

April - June 2008

NEARR NEWS

North East All Retriever Rescue Voicemail: (617)-824-4278 or nearr@nearr.com

Come, Sit, Stay at our Meet The Dogs Events

June 8, 2008

Paws in the Park
The Pierce House
Lincoln, MA

July 19, 2008

Especially for Pets
81 Union Ave
Sudbury, MA

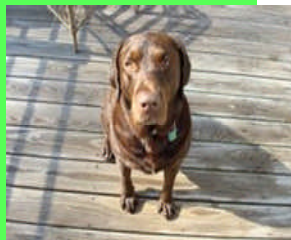
August 2008

Petco
1210 Providence Hwy
Norwood, MA

September 2008

NEARR 7th Annual Family
Picnic - Watch for your
invitation this August

If you want NEARR at your
event, contact our Event
Coordinator at
events@nearr.com.



It's Never Too Late To Have A Good Dog

Our boy Bosco is a lovable, handsome, 5-6 year old, chocolate lab who came to NEARR from a local shelter where he had been returned, *more than once*, due to growl/lunge behavior which is a reaction to his fear of strangers.

However, with people he knows, Bosco is very sweet and loving. He likes to wake up his foster dad with little kisses. He loves to be petted and hear that he is a good boy. He is well trained, knows and obeys commands "sit", "down", "roll over", "wait", and "not time" (when asking to be fed.)

Bosco has been in foster care since January, and his foster mom, with the help of NEARR's Advisory Panel and after a consultation with a trainer has been working hard teaching Bosco that he doesn't have to be afraid and protect himself by growling or lunging.

Bosco is the perfect example of how leadership, consistency and patience can turn around a difficult dog. Many people wondered when Bosco first came into NEARR whether he

could stop reacting to fearful situations by growling or lunging. His foster mom was willing to try. She worked hard and spent lots of time with him, giving him the exercise he needs, lots of love, along with direction and guidance. Because of all that hard work, Bosco has learned that he doesn't have to be afraid. While he will always need his humans to show him that he's not the boss, he has learned how to redirect his fearful reactions. *All that hard work has paid off!*

When he first arrived at his foster home, Bosco was afraid of many things. For example, he was terrified to go into the garage. He had to go in and out another door, even to be loaded into the car to go for a ride, which he loves. His foster mom guesses that he may have been locked up in a garage at some time in his past life. His foster parents have worked on desensitizing him until he will now go in and out through the garage though he is still cautious about it.

It was also obvious that at some time in his past, someone used physical force to try to train him.

Bosco's foster parents and NEARR are advocates of positive training methods, which include using treats to desensitize him to strangers. This method has Bosco sit and focus on his foster mom who gives him treats when another person/dog is in his "space". Bosco has been doing very well with this, to the point that his growl/lunge behavior has almost stopped. In fact, he has recently started to sit and look at his foster mom on his own without being asked to when he sees a stranger. Because he is a big, powerful dog, Bosco needs to wear a gentle leader type head collar on his walks to give his handler complete control; he tolerates it very well, and he looks forward to his walks.

Bosco is extremely intelligent and inquisitive. He is also strong-willed and needs an experienced dog owner with good leadership skills along with the time and energy to continue the training started in his foster home to manage his reactive behavior. This will help Bosco be the good dog we know he is.

How To Pick A Good Dog Training Program by Dawn Van Dyck

One of the best ways to build and maintain good communication with your dog is to make training a regular part of your routine together. Anyone who has adopted a dog through NEARR knows that one of the requirements is to enroll in an obedience class within the first 60 days. Participating in a training program with your dog teaches you both what is necessary for a good partnership. It's a way to learn to speak each other's language, and good communication is good for any relationship!

So, whether you have a dog that's new to you – or you find there are things that you would like to

improve about your relationship with your current dog – here are some tips on how to find a trainer and program that's right for you.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

There are many schools of thought about approaches to dog training. In recent years, the focus has been to move away from aversive techniques and focus more on positive dog training methods. As you begin your research for a dog trainer and program, make a checklist of questions to use as you gather the information you will need to make a good choice for you and your dog. What type of methods do they

promote? What training tools/aids/equipment is being encouraged? (Choke or pinch collars or head halters or harnesses?) Do they offer group classes? How many are in the classes? Is it one-on-one training? If so, are they offering opportunities for you and your dog to practice in a group setting? Are the programs for you and your dog – or are they suggesting that you send your dog away for training? The answers to each of these questions and the implications of your choices will determine what kind of a relationship you will have with your dog.

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“The information contained in these pages is not intended to replace veterinary or any other professional advice. It represents the opinion of the contributors. NEARR disclaims any responsibility for any loss or damage incurred as a result of the reader's reliance on information contained herein.

Selecting A Trainer by Dawn Van Dyck

Look for humane training methods that are not harmful to the dog. Positive approaches might include rewards-based training or clicker training.

Group classes offer learning situations where your dog must pay attention despite many distractions. These provide for well-mannered socialization experiences as well.

Observe a class prior to making the decision to enroll. In a well-run class, dogs and people will be enjoying themselves and

having a fun, successful learning experience.

Work with a conscientious trainer who stays informed about innovations in dog training, tools/equipment and techniques. You have the absolute right to stop any trainer or other animal care professional that, in your opinion, is causing your dog undue harm or distress due to their training methods.

Get references – current clients are a valuable source of information for you. Attending a group class gives you the

opportunity to ask clients how they feel about their experience - if they are enjoying the class and feel that their training needs and goals are being met.

Email NEARR at postadoption@nearr.com for input or advice or utilize the NEARR Members message board for input from other dog owners on their experiences.

Make a donation to NEARR without spending a dime, use www.goodsearch.com to search the web

Notes from the Applications and Phone Screening Coordinator by Dagmar Potyka

During the winter months, the number of applications slows down. Combine that with only a couple of dogs available for adoption, and there wasn't much need for phone screeners.

However, that changed when Maggie, our 4-month-old Black Lab puppy appeared on the Available Dogs page. When Maggie became available,

applications increased and overall, since November, we had 16 people apply and get phone screened.

The database problems (where the age and type of dog that an applicant was interested in wasn't saved) were solved in March. (Thanks to Jessica our Web Mistress/programming guru who fixed this!)

Thanks to everyone for answering my call for a phone screener. The information that you provide is very valuable.

Notes from the Foster Home Coordinator by Maryann Stawasz

Why do people volunteer to foster? Why do they open their homes and hearts to a dog that will only be a part of their lives for a short period of time?

There are many answers to this question, probably as many answers as there are foster parents. Some are considering adopting a dog and want to see how one fits into their lives. Some already have a dog (or two, or more) and don't feel they can make a full-time commitment but want another dog around. Some are concerned about the number of healthy dogs euthanized in kill shelters.

What they all have in common is that they want to make a difference in the life of one individual dog, whether it is a cherished family pet that must be surrendered because of poor health, a death in the family, or more often recently, the loss of a family home- or a stray with an unknown history who has been picked up running loose, unloved and unclaimed.

NEARR foster homes are comprised of all types of people: young and old, families with children, college students, and retired couples. Some have a dog or dogs of their own; some have no pets at all. Some are experienced fosters who work hard to teach their foster dogs good manners, others are new to fostering, but all provide love and a safe place for the dogs who come to

them in need.

And while they are not looking for rewards, foster parents receive the best reward of all- the unconditional love of a dog who needs them and the knowledge that they have played a major part in assuring that dog a happy life in a forever home.

If you have ever considered fostering a NEARR dog, now is the time to do something about it. It's easy to apply on line to become a NEARR foster home. Or e-mail me at maryann@nearr.com with questions. Make a difference in a dog's life!

Several of NEARR's dogs have moved from their foster homes to forever homes. Thank-you to the Rosens for fostering chocolate girl pretty Penny, the Sparrows for their long term fostering of lovable Fergus, and the Cooks, who welcomed Maggie, the adorable pup with a heart murmur and Shaila and Nicole for showing sweet girl Maisy the joys in life.

Currently, timid golden Logan is building his confidence with the Kittlers, lovable guy Koal is with Shannon, and bad boy Bosco, who's turned out to be a not-so-bad boy, is with Gail.

Welcome back to Janet Byrnes, Leslee Cook and Sheri DeRosa who have recently returned to active status.



Around the Water Bowl

Q. Is chocolate bad for dogs a myth?

A. No. Chocolate can be harmful to dogs. The ingredient theobromine can be toxic; it is derived from the same family as caffeine. It usually takes a large amount to be threatening but small amounts given consistently can also be toxic.

If your dog eats chocolate, most likely he will vomit (a good thing) and possibly have diarrhea, with noticeable hyper-excitability! Other signs you should watch for are hyper-irritability, increased heart rate, restlessness, increased urination, and muscle tremors.

While we're on the subject, other foods you want to avoid with dogs are raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, and garlic.

Props - short for "proppers" as in, "proper respect"

The NEARR board thanks the following people who donated their time, money or both during the last 3 months:

Evaluators:

Gail Firla
Susan Sawyer (trainee)
Donna Sparrow (trainee)

Transports:

Chris Battock
Leslee Cook
Gail Firla

Peter Hanney
Tracy Holt
Donna Sparrow
Maryann Stawasz

Foster Homes:

Leslee Cook
Gail Firla
Ellie & Tom Kittler
Shannon O'Leary
Bruce & Mindy Rosen
Donna & Paul Sparrow
Maryann & Tom Stawasz

Phone Screeners:

Heather Graf
Marvin Lieberman
Frank McNulty*
Sandy Romao
Donna Sparrow*
Liz Staley*
Theresa Tucci

Home Visits:

Kris Duany

Monetary Donations:

Irene Cooper
Lori Favreau
Peter Hanney
Diane Inman (in memory of Duke)
A. Kosoff (in memory of Duke)
Steele Lightbody (in memory of Imus)
Robyn Marshall
Michelle Mehlhorn (in memory of Huck Levy)
Ellen Matheson (in memory of Henry – the lost dog from Wayland))
Mindy Rosen
Daniel Sarnoff
Gina Stankiewicz

*denotes multiple times

Taking Fido's Photo by Susan Sawyer

How many times has this happened to you; you see your dog doing something cute, you take a picture but it come back out of focus or more often, the dog moved, grrr!. As with almost everything else dog related, patience and timing is everything.

This past December I was one of the NEARR volunteers working the Photos with Santa event. I took a lot of pictures that day – thank goodness for digital cameras – and only a few came out the way I expected.

I want to do a better job this year but I really do not have time to take a class so I decided to turn to my friend: the internet. Here's what I found;

Tip 1 Get down to the dog's level and fill the viewfinder with your subject, trying not to clutter it with background. WARNING: When you get down on the ground with your dog, be prepared for wet kisses as he

investigates you. After a time, he'll go back to what he was doing so be patient. If he's just too curious, give him a gentle "stay" command as you slid away from him.

Tip 2 As you look through the viewfinder pay attention to that little outline that shows what part of what you are looking at will be shown on the picture. You want to pay attention to the total view so that you don't end up telephone pole growing out of your dog's head.

Tip 3 A favorite saying of mine by Louis Pasteur seems applicable here. *Chance favors the prepared mind.* Take the time to consider your surroundings and the lighting especially the sun. Early morning or late afternoons are good times since the sun's rays are not directly above you. Position yourself so that the sun is behind you; be careful you don't photograph your shadow.

Tip 4 Have fun! Once your pet gets used to you having a camera in your hands, they will forget it's there, opening up more opportunities for you to get great natural photographs. If you are comfortable taking photos, your subjects will be comfortable, too.

The Adoptions Blog by John Ahlman

I would like to say thank you to all those who helped recently in the placement of our latest round or NEARR dogs. The time and care that is put into the placement is so appreciated. And I'm sure Maisy and Maggie are thankful as well. We have a few more dogs in the pipeline now, and more to come. As always I encourage people to learn more about NEARR, and all that we do for these dogs. If you would like to learn more about placing a dog and becoming more involved, please contact me at john@nearr.com.

I will also be working at the 7th Annual NEARR picnic this year, scheduled for September 28th. If you have any questions you can find me working the BBQ grill.

Thank you and I hope to meet some of you and work with you soon.



How To Pick A Good Dog Training Program

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WHERE TO LOOK

If you are not sure where to begin your research, email us at PostAdoption@NEARR.com with your questions. Let us know where you live and what you are looking for and we can get you started on your search. You may also want to check out NEARR's website for member/volunteer recommended trainers and schools. Go to the "Useful Links" link and scroll down for a variety of helpful info.

It is always a good idea to find out what kind of training or accreditation your trainer has. Many people may fancy themselves dog trainers, but it's a good idea to check to see if the instructor is a member of any educational organizations such as the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), and whether s/he pursues ongoing educational opportunities. A trainer who has received their CPDT (Certified Pet Dog Trainer) accreditation will be well versed to meet any of your dog training needs. You can go to www.APDT.com and click on the link for "dog trainer search" and it will pull up individuals located nearest your zip code.

HOW TO STAY ON TRACK

Like any new skill or habit you are trying to establish, the best thing you can do is practice, practice, practice. Spending 15 minutes a day training your dog will pay off huge dividends in the long run. Attending a weekly class is often a great incentive to stay focused on your training plan –and at minimum, you will know that at least once a week, you and your dog are going to be working on organized learning together. If you have just taken a 6-week class, consider signing up for another one to keep the momentum going. Or perhaps make a plan to attend a class once a quarter to keep your skills sharp. Remember – training your dog is really about training yourself. If you and your behavior are consistent and predictable, you are more likely to get the same in return from your dog. So make a pact with each other and have fun learning new things together. You will find it to be a great investment in your long-term relationship and a more rewarding experience than you could imagine.

Do keep us posted on how it all goes! We love to help if needed and always want to hear of your successes! Happy Training....

Dog Etiquette 101

- License your dog. This enables animal control to return a lost pet to his rightful owner.
- Always keep your dog leashed (know your town's leash law) unless in an official off-leash area such as a dog park.
- Always clean up after your dog by using a poop bag; knot the top to control odor and flies before disposing of it in a waste receptacle. Also train your dog to urinate on nonliving surfaces. Avoid trees, grass and flowerbeds.
- Do not let your dog visit with others, unless welcomed. Many dogs enjoy the company of other, but always ask before allowing your dog physical contact.
- If using an official off-leash area, your dog needs to be well-behaved and must listen to your verbal commands such as "Sit-Stay," "Heel," "Leave it" and "Come."
- Always focus your attention on your dog, especially in an off-leash area.

After our own, we love these sites

Dogwise.com
Half.com
sitstay.com
petedge.com
digitaldog.com
canismajor.com



Why Dogs Need Leadership by Barbara Van Raden, CPDT

Does your dog grumble or growl when you roll over at night and touch him accidentally with your foot? Does your dog growl or show his teeth when you try to take something from him? Is your dog apt to charge the door or windows when someone walks by outside? Does he lunge on the leash and growl or bark when he sees strangers or another dog when you are out walking? Does your dog fight with other household dogs? Does your dog bark at you, jump on you, or crawl on you uninvited. Is he apt to growl at you when you get near his food bowl? If any of these scenarios seem familiar it is time for you to become **The Leader of Your Pack!**

By nature, dogs are pack animals. When you bring a dog into your family, you become his pack whether your family consists of just you and your dog or multiple humans and animals. Every pack needs a leader. Without a clear leader, problems can arise within the pack.

Like people, some dogs come into the world as born leaders. If they do not feel strong leadership from their humans, they will follow their natural instincts and feel the need to step forward to take on the leadership role. A dog acting as pack leader might be described as pushy, demanding, stubborn, challenging, a tester, growly, a biter or scary.

Some dogs come into the world cautious or shy. They need leadership to feel safe and secure. They need to know there is a leader in charge who will take care of all the scary situations that the pack might encounter. Without a sense of safety, this type of dog might feel the need to be reactive toward scary or unknown people, places, things, or animals to make them go away.

In multiple dog households without clear leadership there may be fighting as the dogs try to establish leadership amongst themselves. Dogs do not feel the need to fight for the subordinate positions but will fight for the number one spot.

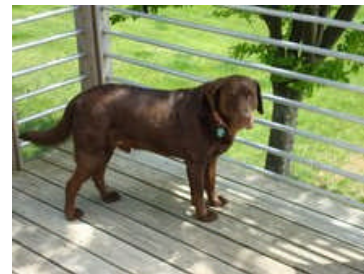
To establish yourself as the leader of your pack you should use non-confrontational methods. You **should not** dominate your dog by giving him scruff shakes or alpha roles or feel the need to hit him or yell at him. Instead, think of yourself and act as a benevolent leader. You are in charge of all the resources and your dog has to work for you to receive them.

- ◆ If your dog would like his food, have him sit or lie down and wait until you release him with an "OK" to go to his bowl.
- ◆ If your dog would like you to pet him, have him sit first.
- ◆ If your dog would like to go out have him

wait at the door until you say it is okay to go. (Use your body to block his forward motion if he tries to go through the door without your permission.)

- ◆ If your dog wants you to throw a ball for him have him sit or lie down first.
- ◆ If your dog is demanding your attention by barking or jumping on you, turn away, cross your arms and lift your chin up in dismissal then ask your dog for a sit or down before giving him attention.
- ◆ Do not allow your dog to get on the bed or furniture without your invitation.
- ◆ If your dog is not presently sure about the leadership in your home do not let him on the bed or furniture at all. You are the leader and the leader gets the best things including the best place to sit or sleep.

To what degree you need to act as the leader of the pack depends on your dog's behavior. If your dog rarely acts pushy or stressed and is not fighting with other animals in your household you can relax the rules on occasion. For the dog who is trying to take charge, you need to stay very consistent to give the dog a sense of who is in control. For the shy, stressed dog, you need to stay consistent to give the dog the sense that you are in control and



therefore he is safe.

Being a consistent benevolent pack leader is a great foundation for a positive life-long relationship with your dog!

Barbara Van Raden is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and a professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT). A longtime NEARR volunteer, Barbara has served on NEARR's Board and as Intakes Coordinator. Currently, she volunteers her time as an advisor to NEARR's Board and supports the Post Adoption team. Barbara lives with five Labrador Retrievers – two of whom are NEARR dogs – and works as a Canine Education and Training Consultant (9 Labs Consulting) providing customized training solutions and programs for dog owners throughout New England. She can be reached at Barbara@9Labs.org.





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(617)-824-4278

NEARR is a non-profit, 501c(3) charitable, all-volunteer group that re-homes retrievers in the North East. We accept purebred and mixed Labrador, Golden, Chesapeake Bay, Flat-Coated, Curly-Coated and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers. All of our dogs live in NEARR-approved foster homes while awaiting their forever homes. We do not have a central facility.

Become a Member Join today for the annual fee of \$25!

Get access to the Members Only message board (discuss dog-related issues), Invitation to NEARR's Annual Family Picnic, a subscription to our quarterly newsletter and the knowledge that your money is helping us place retrievers in loving homes.

Contact Us At...

Volunteer team

General volunteer coordination & misc questions:
volunteer@nearr.com, answered by Susan
Home visits:
homevisits@nearr.com answered by Kelly
Events: events@nearr.com, answered by Liz
Transports:
transports@nearr.com, answered by Donna

Adoptions team

Adoptions team coordination adoptions@nearr.com
answered by Gail
Applications: applications@nearr.com
answered by Dagmar
Phone screening: phonescreen@nearr.com
answered by Dagmar
Post adoption coordination: postadoption@nearr.com
answered by Dawn
Intakes/surrender: surrender@nearr.com
answered by Gail

Foster team -foster@nearr.com answered by Maryann

Treasurer: treasurer@nearr.com
answered by Donna

Web team

webmaster@nearr.com, answered by Jessica
Happy tails maintenance: Elizabeth
Referrals page maintenance: Kris
Links page maintenance: Michelle
Spam filtering maintenance: Marianne

Meet the Board!

This month we meet
Elizabeth Staley.

How did you get involved with rescue and specifically with NEARR? I have always helped my local shelters in one way or another and I got involved with NEARR around 2002 but I actually do not remember how I heard of NEARR.

What's your job title at NEARR? And, since that isn't always the most helpful information -- what do you actually do?

Director. I am now helping with events, continuing to phone screen and learning how to update the website thanks to a very patient Jessica!

Do you have any dog(s)? If so, how many, what are their ages, names, and could you tell us a little bit about them. I do not have any dogs. I had a chocolate

lab years ago when I got involved with NEARR and loved her dearly.

Do you have any other pets? I have a large cat named Buddy who we adopted from the Mansfield Animal Shelter a year and a half ago. We work too many hours to have dogs now. He is very vocal and follows me around the house. Someday we hope to have a lot more paws in our home.

What's your favorite dog breed? What mixed breed combinations are your favorites? I obviously love labs of any color but my brother-in-law has a big black love that I am in love with. I also have a weakness for pugs, newfies, bloodhounds and great danes. My favorite mix would have to be lab/shephard.

What's your favorite dog-handling tip? Let's see - everyone in the family should

go to obedience school with your dog. I find that effective in solving most issues.

What do you do in the "real" world? I am the Compliance Officer for a private equity firm

What are your hobbies? Travel, snorkeling, kayaking, I have a certificate in wine and fine spirits, volunteer work for animals and children in need and I just took up scrapbooking but I am not any good at it.

What's your favorite dog book (fiction or non-fiction?) Clara: the story of the pug who ruled my life

Do you have a favorite movie, magazine, or author? It doesn't have to be dog related... I have a favorite for all three :) My favorite movie is the Bourne series, magazine is Islands and author is a big tie between Toni Morrison and Jonathan Kozol.



Follow Kismet's (formerly Maggie) progress on our Happy Tails page (http://www.nearr.com/happy_tails/)

Donation and Volunteer Form

NEARR, P.O. Box 756, Wellfleet, MA 02667-0756

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email Address _____

Donation

(Please fill it out and mail it with your check payable to NEARR to the address listed above, Attn: Donna Grout.):

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

A donation is \$25 or more, you will automatically become a NEARR Member!

YES **NO**, I would like to be added to NEARR's discussion board using my email address above: (discussion board is a place to ask questions, get answers with other NEARR members)

I would like to have a receipt mailed back to me within thirty (30) days (check one):

YES **NO**, I will use my cleared check or carbon copy of my money order as a receipt.

Please accept this donation in honor of: _____

Please accept this donation in the name of: _____

Please accept this donation in memory of: _____

Donations received will be listed in NEARR's quarterly newsletter, Retriever Review. Please check here if you do NOT want your donation listed.

Volunteer

(Please fill it out and mail it to NEARR at the address listed above, Attn: Susan Sawyer)

CAN YOU HELP US.....?

- Foster a Retriever/Retriever Mix**
- Pick-up or Transport a Retriever**

Volunteer at adoptions days/other events

Evaluate Labs (limited to people with past experience interpreting strange dogs' behavior--vet techs, Animal Control Officers, trainers.)

Phone screen applicants

Fundraising/collect donations

Do Home Visits

Other

On behalf of NEARR's Rescued Retrievers, **THANK YOU.**