

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 THE PRESIDENT...

We're into the first month of 2004 and we are off to a great start. January has given us 29 adoptions.

In November, we were truly faced with some difficult choices. We had some pretty sick little ones. As always, we remain committed to meeting our bills on time. Sadly, we had to curtail our intake. Our bills were more than doubled for a normal month. But we made it through, thanks to you.

I want to personally convey my appreciation for the outpouring of support we received. You put smiles on tired faces. You boosted our belief in the kindness of good people. Intake was opened as soon as we could. We are getting back on track.

2003 was truly a banner year for OBG. With the dedication of our volunteer staff and the generosity of supporters like you, we were able to rehome 263 dogs.

For 2004, our goal and theme is "Just one more!"

We have been given one more day this leap year. Just one more. I ask that each of you be committed to just one more. One more dog adopted, one more



life saved. One more happy ending.

Our wonderful volunteers have accepted the challenge as we look to the future. This year we will ask ourselves "What can I do to save just one more dog?" Is there one more shelter we can serve? From the loving care our rescues receive to the service we provide the communities in the Washington metropolitan area; what one more thing can I do to help make OBG a better organization?

Our work for 2004 is just beginning. Already we have Sweetie Pie and Reese scheduled for eye surgery. Sweet Shilo and gentle Violet are battling heartworm disease. Max and Abby will have their ear canals removed due to extensive damage from ear infections. These are the special surgeries and procedures that will not happen without your help. They are the bills we must pay in February. And there will be others, many others. Only with your continued support will we be able to take in these special ones.

With your continued support, I know this organization is up to the challenge. I look forward to working with each of you this year and accomplishing our goal of "Just One More!"

Thank you.

Judy Wollin,
OBG president

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 web-site for addresses and directions.

Note: Adoption shows are from 12-3pm unless otherwise noted.

- Feb 14** Adoption show at Springfield PETSMART—*SPECIAL sweet-heart show for seniors* and concurrent bake sale
- Feb 28** Adoption shows at Springfield and Rockville PETSMARTs
- Mar 6** Adoption shows at Alexandria and Columbia PETSMARTs
- Mar 13** Adoption show at Springfield PETSMART
- Mar 27** Adoption shows at Springfield and Rockville PETSMARTs
- Mar 28** Bowling fundraiser from 2-5pm at the Fairfax Bowl America
- Apr 3** Adoption shows at Alexandria and Waldorf PETSMARTs
- Apr 17** Adoption show at Springfield PETSMART
- Apr 24** Adoption shows at Springfield and Rockville PETSMARTs



since we were all very ill.

I cannot thank OBG and its volunteers enough for all they have given us. We are all safe and in loving and caring environments. Shelly had her cherry eye surgery and is recuperating nicely. Sweetie Pie had two very bad cataracts, but unfortunately only one eye is a candidate for surgery. Shelly and Sweetie Pie have been adopted and are doing very well in their new forever homes. In fact, all of us are adapting fairly well.

REESE'S STORY

Hi, my name is Reese and I am very excited to be writing you this letter. You see, last month, OBG rescued me and my 3 friends, Sweetie Pie, Shelly and Sugar Bear, from a puppy mill.

We lived in a barn—of which the conditions were deplorable. At the puppy mill we were only good for one thing: making more dogs. OBG came to our rescue and actually paid the owner not to have us bred anymore. If OBG hadn't come along, the breeder would have sold us because "she needed the money". This

was the only way the owner would allow us to leave and find loving homes.

Once in OBG, we found very loving and supporting people to take care of us, nurture us and tend to our medical conditions, which were extensive. You see, I have cataracts in both eyes, Shelly needed double cherry eye surgery and Sweetie Pie also had cataracts in both eyes. Shelly also had infected ears, a bladder infection and tapeworm. Sugar Bear was the lucky one and did not have any medical problems. If OBG had not come to our rescue, I doubt the owner of the puppy mill would have kept us alive much longer



WIN THIS EXQUISITE LONGABERGER BASKET!

To raise funds for our pups, OBG is raffling this beautiful Longaberger Basket. It's a 1997 Blue Large Vegetable basket/liner/protector combo with a blue lining. This is a "retired" model (no longer available) that was generously donated to us by Longaberger consultant Mark Pineau (Mark's website is <<http://www.longaberger.com/markpineau>>).

The basket contains a bottle of Kendall Jackson Pinot Noir, Pasta, Tomato & Basil Sauce, Wine Glasses and a CD.

We will be displaying this basket at the upcoming Virginia shows and the bowl-a-thon. The drawing will be held on April 3rd. All proceeds go to the care of the OBG dogs. Tickets are on sale at all adoption shows and through our website:

- 1 Ticket for \$5
- 3 Tickets for \$10
- 6 Tickets for \$15
- 10 Tickets for \$20

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

We will mail or e-mail you your ticket numbers, and announce the winning ticket number on the website. We will also contact via e-mail or telephone the purchaser of the winning ticket. OBG will ship the basket if the winner is outside of the DC metro area. (Note: We reserve the right to substitute items contained in the basket.)



DOGS ADOPTED, Nov '03

THRU JAN '04

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

Abbie	Amy
April	Ariel
Austin	Bailey
Bailey & Sierra	Bell & Danny
Bradley	Brody
Buddy	Buster
Cookie	Daisy
Davey	Diamond
Dino	Fonzie
Fred	Ginger
Harley	Hershey
Holly	Hunny
Isabel	Justin & Fluffy
Kito	Leo
Libby	Madison
Mandie	Minnie
Nelson	Oreo
Oscar	Ozzie
Pixie	Raggedy Ann
Regis	Rose
Ruby & Tavern	Sam
Sassy	Scooter
Shadow	Shane
Shelly	Simba
Snickers	Snoopy
Sweetheart	Sweetie Pie
Taffy	Tiny
Travis	Trey
Tyson	Wally



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

(with someone else's money)

Many companies encourage their employees' philanthropy through a matching gift program. Check with your human resources department to see if they have information on a matching program. If so, you will be given a matching gift form to send to OBG with your donation; we'll do the rest.

OTHER DONATION OPTIONS

Help OBG with its long-term goals. Gifts of appreciated securities and good, operating vehicles are always welcome.

Making gifts through your estate, trust or will are also ways to reduce or eliminate federal taxes. For more information, consult your financial advisor.

TIMELY TIDBITS:



Timothy, featured in the last issue of OBG's *Cocker Connection*, has found his forever home, but Brisco and Lester are still waiting.



Many thanks to all our volunteers and patrons for supporting these "fun" fundraising events:

- Thank you to Sandra and Susan and the volunteers who made our January pizza party at Bertucci's in Springfield a success! Despite the bad weather, we had 23 people show up which raised about \$130 for the dogs!
- Bake sales and donut sales at our adoption shows
- Calendar sales Thank you to Debbie Lamb
- Raffles at the cocker agility trials
- Quilt raffle (won by Mr./Mrs. Skalicky) Thank you to Gloria Denning
- Sale of pet first aid kits Thank you to Lynne Bettinger
- Pet photos with Santa at the area PETS MART stores

All proceeds of these activities benefit the medical expenses of our foster dogs.

Yes! I want to help the cocker spaniels financially! (OBG is tax deductible!)

Fill out the form and return it to us at:

Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue • P.O. Box 361 • Newington, VA 22122-0361

Enclosed is my donation of: \$_____ 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)
- Purchase _____ raffle tickets (see above)
- 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>



TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR ... AGILITY!

While attempting to stay on track with that age-old New Year's resolution to eat better and stay in shape, why not try something new that will benefit you and your dog ... agility training!

We've all seen it on TV, enthusiastic dog handlers navigating their pups through an obstacle course with a variety of jumps, teeter-totters, chutes and weave poles at lightning speeds. While some of us stay glued to the TV waiting for the next dog to enter the ring, others quickly change the channel in defeat thinking that they couldn't possibly remember such a complicated course or even train "Rover" to do those tricks. NOT TRUE!

Agility training at the beginning and novice level is alive and strong in the Washington Metropolitan area. The cost of training is relatively low and there are many, many clubs in the area. Any dog owner whose dog likes lots and lots of praise and treats, is social, and knows the commands come, sit and stay can successfully participate in agility training. Agility training strengthens the bond between you and your dog, builds confidence in shy dogs, provides an energy outlet for more active dogs and provides some exercise and excitement for humans too!

I began agility training with my cocker, Baylee, two years ago. When we began she was incredibly fearful of strangers, screeched when approached, shook uncontrollably in new places and was just plain hard to figure out! After some coaxing from other cocker owners



"Lacey" U-ACHX U-CDX EZ Back To Skool Saddle Shoe VCD2 CDX TD MX MXJ CGC TT demonstrates agility.

Photo courtesy of Capital City Cocker Club website <<http://www.capitalcitycockers.org/cic.htm>> and Lacey's owner, Nancy Bean



"Darby" of New York is a rescue dog who lives for the sport.

Photo courtesy of owner Janet Frand

in agility, I decided to give the sport a try and I'm pleased to say that it has been one of the most rewarding decisions I've ever made!

My dog absolutely loves agility! She enjoys her time with me and the

opportunity to jump, run and play while being constantly rewarded for doing so with big hugs and tasty treats. We are learning to communicate on another level using body language and our bond grows stronger with each training session. Best of all, the training has helped my shy, submissive dog build the confidence she needed to now approach strangers with a wiggly tail instead of backing away in fear.

So, what other encouragement do you need? Cocker spaniels are among some of the easiest dogs to train for agility. They are usually incredibly motivated by food, are strong enough to navigate the obstacles with ease and they love to please their owners. All dogs can benefit from the training; big, small, skinny, fat, energetic, and lethargic. The key of the sport is learning how to better communicate with your dog and build on the strength of your bond ... it's a winning combination no matter how you cut it!

For more information about agility training, local clubs or events, visit the agility information tab at <<http://www.cleanrun.com>>. If you've been looking for a way to spice up your doggie playtime, agility training may be just what you need!

One final note, as with any activity, the safety of you and your dog is most important. Do not participate in this activity if your doctor or veterinarian feels it may endanger the health of you or your pet. And, be sure that you choose a training class that encourages only positive reinforcement training methods.

Sandra Coffman, OBG volunteer

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

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



IN MEMORIAM

We remember our most recently departed "babies" at the Rainbow Bridge:

foster dog Murray
Whisper Kostelnick
Cassie Yankey
Mack Shipp
Molly Jones



ANTIFREEZE IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR PET'S HEALTH

As much of the country has settled in for a long winter's nap, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) urges pet owners to step up precautions against the dangers that your furred friends may face outdoors.

Antifreeze, for example, can be fatal to dogs and cats if ingested—even in very tiny doses. As little as one teaspoon of ethylene glycol antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; less than four teaspoons can be dangerous to a 10-pound dog. Note our poison prevention tips to keep your pets safe this season:

- Clean up any spills from your vehicle immediately
- Regularly check your car for leaks
- Store antifreeze in clearly marked containers in areas that are off-limits to your pets
- Never allow your animal companions access to the area when you are draining radiator fluid from your car
- Consider switching to a propylene glycol-based antifreeze, which is significantly less toxic than conventional ethylene glycol antifreeze. This will provide an added margin of safety for pets and wildlife, but remember—no antifreeze is absolutely safe.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested antifreeze—or any poisonous substance—call your veterinarian or the APCC's emergency hotline at (888) 426-4435 for round-the-clock telephone assistance. For more information on poison prevention, visit APCC online at <<http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=apcc>>.

ASPCA News Alert, the weekly e-newsletter of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals dated 23 Jan 2003

**COMBINED FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN DESIGNATION**

#7292



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT ... FEATURING GENJI AND DUCHESS

Genji and Duchess: two small buff cocker girls with similar stories. Both were tossed away by their original owners as they passed their prime.



Genji,
photo courtesy
of foster mom

At the age of ten, Genji was dumped at the vet's. The owner was "done with her" and requested that the vet put her to sleep. Unable to kill a healthy animal on a whim, he called OBG. A month later, on the other side of the Potomac, a landlord went to clean out an empty apartment and found Duchess. She had been abandoned there for two months when the previous tenant vacated. How Duchess survived isn't clear, but the animal control officer and the rescuing veterinarian prosecuted the former owner for animal neglect and cruelty. The vet cleaned up her severe mats and the toenails grown into her foot pads. Nothing could be done to save the vision in her one eye—it was lost due to an untreated trauma. OBG had her spayed and brought current on shots, then started looking for a home for her.



Duchess,
in rescue

We didn't have to look far. The wonderful family that had adopted Genji in November of 2001 met Duchess at the same foster home—and fell in love. In December 2001, Duchess moved in with Genji, Ryker the lab mix, "Momma Helen", her adult daughter and granddaughter.

• — •

What follows is from letters Helen has sent to us:

Telling you how much I love my girls (Genji and Duchess) is difficult because I don't think I will be able to put it into words. They came into my life at the time my mother passed away and although I miss her so much, the girls help ease the pain every time I look at them. They are here to stay.

My daughter and I can't wait to get home from work to see them as well as our lab, Ryker. Speaking of Ryker, he loves them too, especially Duchess. Duchess grooms his face by licking it and he loves every second of it. They both sleep with me in my bed! Genji prefers to sleep in her bed in my room. Occasionally she will jump up on the bed to be petted and then she is ready to go back to her bed.

Genji is beautiful and she looks so well mannered, but don't turn your back

or leave food out, because she will find a way to get it! Once, I found her on my dining room table, drinking water from a floating candle bowl. I had to laugh, but I am learning to keep the chairs under the table now. At a dinner in honor of my mother, Genji decided that if she pulled the runner from the table, all of the food would be hers. It almost was, but we caught her in time. What a little stinker but that is part of learning who she is and how to manage the house with two new personalities. Are you all sure she is 14 years old????

Since Genji has been with me, her teeth have been cleaned and 15 large moles removed as well as her ears treated for infection. She has been groomed professionally and bathed by me. (She is due again since she likes to roll around in the back yard!) Genji is a bit more independent and she is also alpha dog. She has Cushing's disease and has begun taking Anipryl, a very expensive medicine (\$71.50 a month). Her symptoms were drinking excessively and wanting to eat 24 hours a day. I hope the new medicine relieves her of those cravings. I will keep you informed of her progress.

Duchess is truly an angel. Duchess is not as independent as Genji and wants to be near me all of the time. Even when she is sleeping on the pillow next to me, she awakes occasionally to make sure that I am still there. She is a lover and wants to snuggle constantly and we love it. What a doll.

When Duchess had a routine examine by my veterinarian he suggested that I take her to a veterinarian ophthalmologist to check her blind eye as well as the good one. The eye doctor assured me that the blind eye will not have to be removed but can be straightened primarily for cosmetic reasons. Her other eye is in good condition and I won't be putting her through surgery for the eye unless she needs to be put under anesthesia for additional teeth cleaning, etc. She also informed me that the blind eye was a result of trauma that was never treated. When I heard that it was the result of trauma, my heart sank. How could anyone hurt that little angel?



A birthday party fit for princesses!



**Family portrait:
Duchess, Genji and Ryker with
"their girls", December 2001**

Both cockers love people and especially my granddaughter, Gabi. Gabi loves and respects them all but considers Duchess as her very own dog. Both cockers took to my family environment as if I had adopted them at 6 weeks old.

All of my dogs have "issues". Both of my cockers are deaf. Duchess is blind in one eye and has allergies with skin and ear problems. Genji has Cushing's disease, joint problems and skin disorders. Ryker has a long list of health issues BUT—they are our puppies and we love them so much. I can't imagine not having them in my life. Every time someone stops to pet one of them, I try to get the message out that older dogs are wonderful family members.

I want to thank Kathi A for being such a good foster mother and going out of her way to help me acquire the sweetest girls in the world. I also want you to know that you can call on me if you need help with anything.

Helen Coleman



BOWWOW BOWL-A-THON: READY, SET, BOWL!

Polish your ball, practice your moves. OBG is heading to the alleys to raise funds for our cockers. Get set for Sunday, March 28th from 2-5pm at the Fairfax Bowl America. Space is limited, so get your tickets early.

The \$20 per-person cost (children 13 and under pay \$15) includes 3 games, shoe rental, a food special of soda, fries and choice of hot dog/hamburger, and entry in all of the special prize giveaways. The first 25 people who sign up will receive five (5) "Bow Wow Bucks" to be used in the special raffles

We plan to have prizes for things like highest overall score, first strike, most strikes in a game, etc. plus ... a 50/50 raffle, and, more. We'll also be displaying and selling tickets for the Longaberger Basket (see page 2). More details to come soon via our website and e-newsletter.



WE NEED MORE FOSTER VOLUNTEERS

Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue, Inc. (OBG) desperately needs foster homes in the Washington DC metro area. More people turn to us as an alternative to shelters, and more shelters call us when a dog's "time is up".

OBG strives to re-socialize abandoned cockers by placing them in a caring foster home until a suitable permanent home can be found.

Fostering a rescued pet can last from a few weeks to a few months, depending on the needs of the foster pet. Sometimes, they need time to physically heal wounds and recover from illnesses. Sometimes they just need a haven from all the bad times in their life, a place where they can learn to trust the human race again.

What does a foster volunteer do?

OBG provides the dog food and pays all medical costs. A foster keeps the rescued dog in his or her home for a temporary period, generally a few weeks to a couple of months. You care for it as if it



COCKER ANGEL

Sandra Shorts

Sandra Shorts is the kind of tireless, behind-the-scenes worker that non-profit organizations need to help create, organize and run successful fundraising events. Like many of our volunteers, Sandra's involvement with OBG began with her adoption of one of our rescues, Bailey, in November of 2001. Soon thereafter, she was helping out at adoption shows and assisting with fundraising. Many of Sandra's volunteer hours are spent creating the items that are sold at fundraisers. She regularly donates goods for the OBG bake sales.

Her efforts generated much of the proceeds that were used toward the medical bills of Jax, an OBG rescue with megaesophagus (featured in our Summer 2003 newsletter). Sandra also makes crafts that are sold at the OBG craft show fundraisers. Along with co-volunteer Rhea Larsen, they created beautiful dog and cat themed holiday wreaths—complete with lights and bows—that were popular sellers. When she's not making something, Sandra is working hard to raise money for OBG. A key organizer of last year's Longaberger Basket Bingo, Sandra was responsible for all the programs, tickets and signs, saving OBG much expense. As if that weren't enough, she also organized and hosted very successful candy fundraisers and helped out at car washes.

Sandra assists OBG in other ways, too. She's the one responsible for making

were your own. When it is time, you bring your foster to the adoption shows.

When your companion foster is adopted, you're suddenly filled with mixed emotions. Happy that he or she has found a home, you realize that there was a spot in your heart that feels a little empty. That is until the next one comes along and as you look down on this small bundle of fur, you notice the little stub of a tail. His dark eyes look at you as if to say: treat me kindly, please.

If you think that fostering might be something you'd like to try, e-mail us at <cspanielrescue@aol.com> or telephone us at 703-533-2373 and leave a message. A volunteer will contact you.

Become a foster volunteer today. It will be one of the most rewarding and challenging decisions you've ever made.

Help us make a difference, one cocker at a time.

Judy Wollin and Chris Thiel



the volunteer identification tags you see us wearing at the adoption shows. She also creates the recognition certificates that are presented to volunteers at OBG events. When intake is full and OBG puts out a call for assistance with boarding, Sandra is one of the first to put a check in the mail.

"The thought that anybody could abuse a dog upsets me," Sandra says. Of her four OBG cockers—Bailey, Noah, Cody and Daisey—three were victims of abuse. Bailey was kicked and beaten. Cody was kept chained outside. Daisey, the worst case, was found on railroad tracks in Pennsylvania, taped in a box. Of Daisey she says, "I picked her up at the hospital and fell in love with her." Noah, Cody and Daisey are all former foster dogs that Sandra took in. She's decided to stick with fundraising since her adoption of Daisey.

Nina Seebeck, OBG volunteer

WAITING...

I'm waiting here in foster care for you to come and see

The one the others have passed by
Please, stop and look at me!

I'm not alone here in my quest to find myself a place
Where someone will have love for me and softly stroke my face

We're not so young in years they say
although we're young at heart
If you'll take a chance with us – please
know we'll do our part

Our faces have a bit of white, our legs a slower gait
Our hearts so full of love to give – but still
we sit and wait

A younger dog is what folks want, one who romps and plays

They won't take the time to look at us –
just think we're old and gray

Little do they know the things we have to offer them

Manners learned and quiet souls – good dogs all we've been
There are those here too, whose souls were damaged and in pain

Before they came to this safe place and learned to trust again

When new folks come and look at them they seem withdrawn and shy

Time is all they need to learn that new bonds they can tie

Patience, love and gentle hands is all they ask of you

In exchange – their hearts they give you in their lives so new

We may not be the perfect dogs in everybody's eye

Too big, too small, too brown, too slow,
too black, too old, too shy

But unless you sit and take the time and see all that we can be

You'll miss the best that is right here

HEY — Look at ME!

Author unknown

**Adopter quote: "Simon is doing great. He's adapted to life at our home very well; it feels like he has lived with us forever. We love him."
Mary Ellen Icaza**

MAKE A DONATION TO OBG WITH ONLINE SHOPPING

OBG is a member of *IGive.com*, an online shopping mall that assists organizations like OBG. Through its member companies, organizations such as Gateway, IBM, J.C. Penney, QVC, Travelocity and 400 others, a donation will be made to OBG through your online shopping with them.

The process is simple. Just register with *IGive.com*, designate OBG as your charitable organization, and *IGive.com* does the rest.

Each time you shop online at member companies, a percentage of your purchase will be sent to OBG. These percentages range from 6.4% to .8% of your sales. So please help OBG by going to www.igive.com and designating OBG as your named organization.

Chris Thiel, OBG Vice President



OBG GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES DONATIONS FROM... NOV '03 THRU JAN '04

Vicki G. Albrecht
 Judy & Bob Allen *in honor of Mandy & Sassy*
 Peter Almquist
 Anonymous *in memory of Bizzle*
 Anonymous
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 Janet Gill *in memory of Whisper*
 Laura Glass
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 Paula & Barry Goldsmith *in memory of Chessy*
 Yael & Jason Goldwater
 Dan & Amy Gomez
 Daniel Gomez
 James Gordon
 Robert L. Gorman
 Karen Goyette
 Denice Grasso
 Bob Griffin
 Sue Gurland
 Carol Gush *in honor of Tracey Denning & Jim Mich*
 Marilyn & Peter Haase
 Dorothy Hager
 Bruce & Ann Haggerty
 Malia Hale
 Tim & Gilan Hanagan
 Jean Harris
 Donna M. Hartman
 Raif & Lori Hastings
 Bob & Pat Hawley
 Kirsten Hawley *in honor of Buffy*
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 Anne Himelfarb
 Teri Hoefler
 Ronald & Patricia Hosler *in honor of Chris Thiel*
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 Javier & Mary Ellen Icaza
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 Bill, Eileen & Jennifer Johnson
 Janet Johnson
 Brenda Johnson-Turner
 Richard Juhnke
 Sharon Kash *in memory of Dale Lawson*
 Kelly Klipa
 Connie L. Knight

Lorraine Kostelnick *in memory of Whisper*
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 Mary Kunkel *in memory of Freddy*
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 Cecelia Pryor
 Robin Quinn
 Rob & Maria Rambo *in memory of Katy Williams*
 June Raney
 Diane & Todd Ray
 Jean S. Recknell
 Jenifer Reece *in honor of Debbie Davenport*

Marguerite Regan *in honor of Percy*
 Debbie Reitz
 Vivian D. Ricci
 Jeanne Rivard
 Robert & Angela Robinson
 Sally A. Robison
 Charles Roche *in honor of Tinker*
 Dennis J. Rodgers
 Deborah Furr Rosewell
 Cheryl A. Roth
 Michael & Sharon Rozos
 David Rubinstein
 Joseph S. Ruggero
 Daniel & Christine Russo
 Rhoda Ruttenberg
 Judy Salmon
 Theresa J. Sandahl
 Dale Sanner
 Gertrude Scanlan *in memory of Pearl*
 Nancy Scherrer
 Marcella Schiappacese
 Karen D. P. Schlehr
 Kornelia Schreiber
 Barbara & Charles Schuckman
 Constance A. Scott
 H. Jane Seaman *in memory of Ricky*
 Adriaan & Lynn Sengers
 Rose Serino
 Karen & Gene Shipp *in memory of Mack*
 Dawn Sindelar
 James & Elizabeth Slagle
 Bev & David Smith
 Charles Smith
 Dale & Preston Smith
 Donna M. Smith *in memory of Whisper*
 Peter M. & Mary Somerville
 Amy Spencer
 Susan S. Spicer
 Terri Spiro & Elizabeth Hughes
 Kevin & Betsy Sposetta *in honor of Susan Arango*
 Linda Squires
 John & Gloria Stacey
 Dorothy & John Stewart *in honor of Barkley*
 Chloe Stifel
 Ardith & Lawrence Strunk
 Larry & Maria Strunk
 Raymond Strunk
 Sundown Ridge, Ltd.
 Gerald & Judy Talbot
 Cathi Tavalsky
 Elliott Tepper
 Guy Terrell
 Dwight Theall
 Chris Thiel
 Lucia & Charles Thomas *in memory of Brandy & Teddy Joe*
 Jean Thompson
 Paul Turczynski
 Melissa & Gary Vaughan
 Verizon Foundation
 Larry Vogt
 Barbara Wall

Doris E. Warrell
 Carolyn & Milton Washington
 Carol Watt
 Kristi Weese
 Roger & Mary Margaret Werking
 Kip A. West
 Marilyn White
 Tamara O. White
 David Wigtil
 Patricia A. Wilson
 T. Donald Wilson
 Stephanie Winters
 Gregory Wisor
 Gary & Judy Wollin
 Areli A. Woody
 Jack & Betty Yankey
 Anne Marie Zerega
For the "Charlotte Fund":
 E. R. Bucher III
 Mary Deppa
 Amanda Fanara
 Sharon Kash
 Linda & Richard Linfield
 Colette Thurston
 Lois Wood
For the "Sammy Fund":
 Dougie Catledge
 Jennie Cook
 Martina M.R. de Lizza
 Lawrence & Vicky Eicher *in memory of Teddy, Ashley & Suzie*
 William & Lucille Giddings *in memory of Lily, Happy & Sandy*
 Sandra T. Hershey *in honor of Heather*
 Sharon Kash
 Amy Koch
 Bruce & Lisa Leathwood
 Diane May
 Pauline B. Moss
 Alicia Mullen
 Cindy L. Naumann *in honor of Stephanie Gelabert*
 Lisa Rae Smith *in memory of Nikki*
 Elsie Thomas
 Melissa R. Todd
 Thomas & Debra Tullio
For the kennel fund:
 Michael Ambruso
 Martina M.R. de Lizza
 Yael & Jason Goldwater
 Debbie Lamb
 Jenifer Reece
 Paul & Patty Skarlatos
 Deborah Southlee
 Lucinda A. Stewart
Donations in honor of the marriage of Karen Meisell & Brian Bryson:
 Susan Arango & Sandra Coffman
 Angela & Bob Robinson

Adopter quote:
"Jake is doing very well and I am so happy he is a part of my family."
Dionne Fennell

SPECIAL THANKS:

A special thank you to Mike and Susan Sofield for recently donating a Pontiac Transport van to OBG. This brings the size of our fleet of dog vehicles to three. This enables us to help transport dogs to shows and pick up dogs at shelters.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COCKER WITH MULTIPLE ISSUES

BUFFY

December 1975 she came into our lives. She was 9 weeks old, a buff-colored ball of fur. She overwhelmed us with her joyous personality. She never cried. She slept in our bed, preferred to potty outside from the very beginning, sat between us on the sofa to watch TV. She was perfect.

Then, one afternoon three weeks later, she suddenly stopped playing. Her eyes glazed over and she began chewing on nothing and slobbering wildly. I held her as she lay on the floor, paddling uncontrollably. She broke away from me and ran blindly through the apartment, slamming into walls with such force she left behind more than one smear of blood. Of course, I was terrified. When she finally gained control, we went immediately to the vet.

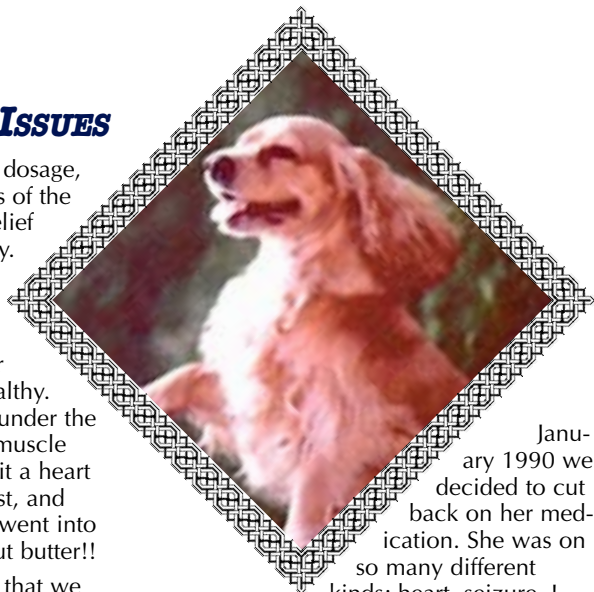
"Bubblegum seizures" was the diagnosis. The vet guessed that as a tiny baby, she might have had a bout with distemper, which had left her brain-damaged. There was no cure. She was put on a regimen of Phenobarbital, which she continued to take for the rest of her life.

Which, by the way, was terribly "normal". We had to be sure she got her pill twice a day, but other than that, she returned to being that perfect little puppy, and she remained seizure-free for many years. The medication was inexpensive and easy to give her—peanut butter was the vehicle of choice. The biggest problem

was my fear that I would forget a dosage, so a pillbox marked with the days of the week took care of that. What a relief not to have to rely on my memory.

June 1987 and life was good. Buffy was 12 years old. Her seizures were under control and except for the occasional ear infection, she was happy and healthy. Then, I found her hunched-over under the kitchen table. I thought it was a muscle spasm. It was, but the vet called it a heart attack. Next came the cardiologist, and more medication. So, more pills went into the pillbox. Oh well, more peanut butter!!

It was around this time, too, that we came to realize that she didn't hear so well any more. Fortunately, there was no medication to give for that—she was on quite enough, thank you. The deafness was no problem. She learned hand signals quite well. I wasn't sure if she had always watched us so intently, but it was difficult to tell that she couldn't hear. I really didn't know how long the condition had existed. Getting her in out of the backyard on a dark night could be a bit of a problem, but our Siberian Husky, Goblin, helped out with that. Buffy always liked to sleep upstairs on the bed when nobody was home, and had no clue when we came through the door. A word to Goblin to "go get Buffy" and up the stairs he would head. Seconds later, they would both appear and down they would come. I can still picture them, standing there in the upstairs hallway, looking down at us.



January 1990 we decided to cut back on her medication. She was on so many different kinds: heart, seizure. I began to notice her feet sliding out from under her in the kitchen as she would stand to eat. We kept her only on what meds were absolutely necessary. She had also begun having *petit mal* seizures, where she would just get stiff and "out-of-it" for several minutes, nothing at all like her original experience. Other than being disoriented when she revived, they didn't appear to be much of a problem for her, but I will admit, it was hard to watch. She spent more of her time on the bed.

On August 18, 1990 Buffy left us. X-rays told us that her heart was twice its normal size. One lung was "solid" and useless, and the other had collapsed. We still miss her.

Seizures, heart disease, deafness. Buffy was the light of our lives for 15 years. She gave us such joy. Her medical problems were nothing more than minor inconveniences compared to what she brought to our lives. After that first visit to the vet, when it all began, I called the breeder to tell him what had happened, and to try to get some insight as to her short history before we got her. He was not aware of any illnesses, but offered to take her back. I shudder to think of the wonderful years we would have missed if we had allowed fear to overcome us and had returned her. We consider ourselves to be the luckiest people in the world to have found her, and our time together was entirely too short.

Don't be afraid to love a special needs dog.

Submitted by an OBG supporter

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.



**THANK YOU:
OUR FEATURED VET**

Germantown Veterinary Clinic

19911 Father Hurley Blvd., Germantown, MD, 301-972-9730
<<http://www.germantownvet.com>>



Awarm welcome to the "new kid on the block". ... GVC recently came on board as a veterinary care provider for OBG's foster dogs in Montgomery County, but my personal pets have been patients there for the past 16 years. (My first cocker, Buddy, thought he owned the place!)

The clinic, founded in 1983, is now the largest primary care practice in this area. Over the years, Drs. Mark and Lucy Olcott and Bianca Eastep have given "my babies" the best of care, and we look forward to working with their two new associates. They recently built a beautiful new building which has enabled them to expand their in-house veterinary services.

Services offered include acupuncture, intensive care services, advanced diagnostics, a complete pharmacy, nutrition counseling, boarding, grooming, house calls, x-ray facilities, ultrasound, surgical and dental suites, a full in-house laboratory and an online patient record reminder system.

Kathi Alexander, OBG volunteer



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



President *Judy Wollin*
Vice President *Chris Thiel*
Secretary *Teresa Butler*
Treasurer *Pat Dix*
Volunteer Coordinator *Debbie Davenport*

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COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN DESIGNATION #7292

REESE

continued from page 1

But in helping the four of us, OBG has incurred over \$3,500 in medical expenses. And this is why I write you this letter. I still need my eye surgery but OBG is running a little short on funds. So I was wondering if you would be able to lend a helping hand. Your donation to OBG is tax deductible and will allow me to get my surgery and hopefully not lose my vision. OBG is a wonderful organization and they do so much good, but they cannot do it alone. They need the financial support of caring people like you. Won't you please help.

I thank you in advance of your continued support.

Reese

P.S. If you know of anyone who is looking for a handsome and loving chocolate cocker, have them visit my bio on the OBG website and contact my foster family.



EXTRA! EXTRA! OBG INTRODUCES OUR NEW E- (FOR ELECTRONIC) NEWSLETTER

Through periodic e-mails, we will update you on the latest upcoming events, special stories about our pups, and other cool stuff.

The E-Newsletter is a supplement to the regular hardcopy newsletter (the one that you're reading right now)! To sign up, simply visit our website at www.cockerspanielrescue.com and click on the E-Newsletter sign-up button.



THANK YOU, FELLOW COCKER LOVERS!!!

January 22, 2004

To our friends at Oldies But Goodies Cocker Spaniel Rescue:

My name is Gina and I manage an online cocker spaniel owner community called *Our Cocker Club*. We wanted to do something special to help a rescue organization, so our resident club artist, Sue (of "Furbabies by Sue") donated her time for a calendar project. She created gorgeous digital portraits based on some of our club cockers. We had to vote which 12 portraits would make it into our calendar, which was very hard! We then took nominees for which rescue we'd donate our proceeds to and [OBG volunteer] Susan Katz suggested your organization, which won our vote. Although this \$180 isn't as much as we'd like to be able to give, it's all the profits from our calendar sales within our little club. Every little bit helps, and we are happy to help support your cause. I am also sending you one of the calendars as a gift. We hope you like it.

On behalf of the club members and myself, please accept our donation to help those cocker spaniels get well and find great homes. Keep up the great work!!!

Sincerely,

Gina Morgan & the members of *Our Cocker Club*



HELP OBG COCKERS WHEN YOU SHOP AT AMAZON.COM



Just connect to *Amazon.com* by clicking on the button on the OBG website and the dogs of OBG will receive a contribution from *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* from the link on the OBG website for us to get the credit, but it does not affect the price you pay!