

Great Plains Mastiff Rescue

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Mastiff Mingler

Summer 2008

Issue 2

To:

Mastiff Mingler

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GPMR is in desperate need of foster homes. Currently we are surviving with only three to five homes at any given time. Unfortunately this means we have to turn away mastiffs in need. We often run into that old scenario “when it rains it pours”- not only will we get one request but two or three at a time. We realize that fostering can seem like a daunting and scary task. Don't be scared. Our dedicated volunteers will help you along every step of the way. We will help you integrate the foster mastiff into your home. We will stay and watch how they interact with your family and other pets during that initial visit. We are available for questions or concerns anytime and if we can't find a solution we have a wonderful resource to turn to at K9 University. We do our very best to support our foster families and mastiffs as much as they need—this includes food, veterinary care, medications, etc. It is a wonderful way to support rescue as well as enjoy a new member of the family.

You, as the foster family, have a huge hand in helping prepare that mastiff for their forever family by showing them patience, love and caring. With the slowing economy and the growing number of relinquishments we are receiving, we need foster homes more than ever! Please consider being a foster parent to one of these beautiful creatures. It is a win-win situation for both you and the mastiff you will be helping. If you would like more information about fostering, please contact us at volunteer@greatplainsmastiffrescue.org. We will be more than happy to discuss the fostering process and answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Remember: Fostering saves lives!

Beat The Heat:

As many of you know, mastiffs are very sensitive to the elements-especially extreme temperatures. Here in the Midwest, the temperatures often reach triple digits in the summer. Be sure to follow these helpful tips and hopefully avoid any tragic summer mishaps:

- Never leave your mastiff (or any pet) in a car during the summer. Even with the windows cracked your car is like an oven and temperatures can quickly soar-causing your pet to have a heat stroke
Signs of a heatstroke are panting, drooling, rapid pulse, glazed eyes, lethargy, vomiting, lack of coordination, and unconsciousness.
Remember, when it is 80 degrees outside-your car can quickly reach 120 degrees in your car.
- Never leave your mastiff outside for long periods of time. They may love the sunshine, but some do not realize when they've been in the sun too long and can quickly overheat.
- Always make sure your mastiff has access to plenty of fresh water.
- Avoid strenuous exercise and physical activity in the heat of the day.
- If you take your dog out-keep them in the shade. Dogs can get sunburns too!
- Be cautious of pools. Although some dogs are great swimmers, not all dogs can swim.



One previous rescue beats the heat everyday by swimming in his family's pool. However another mastiff friend jumped into a pool and quickly sank to the bottom, needing to be pulled. Just use common sense. Make sure your mastiff can swim before you turn your back on them in the pool.

- For more great tips-visit the Humane Society of the United States website
http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/cool_it_summers_heat_can_be_deadly_for_your_pet.html

Fundraising:

Great Plains Mastiff Rescue is involved in many fundraisers that have helped us bring in some desperately needed funds. As you know, GPMR could not exist without our generous sponsors and donors. However, we have to find other ways to raise funds in addition to these donations to help.

Some of those are:

- **iGive Giving** back to Mastiffs! Shop online to make the lives of our rescue mastiffs a little happier! All you have to do is shop at www.iGive.com/GPMR, where up to 26% of every purchase is donated to Great Plains Mastiff Rescue! At iGive.com, membership is free! So hurry up and visit the iGive.com Mall where you can browse 680+ online stores, including PETsMART, Drs. Foster & Smith, PETCO, and PetFoodDirect! So far, GPMR has raised **\$145.57** to date by those of you who have already joined! Way to go!
- **1800petmeds**: GPMR will receive a percentage of the total sale when you buy items from 1800petmeds and enter **GPMR0K** in the "code" area during check-out. You can also get \$5 off your very first order with 1800petmeds by using code: **INQ906** in addition to the **GPMR0K** code.
<http://www.1800petmeds.com> If you are also signed up with iGive GPMR will get

an additional 4.8% donated just for being signed up with iGive and choosing GPMR as your charity! A double bonus by buying your pets medications online!

- **Karma Charms**: Unique Giant Breed accessories-lots to choose from. Visit <http://www.karma-charms.com/> and use rescue code **GPMR15** during checkout and save 10% on your order (first time buyers) AND Karma Charms will donate 15% of your total purchase amount to GPMR!
- **Recycle4Charity**: Save your laser and inkjet cartridges and turn them into cash for GPMR. GPMR volunteers ship cartridges on a regular basis, so if you would like to donate cartridges, please contact a volunteer to arrange a pick up time.
- You can also visit our online store for T-shirts, drool towels, and unique angel holding a mastiff puppy statue.
<http://www.greatplainsmastiffrescue.org/shop/>

Need a Pet sitter? Call Mallori.



in home pet care
dogs, cats, exotics

Care for your beloved pets,
while you're at work or out of town...
in the comfort of THEIR home!

Mallori Willis
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Big Dogs Porch

We have found a wonderful site that is dedicated to 'big dog' people like us! Below is their mission as stated on their website.

"The Big Dogs Porch was created for those who love giant breed dogs. While we welcome dogs of all breeds and sizes, the big ones are at our hearts as they are the ones who need us the most. A Giant Breed is not just like any other dog. They have different nutritional needs; they learn differently, their medical needs vary from that of the standard dog. So few resources are out there for these animals, and none encompass all the information needed. Not to mention the myths and prejudice that the public confronts them with every day. Large breeds are looked at as guard dogs and work horses, and something to point at in awe when you see one walking down the street. People who decide to bring one into their homes and who've done little to no research on them, eventually dump them, coming to hate all the traits that make the dog what it is. The media also hypes these dogs as violent, unstable, vicious animals, and facilitates the public frenzy that will soon make it almost impossible to bring a giant breed dog into your family, DESPITE the fact that many of these dogs have been valued family members for hundreds of years with no incidents whatsoever, and in reality it is the actions of reckless uneducated dog owners who have brought these black marks upon our beloved breeds, and destroyed centuries of work that brought us the dogs we adore.

Enter the Porch. Our mission is:

- To educate the public about large and giant breed dogs.
- To give new and prospective new owners a wealth of resources to thoroughly research and choose the breed that will best suit their home.

- To support and offer up a sense of community to current large and giant breed owners.
- To promote breed awareness and dispel the myths about these dogs.
- To actively dispute and campaign against the discriminations towards large and giant breed dogs in housing, travel, etc.
- To campaign against any and all breed bans
- To assist rescues in placement and fundraising for large and giant breed dogs.
- To implement an education program in schools to help the next generation learn that big dogs are nothing to fear, and how best to respond to them.
- To offer information on quality dog products, and to seek out these products to make them more readily available to dog world at large.

We are not in this for the money. All of the resources that we offer are free to anyone who wants or needs them. We operate solely off of donations, relevant advertising and the proceeds of our shop. Anything above and beyond our needs goes right back into the dog community. We don't do this for the fame, the cash, or the Google rankings. We do this for the dogs whose happiest moment is seeing us come through the door. For the puppies dumped at shelters because puppy antics just aren't cute at 85 pounds anymore. For the dogs who are kicked out of stores because they won't fit in a purse. For the dogs who've lived their lives outside because they're "too big for the house".

Because they deserve better."

Join BDP's talk forum by going to

<http://www.bigdogsporch.com/register.php?referrerid=477>



Adopted Mastiffs

We have already adopted 16 mastiffs to wonderful new homes! That's around the same number that we adopted out in the entire year of 2007 and we're only halfway through 2008. Take a look at all the great dogs that were adopted so far this year.

Cash: Adopted by Megan and Cory Phillips

Brody: Adopted by the Baxter Family

Misty: Adopted by Steven and Angie Pricer

Hank: Adopted by Brian and Mary Aldham

Eddie aka Zeke: Adopted by Tonya Crosson

Job: Adopted by Lila and Tom Wills

Phoebe: Adopted by the Kirkwood family

Mr. Bo: Adopted by Jason and Brittany Maclay

Cora aka Gabby: Adopted by the Garrett Family

Ellie: Adopted by the Davis Family

Amos aka Brutus: Adopted by the DeWinters

Bella: Adopted by the Bellew Family

Karma: Adopted by Deb and Drew Butkus

Annabelle aka Pumpkin: Adopted by Dawn and Michael Sharp

Wally: Adopted by the Kelly family

Rufus: Adopted by the Walters Family

Mabel: Adopted by the Darter Family

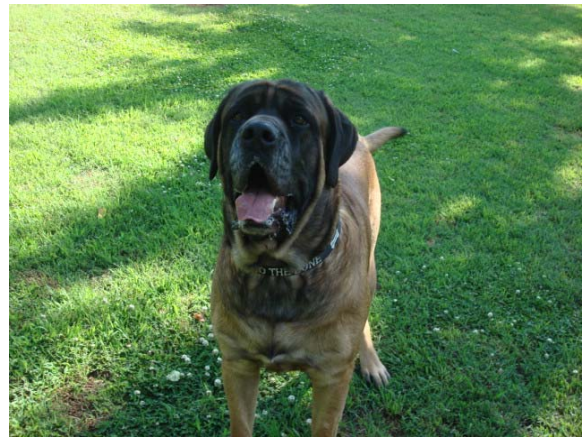
Sammie: Adopted by Patty and Daryl Rosson



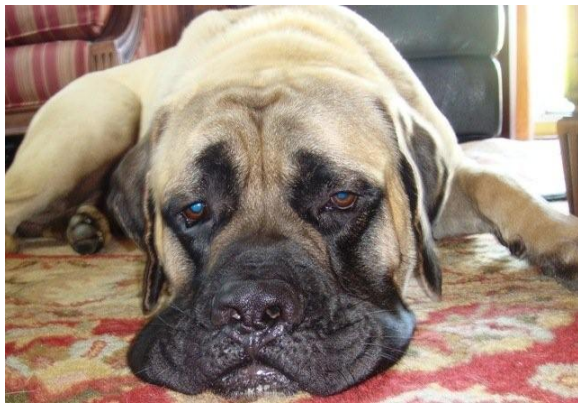
Hank in his new home with his carrot treat!

Mastiffs In The Spotlight:

Bubba: (aka Clifford) Bubba has been in rescue since December of 2007. He was surrendered by his owner to a local shelter because he got too big for them to handle. He has spent the past seven months in his foster home. He desperately needs to find his forever family. He needs a family that is willing to take on the alpha role with him. He needs firm but loving guidance and to continue with his training. He has already completed a basic obedience course and did an excellent job. He is a very big boy and full of lots of love. He is also very protective of his family. He is still a young guy at 2.5 years old. Do you know someone that would be a match for this boy?



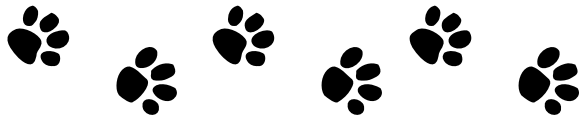
Truman: Truman is a very sweet mastiff that GPMR rescued from the streets of Tulsa. He had been a stray, living under a bush for at least a month. Our volunteers worked for a couple of days, and finally were able to catch him. He is a bit shy at first, but warms up quickly. Once he warms up, he will stay glued to your hip and follow you everywhere. He gets along with other dogs, but has not been tested with children or cats.



Featured Volunteer:

Our featured volunteer is **Deb Butkus**. Deb started helping GPMR by doing home visits and transports in 2006. Because of her extensive knowledge of the mastiff breeds she soon began doing dog evaluations along with her husband Drew. She has been our Intake Coordinator for some time by talking with shelters and owners wanting to surrender their mastiffs. She also is responsible for arranging for foster homes and transportation for those mastiffs we are able to take. Even taking in some of those Mastiffs and fostering them herself. In addition to those things, Deb has been the Treasurer of GPMR since 2007 and spends a lot of time balancing our finances. But Deb's contributions don't stop there! She also was handling most of the volunteer and foster applications that come in as well as setting up phone interviews with those applicants. Luckily she has found some much needed help with GPMR's new Co-Volunteer Coordinator, Mallori. Deb also helps our Adoption Coordinator by making phone calls and doing interviews on adoption applications. Many times Deb will handle the actual adoption herself when no one else is available. As a vet-tech, Deb has also taken on the enormous responsibility of handling all our incoming medical paperwork for the mastiffs. The list seems to go on and on with nothing more than thank-you and slobbers for all of her hard work. Deb always amazes us with her willingness to share what she knows and has experienced. She is always willing to lend a hand or just offer advice and opinions. She doesn't get paid monetarily - she does this because she loves the breed and loves us-the GPMR group! We want to give Deb a long overdue huge THANK YOU from all of us at GPMR. We know what you do, how much you do

and we want you to know how much it is appreciated. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you so much for your dedication to our group. Your efforts have saved so many lives!!



Events:

GPMR has some exciting events coming up. Please join us on the following days and help support our great cause. As always, dogs are more than welcome to come (pending weather)!

Red Dirt Boxer Rescue's "Hawgs for Hounds"

When: Saturday, August 9th, 8am-5pm.

Where: Ray Trent Dog Park, Del City, OK

Although it will be too hot for the dogs, please come join us to spread the word about GPMR at the first annual "Hawgs for Hounds" adoption event. There will be will be games, contests, entertainment, poker run, food, prizes and fun!

Yukon Czech Festival

When: Saturday, October 4th, 8am-4pm.

Where: Yukon, OK

We have been invited to join our friends at K9 University to set up a booth and spread the word about GPMR. This annual festival honors Yukon's Czech heritage and includes fun activities such as a parade, vendor booths, food, dancing coronations, and more.

The Bella Foundation's "A Dog Walk in the Park"

When: Saturday, October 4th, 9am-3pm

Where: Dufner Park, The Village, OK

Quickly becoming one of GPMR's most favorite events, the 2nd annual "Dog Walk in the Park" is sure to be fun for everyone. Come join us while we spend the day around many of our fellow rescue groups and other "dog-friendly" organizations while we try to spread the word about animal welfare and rescue.

Macy's "Shop For A Cause Event"

When: Sept. 20, 2008, all day

Where: All Macy's nationwide

Support GPMR and shop at the same time! Volunteers will be selling \$5 shopping passes for Macy's annual event. We will receive 100% of the profits and cardholders will receive great savings such as 20% off regular, sale and clearance apparel and accessories. See www.macys.com/charity for more information! Please contact a volunteer if you would like to purchase a single pass or several to sell to friends, families and coworkers.

If you are interested in volunteering or just want to come out and "say hi" please email events@greatplainsmastiffrescue.org and our Event Coordinator will be more than happy to answer any questions.