



# THE BAY - SENIOR EDITION

Helping Senior Beagles Find Their Way Home

November 2023



In this special edition of The Bay, we celebrate senior dogs and especially senior beagles. We also highlight the B.O.N.E.S. Sensational Senior Beagle program. Enjoy!

— — Susan Cannon, Volunteer Director

The Newsletter of  
Beagles of  
New England States  
B.O.N.E.S



## ♥ The Joy of Senior Dogs ♥

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### PB & Banana Dog Treats



#### Ingredients:

- \* 1/2 cup rolled oats
- \* 1 very ripe banana
- \* 2 tbsp dog-safe peanut butter (make sure it has no xylitol)

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a food processor or blender, add the oats and blend or pulse until the oats have turned into more of a flour.
3. In a mixing bowl, mash the banana using a fork.
4. Add the peanut butter and oats and mix together well.
5. Using your hands or a spoon, create 1 inch round balls and place them on the baking sheet around 1/2 inch apart.
6. Place in oven and bake for 8-9 minutes



## Top Reasons Seniors are Perfect to Adopt

- Done with the puppy stages-more calm
- Don't always require a lot of exercise
- Much more predictable than younger dogs
- Typically already house trained
- Usually done with chewing/destroying things
- Grateful to be home
- Like to spend more time cuddling
- Know they are safe in their retirement
- Are happy to curl up on their own pillow
- Know they've been saved!



## ★ VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ★

November:  
Adopt a Senior  
Pet Month



November:  
Pet Cancer  
Awareness Month



November:  
Pet Diabetes  
Month



November  
17:  
National Take a  
Hike Day (bring your  
beagle)



Sherri Axcell, who lives in Connecticut, has been a volunteer with B.O.N.E.S. since 2012. Sherri was kind enough to answer some questions so we could get to know her.

**How did you first hear about B.O.N.E.S.?** Online, though I'm not sure if I was searching for beagle rescues, or if I heard about it via a Facebook group. It was a long time ago!

**When did you begin volunteering for B.O.N.E.S. and what led you to become a volunteer?** I took my senior beagle Oliver to the Beagle Bash in 2012. We had such a good time that I signed up to volunteer. I wanted to be a part of the organization that worked together to put on such a fabulous beagle event. Oliver was my first beagle, but I loved the breed and that first Beagle Bash cemented my love for the little hounds.

**What are the activities/roles you have participated in for B.O.N.E.S.?** I started by working with the Admin team, responding to phone calls and emails. In 2015 the Sensational Senior Beagle program director position became available and I was happy to step into that role. I also started fostering, first as a short term placement (respite/vacations/etc.), then as a regular foster home. I am still the SSB Program Director and I continue to foster. I also like helping out at outreach events. I encourage everyone to help at one of the events. It's always fun to talk to people about beagles in general and B.O.N.E.S. in particular!

**Please share a little more about the beagles you have/have had in your life.** Oliver was my first beagle. He was 12 when I adopted him from Stamford Animal control after they rescued 20+ dogs from a hoarding situation. He was old, had seizures and liver disease. The Animal Control Officer and my vet thought he would have 6 months to a year with me and my (then) 14 year old JRT mix. He was basically a hospice foster. Oliver and I beat the odds! I had him for over 6 years and in that time I fell in love with beagles. After that I adopted Henry from B.O.N.E.S. He was 8 at the time and was retired from laboratory research. Henry loved going to class more than anything. By the time he passed at 13 he had passed elementary, junior and senior obedience at our training center, as well as earned his Canine Good Citizen certificate, and his novice, intermediate, and advanced Trick Dog titles. I then foster failed with Zeke, and I currently have Cedric, both also laboratory rescues. I have also fostered many beagles, and I love that some of the families continue to keep in touch so I can see how they're doing. People say they couldn't foster, and I thought that too, but when you see your foster dog go home with the right family and continue to flourish in their forever home, it's very gratifying.

**Other than volunteering for B.O.N.E.S., what are some activities you enjoy doing?** I knit a lot - hats, socks, sweaters, mitts, anything! I also collect yarn, which is a separate hobby from knitting despite how it looks :) I love to cook and bake, and to grow veggies. I read voraciously and belong to two different book groups.

**Anything else you'd like to mention about yourself?** I'm a Canadian. I moved to the US 25 years ago. And no, I don't say "eh"! But I do say sorry to the door when I bump into it.

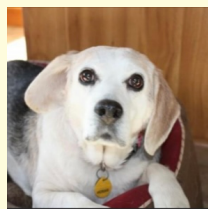


## 🐾❤️ Loving Senior Beagles - Part 1 ❤️🐾

Did You Know?

### The Sensational Senior Beagle Program

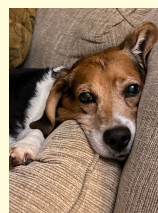
Approximately 16 years ago, a beagle named Remmy who was around 12 years of age, was accepted into B.O.N.E.S. Older dogs have typically been harder to place due to potential adopters being concerned about a shortened life span and increased veterinary costs. Therefore, the B.O.N.E.S. Board of Directors (at that time) discussed ways to increase the chances of senior beagles like Remmy being adopted. The result was the SSB program.



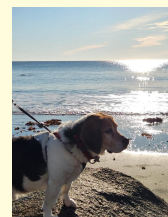
Jessie



Maggie



Shianne



Snoopy

Our preference for fostering has always been the senior beagle...there is nothing like the love of a senior. Since we began fostering in 2013 we have been fortunate to have Jessie, Maggie, Bo, Shianne, and most recently Snoopy.

Jessie was our first foster and loved wandering around the yard. She arrived in the fall and was quite comfortable snuggling by the fire and Christmas tree during the winter. Jessie joined our resident beagle Louie and the two quickly bonded. The first winter was a year of epic snow storms and Jessie stood watch as we cleared the driveway and enjoyed chewing on icicles. Louie was just one at the time Jessie joined us and Jessie taught Louie the true beagle howl and how to behave in a home. Jessie also enjoyed the spring and "helped" plant the garden. Jessie snacked on spinach and other greens in the garden, learning the hard way that jalapeño peppers are not a beagle's friend. Jessie left us suddenly after just a year.

Maggie was a special beagle (well aren't they all). She joined us at a very tough time in our family. Our 17 year old daughter, Gillian, was quite ill and Maggie was her loyal companion. Maggie was by Gillian's side during her treatments and was a great snuggle buddy. She would sit with Gillian in the sun on the deck and wander around the yard. Maggie loved being able to hang out with Gillian and her silly teenage friends. Maggie actually smelled the roses...she would smell all the flowers in the yard and seemed to smile. Maggie was drawn to the brook that ran by our house. She enjoyed sitting in the cool water and one time got herself stuck in the mud up to her belly. Maggie was good at harvesting the vegetables in the garden well before they were ready to be picked. She got to attend many of the kids sporting events and was a great cheerleader. Maggie was a huge comfort to our family when Gillian passed in 2014. The 2014-15 winter was brutal and we were struck by a huge ice storm which left us without power for 13 days. Maggie's age seemed to hit her quickly after that and she left us in 2015 after a steady decline in her health.

Shianne joined us after we fostered Lux, Agi, Daisy, Star, and a couple of other quick fosters. Shianne was a vocal beagle who was plagued with multiple medical issues. Being part of the SSB program allowed Shianne to get the very best medical care available and to live a long life. Despite her health issues, Shianne was a happy, easy going pup. She enjoyed walks and coming to our beach house in Maine for the summer. She would walk on the beach for hours in the early morning and at night, when dogs were allowed. Often she would just sit and watch people and the waves. Shianne had the wisdom of an older, mature beagle. She was a great beggar but knew her boundaries. She enjoyed a comfy bed and sleeping by the fire. There was no food that Shianne met that she did not enjoy. She told us when it was time to go and left us while cuddling her favorite toy, an orange and purple stuffed dinosaur.

Mr. Snoopy was with us for about a year. He wanted nothing more than a warm bed, a full belly and a number of short walks each day. He was not bothered by rain, snow, or any adverse weather. He had the snore of an old man and although his sight and hearing were not great, he heard the food dish activity easily. Snoopy enjoyed his time at our beach house. A neighbor had a beagle who had a litter of four early this year and this past summer Snoopy inserted himself into their world. He watched the puppies with interest and allowed them to climb on him. Snoopy was surrendered to B.O.N.E.S. at the age of 12 when his family split up and neither parent wanted to keep him. But we considered him the perfect senior pup. He had a grade 3 heart murmur and was diagnosed with Cushing's. The funds provided by the SSB program allowed Snoopy to receive his daily medications and to be followed by a cardiologist to ensure his health and wellness. Snoopy passed in late October. He had a wonderful last week, walking the beach and watching the waves in Maine, laying and sleeping on the beach blankets. Snoopy peacefully went over the Rainbow Bridge surrounded by those who loved him and those he loved.

— — — — Sue L.

If you'd like to learn more about the SSB program go to <https://www.bonesbeagles.org/ssb> or email [ssb@bonesbeagles.org](mailto:ssb@bonesbeagles.org)





## Loving Senior Beagles - Part 2



### Volunteer Opportunities

#### **FOSTER HOMES:**

Provide temporary care while adoption counselors work with adoption applicants to find a new, permanent home. The more foster homes we have the more beagles we can help!

#### **OUTREACH COORDINATORS:**

Coordinate public events. Needed for the following states: Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts (two coordinators anticipated for Central/Western MA and Eastern MA/South Shore/Cape Cod).

#### **GRANT WRITER(S):**

Seeking an individual (or two) with experience in grant writing (non-profit organization experience is a plus). Will research funding opportunities and write grant proposals to support B.O.N.E.S. programs.

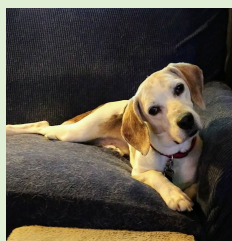
#### **FUNDRAISING TEAM MEMBERS:**

Members needed to collaborate on developing new, creative fundraising opportunities.

If interested,  
please email

[volunteers@bonesbeagles.org](mailto:volunteers@bonesbeagles.org)

Donnie



I've welcomed three beagles from the SSB program into my life, some intentionally and one quite accidentally. I've also welcomed three additional beloved senior adoptees.

Of the SSBs, Donnie was the accidental first, in 2018. Described by the northern New England shelter which surrendered him to us as a "purebred beagle" who'd been rescued by a local ACO, he arrived at my home as a foster. The volunteer who transported him pulled her car into my driveway, got out, and came to my yard gate, warning "You aren't going to believe this." Out of her car jumped a tri-color hound mix - at least 20" tall, and terribly emaciated, his ribs and hip bones painfully sticking out. The ACO pegged him as 7 but it was thought he was in fact 10. His history was unknown, but he was likely an abandoned hunter and was thought never to have lived in a home. Pinta, my then 17 year old petite B.O.N.E.S. adoptee, and Sophie, then about 13, greeted him a bit warily in the yard but offered no protest when he followed them into the house. Immediately it was clear that he and housetraining weren't yet acquainted but following Pinta's and Sophie's example he "got the message" and within 36 hours understood that going to the kitchen door would earn a trip to the fenced yard, praise for "doing his business," and a treat when he returned indoors. Pathetically hungry for both food and attention (he weighed only 26 pounds at his first vet visit two days after he arrived), he initially ate his meals in a crate so Pinta and Sophie couldn't poach the extra rations he clearly needed. But he otherwise rejected the crate, and from the first evening stuck tightly by Pinta and Sophie though he hesitated to share their favored resting spots. Instead he sat by my chair, resting his head in my lap and soliciting ear scratches and cuddles. Within days, he learned the household routines, especially happily claiming a spot on the human bed at night at the command "run upstairs to bed" and licking a dab of peanut butter from his "good night bone."

Donnie "observes" more than I sometimes realize, and then acts in remarkable ways on what he remembers. One particular morning, he and Pinta and Sophie woke up earlier than usual - there was hydrant flushing and testing going on in the street right by my house, flashing lights from the fire trucks, and lots of noise. I was hoping the dogs would just go back to sleep for a bit, so I pretended to be asleep and didn't immediately respond when Sophie and Pinta tried their usual wake-up "signal" of shaking their collars. Donnie on the other hand had obviously noticed that I slip on a particular pair of old loafers when I get up to let all three dogs out first thing in the morning. While Sophie and Pinta waited at the closed bedroom door, Donnie picked up first one loafer and then the other and deposited both, side by side, on the bed right next to my pillow. He got left and right mixed up :) but otherwise aligned them perfectly next to each other. And then for good measure he sat down next to the shoes so I couldn't mistake what he wanted. Needless to say, I got up, gave him a hug, and took the pups out, even though it was just before 4 a.m.

Special as Donnie was, no B.O.N.E.S. would be adopters came to us seeking a 20+ inch hound mix. And so, and happily, I decided to keep Donnie with me as an SSB. It was apparent he had closely bonded with Sophie and Pinta and wherever Pinta went, Donnie went too. He and Sophie frequently shared a large dog bed overnight and patrolled the yard together each morning and evening, tracking the movements of the resident rabbits and chippies and sniffing for voles and mice. Donnie clearly believed himself "home" for several months.

Pinta died at 18 1/2 in 2019, and Sophie crossed the Bridge in 2022. By then Donnie had welcomed another SSB, sweet little Maizey, who came to me for canine hospice when her adopter, B.O.N.E.S. volunteer Dawn Wood, died far too young.

Donnie played several roles in our SSB video, made during the Covid lockdown with support from the Grey Muzzle organization. And as 2023 winds down, he remains lord of the household, most recently welcoming new SSB Chelsea, teaching her household routines as she continues to transition at age 13 from the home she had known for a decade. — — —Elizabeth N.



“I can’t think of anything more rewarding than making the last years of a pet’s life the best that they can be.”

Anonymous

“We’re never too old to love and be loved”

Anonymous

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

Sidney Jeanne Seward

“Love never grows old. Adopt a senior dog.”

Anonymous

“I love puppies, but there’s nothing like the sweet soul of an old dog.”

Anonymous

Look for the Winter Edition of The Bay, coming in January/ February, 2024.

# HEALTH TIPS



## Joint Pain Management for Senior Pets




Add ramps or stairs for easier access to furniture or perches.

Consider acupuncture or other alternate treatments.


Provide orthopedic and heated bedding.


Ask your vet about supplements or prescriptions.

 **Keep your senior dog physically active!** Regular exercise, taking into account their current abilities, keeps your senior dog’s joints limber and muscles strong, helps control weight, and engages the brain, all of which slow the aging process and boost your dog’s quality of life.

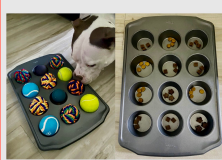
## Enrichment Ideas for Senior Dogs

**Note:** For those activities involving treats or food, make sure you adjust amount of dog food you give for meals. You don’t want to overfeed your dog!

 **Toys.** If your dog is a ball lover, have him retrieve low tosses or rolled soccer balls that keep all paws on the ground. Avoid frisbee or any game that encourages leaping catches. If your dog likes tug of war, tug at the dog’s level to keep stress off of the neck and again, keeps paws on the ground.

 **Puzzles.** Treats hidden behind panels or under sliding blocks, motivate dogs to use both their noses and paws. Nina Ottosson puzzles are well known examples. But you can also create your own:

### Muffin Tin Puzzle




What You’ll Need:

- Muffin tin
- Tennis balls and/or other toys
- Dog or puppy kibble

How To:

- Distribute kibble in multiple tins.
- Place toys on top of kibble.

### Paper Roll Puzzle




What You’ll Need:

- Toilet paper or paper towel roll
- Treats

How to:

- Fold one end of the roll, place treat(s) inside.
- Fold the other end of the roll.

### Snuffle Mat





What You’ll Need:

- High-pile bathroom mat, or fleece strips tied to a rubber mat
- Dog or puppy kibble

How to:

- Place and hide kibble throughout mat.

 **Scentwork (Nosework).** You can find classes that you and your dog can attend in your area. There are also online classes available (ex: Fenzi Dog Sports Academy). Scentwork is easy to train and practice at home. Senior dogs frequently have loss of vision and hearing. Loss of the sense of smell is less common. Therefore, activities involving scent are great for senior dogs. It can be as simple as stopping more frequently on walks to allow for more sniff time. You can also throw treats into the grass (in safe locations) or hide them around the inside of your house for your dog to find.

 **Modified Agility.** Skip the jumps and steep climbing obstacles. But senior dogs can still make their way through tunnels, weave through widely spread out poles, pause on a floor mat, go through a hoop at ground level, and cross a flat bridge.