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The B.T. Barker

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Letter From The President

Hi Everyone. Well it is still raining Boston Terriers. The dumping season is not over and it is really a stressful time. Spring is in the air and maybe that will step up adoptions. Wouldn't that be great?

I want to say what a unique bunch we have here. We are from all walks of life and the volunteers within our group are nothing short of amazing. I would like to, at this time, especially thank those that have taken even more time out of their busy lives to

join the training camps. Learning how to help their fosters become better citizens means improving the chance for a successful adoption, I think, by 100%. It also helps with your own "kids" and in keeping with the spring theme, gives you a good reason to be outside when the world is waking up. Spring is my favorite time of year.

But, with good comes bad. Spring also makes a lot of 4 legged babies and we will probably get the brunt

of this too. The things to remember when times get bad and stressful are the successes you have had. Start a scrapbook so you have good things to look back on. It may seem like we make no progress, but we do - one dog at a time. So raise your head and walk proud. You are all making a difference.

Thank you all!

Gwen Eder
MWBTR President



Editor's Note

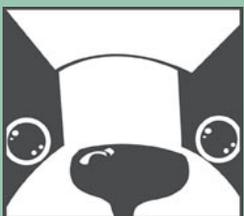
Many people may be touched, hurt, and possibly even angered about this edition of the newsletter. We are not trying to discourage anyone from calling us when they decide to give up a dog because they fear an angry hand. We simply want to raise awareness that the number of dumped dogs has increased dramatically.

This edition of the newsletter hopes to get people to understand the seriousness of owning a dog

and that when a dog is "dumped" they cannot survive on their own. They will have a hard time finding shelter, staying warm, staying healthy, and finding food. Please forward this edition to friends and family or if you know a person who is thinking about getting a dog. Make sure they know the facts.

Any suggestions / requests for future articles can be sent to: mwbtr_newsletter@yahoo.com.

- Kristin Kolenko





Raymond's Top Ten Reasons to Dump Your Dog

- Patty Parker

1. He keeps shedding all over the place and you are tired of all the dog hair. (Hello, I'm a dog, I have fur! Didn't you notice that when you bought me??? Picking up a brush once in a while would help)
2. We just don't have time for him any more. (Uh, you have a lot of time to play on that computer thing... and you watch an awful lot of TV. Can't I just sit beside you while you play? That would be okay, really.)
3. We're going to have a baby. (okay... if I have a baby, do my humans need to leave??)
4. He's just getting too old. (Uh oh... I think Grandma's in trouble... I'm only 9, she's 87!)
5. I just found out my dog has parvo. I can't afford treatment. (Okay, so dump him and let him spread it around and wander until he dies.)
6. Our dog got pregnant and we just can't afford to keep the babies. (Well, obviously you have never watched The Price Is Right. It's called SPAYING.)
7. He's just so old and sick. He's been a wonderful companion and we just don't have the heart to put him down... so we dumped him near the park hoping someone else will take him in. (Let me



- get this straight, you don't have the heart to take him to the vet, hold him in your arms and let him go peacefully, instead you love him so much you'll let him get hit by a car, starve to death, or get eaten by the coyotes. Wow.)
8. We were told he was a pure-bred. Now that he's getting bigger, and bigger, we realize he was a mix. We wanted a pure-bred. (Better do some genealogy and check through yer family tree... you might be surprised.)
 9. He keeps peeing in the house. (HELLO! Let me out once in a while. I still haven't quite figured out the door handle yet... I'm working on it.)
 10. He has a really big gross tumor hanging off his leg. It would cost too much to get it taken off. Maybe someone else will take him in and get it fixed. (Check the mirror, you got an ugly one on your back. Better pack your suitcase.)

Letters from Volunteers

Raymond

Raymond was dumped then picked up by animal control. After having Raymond for a couple weeks, it was not hard to imagine why he might have been kicked out. Poor ol' boy can't hold his bladder. Surely not any fault of his own. We did tests to rule out certain medical conditions. Raymond was estimated by our vet to be about 10. He is a happy boy. Loves his crate with his special warm blanket, loves a good treat, and loves water. Raymond has to be let out about every half hour. There are days when it is frustrating, cleaning up pee, changing the blanket in the crate...again... scrubbing the carpeting down the stairs because he couldn't tell me in time that he had to go... but then every time I look at that sweet face, those cute ears with the little tips flopping over and how he just looks endearingly at me, I just smile and get the roll of paper towels. I'd like to adopt Raymond. I'd like to make sure he is not going anywhere. He's my little buddy. And I just can't

imagine what goes through a dog's mind when they go for that last ride, and never come back. When they find themselves wandering and can't find the back door to home. We will never know his given name, what he looked like as a little puppy, or what the details of his life have been. All we know for now is we can't imagine him being anywhere else than our home. Too many times, I have wondered if these little fur buddies just wandered out of the back yard. But then, too many times they have no collar, no one has called the shelter looking, and they seem to be the older ones that have problems. It's sad that these dogs that were once "cute little puppies" that just came home, have given their lives being someone's companion, and yet they are not worthy enough to be cared for when they need it the most. I love this guy. And I will until the day he leaves this world and goes on to the next.

- Patty Parker

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BE RESPONSIBLE -
 SPAY OR NEUTER
 YOUR PET!

Letters from Volunteers

Daisy was found wandering in town. Someone picked her up and took her to the shelter. We picked her up and brought her home. She had a very large tumor hanging off her back leg. It swung back and forth as she walked. She also had an extremely large mammary tumor and was very stinky and dirty. She had very sad droopy eyes. I got her home and gave her a bath and put her in a nice clean crate with a warm blanket to dry off. I could tell she immediately felt better just getting cleaned up. Daisy went in to have the tumors removed, and both turned out to be cancerous. So we knew Daisy would just live out her life here with us. She turned out to be a feisty old girl,

and was very polite. She'd stand and watch me do the dishes, just watching and waiting for the moment I'd ask her over for some love. I'd bend down and smile and it was like she'd just smile back and she'd come over and let me just pet her and rub her all over. I loved her as my own. She was with us only a few short months before she passed. Daisy is buried in my garden next to Irving. I often wondered how anyone could just let her go to wander, not knowing what would happen. She was a joy while she was here. I was very sad for her, but knew that I'd loved her as my own for as long as she'd honor us with her presence.

- Patty Parker

Daisy



**Midwest
 Boston Terrier
 Rescue**

Michigan • Illinois • Ohio • Indiana

For more information on the many ways you can help, please visit our website at:
<http://www.midwestbtrescue.org/>

Remembering A Friend

IN MEMORY: Irving was my shortest foster. He was in my care for about 3 hours before he died. It was one of those arctic cold days here in Northwest Indiana. Irving was dumped near a state park entrance. A kind gentleman was walking his two large dogs and happened upon Irving about the same time a rescue-friendly lady was driving past him. She helped the gentleman get Irving to his home where he and his wife warmed him up and called Midwest. They had 2 dogs of their own, one of which was a dog dumped at about the same spot the month before and they decided to keep. So I arranged to have them meet me at my vet's and about 5:00, "Irving" as I named him, was a part of the MWBTR family. Irving was a very old boy, beautiful black coat with brindle throughout, a little gray in the face, and the sweetest old soul, very gentle and distinguished. Irving was missing an eyeball and

was obviously blind in the other. Irving was checked over by the vet and the next day was to have a complete physical and get updated on shots, etc....I brought Irving home and got his little crate set up, put him in, gave him a pat on the back and told him everything would be okay. I went upstairs to give my little girl a bath and put her to bed. I looked forward to going back down and bringing Irving up to sit with me on the couch for a bit and give him a treat and a nice back rub. I knew in my heart Irving would be a permanent foster and would probably not go anywhere. Something about him really touched me and I felt honored to be the one to give him his forever home. My husband went down to check on him and came upstairs and said, "He's dead." WHAT??? We just brought him home!!! This can NOT happen!!! Irving's story made 2 papers and set off a chain of emails. He

touched several lives and instead of focusing on the heartless way he was dumped, cold, blind and alone after trusting someone with his life, I chose to focus on the wonderful kind hearted individuals that called us, gave him a place to get warm, donated money on behalf of his care and donated a crate for him to have. It took one per-

- By Patty Parker
(foster mom to Irving)

son to kick him out the car door, but several others to be touched by this regal old boy. I really felt in my heart, even when I first saw him, he knew something was not right. He had been betrayed to the fullest extent. Irving is buried in my garden and his memory will live forever in my heart.



Letters from Volunteers

Preston

I had no plans to take on a foster during the school year as things can be pretty hectic when I am teaching. However, when Danielle called and asked if I could take a 12+ year old, vision impaired dog I hesitated. Then she told me that he was found as a stray. When the shelter called his owners they said they didn't want him. How do you dump a 12 year old dog that has been part of your family? My mind was made up and a transport was arranged. Preston arrived -- very thin! Every bone on his spine could be seen and he stayed hunched up almost like he couldn't straighten his back. He had the WORST breath I had ever smelled. He could be sitting on the floor next to you and you could smell his breath! He is essentially blind. He can see some shadows so it took a little while for him to acclimate to my house. What a charmer Preston has turned out to be!!! He tap dances when he wants a treat or gets excited. Really! All four feet come off the floor and he dances until you give him a treat or a snuggle. While we normally don't let fosters sleep in our bed, Preston is the exception to the rule. He jumped up on our bed, burrowed under the covers, and never moved from his spot. I figured that at 12 he had earned the right to sleep wherever his little heart desired. Preston is now up to 14 lbs. His back has straightened out. He has had two dentals with one tooth extraction. He has the sweetest breath! :-)

He has become the most delightful dog. I do not understand how a family could let him go. He is housebroken, easy to have around, and a great foot warmer during these cold nights. I realize that Preston may never be adopted because he is 12. That's ok, I understand how someone would hesitate because of his age. What I do not and will not understand is how someone could have let this sweet boy go in the first place. All he needs is food, a warm bed, and a little attention and he is your best friend. Preston has touched our hearts with his tap dancing ways and opened my heart to the plight of senior dogs. While his years may be numbered I wouldn't trade a day I've had with him. Preston is a joy and the people who dumped him have no idea what a gem they have let go. If you can dump old dogs who become inconvenient, or have stinky breath, what will you do with the old people in your family? Or the children who are hyper or mentally challenged or just bothersome?? These senior dogs can teach the world a great deal about our humanity or lack thereof. I can promise you this, Preston will never be hungry or cold or lonely or scared again, not as long as I have breath in my body.

Debbie Cubberley
- proud foster mom to Preston



How Much Is That Doggy?

Many dogs are dumped because their owner does not want to spend the money needed to keep a healthy, happy dog. A lot of people do not realize that a dog is a financial responsibility and when they no longer want that responsibility, they "dump" their dog. Using my own knowledge that I have acquired being a dog owner, and with help from the Internet, I came up with the total cost for one year of owning a dog. This one year price also includes the purchase (or in our case, adoption) price of an adult Boston Terrier.

Adoption cost: \$250.00	License: \$5.00 - \$30.00
Initial vet visit: \$44.00	Crate: \$75.00
Shots Distemper/Parvo & Rabies: \$30.00	Heartworm pills: \$60.00 Flea Preventative: \$90.00
Collar/Harness: \$10.00	Food: \$150.00
Leash: \$12.00	Treats: \$36.00
Bed: \$20.00	Toys/Bones: 45.00
Total: \$827.00	

Please note that this does NOT include a spay/neuter. A person who purchased a dog from someone else would also need to pay an additional amount of \$75.00 - \$200.00 depending on their vet to have their dog spayed/neutered. A few costs are "one-time expenses" but a dog is still a huge financial responsibility. Hopefully people will start to realize the commitment needed BEFORE they adopt or buy a dog. In this uncertain economical time that we in this country are feeling right now, we especially feel the need to educate people on the real costs of owning a dog. Think before you adopt or buy... and make sure you are willing to keep your dog at least 10 to 12 years.

- Kristin Kolenko

I'm Not Disposable!



We live in a disposable society. Every day, dogs are dumped by their owners at shelters, animal control offices, found as strays running the street or surrendered to rescue groups. Most of the time, the issue is their behavior. It is much easier to dispose of the problem and pass it off onto someone else so we don't have to deal with it. If we just took a small amount of our time [10-15 mins; 2-3x a day] each day, the dog would be a companion.

Disposable Thinking: It could be the fact that the dog destroyed the furniture or the house when left alone, nipped or bit a child/adult, or fights with other dogs (food or toy aggression). Other reasons we dispose of dogs are house-breaking issues, marking, jumping on people, separation anxiety, too hyperactive, having a baby, moving, not enough time for the dog, etc., The list goes on. We'd rather get rid of the dog and its problem behavior, than fix it. As a dog trainer and rescue person, I see many of the dogs surrendered because of a lack of human leadership.

Leadership entails giving proper, consistent, guidance showing what we want and expect, and a lot of patience. Just like with children, the dog will test you to your limits to see how much they can get away with before you cave in and let them have their way.

Many of the "bad" behaviors in dogs are created by the human[s], inadvertently training the behavior in the dog, thereby reinforcing the very behavior they do not want the dog to display. Most often, we humanize our dogs by putting human demands or expectations on them. Here are some examples:

1) Putting a lead on the dog to go for a walk and expecting them to immediately know how to properly walk with you and when they don't, jerking on the lead or constantly correcting them. This is a human expectation. You have not given the dog proper [positive] guidance on what he/she needs to do, and have now caused conflict with the dog and your relationship with the dog.

2) Feeding the dog from the table when you are at home alone. Company comes over and the dog sits and begs. Worse yet, he jumps up on the table to help himself. Before you yell at the dog for this unruly behavior, take a look at yourself. Have you not trained the dog to act this way? So before you react to correct the dog, maybe you need to correct your

behavior first. :-)

3) Furniture: Allowing the dog to be up on the furniture with us or when they choose to do so on their own, then demanding that they get off and stay off when company arrives. The dog has decided that since you let him be up on the furniture and have not complained before, he now owns it; so how dare you tell him to get off.

4) Socialization with children. Often we tend to forget that dogs are like children and need to be supervised when around children. Putting the expectation on a dog to get along nicely with a child, if the child hasn't been taught to also be nice, is setting both the child and the dog up for failure. Both the dog and child need to be properly taught what is or isn't acceptable behavior during play time. Dogs will look at a young child as someone in a lower ranking than them, or one of equal ranking. So they take it upon themselves to be the controller of situations with the child by lip curling, growling then nipping and for a full correction biting.

5) Socialization with other dogs/animals. When bringing a new dog home to meet the family, it is often expected [by us humans] that immediate likeness to all other animals and people should take place. If the dogs do not get along, we get upset because we have put our human feelings into the meeting.

Leadership: Taking the role of being the parent/teacher/leader of your dog will not only save his/her life, but will also give you some piece of mind. Don't use the excuse "I don't have time". It only takes 10-15 minutes; 2-3 times a day to work on bonding with your dog. This means that you spend quality one on one time with the dog. The rest of the time the dog is out with you. It will also be learning to respect you as its leader.

Doorways: Ask the dog to sit and wait. Then, when you have gone through the door, invite the dog to follow through after you.

Stairs: Up - When going up the stairs, ask the dog to sit and wait. When you get to the top, turn around, acknowledge your dog and call them to "come" to you. Down - When going down the stairs, teach the dog to do down in front of you, and to then sit and wait for you. The up and down stairs exercise is done this way so that the dog is always looking up at you, putting you in a higher status than the dog.

Training Tips by Denise Yoder

Basic Obedience: We all want our dogs to listen to basic obedience commands: Come, heel, sit, wait, stay, down, and down-stay. You can teach all of these with every step you take with your dog walking throughout your house on a daily basis. When you roll out of bed in the morning and plant your feet on the floor. Call your dog "come" to follow you. After all, if you have to get up and get ready for work so does the dog. Why should he/she be allowed to lay in the warm comfort of your bed, under the blankets without you? Put them outside to go potty. Don't forget to stand there and watch so that you can reward a good behavior when the dog goes potty outside, and not in your house. Whenever your dog is looking in a different direction other than at you, call their name, then tell them to "come". This teaches recall and gets them to be more interested in looking at you, especially when they know that you know they are more interested in looking at something else. That way, when they see the cat or rabbit in the yard, they will look at you first before making a dash to catch the cat or rabbit or squirrel. This gives you the window of opportunity to be watching and catch the look, and call them to you changing the direction of their thinking.

Heel: When a commercial comes on during your favorite television show, GET UP! Use this time to work with your dog. Have a 4ft. lead on the dog so you are ready to go. When you get up to visit the refrigerator ask the dog to heel with you. If they start to run ahead of you, step on the end of the lead and call them back "come". Or you can also pick up the lead, thumb through the loop then close your fist around it. Hold it at your waist, and start walking. If the dog pulls ahead, turn around and walk the opposite direction. Don't wait for the dog. After all, did they wait for you? If the dog runs ahead of you, turn and go the other way again. Get him to sit. Then, just heel, sit, heel, sit your way to the kitchen. Do the same exercise bringing the drink and snack back to the television.

Sit: Is a good thing to learn all the way around. Sit before being petted. Sit before greeting guests. Find a special place for the dog to go and sit-stay when the door bell rings and guests are invited in. This helps to eliminate jumping or submissive urination. The dog should not be the first highlight of your attention

when walking in the door. It should be the humans in the home, dogs are secondary. If a human jumped on you and carried on the way dogs do, I'm sure you'd tell the human how rude they are and boot their butt right out the door. They would only be invited back in if they shook your hand or hugged you. So show the dog the proper way to behave also. Sit before being given a treat. Sit before entering or exiting a doorway.

Down: Once you have accomplished the come, heel, sit, sit-stay you should work on the down as a last command, as the down is putting the dog in a submissive position and you in higher standing than the dog. By teaching the down command after the come, heel, sit, sit-stay you have built a relationship with the dog for him to perform this command willingly, thereby allowing the dog to accept you fully as the leader without confrontation or conflict.

Everything you do on a daily basis, from getting up and out of bed in the morning to getting ready for work, getting home from work, preparing dinner, watching television and getting ready for bed at night allows you ample opportunity to do something with your dog. After all, dogs are like children. You will get 2-5 minutes of their attention. Then they are off to something else that is important. So, give your dog a few minutes of your time each day. It will allow you to build a bond with the dog, and respect from each of you for the other.

Denise Yoder
ABC Certified Dog Trainer
Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue