



THE BAY — Senior Edition

Helping Senior Beagles Find Their Way Home



THE BAY—Senior Edition
Official Newsletter of Sensational Senior Beagles of New England States
Email Us at ssb@bonesbeagles.org



"We have found that older dogs adapt so well to a new home and just love being loved."



WELCOME to the premier edition of **THE BAY—Senior Edition**, our quarterly publication that celebrates senior dogs in general and those beagles in the **Sensational Senior Beagle** program in particular.

The B.O.N.E.S. Sensational Senior Beagle program began approximately eight years ago. B.O.N.E.S. had accepted a beagle into the organization named Remmy who turned out to be older than originally thought with a likely age of twelve. Knowing that older dogs are much harder to place (adopters are concerned about a shortened life span and increased veterinary costs), Susan Taney, one of the founders of B.O.N.E.S., contacted a friend at the ASPCA as to how senior beagles could be marketed to increase their chances of finding their forever homes. The B.O.N.E.S Board of Directors at that time discussed some of the ideas suggested with the result being the SSB program. At it's start, the families who took the SSBs in were considered permanent foster homes for the dog's remaining years. Our current families are considered adopters. From the beginning, the adoption fee has been waived and routine as well as reasonable additional veterinary care has been paid for by B.O.N.E.S. And most importantly over the past eight years, the more than 20 beagles who have been involved in the SSB program have known love and felt safe in their final senior years.

PATCH – Young At Heart

I would like to tell everyone about my wonderful dog Patch. He is a B.O.N.E.S. Sensational Senior Beagle. We adopted him when he was 12. He is now 17 and I can say he has had even fewer medical problems than younger dogs we've adopted, so age doesn't always matter.



When we first adopted Patch he had energy to spare. The dining room table was his favorite nap place. Even now at age 17 he's still doing really well at getting around. He is the love of our lives and he knows it. He shows he's grateful with the love he returns.

Speaking of love, when we adopted another beagle Smokey, Patch instantly adopted Smokey as his baby. They are inseparable. We have found that older dogs adapt so well to a new home and just love being loved. They also don't always get into as much mischief as the younger ones (thank goodness).

I can't say enough good about the SSB program. They have been there every step of the way for us with any help or questions we have had. I will always adopt the older dogs because we feel they should have a chance at loving homes and a chance at living out their lives with love and security . And as you can see from the picture they are so helpful at doing chores like the first cleaning on pans before they go in dishwasher. Oh, and he likes snacks!

- Donna and David





"No day is ever a bad day with Miss Daisy"



It takes a long time for a soul to become this sweet



Miss Daisy, Queen of the Bogs

When my hubby Bill was headed home with Miss Daisy, he phoned to say he was headed home with the "Precious Package", which indeed she is. Over the years that followed, more than 4 now, we have come to learn the word "Mischievous" also needs to be added.

Daisy had spent some time as a stray and had become very skilled in obtaining food. I know many beagles are like this but she seemed to have taken the advanced course...ha ha. We learned quickly not to leave the loaf of bread near the



edge of the counter, or even bags of potatoes...yikes. She also didn't find the plastic lid on the peanut can was a hindrance of any kind. More than child proof, we learned to make our home beagle proof. She taught us a lot and provides a lot of funny moments. If a drawer has cat treats in it and is partially open she will pull items out until



what she's looking for is within snout reach. And she's so smart. I'm a pet sitter and the first night here she took a favorite toy of a Cavalier King Charles named Dickins. She bee-lined to a closet and began hiding it. We would put it back and she would hide it under a pillow or blanket...too funny watching her, she's quite the character. We've said so many times we wished we had her since a puppy. She loves her rides and walks at the bogs. I try not to let my mind wander to what it would be like without her. She sleeps right next to me and is my bestest friend in the world...no day is ever a bad

day with Miss Daisy here.

She is indeed a Precious Package, a gift I cherish, Sensational beyond words. But Senior? That's what they tell me...ha ha.

Now, where's the leash? The bogs are calling us...))) —Kathy

"Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well." — Bonnie Wilcox

Happy Birthday to the SSB's celebrating this quarter !

September 29: Babe (turning 13)

October 1: Julius (turning 13)

October 17: Happy (turning 12)

October 27: Lily (turning 12)

November 10: Barney (turning 11)

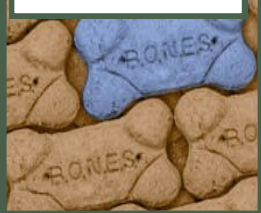




"Buddy enjoys long walks along the country road surrounding the lake"

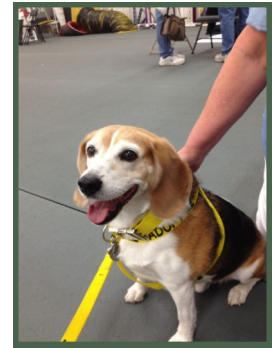


Blessed is the person who has earned the love of an old dog



A Home for Fuddy Buddy (we call him that because he makes us laugh)

We first met Buddy at the Beagle Bash in Auburn, MA in September, 2013. We were amazed at his youthful appearance and could not believe he was 11 years old and classified as a Sensational Senior Beagle. Even though we had a senior dachshund and a seven year old lab, we decided Buddy should be part of our family and began the adoption process. Buddy was not our first senior beagle. We adopted a beagle earlier that year we named Molly. She was found on the streets and was in poor health. Although she only lived with us for 2 years she was a true beagle with a strong hunting ability, who voiced different sounds based on the strength of the scent. Having learned from Molly that old beagles had much to offer, we opted to again adopt a senior pet.



Buddy was on his 3rd home when he came to us. His most recent owners had to move into a senior living center and could not take him. They had him on anti-anxiety drugs, which we decided to slowly wean him off of with great success. He must have known there was nothing to be anxious about anymore - he was truly in his forever home. I recall laughing at my first visit to the local CVS to transfer his prescription. His name on the bottle was Mr. Buddy Bones. From that point on I have often referred to him as Mr. Bones.

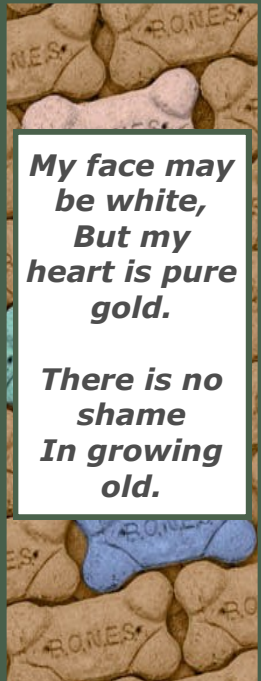
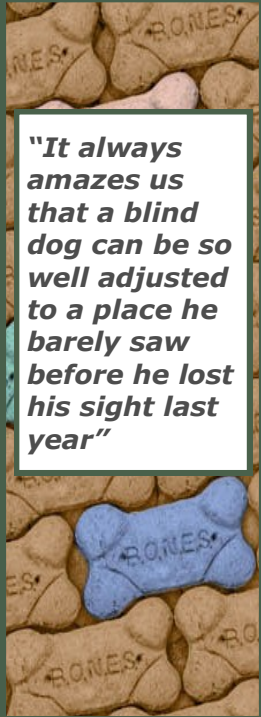
We soon learned he was well trained, and had been taught numerous tricks in order to get treats. He also proved to be your typical beagle when my wife came home from shopping and left a package of meat on the counter. Buddy proved to have outstanding leaping ability for an older beagle and scooped down the pound of sirloin in a flash.



Over time we lost our Dachshund at nearly 15 years old, and were down to Buddy and Sophie, the Lab. In the summer of 2014 we noticed that Buddy was drinking more water than usual, and at first attributed it to the high July temperature. But when it cooled down we noticed the continued increased water intake, and having grown up in a diabetic family, I knew what that meant. The vet confirmed our fears, and we began insulin injections for Buddy. Within a month he showed signs of losing his sight, and we all had to adapt to having a blind dog. Our experience with Buddy is that dogs seem to cope with blindness better than humans, as Beagles have other senses in particular like scent and hearing which are key to them getting by. He seemed to still see light, so we brightly illuminated steps and halls for him to traverse.

Most nearly every weekend from Spring through Fall, we pack up the car early Friday afternoon and head north to our lake house in New Hampshire. Both our dogs get excited when they see and in Buddy's case sense the cooler and back packs come out. Our lab goes outside and sits by our car till we open the back so she can get in. Not wanting to be left behind is Buddy, who is excited to get rolling. He gets placed in the back seat along with the back packs and bags of groceries. He typically sleeps away the 2 hour ride. Something that always amazes us is how he has the imprint of the interior of the lake house in his brain. As soon as we arrive and have a brief walk he typically finds his way up a steep set of stairs to the loft upstairs and finds a rug in the guest bedroom to lie on. Never one to miss a meal, like clockwork he finds his way back downstairs to eat. (Con'td on page 4)





Buddy's Story Cont'd

Buddy enjoys long walks along the country road surrounding the lake, and it always amazes us that a blind dog can be so well adjusted to a place he barely saw before he lost his sight last year.



Recently we have had to increase his insulin dosage and it appears that his vision has declined further. As that has happened we have also noticed Buddy's need to touch us has increased. When we sit he wants to touch our feet and when we walk he tends to stay in close contact, following us from room to room.

Even though he has to deal with such poor vision, he still has the Beagle spirit and gets excited when he smells cooking on the stove. He lets us know with his baying that he NEEDS a piece of whatever meat we are eating. We do have to carefully gauge his food intake to match his insulin dosage.

He has aged a bit since that young looking 11 year old we adopted in 2013. But he is still a character to be reckoned with as he approaches 14, and we sincerely hope for many more years together. And when the day comes to adopt another dog, we will go for a senior beagle again, because we would miss the noise one makes at meal time!

— Joe & MaryAnn

Resources for Adopters of Blind and Low-Vision Dogs:

Books:

- [Living with Blind Dogs – A Resource Book and Training Guide for the Owners of Blind and Low-Vision Dogs](#) by Caroline D. Levin RN
- [Blind Devotion: Enhancing the Lives of Blind and Visually Impaired Dogs](#) by Cathy Symons

Website: www.blinddogs.com

(Owners of Blind Dogs Site – "Providing love, support and information for all blind and visually impaired dogs")

Beagles of New England States

Our mission is to rescue, re-home, spay/neuter and provide necessary medical care to beagles in need in the New England Area. We endeavor to improve the quality of life for beagles in New England through outreach and education programs.

B.O.N.E.S. was founded in 2003 for the purpose of rescuing beagles and placing them in forever homes. B.O.N.E.S. is registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a nonprofit organization.

B.O.N.E.S. is an all volunteer organization, comprised of dedicated people who want what is best for beagles in their area.

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