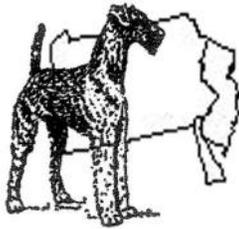


Starting Over

Volume 12 Issue 2

Airedale Rescue and Adoption of the Delaware Valley

December 2009



Airedale Rescue and Adoption of the Delaware Valley

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A STORY OF HEROES

By Mike Lurski

with a little input from Joey Fineran.

Soon Ken Hubble would have the answer to his biggest concern. Of all the fears and worries which this hero had had to cope with over the past year, this one was now uppermost in his mind as he eagerly but anxiously made his way toward the home of his personal heroes, the Rescue couple who had lovingly cared for his dog while he was serving his country in Iraq.

This story really begins about two years ago when Ken, a young western Pennsylvania FedEx driver and National Guardsman, contacted Airedale Rescue. As luck would have it, the Delaware Valley group had just taken in three Airedales about a year and a half old — a male and his two sisters, each of whom had a litter of four pups, making the male both their father and their uncle.

The Airedales, along with other dogs of different breeds, had been seized by the authorities from an urban breeder, who had been keeping them in the cellar of the shell of an abandoned inner-city building which had no electricity, no water and no heat. At the scene, one pup had been found dead of unnatural causes. The other pups in the litter that was just days old, suffered from gangrene as a result of their barbaric tail docking. All of the dogs were justifiably terrified of humans, but got along well with and depended upon one another — obviously their only source of love. With their surviving pups,

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Visit our website at www.Airedale911.org

the three terriers were entrusted to Airedale Rescue.

The litters were kept with their mothers in two separate foster homes. First to be placed, in late November, the male went to his new home with the strict understanding that he would be picked up by Rescue to keep his neutering appointment, which was honored in January on schedule by volunteer Heather Estlow who transported him to Altoona and back. It is protocol to have every rescue dog neutered or spayed before placement, but Ken understood and agreed that this dog needed this home as soon as possible to begin to gain trust in humans and overcome his especially severe fright. And at the time, Ken really needed that very special job of showing this dog what life is supposed to be like.

Ken named his new Airedale Ricky and introduced him to an environment full of love and smiles and good food and kisses, all of which he happily shared with Ken's Coonhound, Lucy. Ken faced each difficult challenge as they came up, with firm resolve. Realizing that Ricky was very, very fearful, especially of men, Ken remained consistently calm, cautious, made no sudden movements, and even turned off ceiling fans. He was extremely patient. He used a leash to take Ricky from room to room. Slowly, Ricky adapted.

"Once Ricky realized I wasn't going to hurt him and he could do pretty much what he wanted, he got closer to me," recalls Ken. A major turning point, in Ken's mind, occurred when a male visitor came to the house and Ricky, instead of seeking safety by running from the room, lay down next to Ken's feet. "At that time I realized we had bonded and he was feeling more secure," says Ken. Ricky became Lucy's playmate and Ken's best friend. One of their favorite pastimes was to watch a local morning news program featuring a female anchor. Ricky sat mesmerized by the TV screen while Ken drank coffee, scratched Ricky's head and teased him about having a crush on the newswoman. At all times Ricky was with Ken, even waiting patiently outside his bathroom door when necessary.

Ricky's idyllic new life changed just ten months later when Ken learned that his National Guard unit was being called up for four months of training followed by what ended up being eight months in Iraq. Lucy was placed with Ken's mom but Ricky, for several reasons, could not join her. Primarily, Ken's mom had cats and Ricky, unlike Lucy, did not get along with them.

Frantic about Ricky's fate and afraid that he might have to surrender him, Ken called Heather. To Ken's surprise, she offered a possible solution: perhaps someone in the rescue group would be willing to care for Ricky until Ken completed his duty. Two Philadelphia area Rescue volunteers, a married couple, well-experienced with Airedales and fostering, offered to take Ricky. Ken was stunned that someone he didn't know would do something so generous for him and Ricky. In addition, because Ken's deployment schedule made it impossible for him to make the trip, Heather organized a relay team of Airedale Rescue volunteers to transport Ricky across Pennsylvania when Ken left for training.

Ricky was getting accustomed to life with the Rescue couple and their other Airedales as Ken, an infantryman, completed his training and went to Iraq where he was a member of a reconnaissance platoon. Often in harm's way, Ken wrote Ricky's caretakers as much as he could while Ricky endeared himself to them with his friendly disposition and excellent behavior.

"I give lots of credit to Ricky's new family," says Ken. "They sent me e-mails with photos accompanied by letters 'from Ricky.'" For exam-



Ricky was getting accustomed to life with the Rescue couple (who wish to remain anonymous) and their other Airedales, as Ken completed his infantry training.

Ricky with Juno, Leia and Savannah

ple, there was one of Ricky lying on a sofa followed by the words, "Just resting. Can't wait until you get home." Ken further states, "Just hearing stories about Ricky, knowing that he was running around and having fun, made me feel really good."

Finally, in late August, Ken's unit returned to the U.S. Finally, in late August, Ken's unit returned to the U.S. Ken had to complete some military requirements at Fort Dix, New Jersey, before he could see his mother, father, and family, and then Ricky. He planned to pick up Ricky only when it would no longer be necessary to be separated from him, even for a day.



Ken and Ricky—together again

On September 13th, Ken and his mom went to get Ricky. All the way there, the question lurked in his mind. Would Ricky remember him after their being apart so long? When they got there, Ricky was romping out back with his fellow Airedales. They were in the kitchen, Ken and his mom, down on their knees when Ricky was let in. "Ricky eyeballed and circled me and then he walked toward my mom," recalls Ken. "So I sat down on the sofa. Ricky immediately jumped up next to me and the hugging and excitement began!" Ricky became Ken's permanent "shadow" once again. "I am looking forward to getting back into top shape by walking and jogging with Ricky on the long bike path near my house," says Ken.

This story — because of a brave, caring American soldier and the heartwarming generosity of one civilian couple — has a happy ending and we can only hope that the future will bring Ken and Ricky countless mornings to enjoy watching their favorite TV newswoman.

Airedale Rescue and Adoption of the Delaware Valley is going "green!"

To save on paper and postage, if you would like to stay informed via email on upcoming events and our newsletter, please send an email to:

mariechiz@rcn.com

with the subject line saying: **Airedale Rescue** Your email address will be placed in our database for future mailings.

Your address will not be sold, shared, or used for anything other than Airedale Rescue and Adoption of the Delaware Valley.



Some happy news:

Rescued Airedale Gibson Coon was chosen as an Pet Pinup on the Animal Planet "Wall of Fame." Heather and Robert Coon entered him in a photo contest for Animal Planet and he was chosen for their Wall of Fame in November. We are all really excited about it. You can see the picture of Gibson, and other pets, at:

http://blogs.discovery.com/wall_of_fame/

We're proud to share the news about "one of ours!"

If you have a story or picture (with caption) about your pet, please send it to Keith at keith.johnson@hughes.net and/or to Joey at Airedale@epix.net for inclusion in the next Starting Over. Pictures and cute stories welcomed.

Heartfelt Thanks

Contributions have been received from these ardent supporters:

Jeanne and Craig Alper
Harrise Yaron
Anne and Jim Townley
Bonny Hart and Paul Share
Denise and Abraham Garweg
Ann M. Randle
Karen and Skip Hoyt
Judith A. Best

Julia M. Groom-Thompson
Catherine and John Zettler
Lee and Bob Marsh
Denise St. John-Mironov
Elaine Barnes
Roberta and Calvin Ratcliff
Leslie R. Smith
Virginia and Michael Sprague, Jr.

Gail Beltzner, in memory of Taffy Beltzner

Jean Louise Harne, in memory of Ana

Linda Ann Morton, in memory of Dorothy Krupskas, Carol Stull's mother

Samantha Curran, in memory of Ben McCarthy

Howard C. Levy, in appreciation of the help given to me by David Falk

Sara and Donald Ives, in honor of: Curly Sue, Tuscany, Sabra, Princess and Hannibal

Judith J. Olsen, to honor Kristina Olsen, VMD and in memory of her rescue Airedale, Maddie.

Kathy and Bob Charles, in memory of Fudge Fineran

Elizabeth and Joseph Kametz, in memory of Winston

Toby and Joel Shpigel, in honor of the one year anniversary of Penny's adoption

American Legion John-Lloyd Post #404, in memory of Walter Troutman

Carol and Richard Knerr, in celebration of six years with Patches

Getchen Kimball, in memory of Walter Troutman

Leslie R. Smith, in honor of Riley

Cecil Quilters group in memory of Marianne Perry's mother

Adopted

Dixie Balas
Maggie DiBiaso
Savannah Johns
Delia Krause
Jackson Marino
PJ Freeway Williamson
Jack Manderbach
Maggie Fenkel
Ruby Fineran
Lizzie Lydon
Dennis Fioravaniti
Bear Young
Rosie Ryan
Madeline Clemmer
KatyDid Suppers
Millie Conicella
Humphrey Herr
Summer Enos

SPECIAL THANKS

In addition to thanking the volunteers listed on our masthead, we want to express our deep-felt gratitude for services furnished - the kennels who house the dogs we cannot get into foster care (Tamora Kennels in Spring Grove, PA; Holland Hills Kennels in Milford, NJ; Animal Resorts in Downingtown, PA and Sugar Run Kennel near Altoona, PA) and our primary veterinarian, Dr. Kathy Jamison of Milford Veterinary Clinic in Milford Square, PA.

Still Waiting for Homes

Rylie age 5 - female- good with kids- must be an only dog. She is very sweet and kissy and comes when called, but does bark quite a bit - goes out in the morning and announces her presence loudly to the world, and barks when she sees anything moving.

Wolfie just turned two, and weighs about 100 pounds. He is very long and tall - not overweight a bit. He's a very handsome guy who gets very excited when he wants to play. He's great with kids, and he LOVES to give kisses. Wolfie does pull on a leash, so he needs someone able to handle him, or perhaps use a Gentle Leader. He rides well in the car, but he does want to continue to kiss you while you are driving. He loves to play ball, and swim. He's a young dog that has a lot of energy and love to give.

More coming in weekly- call for updates



For information concerning all our brands including, Deli Fresh® and Freshpet® Select, and The Loved Dog™ Treats, visit our website at www.freshpet.com

Supporter of Airedale Rescue of the Delaware Valley



HEART

It pains me deeply to write this however I want to thank you so much for bringing Trevor into our lives. Unfortunately, he had to be rushed to the vet's office last night and was put to sleep. In the last six months his hips and rear legs got progressively worse. Yesterday he fell and could not get up and for the first time showed that he was in pain. He has given so much love to us for the few years that we had him and was always at my side and followed me to whatever room I was in. I'll never forget what a mess he was when I went on the 'rescue mission' you sent me on. He was such a mess and so smelly that I couldn't bear to drive him the hour and a half to your house. His toe nails were little tiny numbs from living on the streets that winter but after two baths and a haircut we couldn't believe it was the same dog! Then he started working his magic on us and our other Airedale Willie, using those big brown eyes and big black wet nose, who could refuse? You know something Joey, I never felt like we rescued Trevor, I feel like he rescued us, he made us better people and we so are grateful he was part of our lives. Thank you.

Stan Fenkel — NJ



In Loving Memory

Fudge Fineran
 Tigger Matson
 Callie Matson
 Trevor Fenzel
 Abby Kaufmann
 Sophie Lou Manderbach
 Ana Harne
 Monty Lee
 Libby Walton

I have been meaning to write for a while but have had trouble actually doing so. Unfortunately Abby died in August. Ajax and I have had a hard time adjusting but are doing a little better now. I am convinced she is in a better place and no longer suffering but I really do miss her. I wanted to thank you for putting her in my life. She was a special dog.

Ajax is doing well. He is getting used to just being with me. We try to take walks in the park whenever the weather allows. He really enjoys it. He still checks out the counter any time I am out and come home thinking maybe I put some food out for him to snatch.

Again, Thank you

Marion Kaufmann

Ana, "Birchrin's Mime the Devil," passed away two weeks ago. I have enclosed a check for rescue in her memory. The cause was Lymphoma, cancer of the spleen. She had a bad winter-spring and I'm a little upset that two vets completely missed her symptoms until it became necessary to rush her to the emergency vet. I miss her terribly, and so does her puppy dog Lightning.

Ana was a rather challenging Airedale; I had a constant struggle to maintain my position as the Alpha being in this house. In spite of my efforts, it was Ana who decided when we got up in the morning, when we went outside, when we ate and when we went to bed. Until her puppies were born, she was the smartest Airedale (or any other dog) that I ever had. Three of her puppies could have handled Harvard or Yale! She was also the funniest dog I ever had.

Best wishes to Airedale Rescue.

Jean Harne — MD

STRINGS



SOPHIE LOU MANDERBACH 10/24/97--9/14/09

Just to let you know that Sophie crossed over the Rainbow Bridge today.
She will be missed more than words can say....

Jeannie, Cricket, Codi and Pussycats

Our friend Tim Sawyer, 70, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009, at home. He was the husband of Frances K. Sawyer (our secretary) for 23 wonderful years.

Tim was a 1957 graduate of Manheim Twp. High School and a 1961 graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, with a degree in humanities. He also took advanced German Studies at the Goethe Institute in Germany. He worked as a German, Latin and English teacher for Penn Manor High School in Millersville for 28 years until 1988. He then worked as a German teacher for Albright College. He was a member of the American Association of Teachers of German.

An accomplished organist, Tim first served as a substitute for local churches in Lancaster before being named the first Director of Music at Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster.

Tim loved the Airedales that both he and Fran welcomed into their homes, but his first love was Golden Retrievers. Therefore, memorial contributions may be made to Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue, 60 Vera Cruz Road, Reinholds, PA 17569.

We hope that you keep Fran in your prayers. This was, of course, a terrible loss for her and their three dogs. Tim is greatly missed by many.



For Your Information

We had fatty tumors on our old Murphy for years, and were always told they bothered us more than him. Then one day we noticed blood in his urine and had him x-rayed. A HUGE (cantaloupe-sized) tumor had been growing for who knows how long. The vet tried to remove it but the surgery was too much for him and we lost him. So don't ignore fatty tumors. They can be a sign that something is going on inside.

We also had a recent experience with hemangiosarcoma, a large cancerous tumor on Hoover's spleen. We had seen (and had removed) three ugly tumors on him-- one on his shoulder (malignant) one on his lip (benign) and an ugly black tumor (pea-sized-malignant) on his paw. This last one was removed, but grew back quickly. Then we had him ultrasounded and x-rayed. That's when the tumor was found on his spleen, which was inoperable. We lost him October 12. My vet said the tumors/growths on his feet and in his mouth were a sign that there could be a cancer growing inside. So if you spot these outward growths, have the vet check on the inside as well. It might be that you can't do anything about it, but at least you'll know what's going on.

Three pets in our group (Sunshine Airedalers) have died of this cancer recently (that I know of). It's heartbreaking.

Cindy Trumble



Food Allergy Dilemma

Every few weeks for 7 months a young male Airedale has diarrhea and itchy skin lasting for about a week. Once the diarrhea starts he is put on rice and hamburger and the issues clear up then they put him back on the medical vet food for allergies; they are ready to surrender him. Since he tolerates rice and hamburger, I suggested an elimination diet by slowly introducing natural foods to see what he can tolerate in hopes of finding a diet they can prepare for him or some ingredients they can look for in a high end, grain free dry food. (at this point, Steph asked our rescue volunteer network for advice and there is a happy ending - the owner took many of the suggestions and found a food that is working!) Following is a summary of responses:

Brown rice has more vitamins and other nutrients than white rice does, so if they haven't done so, I'd put him on brown rice and hamburger for a week. The next thing that Plechner adds is boiled potatoes. Then maybe cooked chicken. Each time something new is added, don't add anything else new for a week.

If they don't want to go the people food route, there are quite a few canned and kibble foods on the market now that use unusual ingredients for the allergic dog (duck and potatoes, herring and rice, etc.). PetSmart in my area carries all sorts of stuff that you can experiment with to see what works. One of my dogs thrives best on Nutro Chicken and Oatmeal for Sensitive Stomachs. With such a hypo-allergic dog, it would probably be a good idea to try out several things for a week at a time and hopefully find at least two different combinations that he does well on.

Most allergists will tell you that it is best not to stay on the same food all the time (because that can build up an intolerance to that food), but to rotate

Avoid corn at all costs (almost all of my Airedales have had trouble with it); be meticulous about making sure that the dog doesn't get any "forbidden foods" in the form of treats (use some of his current kibble as treats); buy a copy of "Pets at Risk" by Alfred J. Plechner, DVM with Martin Zucker, read it from cover to cover and try to enlist the vet to do the same thing.

Barbara Mann - bm4@woh.rr.com

If your dog is doing well on the food you are using, there is no reason to change. However, I suggest that if you feed a dog a single protein source all his life, the possibilities increase that he will have problems. (see below) I rotate among the premium varieties -- most grainless but some with quality grains. It has been my experience that once a dog is used to a large variety of foods, their systems can then handle anything.

www.dogfoodanalysis.com/how-often-should-i-change-foods.html

Sidney Hardie - shardie1@hughes.net

Christmas Returns

by Pam Tanzey

Santa comes quietly long before dawn
While shops are still busy and lights are still on
While dinners are simmering and kitchens are warm
And children count presents they'll open by morn.

He slips past the trees and the windows aglow
Through the gate to the back yard as icy winds blow to find
the pup that he brought last year chained up in the snow and
kneeling he whispers, "Are you ready to go?"



There are too many stops like this one tonight
Before the beginning of his regular flight
He leaves not a note or a footprint in sight
Just an unbuckled collar on a cold Christmas night.

(winner of the Maxwell Award for excellence in Poetry in 1998 from the Dog Writers Association of America.)



HOLIDAY ETIQUETTE FOR DOGS

1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know: Don't pee on the tree - don't drink water in the container that holds the tree. Mind your tail when you are near the tree-if there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open - don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part: Not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans - don't eat off the buffet table - beg for goodies subtly - be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa - don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach.
6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important: Observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses. Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house - tolerate children - turn on your charm big time.
7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night. DON'T BITE HIM!!

Borrowed from <http://www.nancestar.com>

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Clockwise from front left: Sammy, Maggie, Summer, and Cody

Just wanted to let you all know that I really like MOM'S KING BED...I actually for the first time hopped in bed with Mom when she was reading her new book. I really like playing outside with my buddies too. I am slowly starting to trust my new Mom & Dad. On our walk today, I wanted to protect my new Mom from two St. Bernard's that were fenced in, my tail was up and I acted very brave, I think my Mom was very proud of me!

Summer - and Cody, Maggie and Sammy Enos - PA



Left to right, Sammy, Summer, Cody and Maggie

DOG LICENSE REMINDER

Properly licensing your dog is a part of every Rescue Agreement, and every adopter has promised to keep their licenses current. A recent incident in our area pointed out how important that is, when the authorities get involved with your dogs.

In **Pennsylvania**, licensing is done annually by county. Licenses can be purchased at Wal-Mart, most small hardware stores, and the county treasurer's office, and mail-in renewal is offered. A lifetime license is available for \$32, with proof that the dog is micro chipped or tattooed.

In **New Jersey**, annual licenses are available from the licensing clerk of the local municipality, with proof of Rabies vaccination. The maximum fee allowed is \$21.

In **Delaware**, dog licenses are available for up to three years at a time, with proof of Rabies vaccination, from the SPCA or where-ever hunting licenses are sold (including on-line at Delaware.gov).



Ollie's New Home

(This is a happy ending for a "Senior" dog - Ollie came to us at 11 years old from an owner whose new job required extensive travel. He was fostered by Linda and Cork Meyer, until he was ready to be adopted.)

It is now going on five months since we picked Ollie up from you. Each of the eleven Airedales to live with us have had their own individual personality and have ranged from vicious (my Father's dog in the 30s) to timid (our first dog after Bea and I were married). All were loving with us and our children.

Molly, our first rescue dog from Delaware Valley [summer, 1995], was extremely protective of the both of us and always had to know our whereabouts. If I moved from where I had been reading in the living room when she fell asleep, on awakening there was a mad dash through all the rooms of the house till she located me. Many a time I emerged from the shower stall to find her asleep against the adjacent bathtub.

Which brings me to Ollie; he's a character — our only Airedale to be able to climb the stairs backwards. He is afraid of thunder and fireworks and has to be near us; he sleeps next to our bed on a folded comforter on the floor, necessitating a flashlight for trips to the bathroom to prevent falling over him. To sneeze is to bring him running. If Bea and I hug, he's there immediately watching our for his interest. He loves the ride to the post office in our pickup.

As with all of our joint Airedales, I don't have to worry if man or child reaches out suddenly to pet him during his walks in the adjacent county marina. And, for an eleven year old, he's still quite spry and greets us always with a toy in mouth, or if none is available, one of my shoes. In short, he's a joy.

Bea and Bob Lee - NJ/FL



We Get Letters



Our friends who are professional photographers were here this weekend and thought they could get a picture of Punkin with a camera that quacks- boy was she underestimated. Punkin hates cameras in all forms and regardless of whether there is a flash or the type of noise. She is a beautiful Airedale and we are always being complimented about her- especially her head - but it is not to be memorialized!! In almost every picture Bill and Sandy took her ears were pinned back. We did not want to upset her so she won the battle early. Attached is a picture in our backyard which is the best of the lot.

PJ/Freeway on the other hand behaves like a celebrity. We got so many great pictures of him we could not make a selection. Our friend Bill, who does pets quite frequently, plans on hanging him in his studio!

Both of them continue to be quite a match and all of us are enjoying PJ/Freeway. Although he certainly has his own unique personality, it is amazing to us how much he is like our Molly - both in his laid back approach to Punkin and in his cuddly manner in the bed!! Any comparison to Molly is a HIGH compliment!! Can not believe it has only been three months since he came to stay!

Today's Freeway Fact: Our boy weighs 90.9 lbs!!!! He was enthusiastic at the vet's office and was a big hit with the staff. Very affectionate with Dr. Bruce even when she examined his right ear which she says still has a little bit of a yeast issue. She switched me to Otomax/Malotic ointment and expects everything to clear nicely. She gave him a very comprehensive exam and opined that she thought he might be even younger than 3. We both agreed that with exercise we can get him to a proper weight and he will be even more handsome than he already is! All in all a good visit.

We have been getting LOTS of exercise. Freeway loves the tennis ball and we have been going to the dog park here at Cooke's Hope (which is about two acres and fully fenced in) in the morning when no one is there and I have been doing my best to throw the ball and a tennis ring he likes (I have to get one of those throw assist tools). Although our yard is a respectable size between the patio and landscaping I am always afraid Freeway will crash into a wall or fence if he really gets going. The dog park is open and flat and there is a nice box of toys to select from. He is doing better and better on his leash. Dr. Bruce suggested a gentle lead collar - any thoughts on that? I am not familiar with them- based on her description it actually sounded like more assistance than I need. But if any of you have had a good result with a large Airedale I will pick one up.

He has been sleeping on a dog bed right by our bed. Punkin, as usual, sleeps the night in the guest room as she requires at least a pillow top queen size bed. Last night we had one heck of a storm, naturally Punkin was in bed with me hyperventilating. Freeway was just as calm as can be, comfy in his dog bed until the point where it seemed the storm had settled in over our bedroom. There was a clap of thunder that was so loud that it rattled the windows. At that point Freeway leaped into the bed bringing with him a small stuffed elephant he likes to carry. No sooner did he get in bed than he felt compelled to go back for his tennis ball. We ended up coming downstairs for a change of venue before he brought all the dog toys into the bed! What a character!

We just love him!

Maureen & Richard Williamson—MD



Duncan continues to do well — he's eight now, but still races down the yard to bark at the neighbor's cats.

He loves his walks and "meet & greets" with other dogs. He's much admired and I always tell people about Airedale Rescue..

Ann Kessler — NJ

We've now had Gretta for two years. She is a very happy, affectionate and energetic girl. I do wish I had her zip! She sends her greetings to all her rescue friends!

Ann and Gretta Randle - PA



We Get Letters

Just a note to let you know Maggie is doing great! We had her to the Vets and had bumps and other little tags removed including the one on her eye lid. Vet said she is cancer free and in good health. She is also a robust 85 lbs. something we'll have to work on.

She loves going bye bye car and running off leash at the enclosed baseball field and taking me on long walks. She also loves being in the yard where she scans the trees and 'hunts' for squirrels. In comparison to our other previous Airedales, she has the strongest hunting instincts. She also is very protective of our/her house and lets everyone know she is on duty with her loud barking and growling. At the same time she loves when people come in and she greets everyone in a friendly manner.

Like you warned, she is not fond of other dogs. I have her signed up at St. Hubert's for their "Fiesty Fido" classes. I was told by a few people that they run a very good school. I explained to Maggie she doesn't have to finish at the top of her class, she just has to graduate! I will let you know how we make out! Hope you are all well, again, Thanks

Sue and Stan Fenkel — NJ



A morning report on Rosie - what a sweet little gal she is. She is adjusting to her new surroundings and to her new family - me. Her appetite is good, and she went out for her nightly run around 8 p.m. - had a healthy stool.

She greeted and wowed our neighbors last evening - that all think she's adorable.

She slept on Paul's bed and seemed to be VERY comfortable. No problems during the night. We were awake at 5:30 a.m. and she went out for a quick run in the back yard; she seems to be an 'out and in' type...no fooling around. The wind and rustling leaves seem to worry her.

Will work on some leash training for walking - she does sit nicely for her treats and going in/our, she goes down and she does 'shake' her paw with you. There's no begging while I'm eating.

What more could be asked for this little lady? Thanks for letting me foster care her - hoping things can become more permanent. Have a GREAT day

Shirley and Rosie — PA

Sorry we couldn't make [the Aire Faire], but we had a family wedding.

Our new addition, Belle, is quite a handful. Wish you could have seen her; she is on the small side, but is a real Airedale. Keep up the good work!!

Giny and Mike Sprague" — NJ

Millie says "hi". Hope you are doing well. Your little girl is just fine. We went away for the weekend and Millie had her first "stay over" at my sister's house. Millie was wonderful and they were very reluctant to have her leave. The kids really enjoyed her and guess what? They have two cats and she totally did not bother them!

We have been working very hard on being well behaved and she is making good progress. She is doing especially well on the "not jumping" but it is soooo hard because she has to really concentrate on staying down and her whole body quivers!!! Also, she and Jake have become good buddies. You can usually see them playing "hide and seek" in the evenings between the kitchen and the family room.

Millie also joins me when I am playing the piano and lays beside the piano with one ear up listening to me play. She continues to "take care" of my garden by airing it out with lots of holes!!!! I will have to figure out something for next summer so that I actually have things growing in my garden besides an Airedale.

Finally, we are really enjoying her. She has found a wonderful home. I can't tell you how many times people comment on how they cannot believe that someone gave her up. Lucky us.

I will email you some pictures soon

Marian, Frank, Jake and Millie Conicella — NJ

PS her coat is growing in nicely!



We Get Letters



(Jack came to us because his family could not afford to pay the cost of correcting his badly infected ears, an infection so bad that both of his ear canals were closed. He spent awhile at Joey's, then Dewey took him to foster. Dewey's vet operated on one ear at a time.)

Well, we've had Jack for four weeks now and like you said, we're not sorry! He's such a joy. It's unanimous that he's a keeper. He's sitting right beside me as we speak and doesn't let me out of his sight. (I can't blame him for what he's been through, being uprooted from his home etc). So this will be his last stop.

He and Codi are buds already and he understands not to jump on her. He is such a gentleman (most of the time!). He's great with the cats but we're still working on not stealing the cat food off the table. He is quite the table/counter surfer.

We were at the vet on Monday and his ears are 'cleared,' so he's 'good to go' and I think we can start the adoption process. His weight was the same as a month ago, so that is stable too. His ears have healed and his coat is really nice., soft and healthy. He has a grooming appointment on Tuesday. He loves car rides and is very well behaved in the car until we see a horse, we're working on that too! So we'll return then just for a check-up and hopefully the frost will have taken care of the allergies for awhile.

He loves sleeping in bed and usually tries to beat me to the pillow, my husband just laughs. He's such a big love and just what we all needed after we lost Sophie. Thank You for matching us up with Jack; we're forever grateful (I think Jack's happy too!) Thanks again and keep up the great work,

Jeannie, Cricket, Codi and Jack Manderbach



Hi. Just wanted you to see sweet Henry dressed up in his Halloween costume. Rachel was Dorothy and he was the wicked witch. He is such a nut. The girls love to include him in everything. Sam is the roving photographer. He is the sweetest dog. Do you think we can clone him? Hope all is well with you.

Wendy Rogers — NJ



We are on our second time around with an Airedale in our family. First time we had Casey for almost 13 years. It was a great experience. She was a great girl. It was a tough loss with her passing and I knew we would eventually adopt another Dale, but It took us about 4 or 5 years to get "back in the game."

We took that bold step on January 03, 2009 when we adopted a li'l girl that was named Dalilah from Airedale Rescue. She was a long legged, but very thin girl who had been neglected through her early years. She was fostered by Kathy Enos of the Airedale Rescue of the Delaware Valley for a couple of weeks, to get her ready for adoption. At the same time, we decided as a family it was time to go for it. Fate placed us together as the Del Val Rescue matched us up and approved us to adopt one of their rescued Airedales.

Giving her a new start we went with a baseball related name and started to call her "Chase," as in Chase Utley, the great Phillie Phanatic 2nd baseman. Seeing that she ran all over our yard helped solidify that name, as she did Chase anything and everything all over the yard.

She has now been here almost a year, has filled out to over 60 lbs and is a "tall lean energy machine." It's hard to believe that in January she will be here a full year. Its been so much fun seeing her grow healthy, be happy, and provide us with many laughs, screams, and a lot of "what the hell is she doing now." All of which are fun!

Dan and Laurie Buckley — PA



We Get Letters



You are so right — chaos is good; keeps me busy! Savannah is great. You would not believe her behavior. I will keep her if I may. I had the first consultation and the expert even gave me a reduced price. She thinks I have a great girl with much promise. I am working hard on name recognition, sit and sit stay. In 2 weeks the expert and I will meet in a public park with a "gentle leader" gizmo and handle Savannah's reaction when we see another dog. After that we will do school with other dogs, under control, of course.

Last weekend was a test of sorts. First a box turtle, next day a deer, two days later Sav. found a garter snake who was eating a toad in her yard. She just wanted to play with it. All survived except poor Mr. toad. She really has not displayed the killer instinct yet. She is good in the house with reminders, the hard work of the first two weeks paid off. Who needs a boring life in order anyway?

She has discovered walnuts falling from a tree in her yard and rolls them and tosses them. Great to have dirty glass and toys scattered all around again. She seems so happy and has settled down. In her crate only when I leave and at bedtime for a little while yet.

She has her new license and ID tag and I kept the Airedale rescue tag on and rabies of course.
Hope all is well with you and some of your charges found homes.

Jackie Johns — PA

Please accept this check in honor of our one year anniversary of Penny Sue's adoption. We cannot believe that as of Nov. 8th, Penny was with us for an entire year! It is just over one year ago that our beloved Prinnie passed away. Oscar still seems to feel her loss as do we.

I thought I'd give you a Penny update since we are near the first anniversary of our adopting her.

Penny is getting friendlier and more affectionate as the days go by. She is still a loner and would rather lie on her dog bed in our foyer or on the deck than to be with us in the den or upstairs. She is at her friskiest in the early morning and when I come home from work. She also loves to sit by our front door and look out the screen door. She is still a fluffy little girl. We call her Bunny Rabbit because she hops down the steps just like a bunny. We love her a bunch!!!!

You will be happy to hear that her Cushing's Disease is under control! It took several months of testing to come up with the diagnosis. She sees a wonderful specialist at C.A.R.E.S. in Langhorne, PA. Dr. Adler didn't give up until she could figure out why Penny kept drinking and eating so much. Her urination accidents were frequent. Once she reached the correct dose of Trilostane, Penny became a different little girl! She takes 75 mg. twice a day. No more over drinking, over eating or accidents! She has been symptom free since this past Spring.

Penny and Oscar have their moments together but they tolerate each other. We have tried several times to get her on our bed (we carry her and put her on it) but she jumps right off. I do wish she liked sleeping on our bed too.

Penny loves lying outside on our deck. She could stay there all day. She and Oscar also love going to our Shore house and taking long walks to the new doggie park in Margate. We just love having Penny as a member of our family. She is a little fluffy butterball. Joel's nickname for her is Bunny Rabbit, because she hops down the stairs like a bunny.

We bought a home in Margate and she loves to go to the shore. She just loves to take walks down there. We are going Thanksgiving weekend and plan on taking both of them on the Boardwalk for a long walk.

We cannot thank you enough for letting us adopt her. She is a real cutie pie. Thank you again for all of your dedication to helping Airedales. Your love and devotion to the breed is amazing. Please have a wonderful holiday season. We hope to attend an Airedale function sometime in the near future.

Love,

Toby, Joel Oscar and Penny Sue Shpigel — PA

Just a note to update you on my precious pup, "Riley." He is holding his own, but is still weak in the hindquarters. He can get to his feet most of the time, but if he can't, he will bark to let me know he needs help.

Otherwise, he re-impresses me every day with his sweetness and very good behavior. I just love him to death. Thank you again for bringing him into my life and the work you and Rescue does for those special creatures we call Airedales.

Sincerely, Les Smith — PA

AIREBORNE INVADERS

By Mike and Serafina Lurski

We both know about the history of the brave Airedale. How Teddy Roosevelt relied on them when hunting big game such as mountain lions and bears. How they were such courageous messenger dogs during World War I.

We both have witnessed our two rescued Airedales, seven-year-old Duffy and six-year-old Toby, as well as our previous three, chasing squirrels and rabbits, barking violently at ground hogs on the other side of our backyard fence, and also warning us about strangers that are too close to our property.

So why is it that a single fly could cause Duffy and Toby to run and hide on a June afternoon?

We saw the fly enter our home through a briefly opened sliding glass door. Less than a minute later, we knew the fly was in the living room, because thirty-inch tall, ninety-five pound Duffy was slinking out, tail tightly tucked between his legs, down the hallway to his bedroom sanctuary.

Before long, during our dogged search for the elusive fly, we noticed that Toby had gone downstairs into our family room, and that he was standing still, tail also tucked down, staring ahead as Airedales do when they are waiting for a buzzing intruder to enter their line of vision. This was close to his usual posture whenever he first heard thunder in the distance, before our ears were able to sense it.

Even our parakeet, Chica, was hiding in the upper reaches of her large cage, apparently also spooked by the ferocious fly.

What followed was about one hour's scampering from hiding place to hiding place, accompanied by our efforts to either swat the threat or get it to fly back outside. Eventually, we achieved the latter, to the relief of our two heroes.

Before long, the two, apparently fatigued by their scary adventure, were napping on their backs, periodically murmuring in their sleep, perhaps dreaming about chasing rabbits, ground hogs, or grizzly bears. Or could it be that they were begging for mercy from airborne predators?

