



PET HARBOR RESCUE & REFERRAL, INC.

Spring 2009

Upcoming Events:

ADOPTION EVENTS:

Sat, May 2 & Sun, May 3
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Massaponax PetsMart
9751 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Saturday, June 13
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Massaponax PetsMart

Please check
www.petharbor.org
for updates
or call 703-583-HSKY



Pet Harbor alumnus Misha and his springtime frog hat

~~ Coming Soon! ~~

Want to make a difference? Strike up the band & put on those thinking caps. Positions, including openings on our board of directors, need folks to jump on the bandwagon. All are volunteer positions. Postings coming soon. Stay tuned to www.petharbor.org/openings.


More Than Meets the Eye!


Every breed has its own common health issues. For the Siberian Husky, the primary issue involves the eyes. Unfortunately, epilepsy is another important heritable disease of our breed. In an effort to avoid problems, reputable breeders breed only dogs whose hips & eyes have been certified to be clear. If you suspect eye troubles, it is quite important your veterinarian assess your dog's eyes.


Things to note:


- Is your dog reluctant to go down stairs in low-light conditions?
- Does your dog run into walls or furniture?
- When you throw a ball, does your dog see it?
- Do your dog's eyes look "cloudy"?
- Does your dog squint a lot or have watery eyes?
- Is there excessive blinking?
- Is your dog sensitive to touch around the eyes?
- Does your dog seem to have night blindness?
- Does your dog flinch when someone comes up on him?
- Does your dog growl or bark when people come up on him?
- Is your dog afraid of your hand because he can't tell your hand is there?

The types of eye problems a Siberian can have are numerous and can be very serious. Some of the more common eye disorders found in the Siberian Husky are:

 **Cataracts.** Cataracts are either hereditary (juvenile) or acquired, which means they can occur at various ages. A cataract is an opacity of the lens and is never considered normal. Cataracts should be differentiated from lenticular sclerosis, which is a diffuse cloudiness in the lens as a normal result of aging. It is vital that a veterinarian diagnose the cataracts to determine the information you will need to know. Your vet may find it necessary to refer you to a specialist. Some cataracts can be simply watched throughout life and cause no harm. Others have to be surgically removed. Hereditary cataracts occur in 8% of Siberians. Acquired cataracts can be due to metabolic disorders, trauma, inflammation, or infection.

 **Glaucoma.** Glaucoma is extremely painful and can cause vision loss and sometimes surgical removal of an eye. This disorder generally affects dogs age 3-6. Glaucoma can be secondary to other eye problems & often goes undetected before it's too late. Redness, cloudiness, or widely dilated pupils, even in bright light, are symptoms to observe. A vet will run a test to measure intraocular pressure in order to diagnose and successfully treat glaucoma.

 **Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA).** PRA, hereditary, can lead to blindness. PRA can develop in dogs as young as 6 months, many in middle age. No treatment currently exists.

 **Crystalloid Corneal Dystrophy.** Also hereditary, this is the least troublesome of the four disorders. It typically does not affect vision. Crystalloid corneal dystrophy is found in Siberians under the age of 3.

By Sarah Veach, Pet Harbor President; & Jan Larsen, D.V.M., Pet Harbor volunteers

Trivia Game. First person to guess which dogs these are wins a prize! All are Pet Harbor alumni with eye issues.



To have your Siberian's eyes checked for possible problems, visit an eye clinic, such as this one:

Mattaponi Kennel Club Dog Show –
Sunday May 17, 2009 10 AM – 2 PM
Prince William County Fairgrounds
10624 Dumfries Rd (Bus. Rt 234)
Manassas, VA

Reserve a spot. Contact is Laurie Dounaux 703-250-4835. oahunorth@aol.com.

Fairfax



Featured Dog - Fairfax

Step right up! Adopt Fairfax & get a bonus: a stuffed toy frog! As you can see in the picture, he also loves ducks. Fairfax, who came from a county shelter, where he landed for the crime of running at large, is a 60-pound dominant male. He's fantastic with people & most bigger dogs. A strong neutered 1-year-old black & white male Siberian Husky with blue eyes, Fairfax is looking for a home. He has only two requirements. He adores men. Also, someone must play "Toss the Pig's Ear" with him. His birthday is approx. December 3, 2007. He is named for Catherine Fairfax MacRae, a victim of September 11, 2001.



Goldie



Featured Cat - Goldie

A spayed female mackarel orange tabby with white kitty, Goldie came to us from a kill shelter. Her history prior to the shelter was an animal hoarding situation, and she has been with Pet Harbor Rescue since March of 2008. Her birthday is approximately March 22, 2007.

When Goldie first came to Pet Harbor, she weighed only 4 pounds and had an upper respiratory infection. Now she carries over 9 pounds and is in perfect health.

Goldie's dream home is with people who will love her, let her sleep with them, and will play with her. Most of all, they will give her belly rubs. She can live with cats, dogs, children, all or none of the above.

Goldie is a wonderful, sweet, easy kitty who deserves to have a home. See movies starring Goldie on our Web site. Her name honors Monica Goldstein, a victim of September 11, 2001.

Rick



Congratulations to Jennifer & Pet Harbor volunteer Jeremy on the birth 12/4 of their first child: Kaia.

Happy Tails!

Want to know why Rick's adoptive mommy cooked him a hero's dinner of steak & doggie ice cream? In December, Rick & his Siberian "sister," Sasha, did what all good Siberians do. They escaped through a conveniently open door. Rick stayed. Sasha vanished. After frantically searching, Rick assisted. Apparently a Siberian Bloodhound, Rick sniffed out Sasha & led their parents right to her.

Rick came to Pet Harbor from a rural shelter, where he served his sentence for running at large. He found his way into a wonderful home in northern Virginia with a mom, dad, 3 boys, & Rick's boss: Sasha.

The boys say Rick gives the best kisses & hugs, even gave him the nickname of Love Bug. While Sasha (adopted from a shelter) is a daddy's girl, Rick is a mama's boy. As you can see, even the dining room table is his.

A great success story, the kind that makes our volunteers continue volunteering, not to mention how awesome it is for Rick! We hope Fairfax finds such a great home!

Pet Harbor Board of Directors:
Sonja Barbagallo
Michelle Johnson (Treasurer)
Debbie Simmons (Vice President)
Brandi Singleton (Secretary)
Sarah Veach, Chair (President)



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

~~Kudos~~

Thanks to
ANTHONY TACCONI,
Pet Harbor won a lawsuit in
Spotsylvania County against
adopters for breach of
contract. Anthony, an
awesome animal-friendly
attorney, did a fantastic job
supporting homeless pets.

Anthony Tacconi, Esquire
Intellectual Property and
Commercial Law Group PLC
Glen Allen, VA
www.va-ipcl.com
(804) 935-8516
atacconi@va-ipcl.com

Thanks to
FARM VEGAS
for generously allowing us
to use their magnificent
music to supplement our
videos.
www.farmvegas.net

*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.*

Let the Good Times Roll!

Poor economies hurt all of us, including homeless cats and dogs. Even if you can't write us a check to help, there are many ways you can help homeless critters. For example:

- * Volunteer! Foster!
- * Arrange for and transport food and litter donations from your local grocery or pet supply store.
- * Talk to our Fund-Raising Coordinator about fund-raising ideas and efforts.
- * Advertise us through CFC. # 85838
- * Order from Amazon.com, iGive.com, or PetGive.com, Crittergiftshop.com
- * Sign up your Food Lion MVP card
- * Use Goodsearch as your search engine
- * Save Paw Points from Fresh Step or Scoop Away.
- * Save bottle cap codes from Coke products.

Contact:

- **Michelle**, Treasurer, windward@petharbor.org
- **Laurie**, Fund-Raising Coordinator, sanddollar@petharbor.org
- **Debbie**, Volunteer Coordinator, grayguppy@petharbor.org
- (703) 583-HSKY (4759) ext 6

Pet Harbor Rescue
P.O. Box 73
Bowling Green, VA 22427



Here's a sampling of why the homeless pets need your help.

- Routine care, primarily food and litter, costs have increased.

- **Lark and Finnegan**, kitties homeless as a result of a foreclosure, so far have cost us \$515 in veterinary expenses alone.



- **Anchundia**, who had puppies 6 days after she came to us from a rural shelter, & pups will cost us about \$1,500 while in our care.

- **Chian**, who came from a rural shelter with the baggage of severe heartworm disease and a prior fracture, so far has cost us close to \$1,000 in medical care.



Pet Harbor on Facebook

Do you FB? Facebook is a free online "social networking" community. There are features-a-plenty. It is very safe & easy to use. Unlike other online communities, Facebook gives you the options to lock down your information. You control who sees you. There is a great article about Facebook on CNET at <http://news.cnet.com/newbies-guide-to-facebook/>

Pet Harbor has a Group on Facebook as well as a Fan Page. Once you have signed up for an account at <http://www.facebook.com>, you can visit <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71056090189> and join the group. Once you are member of the group, you can post pictures of your critters, events, or whatever you'd like to share with us. You can post links, comments, chat through the discussion forum. All for free.

If you have any questions about Facebook, contact me directly at pinkdolphin@petharbor.org. See you there – Lehnanne

Lehnanne, Pet Harbor volunteer, among other things, is our Facebook guru.



A yummy reason to volunteer: Brandi, our official cake baker, provides cakes for our events, such as the one above, for volunteers celebrating birthdays that month. This graveyard cake was for volunteer Amy P's milestone birthday. Join us so you can eat cake!

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."
~Jeff Valdez

Life & Times

Life & times right now? One word: Puppies! On March 20, 2009, red & white Siberian Husky Anchundia gave birth to 5 black & white bundles of joy. Anchundia and her babies are looking for perfect forever homes. Watch the family grow at www.petharbor.org/anchundia.htm. The family sucks up all of our time, money, and puppy pads, and we wouldn't trade one second of the fun. Puppies are comic relief. At this writing, they are at the stage where they like to chew on each other's tails and play with, not use, the puppy pads.



*Introducing Anchundia & her babies.
From left to right:
Lukas; Larsen; L. B. & Anchundia; Lucy; Luis*

Pet Harbor Rescue and Referral, Inc.

PO Box 73
Bowling Green, VA 22427



Return Service Requested