

Welcome to our September MWBTR Newsletter!



Summer/Fall Sept 2007

The B.T. Barker

What's Inside:

Letter From The President
Page 1

Editor's Note
Page 2

Remembering a Friend
Page 3

Ask Barky
Page 3

Training Tips
Page 4

and more!

Letter From The President

Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue is such an amazing rescue organization. I have never seen such a large group of dedicated people like we have here. It gives me hope for mankind in a world of insane excesses. We read about bad people everyday, and see such horrific things in rescue. It is easy to become jaded and think that mankind has lost his way. And then, thank God, along come people like all of you that pull together to save a dog that everyone else walked by because she was too old or too sick. What comes to mind is Cutie Pie who is a year old and 3 lbs, hanging on to life by a thread, or Henry that the Wisconsin Boston Rescue took for us whose leg was so busted up and poorly set that he will be afflicted for life. But he will get better, and then we go to the next one. Sadly, we have had some that have not made it because they were too sick or had been treated so badly that they

would accept no human to be their friend. Life just sucks sometimes.

Just when you start to lose hope and think that it is time to close up shop and go and live a normal life (whatever that is), you get an update that makes it all worth it. Like the little 13 lb shelter girl that we needed to use welding gloves to get out of the cage. She is now in a home that loves her and works with her and her human mommy wants to foster for us! Or someone calls you with a little old lost starving dog that has lost his way and his foster mommy keeps him and loves him for has last few months on earth and never ever complains once. Or the foster mom that has an old gentleman that barks and barks and now is our advice columnist and he is now loved and cared for by someone who never ever thought she would get

a foster to keep forever. We have several seniors who may never go anywhere, but I have not had anyone complain about it and that just does my heart so much good.

So in a world where it seems hopeless, remember that there are people out there who care. Every time a shelter dog looks at us with fear or pain or just plain despair, we have to know that we may be their last hope, and all of you are their last line of defense. Thanks for all you do and never think for a minute that you are not appreciated, and not only by us.

Thank you all,

Gwen Eder

President and Founder
Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue



UPDATE: MWBTR RECENTLY HAD A MEETING TO MAKE CHANGES AND UPDATES TO OUR FORMS. PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AND IF APPLICABLE, PLEASE START USING THE NEW FORMS.



Editor's Note

The Truth About Senior Dogs

At Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue we see many senior dogs come into our rescue but few leave. We often ask ourselves why this is true and what we have found out is that everyone seems to know the myths surrounding adopting a senior dog and few people actually know the facts.

Myths:

- Senior dogs will not bond with you or the family.
- Senior dogs are in the rescue because they were "problem" dogs.
- Senior dogs will not be able to learn the rules of the house.
- Senior dogs will pass away a short time after they are adopted.
- Senior dogs are lazy.
- Senior dogs have too many health problems.
- Senior dogs are not as 'cute' as puppies.

Facts:

- Senior dogs are usually MORE grateful to have a forever home. A senior dog wants a home of his/her own and a family to spend time with.
- Senior dogs often enter a rescue because their owners have recently passed away, or have had to go into assisted living or a nursing home and have to give up their loving companion NOT because they were "problem" dogs.
- Senior dogs can (usually) quickly adapt to new rules. They are over being hyper and can focus more on the directions that they are being given. Also, some have already been through obedience training.

- A dog can be considered a "senior" starting at 5-7 years old depending on the rescue. Bostons have a good potential for longevity. We have had several dogs that have lived to be 10-15 years old. Our foster Barky Sparky, who is still with us at least for today, is 16 years old! (Disclaimer: We hope all of our dogs live as long as Barky Sparky but with most things in life we cannot promise how long the dog you have adopted will be with you).

- A senior dog is housetrained. (Disclaimer: no dog is perfect and accidents will happen!).

- With a senior dog what you see is what you get. You won't be expecting a 25 pound dog only to end up with a 100 pound dog because the shelter had no idea that your dog was mixed with a Mastiff.

No rescue or shelter can promise how many years you will have with your senior dog but what can be promised is that you will be giving your senior dog the greatest gift: a forever home for the later years of their life. When you go to adopt your next dog think SENIOR! It will be the greatest gift you give to a deserving dog and yourself.

Midwest Boston Terrier Rescue is committed to helping senior dogs find the right forever home. Please visit our website to support our seniors. Save A Life... Adopt A Senior!

- Kristin Igert



REMINDER: ANY ONE CAN RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER... JUST SIGN UP AT MWBTR_NEWSLETTER@YAHOO.COM WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO OUR LIST!



Remembering a Friend, Barney

When I was first asked to write about one of the special dogs I have adopted from Midwest, I wasn't sure whom I should write about. Most of you know or have heard about Albert, and yes he would make a good story. However, if it were not for Barney, I may never have been able to enjoy my time with Albert. You see, I think Barney is partly responsible for my still being here. The bond with the senior special dogs is so strong; I can't begin to describe it. I thought a long time before writing this, I don't want people to think I am completely nuts.

In March 2004 I lost my first Midwest Boston, Bandit, after a long

heartbreaking battle with a brain tumor. I had seen a picture of Barney that had been posted that he was in foster care with Eileen Roloff, and had inquired about him. Barney had some skin, heart, and age problems but his main concern was he was a Cushings dog. Gwen in her wisdom, told Eileen to bring Barney along when she was to meet me on a transport with another dog. That was all it took. I arranged to adopt Barney as soon as his current treatments at his vet were stable. It is sometimes difficult to get the proper dosage of medicine at first. It was agreed if Barney's next vet check went okay, I would get him in June and continue his treatments.

On May 17th I suffered a major heart attack. I was depressed for several reasons at that time and was not having a lot of will or de-

sire to live. They say that when you are dying things from your life flash before you but that is not what I saw. When I was struggling with consciousness and the drugs, being told to hang on, etc.; I kept seeing Barney. All I could think of was that if I didn't make it, poor Barney would not get his forever home. He would be a foster forever. Obviously I recovered, and Barney came to me in June. Barney required quite a few tests, lots of medicine, was very susceptible to illnesses, but did very well for about a year. He had to leave me in October of 2005. While he was only with me for such a short time, he was just as special or even more than if I had known him his whole life.

Barney was always a happy cheerful dog, even when he was not feeling well. He loved eating, he

gave new definition to the term chowhound. He also had a strange desire to wear hats. If I put one on him and did not leave it on long enough, he would get upset. He had very little vision but if he saw one of the other dogs getting to wear something, he wanted a hat. He would tolerate clothes fine, but he felt a hat made him extra special, which he certainly was.

Whether someone else would have adopted Barney or not, we will never know. I do know I will always be grateful for having been allowed to be his forever Mom.

- Nancy Wiseman



WE ARE SAD TO REPORT BARKY SPARKY CROSSED THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AUGUST 2007. BARKY SPARKY, YOU WILL BE MISSED! THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND WISDOM WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER COLUMN. - THE NEWSLETTER TEAM



chewing on things all the time: fingers, pens, even TOES... Why would they get upset about this "bad habit" as some call it. Well, let's examine a few things... Some of the more experienced "dog trainers" as they call themselves, seem to think that if we are constantly chewing on things and destroying stuff, we must have ANXIETY. I guess some of us do. So they see the chewing as a sign of stress for us. Now, for some of us this could be true, so we have to give them some grace as they are really just looking out for us. I am a more refined gentleman 'more advanced' in years, so I do not have a problem chewing. I find it very satisfactory to just lie around looking all cute in my little dog bed or crate. However, I have a foster brother that can't resist anything plastic. (I think he has some sort of carcinogenic addiction...) So as he runs through the house wreaking havoc, he steals things and runs into his crate. He is barely in the wire contraption when all of a sudden my human comes running into the kitchen after him frantically yelling "DROP IT!!!!!!!" She usually has to scold him for once again wrecking a toy that belongs to the little human girl. This puzzles me as I have seen

that little cutie pie with this toy in her mouth SEVERAL times. I'm not sure what the difference is. I do know that when us 'dogs' chew on stuff that is not ours, she puts this bubbly stuff in the sink and gets the rubber gloves on and drenches everything in boiling hot water to 'sterilize' it. This confuses me, because when this other mutt chews on his kong and then poops on it, she simply rinses it off or cleans it with a paper towel and then PUTS IT BACK IN HIS CRATE!!!!!! I guess since he's a poop eater anyway, it doesn't really matter now, does it? Anyway, I find that if we don't get enough exercise, or we are nervous about things, we sometimes tend to CHEW CHEW CHEW. So I guess we have to figure out a way to help these humans understand that we need a good amount of exercise to expend this excess energy. Well, the younger ones that is... and we also need to try and help them understand that sometimes the simple fact is... a pooppy tennis ball in the yard just makes a tasty snack. So do old stinky socks laying in the 'mud room.' And according to your question...."after all, it's just laying around..." You are right. Some of them are just ASKING for this. I

mean, some of us love leather. They leave these leather things all over the house; sandals, purses, belts... and they refuse to watch us so we find something tasty and chew it. After all, it's just like the rawhides they throw in our crates... so why shouldn't we think we can chew on those things as well??? It gets very confusing for us pooches and we have to once again try and figure out these crazy humans... I know they get all wound up about "money" too. I'm not sure what that is, but I DO know that the more "money" something cost, the worse it is for us to chew on it. I heard a story of one of my parents having a dog once that chewed up a book. They said something about it being a \$75 textbook for school. What's the difference between chewing that and chewing up the little girl's "Pokey Puppy" book??? So, as we coexist with these folks, I guess some of us just have to resist that urge to munch magazines and chew on couch cushions if we want to stay put. Hope this helps you understand these strange beings a little better.

Until Next Time,
Barky "no chewing shoes for me"
Sparky

Ask Barky

Dear Barky,
I wonder why those humans don't like me chewing on stuff that's laying around, after all it's just laying there and waiting for me to chew on???

Idefix, 17 months, Germany

Dear Idefix,
Let me try to bring some clarity to the chewing issue. I'm with you on once again not understanding why these humans get so upset over trivial matters. So we chew on things. Big deal. I see THEM





Training Tips: Socialization of the Foster Dog by Denise Yoder

Everyone is excited about the new dog arriving. Because there is no history on the dog, we are uncertain what it likes [food], if it will need immediate medical care, or if it likes kids, cats or other dogs.

All this leads us to feeling anxious and nervous, maybe even feeling sorry for the dog. It is important at this point to STOP and take a deep breath. All these feelings will transfer to the dog. They are already feeling afraid, nervous, anxious and will be ready for flight or fear [growling, biting, barking]. It is important to make the transition for the foster dog into your home a good experience, so take it slow.

When bringing the foster dog home, it is extremely important to keep the foster dog in a SEPARATE area or room [quarantined] from your personal pets. Use a crate for security and safety, not only for you, but the foster dog.

Here's why:

- 1) If the dog came from a shelter, whether it be owner surrendered or picked up as a stray, you generally don't know or get the FULL medical history.
- 2) The foster dog could be a carrier of something that is contagious, and by socializing it with your personal dogs, you can cause them to get sick or worse.
- 3) The foster dog could have worms. Go out with the dog for potty breaks and pick up the dog stool immediately.

Many of us are so excited about having the new foster dog. The urge and need [of the human] to socialize it [show family, friends,

and share it with our own pets] can be extremely overwhelming for the foster dog. It doesn't know you, your family, friends, the people at the pet store, or your personal pets, so why would you set the foster dog up for failure the first few days? Socialization of the foster dog should take place between days four and seven. You want to be sure to set the dog up to succeed for this socialization. You are teaching him/her that the people, animals and objects it encounters on a daily basis will pose no threat. DO NOT take your foster dog to a dog park for socialization unless there are no other dogs and it is just you and the foster dog there. By going to a dog park you are placing the dog into a situation that is not controlled or monitored and can be so overwhelming that the dog shuts down. It can cause the dog to feel threatened and unsure of you protecting it from other dogs, people, etc., causing failure in the relationship. This will also destroy the "trust" bond that you are trying to build with the foster dog.

In beginning socialization, take it slow. Make the first few times out be just you and the foster dog. Before leaving your home, grab several small, pea sized treats. Put them in a treat pouch or your pocket. While on the walk, if a stranger approaches, stop, ask the dog to sit [at this time it can be in front or beside you]. You just want to have the dog's attention. As the person is approaching, give the dog a treat. Hold it in your hand [thumb and index finger] to allow the dog to lick the treat as the person approaches and walks past. After the person has passed give the treat to the dog. Tell the dog "good" and

give it a pat under the chin or on it's side. Continue on your way. As you are in the beginning stage of socialization the dog should not be confronted by people or dogs. After you and the foster dog have gone out three or four times by yourself, allowing the dog to trust you on the walk and walk nicely on the lead, then you can take the next step and introduce a person.

Introducing a new person - Important note: Ask the person that is approaching you if they are willing to help you with socializing the dog. Give the person a few treats. Explain to them that both you and the dog, and the stranger are going to walk away. Then turn around and come back towards each other. When you are approximately 2-3 feet from the person. Stop and ask the dog to sit. Take a step towards the person. Ask the dog to sit. Then ask the person to put their "open hand" with the treat in it, at the dog's level. Allow the dog to take the treat. If the dog takes the treat [and nicely] praise the dog. Then the stranger, and you and the dog should continue on your walk. Keep it short and sweet :) For another new person you encounter, repeat the above scenario, making sure the dog sits before receiving the treat, and is calm. Giving your dog food treats around unfamiliar people will help build a positive association to approaching humans. The dog will soon learn "People are fun." If your dog shows signs of fear or aggression, do not attempt the exercise without an experienced dog trainer.

When you return home from the walk, put the dog in a crate for 10-15 minutes. Give it time to relax and "THINK" about

the positive things that took place and how rewarding it can be to go out for a walk with you and meet new people, kids, and other dogs in a controlled and monitored environment.

Always have your fostering tools available: crate, collar, and 4-6ft lead. A proper lead for walking and socializing your dog is a nylon, leather, rope, etc., lead, NOT a retractable lead. A retractable lead does not allow you the control that is needed to guide the dog during the walk. Remember, YOU are in charge of the walk, where the dog goes, and how far. The decision should NOT be the dog's, but yours.

TIP: Having pre-made dog tags with your name and telephone number would be a good idea, just in case the dog gets loose before you have the proper identification tag or microchip for your rescue group.

REMINDER: Don't forget to praise and reward the dog for good behavior. Your touch is important and should mean something to the dog.

