

Briggs Animal Adoption Center

BRIGGS Briefs

Summer 2003 Edition



Welcome to the Summer 2003 Edition of BRIGGS Briefs and warm greetings to each of you from the desk of Jim Taylor, Program Services Director of the Briggs Animal Adoption Center (BAAC).



Although April through May 2003 has been characterized by an unusual number of rainy days, the sun has been shining—in a manner of speaking—on the BAAC. During this same time-frame, we are pleased to inform you that:

Once again, Phyllis Saville, BAAC Volunteer, successfully coordinated *The 2nd Annual Pedal for Pooches Bike Tour* to benefit the BAAC. Despite an overcast day, 48 of 61 registrants braved the threat of rain and pedaled for the pooches, raising a net of \$3,500 to be applied toward the cost of constructing an Agility Course for all the future BAAC dogs to enjoy themselves. We thank each of you—Phyllis Saville, the sponsors, the riders, the Jefferson County Sheriff's department, and the many other volunteers who gave freely of their time to make Pedal for Pooches a resounding success.



Pedal For Pooches '03

The months of April and May were wonderful for adoptions. During this 2-month period, we placed 43 dogs and 3 cats in quality adoptive homes. And what's really neat is that in future editions of the BRIGGS Briefs, we will be able to report a substantial increase in the number of adoptions after the Cattery is constructed and becomes operational.

The process to construct the Cattery to accommodate 100 cats is slowly evolving and our excitement is mounting. We've just completed the first step in the process by contracting with Pet Care Architecture to create the Design and Construction documents for the Cattery and a Feline Isolation Area, as well as additional Canine Incoming Pens. The construction of the Cattery and Feline Isolation Area is anticipated to begin around the end of summer and completed in late fall of this year. The construction of additional Canine Incoming Pens will occur when additional funds are raised.

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Adoption Alumni



The Shiflett Family

Dear BAAC,

Meet Courage, the newest member of our family. Courage came to the BAAC in October 2001 when he was rescued from a shelter in Maryland. He was less than 3 years old and scheduled to be euthanized. Courage then spent the next ten months at the BAAC.

When our family decided to adopt a dog in September 2002, we checked into various shelters and rescue leagues. We learned about Briggs through a flyer we picked up at PETCO. After reviewing the BAAC website, we decided that we would take a drive out to the shelter from our home in Leesburg, VA. We were very impressed with the cleanliness of the shelter and with all the wonderful dogs, which were waiting to be adopted. My husband was immediately drawn to Courage but we also selected two other dogs for our children to meet. After meeting all the dogs, the decision was unanimous—we wanted Courage!!!

The adoption process went very smoothly and we had Courage home within a few days. He adapted to his new home quickly and although he has only been with us for 10 months, we can't imagine life without him. He is a wonderful companion who loves his morning walks and trips to the bus stop to meet the kids after school. He is very playful and extremely affectionate. He especially likes playing tug-of-war with his stuffed squeaky toys. We are still amazed at how he loves to snuggle, considering how much of his life was spent in shelters.

After choosing Courage, we wondered why no one else adopted him before us. Our counselor told us that people usually don't want dogs that shed. Well, neither did we. However, when we saw Courage, we fell in love with him anyway. Yes, he sheds. But don't we all to some extent? It just means that we have to vacuum a little more often now (which isn't necessarily a bad thing)!

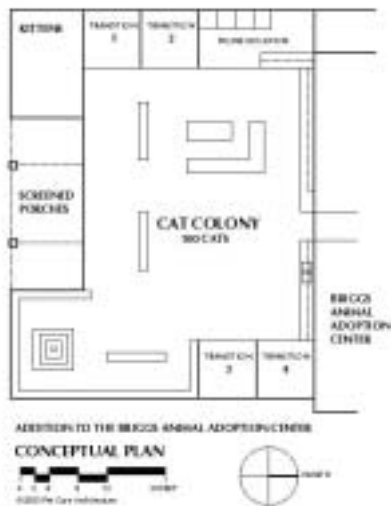
Thanks!
Brian & Sherri Shiflett

The Briggs Animal Adoption Center



Greetings

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In closing, we extend our sincere appreciation to each of you for supporting the BAAC. Without your support, we would never be able to do what we do for animals.

Best Wishes,
Jim Taylor

Adoption Alumni



The Vreeland Family

Dear BAAC,

Today is Amber's one-week anniversary with us. It's like she's always been here; she's pretty much taken over the house.

Last Tuesday, after Karen and Hope [BAAC Adoption Counselors] left, Amber discovered Barbara's four Teddy Bears that were sitting on a low cedar chest at the foot of our bed. Amber "on the right" selected one and brought it into

the living room and dropped it at Barb's feet—as if to say, "Is this mine too?" She was told "No," and we put the Bear back. Amber hasn't touched them since that day.

On Thursday, she barked for the first time when she saw two deer. That was the day of her first car trip, too. That night she sampled a couple of leaves of a plant and we heard "tummy rumbblings" most of the night. The next day she got a Pepto Bismol wrapped in a piece of chicken. WOW!!

[And how is Amber feeling about her dietary string beans?] String Beans? Ugh! Except when she's very hungry. And by dinnertime, Amber is hungry. She walks an average of two miles every day; sometimes three or four when we walk the beach (and she loves that).

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Spay Today



At the Charles Town Race Track in West Virginia, the feral and stray cat population is exploding! Several kind individuals have come to feed and care for these cats. Seeing the number of cats increasing, these thoughtful individuals have tried to do their part by spaying/neutering the cats, however their numbers were just too overwhelming.

Spay Today joined with The Horseman Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA) to combat this growing problem. For one afternoon all cats living at the track would be offered free spay & neuter services. This was made possible by Spay Today's low cost program and HBPA covering the remaining cost. In just two and a half hours, 78 cats were signed up!



Special appreciation goes to Dr. Inqui and the Apple Tree Animal Clinic in Ranson, WV who recognized the importance of timing and the need to prevent more litters, and opened her schedule to the numerous procedures. Thank you to the HBPA, who recognized the problem and took steps to reduce the litters of kittens. Working together we all can make a difference!

Every year approximately six million cats and dogs are killed in our nation. Although many of these animals are healthy and adoptable, their sheer number outweighs the availability of good, loving homes. Educating the public on the need to spay and neuter, along with low-cost spay and neuter programs, are the humane solution. The financial as well as emotional support of caring individuals allows us to grow and offer assistance to a greater number of people each year. Please help us to continue this important work.

Plans have begun for a silent auction dinner event for November 2, 2003. The fundraising event will benefit Spay Today and The Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County. This will be the third silent auction organized by Anne Small, co-founder of Spay Today. We are working to acquire donations for this auction and would appreciate any items our readers would like to donate. In the past the auctions have provided a large portion of our operating budget. For more information, please call Connie Graf at 304-724-6558.

If you live in this area and would like our assistance or would like to donate funds so we can increase our services to save more lives, please call Connie Graf at **304-728-8330**.

NHES would like to thank the veterinary hospitals for their continued support of Spay Today.
Apple Tree Animal Clinic, Ranson, WV
Big Springs Animal Hospital, Martinsburg, WV
Hillside Veterinarian Hospital, Charles Town, WV
Inwood Animal Center, Inwood, WV
Silver Spring Veterinary Hospital, Inc., Winchester, VA
Stephens City Animal Hospital, Stephens City, VA

Thank you for your generosity!

Connie Graf
Coordinator

Employee Spotlight

We are pleased to introduce to you, Karry Pettitt, who serves the dual role of Obedience Trainer and Adoption Counselor and to spotlight her in this edition of *BRIGGS Briefs*.

Karry cannot remember a time in her life when animals—dogs and cats—were not present in her family home. From infancy through her early teenage years, Karry's constant companions were Spanky, a longhaired Dachshund, and Tabby—you guessed it—a shorthaired Tabby cat. Having experienced the rewards and, yes, sometimes the sadness that occurs between animals and humans throughout her formative years, Karry never questioned what her life's vocation would be. She always knew that whatever work she chose, it would involve helping animals.

What better place to fulfill one's desire to help animals than volunteering for one of the many non-profit breed rescue groups that is constantly seeking qualified caregivers and foster homes, which is exactly what Karry did. After leaving her family home for a brief period of time, Karry returned with a Shetland Sheepdog (Sheltie) named Storm, who inspired her mother, Debbie, to join the Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue (NVSR). Following her mother's lead, Karry also joined NVSR and served voluntarily for 3 years. During those years Karry and her mom primarily cared for the older, more infirmed Shelties, which numbered as many as ten in their home at any given time. Karry comments, "Yes, it was a lot of work and it was worth every minute of it."

While volunteering with the NVSR, Karry saw firsthand the results of the neglect and cruelty experienced by unwanted animals which was, in part, the reason that Karry obtained employment as an animal care attendant and then as a veterinary assistant. Before coming to the BAAC last year, Karry attended the National K-9 School for Dog Trainers where she received her Certified Master Trainer certificate and began working as an Obedience Trainer at a local boarding kennel. Although her work at the boarding kennel was rewarding, Karry wanted to help homeless animals and obtained employment with the BAAC.

As the BAAC's Obedience Trainer, Karry conscientiously assesses the dogs that come to the BAAC and implements their individual training programs, thereby decreasing the chances that a given dog will be returned for behavioral problems. Of her encounters with stray/homeless dogs, Karry comments, "Every dog deserves a chance. Personally, I've never met a dog that would be considered unadoptable. All of the dogs that I have ever met have been salvageable."

If you were to ask Karry what she enjoys most about her role as an Adoption Counselor she would say as she has before, "Seeing dogs go to a good home. Knowing they have the rest of their lives to be happy with kind people. And knowing that I'm helping them find a forever home."

Karry lives in Martinsburg, West Virginia, with her 3 companion dogs for whom she provides a forever home:

Shelby—an endearing 13-year-old female Sheltie who Karry adopted through Sheltie Rescue

Storm—a very affable 7-year-old male Sheltie who Karry adopted when he was just a pup, and

Buddy—an independent-minded 3-year-old Chow who Karry rescued as a stray.

Karry is a real asset to the BAAC and the dogs that pass through our doors.



Storm and Karry

Highlights

Animals Available for Adoption

As of this writing, we have 57 fantastic dogs and puppies available for adoption. Although we have not begun construction of the Cattery, we have 1 personable female cat named Valentine and 10 kittens that are also available for adoption. If you, your relatives or friends are considering adopting a companion animal, please come visit us in person or visit us at www.baacs.org and click on "Dogs for Adoption" to learn more about these deserving animals. And just give us a call at (304) 724-6558 if you would like to speak with us directly to learn more about the dogs or Valentine and the kittens that are available for adoption.

Landscaping—Beautification

When visiting the BAAC, perhaps some of you noticed a large glass jug labeled "Donations towards Briggs Beautification" in our reception area. Perhaps some of you dropped some change or stuffed some currency in this jar. If so, we give you our sincere thanks.

Thanks to your donations, we have begun purchasing and planting young trees. Visitors to the BAAC can now see 46 young Bradford Pear trees lining the BAAC's road frontage along US Route 340 and along both sides of the BAAC's driveway. Although still in its initial phase, we have begun to create a Walking Trail in the field behind the BAAC by mowing a 6-foot-wide path and intermittently planting a mixture of 18 young trees along the sides of the path. These trees consist of Red Maple, Bradford Pear, Yoshino Cherry, Corkscrew Willow, Weeping Willow, Green Ash and Pink Dogwoods.

In addition, just today, we received a call from a very kind woman named Jan Skadberg who informed us that she and some other kind folks would like to donate 50 Leland Cypress trees. We're very excited about this possibility because Leland Cypress are fast growing and will provide a much needed wind block around the dog exercise yards. Given that the BAAC is situated on a 24-acre parcel of open pastureland, additional donations of trees and plants are much needed. We'll keep you posted, and thank you Jan for thinking about the BAAC.

P.O. Box 1023
Charles Town, WV 25414-1023



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She has a playmate. Spritz is a Schnauzer next door. He's about 3 and comes on Thursday for a long weekend. Amber and Spritz met last Friday afternoon and spent about 30 minutes running around the entire back of the property. Obviously, Amber polished off the dreaded string beans that night and pretty much collapsed that evening.

We've left her alone twice for a couple of hours each time. No problems. We do play the stereo while we're gone and Amber tells us that she LOVES Frank Sinatra (that was a MUST) though Barbara claims that constant Sinatra listening is a form of torture (but what does she know?).

We've had no accidents. That's a real pleasant surprise. She sleeps on her "quilt" in our bedroom and doesn't roam during the night.

She's extremely loving. She wants attention and will both stare at you and raise her paw until she either gets tired or you respond with ear scratches. Most of the time scratches win out.

She wants to maintain sight contact. When I let her run free on the beach, she stays close and gets very concerned if she loses sight of me. She's not a water dog. Even two swans gliding some 30 feet offshore aren't sufficient for her to want to enter the water. She will stand at the water's edge and bark, but that's all.

Well, as Porky Pig once said: "That's all folks." We enter week number two and more adventures. Amber still has to explore the back road (too muddy) and several other areas.

Thanks for everything.
Glenn & Barbara Vreeland

Wish List

In the last issue, our wish list item was funding for the "Comfort Dens." NHES wishes to thank IDA & BOB RODGERS, KAREN L. WIGGINS, and MRS. SANDRA ATLAS BASS & THE SANDRA ATLAS BASS AND EDYTHE & SOL G. ATLAS FUND for funding 3 of the 5 dens. We still have two to fund, so our wish list item again is Comfort Den funding.

The plain truth is that some dogs are adopted faster than others to wonderful loving homes. Due to special needs, age, or just the length of hair, some adoptable dogs take longer to find the right home. For this reason, The BAAC has begun renovating kennel space to create a "Comfort Den". This "Comfort Den" will offer more open space, inside and out, raised bedding, and more comfortable flooring. This will house in more leisure, some of our older dogs or dogs that are not quickly adopted.

Our intent is to renovate and create 5 more "Comfort Dens" at BAAC. Each "Comfort Den" costs around \$1,100 for materials, tools, and labor. All donations are welcome, but, a donations made to cover the total cost of a den will offer naming rights of that den.

PLEASE CUT HERE AND MAIL TO BAAC c/o The National Humane Education Society • P.O. Box 340, Charles Town, WV 25414-0340

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ to support the BAAC, a program of NHES on behalf of the animals in need.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Visa MC Amex • Card# _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

(All charges must be accompanied by authorized signature)

- Thank You For Your Generosity*
- \$15
 - \$30
 - \$50
 - \$100
 - \$1000
 - MATCHING GIFT (EMPLOYER)
 - PLEASE SEND BEQUEST INFORMATION
 - PLEASE SEND VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Donations are tax deductible - Membership includes quarterly BRIGGS Briefs.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BAAC/NHES

THANK YOU!