



ALMOST HOME

Dog Rescue of Ohio

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A Letter from Almost Home Ohio's President

There is nothing quite like the sights and sounds of the harvest season here in the Midwest. With autumn comes the chance to return to the place where the good in life is so perfectly clear.

In November, Almost Home will celebrate our 9th anniversary and the rescue of 780 wonderful dogs. We are fortunate to have such generous supporters and committed adopters.

On September 1, I received an email from the shelter director of Cheatham County Animal Control in Pegram, TN. He was asking for assistance in the rescue of a very vocal, but friendly, male collie that had deep puncture bite wounds on his neck, face, head and chest.



One of our veterinarians, Dr. Cheryl Bater, drove to Tennessee to get Spirit. He tested positive for heartworm disease which requires chest radiographs. Well, imagine Dr. Bater's surprise when she read the films and saw several pellets (bb's) in his chest and head. Spirit had not been bitten, but rather shot multiples times.



Despite his unfortunate past, he demonstrates the collie traits: loyal, loving and sensitive. I am thrilled to tell you that he has been adopted and is living a wonderful life.

We are able to medically treat dogs like Spirit because we participate in fundraising venues such as Riverjam for the OSU vs. Purdue game.



For sure, rescuing dogs is taxing, time-consuming and emotionally draining. Our reward for the emotional endeavor of rescue was sitting back and happily watching 65 well-groomed, happy dogs romp and play at our annual reunion.

May you, your family and your pets experience love, joy and peace this Christmas season. We invite you to join us in 2013 as we reconfirm our commitment to extinguishing the problem of homeless dogs.

Warmly,
Cheryl Rakich

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Why We Do What We Do

Featured dog - Max



His first 7 years of life were not happy ones. He was pulled, along with another dog, from a home in Kentucky because they were no longer wanted. They were found covered in feces, chained in the yard with heavy chain, dirty water and food just thrown on the ground along with the filth.

His coat was so matted that he had to be completely shaved. He could hardly walk his coat was so bad! Max was brought to Ohio and treated for a skin infection.

Even with such a rough start, Max is incredibly sweet and gentle. He has made a full recovery and was adopted by the Meyers family, who has renamed him Scout. He has two new sisters - Missy & Dutchess. He couldn't have found better pet-parents!



For more stories, visit Almost Home's [Before and After Gallery](#).

Petfinders' Seal of Approval

Petfinders is introducing a new, quick and easy way for you to identify animal-welfare friendly products, services, brands and initiatives. Their goal with the Petfinder Seal of Approval is to champion those who are actively working to improve the lives of pets.



The first Seal of Approval recipients are three companies you already know and love. Thundershirt, PetFirst Pet Insurance and HomeAgain are all well-established names with Petfinder members and the animal welfare community at large. We are excited to have them as the first ever recipients of the Seal of Approval and to bestow the trust and recognition they deserve for helping pets.

Petfinder individually qualifies all Seal of Approval applicants. Criteria for qualification include the absence of harmful testing on animals, the promotion of adoption over sale of pets, and the safety history of the product, among others.

Visit <http://www.petfinder.com/sealofapproval> to view the qualifications in full and see the list of approvals.

River Jam 2012

By Pam Pittman

Almost Home Dog Rescue of Ohio is managed completely by volunteers. Every penny we use to pull, vet, medicate, feed and groom our rescues comes from either a fundraiser or donations/grants that we have worked hard to put in place. One of our largest fundraising events is known as River Jam.



River Jam is a tailgate party that is held during each Ohio State football home game. The management company, BCS Productions, has invited us to participate in one of the tailgates for the last few years. We are responsible for staffing over 100 volunteer positions checking id's, selling drink tickets and distributing beer. We arrive 5-6 hours before game start time (this year was 7:45am for a noon game start) and worked 2 shifts of 5+ hours each. A bunch of us worked the whole time this year. It's a lot of work, but a ton of fun. The rescue receives a percentage of the sales and 100% of the tips! Trust me; we work hard for those tips!!

Gathering the volunteers is no easy task either. We were on three different volunteer websites, sent out pleas multiple times on the Almost Home Facebook Page (and our personal ones), emailed mass mailings to volunteers, adopters, fosters, family and friends, and responded to over a hundred emails in return with regrets or offers to help. This is one volunteer event that draws in repeat helpers. We have such a fun time meeting new people, telling them about our rescue, sharing dog stories and dancing to the music that



some people email us to ask what game we have been assigned at the beginning of football season. It is hard to find a volunteer opportunity that makes a good

amount of money for a very worthy cause and you still have a great time while working it!

All of this work paid off though. Thank goodness that OSU pulled it off in overtime and won the game! The weather didn't cooperate for the first half of the event being cold and raining on and off. It dried off a bit for the second half and by the time the game was finished, everyone was so excited that we won, the weather no longer mattered. Even with the weather challenges, we made over \$5300 for the rescue - that is a lot of dogs we are able to save!

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Winter Concerns & Your Pet

It's that wintery time of the year. Sleet, snow and ice will soon be with us and along with them, some unexpected dangers for our pets.

Did you know that many ice melters can be harmful if our pets come into contact with them? The same is true of anti-freeze. The most common issues are ingestion (from stepping in the poisonous product and then licking their feet, or from ingesting the melter or antifreeze directly). Another concern is that the chemicals can burn or dry out our pet's paws.



Here are some tips on keeping pets safe while out in the snow and ice this winter:

1. Wash your pet's paws, legs and belly thoroughly after walking on roads and sidewalks.
2. Use boots or Musher's Secret to protect dog's paws when out in snow and ice.
3. Don't allow your dog to eat snow, especially where ice melt may have been used on it.
4. Don't allow your dog to drink from puddles.
5. Use a pet approved ice melter on your sidewalks, driveways, porches and decks.
6. Clean up any anti-freeze immediately.

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Ways to Help Almost Home

BISSELL's Partners for Pets

When you purchase pet products on bissell.com and enter the code ADOPT at checkout, a portion of your purchase will be

donated to AHDRO. What's more, every purchase goes towards an entry for us to win a \$5,000 quarterly giveaway!



It's simple:

bissell.com/partnersforpets

- Shop pet products on www.bissell.com or connect from our website www.almosthomeohio.org.
- Enter the code ADOPT at checkout
- Then select Almost Home Dog Rescue of Ohio!

Learn more at www.bissell.com/partnersforpets.

Use GOODSEARCH for Web Searching.

There is a super easy way for you to raise money for Almost Home Dog Rescue of Ohio -- just search the Internet using GoodSearch.



Go to www.GoodSearch.com, enter Almost Home Dog Rescue of Ohio in the box on the middle of the page, and click verify. You then have the option to add GoodSearch to your toolbar, for convenience. Or, visit www.almosthomeohio.org and click on the GoodSearch logo on the home page.

Use GoodSearch.com as your main search engine and ask your friends and family to use it, too. As more people use GoodSearch, more money will go to AHDRO.

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Holiday Spoiling - The Right Way

During the holidays, it's hard to resist buying a special yummy for your dog, giving them extra treats or feeding them scraps from the table. Watching an adorable face begging for a morsel of food is hard to resist, especially at this festive time of the year.

Michael Seimer, DVM, owner and medical director at AAHA-accredited Suburban Animal Clinic in Columbus, Ohio, says, "We see many pets from February through April who have gained a few pounds. The excess weight on dogs can jeopardize their health, resulting in skin problems, lethargy and, for older pets, joint problems and arthritis."



Seimer says, "Dogs don't really know about holidays, but they are interested in all the food. Consider filling a toy with some of your pet's food, peanut butter or healthier treats that also help clean their teeth, and giving that to your pet while food is being cooked and served."

Expecting company? Ask your guests not to feed your pet, or provide visitors with some appropriate treats to share. Make sure your pet gets enough exercise, even if you have a packed schedule. Also, be sure to keep trash away from inquisitive noses.

Lance's Story

How Grey Muzzle helped Save His Life

Sweet, snuggly and sprightly, Lance the Rough Collie celebrated his 11th birthday this year! The handsome senior appears the picture of health now, after undergoing a transformation that restored his honeyed coat and lively spirit. A while back Lance's elderly owners could no longer care for him and had to surrender him to Almost Home Dog Rescue of Ohio (AHDRO). The poor boy had been living most of the time chained outdoors, neglected medically for years. He came to them with a murky matted coat, bad teeth, frightfully long nails and a mysterious lump-which turned out to be a benign tumor. He also needed updates on vaccinations, heartworm preventative meds and supplements for his arthritic joints.

Grey Muzzle supplied a grant to help with medical expenses to treat his health issues. After going to live in a loving foster home and undergoing a "makeover" boost, Lance blossomed into the beauty you see here-and captivated everyone around him. He went from a tired old dog to an energetic dog who loves to romp and play, chase squirrels and wrestle with his brothers Max (another Collie from AHDRO) and Bosley (a terrier mix). Lance is now well-nourished and sleeps like an angel on a soft orthopedic bed. His devoted mom adores him and says he prances like a young pup when he's excited, his tail relentlessly wagging. Rumor has it he may even have a girlfriend. Ah, the spirit of youth! AHDRO is so pleased that Grey Muzzle played a part in Lance's inspiring story and happy ending.

[Learn more about Grey Muzzle](#)

<p>In 2011, AHDRO rescued 71 dogs. Medical care for those dogs topped \$45k (an average of \$647 per dog). When we place a dog in its Furever Home, we receive a modest fee but that does not cover expenses. In 2011, ADHRO's loss per dog was \$417 or \$28,546. Those are funds we had to raise. So far in 2012, AHDRO has rescued 62 dogs. And since our inception we have rescued a total of 780 dogs.</p>

Bark Back

If you'd like to see your story or pictures of your adopted or fostered Almost Home dog in a newsletter, please send your information to me. If you have ideas for stories, or suggestions of things you'd like to see here, please let me know. This newsletter is for you.

Please share our updates with your friends, coworkers and family ... perhaps they'll decide to join us!

Thank you,

Tobi Lynne Breiholz, Webmaster
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Almost Home Dog Rescue of Ohio, Inc.

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