

The B.O.N.E.S

Bugler



'All the News That's Fit to Bay'

The Official Newsletter of B.O.N.E.S.

Edition 3, Summer 2005

A Beagle's Power to Heal



David & Julie McPhillips with Benny

Having heard some time ago that the benefits of adding a pet could help a family with the process of grief, I wondered for several months if an addition of a dog would be just what my husband David and I needed - a mutual concern for "someone" who truly needs us as we make are way naturally through empty-nest "syndrome" that faces aging families, with the added burden of having lost our oldest child, and only son, at war in Iraq.

Our son, 1st Lieutenant Brian McPhillips, USMC, lead US second tank battalion (975 marines) toward Baghdad on April 4, 2003 when ambushed. Brian and four other marines gave their lives for their Country that day, and we were left as very proud, but shattered parents.

Although David and I had talked about adopting a pet to ease the pain a little, before we could consider caring for an animal - no matter how much joy our potential pet might bring - we had to recognize that grieving is a process, and in our experience the added components of a sudden and public death required

a great deal of nurturing of ourselves at first. But in January 2005, just as the months toward Brian's second anniversary stretched out before us, it seemed we would be capable of looking after a dog, the pet we had decided would be best for our needs - and best suited for our lifestyle as well.

I began searching the Internet - rather aimlessly at first, then by breed. A beagle seemed just the right size for us so without any particular direction, I searched once again for beagles and B.O.N.E.S appeared. And now, after just three months with Benny, I can honestly say we are so grateful to B.O.N.E.S. and their organized process for adoption.

At first, David and I spent quite a bit of time becoming familiar with the organization and the specific beagles listed. The web site was very informative, and we had decided to give beagle adoption a try, so I completed the application online and received a call from Pam Amaral, our adoption counselor. Encouraged not to ask for a specific dog, we expressed our needs (part active, part couch potato). Soon we became confident that B.O.N.E.S. knew best in the selection process, and so we waited patiently.

A home visit from Judy Enright, a B.O.N.E.S. volunteer, acquainted Judy with our home and David and I with her B.O.N.E.S. foster Beagle "Beech" . From that point on, it was easy for us to be confident that adoption was the best thing for our ailing hearts. After Judy's visit, David and I began to smile again.

Pam called us a week later and recommended Benny for us. We were delighted to take him at first as a foster-to-adopt and waited patiently for his arrival. Right from the beginning Benny was exactly what we were looking for. His sweet disposition is a great match - a real comfort to us on the days grief sneaks back into our lives. He has adjusted so well to all of our habits, our way of life, and our personalities; and it has been a joy for us to care for him as we once cared for our family. We did not waste much time with the final adoption. We became his "forever home" within two weeks of his arrival.

I would personally recommend adoption to anyone who is grieving. All that is needed is an appropriate home and lifestyle for caring. Whatever you are lacking from within in the process of loss, an appreciative pet will add the strength needed to provide its care - and so much more than that.

We are so grateful to all of the wonderful people at B.O.N.E.S. who made this step in our lives possible. We will never be able to measure what the organization and our beagle have done for us.

- Julie McPhillips

Acupuncture For Beagles?

A New Treatment Helps Teddy Walk Again

During the Christmas season of 1998, I noticed Teddy was quiet, reluctant to jump on the sofa or play with the other dogs. He was also uncomfortable when picked up. This got worse and I noticed he was limping and didn't wag his tail so I took him to the vet. They tried some prednisone at first, thinking he pulled something playing.



Teddy (middle) with his beagle pals Pebbles (l) & Brandy (r)

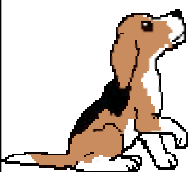
Teddy got worse almost overnight and showed paralysis in his hind in. X-rays revealed Intervertebral Disk Disease, a painful condition that can develop when the disk material between the vertebra of the spine moves out of place. The disk material extrudes into the spinal canal and can impinge on the spinal cord, resulting in pain, difficulty walking or even paralysis. This is a common disorder in beagles. My options were surgery, which was very expensive and at the time only guaranteed at 50%, euthanasia (he was in that much pain) or they asked if I'd try a relatively new treatment: acupuncture.

Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese method of treatment that most people have heard something about. It is based upon the concept that the body has meridians, or energy lines, running along it, and when the body is out of balance the energy lines are blocked or deficient in some way. The acupuncture points have been mapped over thousands of years by the Chinese and the use of needles at the appropriate points will rebalance or redirect this energy and balance the body. Some of the effects of acupuncture include pain relief, a strong sense of well-being, decreased inflammation and increased blood flow to the area being treated. By appropriate use of acupuncture, conditions such as hip dysplasia, inter vertebral disc collapse, arthritis and nerve damage can be treated successfully.

Acupuncture was more affordable, less invasive and less risky than surgery, so I made an appointment for 4 weekly treatments. After the 2nd treatment, Teddy was more comfortable. After the third, he wagged his tail and could bend to go to the bathroom. During Teddy's treatment, he required careful handling, crate rest and medications.

Teddy will be 15 in May. He is currently having health issues that are typical of some older dogs. He has lived an extra 7 years, though, and we're blessed for that extra time.

- Caroline Abely



"No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich."

- Louis Sabin

Fundraising Kicks Into High Gear!

It going to be a busy Summer ahead for the Fundraising Committee in 2005.

Currently we have our BONES 2006 Beagles of New England States Calendar contest underway. Information on the contest is posted on the BONES web site (www.bonesbeagles.org). The calendar voting will take place on the BONES web site from June 1 to July 16, 2005. The voting fee is one vote for \$2.00 or 3 votes for \$5.00. You may cast your votes through PayPal or postal mail by check. The 2006 calendars will be ready for sale in mid September.

BONES is accepting calendar sponsorships for a minimum donation of \$25.00. Your "family name" or "business name" will be listed in the calendar as a contributor. Please e-mail bonesbeaglesnewsflash@cox.net for more information on calendar sponsorship. All monies made from the 2006 calendar will directly benefit needy beagles.

There will be 5 car washes held throughout the upcoming summer months at the Smithfield, RI Exxon gas station parking lot located on Rt 44 off of Rt 295 on the following Saturdays from 9am-3pm: May 21, June 25, July 23, August 27 & September 17.

SAVE THE DATE...

September 25, 2005 from 1-4 pm for the BONES 2005 Beagle Bash. Please come join fellow beagle lovers for an afternoon of fun and festivities while continuing to help BONES rescue homeless beagles – more information is available on the flyer included with this newsletter and on the BONES website.

As the holiday season approaches later on this year BONES volunteers will again be gift-wrapping at Barnes and Noble locations. Dates, times and locations will be posted on the BONES web site when they become available.



Lisa Natanson & Trevor at a car wash last summer



Check our new website at

www.bonesbeagles.org

See our available beagles, some shopping links, the 2005 BONES Annual Report, and much more!

Our thanks to our webmaster, Marsha Cook



Happy Tales

A few of our happiest endings...

For some reason when I saw the post for Rufus, it touched my heart, so I agreed to be his foster parent until he could be adopted. Everyone knew that Rufus would soon be a member of the family - everyone except me that is.

Poor Rufus had a variety of ailments – a cancerous growth removed from his chin , Lyme Disease, a severe hernia and a heart murmur that was just about as bad as it gets. However, with the right medication and lots of TLC from me and my hounds, he started to feel better and become more youthful. He started playing like a puppy again. Needless to say on 10/31/04, I officially adopted Rufus. I wondered why no one was surprised when I told them the news.



Rufus gets some sun

Recently Rufus had to go on 2 different heart medications for Congestive Heart Failure but that has not slowed him down at all. He still plays like crazy and races around the back yard howling at anything that catches his scent drive, and that is just about everything!

Rufus had quite the fan club on the website as I posted many pictures of the progress he was making. I got so many emails when he was sick and he was taken off the website for awhile. Before long he was back by popular demand! Thanks to all who sponsored Rufus and sent well wishes during the last year. He really appreciates it!



Murphy relaxes in his bed

Murphy's doing just great. He's getting more self assured every day and, even shows interest in strangers who we meet when walking. At home, he has the run of the house and is quite the 'velcro' beagle! He's sweet and very well behaved.



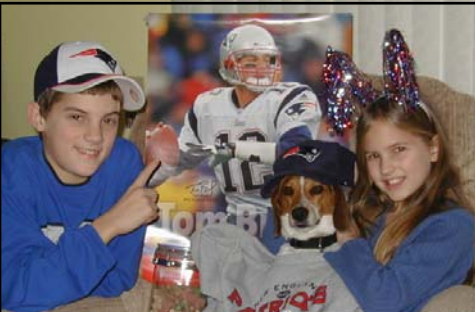
Buddy learns about New England winters

I thought it important for me to let you and everyone else at BONES know how much having Buddy has meant to us. He is and always will be a part of our family. He is a very funny dog, but smart - very smart. He picked up the rhythm of our household in a matter of days. He knows Monday morning and doesn't like it, since we have to leave him. He knows Friday when I have the day off . When he upset, he goes to his basket of toys picks out something and keeps squeaking it until he feels better. My husband will say "give me five!" and Buddy slaps his paw on my husband's hand. He has toys, a blanket, pillow, water bottle, 2 dog beds. But that isn't what makes him happy. Being part of our family is what makes Buddy happy. And having this sweet dog has brought us such joy.



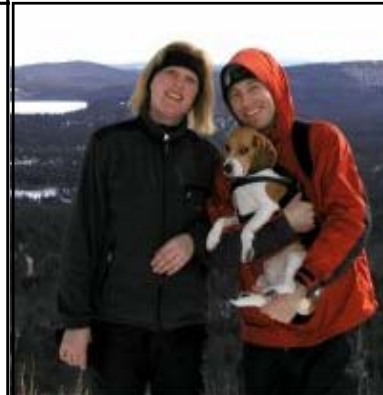
Riley strikes a pose

Riley is doing awesome. He was a perfect addition to our family. We couldn't have asked for a better dog. He is a great combination of a crazy energetic puppy and a calm, cuddling companion. We take him everywhere we go - he loves to go to Petco and smell and lick everything. I am so glad that I found BONES and found Riley. This organization does amazing things - it makes so many people happy and giving these dogs a second chance at a good life is just a beautiful thing.



Rusty gets into the Patriots spirit with his new fans

Rusty and us have adjusted well to our "new" life together. He is well mannered, has a great temperament and gets along with everyone, especially the kids. It's a joy to see his and our excitement when one of us gets home. We would like to thank BONES for everything!



Hi there, BONES folks. Thanks for finding me such a fun family. Here I am on the top of Mt. Sabatus in Maine. I had so much fun! I wonder what they have in store for me next!

Skylar climbs to new heights with his parents

BONES depends on the kind financial support of many caring individuals, families and associations to help us carry on our mission.

We extend our sincere thanks for your thoughtful contributions.



Volunteer Spotlight: The Pelleriti Family



On any given weekend, you may find the Pelleriti family driving around the Lowell, MA area (and beyond) looking for their next home visit destination. Just about every Saturday they hit the road performing home visits for BONES. They make it a family affair by including their 2 children, 14-year-old twins Katie and Anthony, and of course the resident beagles, Castine and Barkely.



All of the Pelleriti kids – both human & canine! Katie (left) holds Castine & Anthony (right) with Barkeley

Lucy and Tony have always had beagles; even before having human children, they had beagle kids. They just love the personality of the breed! When their beloved Stubbie and Donna passed away at the ages of 14, Lucy thought about not getting any more dogs. Well, needless to say, that did not last long. In May 2003, they fell in love with young Barkely and set off to his foster home to meet him; Princess Castine also resided in the same foster home of Joan Ladue. Young Katie fell in love with sweet Castine instantly, so they adopted both a senior and a junior Beagle. Lucy reports that sweet Castine (now 11) has been acting like a pup ever since!

Katie has been doing home visits with her family for the past 2 years. She loves to showcase the lovely Castine, stressing the joys of adopting a senior beagle and answering any questions adopters may have about beagles and children. She also counsels children on the home visits about the responsibilities of dog ownership.

"We love meeting new people and knowing we had something to do with a beagle getting a forever home." says Lucy. "We have tried fostering but my big hearted husband wants to keep them! We hope when our life settles in a few years, we may be able to foster."

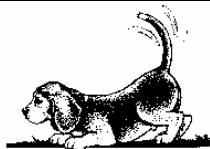
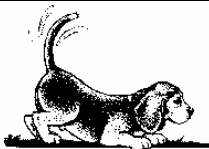
Lucy is a nurse and also attends college and Tony is a mail-handler; they have been married for 27 years. With a busy professional and family life, they always thought they were too busy to volunteer, however (with a little coaxing from Joan), they soon learned that you can always make time for doing what you have a passion for, and as a result they have helped many needy beagles of New England.

- Pam Amaral



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