



ROCKY SPOT NEWS

The RockySpot News is dedicated to letting our volunteers, adopted families, and supporters know what the rescue is doing and what they can do to help. If you have an address correction, suggestion, idea, and/or a story you would like to include in the RockySpot News you can email them to RockySpotNews@earthlink.net

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Coincidence

Coincidence (*ko-in-si-dens*) n. The occurrence of one event at the same time as, or following, another without any causal connection.

For almost 3 yrs Sapphire was invisible. No one ever saw her. Sure, if you pointed her out they did, but then they promptly forgot about her the minute they looked at another dog. Sapphire just ‘existed’ at the rescue, day after day, year after year, invisible. No one ever asked about her. No one ever remembered her. Even long-term volunteers would forget who she was and have to ask over and over. We took her to EVERY adoption. She would stand patiently at each persons feet and look up at them hopefully as they unconsciously pushed her aside to look at, pet, and adopt another dog. Very low maintenance, very loving and very pretty, Sapphire was just *invisible*. There is no other word for it. We dubbed her our “invisible dog.”

Fearing she would live the rest of her life and die at the kennels, we convinced a very nice family into taking her in ADDITION to the dog they wanted to adopt. That was not in anyone’s best interest and Sapphire was back very soon, invisible again. To make matters worse, we forgot to put her picture and information back on the website as available. Now, without a doubt, Sapphire was truly and forever ‘invisible’ to the world.



Then Christmas Eve 2004, “Coincidence” changed her life forever. Someone 500 miles away actually SAW her AND they saw her on the internet !! On the website where we accidentally **no longer had her listed!!!!** How could this be?? *Coincidence?*

Was it coincidence that they accidentally stumbled on a long inactive link for dogs long, long adopted? (All except Sapphire that is, who is the only one on the inactive page that they SAW)? Coincidence that they just lost their Dal to a 3 year battle with epilepsy? Coincidence that although they wanted a young Dal and were approved to adopt one right in their area, that they were DRAWN unexplainably to little, invisible, middle-aged Sapphire by a force so strong they could not ignore it? What force made Sapphire invisible for so long and WHY? What force kept her in rescue for almost 3 long years? What force popped up a long inactive web link? Hmmm??

Awww, nothing really...it was just “coincidence.”

Coincidence (*ko-in-si-dens*) n. **God doing things anonymously.**



Till Death do us Part

Again this last year I have noticed a trend, which breaks my heart. We seem to consistently receive dogs in the rescue whose owners have died and made no arrangements for their animals. Perhaps they thought friends or family would surely take in the dog, but never specifically asked them. Perhaps the owners were young and never considered that something may happen to them. Too often these dogs are middle aged and local shelters will frequently not put those dogs up for adoption. RockySpot Rescue can only take in as many dogs as we have foster homes for, a number which is highly insufficient. This often means these wonderful and well-loved animals are put to sleep for the crime of having an owner who didn't plan for them. PLEASE take the time to ask someone to take each and every one of your animals. Place this name and number with your will and make sure it stays updated. Check with these people yearly to make sure they are still willing and able to take in your animals as people's lives and situations do change. We suggest you make provisions in your will for the animal's care. It would be terrible if the new home had to give them up simply due to the increase in financial burden. Finally, make sure a nearby friend or family member has a key to your house to gain timely access to your pets. Our animals depend on us not only to take care of them while we are living, but also to continue to do so after we are gone. For all they bring to our lives, it is a small gift in return.

By Holly Vestal



We would like to extend our love and prayers to the following 4-legged companions that touched our hearts and that have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

Daisey Hyatt
Granny Vestal Paynich
Savannah Eklund
Cinder Vestal Paynich

Hope Combs
Cara Torrey
T'pau Bartman



Training Tips

Housetraining

Because dogs are denning animals, they do not like to soil their surroundings. However, adult dogs or puppies will need some time to discover that an entire house is now their den. Puppies cannot be expected to control their bladder and bowels for long periods of time until five to six months of age. Many adult dogs adopted from the shelter were housetrained in previous homes. After being sheltered in an environment where they have soiled their surroundings, they will require some "reminder" training. For the first few days, you should assume your new dog is not housetrained.

Establish a Routine

If fed on a routine schedule, your dog is more likely to eliminate regularly. This will make it easier for your puppy or dog to learn the acceptable behavior.

Reward Good Behavior

Take your puppy or dog outside frequently, at least every two hours. Make sure to let your dog out within 20 minutes of naps, playing and eating. Provide lots of praise and give your pup a small food treat after eliminating outside.

Never Punish after the Fact

Animals do not understand punishment after the fact - even if it is only seconds afterward. If you catch your canine in the act of house soiling, startle the dog or puppy. Make sure the dog believes this alarm is coming from the environment and not from you (whistle, slap the wall, toss a pillow). Do not hit dogs or puppies or rub their noses in the mess. This may cause them to become frightened of you and afraid to eliminate in your presence.

Use Enzymatic Cleaners

Dogs tend to reuse the same spot for house soiling. Neutralize all odors from accidents with an enzymatic cleaner. If you run out of enzyme cleaners, try white vinegar and water. Do not use ammonia because it smells similar to urine. If your dog continues to use the spot, make it less appealing by changing the texture. Cover it with plastic or with tape that is sticky on both sides.



A Tribute to The Sun and the Stars

Large, warm and comforting as the sun; *Princess*. Small, mysterious and twinkling like a night full of stars; *Jenna*.



A whole wonderful world wrapped up in two totally bonded, loving, spotted souls; yet they were abandoned and left to die, together.

What kind of person would want to extinguish the sun and put out the stars?

No longer young and so totally different, it seemed the only way to live together would be to live, homeless, in rescue. Some families considered laid-back *Princess*, but not active *Jenna*. Other more active homes loved tiny, playful *Jenna*, but not large, even-tempered *Princess*. Days turned into months, months turned into years, years that these girls did not have.

Then one day, a miracle in Oklahoma! A long time Dalmatian Club of America member and retired professional Dalmatian breeder saw the shine of the Sun and the twinkle of the Stars, and she knew she NEEDED it desperately in Virginia. You see, her spotted baby had recently passed over the bridge and the sun and stars had gone out in her world.

Oklahoma will always hold *Princess* and *Jenna* deep in her heart, warmed by the memory of a very special *Sun* and the twinkle of the most beautiful *Stars*.

Yet we can't help but ENVY Virginia, who now holds them both lovingly in her arms.

(We thank Anita for giving Princess and Jenna a wonderful new home.)

Did you know?

Did you know that dogs have been used to determine whether human twins are identical or fraternal?

Identical twins have the same scent, but fraternal do not despite the fact that they may look alike.

Hello Friends!

We at RockySpot rescue hope you and your family enjoyed the holidays. During the season, we received several notes from the adoptive families of dogs who passed through the rescue on their way to their forever homes. We so enjoyed the stories and pictures that we have decided to try compiling a scrapbook of all of our former rescue dogs. Please take a few moments to share updates and anecdotes about your four-legger(s) so that your family can be included in our book. Of course, pictures are optional but would be greatly appreciated. Please include any address or phone changes.

Send responses to:
MusicLover417@yahoo.com

Or:
Nancy Hasse
1513 West Whippoorwill
Mustang, OK. 73064

Dear, Theresa and all of my guardian angels.

Thank you for caring for me and for giving me a place to stay and the time to find the right path. I am now at a place where I will be able to spend the rest of my life with two people who love me very much. I appreciate the interest still shown in me from the RockySpot Rescue. Just the other day Theresa mentioned kidney stones in our breed. By giving this little hint my master paid closer attention to me while I relieved myself, triggering the fact that I had problems. I was taken to the hospital and it was determined that I had kidney stones "I am a stoner."

When I arrived at the hospital two of my guardian angels from RSR were there to comfort my master and me. I was operated on the next day, and when one of my masters arrived he was surprised to find that my guardian angels from RSR had been with me before, during and after the operation.

I want to thank the staff at Neel Veterinary Hospital and RockySpot. I owe them my life. Thank you for all the prayers and concern you have given me. I came thru the operation like a trooper and I feel much better now. Life is so great when so many care for you! My love goes out to all of you.

Sincerely,
Sportster Satterwhite



Basic Rules for Dogs



Newspapers: If you have to go to the bathroom while playing in the front yard, always use the newspaper that's placed in the driveway every morning for that purpose.

Visitors: Quickly determine which guest is afraid of dogs. Charge across the room, barking loudly and leap playfully on this person. If the human falls down on the floor and starts crying, lick its face and growl gently to show your concern.

Barking: Because you are a dog, you are expected to bark. So Bark – a lot. Your owners will be very happy to hear you protecting their house. Especially late at night while they are sleeping safely in their beds. There is not a more secure feeling for a human than to keep waking up in the middle of the night and hearing your protective bark, bark, bark...

Licking: Always take a BIG drink from your water dish immediately before licking your human. Humans prefer a clammy tongue. Be ready to fetch your human a towel.

Holes: Rather than digging a BIG hole in the middle of the yard and upsetting your human, dig a lot of smaller holes all over the yard so they won't notice. If you arrange a little pile of dirt on one side of each hole, maybe they'll

think it's gophers. There are never enough holes in the ground. Strive daily to do your part to help correct this problem.

Doors: The area directly in front of a door is always reserved for the family dog to sleep.

The Art of Sniffing: Humans like to be sniffed. Everywhere. It is your duty, as the family dog, to accommodate them.

Dining Etiquette: Always sit under the table at dinner, especially when there are guests, so you can clean up any food that falls on the floor. It's also a good time to practice your sniffing.

Housebreaking: Housebreaking is very important to humans so break as much of the house as possible.

Going for walks: Rules of the road: When out for a walk with your master or mistress, never go to the bathroom on your own lawn.

Couches: It is perfectly permissible to lie on the new couch after all your humans have gone to bed.

Playing: If you lose your footing while chasing a ball, use the flower bed to absorb your fall so you don't injure yourself.

Chasing Cats: When chasing cats, make sure you never – quite – catch them. It spoils all the fun.

