



Bully Bark!

The Newsletter of the Bama Bully Rescue, Inc.

Volume 2

November 2008

Issue 1

Greetings from Bama Bully Rescue!

By Jessica Hudson-Co-Director

We hope that everyone enjoyed our first edition of our newsletter last month. We were thrilled with the number of folks who signed up to receive it and hope everyone feels that it is worthy of sharing!

October has been a very busy month, especially for our fabulous Director, Melinda as she was married in early October! Congratulations, Melinda! As difficult and time consuming rescue work (and a new marriage) can be, she has still managed to make it look easy!

Thanks to everyone who participated in our first annual Bama Bhoulies Halloween Costume Contest! The entries were creative and fun and the dogs appeared to love the attention. Congratulations to all of our contest winners!

With November here most of us are thinking of the upcoming holidays. Please don't forget about your pets during these hectic times. Many pets will become stressed during the busy holiday season and care should be taken to make them as comfortable and relaxed as possible. Also remember that with holiday decorating and dinners, many new hazards may become available to your pet. Be sure to consider them when decorating this year to keep them safe.

If you are planning (or know someone who is) to surprise someone this year with a puppy as a gift, please be certain that the recipient is aware of the responsibilities, costs, time and effort involved in owning a new puppy. While the thought of a cuddly, soft-pawed pup is heartwarming and always adored, the newness will eventually wear off and many times gifted puppies and young dogs are relinquished to shelters or rescues. Puppies require willing commitments and should be planned, expected and treasured for life, not just on Christmas morning.

Lastly, please keep your favorite shelter or rescue group in mind when choosing a charity and when thoughts of giving are prevalent. All of us at BBR are volunteers with families and pets of our own so extra supplies, donations or volunteers are extremely welcomed and appreciated for our less fortunate bullies who have no home. These innocent creatures are thankful even when they have nothing to be thankful for. All donations are tax-deductible!

**Bama Bully
Rescue**

Bama Bully Rescue, Inc Staff

Director:
Melinda
Thompson

Co-Director:
Jessica Hudson

Treasurer:
Crystal Wingard

Secretary:
Beth Green

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Coordinator:
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Foster Homes
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Stephanie
Joseph
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Newsletter
Editor:
Rick Stokes

Bully for You!

Each Month, BBR will be showcasing our adoptable dogs. For November, we are featuring Maggie who is looking for her permanent family.

Maggie wandered onto the land behind a church about a year and a half ago and endeared the church members who provided her with food, water and a doghouse. Maggie is a Mastiff/Shepherd mix with a lovely grey brindle coat. She weighs in at 130 lbs and is a gentle soul. She will shake with her paw and generally enjoys being in the company of humans, especially now that she is in a much better, caring environment rather than roaming loose.



Maggie is up to date on her vaccines and is heartworm negative and on preventative. She will be spayed once the puppies are weaned and before going to a new home. She barks to alert, typical Mastiff trait and is basically a loving, sweet dog that deserves a better life than what she's had.

She walks well on a leash, content to hang out with the people she knows and she should bond easily and quickly to a new family. She has been great with the children she has met, we are not sure about cats but during her days behind the church, she was often seen deferring to the stray cats when they came around. She should do well with a dog savvy cat. She is now doing real well being in her crate

Apply online at

<http://fs10.formsite.com/bamabullyrescue/form884759186/index.html>

Tiny Tasks!

Have you ever considered doing volunteer work for Bama Bully Rescue but, you have decided that you really don't have time to get fully involved as a volunteer? Well, BBR is seeking individuals to do some small tasks that would relieve the burden of our busy full time volunteers.

Tiny Tasks could be a simple compiling a list of names onto a spreadsheet, doing a home check in your locale, helping with a transport, researching a subject or calling a supplier. If you would be interested in helping BBR with a "tiny task", just drop us an email at Crystal@bamabully.org.

(Editor's Note: The following is a reprint of a letter by BBR Co-Director, Jessica Hudson written to a column called Dog Talk by Journalist John Ross)

Dear Dog Talk: I recently read your "Dog Talk" column about training.

Like most positive trainers, I consider myself a "crossover" trainer who used aversive corrective traditional training methods in the past. I knew no other methods.

I am regularly involved in discussions with "balanced," or traditional, trainers who almost always become patronizing and condescending and try to marginalize the methods incorporated by positive trainers. We are called "treat-slingers."

Training with treats is not the basis of positive training methods.

It interested me that you consider positive training a "fad or trend" that you feel should have faded away. I never would have thought methods that are humane, effective and easy, which are fun for both owner and dog, would be a bad thing.

Positive training methods have been used successfully for decades by trainers and handlers who must interact regularly with large and dangerous animals such as orcas, lions, tigers, elephants, primates, etc. This fact never seems to be addressed or discussed by traditional trainers.

Are corrections effective only on smaller, less dangerous animals that are easier to control? Is there a reason that force has given way to behavioral modification, rewards and conditioning in handling, managing and working with zoo animals and sea mammals?

I am interested in knowing how positive methods have been essential and successful in communicating with other species but dismissed as ineffective and a "fad" when applied to our companion dogs.

Another statement made by "Kemo Sabe" is he felt that positive-only training has been more harmful than anything else to owners' relationships with their dogs. How so?

With the guidance of a reputable positive trainer or through books, any owner can learn the reasoning behind positive methods and how to apply them effectively.

Cesar Millan (who is far from a positive trainer) states reasons why pet owners have problems. None of his reasons was attributed to an owner properly attempting positive-training methods. Suppressing behaviors or reactions are far more dangerous and concerning. Many people are looking for a temporary quick-fix solution. This is insulting to the living creatures we choose to bring into our homes.

Your writer said that two animal-control directors thought they had seen an upsurge in surrenders linked to positive training. Because this is what they "thought," I cannot help but interpret this as an assumption.

How did the animal-control officers come to this conclusion, and what do they consider an upsurge?

In my experience it's the other way around. The theories of dominance have been drilled into dog-owners' heads so much that it's gone far beyond relinquishing a dog due to lack of manners. Dogs have been "dominated," jabbed and manhandled for longer than they could bear.

Even if I agreed with the dominance theories, the average dog owner hasn't a clue about what it all means to a dog. Anthropomorphism cannot be safely or effectively combined with physical dominance. Nevertheless, dog owners do it all the time for the sake of control. People want to believe that their dogs are sad, jealous, spiteful, etc. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Continued

When I became aware of training methods that did not involve aversive corrections or particular training tools, I became aware that my innate love, interest and understanding of dog behavior was easier to apply.

There is no real need for the average dog owner to understand dog behavior in correction training, because it is a method that is a means to an end. It is not an attempt to troubleshoot, anticipate and more deeply understand a dog's motivation or a desire to enhance the dog/owner relationship.

The norm for dog surrenders by owners in my region and within my rescue group is that owners have tried absolutely nothing (if the surrender is due to behavior) or they've tried "everything" but positive methods.

Dear Readers: Although I find many fundamental flaws in the "all-positive" training approach, I thought that this was a heartfelt and well-written letter. In next week's column, I'll respond and conclude (for now) this dialogue about different approaches to dog training.

(John Ross writes the Dog Talk column for the Tribune-Review. He has been training dogs professionally for 30 years, and his newest book, "Adoptable Dog," is in bookstores now. He is the author of "Puppy Preschool" and "Dog Talk".)

BREAKING NEWS!!

Just in time for this November addition of Bully Bark!, Bama Bully Rescue, Inc. has received official notification that the pending application as a 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Organization has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service.

We want to thank our Secretary Elizabeth Green for her efforts in preparing and achieving tax exempt status. Way to go Beth!

Now all personal donations to BBR will be tax deductible!

BBR September Volunteer Statistics

- > Reviewed 12 Adoption Applications
- > Approved 1 Adoption Application
- > Received 0 Foster Applications
- > Approved 2 new Volunteer Applications
- > Received 100+ pleas for help
- > Received \$450.00 in Adoption fees
- > Received \$19.00 in Donations

Paws Up!

Bama Bully Rescue, Inc would like to thank the following for their incredible generosity:

Dr. Roxy Leslie, DVM Village Animal Clinic, Mobile, AL for his considerable discounts for vetting of the Motley Crew.

Frances Dauster, CPDT P's & Q's Dog Training! Grand Bay, AL for fostering for BBR, spreading the word and offering support and great company on event road trips!

Jennifer Ballinger Huntsville, AL for her donation towards the care of the Motley Crew puppies.

Megann Thompson Biloxi, MS for her considerable support and generous donations of fundraising items!

The fine folks at Pit Bull Rescue Central for offering spay & neuter financial assistance.

Peterson Express Transport Service for their part in getting two of our babies safely to Massachusetts!

Chris Coleman, Sherri Creighton & Alexis Houston for their tireless efforts to care for the Motley Crew babies.

Andrew J. Rozsa & Karen DeVinney for their tireless promotion of BBR and devotion to defending the bullies!

Ami Ciontos, Jenni Okuda, Heather Taylor, Doreen Currier, Cathy Cyr of Yorkies, Inc, Kelly M. of Missouri Pit Bull Rescue, Ronna of German Shepherd Rescue of GA for kindly performing home visits for applicants out of our region!

And Lastly, Our Adoptive Families!

Upcoming Events

Pets in the Park, Saturday, Nov 15th, 2008, 10am-3pm
Medal of Honor Park/Cottage Hill Park
Mobile, Alabama

The Winners of the 2008 BAMA Bhoulies!

The contest is over and what great Bhoulies there were! The entries are still up on the website to view, but the volunteers have chosen the winners and here they are!



FIRST PLACE!

Smudge as the Zebra or the White Tiger

Submitted by: Jim Francis



SECOND PLACE!

Sugar the Clemson Linebacker

Submitted by: Scarlett Hall



THIRD PLACE!

Gater as BATMAN!

Submitted by: Jonathan Sosebee

A big thank you to all those who participated in our first ever Bama Bhoulies contest. The winners will be receiving gift baskets filled with great items for their Bhoulie to enjoy. We hope everyone has a fun and safe Halloween!!

Goodsearch and Goodshop

What if Bama Bully Rescue earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! While a penny per search may not sound like much, just think about how many times on average you search something on the Internet per week...it does add up! This is one of the simplest ways that you can help BBR just by doing what you normally do.

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including iTunes, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting the Bullies in our program. With the Christmas season coming up, many of us purchase gifts online. This is a great opportunity to include BBR in those purchases through GoodShop! It is also a great way to find stores you may have never heard of that have wonderful gifts and other items!

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Bama Bully Rescue as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

BULLY FRIENDLY

In an effort to better serve bully owners in Alabama, we are trying to keep a current list of all the ways you can be discriminated against for being a bully lover. We are compiling a list of apartment complexes, neighborhoods, homeowner's insurance companies, and cities that have either completely banned bullies and bully mixes or have placed restrictions on their ownership (such as higher liability insurance coverage, requiring that you post "Dangerous Dogs" signs, or public muzzling, etc).

If you know of anyone who should be on our list, please e-mail the information to garland@bamabully.org. Thanks for helping be our bullies watchdogs!

Bama Bully Rescue, Inc

Our Mission:

Bama Bully Rescue, Inc. is a non-profit, 501c3 pending organization located in Alabama that works with shelters and the public in finding homes for Pit Bulls that have been abandoned, abused, neglected, or fallen victim to other situations in their lives.

Rescue:

Our group exists to rescue unwanted bullies and power breeds in shelters, found as strays or who must be relinquished by their owners, through no fault of their own.

Re-Home:

Adoptable dogs will be placed for adoption into carefully screened, loving homes. All dogs adopted with a BBR contract will be thoroughly evaluated for behavioral issues. All dogs will be up to date on vaccines and spay or neutered before placement.

Educate & Support:

Bama Bully Rescue strives to educate the public about the true nature of bully breeds. We encourage responsible dog ownership, proper care, socialization and training. We are available at any time to lend advice and support regarding any aspect of responsible dog ownership.

Would you like to donate? Donations are tax-deductible and are extremely appreciated. Visit our website at www.BamaBully.org to donate online or send your check to Bama Bully Rescue, Inc., PO Box 189, Alabaster, AL 35007

Check out iGive at <http://www.igive.com/welcome/> and Goodsearch at <http://www.goodsearch.com/> to support your favorite Charity...BBR!

The Bully Bark! is the official internet newsletter of the Bama Bully Rescue, Inc. Comments and suggestions are welcomed by the newsletter editor at rick@bamabully.org. To unsubscribe, send an email to the above address with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.