

K9 Stray Rescue League Newsletter

December 2008



Vern

Vern is looking for a home for the holidays. Read more about him in our featured dog article below.

Featured Dog – Vern

Hi! My name is Vern and I am a young adult boxer mix boy who weighs around 55 lbs. I would love a home for Christmas!

I love everyone I meet and can tend to be a bit bouncy at first out of excitement. The volunteers here say I have a lot of boxer traits such as the all over body happy wag and just pure silliness.

I do have manners when my handler gets me focused. I know sit and down and I am very attentive when on a leash. The volunteers here say I would be a quick learner due to my desire to please.

My ideal home would be active with lots of play time. Due to my higher energy level and my enthusiastic jumping, I would be best suited in a home with older kids. In addition, I do great with other dogs so adding me as a second dog would work out great also. Just make sure your other dogs likes to play, because I am all about that!

Thank you very much for reading about me. If you are interested please call K9 Stray Rescue League and we can set up an appointment



Our Wish List

In addition to monetary donations, K9 Stray Rescue League always has a need for supplies. Our greatest need is for a reliable van to transport dogs, but we also have ongoing needs for smaller items.

Dog supplies needed include:

- Blankets
- Collars & Leashes
- Treats
- Toys
- Dog pens & crates
- Pet shampoo, brushes & towels
- Kong's with peanut butter

Office supplies we need are:

- Office Max gift cards
- Paper towels
- Spray bleach cleaner
- Bleach
- Pine Sol
- Dish soap
- Garbage Bags
- Newspaper

And of course, we always need Foster Homes and Volunteers! Please contact K9 Stray Rescue League if you can help with any items on our Wish List.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **PETCO Adoption Shows** are held every 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month from (11 am-4 pm) at the PETCO in Auburn Hills
- **Pet Supplies Plus –** Ortonville 2nd Saturday of each month (11 am-4 pm)
- **Pet Supplies Plus –** Rochester 4th Saturday of each month (11 am-4 pm)
- **Moochie & Co – Great Lakes Crossing – 1st Sunday of every month (12-3 pm)**
- **Super Dog Bowl – February 1, 2009. Hosted by Clear Lake Elementary**
- **SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS ON SHOW LOCATIONS:**
www.dogsaver.org/k9srl/



What's better than chocolate?
A chocolate Lab named Mia!



FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED –
Max has lots of friends at his
new Forever Home

2008 Year in Review

2008 has been a tough year for many of us. But it has been extremely tough on our four legged friends. With the difficult economic times, more wonderful dogs are ending up in situations where they pay the ultimate price – euthanasia. Shelters overflowing with adoptable dogs made it challenging for us, but we continued to save as many deserving dogs as we could. There are so many people with big hearts that even with the uncertainty of the economy they still found room to add a rescue dog to their family. So far, we have been able to adopt out 625 dogs this year!

This extraordinary effort is large part due to the great group of volunteers – many who have joined us this year - who have experienced first hand how one person can really make a difference in this world through saving the life of just one dog. These same volunteers have come together to greatly improve living conditions for our dogs.

All exterior shelters' heating systems have been upgraded to keep the

buildings at a constant comfortable temperature for our dogs, volunteers and visitors. Modifications in the drainage system have resulted in a more effective cleaning process for the outside kennels. Other projects include turning an unused area into a quiet, comfortable space for volunteers and visitors alike; and much needed yard maintenance projects help improve our curb appeal.

Once again, 2008 has blessed us with many wonderful volunteers, adopters and donators whose primary concern is to help the dogs. Everyone truly makes a difference - from the volunteer who comes to cut the grass once a week to the young girl who does a neighborhood collection of dog supplies, to our veterinarians who always come through for us, to those who run adoption shows and those always willing to scoop the poop.

Everyone pitches in to save these very deserving dogs and find their forever homes. I am so proud to be a part of K9 Stray Rescue League.

– Kelly Barker

1st Annual K9 Stray Rescue League Open House

K9 Stray Rescue League held it's first open house at the kennel this past October 25th and 26th. And what a success!!! Though the weather did not favor us that weekend, that didn't stop people from coming out to visit us at the kennel. Some of the events around the kennel included having Kevin from Elite K9 there to answer any questions, a raffle for those adopting that weekend, and face painting. There were also plenty of hot dogs, cider and donuts to keep the two legged folks from going hungry.

Foot traffic at the kennel was high as many people walked through to search for their newest family addition or to just check out the place in general. Ten of our four legged friends found their new forever homes that weekend. A very large THANK YOU to the people that stopped by and generously dropped off monetary donations, dog food, towels, blankets, paper towels and cleaning supplies. Another thank you goes out to the folks who stopped in wanting to sign up to join in volunteering to help the kennel, foster and show dogs. Our dogs appreciate all of your donations and efforts no matter the size. It always does the soul good to see how many people out there are willing to go that extra mile.

Another big thank you needs to go to the volunteers that pitched in and helped make the open house possible. Whether it was passing out fliers, setting up tents and tables, serving up refreshments, talking to the press, talking to visitors and helping them with the dogs or just plain hanging out that weekend your services are priceless and all deserve a big round of applause. The open house was also a great opportunity for the K9 folks to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

All in all K9's first open house was quite a success. We did ten adoptions, met lots of new faces and got our name out there in the public eye. Can't wait to see what next years open house brings!!!

- Amanda Schwartz

I GET TOYS TOO?! – Koda
loves playing in the yard at
his Forever Home





Dog Training Refresher – Jumping Dogs!!



No one minds when a puppy jumps up to greet you except when it is a 40 pound plus dog, then it's annoying. Many times people avoid visiting friends, and relatives that have dogs because the dog jumps all over them the second they walk in the front door. There is a solution to this problem and with a little time is very effective. A dog that jumps is looking for one thing - attention. The first reaction people normally have when a dog jumps on them is to knee the dog or push it away. By doing this, it is exactly what the dog is looking; he is getting attention of some sort.

So how is the most effective way to curb this behavior?

When the guest knocks at the door or rings the bell put the dog on a leash and stand away from the door with your hand holding the end of the leash letting the dog take all the slack. Now the only thing you have to do is nothing! Do not say a word to your dog. Stand perfectly still as your guest enters the door and approaches the dog.

Tell your guest to approach the dog (maybe with a treat) if the dog jumps as the guest gets close, ask them to immediately turn around (with their back to the dog) and walk away a couple of feet. After a few seconds your guest can approach again. If the dog jumps ask your guest to repeat the action. If after a few attempts your guest can approach without the dog jumping then the dog may receive a treat. But if the dog should jump while receiving the treat or being petted your guest should repeat the action and turn from the dog.

It will depend on the dog how long this takes. Done correctly it shouldn't take too long.

This exercise should be repeated every time someone enters your home. This method also works well out in public. Just remember to instruct the person approaching your dog as to what it is they need to do.

In all my experience this method has always worked well done correctly.

-Kevin- Elite K9

For more information or to schedule a personalized training session. ... Visit Kevin at www.Elite-k9.com



Dogs that jump up on people are a nuisance at best and dangerous at worst. Reasons for jumping include excitement, habit and social dominance.



GOOD BOY!!



With those beautiful eyes, Bella is the perfect name.

How to Select the Most Healthy Dog Food



Source: <http://www.wikihow.com/Choose-Healthy-Dog-Food>

Have you ever scanned the ingredients in a commercial dog food and thought, "How can this be healthy?" A pet food must prove it can provide all the nutrients needed for your dog to live a long and healthy life. Below is a list of tips on how to select the healthiest dog food for your best friend.

1. Understand that arguably, the best ratios for a healthy dog's diet are about 40% meat, 50% veggies, and only about 10% grain or other carbohydrate. Choose pet food close to this ingredient ratio. However, this type of information is not available from the regulated part of the label (i.e., guaranteed analysis or ingredient list).
2. Ensure that meat meal protein sources are high in the ingredient list. The meal is basically the pre-cooked meat, which ensures that it won't reduce down anymore during the cooking process. (It takes 5 pounds of the animal meat to make one pound of the animal meal.) You could look for three of the first five ingredients listed on the label as a form of protein such as chicken meal, lamb meal, venison meal. Although by-products can include chicken beaks, feet, bones, etc., reputable manufacturers will select ingredients processed to remove such indigestible material. However, as per AAFCO, animal by-products MUST contain the animals head, feet, and or intestines. Rarely, you may need to look for foods that exclude corn, cornmeal, and wheat, due to concerns about potential allergens. Although corn is not as digestible as rice and wheat. Grains can be a long-term source of energy and energy storage for dogs, but they can also be used as a cheap filler
3. Often, low quality dog foods will list a meat ingredient first, which will be followed by several by-products and fillers. In this case, although meat is listed first, there are actually MORE fillers, which changes the ratio noted above.
4. A well-planned vegetarian diet can work for dogs, although dogs are carnivores by nature. Dogs need animal protein. Would a dog naturally be vegetarian? No. Most veterinarians and holistic practitioners agree that although a dog can survive on a vegetarian diet, they may not thrive on it.
5. Be aware that while preservatives may be necessary to keep the food edible, preservatives do not have to be artificial chemicals that might be cancer-causing agents. Avoid pet foods that use chemical preservatives BHA, BHT and Ethoxyquin. Vitamin E & vitamin C are great preservatives that are much better for your dog.
6. Choose Premium Brand dog foods instead of Economy Brand dog foods. The cheapest ingredients are rarely the healthiest ones.
7. Go holistic. Holistic foods are 100% natural and 100% nutritious. They contain human-grade ingredients.. (Actually, the term "human-grade" is a marketing technique. As is "holistic". To be able to market a food as "human-grade" the food has to be run through a series of trials and tests that AAFC officiates. If the food does not pass ALL of these tests and trials it is actually illegal to put the term "human-grade" on the bag.)
8. Some may consider this rule of thumb: If you wouldn't eat it, your dog probably shouldn't eat it either. (Think animal fat and added salt or sugar.) But there are some things you would eat (such as chocolate, grapes, raisins, white flour and onions) that are NOT good for your dog. Don't make the mistake of thinking all human food is appropriate for your canine. Canine and human nutritional needs and likes differ, such that what is appropriate and appealing for your dog may not be something you care to eat. In addition, some ingredients considered undesirable by US consumers (eg, by-products) are enjoyed by humans in other cultures..



Pay attention to what your dog is eating!



Domino wonders, "Who is that beautiful dog?"



Dobby just loves his brother, Tucker



Charlie chillin' at his Forever Home



Very Happy Endings

Tale of Two Dogs in Need

Bill came to visit the Petco Adoption Event one Saturday afternoon.

Sitting in the back of a crate, fearful & not wanting any attention was Swampy. Bill knew right away he was supposed to help this dog. He tried for a couple of hours to see if Swampy would warm up to him, but he didn't. Bill took a chance and adopted him anyway.

It took lots of patience, time and a great deal of treats to convince Swampy that he had found a human he could trust and someone special who would never give up on him. Swampy had been found in a swamp and was left for many days. Due to his extreme fear and unknown circumstances, he could not be caught. With a lot of TLC, Bill has been able to gain the trust Swampy was longing for and now he can live out his days in comfort.

Next comes Chopper. Chopper was viciously attacked by another dog and was close to death. We were not optimistic he would survive and we thought he would have neurological problems due to his extreme injuries. Chopper was placed in a foster home to heal and he surprised us all. He survived with no long term injuries. Next, Bill comes to visit our kennel and decides to take the little guy home...

Thanks Bill for giving these previously damaged dogs a wonderful place to call home.

And thanks to all of you who adopted from us and took a chance on a shelter dog.

Shelter Dog Doing Good for the Disabled

K9 Stray Rescue League frequently gets visited by organizations looking for service dogs. Here is one happy story from Sterling Service Dogs that we wanted to share. Great job Cy!

I'm delighted to tell you that Cy has passed our Temperament, Aptitude tests and the Health Screening with X rays on his hips and elbow joints with flying colors. We have ended the Evaluation Phase and officially accepted him into the program. He's "a keeper." We shall make sure that he always has a very good home, for we take lifetime responsibility for service dog candidates once they pass the tests.

I want to thank you for making it possible for me to meet with this beautiful boy. He was so much better than I dared hope for. Please convey my gratitude to the foster mom who took him to the Tractor Supply Company so I could work with him indoors in a nice environment that would give him every chance of showing his true colors. She is right.... he is a wonderful housedog. He turned out to be housebroken and I've been able to trust him with full run of the house, even when I sleep.

We renamed him "Sundance." He is a lap dog....or would like to be one. He is friendly, confident and people focused out in public. We are delighted with his progress on the service dog tasks we already introduced.

I am grateful to your organization for saving himand to you personally, for giving us a chance to visit with him on that busy Open House weekend. That was really going "the extra mile." If I don't talk to you beforehand, I hope you will enjoy a Holiday filled with all the blessings of the Season.

Sundance will have a Merry Christmas this year, thanks to K9 Stray Rescue League.

Warm regards,

Joan

Sterling Service Dogs is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to helping disabled children and adults achieve greater safety and independence through partnership with a highly trained service dog. <http://www.sterlingservicedogs.org/>



Swampy (left) now goes by the name Snowball because his swamp days are over. Swampy and Chopper (right) love their new Forever Home.



Cy shows you don't need a fancy pedigree to be a top notch Service Dog!

K9 Stray Rescue League
2120 Metamora Road
Oxford, MI 48371
Phone:
(248) 628-0435



Tell your friends they can find their new Best Friend on our Web site!

eMail:
k9strayrescue@yahoo.com

Web site:
www.dogsaver.org/k9srl/

"The reason a dog has so many friends, is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."

---Anonymous

Bowling Anyone?? All proceeds go to help K9 SRL

Clear Lake Elementary's Peacemakers Club will once again host a bowl-a-thon to benefit K9SRL. The annual Super Dog Bowl will be held at [Collier Lanes](#) in Oxford on February 1st, 2009. Last year they raised \$1,200.00 and about 144 bowlers participated!!



DATE: February 1st, 2009
COST: The cost is \$10.00 per person
RESERVATIONS: Reservations need to be made by January 9th.
CONTACT: Please contact Clear Lake Peacemakers for reservations and questions (248) 969-5200.

K9 Stray Rescue League is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed in 1990 primarily to save dogs on the euthanasia list at local animal shelters

Yappy Howlidays!

K9 Stray Rescue League is run solely on donations. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please use the form below or visit our website (see box at left) to donate online.

Thank you for your generosity. The animals rely on us...but we rely on **YOU!**

I am enclosing a check or money order for \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

eMAIL _____

Please make all checks payable to "K9 Stray Rescue League" and mail to 2120 Metamora Road, Oxford, MI 48371



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