



*A Rescue For  
Dogs Of  
Good Temperament*

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November 16, 2009

Dear Friend of Peppertree,

As we are all so painfully aware, the current troubled economic time continues to take its toll on the lives of people everywhere. We often forget that the impact trickles down to all aspects of the lives of those affected, including their animal friends. The past year saw a historic number of dogs surrendered to Peppertree, mostly due to economic issues. Whether it is because people are losing their homes or are being forced to limit all expenses, the impact on human and canine is the same. These situations are among the most difficult from an emotional perspective because not only is there a dog in need, but also people going through one of the most trying periods of their lives. These folks do not want to surrender their beloved dog, especially at a time when canine companionship is needed most, but they simply have no choice. These people feel incredibly guilty about surrendering their animal friend and have waited until the last possible moment to do so, hoping in vain for a miracle, or a job, to appear.

Thankfully, as I write this letter, Peppertree has been able, for the most part, to accommodate those dogs being surrendered to us while continuing to assist shelter dogs. However, the influx of owners surrendering dogs is not declining. Over the next year, we expect the number of dogs being surrendered to us by owners to increase further as foreclosures are finalized, savings exhausted or temporary pet care arrangements end.

We are fortunate that two of our most important resources, foster homes and potential adopters, have not dried up. We continue to find homes for dogs in need despite the current financial situation and for that we are eternally grateful. In addition, we are blessed with dedicated and generous volunteers and foster homes. However, the delayed health care of the dogs being surrendered to Peppertree is severely taxing our financial resources. We have seen a significant increase in the number of dogs being surrendered with considerable initial medical needs such as leg or hip surgeries. The owners did the best they could for as long as they could, but were unable to afford the care that is necessary for their friend. We are now seeing two or more dogs being surrendered at once as when someone loses their house all their animals need new homes.



A prime example of the unbelievable situations we are encountering is the three Miniature Dachshunds living in a van with their homeless owner. Again, this person was going above and beyond in trying to care for this delightful trio, but this situation could not be sustained long term and that person needed to focus on her own health and well being. As such, she agreed to surrender her beloved Snoopy, Lady and Schnitzel to Peppertree. Unfortunately, Schnitzel is in need of multiple surgeries to regain his health so Peppertree is currently struggling to identify a source of funds to help Schnitzel. The spirit and zest for life that these three show is invigorating and at times hilarious, but the sad reality of how they came to us, what they need and the fact that there are many more like them out there is sobering.

Of course, we also continue to assist shelter dogs both within the Capital District and beyond. One such case is Brewster, a senior Cairn/Scottie mix who was adopted from a local shelter in 2008 and then was found abandoned in an apartment a year later. When Brewster came to Peppertree, he had a non-cancerous growth, limited vision and other health concerns that required immediate attention. The shelter from where he was originally adopted felt they could not put him up for adoption in this condition and therefore he faced being euthanized; the shelter contacted Peppertree to see if we could help. Filthy and sick, but never having lost his spirit, Brewster went into one of our wonderful foster homes. The growth was removed, other health concerns addressed and he received the TLC he deserved. Shortly thereafter, Brewster was adopted by a wonderful lady who has another Peppertree dog. While committing to Brewster was a financial hardship for Peppertree to accept in these times, one look at the before and after pictures of Brewster demonstrates why we take these risks and shows the direct impact of the donations we receive.



*Brewster (before)*



*Brewster in his new home*

This, friends, is where we come in. Times like we are currently experiencing require those of us who have avoided the current economic devastation to stand up and show our support for those causes and efforts that are really important to us. Unfortunately, there are fewer this year that will be able to help out with the financial costs of Peppertree's work. In fact, it is likely that some of those who were able to assist Peppertree financially in the past are the same folks who have now been forced to ask for Peppertree's assistance finding new homes for their beloved dogs.

We hope that we can count on you and knowing your love of dogs, we thank you in advance for your support. If you are not able to help us with a financial contribution, we ask you to help by having your dog spayed or neutered to reduce the homeless dog population, and to consider adding a new four legged friend to your home and asking your friends and neighbors to do the same. If everybody chips in, we can help those dogs who are in need through no fault of their own, find the simple wants of security, companionship and comfort that they deserve.

Peppertree Rescue wishes you good health and better times during the holiday season and in the New Year.

With many thanks,

Kevin C. Wilcox  
President  
Peppertree Rescue