

Cocker Connection

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

a periodic publication of
Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue
a non-profit group serving the Mid-Atlantic region

FROM WHERE I SIT:

Message from the newsletter editor

With the new year some changes are coming to OBG. Several of our long-time Board members have decided to resign or retire because of personal and family issues. Judy Wollin, Chris Thiel, Mei Bell and Pat Dix have given the OBG cockers years of selfless service. Before we move on and introduce our new Board of Directors, we'd like to acknowledge the contributions these individuals have made to OBG.

Judy Wollin came on board, along with her husband Gary, in the early years of OBG. They were just going to "foster one dog". Soon Judy was VP and there were "a few" dogs hanging out with them. Next, Judy became president, a position she held for many years. Both Judy and Gary were responsible for training, teaching, medicating, transporting and loving countless OBG cockers.

Chris Thiel recently served as VP. Chris acted as Judy's right hand in many aspects of Board duties, from community outreach and communication to fundraising. He and Lori Hosler are still active as fosters.

Mei Bell served as secretary of the Board until the birth of her child made her want to focus more on the homefront. Mei also had a hand in writing many of the delightful dog bios you may have read on our website. She and her husband have fostered in the past and hope to do so again in the future.

Pat Dix has served as treasurer of the Board for the past 6 years. She's kept the books straight, worked with the vets that treat our animals, maintained the list of adopters and contributors, tallied the current foster dogs (usually upwards of 50 at one time), done the accountings to the IRS and been an invaluable resource to putting together this newsletter each issue.

All of these individuals have played a part in making OBG the strong organization that it is today and are responsible for saving the lives of hundreds of cockers each year. Their contributions will live on in the group they made work so well. Ears to you, guys!

Kathi Alexander



FROM THE PRESIDENT

If I had to pick one word to describe OBG recently, it would be "change." Recently, I read a quote from Irene Peter about change which made me think about OBG's current status. She said that "just because everything is different, it doesn't mean anything has changed."

Some of OBG's prior Board members are no longer serving, the overall makeup of the Board has been altered, new members have been elected and some internal procedures have changed. However, the mission of OBG remains the same. We are still here to save the lives of cocker spaniels and cocker mixes in the mid-Atlantic region. Last year, we saved almost 300 dogs and we are looking ahead to another year with even more lives saved.

So you see, just because things are different, in many ways, nothing really has changed.

The biggest difference with OBG in 2006 is the new Board of Directors. I am happy to have the opportunity to present the new Board to everyone. In the interest of saving space, I have kept this introduction brief; however, I could easily fill an entire newsletter listing all the wonderful qualifications for each Board member.

The Board now has 11 directors. The Executive Committee consists of yours truly, the President; Jane Avila, Vice President of Operations; Karen Bryson, Vice President of Intake; Kathi Alexander, Secretary; Debbie Davenport, Treasurer and Lori Hosler, Foster Coordinator. Additional Board members are: Dave Obbie, Volunteer Coordinator; Erna Hochstein, Director of Adoptions; Marilyn Kessinger, MD/DC Coordinator; Brenda Edleson, Director and Martine DeLizza, Director.

OBG is fortunate because each of the Board members brings something special to the table. This is OBG's 10th anniversary and I am happy to report that Board members like Martine, Debbie and Kathi have been with OBG from the very beginning. Debbie and Kathi have both served on the Board in the past and all three are an invaluable source of knowledge when it comes to

COME SEE Us...

Here's where we will 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 events run from 12-3pm unless otherwise noted.

- Feb 25** Adoption events at the PETS-MARTs in Rockville & Springfield
- Mar 4** Adoption events at the PETS-MARTs in Alexandria & Silver Spring
- Mar 11** Adoption events at the PETS-MART in Springfield
- Mar 15** Silver Diner Night, Springfield, 5:30-8:30pm. Classic food, classic music and OBG receives a percentage of all dinner bills.
- Mar 25** Adoption events at the PETS-MARTs in Springfield & Rockville
- Mar 26** 3rd Annual Bow-Wow Bowl-athon. AMF Bowling Ctr. in Annandale; \$30 for 3 games, shoe rental, lunch & door prizes
- April 1** Adoption events at the PETS-MARTs in Alexandria & Silver Spring
- April 8** Adoption events at the PETS-MART in Springfield
- April 22** Adoption events at the PETS-MARTs in Springfield & Rockville
- April 29** Adoption event at the PETS-MARTs in Columbia
- May 6** Adoption events at the PETS-MARTs in Alexandria & Silver Spring
- May 7** MCHS Paws in the Park, Wheaton Regional Park
- May 13** Adoption events at the PETS-MART in Springfield
- May 20** Car wash, 9am-12pm. Cardinal Plaza Shell, Springfield (corner of Old Keene Mill Rd & Rolling Rd.)
- June 11** Capital Pride Festival, Washington, D.C. 9am-6pm Come visit our kissing booth
- June 17** Car wash, 9am-12pm. Don's Shell, Springfield, Old Keene Mill Rd., next to Einstein Bagel.
- July 15** Car wash, 9am-12pm. Cardinal Plaza Shell, Springfield (corner of Old Keene Mill Rd & Rolling Rd.)

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 Wish List

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 _____ E-mail _____

Note: We are able to accept donations via credit card on our website: <www.cockerspanielrescue.com>
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

SUPPORT OBG — COMMISSION A PORTRAIT

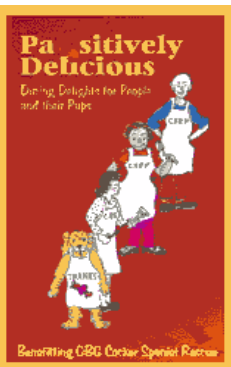


One of our long-time supporters (and creator of the beautiful sketch depicted here) has offered to support OBG with her artwork.

For a \$50 donation to Oldies But Goodies, Christine Walters of Chesapeake, VA will generate pen and ink drawings of cockers (or other pets) from photographs.

For more information, or to commission a portrait, contact Christine directly at 757-482-9967.

**COMBINED FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN
DESIGNATION #7292**



OBG's "PAWSITIVELY DELICIOUS" COOKBOOK

Over 400 great recipes for only \$15.00. (plus shipping and handling if mailed).
Make checks payable to "OBG Cookbook" and send to the address below

OBG "Pawsitively Delicious" Cookbook Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address _____

Quantity _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Add shipping: \$1.75 for first cookbook * _____

\$0.50 for each additional cookbook _____

Total due (please submit check payable to "Oldies But Goodies Cookbook") _____

* ___ Check here if you prefer to pick them up at an Adoption Show. We will email you when they are available at Adoption Shows for pickup.

Mail this form with payment check to:

OBG Cocker Rescue, P.O. Box 361, Newington, VA 22122-0361

WIN A ONE WEEK VACATION AT THIS BEAUTIFUL BEACH HOUSE IN BETHANY BEACH, DELAWARE



To raise funds for our cockers, OBG is raffling this spectacular one week vacation at this gorgeous beach house. This generous package was donated by a very thoughtful volunteer and is valued at over \$1200. It is to be used June 24th - July 1, 2006.

To view more pictures and virtual tour of the beach house, visit <http://www.beach-net.com/crowleybb/southbethany/tamarack436.html>

Tickets are on sale at all adoption shows and through the mail:
\$5 for 2 tickets \$15 for 15 Tickets
\$10 for 8 Tickets \$20 for 40 Tickets

To order your tickets please make out a check to OBG Cocker Rescue, fill out the form below and mail to:

OBG Beach House Raffle c/o Susan Arango
10163 Marshall Pond Road, Burke, Va. 22015

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____ E-mail Address: _____

Number of tickets: _____

We will e-mail you your ticket numbers, and announce the winning ticket number on the website. The drawing will be held on March 11, 2006. We will e-mail and telephone the purchaser of the winning ticket.

SUPPORT OBG THRU IGIVE.COM

What if... up to 30% of each purchase you made went to OBG? Shop at hundreds of online stores and help a cause close to your heart! It's all free & private. Join today.

Visit <http://www.igive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberID=333888&causeID=26107> for details.

ANATOMY OF A RESCUE: WOOFER'S STORY

They say many hands make light work, and nowhere is it more true than in animal rescue. One recent story brought this truism home for me.

Donna Britt, a *Washington Post* columnist, wrote eloquently of the life, antics and eventual demise of her family's beloved dog, Silver, just before Christmas. The happy ending to this touching story was their adoption of one of OBG's own: Woofier.

But Woofier, too, had a story. At the same time that Donna Britt and her family prepared themselves to say goodbye to their dog, many hands within OBG were helping Woofier to find his new family.

First, someone had to accept him on OBG's behalf. Thanks to the volunteers who help with fundraising, such as bake sales, car washes and raffles, OBG has the funds to take new dogs straight to the vet and to board them if there isn't a foster home immediately available.

That's where I met the little charmer. When I met with OBG volunteer transporter Stephanie Pickerill to pick up my new foster, we took a few moments to take pictures of the dogs being boarded at Colonial Animal Hospital in Springfield. Stephanie had to shoot fast because Woofier kept climbing into my lap! She sent the pictures to our webmaster, Jim Mich, so that people could "meet" Woofier in the virtual world even before he went to his first show, and the petfinder volunteer (me!) added him to the Petfinder.org website.

Woofier was still being boarded after getting the all-clear from the vet, so when Teresa Butler, our foster/volunteer coordinator, asked if someone could take him to an adoption show, I jumped at the chance. Teresa told me she had a foster home in mind for him, but they hadn't had the home-visit yet. For 3 hours at the adoption event, I cuddled with Woofier, played with him, rubbed his belly and let him sit in my lap.

Woofier stayed with his friends at the vet for a short time longer while another volunteer met with Greg & Rena Trestman for their homecheck. The Trestmans live in Baltimore, a long way from Springfield, but some of our many hands were willing to take Woofier to his new temporary home. One person transported him from Springfield to a Rockville adoption show, and then Deb Adler took him from there to the Trestmans, with an overnight stopover at the Pasadena Pet Palace. After that, Woofier spent several glorious weeks with the Trestmans, chewing up dirty laundry, zooming around the house, sneaking food and of course getting belly rubs.

But although Woofier now had a foster home, other OBG volunteers continued to help. Deb Adler, Judy Salmon, and Cheryl & Ed Haralson stepped up to the plate by taking Woofier to shows and "babysitting" him overnight when the Trestmans needed help.



It was at an adoption show that Donna Britt first saw Woofier. Marilyn Kessinger, the show manager, explained that

there was already an application on him and offered to stay in touch. The rest, as they say, is history.

The next week, Donna Britt and her family said "good-bye" to Silver, and Woofier moved in with a different family. Marilyn stayed in touch with both families, and when it was obvious Woofier wasn't being welcomed by the family cat, Marilyn took him in (the Trestmans were out of town), did the homevisit for Donna Britt, and finalized the adoption.

Well, not quite final ... Pat Dix, OBG's treasurer handled all the paperwork and then e-mailed the webmaster and Petfinder volunteer to have Woofier removed from the list of adoptable sweeties. She notifies Arline Kerrigan to send Donna Britt an adoption certificate and welcome packet, and Diane May, OBG medical historian, to release the originals of all of Woofier's vet records.

So the final tally of helpful hands looks like this:

- Someone took him in
- Someone transported him to Colonial
- Someone set up our relationship with Colonial
- Many someones helped us raise money for boarding & vetting
- Someone took his picture while someone else held him
- Someone uploaded his picture & bio to the OBG website
- Someone uploaded his picture & bio to Petfinder.org
- Someone set up an adoption show where he could be seen
- Someone did a homevisit for the foster home
- Someone coordinated his fostering
- Someone took him to his new foster home
- Someone fostered him
- Someone transported him to adoption shows
- Someone organized the shows
- Someone took care of him when the fosters needed help
- Someone fostered him
- Someone did a homevisit for the first adopter
- Someone stayed in touch with Donna Britt and then did her homecheck
- Someone took care of all the paperwork

Not counting cookie bakers & car washers, that's at least 20 people and one foster home!

So the next time you hear someone say, "I'd love to help but I can't be a foster", think of Woofier and tell them "Many hands make light work".

—Amy Edmonds

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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OBG's history. In addition, Kathi works full time at the Montgomery County Humane Society and has additional knowledge and experience to share based on her experience with a public shelter.

Several of our new Board members joined OBG within the last 5 years and have all been volunteering for awhile now, serving in different capacities. Recently, I served on the Board as Volunteer and Foster Coordinator which has given me first-hand experience dealing with OBG's policies and procedures. I believe that experience will benefit me greatly as President.

I have passed the Foster Coordinator torch to Lori Hosler. Lori has been the OBG show manager in Springfield for a long time now and will use the experience she has gained in that capacity to help her in her new job as Foster Coordinator.

Then there is Jane, who has had experience working with nonprofit groups and who will use her expertise to help make OBG's operations run smoothly.

Our resident "computer guy", Dave, is already working on computer programs that will allow him to improve coordination among the volunteers. We are pleased to be able to tell you that he will also continue his work with the webteam.

Karen has been working intake for years and we are very happy she agreed to continue as intake coordinator.

Marilyn has been coordinating shows and working with volunteers in Maryland for several years and will continue to do so now that she's on the Board.

I am also pleased to report that we have some "newbies" who have agreed to join the Board. Erna and Brenda both joined OBG last year and have quickly proven themselves to be valuable volunteers. Erna has been acting as alternate Virginia show manager. Brenda is a foster mom and has been helping with miscellaneous projects for OBG. Both have proven themselves to be dedicated to helping OBG continue to grow and to save lives.

The new Board members will be using our experiences volunteering for OBG and from the workforce to benefit the rescue group. In addition, OBG is fortunate to have many committed and caring volunteers which make up the backbone of our rescue group. Then, there are our wonderful supporters like all of you, without whom, OBG could not continue to do the work that we do to save the lives of our four-legged friends. Those of us at OBG thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for helping us to help others.

Teresa Butler, president

**Adopter quote: "Ranger is the smartest and sweetest ... he knows lots of tricks now, and is so well behaved."
—Maria Wallace**

IN MEMORIAM

Foster dogs:

George, Bubbles, Samson, Patsy

Adopted friends and alumni:

Gigi Mockabee, Mariah Dix, Ty Perry, Sadie Johnson, Ty Hughes-Spiro, Eli Carr, Agatha Kostelnick, Lester Carey, Harley Crail, Abigail Bell, Toast Kostelnick, Buffy Campbell, Abbey Sofield, Winnie Denning-Mich, Shiloh Ray, Truffles D'Onofrio, Copper Damm, Apollo Mori



OUR FEATURED VET

Austin Vet Clinic, Annandale, VA

In early 2005, OBG started working with Austin Veterinary Clinic in Annandale. OBG boards dogs at Austin Vet on a regular basis which helps us save more lives each year. We have quickly come to count on not only the exceptional veterinary care our dogs receive there, but also the "extras" that make them one of our favorite places to board dogs. They have a fenced-in yard where the dogs can go outside and play or interact with each other. The staff spends time with each dog we board which helps us evaluate the dogs and determine the right foster placements. They also have an isolation ward for dogs coming in from shelters with contagious diseases such as kennel cough. In fact, we have come to depend on Austin Vet so much that we at OBG find ourselves wondering what we ever did without them.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT ...

MADALINE!

An open letter to OBG
Cocker Spaniel Rescue of
Northern VA

I wanted to write OBG to personally thank you for rescuing me. My name is Madaline and they call me Miss Maddie. I'm a Hurricane Katrina survivor.



My foster parents Karen and Brian only had me for a couple of weeks and I spent some time recuperating at the vet. They think I'm about 10 years old. I must have that southern charm Miss Karen says I have — because I found my forever home when my new daddy adopted me at my first adoption show after my stay with the vet.

My foster folks weren't sure whether I could bark or hear very well. It wasn't very long that I showed my daddy that I can both bark (when I need to) and can also hear pretty good.

My teeth are another story. My new vet examined me this past week and while pronouncing me in good health he thinks I might have been kept in a cage and wore my teeth down trying to bite through wire. The vet said he thinks Katrina was the best thing that could have happened to me and that OBG did a great job of restoring my health.

Besides my daddy, I also live with my new adopted big brother, Brady. He was adopted from OBG five years ago. Anyway we are a family of three now and I just love my forever home. Brady and I curl up together every night with daddy in his bed. We all sit together on the sofa too.

Thanks again OBG! You guys do great work! And to all you guys and gals in foster care, remember, your forever home is just around the corner.

Love, Madaline Barszcz

Do you have one of our "Oldies But Goodies" (ages 8 and up) living in YOUR home? Send us your stories: Senior Spotlight, OBG Cocker Connection, PO Box 361, Newington, VA 22122

It's a Competition!!!!

COULD YOUR COCKER WIN A PLACE IN THE OBG 2007 "THE SWEETEST THINGS" CALENDAR????

For the last five years OBG has produced a calendar as a fundraising activity with pictures of our furry friends as the main attraction. It has been a huge success each year! So, for 2007, we're going to do it all again. Send us a picture(s) of your favorite cocker and enter our contest to see which photos display "The Sweetest Things". The winners of the competition will be displayed in the calendar. Enter as many pictures as you wish—\$10 per picture. Either digital pictures or photo paper quality color 3x5 or 4x6 pictures only please. We'd prefer pictures of just dogs (no humans). We'd love to hear the details about the pet in the picture so send along a note. ENTRIES DUE 1 June.

Not a photographer but you'd still like to be part of our calendar?

- Buy an entry in our calendar to 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.
- Would you like to memorialize a cocker that was part of your family? Send us your pet's names and we'll include your commemoration in a special "In Memory" section of our calendar.
- Is there a special person in your pet's life you'd like to say thanks to in a special way? We'll add it to the "Doggie Dedication" section of the calendar. (Dedications should be 50 words or less).

Please enter us in OBG's Photo Competition (\$10 entry fee per photo, all entries due 1 June)

Dog's name _____ Contributor's name: _____

Address _____

Calendar Commemoration:

Month	Date	Annotation
Jan	26	Dutch's Adoption Day
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Send entries, check & photos to
OBG Cocker Rescue, P.O. Box 361
Newington, VA 22122
Send digital photos to
obgcalendar@hotmail.com

Make checks payable to:
OBG Cocker Rescue

In Loving Memory: Dog's Name _____

Inscription _____

Doggie Dedications: Example: "Dear Dr. Kuntz Thanks for operating on my knees. They can bend again! Now I can run like the wind (sometimes I still hop just because its fun). Love, Phoebe"

OBG Cocker Rescue is hosting the FIRST ANNUAL Black Tie Un-Event

All Proceeds Go to Needed Eye Surgeries
for Zorro, Pookah, Melanie & Eevee

The event will NOT take place on Feb 25th
"Cocker-Tails" will NOT be served at 6:00
Dinner will NOT be served at 7:00
No program will be held at 9:00

Think of the money you can save by NOT attending this non-event: No tuxedo rental, No need for a new dress, no babysitter, no parking valet to tip.

Instead, we invite you to stay home with your family and friends (both furry and human) and NOT attend the **Black Tie Un-Event** that we aren't really having. Instead, you can make a donation (of any amount) to help us raise money for Zorro's, Pookah's and Melanie's eye surgeries.

Mail donations to: OBGCR, PO Box 361, Newington, VA 22122

I want to help: Zorro or Pookah or Melanie or Eevee

OBG VOLUNTEERS HELP OUT AT THE GULF COAST

Everyone watched as Hurricane Katrina blew across the Gulf Coast last fall. The damage was devastating and people needed help rebuilding their communities and their lives. Many helped by sending money to the Red Cross or donating items to the Salvation Army. Animals needed our help as well. Since many pets were left behind, the local ASPCAs were filled with dogs and cats. Rescue groups from all over the country stepped in to help by caring for these animals. OBG took in several Katrina survivors and helped to find them new homes.

It has now been several months since Katrina and the Gulf Coast region is still rebuilding. Chris Thiel and I spent 2 weeks in December helping with a volunteer group in Biloxi, Mississippi. I was not sure what to expect when we arrived; I was not sure what we would be doing. I was shocked at the devastation and thought, "this can't be in my country." Very quickly Chris and I got to work. Actually, we were dropped off at the Humane Society right from the airport! When the staff there found out that we volunteered with a dog rescue group, they put us to work clipping nails and cleaning ears.

Many of the dogs in the shelter were found roaming the streets and brought in for care and hopes of finding their owners. Litters of puppies came in on a daily basis due to the lack of spay/neuter that is done in this area. Puppy season started early this year because of all the dogs wandering the streets after the hurricane.

We want to thank the volunteers that donated money and gift cards to take to the Southern Mississippi Humane Society.

The volunteer organization we were with, *HandsOnUSA*, focused on community outreach programs and home rebuilding. In order to rebuild the houses that were structurally sound, they had to be gutted down to the beams and then demolded. After that was completed, then the house could be rebuilt on the inside. Chris and I helped do this in addition to helping to clean up area parks and cemeteries. We helped hand out food and supplies to the community. Slowly the communities in the Gulf region are being rebuilt—but it is going to take a lot of time and many people helping to make a difference. This was an experience that Chris and I will never forget. We take the things

that we have for granted. We saw people thankful for the smallest of gestures and thankful for the things that they have.

—Lori Hosler



A HandsOnUSA volunteer snuggles a puppy



Teddy (G-O) with his "best friend" Brian

TEDDY GOES HOME

Teddy, a.k.a. "G-O" (for Golden Oldie) came to OBG with a sad tale to tell, if only he could talk.

You see, the humans who helped him out got his story wrong. Somewhere along the line, someone got the idea that his family hadn't survived Hurricane Katrina. But Teddy knew his Brian was alive—he'd seen him get into a boat. Brian had stayed behind to care for Teddy after the rest of the family evacuated. He survived the storm, but then was forced to leave Teddy behind when his neighborhood was evacuated.

Teddy got rescued eventually, went to Houston, then to Hattiesburg, then to Ozark, Alabama before coming to OBG. His foster in Alabama double-checked online databases and every source she could to be sure nobody was looking for him. Then she contacted OBG to help him find a new home. We took in the skinny, wobbly-legged oldster and restored him to health, but since we thought nobody was looking for him, we didn't look for them, either. G-O went to adoption shows and got listed on the OBG site just like any other homeless dog.

And then a miracle happened: someone recognized G-O's picture on the OBG website and e-mailed it to Brian. Now relocated, with a new home and new job, Brian was almost afraid to hope, but he contacted G-O's foster anyway. After an exchange of e-mails, photos and descriptions, Brian flew to northern VA to meet them. By then both Brian and the foster were 90% sure this was his dog. How many other dogs "wave" for a treat while standing on all fours? Sitting, maybe but all fours? G-O was unique. He also had all the right lumps, bumps and age spots.

In fact, Brian was so sure this was his "Teddy" that he flew one-way, with the plan to drive the 800-mile trip back in a rented car. And that's exactly what he did. Teddy went back to live out the rest of his days with the family that had loved him and cared for him since he was a puppy 14 years ago.

—Amy Edmonds

**Adopter quote: "Thanks for all you do! Buddy is doing great and we LOVE him."
—Ann Himelfarb**

COCKER ANGEL, JANET GILL

When I was asked to be the next OBG cocker angel, I was both honored and humbled. Honored to be in a rescue group with so many wonderful colleagues. Humbled because since joining OBG in 2001, I have come to believe more and more that our 4-legged friends are the real heroes. We put a little wind beneath their wings. Each day I tell my beloved Nicky and Delilah (both OBG alumni) that they must be on loan from heaven to bring so much joy into life; and I thank them too!

My main contribution to OBG for the past 4 years has been transport. Would you believe that I have racked up over 4,000 miles? Most Saturdays, I am on the road chaffering some of the dogs that we are privileged to help along the way. I could tell amusing stories of my adventures on the road, but I won't. The real message is that transport is a great way to help OBG (and sometimes other rescue groups).

Occasionally, when I feel a little down or tired, it only takes one look from one of my passengers to remind me that many of these creatures have been through much more than I can imagine. From the puppies who must be lost in wonder at what kind of world they are in, to the seniors who are such survivors, to all those in between with their hurts and hopes: they are such inspiration. They are so very grateful for the smallest kindness like a drink of water, a treat, a pet, and a new chance at life. My time with them is brief but each one touches my heart.

Another reward of transport is getting involved with such a wide circle of other animal lovers. There is actually a large "transport network" of people I have worked with from Georgia to Pennsylvania, from West Virginia to the Atlantic Ocean who make the word "rescue" real to many dogs and cats. Of course, we can always use more help for OBG and beyond.

The other role I fill for OBG is medication coordinator. Being a registered nurse, this is second nature to me. I hold the donated medications until a dog needs them and dispense monthly parasite preventatives to the fosters. Please remember your foster's monthly Heartguard and Frontline and check the expiration date of all medications. (You knew I had to say that).

Some closing thoughts on being an OBG volunteer: I was new to the world of rescue in 2001 when I came to OBG looking to adopt a cocker spaniel. I found my little prince and princess because of caring individuals: like all of you. The past 5 years have given me so many great lessons about life, and love and loyalty of the canine sort. These doggies really are the wisest of teachers on what really counts.

PS: Maybe I'll see some of you out on the roads helping in the next transport? Thanks for all you do — in whatever contributions you make to OBG.

UNDERSTANDING CUSHING'S DISEASE

Many of the middle-aged and senior cockers listed on our website in past years have been diagnosed with Cushing's Disease or Syndrome. But what is Cushing's? How does it affect the quality of life of its victims? As a foster that has cared for many of OBG's Cushinoid dogs, I've been asked to explain.

Cushing's is a disorder of the endocrine system which occurs when the glands secrete too much of the hormone "cortisol". There are two types: pituitary and adrenal, pituitary comprising about 85% of the cases. Cushing's can be caused by many factors, ranging from a tumor forming on the adrenal glands to over-use of steroidal medications. Symptoms typically include: excessive thirst and subsequent urination, ravenous appetite, panting, [symmetrical] hair loss and pot-bellied appearance.

Diagnosis is done with a series of specialized blood tests. First, the vet will typically perform tests to rule out other diseases that may mimic Cushing's. The diagnostic test extends over 8 hours. Blood is drawn at the beginning of the test, the dog gets at least one injection of the hormone ACTH (or dexamethasone) and then an additional blood draw is done at the end of the time period. Sometimes an ultrasound is needed to determine whether the dog has the adrenal or pituitary form.

For pituitary Cushing's, the drug Lysodren is the drug of choice. Lysodren, a chemotherapy drug, works by selectively destroying a portion of the adrenal gland that is overproducing cortisol. This is a delicate process which is broken down into 2 phases: a loading phase—which lasts 7 to 10 days—and maintenance. During loading, the dog is given daily doses of Lysodren. The caretaker must monitor the dog carefully during this time because too much Lysodren too quickly can send the dog "over the edge" into Addison's. Generally the vet will also dispense a small amount of the steroid Prednisone with specific instructions on what warning signs to watch for and to administer if necessary. Once the loading period is completed, blood tests are repeated and the Lysodren dose is dropped to once or twice per week for the rest of the dog's life. Blood tests are done periodically to determine that the cortisol levels are in the proper range. Other drugs are available, but since they don't work as well, they are reserved for dogs that can't tolerate Lysodren.

If the dog has the adrenal type of Cushing's, the preferred treatment is surgery to remove the tumor which is affecting the adrenal gland.

Whichever the treatment, it is well worth it for the dramatic improvements I've seen in my fosters' life qualities. Each of them got back the bounce in their steps, regrew their hair coat to luxurious softness and once again acted like a "young" dog.

Kathi Alexander

TIMELY TIDBITS:

We've been busy! Volunteers (and foster dogs) were at these events: "Home 4 the Holidays" adoption event in Reston sponsored by GoodDogz.org; "Bow-Wow Powwow" in Baltimore, "Because You're a Lifesaver" sponsored by the Montgomery County Humane Society and the "Adoption Options" seminar by Petfinder.com.

We are thrilled to report that Duncan, featured in our last issue, has found an adoptive home with a young couple.

Kudos to Dr. Julius Hite and his veterinary staff in South Hill, VA who took in and cleaned up cockers Aspen and Fantasia until they could be transported north through VA to an OBG foster home.

Jazz, an OBG alumni, was recently featured in the *DC Examiner* newspaper. The article discussed "adoptable pets": <http://www.dcxaminer.com/articles/2006/01/20/features/pets/74pets22adoptable.txt>

Fundraising Events

Thank you to our volunteers, supporters and patrons who participated in:

- Bake sales and donut sales at our adoption shows
- Cocker throw raffle (won by Cheryl Anderson of Burke, VA)
- Calendar sales (thank you Debbie Lamb!)
- Raffles at the Capital City Cocker Club AKC agility trails (thank you Debbie Davenport and Susan Arango!)
- An Evening of Giving to support the Simon Youth Foundation
- Pet photos with Santa at area PetsMarts
- Cocker social event at Tailchasers Grooming Salon in Germantown; OBG foster dog Russell won "best looking male" award
- Cookbook sales (thank you Rhea Prosser and Angela Robinson!)

Many thanks to all those who pledged donations to OBG through the Fall 2005 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Special thanks to Tracey Denning for organizing the agency fairs.

Great news from VA! HB2003 has been signed into law. HB2003 creates a special fund in the VA state treasury known as the "Spay & Neuter Fund" and allows each resident who files a state income tax report to voluntarily contribute and donate monies to promote animal welfare.

TAILWAGGER TIDBITS

Do the winter blues have you and your pooch in a boring, couch potato slump? Why not try adding a few new tricks to your repertoire? Brushing up on these "Oldies but Goodies" will undoubtedly yield crowd-pleasing results at the spring opening of your favorite dog park, doggy happy hour or other canine social event! Try these with your pooch:

Give your paw: This one is simple. Just start by saying "give your paw", "shake" or whatever command you plan to use and pick up your pooch's paw. Hold his/her paw and praise them. Let go and do it over and over again, in that order. Eventually, your pooch will begin to lift their paw without your assistance. When this occurs, really praise him/her! With a few minutes of practice each day, your pooch will eventually begin to freely give his/her paw and you have the satisfaction of teaching a new trick! Once you've mastered one paw you can up the ante by teaching him/her to give the other paw. Just follow the sequence and use a different command for the other paw such as, "other one", "right paw", "left paw", etc.

High Five: Another easy trick to master once you've gotten your pooch to give his/her paw. Just begin by saying "high five", "smack", "give me five", "up high", or whatever command you choose. Grab your pooch's paw and raise it up high, hold it and give praise. Let go and do it over and over again in that order. This one will take a bit longer to master, but you'll get there! Once your pooch starts to get the hang of things and lift his/her paw up high, you need to start presenting your open hand as a target. You may need to show the pooch what you want by quickly lifting the paw and touching it to your palm, but, with consistent practice, your pooch will become a high five master!

Always remember that training your pooch should be a fun, positive experience and sessions should never end on a negative note. If you see your pooch begin to lose interest you should end your session on a successful note and try again later.

Happy training!

—Sandra D. Coffman

Adopter quote: "Our OBG dog, Elvis, is wonderful! Thank you for rescuing him"
—Gilan & Tim Hanagan

DOGS ADOPTED OCT '05 THRU FEB '06

The following dogs recently found homes ... our "brag" list:

Andi	Solomon 2	Hershey	Dolly	Carmine	Zoe
Stefie	Pierre	Chocolate & Ebony	Ginger	Charlie Boy	Lucy
Emily	Samson	Blair	Candy	Bella	Billie
Demi & Steven	Pepe	Bailey	Mindy 2	Hughie	Jasmine
Beethoven	Buster (Jake)	Foster	Clifford	Molly	Jingles (Hershey)
Barnabus	Jake	Odie	Casey & Flyer	Hattie	Harlem
Lacy	Moppett	Truffles	Bear	Buddy	Danny
Miss Bea (Missy)	Bo Jangles	Connie	Avery (Oreo)	Afton	Russell
Madeline	Suzie	Oreo	Libby	Jakey	Rascal 2
Delta	Mae	Corky	BJ	Chase	Willowby
Sadie Lee	Meggie	Woofer	Red	Bianca	Jazz
Kipper (Jake)	Louisa	Honey	Tyler & Mandy	Sebastian	Max 2
Biscuit	Holly	Maggie 3	Duncan	Frisky (Titus)	Mr. Tibbs
Molly 3	Jingles & Scamp	Jazz	Molly	Mickey 3	

OBG GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONATIONS FROM... OCT '05 THRU FEB '06

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 Ann Skirry *in honor of Mona*
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Just connect to [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) by clicking on the button on the OBG website and the dogs of OBG will receive a contribution from [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)—at no additional cost to you!! Go to <http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com/fundraising/shopping.htm> for details.

Note: You must connect to [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) from the link on the OBG website for us to get the credit, but it does not affect the price you pay!



Adopter quote:
 "Freddie is a stitch. He loves to give lots of kisses and wants the most attention. ... Thank you for all you do!" — Jeff and Shari Zeimetz

Adopter quote:
 "Just wanted to thank you for all you did to facilitate our adoption of Christy. And for all you have done to love and care for her while we found our way to her. We are all in 'dog heaven' here tonight."
 —Sherry, Rick and the boys

Address correction requested

Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue

P.O. Box 361
Newington, VA 22122-0361
703-533-2373
www.cockerspanielrescue.com
www.petfinder.org/shelters/VA05.html



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**COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN
DESIGNATION #7292**

DEAR WHOMEVER: I HAVE ADOPTED YOUR DOG; HE'S SAFE

You lost a dog, I don't know how, or where, but I do know when: last November. Or, you gave him up, or maybe even you died—I don't know which. All I do know is that he was somebody's—a well-behaved dog with perfect manners. I also know that he ended up in the county pound down south, where when his time ran out some kind-hearted people called a rescue group rather than see him put down. By this time, though, his weight was half what it should have been and he was allergic to his food. His long coat was matted and rough, and his body wracked with hookworm and bacterial infections. His eyes were dull, his nose was hot, and at about 7 years old, I think his heart was broken.

He ended up in the rescue group's shelter where I found him about a week later. I had dreamed of a dog the previous night, and (I know this sounds strange) my son and I went looking for him. The rescue group had done a good job on his coat, and he was fed and reasonably warm ... but still, when I met him, his eyes and spirit were dull like someone who doesn't dare to hope. He rose on his back legs and put his paws on my waist, and looked and looked. And I was smitten. In my heart he became my dog that day, although I didn't get to take him home until I'd done the application, had the home visit and paid the adoption fee. I'd do all those things again for this dog, by the way—and much more if more were needed.

I picked him up on a day when a blizzard was due, and took him home. He got a new name, and a new life. Slowly he has come back to health—he got the vet treatment he needed, and special hypoallergenic food, and daily coat brushings. All the infections are just a bad memory now. His weight has doubled, his coat is glossy and silky and his eyes sparkle. I think we've filled the empty places in his broken heart. He runs like the wind and dances at dinnertime.

So I just want you to know: He is safe, warm and loved. He will never be in need again. So I just wanted to say to you and to the rescuers, "Thank you for my dog". I know many dog stories don't end happy, but I just wanted you to know, for this one it did. He's home, he's safe and he's loved ... forever.

author unknown, submitted by Anne Byrd

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

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

Update or delete your address on our mailing list by phoning us at 703-533-2373 or e-mailing us at cspanielrescue1@aol.com

YOU'RE INVITED



OBG COCKER SPANIEL RESCUE'S BOW WOW BOWL-A-THON

Sunday, March 26 from 2:00-5:00

**AMF Annandale Lanes
4245 Markham Street
Annandale, VA 22003**

\$30 Admission Includes: 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, hot dog, chips and soda, and door prizes

Special Family Package: Children 13 and under: \$20

Plus, we'll have raffles on great gifts & the ever-popular 50/50 Raffle!!

To order your tickets please make check out to OBG Cocker Rescue, fill out the form below and mail by March 20th to:

**OBG Bow Wow Bowl-a-thon
c/o Susan Arango
10163 Marshall Pond Road
Burke, Va. 22015**

Hurry! The first 20 to register will receive \$5.00 in Bow Wow Bucks to be used for any of the special prize raffles.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone # _____

E-mail Address: _____

Number of tickets: Adult (\$30): _____ Children (\$20) _____

Reservation deadline is March 20th. Your tickets will be waiting for you at the door on day of event.

For more information, visit www.cockerspanielrescue.com or e-mail cockerrescue@yahoo.com, phone (703) 628-2780