



Springer Spaniel Rescue

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Hi everyone! And welcome to the summer newsletter 2008.

We hope that you are all well, four and two legged alike, and looking forward to 'hopefully' a warm and DRY summer. The thought of another wet one, is just too much to bear !! For those of you who were there - Peover Show - remember?? - NOW that was WET !!!

Firstly, as always, many thanks for all the kind and generous donations we have received since our last update, along with the emails, letters and pictures of your dear Springer's. But I have to say, I haven't received as many as usual!! Now why is that I ask?? I cannot believe for a moment, we have re-homed Springer's who cannot write!!!! So I am requesting, no insisting! That you get paws to paper, or paws to keyboard and get busy!! We all want to know what you've been up to and I can bet its been plenty!!! Thank you in anticipation!!

Enclosed are tickets for the summer raffle (5 for £1.00), please put your name & phone number on the back of the tickets and return to ourselves. Lots of really lovely prizes and hopefully some of you can visit us at our shows, especially Peover Show (please no rain!), a really great day for everyone.

Enjoy your newsletter, have a super summer and thank you once again for your continued support to Springer Spaniel Rescue. As always I say "we couldn't do it without you!!"

From all the team
Our warmest wishes

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Letters and photo's to above postal or email address

Visit our website and Sign our guestbook at www.springerrescue.org.uk



SHOW DATES

Newburgh Fair - Newburgh

Saturday 7th June 2008 Time: 12 Noon 'till 5 pm.

Peover Game and Angling Fair - Peover Hall, Knutsford

Sunday 17th August 2008 Time: 9am 'till 6pm

Peover Hall is located on A53, 3 miles south of Knutsford and 5 miles north of Holmes Chapel.

Nearest Junction on M6 (J19 South) (J20 North)

Gun Dog competitions, continuous Main Ring programme, clay pigeon competitions, angling demonstrations, craft fair and 100's of trade stands.

More information can be found at: www.cheshiregameandanglingfair.co.uk

Come along and say "hello" - We would love to see you!!

RESCUE BOOK

You may remember in our last edition, I told you about the Dog Rescue Book, which was being written, and we had been asked if some of our rescue stories could be included.

The book is now out and available to buy , it is titled "Caring For Your Rescue Dog" and is written by Louisa Adams.

And 2 of our Rescue doggies feature: Baggins and Willow.

It is an excellent book with many rescue stories inside.

Go to **www.angelapatchellbooks.com** for a 20% online discount.

And, hopefully, other of our Rescue doggies with feature in their next book too.



I'LL REMEMBER

I'LL REMEMBER YOU WITH LAUGHTER

I'LL REMEMBER YOU WITH TEARS

I'LL REMEMBER YOU WITH GRATITUDE

FOR ALL THOSE HAPPY YEARS

DEDICATED TO

Charlie Hammond

Bella Hutchinson

George North

Jasper Winstanley

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

IF TEARS COULD BUILD A STAIRWAY

AND MEMORIES BUILD A LANE

WE'D WALK RIGHT UP TO HEAVEN

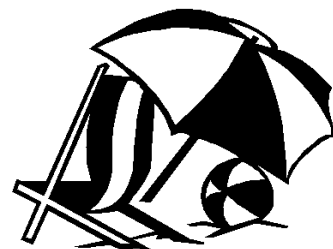
AND BRING YOU HOME AGAIN



WORDSEARCH - THE SEASIDE

N	K	R	N	W	S	P	O	L	F	P	I	L	F	A
A	S	I	O	X	I	U	F	S	J	M	U	O	S	P
C	T	N	T	C	K	T	R	S	D	C	E	L	K	N
P	E	B	N	E	D	A	T	F	V	K	L	L	O	R
V	K	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	E	F	I	L	S
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S	U	T	U	N	F	S	M	S	B	O	E	S	Z	L
S	B	A	R	C	P	I	U	E	L	D	E	F	V	T
E	P	C	R	I	S	D	F	N	R	B	N	L	P	S
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G	H	L	D	N	D	T	J	G	W	H	G	S	W	C
U	L	W	K	E	N	F	U	N	F	A	I	R	C	D
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L	Y	T	S	W	I	M	S	U	I	T	S	R	E	A
S	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	N	U	S	U	L	Y	S

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. BUCKETS | 10. LOLLIES | 19. SURF |
| 2. CAMERA | 11. PICNICS | 20. SWIMSUITS |
| 3. CRABS | 12. SANDCASTLES | 21. WINDBREAK |
| 4. DONKEYS | 13. SEAGULLS | |
| 5. FLIP FLOPS | 14. SHELLS | |
| 6. FUN FAIR | 15. SPADES | |
| 7. HAT | 16. SUNGLASSES | |
| 8. ICE CREAM | 17. SUNSHINE | |
| 9. KITE | 18. SUN TAN LOTION | |



SPRINGER RESCUE'S "FACT FILE"

(A light hearted look at the original English Springer Fact File)

BREED :

Springer Spaniel (Sometimes, extra ingredients!!! Sprollie!!, Sprocker!! Etc!).

GROUP :

Gun Dog (Most would prefer romping through the fields or at the beach, then paws up on the sofa watching telly!!).

PLACE OF ORIGIN :

Originally, thought to be from Spain (well we have some of our Rescue doggies back living in Spain, Belgium and France, and even Australia !!).....All those Jet Setters !!!.

ORIGINAL FUNCTION :

Springing game (But chasing a ball or lying in a nice muddy pond will do !!).

AVAILABILITY :

Moderate (Somewhat higher at Rescue!!).

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN :

As long as possible.

AGE OF MATURITY :

2 Years (What!!! Springer's are clowns all their lives!!).

WEIGHT :

20-25 Kilos (Well that's perfection! But we have the "skinny" ones who just wont keep still!!, and the "porky" oops "well built" ones who just love their food!! (seriously though, a healthy well balanced diet is a must).

HEIGHT :

20 Inches (mmm many variations) But who cares! "Our doggies are the best in the world", as we know you will say.

IS THE BREED A NATURAL GUARD DOG?? :

No, but will warn off strangers (Failing that, lick them to death!).

ATTITUDE TO STRANGERS :

Friendly (Especially if you have a biscuit in your pocket!).

COAT TYPE :

Straight, moderate and Feathering (Mmm, seen quite a few curly ones too!! And can smell like a mouldy doormat when drying out in front of the fire!).

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



DOES THE COAT MAT OR TANGLE?? :

Yes (Especially designed for collecting burrs and other foreign matter!!!!)

COAT MAINTAINANCE :

Regular brushing (Neglect this at your peril, you never know what you may find!!!!)

EXERCISE :

Plenty of free running or good quality play (The more, more, the better!!)

EASE OF TRAINING :

Moderate (Well sometimes!!)

Training Classes he/she - Brilliant.

Sometimes a different story when out in the fields - very good at “throwing a deaf one”!!!

GOOD FAMILY DOG :

Yes (But must be treated with respect)

WITH OTHER DOGS :

Good (Not always the case!! Some can be little bullies!!)

WITH CATS :

Extreme caution (Some can be quite good with cats, but some can be quite bad!! The cat needs to be the boss!!)

OVERALL CHARACTER SKETCH :

Strong Willed and very active

(A truly amazing breed, who loves lots of attention and plenty of love. Needs and appreciates control)

**Have fun with your Doggie
(They are your best friend)**



RETIRED POLICE DOG ON A ROLL **THANKS TO NEW SET OF WHEELS**

A police sniffer dog forced to retire with arthritis, has got his nose back in front - with the help of a two wheel 'chariot' fitted to his back.

Eight year old Max the Springer spaniel had to stand down from active duty, after he became crippled with hip, back and leg problems. The plucky pooch suffered arthritis and hip dysplasia, which caused loose hip joints and made him 'wobble' when he tried to walk. He had taken early retirement from the Drug Enforcement team with Avon & Somerset Police, after seven years of dedicated service. But his former colleagues were determined to look after him and paid for a special 'chariot' to help him fight his disabilities.

The all-terrain device consists of two wheels attached to a frame strapped across his back to provide balance and support.

Max is now being looked after by Devon & Cornwall Police, and regularly chases tennis balls with his doggie chum Stanley.

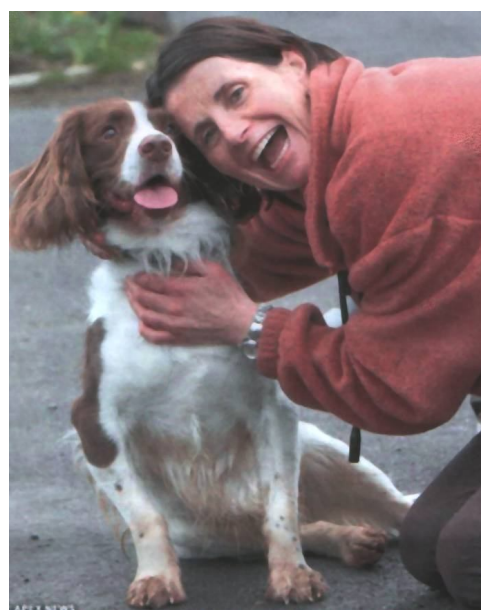
Inspector Anne Higgins, of Tieverton Police, said "They have given him freedom - there is no stopping him now. There's nowhere he can't go". "Max joined the police aged just one, but two medical conditions combined to make it impossible for him to continue as a sniffer dog".

Anne Higgins continued to say "He came to us 18 months ago and he had problems walking very far. We decided to get the wheels to see if he could exercise properly". "He took to them in one day. They've given him the best retirement he could have".

The wheels were paid for by a special police fund for retired sniffer dogs, and Max uses them whenever he goes outdoors. As well as running and walking, he also goes swimming and attends regular hydrotherapy sessions.



A JOYFUL MAX RUNNING WITH HIS BUDDY STANLEY



MAX WITH HANDLER ANNE HIGGINS



TAILS OF A SPRINGER

Dear Glynn and Wendy,

Don't you humans have a saying that the older you get, the faster the years go by? Well it has certainly been the case over the last 12 months! I can't believe it is a year ago since I wrote and told you about my move to Belgium and becoming a 'chien du monde'!

My, what a year it has been, we got our snazzy new motor-home and we're off all the time. Our first trip was when Dad had to work in Demark for a week, so off we all went. This was back in May, a bit chilly up north but great when you've got a thick coat. We stayed at a campsite while Dad worked and Mum took me for loads of walks. It was near a big military base. We had a cracking river to walk miles along, but every now and then we saw little tanks and cars that seemed to be following us! It was all very exciting but Mum came back looking like a drowned cat after I led her through trees, swamps and under-growth....how we laughed!

Things quietened down for a while when we came home but we had lots of friends and relatives over to visit and I went back to the UK a few times to see them. The summer was a great adventure. We spent the whole time away on an epic journey all the way to the North Cape of Norway, the most northernly point of mainland Europe! Every time we stopped I had a new field or site to explore. I had my basket under the table of the motor home (we call it Rodney for some unknown reason to me), I believe it has something to do with the TV programme about food and horses or something like that, sounds good to me though. Oh! By the way, do you know that they *eat* horses here? I haven't tried one yet and I'm not even sure I could manage a whole one.

Anyway I digress, so I snuggle down to sleep when we travel and catch up on the Z's. I've recently been promoted to co-navigator and my basket moved up between the seats as I now have my camper-van legs. When we started off I tried to sit at the front with Mum and Dad but accidentally sat on the accelerator thingy and Dad nearly had kittens, so I had to get used to things at first but it didn't take me long.

Anyway, back to the odyssey, we left home and went across Germany (didn't think much of that, but the sausages are to die for). We then went to Poland, you cannot believe the roads there, they are shocking, if I had got any fillings they would have been rattled loose! From Poland we went through the Baltic States, which were fun, especially a fantastic stay at a great place that I loved, it was in the middle of a huge forest and the campsite was run by a Dutch chap who used to coach the Lithuanian national cycling team. He made this place so dog friendly I spent hours chasing my ball across this huge lawn, it was great.

Then we got my first ferry (we usually use the tunnel to and from the UK). It was great, I wasn't sick or anything! And we arrived in Finland. This was my favourite country of the whole trip. There are lakes and rivers and forests everywhere. My vet gave me a special flea and tick treatment so I could cope with the monster mosquitoes, but they didn't really bother me at all, however at one point I thought Dad was going to try some of the ointment on himself! We stayed for ages in one place that was famous for the wild bears. Unfortunately I didn't see one but apparently the woods are full of them. I made a friend with a Finnish Border Collie and we used to chase each other into the lake in his garden. I didn't want to move on but we had to get on to catch the midnight-sun at the North Cape. We crossed the Arctic Circle and got to the very North of Norway in time.

The North Cape was wild, windswept and weird with the sun and staying out all night. I found this very confusing and wanted my breakfast very, very early! The trip back saw us travel down Norway and into Sweden before again getting a ferry back into Germany, then on to home. We visited lots of interesting places and I had many adventures, most of which involved finding all sorts of unusual food to snaffle! The one event that really sticks in my mind, is when we were in Sweden and dad went around a corner a bit fast, the fridge door decided at that moment to open and fly off!

They saw my face was a picture! If I had been a bit quicker off the mark I could have been at the food in the fridge, but I was a bit nonplussed by it and missed the golden opportunity! Overall we had a great time; the weather was perfect throughout, not too hot for me and just right to travel. Since we got back we've remained a bit closer to home with several trips in the Netherlands, Belgium and France. Our most recent holiday (we waited until the weather cooled down for me) was to Spain. I enjoyed the France 'en-route' as they say over here, especially the canals, but Spain was a bit boring, not many trees or anything to sniff at other than vines and olive bushes.

Christmas is looking busy with a visit to my relatives in Scotland, Keltie (a Westie) and Glen (a Border Collie). Then dad is working there so we will be in a cottage for a week or two before we come home late in January.

Well I must go now as mum is getting my dinner ready, I'm loving it here with lots of adventures and new places to see. They think I'm acting like a puppy but actually the old bones play me up a bit from time-to-time, nothing to worry about, just a bit of old age creeping up on me. There's still nothing I like more than chasing a ball and swimming in a lake or river, except my dinner that is!

Keep up the great work!

Lots of Love, Bracken (aged 12 and international jet setter!)



Dear Glyn,

Hello everyone, just an update on my progress.

I'm doing really well and my new mummy and daddy are taking really good care of me.

Firstly I have had lots of new adventures this week. My mum takes me to different places everyday and my favourite is by the river. We go in the car and I splash in the fields which are water logged. Sometimes I chase my ball on a rope and always come back when mum calls me because she gives me lots of fuss.

I have met lots of new friends already and I played with Dottie and Barney at Ferry meadows, I got to jump all over them and run around in circles for ages. Sometimes after our walks I get in the car and I'm so tired I fall asleep.

My new mum brushes me twice a day and my coat is so glossy. I really like being brushed because after, we play lots of games and I'm getting really good at football in the garden. I'm eating well and my new vet Mr Young says I'm the perfect weight. He checked my eyes and ears and I was a bit scared but mum reassured me, so when I go back I won't be so scared. My itching is much better which is good because it gives me more time to play with my new toys. Mum has started to brush my teeth but I like to bite the brush better.

I follow mum around all the time because I don't want to be left on my own. Mum says I will forget eventually about being in different houses when I was so young and when I am totally settled I won't get so anxious about being separated. I'm trying really hard at this and everyday I'm getting a little better.

The other day when we were out walking I saw this big animal. Mum told me it was a horse and I just sat and watched it for ages. It didn't really look like much fun and playing with my mates is much better. I'm going to the sea side at the weekend, what ever that is? When I've found out I'll send you a photo.

Mum wanted me to let you know that my change address is done on the microchip, I have a new tag and also some tablets for fleas and worms, which mum will give me at the beginning of each month.

I'm soooooooo clever now, I can even write emails.

Thank you for taking care of me, when I needed your help. Will write soon.

Love Charlie x

Dear Wendy and Glyn, and all my doggie cousins

Hello again, I hope you enjoy the photo. I look a bit scruffy because I absolutely refuse to have my hair cut. I use to have a regular trim but since my overnight stay at the vets following an operation to remove a grass dart from my ear, I do not like vets or hairdressers touching me, (In saying this I had a really good hair-cut a few months ago, because I had to have some cysts removed and the sneaky vet gave me a haircut while I was asleep)!

It is now six years since I moved from 'sunny Wigan' and I now rule the house, (at least mum keeps telling dad that I do)!

There is so much to tell you that I hardly know where to begin. I am constantly having adventures and now know Hounslow Heath, Cranford Park, Osterley Park and the local fields like the back of my paws. I have a wonderful time chasing rabbits, birds and anything else that tries to run away from me. I also have a 'girlfriend' named Poppy, who plays with me in the local field. Les & Hilary bought a large estate car especially for me as they were fed up apologising to everyone about my hairs all over the back seat of their other car. They even put a 'doggy' gate in the car but I usually manage to knock it over.

I really enjoy looking at all of my cousins in your newsletter and reading about their adventures. Keep up the good work.

Yours Woofingly,
Barney (formally Ben)

Dear Wendy & Glyn,

Sorry we haven't written for a long time. Meg and Sam are fine. Meg is still getting into trouble, eating everything in sight, including fish food! Recently she had Weetabix, biscuits and a whole loaf of bread! She felt a bit fragile after that.

During the recent downpours they have had a great time swimming in the flooded fields, chasing the ducks. Sam still runs around like a 2 year old, even though he is 12, with a dicky heart! He does like to talk to you a lot now, normally when you are trying to watch your favourite programmes....Senility has set in!!

Our Terrier Maisey loves him to bits, sometimes too much, and climbs on his back and.....I'll leave the rest to your imagination! They are both very patient with our Jack Russell George, who has lost one eye and has a cataract in the other. He walks into them, but they don't seem to mind.

Sam and Jack, our other Jack Russell, have a love hate relationship. Sam doesn't like it when he cleans Meg and gets jealous, but Jack does try to do the same to Sam, but Sam is not so keen!

All Meg wants to do is sit on her mums lap! You have to prise her off to stand up. She also feels really left out if mum and dad have a cuddle, so then we have a group hug, not easy with 5 dogs!

Take care and carry on with the good work you do.

Love Janet & Simon....
Not forgetting Sam & Meg x



Springer Spaniel Rescue

Dear Glyn & Wendy,

I know I didn't stay with you very long, but I have asked dad to let you know how I'm settling in to my new home with Bruce. Well, where do I begin? I think you have sent me to Springer heaven! Mum and dad both say I'm a real sweetie, although dad thinks there is a rouge behind my "little girl look" eyes. They took me to a new lady vet for a check up, she was very kind to me and gave me a clean bill of health, but said I could do with losing about 7 lbs! Mum and dad said "No more sweets and titbits" **Horror of horrors!!!.....**And LOTS of exercise!! That's better!!!

Dad explained that if I lose some weight, I'll be able to run faster and for longer and be able to keep up with Bruce, so I suppose it will be worth it. Dad weighted me today and I've already lost 2 lbs so it shouldn't take long. Mum and dad have spent a long time on me with the brush and scissors, and say, I'm now starting to look like a princess! (Not for long if I can help it).

Bruce was a bit over friendly at first and I'm afraid I got a bit cross with him once, so mum and dad took HIM to the vets and now we are the best of friends! I love the new garden. I can run around as much as I like, chase birds and squirrels, get plastered in lovely mud, and nobody gets crossed! (I just have to have my paws and legs washed when I eventually come in YUCK!!!)

Bedtime is nice because mum and dad let us both climb up with them for a cuddle, but I think I might have stayed a little too long i.e. all night!, now they say I must sleep in my own bed like Bruce. I am trying very hard but their bed is SO comfy I just can't help myself sometimes, but I'm getting better.

Must go now because Dad says we can go to the woods again and I like the woods a lot! I'll write again soon and send you some more pictures of us both.

Lots of love and licks

Princess xx (Papworth now!)

Hi Glyn & Wendy,

Bobby here!!

We got home safely in my brothers new car, I sat with my brother Liam in the back seat and it was great, he kept stroking me, and mum kept stroking and talking to me too. I thought may as well make myself comfy for the journey so I lay down with my arm on the arm-rest (nice and comfy), thought I may as well. When I got to my new home in Blackpool, my mum and big brother Richard took me to the Pets at Home store for some new gear. It's great in there because you can steal bits of biscuit and food you find. There were quite a few other doggies in there so I kept my eye out for them, but mum and Richard made sure they didn't bother me. My mum bought me a new collar, lead and harness, but I can't wear the harness yet as the strap lies on my wound on my back, so mum said it would be best to let it heal first.

She also bought me lots of toys, pulls, teddies etc. One had a ball on it but I decided I would separate them and make even more toys, (HEE HEE), she also bought me some denti-stix to keep my teeth white, some beef slivers and some tripe treats (YUMMY).

My elbow is OK and not weeping, and the other sores are getting better too, I ma having my tablets. I ate up all my dinner and had some of my treats and biscuits. Richard went to bed early so I thought I may as well go with him (comfy bed). Then when mum went to bed and I lay at the bottom of the stairs on my blanket. My new brother Sean came in then (he's been away for a few days with his mates), so I thought as well try his bed as well (another comfy one). Liam was at work till very late so when he came in I thought why not go for bed number 3, so I tried his as well (3 comfy beds). I went into try my mums bed this morning, but she said I am too heavy for her legs after the operation she has had, so fair enough I can cope with that, (but I think I will manage to get on it in the end, I'll wrap her around my paw....you see!).

I have managed to dig out a couple of balls I found in my new garden, they were hidden under the bushes from when Seamus had played with them here. But it's my garden now so I think that makes them mine now I reckon? I have already investigated and found a big bush and some Pampas grass, I can hide in there, but mum spotted me so she knows where to look for me.

Mum took me for a long walk today to Auntie Gill and Uncle Ray's, where I met Angela, she's Richard, Sean and Liam's cousin, but I now have a cousin of my own he's called Seamus, he's a ginger Cocker Spaniel. He's smaller than me of course but we get on fine. Uncle Ray kept giving us Smackos and chews (I think I like him) and he took us both down the alley without our leads and I came back to him when he shouted me along with Seamus, but I didn't run as far away from him as Seamus did because its new territory to me yet. They say we can all go on the beach together (YIPPEE....Seagulls?). When we got home mum dried me with my towel as my feet and tummy was all wet.

Mum rang Judy (who I used to live with) last night to tell her that I was alright and that she will look after me and give me lots of cuddles and love. She is going to ring her again in a couple of weeks to let her know how I am.

Going to go now and have a sleep as all that fresh air has made me tired.

I will keep in touch and let you know how I get on.

Woofs and licks
Bobby Potter xx



Springer Spaniel Rescue

Dear Glyn, Wendy and all Springer Rescuers,

The other day when my girls and I were out for our usual daily long walk, it was chucking it down with rain and the wind was blowing a full gale but who cared? The girls were enjoying themselves and I was wearing waterproofs that kept me snug from all the elements, so that at the age of seventy odd I could join in with them and behave like a five year old splashing through the puddles to my hearts content.

Life can be good no matter what the weather. Along the way we met a man who was hunched down against the wind and the rain. I greeted him with a cheery "Good morning", but his reply was "What's good about it?" Obviously not a happy bunny! I suppose thought his reply was what most people would have given in the circumstances, but I think for a moment; every day is a good day, rain or shine given to us to enjoy because the alternative doesn't bear thinking about.

As I walked along, watching Milly and Molly checking every piece of cover in the hope, no, expectation, of flushing out a bird, squirrel or rabbit, the thought occurred to me that in another couple of weeks, it will be six happy years since you brought Molly to us. Where has the time gone? It only seems like yesterday since she arrived as a half grown puppy to fill the void left in our hearts by Peggy's passing. She is absolutely incorrigible and continues to be a bundle of fun. When we are out walking – correction, I walk – she runs non-stop as all healthy, inquisitive Springer's should.

Also like all Springer's she only has two speeds, flat out or stop, and Molly only occasionally stops to ensure that I'm still heading in the same direction as her and have not taken it into my foolish human head to take a different path.

Well, it is now 10:30 am and it's started to rain quite heavily but Molly has just pushed into the room to tell me in no uncertain terms that it is time we were out and about. Her internal clock is quite fantastically accurate and I believe she must feel she has an appointment with some pheasants and squirrels that can not be put off. There is no peace for the wicked so I had better pull on my waterproofs and do as I am bid. Milly, by the way, is quite amusing. When we get to the door and she sees that it is raining, she will be very reticent about going out, but once out she will happily splash through every puddle she comes across and take no notice of the weather whatsoever. I should not be surprised by her behaviour since our darling Sally was much the same. She hated the feel of the rain falling on her back and so if it started to rain whilst we were out, she was quite likely to give us a filthy look as though to say "It is your fault" and to turn back and head determinedly for home.

On the other hand she loved to splash and swim in every drop of water she came across. Such behaviour though is what makes Springer's so endearing and special.

It really is about time I made a move and took my girls out so I'll say bye for now. Be assured that Molly is in the best of health and, I believe, happiness, so take good care of yourselves and all your Springer guests. If there is ever anything we can do to help the cause of Springer Spaniel Rescue, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Kindest and best regards to you both and everyone at Springer Rescue.

John and Margaret Ross
Milly and Molly xx

Hello,

Its Daisy here (formally known as Lady).

Thought I'd write to tell you what has been happening over these past months as its all been very exciting. In March, I moved in with Jane and Steve, and their children Kitty and Harry in Surrey. After being thrown out of two homes, I couldn't believe I'd finally found a family to love me, warts and all.

It was a bit shocking discovering that I would have to share the sofa with two other housemates. Penny, the old Dalmatian, is quite grumpy and put me in my place at once! But, here comes the exciting bit, I now have a big brother who looks just like me! Skipper is another Springer Spaniel and he is so cute. I follow him everywhere and worship the ground he walks on. We play tug-of-war and do lots of play fighting, although I hate it when he grabs my ears.

Right now I am crashed out on the sofa after a long walk. I didn't tell you about the walks did I? They're the best! I love chasing the ball and can always get to the sticks before Skipper. And there is normally a nice big pond so I can go diving. Mummy thinks its funny, but I'm just sticking my head under the water to see if there are any bits of bread left over from the ducks.

Every Thursday, Kitty takes me to agility classes where I have to run through tunnels and jump over hurdles. At the moment I'm only in the beginners' class but I've seen what Skipper can do with mum and I'm just dreaming of the day when I can be that good.

Another great thing about my new life is that mum is a pet carer, and she has an animal ambulance. Most days she takes me to work with her and I just love sitting in the van with Skipper. We get to go on loads of walks with other dogs, which is great as long as they don't touch my ball.

Well that's about all for now. As you can see, I've really landed on my paws here in Surrey.

Love Daisy xxx



Dear Barbara (and everybody else that I didn't meet),

Well it is nearly 10 months now since I stayed with you, and it's been quite hectic, so sorry for the delay in writing back to you. The problem is that I try my best to keep mum and dad busy, so I have barely had time to put paw to paper. When I do get a minute to myself, I find it best to have a good sleep, so that I am ready for anything when I get that call – they laugh at how deep I sleep, but they just don't realise how tiring it is trying to be so good all the time and making sure that they do everything properly.

When I got back to my new home I was allowed straight in the garden with my big brother Max, and I got to show off my fetch skills. Apparently Max doesn't really like that game, so I have made a note and when I want mum all to myself, all I have to do is go and get a toy.

Max and I are now getting on very well. I don't really understand why but he didn't seem too keen on me when I first got here – but he is getting better. Mum and dad said it was something to do with him having to share them now, but I don't understand – if you want their attention you just push to the front don't you? Anyway I have managed to get him under control now, he knows the rules:

I get to go first – otherwise I jump on him/ push him out of the way.

I am allowed to finish his dinner if he hasn't finished by the time mine is all gone – well he shouldn't be so slow (still haven't convinced mum about this one though and I do get in to trouble when she catches me).

I sit closest to mum – otherwise I push him out of the way/ whack him with my tail.

He comes to me if I need him, (sometimes the garden can be scary for a little girl), and if he forgets this one I grab his ear and drag him to remind him.

I am allowed all the toys – and I can carry two if need be (the evidence is attached).

Personally, I think these are all perfectly acceptable and Max seems to be picking them up quite quickly. But apparently mum thinks some of the rules are a little mean. So I have come to the perfect compromise: Max can have the toys when I don't want them and he can have the bed I'm not sitting in, can't say fairer than that can you?

When I arrived, I was a little insecure. But I have now learnt that actually I don't have to sit on mum's feet every time she stands still, I can just wait until she sits down – obviously unless Max tries to get too close. You will be pleased to know I have settled in very well, I have even started going to dog training and this weekend I get to go to agility, not sure what it means but Max goes and he comes back very excited, so I think I might enjoy it. Mum is a little wary about it, she keeps telling people I am like a bull in a china shop but as always, I will try my best.

Anyway I am going to have to go, I can hear the car keys jangling and that apparently means I get to go somewhere special. Max wants me to let you know that he is very very happy I have come to live here, ok he actually says it's alright, but mum and dad are very very happy with me and Max will learn soon enough!

Hope you are all doing well, thank you for finding me this nice home, another couple of months and I will have them all under control and life will be perfect!

Hope the rest of your dogs are doing well and not missing me too much.

Love Molly xx

Dog number 501 to Bracken Lynch Cowdrey.

It was a cold January day in 2003. I was at a meeting when the phone rang. It was Manchester Dogs Home telling me they had a Springer, and asking me could I go to pick him up. I drove to the dogs home and took one look at this poor little doggie.

He had starved, his jaw had been broken with a baseball bat, his teeth had been knocked out, and also his nose had been cut with a Stanley knife. I gently placed him in my car, he was walking with flees and the smell!!!, cold January day but I drove all the way home with the windows open!

We arrived home and the first thing I did was give him a little food and Frontline'd him. Then it was off to the vets. The vet looked at doggie 501 and said "Barbara I don't think this little doggie is going to make it". I knew I had to try, as his sad eyes said a lot. So armed with medication and gentle food, I brought him home. I called him Bracken, even with his broken jaw he had the cutest eyes, he looked like a little barrow boy!! We went to the vets everyday for a month, and Bracken was getting stronger with every visit.

I gave him apples to strengthen his gums, I played ball with him to strengthen his little weak legs, I fed him six small meals a day, and most of all, I gave him love!! One thing that I didn't think Bracken had ever had!! All he had been through, but he still loved humans? It took 12 months to get Bracken to full health. He can now run, jump and eat like any other Springer. He is one happy boy.

I think Bracken is about 14 years old, hard to tell when they have no teeth!!!, he is going very grey and also has muscle wastage. But (and it's a BIG but), Bracken is one very happy little boy and he has paid me back ten fold. He walks 4 miles, plays ball at every opportunity, and has the best spot on my bed!! Last summer Bracken won 'Best Rescue Dog' at the Bury Show. This year he is trying for 'Pet Idol 2008', which his big brother Booby won last year.

The moral of this tale, is plenty of TLC can make the difference to doggies and humans.

The very proud mum of Bracken xxx



GALLERY



ALFIE & SAM



AUSTIN



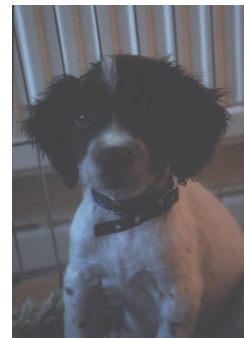
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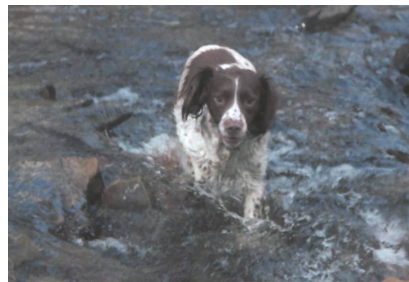
ELLIE & JESS



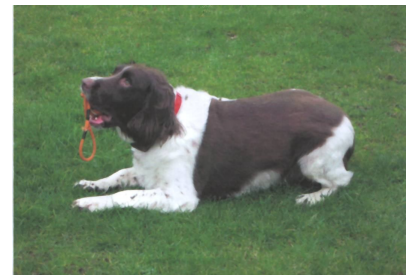
WESLEY



HARRY & FAMILY



MOLLY



OSCAR



POPPY



PRINCESS & BRUCE



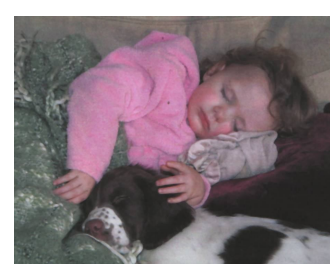
SAM, STEF, ROZ



TESS & TWEED



DOVE & TAMAR



ARCHIE

