



LDRR Quarterly

January 2017

Foster Some Love

Material Submitted by Becky Schneider

In the course of rescuing dogs, we occasionally find ourselves in need of foster homes. Although LDRR is not technically a foster-based rescue, we can (and do) provide foster services where necessary. The most common foster situations we come across involve senior dogs, dogs that have some type of treatable medical condition, and dogs who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

When senior dogs come through the shelter, it is often the result of illness or death of their primary owner. These dogs are very accustomed to home living and, as a result, often find the environment at Lucky Dog Retreat to be overwhelming. They adjust very well to a new home environment, however, and we have found that there are many loving adoptive homes for senior dogs. The foster period for a senior dog will last for as long as is needed for him or her to be adopted, and can vary as a result.

Many dogs come to us with any of a number of treatable conditions (i.e. heartworm disease, broken bones, lumps and bumps), which require them to have a little bit of rehab before they would begin their stay at Lucky Dog Retreat. The role of the foster family is typically fairly simple in these cases, and can include tasks such as administering medications and/or performing rehab exercises, transporting the dog to and from follow-up vet visits, and generally providing a comfortable place for recovery. In most cases, a medical foster dog will only be with his or her foster family for a month or two before either transitioning to Lucky Dog Retreat or going directly into an adoptive home.

On rare occasions, we will take in a dog that has been diagnosed with a terminal illness (i.e. cancer). It can be difficult to find an adoptive home for a dog who has been diagnosed with this sort of illness, so in such cases we would ask for a special long-term foster (or "forever foster") to take in this dog and provide him or her with love and care for as long as is needed. We often don't know how long these dogs will be in foster care but, whether it is weeks or years, it is the quality of the dog's life that is ultimately the determining factor.

Fostering a dog can be a bittersweet experience, but it is one that brings big rewards. Lucky Dog Retreat Rescue has great admiration and appreciation for our foster families, and the fostered dogs benefit greatly from the experience. If you would like to join our foster home program, please let us know.

There's No Place Like Home....

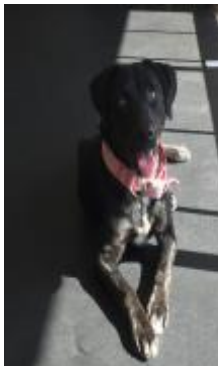
Look at all these lucky dogs! During this past quarter, we've successfully placed another 24 dogs into loving homes! As always, thank you to everyone who has been so generous with your time and money. Without the help of every volunteer and donor, the work just wouldn't get done.



Mya



Addison



Dakota



Dempsey



Maxim



Becki



Claire



Sandy

Aruba
Maxim
Pammy
Danny Boy
Baez
Shamus
Sandy
Becki
Penner
Ford
Ebony
Mya
Dempsey
Dash
Finley
Addison
Dakota
Claire
Scarlet
Roger
Rocky
Rizzo
Sprout
Wrigley

Meet the Volunteers!

For as long as I can remember, I have always had a love of animals. As a child, I spent time caring for my pet cats and learning to ride horses, and I always dreamed of being able to have more pets when I grew up. Having been a long-time volunteer for several animal organizations, I wanted my pets to be rescues. After finishing college, I lived with a cousin and her two Guinea Pigs. The Guinea Pigs were cute, but I really desired a walking and running companion. My cousin and I visited the Humane Society and picked out a sweet and beautiful coonhound. Unfortunately, she was not the right dog for a small urban home with guinea pigs. After coming home, she pounced on the Guinea Pig cage and destroyed it and, within just a few hours of adopting her, we were returning her to the shelter. The Guinea Pigs were not hurt, but we were horrified by the experience. We decided that a smaller, less prey-driven dog would be better suited to our living arrangements. That's how I ended up with Petey, a Jack Russell mix who was three years old when I adopted him. My second dog, Bella, a Spaniel mix who was about a year and a half old at the time, was adopted from the same rescue a few years later. Petey is now fourteen, Bella is nine, and they have both been great companions. When I was ready to have my own horse a few years ago, I again went to a rescue and was matched with Guy. He has been my perfect equine match! In the course of keeping up with local rescues, I was asked by Becky from LDRR if I would be willing to foster. I said I would, and the rest was history. Each of my foster dogs has been special, each with their own areas of need, and I love being able to provide a serene environment for each one of them.

Bio submitted by Emilie Britt



Emilie, Petey, & Bella



Ask the Vet Tech!

Today is all about lipomas! If you have an aging dog, then you may have encountered various lumps and bumps in the course of giving your canine companion a nice massage. If you've found any that seem like a ball of squishy stuff just below the skin, then chances are good that you've got a lipoma in your hand.

Very simply put, a lipoma is a lump of fat. These lumps of fat are benign (non-cancerous) tumors that form under the skin, most commonly in dogs of middle age or older. Lipomas can be seen in any type of dog, but are most common in Cocker Spaniels, Poodles, Dachshunds, and terrier breeds. Since lipomas are benign, we don't have to worry about them from a disease standpoint, and they are usually just a cosmetic issue. On occasion, though, we do encounter circumstances that would require the removal of a lipoma.

Sometimes, lipomas form in places that can be problematic for a dog. Any lipoma that forms in a place where it impedes a dog's ability to move around comfortably (for example, up in the "armpit" area) should be removed. Lipomas can also form in the groin area and potentially put pressure on the bladder or urethra. In those cases, removal is also recommended. In addition to location, size and rate of growth should also be considered when discussing lipoma removal with your veterinarian. Most lipomas grow very slowly and can simply be monitored at your dog's annual checkup, but any lipomas that show rapid growth should be brought to your vet's attention. It is often recommended that rapidly growing lipomas be removed, since they have the potential to become burdensomely large. It's always easier to remove a lipoma when it's smaller, rather than when it's larger.

Once a dog forms one lipoma, it is likely that more will crop up as time goes on. If you notice a new lump or bump on your dog, be sure to give your veterinarian a call. Many times, it will simply be another lipoma, but it's always best to be on the safe side!

Andrea Bullock is a career vet tech, currently working at Parkside Animal Hospital in Fishers, IN.

Lucky Dog Retreat Rescue, Inc.
5990 East 71st St, Suite G
Indianapolis, IN 46220
www.ldrrescue.org