month old Labrador retriever. He came to Animals Deserve Better, Paws for Life, as an orphaned puppy, and has been growing and learning ever since. He is available as a service dog, and shows promise in almost any situation. He has been through his basic obedience, and is training for his AKC STAR puppy test. Kato has



attended lectures at Georgia State University with Director of PR Marine Feron, in addition to events such as the 2013 Walk for Autism in June 2013. Kato loves everyone, and is willing to provide emotional comfort to everyone. In one of his most promising moments, he soothed a toddler throwing a tantrum in the middle of a grocery store – a toddler whom he had never met before!

For more information on Kato, contact Kimberly Brenowitz at [kimberlyadb@aol.com](mailto:kimberlyadb@aol.com).

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## Keeping Your Pet Healthy and Happy: You Are What You Eat!

Feeding your dog correctly can be a challenge. How much is enough? Too much? Too little? Each dog has specific dietary needs, and Animals Deserve Better is always willing to help owners figure out what is just right for each dog.

Dogs, just like people, have a tendency to gain weight very easily. Then again, there are also the dogs that can eat more than imaginable and somehow do not gain any weight, the supermodels of the dog world. A variety of factors can control this: breed, exercise, diet, age, etc. About 60 minutes of exercise daily is ideal for dogs, just as it is for their owners. For those who do not have the time for an hour of jogging, we suggest playing fetch, or taking short walks two or three times per day. Dogs get exercise and fun, while owners can take a few breaks in the day.

So, what is a good diet for a dog? The first step is to give your dog ONLY dog food. Table scraps and human food can trigger weight gain, and also teach your dog poor manners. Not only that, but a

lot of human foods can deteriorate your dog's health over time, and result in various health issues. Certain foods can have immediate effects. Everyone knows not to feed dogs chocolate, but did you know raisins, garlic, and onion can also have serious immediate effects? To avoid problems, it is wisest to keep your dog on dog food, without exception.

This brings us to the next question: what is the ideal dog food? Animals Deserve Better, Paws for Life, recommends Castor and Pollux Organix adult dog food. Puppy food can be excessive, and fatty, and might upset a dog's stomach. For very young dogs, mix a bag of adult and puppy food together. This is a good habit with any dog food, such as Nutro, Wellness, Blue Buffalo, Bill-Jac, or Red Bandana.

As a treat, Milkbones are the easiest, but feel free to give your dog some variety with Bill-Jac's or other natural brand dog treats!



How much food should you give your dog? We recommend that owners give their dogs the amounts indicated on the bag to start, and adjust according to each dog's needs. Puppies should be fed twice daily, once in the morning and once in the evening. Adult dogs and seniors can move to feeding once daily, as their metabolisms are slower and they require less frequent feeding.

How much is too much? How much is too little? Trust your dog's attitude and appearance. When your dog leaves food in its bowl, you should reduce the amount of food you offer. Some dogs have the natural ability to stop eating when they are full, and owners should take advantage of that. If your dog starts to look too thin, even with food, take it to the vet, as there could be an underlying issue. Some dogs never seem to get enough food, and they wolf their food down; this does not mean you should feed them more. There are many ways to teach your dog to slow down when eating, such as:

- Putting a tennis ball in their food to make them navigate around it
- Giving them a little food at a time over the course of 30 minutes
- Using a donut-shaped bowl, with a raise in the center that dogs have to navigate around

If you provide your dog with more food, rather than teaching it to slow down, you will begin to see weight gain in your dog. This is not healthy, just as weight gain in people is not necessarily healthy. Your dog should have clear muscle tone, and a defined waist. Seeing the outline of your dog's rib cage is normal with a defined waist, but you should not be able to see your dog's spine, individual ribs, shoulder blades, or hip bones.

[www.animalsdeservebetter.com](http://www.animalsdeservebetter.com)

## How You Can Help

Animals Deserves Better, Paws for Life, always has jobs for volunteers. For those who are interested in helping with donations, we need:

- Blankets, bedding, towels
- Dog food: Castor and Pollux Organix, Nutro chicken and brown rice formula
- Milkbones
- Wire crates

For more information on volunteering and donations, contact Marine Feron at [mferon@pawsforlifega.com](mailto:mferon@pawsforlifega.com), Kimberly Brenowitz at [kimberlyadb@aol.com](mailto:kimberlyadb@aol.com), or see our website [www.animalsdeservebetter.com](http://www.animalsdeservebetter.com).

## Available for Adoption

All of these guys are waiting for their forever homes. To learn more, or to fill out an application, go to [www.animalsdeservebetter.com](http://www.animalsdeservebetter.com).



**Tess**  
2 y.o.  
Terrier



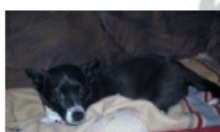
**Abby**  
5 y.o.  
Skipperke



**Ricotta**  
2 y.o.  
Irish  
Terrier



**Nana**  
1 y.o.  
Shepherd  
**SERVICE**



**Milo**  
2 y.o.  
Corgi



**Sneezy**  
2 y.o.  
Chihuahua



**Sleepy**  
2 y.o.  
Chihuahua



**Grumpy**  
2 y.o.  
Chihuahua



**Fontina**  
2 y.o.  
Terrier



**Rudyard  
Kipling**  
6 months  
Lab/Boxer  
/Pointer



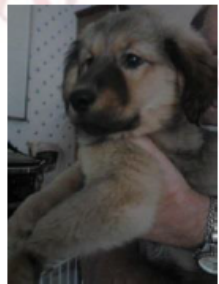
**Charles  
Dickens**  
6 months  
Lab/Boxer  
/Pointer  
**SERVICE**



**Virginia  
Woolf**  
6 months  
Lab/Boxer  
/Pointer



**Buddy**  
6 months  
Golden  
Retriever  
**SERVICE**



**Lola**  
2 months  
Newfound-  
land  
**SERVICE**  
placed



**Bagheera**  
2 months  
Flat-  
coated  
Retriever  
**SERVICE**



**Kato**  
10 months  
Lab  
**SERVICE**



**Olive**  
10 months  
Boxer Lab  
**SERVICE**  
guard  
related



**Jane  
Austen**  
2 y.o.  
Lab/Boxer  
**SERVICE**  
placed