

C.A.R.E.'s Critter Chronicles

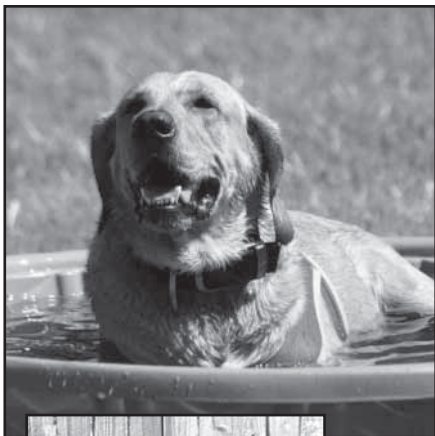
The Official Quarterly Newsletter of the **Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.**

1528 27th Street S.E. • Ruskin, Florida 33570 • 813.645.2273 • www.careshelter.org

First Annual PetFest 2006

By Linda Earles

The 1st Annual *St. Petersburg Times* Ruskin PetFest and C.A.R.E. Adoption Reunion fundraiser was held at Ott's Off-Leash Dog Park on July 15th.



Dogs attending came in all shapes and sizes. There were big ones, little ones, three-legged ones and elderly ones being pulled in a wagon by their devoted master. Some were dressed in their finest costumes hoping to win the "Top Dog" prize in the fashion show. Others just came to hang out and see their old pals from C.A.R.E. Everyone enjoyed the food, the music and watching the dogs run, fetch, slide in the mud and play in the swimming pools. The event was a great success and a howling good time was had by all!



Many thanks to our volunteers, sponsors, vendors, entertainers, attendees and the wonderful people at the *St. Petersburg Times* who made the event possible. All the humans worked their tails off to make sure the event went off without a hitch.



Next year's event, scheduled to be held in the spring, is already in the planning stages. Look for more information in upcoming Critter Chronicles and on our website.

TOP: Doggie pools were a great way to beat the heat.

MIDDLE LEFT: Taking a break from all the action.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Fun for the whole family.

BOTTOM: "L.L. Cool Pup" from the "Three Legged Poodle Pet Boutique" strikes a pose.

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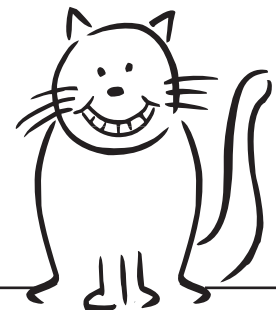
C.A.R.E. Hours of Operation

Tuesday-Saturday

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Newsletter Editor

Michelle Fitz



**C.A.R.E. is a
No-Kill Animal
Shelter**

Dogs Hit The Catwalk In Canine Couture

By Mary Beth Cammilleri

July 15th was a sweltering day but the fashions were even hotter as Hillsborough County's new breed of supermodels strutted their stuff down the runway at



ABOVE: Buddy shows his patriotic spirit. Photo courtesy of Mitch Traphagan from the Observer News.

the first annual Ruskin PetFest pet fashion show. The crowd was treated to not one but two shows, with a morning

event as well as an afternoon one. The dogs stole the show as they modeled costumes including a stunning sequined ballerina outfit gracefully modeled by

Dita "the Diva," a 4-month-old black pug. Zoe, a poodle, rocked the house in her 1950's sock hop ensemble complete with her pink poodle skirt and scarf. Other memorable participants included Sarah, a pointer mix and former C.A.R.E resident, who sported the latest in canine summer camp gear including a hobo bag and a backpack with a sign reading "C.A.R.E. or Bust."

All of our furry models were quite eye-catching in their designer outfits, making it very difficult for the judges to choose just one winner, but after much discussion, the "Star Spangled Spaniel," also known as Buddy, was crowned Best in Show in the morning event while a tie was declared in the afternoon show as Jax and Joss shared the title. Buddy, a cocker spaniel, was dressed in patriotic attire from head to tail with an Uncle Sam high-top hat right down to his flag adorned tail. Joss and Jax, a rat terrier and Chihuahua mix brother and sister team, wore coordinating Hawaiian attire fitting for our tropical-like weather.

Those of us at C.A.R.E would like to thank all of our contestants, judges, sponsors and audience members who helped make both fashion shows a success and one of the highlights of the First Annual Ruskin PetFest. Amidst the wagging tails and howls of delight from both contestants and spectators alike, our dazzling models left the audience begging for more and looking forward to next year's gala.



RIGHT: Zoe prepares to strut her stuff on the runway.

C.A.R.E. Legacy Circle

We have recently established our Legacy Circle to recognize those animal lovers who have made provisions to provide future gifts to C.A.R.E. via their wills, trusts or other estate planning documents. By including C.A.R.E. in your estate planning, you will help us insure that the shelter is able to continue service to the homeless animals in our area in the years to come. We want to honor and acknowledge the following individuals who have notified us (or their representatives have notified us) that C.A.R.E. has been included in their estate plans:

• Mary Beth and Dave Cammilleri

• Helen Henderson

• Barbara Fauser (including pet care agreement)

• Clifford and Goldie Johnson, Deceased

If you would like to pursue leaving a lasting gift to the homeless, abused, or abandoned dogs and cats in our area, you may leave a simple bequest in your will, may pursue establishing a trust, or may employ other estate planning tools. Please talk to your legal representative or contact us and we can put you in touch with several local representatives who will be able to help meet your needs. Also, with your permission, please notify us so that we may include you in our Legacy Circle. Contact Don Hinderliter if you have any questions concerning this new venture for C.A.R.E.

Annual Membership Meeting— October 25, 2006

The annual membership meeting will be at the United Community Church, 1501 LaJolla Ave in Sun City Center, starting at 6:00 p.m. Four current Board members are up for reelection this year (Don Hinderliter, Kara Rutherford, Lori Bruno, and Tim Otte). Anyone interested in running for one of these Board positions may contact the shelter and make his or her interest known. You may also appear in person at the annual meeting and express your desire to run. Also on the agenda is an update on shelter activities and progress toward building our new cat facility. Guest speakers this year are from the Sun City Community Foundation. They will tell us about options for growing our endowment fund to ensure the continued success of C.A.R.E. in saving homeless and abused animals in our community. Come join us for the program, refreshments, door prizes and handouts. Hope to see you there!

Thanks From All Of Us Volunteers & 4-Legged Residents

By Betsy Hinderliter

Thanks to the 300 or so individuals who have signed up as new or renewal 2006 members through the end of August. Your membership helps us program out medical expenses for this year, which are increasing as we treat more and more sick animals. If you haven't renewed yet, **we urge you to renew your membership now!** Fill out and send in the form below. We need your support as soon as possible to allow us to continue saving lives and treating sick residents. PLEASE sign up today!

Help Make A Difference...Join C.A.R.E. Today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

May we occasionally send you C.A.R.E. updates via e-mail? YES NO

Please indicate how you wish to receive the newsletter: (circle one)

_____ E-Mail _____ Postal Mail

Membership Level: _____ Regular Member \$30 donation

_____ Premier Member \$50 donation

Please send a check made payable to C.A.R.E. to the following address:

C.A.R.E./Attn: Membership

1528 27th Street S.E.

Ruskin, Florida 33570

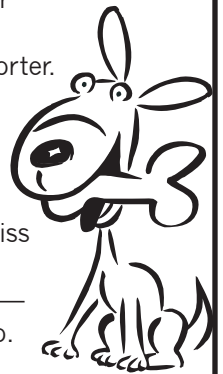
New Member

Renewal

Thank You Mr. Stretchberry

Duke, Whiskey, DeeDee, Foxy, Shorty, Zorro, the 4 puppies dumped behind the Thrift Store and all their friends and former residents of the kennel send their thanks to Don Stretchberry for his hard work and assistance over the past couple of years. Don has had to "resign" from his active kennel volunteer duties each week but remains a premier member, donor and strong C.A.R.E. supporter.

In addition to the many dogs he has taken care of over the years, all of us volunteers will also miss his smiling face, pleasant personality—and yes his jokes too. Good luck Don!



Usted Escribe O Habla A Español?

If so, we would like to hear from you. We have an immediate need to translate our current brochure and several spay-neuter documents into Spanish to help kick off our new outreach to the local Spanish speaking population on the benefits of spaying and neutering their



pets. If you can help, please give us a call or stop by and see Kara, Miki or Don.

C.A.R.E. Adoption Reunion: Part I

Many of our previous C.A.R.E. residents visited the reunion held at PetFest. The articles below and at right are the personal stories of just two of those dogs who were fortunate to have now found a forever home and are now very important pets (VIPs). Those of us who volunteer here at C.A.R.E. are acutely aware that neither individually nor collectively can we save every abused, neglected, and abandoned cat and dog. But we also know that the outcome of stories such as those of Beauregard and Rudy is the answer to the question “how can you do it?”

Beauregard's Story: Rags To Riches *By Mary Beth Cammilleri*



In June of 2006, C.A.R.E. volunteers found Beauregard (formerly known as Ollie) lying in a ditch on the brink of death. It was clear that he was neglected, seriously malnourished, had a severe case of mange and was in near-coma status. The volunteers took him to Dr. Mary Hernandez for probable euthanasia due to his condition and suffering. However, upon

evaluation, the choice was to try to save him. Much to everyone's surprise, Beauregard's will to survive was much greater than any of the health challenges he was facing. Despite his outward appearance and lack of care from his previous owners, he showered the volunteers at C.A.R.E. with big kisses, his way of saying thank you.

Beauregard's condition was still quite tenuous and it was apparent that the optimal environment for his recovery would be in a foster home versus the shelter. His picture and story were posted on C.A.R.E.'s website with a plea for a foster family. Ginny Fairbank, one of our dedicated volunteers and board members, explained Beauregard's plight to Belinda Kolenbrander, one

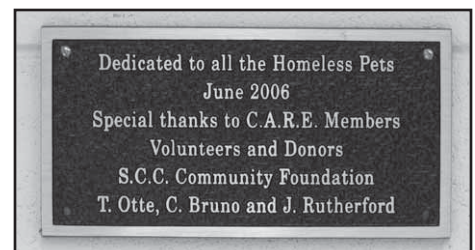
of Ginny's co-workers, who took on the challenge of nursing Beauregard back to health. Under the Kolenbranders' care, Beauregard was treated for his mange and for his heartworms. He was put on a special diet to increase his weight and muscle mass as well as to improve his overall health. The Kolenbranders have done such a great job that many of our volunteers who saw Beauregard at the Ruskin PetFest almost did not recognize him. He had made such a dramatic recovery in such a short period of time thanks to their loving care.

According to Belinda and Paul, “Today, Beau is known as General Beauregard (affectionately called Bo-Bo or Bo-Bee) and has assumed his job of master to a pack of Boston Terrier rescue dogs. His gentle nature, patience and playfulness make him the ideal ‘general in charge’. He knows his routine and reminds us if we are late for dinner, his walks or bedtime. At his weekly outings to the dog park, he is known as ‘The Peace Maker’ because he will intervene and physically place himself between dogs that don't get along.”

The Kolenbranders, who lost a German Shepard years ago, believe that Beauregard “fills that emptiness and brings order to our lives”. Beauregard now lives a very rich life full of all the good things that all dogs should enjoy with good food, bones, toys, treats, friends and most importantly lots and lots of love. If you haven't guessed by now, the Kolenbranders have decided to adopt Beauregard as a permanent member of their family. His story is truly one of rags to riches.

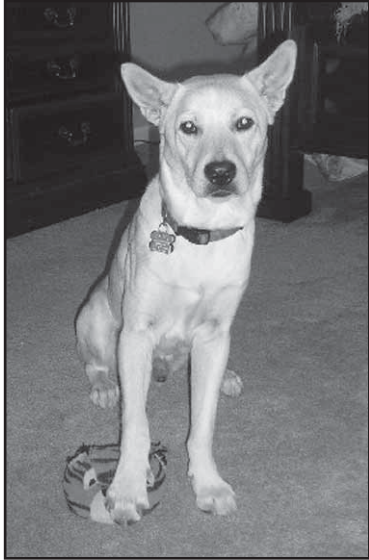
Recognize This?

Below is the plaque commemorating the dedication of our kennel/surgical suite remodeling project and honoring the commitment to the homeless pets in the area by our volunteers, donors, and members. If you haven't been to C.A.R.E. recently, we urge you to come out and see our new facility (and say hello to our pets while you're here).



C.A.R.E. Adoption Reunion: Part II

Rudy's Story: C.A.R.E.'s Canine Lightweight Champion *By John Fischer*



Rudy is a strong little fellow. When he was in the fight for his life, he scored a knockout punch. In fact, Rudy's adoptive parents changed his name from Dexter (as he was known at the shelter) to Rudy because his fighting spirit, drive and perseverance reminded them of Rudy, the main character in the movie by the same name. When Rudy arrived at C.A.R.E. as a stray, he was not eating or drinking and was very

lethargic and dehydrated. Tests revealed he had canine parvovirus, a deadly viral gastrointestinal disease that primarily affects puppies. Because of the severity of his symptoms, he spent a week at Ruskin Animal Hospital where he was administered fluids and antibiotics.

After an additional month of extensive treatment at the shelter, his biggest fan, Debbie Wright, arrived ringside to cheer him on to victory. Debbie and her husband, Steve, had recently lost their 14-year-old cocker spaniel, Toby. They were still grieving but were ready for a new furry addition to their household.

Debbie says that Rudy is now a 30-pound "loverboy and a kisser who loves to be told that he is a good boy. His ears go down and he wags his whole body." Rudy is also highly intelligent. He quickly learned how to use the doggie door and is learning how to get in and out of the pool unassisted to prevent any potential mishaps should he fall in. Among his favorite activities are sleeping on the couch and bed as well as spending time with his new family. "When he's not patrolling for squirrels or bugs or anything else that moves, he loves to be where we are," said Debbie.

She shared a story about Rudy's quest to find a new playmate for the day. Much to his delight, he found a dragonfly who looked like he would be great fun to play with. Unfortunately his new found friend did not share Rudy's enthusiasm and died from fright as Rudy "ever so carefully brought him into the house without hurting a thing on him, not a mark on him."

Debbie also says that Rudy still loves to play with a squeaker toy that he brought home from C.A.R.E. Although the toy tiger head no longer has ears and has been repaired at least 10 times, it continues to be his favorite toy. He is a very friendly and social boy as some of those who attended the Ruskin PetFest may recall. He was one of our reunion guests who greeted everyone he saw in his own special way. I think it's safe to say that Rudy's days of struggling with his health are long gone as he is now a happy, healthy puppy who lives each day to its fullest.

You're Invited... Celebrate Howl-o-ween with Dapper Doggie

Get your pet into the Halloween spirit! Enjoy a costume contest, pet photos, raffles, prizes, treats and more.

WHEN: Saturday, October 28,
5:30-8 p.m.

WHERE: Dapper Doggie Pet Boutique
881 E. Bloomingdale Ave.
Brandon, FL
(813) 662-0560
www.mydapperdoggie.com

Proceeds to benefit C.A.R.E.



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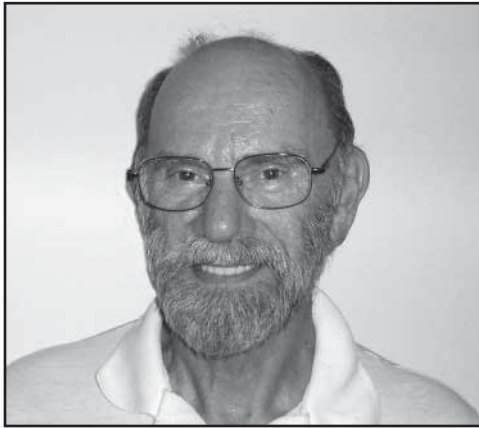
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Volunteer Spotlight: John Fischer *By Miki Janosky*



This quarter's "Volunteer Spotlight" shines on John Fischer, one of C.A.R.E.'s valuable and versatile human resources. Little did John know back in

February 2006, when he first arrived at the shelter, what was in store for him in the next eight months. John came to the shelter to offer his assistance as a kennel volunteer and was quickly put to work. Under Tim Otte's tutelage, John promptly learned the kennel operation and swiftly became an essential and reliable member of C.A.R.E.'s Wednesday morning crew.

Although he didn't note his former career on his volunteer application, we ultimately discovered that John had over 30 years experience in the newspaper business. Upon learning this, Betsy Hinderliter jumped at the opportunity to utilize his talents for the betterment of C.A.R.E. In the past months, John has written and/or edited a number of published articles about the shelter.

In addition to his invaluable work in the kennel and his writing skills, John has also taken on the responsibility of assisting in the shelter's Spay/Neuter clinic. His tireless dedication and long hours have not gone unnoticed. John, always the supremely amicable and polite gentleman, is a model volunteer whom the entire board of directors and other volunteers appreciate much more than he probably realizes.

A Whole Lotta Purrin' Going On!

The purring is getting louder here at the shelter lately in anticipation of a new C.A.R.E. feline facility. We have officially announced that our Board of Directors has authorized a fund raising drive to benefit our kitty guests! Thanks to a very generous donation from Mrs. Betty Ramsey, in memory and in honor of her late husband Jay, we have begun planning for a new facility to provide our kittens and cats (and their volunteer caregivers) with larger and better surroundings. More planning and fund raising information will follow but if you would like to contribute immediately to the new facility, just indicate "new cat facility" on your donation.




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Sharon Van Loan

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Hey! Pick Me! Pick Me!

These wonderful pets are looking for a good home! Stop by and meet them today!

To see more pets that are available for adoption visit www.careshelter.org or www.petfinder.org



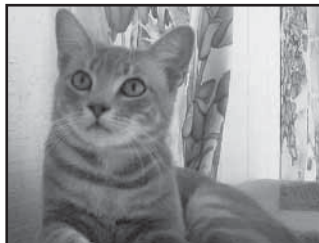
Ginger

Ginger is such a hugable goofball that it's hard to imagine why she was abandoned. She tries to rest her head on your shoulder and when she looks at you with those big brown eyes, you just want to melt. She has a keen sense of smell and might enjoy learning tracking dog skills.



Pepper

Pepper was found on July 14th at the corner of Bloomingdale and Kings Avenue. She was wearing a collar but did not have a tag or other form of ID. Pepper is approximately 2 or 3 years old and is full grown at 46 pounds. She is energetic, smart and loving.



Dudley

Dudley, the explorer, wandered into an open cage in the cathouse. The door closed partway behind him and not wanting to mash his face against the bars, he decided to make a more creative exit. He's a curious fellow that at 7 months old, has plenty of kitten left in him.



Sammy

Sammy was a friendly and playful cat when he was adopted by a family with 2 small children. Apparently, the household was a bit too chaotic for him and he was returned to us. Sammy is slowly returning to the good natured fellow he was. He would probably be best as an "only" cat.

Duke Speaks (Again)



Not known for many words, our "Elder" canine resident has again been talking with our Animal Communicator (AC). Although Duke wanted to share a few thoughts with our readers, he needed some prompting by the AC.

AC: Duke, good to see you and glad you're feeling

some what better from the problem with your elbow and your arthritis.

Duke: Oh, me too!

AC: I know you're reluctant to stop chewing the bone while we talk but I heard you had a couple of things to say to our readers.

Duke: Yea. I'm concerned about the number of youngsters coming in lately with heartworm. Personally I've had many problems over the years but not that—that can be a killer. When I see young guys and gals like Ginger, Zorro, and Foxy I feel so bad for them. Please

remind your readers that all it takes is a yearly checkup and a good tasting monthly pill to keep your dog from getting heartworm. Just do it!

AC: Thanks Duke.

Duke: There's another thing I want people to know about.

AC: What's that?

Duke: November is Adopt-A-Senior-Pet Month.

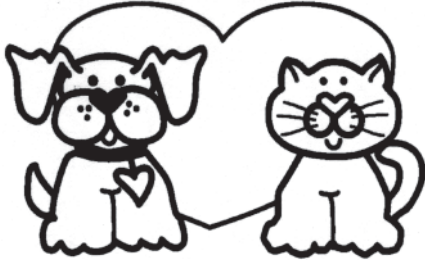
AC: It sure is.

Duke: Shaping the life of a puppy or kitty is appealing but what about giving a second chance to one of us older guys or gals. It can be just as rewarding. At our age we enjoy sharing quiet moments, we're already trained, and we don't chew or scratch everything in sight! We're happy when we get another chance at a happy life and we're grateful for the chance to love someone and be loved in return.

AC: Do people have to wait until November?

Duke: Heck no. We're available now—so come down to the shelter and check us out.

C.A.R.E.



Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.

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Sarah (Pocahontas) & Bono (Pilgrim Pete) Dressed For Thanksgiving!

Dave and Mary Beth Cammilleri, the adopted parents of Sarah and Bono, feel blessed to have Sarah and Bono in their lives and want to thank everyone at C.A.R.E. for giving them such good care and a second chance.

Sarah, a stray and brand new Mom, arrived at C.A.R.E. with her litter of puppies. All received medical treatment, proper nutrition and a safe, clean place to temporarily call home. Bono was brought to the shelter after being found with serious injuries, the victim of some type of attack or abuse. Thanks to the immediate and continuous medical attention rendered by Gloria Blue, our Animal Care Coordinator, he recovered from his life-threatening injuries. Both dogs tested positive for heartworms which meant that in addition to everything they had already been through, they had to endure a series of painful injections followed by 8 weeks of completely sedentary activity. After successfully completing their treatments, they are back to being happy, fun-loving dogs who give their new family nothing but joy. They embrace the essence of what life is about: live in the moment; make every day count; take nothing for granted; and give lots of kisses to those you love each and every day.

