



PET HARBOR RESCUE & REFERRAL, INC.

Spring 2008

Upcoming Events:

NATIONAL PETSMART ADOPTATHON:

Sat/Sun, May 3 & 4
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

S. Fredericksburg PetsMart
9751 Jefferson Davis Hwy
(Massaponax)

ADOPTION EVENT:

Saturday, June 14
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

S. Fredericksburg PetsMart

Please check our
website for updates

www.petharbor.org

Or call 703-583-HSKY



Pet Harbor alumnus Kara
enjoys running in the water
with her human brother at
the end of the leash.



Pet Harbor alumnus Moe
looks lovingly at his
"sister" Sugar.

When we bring pets into our families, they travel with carry-on bags. Their luggage may include things we wish they had left behind. Don't give up! No problem is insurmountable. Just like you don't deep six your children when they'd done things you'd prefer they hadn't, keep the faith in your furred family members! If there are behavioral issues you would like us to highlight in future newsletters, let us know! This time we chose a common dog issue: separation anxiety. Next newsletter will feature a common cat issue: litter box misses.

Separation Anxiety

What is separation anxiety? Simply put, it is a dog's being anxious when separated from family members. Many dogs, including Siberian Huskies, create a bond with their humans & do not like being separated from them. When left alone, they become anxious. Some or all of the following symptoms are experienced when left alone (but not at other times): (a) digging, chewing, scratching at doors & windows, moving/destroying any obstacle to any possible escape route, "I have to find my people!"; (b) urination, defecation, diarrhea, even in the crate, within 30 minutes of being alone; (c) howling, crying, "Please come home"; (d) pacing; (e) drooling; (f) aggression going into a crate (mouthing, growling, body blocking); (g) loss of appetite; & (h) clinging to humans. Note: Separation anxiety is evident when left alone minutes, not because a dog is left alone hours. He will have the above symptoms simply going outside to potty without his humans. So having a home where someone is "home more" or "has more time" is not a viable solution. For more info, contact us!



Pet Harbor
alumnus Grady

What is the cure for separation anxiety?

ACTIVITY. Rise & shine! Take him for a long early walk/run & playtime. Wear him out! Exercise also helps humans! Physical exhaustion is one component of the cure. A tired husky is a good husky.

PROPS. Leave the dog an article of clothing or towel the human used recently. Since he may destroy it, use something that can be permanently given to the dog! Leave "busy" toys, such as filled Kong toys or Nylabone-type chews, not squeaky toys or rawhides. Leave the radio on soothing elevator music or TV on Animal Planet. Avoid loud, abrasive channels! Over-the-counter products sold in pet supply stores, such as Comfort Zone or Rescue Remedy, may be of benefit.

CRATE. A crate provides a safe haven for the dog & the home. Some crates won't hold anxious dogs. In general, though, crates (properly used – make crate happy place, feed only in crate) help relieve separation anxiety by providing a den-like atmosphere & comfort to the dog.

DESENSITIZE. Practice leaving but don't go. Do normal exit rituals, like getting purse & coat, & sit or walk out/back in. Do this at different times & lengths of time to show humans do, in fact, return. Make entrances/exits very low-key, no giddy "Happy to see me?" chatter. Just open/close crate, leave.

COMPANIONSHIP. Having another dog keep the anxious dog company helps reduce the anxiety level in some dogs. Don't go out & get another dog to fix this, though! That will not work. In lieu of leaving the dog alone, how about doggy daycare sometimes? How about taking the dog to work? Maybe Grandma wants to dog-sit?

PROFESSIONAL HELP. (a) Though anxiety is a panic response, obedience training, particularly Sit-Stay & Down-Stay commands, helps overall. Ignore bad, reward good behavior. (b) Behavioral consultants can offer professional assistance specifically geared to one dog's anxiety. (c) As a Band-Aid fix, there is prescription anti-anxiety medication, such as Clomicalm & Prozac, coincident with behavior modification.

TIME, PATIENCE, & LOVE. Need we say more? In the end, the rewards are immense!

Senko*Barbaro**Kizhi (formerly Casori)**Kizhi enjoys a belly rub from her dad.*

Featured Dog - Senko

Senko really wants to find his forever home and share love and cuddles with his forever family. Through no fault of his own, having had 4 homes already, he needs a FOREVER home this time! His dream home is, first and foremost, his last home. His dream home is where there is truly a head of the house because he thinks he should be The Man of the House. His dream home can have children, but please make sure they know the proper way to interact with dogs! There is a tall fence in his dream home vision or no fence at all & plenty of leashed exercise. There is either no other dog or one other dog (A female Siberian Husky would be ideal.). No wimpy dogs or any small furry creatures can live in his home. In his dream home, there are lots of toys, & he gets lots of playtime with his humans. In an ideal world, one or more of his humans would be home all the time. To see movies of Senko, go to Pet Harbor's Web site and follow the links. Yearning for a home where he is wanted, appreciated, & loved, he has so much love to give his family and just wants to show what he will do for them. They will mean the world to him. He hopes he can mean the world to them. Senko's birthday is approximately December 28, 2004. He weighs 62 pounds. He needs a family with dominant dog experience & husky experience. He was named for a victim of September 11, 2001 named Larry John Senko.

Featured Cat - Barbaro

Everybody left Barbaro. His human mom, Barbara, a Pet Harbor founding board member, died suddenly. Barbaro was left with his human dad, who didn't even know the kitty's name. He took Barbaro to Pet Harbor. Pet Harbor named him after a 9/11/01 victim named Paul V. Barbaro & after Barbara. Barbaro was sad & scared without his mom when his dad dumped him, & he really missed her love. Once he warmed up, the rest is history. He is a royal pest who won't leave your side. One can't go anywhere, do anything, walk, talk, cry, or laugh without his being right there! Humans fascinate him, & he adores them. More than a Velcro kitty, he's an appendage! If you are looking for an independent kitty, that certainly is not Barbaro! See him in the movies at Pet Harbor's Web site. What he really, really wants is his own forever home. Please make sure you have lots of love in your heart & no black pants because he will constantly brush against them. His birthday is approximately August 19, 2000, and he weighs 8 pounds. His ex-daddy dumped him in rescue in August of 2005. He has waited a very long time for a home to call his own. So will you be the one who doesn't leave him? He will love you for now and forever!

Happy Tails!

Casori (now named Kizhi) came to us from a city shelter. She was purchased as a puppy from a Wisconsin breeder. She was stolen from her original owners. The thief was caught & Casori returned to her owners. Ultimately the owners decided they could not handle her & dumped her in a shelter. The shelter called Pet Harbor. Five months after we placed Casori in a home, they decided they couldn't handle her position in their pack & returned her to Pet Harbor. Finally she found her forever home. Kizhi lives in Maryland with an awesome mom & dad. After 6 months, her parents write "Kizhi is the most wonderful little girl we could ever have gotten. She's always in a good mood and ready for a good time." She gets her first walk of the day at 4:30 A.M.! One day a week she goes to doggy day camp, where she romps & plays with other doggies. She loves motor trips. On Sundays, she has breakfast with her dad & friend, who has 4 cats! She doesn't bother the cats but can't resist the cat food. She has a favorite chair in the living room & a dog bed at night. As they have a mutual love for one another, she enjoys visits from her human sister.

*"Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened."
~ Anatole France*

*Who's Who at Pet Harbor
(4/6/08)*

Board of Directors:

Sonja Barbagallo
Michelle Johnson (Treasurer)
Debbie Simmons (Vice President)
Brandi Singleton (Secretary)
Sarah Veach, Chair (President)

Some of the Other Positions:

Applications Processor – Trisha
EBay Auction Coordinator - Shaun
Home Visit Coordinator – Paula
MD Reps – Amy P, Paulette, Sonja
Missing Adopter Manager –
Lehnanne
Thank You Card Manager - Alison
Volunteer Birthday Card Manager –
Terra
Volunteer Coordinator – Debbie
WV Rep - Annie



To contact us:

~ Visit our Web site at
www.petharbor.org

~ Call us at (703) 583-HSKY

~ Write us at
P.O. Box 73
Bowling Green, VA 22427



**Pet Harbor alumnus Deuce
enjoys his chips**

*Pet Harbor Rescue and Referral, Inc. is
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
organized under the laws of the
Commonwealth of Virginia. Our mission
is to save lives of and educate people
about Siberian Huskies and cats.*

How to Help the Homeless Fur Babies!

- ~ Volunteer!
- ~ Donate!
- ~ Network!

Some ways to help (Some cost you nothing!):

~ Buy a bag of dog or cat food or litter!

~ Go through the link at our Web site to shop at amazon.com. Pet Harbor gets a portion of your purchase price.

~ Over 680 stores are registered through igit.com. Designate Pet Harbor & shop! We get a portion of the purchase price!

~ Register your Food Lion MVP card to us, and we get a portion of the money you spend at Food Lion.

~ Tell folks about the homeless huskies & kitties searching for forever addresses!

Next newsletter's focus is volunteering! You don't have to wait, though. Some ways you can help NOW are:

- ~ Make phone calls
- ~ Train dogs
- ~ Temperament test dogs in shelters
- ~ Scoop poop or clean litter boxes
- ~ Transport dogs to/from shelters & vets
- ~ Perform home visits
- ~ Walk dogs or pet cats
- ~ Brush cats or wash & brush dogs
- ~ Clean kennels
- ~ Cut toenails or administer meds
- ~ Sort papers
- ~ Address envelopes
- ~ Web research
- ~ Give & get purrs and doggy kisses
- ~ While generally we need doers, instead of idea people, maybe you can creatively think of other ways we could use help!

Must be age 14 & older to volunteer.

"A cat is a puzzle for which there is no solution." ~ Hazel Nicholson



**Pet Harbor alumnus Blizzard
(formerly Dickens) and his
Siberian "brother" Trooper**

Dryland Mushing

Have you ever wanted to run the Iditarod? Did you know there are local opportunities to mush? See Siberian Husky Assist (siberianhuskyassist.com); Greater Washington Siberian Husky Club (gwshc.org); Chesapeake Siberian Husky Club (chesapeakesiberian.org); & for a special treat, check out our adopter's report of a special experience with Griffin & Phoenix at Maryland Dog Sledding below.



**Pet Harbor alumni Griffin &
Phoenix (formerly Griffin & Chip)**

Run What You Brung. *This exhilarating activity is just what it sounds like. For a few hours, your dogs (Siberians or other!) become part of the team run by mushers Catherine and Eric, the guides at Maryland Sled Dog Adventures LLC. Before harnessing up, Catherine and Eric teach you (and your dog) a combination of ground work, pull training, & basic commands. Then your dogs join Sobo, Zoë, Okemo, & T-bone for a thrilling run down the trail. Gryffindor and Phoenix (Pet Harbor alums) got their first taste of mushing this past March and loved every minute of pulling! For more information, visit www.marylanddogsledding.com. ~Jenny*

Thanks to the support of people like you, since incorporation in 2000, we have found homes for 431 dogs and 119 cats!



Pet Harbor alumni Muddy, Morocho (now named Rocco), & Raines signify "The End" of this newsletter

Life & Times

Awesome is how we describe our family of adopters. We cherish the updates. From those who struggle humorously through the many Siberian antics we get lots of laughs. Stories from folks like Kevin, who adopted Franklin AND LeBlanc, are doubly delicious! One adopter who keeps us in stitches writes so well the dogs & cats solicit her help writing their biographies. The many trials of being owned by adopted dog Heinrich and his Siberian "brother," Wolfie, their mom writes have been so incredibly entertaining we wanted you to share in the fun! It's also a good example of what life is like with a Siberian. So let's subtitle this "Managing Life With a Siberian Husky."



Heinrich enjoys his Christmas gifts

- Some ordeals (our favorites of today specifically):*
- peeing, specifically not knowing you have to pee until it's already on the floor,
 - being convinced you are starving to death, even though you've gained 15 pounds,
 - dying of dehydration, even though you drink 4 gallons of water a day (wonder if this has anything to do with the peeing...),
 - forgetting that Wolfie's ear/tail/back are not munchie toys,
 - realizing you will not die if you don't squeak your elephant/octopus
 - pulling mommy's shoulder out of socket while walking is not considered a sport.

I think sometimes it's easy to forget that you have to continuously teach and raise a dog much as you have to do with a young child. They don't know the ins and outs of life, and it really takes a year for them to understand and feel safe. I know I forget at least once a week.

~ Meg

Our Rainbow Bridge Web page is soon to be unveiled. Mike created a fabulous page for us. Now we need to input data. If you want us to post your departed pet, let us know.



Pet Harbor alumnus Tally (formerly Rosemary) plays with her canine "sister," Angel.

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PO Box 73
Bowling Green, VA 22427



Address Correction Requested