

# Cocker Connection

www.cockerspanielrescue.com  
www.petfinder.org/shelters/VA05.html

a semi-annual publication of  
Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue, Inc.  
a non-profit organization serving the Mid-Atlantic region

## OBG's State of the Union

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Once again, I asked and you answered – loud and clear! In December, I wrote to all of you about OBG's need for more volunteers to fill crucial positions. The response I received was wonderful. We were able to find new volunteers to do a number of important jobs within our organization.

This does not mean that we do not need more volunteers. We always need more volunteers and more foster homes, but we do have a plan moving forward to keep the organization running smoothly. Elections for the Board of Directors took place at the end of February. Based on the qualifications of both new and existing members, I am confident that the Board will remain strong throughout the next term.

One of the tasks facing the Board right now is evaluating our budget and determining what changes may need to be made in the coming year as donations continue to drop with the poor economic climate. As many of you know, in addition to doing standard vetting for all dogs we save, OBG routinely pays for diagnoses and treatment of ear infections, eye infections, dental infections and skin infections and often pays for the care OBG dogs receive from specialists such as ophthalmologists, cardiologists, internists, orthopedists, allergists, behaviorists and others. Time and time again, veterinarians tell us OBG is their favorite rescue because of the standard of excellence in the care we provide for the deserving dogs whose lives we save.

As you read the stories in this newsletter about dogs currently in our rescue as well as just a small sample of the many happy endings we have each year, think about

how different these stories would be if we didn't have the financial resources to provide the necessary care. Once you do that, please consider making a tax deductible donation to OBG now so that we can make many more happy endings in the years to come.

As always, thank you for all that each and every one of you do to support OBG. We could not save the lives of over 300 dogs a year without you!

*Teresa Butler*  
*OBG President*  
*President@cockerspanielrescue.com*

## The Puppy Mill - Rescue Connection

Have you ever really thought about the term "puppy mill" and what that means? I didn't until I got involved in rescue. I now know that puppy mills are a place of terror for the dogs that live there. They are neglected and live in conditions that are so inhumane that most of us can't fathom how anyone can treat another living creature the way "millers" treat their breeding dogs.



Imagine wire cage after wire cage stacked on top of each other, dogs' urine and fecal matter dropping down from the top cages to all the dogs in cages below them. Imagine dogs unable to walk on their paws because of the cuts on their feet from these wire cages. Imagine dogs that have never known what it is like to have human contact or walk on grass and are only fed enough to keep them alive so they can breed. Imagine dogs who are going blind at young ages because they are kept in the dark most of the time. Imagine dogs who have lost so much spirit and will to live, they don't even bark or try to get loose. If you can imagine just some of these horrors imposed on puppy mill dogs and dogs belonging to some backyard breeders, then you have an idea what these words mean.

Why do puppy millers keep their dogs in such squalid conditions? The simple answer is money. After World War II, farmers in the Midwest took advantage of the public's demand for dogs as pets. Puppies became a new commercial "crop" for the farmers. As with any business, minimizing costs meant higher profits. Dogs were housed in existing chicken coops or rabbit hutches with minimal care and no socialization.

The Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (AWA) was passed to ensure a minimum standard of care for dogs and other pets. Unfortunately, there are loopholes in the law which have been exploited by puppy mills and backyard breeders so they can remain in business.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) is charged with enforcing the AWA and licensing large-scale commercial breeders (numbering as many as 6,000) that sell puppies "wholesale" to retail outlets such as pet stores. However, according to

*(continued on page 8)*

## Happy Ending: Curley Sue

In May, I made a drive from Wilmington, N. C. to Manassas not knowing what my daughter had talked me into. Our Boykin Spaniel, Daisy Sue, had been dead for seven years and we were not sure we even wanted another dog. I half-way hoped that someone would adopt her before I was forced to tell my daughter that I would come and get the dog. Laura insisted that this dog was different. As described by Laura, Curley Sue was a great dog who was gentle, intelligent, and loving.

After meeting Laura in Manassas, we went to get Curley Sue and the dog and I began the long drive back to Wilmington. She was very passive in her crate and looked at me with the saddest eyes I had ever seen. Even after we arrived at her new home, Curley Sue wanted neither water nor food. She showed no interest in our big back yard and had to be led outside. She was a loving dog and she charmed my wife right away but she remained very reserved. She stayed with whichever of us was in the room. She always stayed with one of us.



A couple of weeks after Curley arrived, we took a hundred mile car trip to visit my wife's parents. We loaded Curley Sue's crate in the back of the car and headed to grandma's house. The trip was agony for Curley Sue; she didn't sleep, she just looked sad. Curley Sue did not take relief in my telling her we were going to visit grandma. My wife's parents were not "animal" people and we were apprehensive about the reception Curley Sue might receive. My mother-in-law, Mildred, was a believer that animals belonged outside. Mildred suffered a stroke last summer and was a little unsteady on her feet; hence, we worried that Curley Sue might not be gentle in a new environment and in her nervous state.

Curley Sue was amazing when she met the in-laws. She held out her paw to Mildred. She rolled on her back to have her tummy rubbed. She licked Mildred's toes. She was in like Flynn. She gave equal time to my father-in-law. When we finally got ready to make the trip home, Mildred asked if Curley Sue wanted to stay. I put Curley's

crate back in the car and when we said our good-byes; tension drained from Curley Sue's body. She was not being left behind; she was going home.

In the months since Curley Sue became our pet, she has relaxed. She has charmed everyone she met. She has found her favorite places in the house for short naps. She has taken ownership of her backyard. She has found a home.

*Timothy Winstead*

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### Adopted Dogs: September 2009 - February 2010

Abby	Buddy Boy	Copper	Fluffy	Jess	Lucy	Pepper	Sassy	Tommy
Abigail	Buffy	Corky	Fred	Joey	Maddie	Phoenix	Sawyer	Tucker
Angel	Buster 2	Daddy	Gabby	Joshua 2	Mae	Pooh Bear	Sebastian	Traveler
Ashby	Butters	Daisy Rose	Ginger	Kayla	Malcolm	Prince	Serena	Tuck
Bailey's	Buzz	Dale	Gracie	Kico	Maria	Prince	Shay	Tucker
Elvis	Carter	Danny	Hayden	Kofi	Midnight 2	Cooper	Shiloh	Tucker
Benji	CeCe	DC	Hector	Kristoff	Miles	Rags	Simba	Turbo
Benny	Chance	Deisy	Henry	Lacy	Molly	Roscoe	Skippy	Ty
Benny	Chance	DiCaprio	Holly	Lady	Myles	Rosie	Smithfield	Walter
Beulah	Cheeto	Dodger	Holly	Lady Bella	Narnia	Roxy	Spanky	Winter
Biscuit	Chloe	Domino's	Hobbie	Lil Bit	Noelani	Ruby	Tatianna	
Boh Man	Christine	Delight	Honey	Lilleth	Nora	Sadie	Tattoo	
Brody	Clovis	Duchess	Honey 2	Lilly	Patches	Sam I Am	Teddy	
Brownie	Coach	Dudley	Isabelle	Little	Pawline	Sammy	Tessie	
Bubba's	Coco	Dusty 2	Jack	Orphan	Peanut	Sandy	Tiger	
Buddy	Cody 2	Duke	Jackson	Annie	Peanut	Sandy	Toby	
Buddy	Conor	Dutchess	Jake 2	Linus	Butter	Sandy 2	Toby 2	
Buddy	Cooper	Emma	Jenna	Lola	Penny		Toby Too	

## Spencer: Foster from a Puppy Mill

Spencer's stunning chocolate parti looks and toothy grin have a mesmerizing effect on people. Unfortunately, his life hasn't been as glamorous as his good looks would lead you to believe.

Spencer was born in a Missouri puppy mill. He was trucked to the mid-Atlantic region where he was sold in a pet store. Before he came to OBG, Spencer lived with a family with human and dog siblings. At some point, the family felt that they were not able to give him the time and attention that he deserved.

Spencer soon found himself at a shelter in Maryland where his shy personality and medical issues made him ineligible for adoption to the general public.

Poor Spencer was suffering from skin, eye, and ear infections and was feeling pretty miserable. Over the course of several weeks, Spencer's eye and ear issues improved, and a dermatologist treated him for an uncomfortable skin condition. Things were starting to look up for sweet Spencer. He was in a foster home and adopters were lining up to take him home.

Then suddenly, Spencer began to lose weight at an alarming rate and became quite emaciated. Volunteers tried different foods and greatly increased the amount of



food he was offered daily. When this did not help, Spencer was referred to an internist and through exploratory surgery was diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Disease (IBD).

After two weeks of rest, Spencer has recuperated from his surgery, but he's not out of the woods yet. We now must treat his IBD. He will require long-term, probably lifelong, medications. One treats the IBD, another counteracts the side effects of the IBD medicine. He takes several other

medications as well to help his digestive tract. Spencer will need frequent blood tests to monitor the effects of all these medications on his liver and kidneys.

Spencer also requires a special limited ingredient diet, including treats, because of his skin allergies. With his IBD under control, we hope the improved diet will help him gain weight and grow a full, sleek coat.

For now, Spencer also requires prescription eye ointment for his dry eyes. It's too soon to know if he'll ever be able to stop this medication.

Spencer's regimen of food, medications, and blood tests is expensive. The IBD medication alone can cost as much as \$300 a month. On average, OBG will probably spend \$300 to \$500 a month providing all the care Spencer needs.

Spencer is worth every penny. He's a happy energetic boy with lots of love to give. With your assistance, OBG will do all it can to help Spencer overcome his puppy mill heritage and lack of care. And we're hopeful a very special adopter will fall in love with Spencer and be willing to make the commitment to continue his expensive medical treatment while he lives the good life in his new forever home.

*Deb Adler and Lynne Bettinger*

### Donation Form

**Yes!** I want to help the cocker spaniels financially! (OBG is tax deductible!) Your donation will enable us to save even more homeless animals. Your tax-deductible contributions will help provide veterinary care, food and a home to a defenseless animal.

\$20       \$50       \$100       \$200       Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please make checks payable to OBG.

Fill out form and return to Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue, P.O. Box 361, Newington, VA 22122-0361

Enclosed is my donation! Please apply it to:

- Sammy's Fund for dogs with extreme medical needs
- OBG general fund
- Charlotte Fund (for heartworm treatment of foster dogs)
- OBG kenneling fund (for dogs awaiting a foster spot)
- Donation in honor of or in memory of (circle one) a loved one: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsorship of a specific dog: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to volunteer. Please contact me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: We are able to accept donations via credit card or PayPal. Go to our website [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com) and click on "Donations."

Make a one-time donation or make an automatic monthly donation to the cockers!

**Thank you for helping those who are unable to help themselves!**

## Cocker Angel: Pat Morrissett

We're so pleased to introduce you to this newsletter's Cocker Angel, Pat Morrissett. Pat's official OBG title is Medical Records Coordinator but this just scratches the surface of all that she does on a daily basis for OBG. She serves as an advocate for our dogs and often "speaks for Spot" when his medical records aren't clear, are missing pieces, or are missing altogether. She's our own private investigator as she tracks down rabies tags, microchip data, or helps to fill in a medical timeline. Pat is fluent in reading medical record notations and can speak the lingo with ease. Dogs with extensive medical concerns can have folders several inches thick, and Pat makes sure all necessary shots, tests, and procedures have been accounted for.

Pat is also one of our volunteers who meets owners when they surrender their dogs to OBG. This is an emotionally draining task because owners' attachments to their dogs vary so much. Often when owners surrender their pets, they are extremely distraught, children are wailing, and the dogs are shell-shocked and either acting aggressively or emotionally shut down.

On the flipside, she may also encounter owners who couldn't care less what happens to their former family member. Pets often come into rescue in very bad shape, either severely matted and flea-infested, with obvious painful medical issues, or severely emaciated and starved for emotional attention. Pat offers support and becomes a counselor of sorts to both types of owners and most importantly tries to offer immediate comfort to the pet. If a dog is having an especially difficult time, she visits the vet's office daily so they begin to see a familiar face while going for walks and getting special treats and attention.



Pat has a soft spot in her heart for dogs with special medical issues and often assists in taking dogs to their eye, ear, or cardiology appointments. Often dogs will be on many medications and Pat creates charts so meds can be correctly administered and writes thorough updates so foster parents and adopters can readily continue the same level of care. One of her personal dogs, Marnie, also an OBG alum, gave Pat her firsthand experience with eye issues and the emotional rollercoaster that sometimes goes with medical concerns.

Pat and her PT Cruiser often transport locally-kenned dogs to adoption shows. Once there, she holds and comforts dogs who

may need a little extra TLC when meeting new people and experiencing the sights and sounds at adoption events.

Pat's involvement continues with the dogs until well after they are placed in their new homes. Once dogs are placed in their adoptive homes, Pat sends the original medical records, rabies tag, and any relevant microchip information to the new family.

Pat and her husband, Denny are also the parents of Princess, a toy poodle with a big-dog personality, and OBG alums Brooke and Marnie, while also feeding several stray cats that come and go. Even with a house full of furry critters, they find room in their hearts to take in an occasional foster dog. Pat is especially drawn to the dogs that are medically fragile and isn't afraid to call a vet and get the medications necessary to bring relief.

Nor is she a shrinking violet when it comes to getting down and dirty for the dogs' sakes. If one of our dogs makes a mess, Pat grabs the mop or a paper towel and gets the job done. She also isn't afraid to take the dog by the collar when grooming needs to be done. Pat frequently bathes our OBG dogs and is quite capable of grabbing a wet, soapy 30-pounder as he tries to fly out of the sink. In order to reduce the dogs' stress, Pat has also learned how to shave down heavily matted, scared dogs. Pat can even win over the "smiling" ones. After grooming sessions, she comes home looking more like a furry caterpillar than an OBG volunteer since the hair sticks to everything.

In addition to all her other OBG commitments, Pat is also an integral part of our yard sale fundraising team. People bring donated items to us throughout the year and starting in the spring, Pat helps with the sorting, cleaning, and pricing which is an ongoing and time-consuming job necessary for a successful sales day. Then on what seems like the hottest day of the summer, Pat takes the lead when selling the jewelry items and has become quite the expert.

Finally, as if all this weren't enough to keep one woman very busy, Pat also serves as the backup Maryland Coordinator when that person is out of town. Then Pat must deal with all medical, foster, transport, volunteer, and any other OBG issues that come up in Maryland which often occur at a moment's notice.

We are so grateful for all that Pat does on a daily basis and we want to publicly thank her for her dedication, caring, and commitment to OBG's dogs and our rescue. When Pat says, "I'm on it!" we know she means it.

*Deb Adler and Marilyn Kessinger*

**Need to Find  
Something on the  
Internet?**



Use *GoodSearch.com* as your default search engine and help the dogs of OBG with each search. Simply go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue under "Who do you GoodSearch For?"

## First Aid: Protect Your Dog from Poisoning

It's common knowledge that chocolate is toxic (the darker the chocolate, the greater the risk) to dogs. But do you know what other substances are poisonous to them? If not, you should. Dogs experience the world through their mouths. In addition to chocolate, grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, onions, and avocados are among the foods that can be toxic. Alcoholic beverages and foods containing alcohol also can be poisonous. Keep anything containing the artificial sweetener xylitol out of reach as well.

Common plants in and around your house may poison your dog, too. Examples of toxic plants include oleander, cyclamen, and even the azalea. The poinsettia, however, is not poisonous despite what you may hear every year around the holidays. It may cause gastric upset, but according to the ASPCA, it's not toxic.

Chemicals you use around your house can be deadly to your dog, too. Antifreeze is probably the best-known of these problem products. Its sweetness appeals to pets. Keep it out of reach and clean up any spills right away.

But what is the most common cause of poisoning in pets? The answer might surprise you. It's human medications, both prescription and over the counter products. In fact, common pain relievers such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen are among the most frequent causes of pet poisoning. Keep all medications out of your dog's reach.

If your pet does ingest a toxic substance, you can call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center for help. The phone number is 888-426-4435. Have your credit card handy because they charge a \$65 fee. It's money well-spent (You'd spend more than that at the emergency vet). You'll talk to a veterinarian who is an expert on animal poisoning. Most importantly, the vet will tell you whether or not to induce vomiting, and they'll explain how to do it using ordinary hydrogen peroxide.

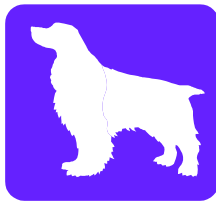
For more information, including lists of poisonous products and their potential effects on your pet, visit the ASPCA's website at [www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control](http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control).

Check your home for potentially dangerous substances, keep the poison control center's phone number handy, and have a bottle of hydrogen peroxide on hand just in case. Keep your canine companion safe!

Lynne Bettinger

### Please Let Us Know...

If you would like us to include your beloved OBG alum in our "In Memoriam" list, please let us know at [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com).



### OBG No Longer in Food Lion Shop & Share Program

OBG thanks you for participating in the Food Lion Shop & Share non-profit fundraising program over the last two years. Unfortunately, Food Lion recently changed its criteria for animal rescue groups and now requires that they maintain a free-standing animal shelter—which we don't—in order to qualify.

### In Memoriam...

...To our fosters and alumni who have passed over the Rainbow Bridge. They are forever in our hearts.

#### Adopted Dogs

Hunter Adams	Bailey the 2nd	Cagney
Ace Baker	Klipa	Charlie 2
Sammy Bunis	Buddy Klipa	Jasper
Ritchie Coliton	Sierra Klipa	Mickey
Kami Edmonds	Winston Klipa	Mozart
Bailey Gingrich	Carmen Pokras	Porter
Missy Haralson	Duke Schaffert	Seamus
Bentley Hastings	Bonita Warrell	Shaynie
Hoover Hoecker		
Bo Holman	<b>Fosters</b>	
Jack Jenkinson	Beau Diddle	
	Bryce	
	Bubbles	



*A copy of Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue, Inc.'s financial statement is available on request from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Division of Consumer Affairs; 1100 Bank Street, Suite 100, Richmond, VA 23219.*

## Trio of Puppy Mill Ladies

Seven dogs were found abandoned in rural Virginia, dumped by a breeder and left to fend for themselves. They would not have survived very long, but fortunately they were rounded up and turned in to the shelter in Montgomery County, VA. Two of the dogs had microchips that could be traced back to a puppy mill in Missouri. How they made it to rural Virginia remains a mystery.

Three of those dogs, Diva, Marsha and Gigi, found their way to OBG in December 2009. It was obvious these dogs had been used all their lives to breed puppies. They arrived as three small, very frightened cockers huddled together in a crate. This was a new beginning for them!

Diva is the leader of the pack and the most outgoing. She was a comfort to the other “girls.” She even knows how to walk on a leash which is unusual for a puppy mill dog. Marsha is a gorgeous tan and white girl who is less confident than Diva. Gigi, a lovely red cocker, is the neediest of the three.

All of them are now in loving foster homes learning what it is to have a normal doggie life. It’s a process that can take up to a year. It’s not a straight path. They make progress; then something scares them and they take a step back. One of the hardest things for them to learn is to trust humans. Some never fully do.

I’m Gigi’s foster mom so I will share some of what she is experiencing and learning. She found two places in our house that she likes to sleep where she can see what is going on but feels protected and no one can sneak up on her. She was scared of us. Much of the time she would not let us get close to her.

Doorways and doors were very scary. We left our storm door propped open for a month so that she could go in or out on her own. Sometimes it’s a long, frustrating challenge to housetrain a puppy mill dog. Gigi was very quick to follow the other dogs outside and soon learned what she should do when she got there.

Gigi feels most comfortable when she has other dogs around. She loves to run around the back yard chasing balls and the other dogs! She gets very excited when we come home now and bounces around with her nub of a tail wagging. She even does a play bow to show how happy she is to see us.

Puppy mill dogs don’t get to have a normal “puppyhood.” I’ve noticed with several puppy mill dogs we have fostered that once they start to feel comfortable in our home, they also start to exhibit puppy behavior! That includes chewing things they shouldn’t and playing with toys. It was a very exciting day when Gigi figured out what a toy was! Unfortunately for me, the “toy” was my slipper. I traded the slipper for a plush toy and she was

as happy as can be. The first time I threw a toy for her she was afraid. Now she understands it’s a game and will try to catch it or run and grab it. She takes the toys to her bed and sleeps with them. She also loves to chase tennis balls.

Gigi has made progress but still has a long way to go. We have had family visiting for a week and Gigi is frightened of them.



She trusts me most of the time but is still leery of my husband. Adoption shows make her very nervous. She still doesn’t like walking on a leash. Loud sounds—traffic, a banging door or something accidentally dropped—make her jump and run for the safety of her bed.

Fostering a puppy mill dog has been a learning experience. It takes a lot of patience. We must

remember these dogs haven’t had a normal life. Sometimes it’s very frustrating and feels like you’re making no progress. It makes you angry that people have treated these dogs in such a cruel manner to cause them to be so fearful. We find joy in each little step forward. In the end, it’s so rewarding to see the enjoyment they experience in their new lives!

*Connie Gay*

*Editor’s Note: As we go to print, we’re happy to report that Marsha has found her forever home.*



Check out OBG on Social Media Sites. Help us build our online community of cocker lovers today! OBG is now on Twitter! Go to: <http://twitter.com/OBGCockerRescue> to follow our Tweets for the most up-to-date news and events related to OBG.

## Come See Us!

Here's where we'll be in the upcoming weeks. Stop by and say "hello!" We love to see our alumni. Visit our website for times, addresses, and directions. Note: Adoption shows run from 11am-2pm unless otherwise noted.

**Mar 13** Petsmart adoption show  
6535 Frontier Drive  
Springfield, VA

Olney BARK Store  
16822 Georgia Avenue  
Olney, MD

**Mar 20** Petco adoption show  
2441 Centreville Road  
Herndon, VA

**Mar 27** Petsmart adoption show  
Potomac Yard  
3351 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Alexandria, VA

Petsmart adoption show  
5154 Nicholson Lane  
Rockville, MD

**Apr 3** Petsmart adoption show  
7690 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria (Hybla Valley), VA

**Apr 10** Petsmart outreach event  
5401 Urbana Pike  
Frederick, MD

Petsmart adoption show  
6535 Frontier Drive  
Springfield, VA

**Apr 11** Petsmart adoption show  
(Noon-3pm)  
2601 Housley Road  
Annapolis, MD

**Apr 17** Petco adoption show  
2441 Centreville Road  
Herndon, VA

**Apr 18** Superpetz outreach event  
1275 West Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD

**Apr 24** Petsmart adoption show  
5154 Nicholson Lane  
Rockville, MD

Petsmart adoption show  
Potomac Yard  
3351 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Alexandria, VA

**May 1** Petsmart adoption show  
9041 Snowden River Parkway  
Columbia, MD

Reston Pet Fiesta  
(10am-4pm)  
Reston Town Center  
11900 Market Street  
Reston, VA

**May 15** Olney BARK Store  
16822 Georgia Avenue  
Olney, MD

**May 22** Petsmart adoption show  
5154 Nicholson Lane  
Rockville, MD

**Jun 6** Petsmart adoption show  
(Noon-3pm)  
2601 Housley Road  
Annapolis, MD

**Jun 13** Superpetz outreach event  
1275 West Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD

**Jun 19** Petsmart adoption show  
5401 Urbana Pike  
Frederick, MD

**Jun 26** Petsmart adoption show  
5154 Nicholson Lane  
Rockville, MD

For updates and additions to our list of shows, please visit our website at [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com).

## Support OBG - Commission a Portrait of Your Furry Friend

You can commission a portrait of your dog or other favorite pet from Brigit at Furry Friends Art and help OBG's dogs. A percentage of the price will go to our wigglybutts—just be sure to mention OBG when you place your order. Brigit does all styles of portraits including traditional and abstract. Using a photo of your pet, she will create a one-of-a-kind piece that is custom designed to capture your pet's distinguishing qualities and personality.

For sizes and pricing information, go to [www.art4furryfriends.com/Furry\\_Friends/Furry\\_Friends\\_-\\_Home.html](http://www.art4furryfriends.com/Furry_Friends/Furry_Friends_-_Home.html)



## Corporate Matching Gifts

Did you know that many companies encourage employee philanthropy by matching your individual donations?

These generous programs double donations you make to OBG. Ask your human resources department if your employer has such a program. If so, you will be given a matching gift form to send to OBG with your donation - and we'll do the rest.

## Helpful Hint:

Be sure to wash your dog's water bowl with soap every day. Bacteria can grow quickly and cause the water to have an "off" taste that will discourage your dog from drinking.

## Puppy Mill (continued from page 1)

The Humane Society of the United States, many of these USDA-licensed operations repeatedly get away with violating the AWA without any repercussions such as fines or loss or suspension of their licenses.

Breeders that sell directly to the public are also a problem. These breeders number in the thousands, and they produce and sell just as many puppies as the wholesale puppy operations. However, because they are not selling “wholesale,” they are not required to comply with the AWA or to meet any federal standards of care for the animals.

It’s estimated that four million dogs are bred in puppy mills every year; and at the same time, four to five million animals are euthanized in shelters every year. That’s almost 11,000 animals every day! Eliminating puppy mills would significantly reduce the burden on shelters and rescue groups.

By now, you might be saying to yourself, “This is terrible, but what can I do to make a difference?” Too often, we feel overwhelmed and powerless. Knowledge is power. Now you know. Here are some things you can do.

First and foremost, do not support puppy millers or backyard breeders by buying dogs that come from one of these sources. Please promote rescuing dogs instead of buying them whenever you can. Having said that, if you or someone you know is determined to purchase a dog, do your homework to determine if a breeder is legitimate. Don’t be swayed by fancy websites showing idyllic surroundings for the dogs. Here are some signs that a breeder is operating a puppy mill:

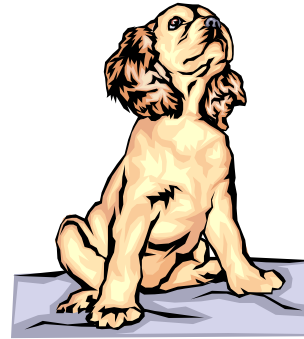
- Several different dog breeds are available at the same time.
- The kennel is willing to ship the dog to you without ever meeting you.
- You aren’t required to complete an application or provide references.
- The breeder doesn’t ask you to return the dog if you ever find you must give up the dog.
- The breeder has a USDA license.
- Breeding dogs aren’t checked for genetic defects.
- The breeder won’t let you meet the puppy’s parents.

If you want to join the movement against puppy mills, learn more about legislative efforts in your state. Contact your elected state and federal officials. You can search for these officials at [www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml). Remember, if lawmakers receive enough e-mails, phone calls, and letters regarding this subject, they will take notice.

These are just some ideas to help in the movement to banish puppy mills; you can come up with other ideas by doing some research of

your own. Get started by searching for the term “puppy mill” on Goodsearch, Google, Yahoo, or another search engine.

In the words of Gandhi, “You must be the change you want to see in the world.” Remember, every pet adopted is a life saved.



### Tastefully Simple - A Simple Way to Make Money for OBG's Dogs

Order your favorite foods on-line from Tastefully Simple and OBG gets 20% of all sales donated by Tastefully Simple consultant, Karen Huntley, to help our dogs. If you haven't tried Tastefully Simple products, the name says it all . . . the food is tasty and oh so simple. Most of the dishes only require 1 or 2 additional ingredients. You just add any beverage (beer, soda, or carbonated juice) to the Beer Bread and only butter & water to the Almond Pound Cake. The dips are wonderful and the Corn, Black Bean Salsa is to die for. There are soups, sauces, spices, desserts, beverages and much more.

Tastefully Simple products make wonderful gifts for Mother's Day, teachers, Scout leaders, babysitters, friends and relatives.

Here's how to shop online: please go directly to <http://www.tastefullysimple.com/web/khuntley>

When you place your online order just use the “associate” option and enter “OBG” as the first name and “Rescue” as the last name to ensure that OBG gets credit for your order. You can also contact Karen directly to place your order at [SimplyHuntley@verizon.net](mailto:SimplyHuntley@verizon.net) or 410-729-1711 and just mention OBG to her. Your products will arrive via FedEx right to your door in just a week!

### If You Like to Read...

Subscribe to your favorite magazine and help the OBG dogs. Go to: [www.magfundraising.com/OBG\\_Cocker\\_Rescue](http://www.magfundraising.com/OBG_Cocker_Rescue) or go to OBG's website at [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com) and click on the Magfundraising.com link on our homepage.

**MagFundraising.com**  
Brought to you by Reader's Digest

## Happy Ending: Katiebelle

Katiebelle came to live with us in April 2008. She was a very frightened girl who had endured the tragedies of a puppy mill mom. She was afraid of everything and everyone. Over time, her "sister" Maggie took Katie under her wing and showed her the ropes of being a regular dog and a part of our family.

Katie, whose name was Darby prior to her coming to us, has blossomed into a wonderful girl. She is very intelligent, graduated at the top of her class in obedience school, and has warmed up to some folks in the neighborhood. She LOVES to ride in the car, enjoys going for grooming and is a great companion for Maggie!

*Sharon Menegoni*



Katiebelle and Maggie

## Help OBG Win \$1000 (or More) AGAIN with Just a Click a Day!

Thanks to your votes, OBG won a \$1000 grant in the fall 2009 *The Animal Rescue Site \$100,000 Shelter Challenge* in partnership with PetFinder. We were the Virginia state winner and finished as the #39 rescue in the nation out of thousands of participating rescues!

We are currently in the middle of another Shelter Challenge that runs until April 18th and we need your help to win again by voting for OBG EVERY DAY. To make it easy for you to vote, there is a link on the OBG homepage at [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com). Just click on the \$100,000 Shelter Challenge logo. In the search box, enter VA for the state, Newington for the city; then vote for Oldies but Goodies (Northern VA) Cocker Rescue.

You can also go directly to The Animal Rescue Site at [www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/shelterchallenge.faces?siteId=3](http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/shelterchallenge.faces?siteId=3). Please pass this on to all of your friends, relatives, and co-workers.

Who knows — we might even finish #1 in the nation and win \$20,000!



In case Twitter's not your thing, become a fan of OBG on Facebook! Go to: [www.facebook.com/OBGCockerRescue](http://www.facebook.com/OBGCockerRescue) to become one!

## Shop for Touchstone Jewelry On-Line and OBG's Dogs Benefit

Take a look at the beautiful jewelry from Touchstone Crystal featuring Crystallized - Swarovski elements and help the dogs of OBG with your purchases. All profits will be donated to OBG courtesy of Touchstone consultant (and OBG volunteer) Diane Webster.

Don't forget that Easter and Mother's Day are just around the corner. Think what great gifts this jewelry would make for those special ladies in your life! And did you know that you can personalize your necklaces and bracelets at no extra cost with a special "Touchstone," a single crystal charm in one of seven colors? Each Touchstone symbolizes characteristics of love, life, caring, connecting, balance, accomplishment, or inspiration.

For more information and to see Diane's on-line catalog, go to [my.touchstonecrystal.com/dwebster](http://my.touchstonecrystal.com/dwebster).



## Thank you for your support!

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VCA Lewis Animal Hospital  
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## Happy Ending: Fletcher

When Fletcher was rescued by OBG in the fall of 2004, he was a rather shaggy boy who had tested positive for heartworm. While he was undergoing treatment and living at a wonderful foster home, I was beginning my search through OBG for a cocker spaniel to adopt. My teenage son was intrigued by Fletcher's picture on the website, and I agreed that we should meet him.

It was "love at first sight," and we decided that Fletcher was the dog for us. In January of 2005, I adopted him.



Fletcher is now a healthy, happy, and less shaggy boy! He loves his toys and tennis balls and can be found with one in his mouth almost constantly, dropping it only to play fetch or to inhale a treat! He is a sweet dog who brings joy to all he meets with his happy-go-lucky personality and a never-ending

"wiggglebutt." I can't begin to describe how fortunate I feel that Fletcher and I found each other with the help of a superb organization like Oldies but Goodies.

*Karen Bachmann*

### Sign Up for OBG's E-Newsletter

Ever wonder what's going on with OBG between issues of our hardcopy newsletter? If so, you can sign up at: [www.cockerspanielrescue.com/fundraising/Newsletter%20Signup.html](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com/fundraising/Newsletter%20Signup.html) and we will periodically email you the latest on upcoming events, special stories about our pups, and other cool stuff.





**IT'S A COMPETITION!!!!!!  
 ENTER YOUR COCKER'S PICTURE - WIN A PLACE IN  
 THE OBG 2011 "SWEETEST THINGS" CALENDAR!!**

For the last nine years OBG has produced a calendar with pictures of our furry friends as the main attraction. It has been a huge success each year! So, for 2011, we're going to do it all again. Send us a picture(s) of your favorite cocker(s) to enter our contest. The winners will be featured in the calendar. Enter as many pictures as you wish for just \$10 per picture. Either digital pictures or photo paper quality color 3x5 or 4x6 pictures are acceptable. Please, pictures of just dogs - no humans. We'd love to hear about the pet in the picture so send along a note. **ENTRIES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN June 1, 2010.**

**Can't find any good photos? With any donation you can:**

- **Commemorate** your cocker's birthday, adoption, or anniversary. We'll mark (sorry, just a little dog humor) our calendar with your cocker's special day.
- **Memorialize** a cocker that was part of your family. Send us your commemoration and we'll place it in a special "In Memory" section of our calendar.
- **Make a dedication** to a special person in your pet's life. We'll add it to the "Doggie Dedication" section of the calendar. (Dedications should be 50 words or less).

**To enter, go to [www.cockerspanielrescue.com/2011calendar.htm](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com/2011calendar.htm) to submit electronically and/or pay via PayPal. *or* fill in the form below:**

Dog Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contributor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Calendar Commemoration:**

Month/Day	Annotation
01/26	Shayne's Adoption Day (example)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Send Entries, Photos and Checks to:  
 OBG Cocker Rescue  
 PO Box 1028  
 Newington, VA 22122-1028

Make Checks (\$10 per photo, dedication, commemoration, etc) payable to:  
 OBG Cocker Rescue

Send Digital Photos to:  
[calendar@cockerspanielrescue.com](mailto:calendar@cockerspanielrescue.com)

To submit electronically or pay via PayPal, go to:  
[www.cockerspanielrescue.com/2011calendar](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com/2011calendar)

In Loving Memory: Dog's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inscription: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue, Inc.**

P.O. Box 361  
Newington, VA 22122-0361  
703-533-2373

[www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com)  
[www.petfinder.org/shelters/VA05.html](http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/VA05.html)

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return service requested

**March 21: Bow Wow Bowl-a-thon**  
Please sign up now! Go to:  
[www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com)

**Upcoming FUNdraisers**

We hope you'll join us at these events where OBG puts the FUN in fundraising:

- Mar 21** Bow Wow Bowl-a-thon  
AMF Annandale Lanes  
Annandale, VA  
2pm - 5pm
- Mar 30** Bertucci's at White Flint Mall  
Rockville, MD  
7pm - 9pm
- Apr ??** Cosi with Cockers Lunch  
Crystal City, VA
- Jun ??** Canine Cruise  
Alexandria, VA
- Aug ??** Canine Cruise

We don't have all the details on all of our spring and summer events yet. For updates and more information, visit our website at [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com).



**Shop to Help OBG**

You can help raise funds for OBG whenever you shop online at the following retailers. Go to OBG's website at [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com) and click on the logos. These retailers will automatically donate a portion of your purchase to OBG. Tell your friends, too!

