

Mastiff Mingler

Great Plains Mastiff Rescue Foundation

2007

**Great Plains Mastiff Rescue
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Dogs in the Spotlight: by Deb Butkus and Donyelle Weston

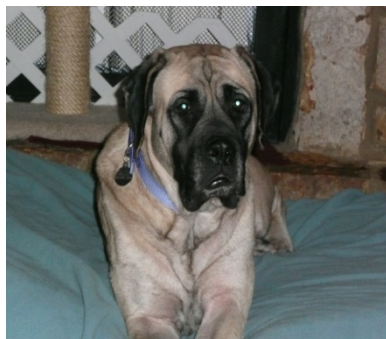
GPMR has taken in two rescues recently which required extensive medical care. One is Daisy, due to being hit by a car as a puppy; she had a damaged hip which required surgery. Because of the abnormal bone structure from the injury, she was not eligible for a hip replacement. The Orthopedic Surgeon recommended a Femoral Head Ostectomy (FHO), which removed the ball of her femur to decrease the pain of it rubbing where the socket should be. Her surgery went well and she is recovering in foster care waiting for her forever home!

The second is Mabel. Mabel is a darling girl who came from a kill-shelter and was very underweight and diagnosed with heartworms. Heartworms can obstruct the blood flow from the heart along with causing many other cardiac complications. Left untreated, heartworm disease leads to death. Heartworm disease is prevalent in Oklahoma along with most of the United States. Prevention is very inexpensive, while treatment can run an owner hundreds of dollars. This disease can be avoided through consistent monthly heartworm prevention year around. We expect Mabel to make a full recovery. She will be getting spayed in December and will be ready for her forever home at that time. Apply now for these wonderful Mastiffs!

"Daisy"



"Mabel"



Newsletter Features

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- A Sammie To Love
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A Sammie to Love

By: Mallori Willis



And all that jazz: Sammie shows off her 1920's Flapper costume at the K9 University Halloween party (Oct 2007)

Only a few short months ago, Sammie arrived at K9 University for help. I was told to expect a new arrival from GPMR, and also that she should be taken in through the side door, not the lobby. Her aversion to other dogs—and also men—became evident very quickly. Those familiar with her knew she had a long recovery ahead.

Unlike many rescue animals, Sammie had known of love and home and safety. She was an only “fur-kid” to a single woman. Unfortunately, her owner became

ill, but loved Sammie enough to place her in the hands of people who would help her. Sammie’s situation became more complicated when she was asked to no longer be an only child. That’s when she came to K9U.

As days passed, Sammie blossomed with grace from a shy and nervous dog into the loving soul pictured. When the costume party came around a flapper-girl seemed the obvious choice. I’ve never seen a dog dance quite like Sammie. When approached—by men, women, children, even other dogs—she starts a full body wag from nose to tail. She’s still got rhythm, even at six years old.

Sammie takes regular outings. In the car, she’s not much for hanging her head out the window, but is a fantastic backseat driver and will rest her head on your shoulder just to make sure you’re doing everything right. Out and about, she is fast friends with everyone she meets. Her fears seem to have melted away to reveal the truly gentle spirit that was there all along.

In turn, Sammie is now used in demonstration with other dogs and their families coping with similar problems. When she now calmly faces these troubled animals, I like to think her knowing eyes tell them, “You’ll be okay.”

The perfect home for Sammie would be one with older children and she’s still especially fond of women. She would also love to be your only dog, but might make an exception if you ask nicely. There is not a more rewarding and unconditional love than that from a dog that has known both loss and hope. There is not a more pure loyalty than that given by Sammie, and she is ready now for her own family to love. Please consider taking the final steps to recovery with her by giving her a forever home. She will reward a thousand times over with affection, devotion and, of course, dances.

Mastiffs adopted in 2007:

- **Angel**-adopted in January
- **Brutus** (Bart)- adopted in February
- **Paddie**(Blondie)-adopted in February
- **Spencer**-adopted in March
- **Bailey**-adopted in April
- **Layla**-adopted in May
- **Annie**-adopted in May
- **Bella** (Minnie)-adopted in May
- **Delilah** (Bella)-adopted in July
- **Bella**-adopted in July
- **Molly**-adopted in July
- **Holly**-adopted in August
- **Bo** (Buster)-adopted in November



A special THANK
YOU to Robert and
Katie Perhach
(Spencer's doggy
parents) for donating
several months of
boarding fees for
Sammie. You are her
'Angels in Arizona!'



GPMR needs you! By Angela Strickland

Archie, Buster, Spencer, Daisy, Mabel,
Minnie, Bella, Jazzy, Angel...

What do these names have in common?
These are just some of the Mastiffs that our
GPMR Volunteers have fostered in the
past two years. From fun loving, energetic
puppies to dogs with special emotional or
physical needs, our volunteers do
amazing work with the dogs that we take.
It is unbelievable the transformation that
love, gentleness, and consistency will do
for a dog who is cared for in one of our
wonderful foster homes.

How many Mastiffs have we been unable
to take because we don't have a place for
them to foster? We'd like to say none, but
the reality of rescue is sometimes the
resources we have don't meet the needs
out there. What can you do? GPMR is
looking for loving homes with room in
their hearts for fostering. Some dogs just
need a place to hang out for a few weeks
until they go to their forever home and
some dogs need special care by
experienced owners who can help them
become better pets. Even if you aren't
sure it would work, it doesn't hurt to get
more information. If you are even
considering fostering, contact us at
info@greatplainsmastiffrescue.org to
discuss how fostering can work for you.

Worried about the fate of dogs that we
can't take? GPMR does all we can to help
them. There are certain times that we take
a dog, even when there is no foster home.
We end up having to board them, which is
expensive and doesn't give the Mastiff the
benefit of a family environment to learn
from. We also work with other
organizations and individuals to do all we
can for Mastiffs in need of a new home,
even when we are unable to take the dog
into our rescue. Fostering can be a truly
rewarding experience and the Mastiffs
need you!

Fundraising

By Laura Martens

GPMR is an all volunteer organization which depends on generous donations to fund our rescue. We have lots of programs that our organization is signed up with that makes it fun and easy to support rescue. Some of the programs we are signed up with are:

- **1-800-PetMeds.** You can purchase your pets medicines at a great price and help support rescue at the same time. 1800petmeds donates 10% of what you spend to the rescue of your choice. It's easy! Just go to their website www.1800petmeds.com and be sure to specify our rescue code **GPMROK** at checkout to make sure we get the donated portion.
- **Cash for Critters:** This is another way to help our planet and GPMR at the same time. Cash for Critters recycles empty printer cartridges and donates a specified dollar amount to GPMR for each and every laser and / or jet cartridge. Please contact us and let us know if you would like to participate and we'll provide postage paid envelopes for the small cartridges, or we'll arrange for a volunteer to pick up the larger cartridges. Please contact us at info@greatplainsmastiffrescue.org.

GPMR wants to give a HUGE thank you to Sheila Thompson who helped us to raise \$150-\$200 for our Cash for Critters campaign by donating used ink cartridges. This money will go to good use and help with the medical care of many new Mastiffs in need. Not only does the money go to helping dogs in need, but it is also a great way to help the environment. Way to go!

Thank you Sheila!!!

- **Checks Your Way:** You can order customized Mastiff checks and Checks Your Way will donate a portion of your sale to GPMR. Just click on the link on our website OR go to their website directly http://checkyourway.com/html/item_dog.php?item_id=588 Our two contest winning photos are featured on these checks. They are absolutely adorable!
- **Goodsearch:** You can help GPMR just by searching the internet. We get \$0.01 per completed search. To date, we have earned \$9.22. Every little bit helps and it's SO easy. You can set up a Goodsearch toolbar to make it that much easier. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and under "who do you goodsearch for" just type in Great Plains Mastiff Rescue Foundation and click verify. You can follow the steps to search or set up a toolbar.
- **Goodshop:** Since we are signed up on Goodsearch, we are also signed up with Goodshop. You can shop stores like Petsmart, Petco, Barnes and Noble, Ebay, Best Buy, Nordstrom, Wal-mart and so many more. Just specify who you Goodsearch for and you'll see the percentage donated to our charity organization by just looking at the store link. Be sure to specify Great Plains Mastiff Rescue!
- **iGive.com:** Go to www.igive.com/GPMR and register. There are 680 stores to choose from. iGive walks you through downloading a charity button so every time you shop with one of the participating stores you'll never miss a chance to donate to GPMR!

The Importance of Fostering

By Donyelle Weston

Every day rescue organizations across the United States are contacted by local shelters about animals sitting on “death row.” There are many reasons why animals end up in shelters; not allowed by their landlords, their owner doesn’t have enough time for them, there is a new baby coming, moving, behavior/physical problems...whatever the reason might be, it doesn’t change the end result.

There is an over abundance of homeless animals in area shelters. Sadly, many of these animals die every day because there are just too many in need and not enough available foster spots in area rescues. I heard someone say once “We wish that we could save everyone. The truth is that we just can’t. We help all that we can and we pray for the rest.” Every time I go to the shelter and look at a dog that will die, even though I have to look into those warm brown eyes and know there isn’t any more room, I try to think about that.

Foster care is extremely rewarding and the reality is that without it, lives are lost. We take in the old, the young, the healthy, the sick, the neglected and abused. Some foster homes prefer males, some females, some like seniors, others adults, and of course, there are the young. Different dogs fit different lifestyles and many foster homes find which types fit best in theirs. We take them into our homes and love them as one of our own. We save them. We heal them. We help them become whole again. We give them the most precious gifts. We have saved their lives and we place them into a home where

they are loved and cared for. With each adoption, there is always another in need. Without that adoption, there is no space and another life is lost.

Sure, it is hard to say good-bye, but most adoptive homes stay in touch. They send pictures, emails, and cards. You grow into a huge extended family.

A lot of people look at rescue animals as “damaged” or, for lack of better words, “used/discounted” items. A majority of the rescues that I have had the opportunity to foster in my home were truly wonderful and have brought a lot of joy into their new forever homes.

I sit here and think of all the fosters that I have been blessed enough to have had come through my home. Some stay for a short period and some for longer. There have been so many that I have to look through my photos and I think to myself...what would have happened to them if I hadn’t filled out that volunteer application? I am so glad that I did.

We want to thank all of our volunteers who have opened their hearts and homes at one time or another for one of our rescued Mastiffs.

Featured Volunteer: Julie Moseley!

By Deb Butkus

Julie Moseley has been a volunteer and foster home with GPMR since December 2006. She has been an invaluable part of our rescue, because we have been able to save more dogs through her fostering efforts. She has taken in some of our more challenging rescues and provided the perfect patient and loving environment which allowed them to come out of their shell and flourish under her care. She has a Mastiff, a Lab, and recently added GPMR's Bo to her family! We're so thankful to have her as part of our rescue- thanks Julie for all that you do for the Mastiffs!



Julie and Bo sharing a special moment at the "Dog Walk in the Park" event.

A HUGE thank-you to Dr. Chris Rispoli and his staff at Gentle Care Animal Hospital. 17200 N. May Suite 900, Edmond, Ok. 405-285-WOOF (9663)



Julie and Bo at K9 U's Halloween Costume Contest for Alumni.

“Good Dog” By Mallori Willis

What happens when a nearly 200 pound dog decides he’s not going to play nice? In the rescue business, Great Plains Mastiff Rescue does occasionally encounter a difficult case. Some rescue dogs have lived unstable or abused lives; others simply struggle to adjust to their changing circumstances. Either way, finding a foster or forever home for a troubled Mastiff can be a challenge. What to do? Call in the experts!

“If your dog needs training, STOP COMPLAINING,” declares the bold print on the K9 University van. Whether your terrier is a terror, your poodle is a piddler, or your Rottweiler is afraid of her own shadow—it’s just another day at the office for dog behavior specialist and owner of K9 University, Angel Soriano, and his small team of training experts. On the website, K9U describes itself as an “educational institution focusing on dog training needs from the most basic needs to the very advanced and specialized training.” Angel Soriano is recognized by multiple trainers’ associations and has been in the business since 1985. For almost two years, GPMR has called on Angel to help prepare problematic Mastiffs—and often their newly adopted families—for a new life.

One such case involved a big boy named Spencer. Spencer was horribly neglected in his old home, and after a particularly heated encounter with animal control, Spencer was placed in the hands of GPMR and K9U. Spencer’s socialization began with a stay at the “U” and continued through Basic Obedience class. Spencer is now a happy and social dog living with

a family and three other dogs in Arizona. Another Basic Obedience Graduate is Molly. This sweet young girl was surrendered once by owners who could no longer keep her and a second time by her adoptive family because she developed a huge problem with one of their resident dogs. She was treated for severe dog aggression before going to a home with her new adopter. Molly is now best friends with her four-legged brother who visits on a regular basis. Sammie, featured in this newsletter, is still living at K9 University, but ready for adoption, having successfully overcome her aggression towards dogs and fear of men.

There is not an easy solution for dogs that have aggression or fear to overcome; however, K9 University believes that even the most difficult dogs are worth helping. Great Plains would like to extend a warm hand of thanks to Angel and his amazing staff.

Contact **K9 University** at:

231-HEEL
9217 NW Expressway
www.myk9u.com



GPMR Events of 2007 by Erin Karl

GPMR had some great successes this year at events. On April 5th, several of our volunteers attended the Burger Festival in El Reno and were a big hit. The Mastiffs that attended were the stars of the show. People stopped by to ask questions and pet the dogs the entire day.

April 18-19th we had a huge garage sale at GPMR President Vicki Collins' house in Edmond with all the proceeds going to rescue. The summer heat kept us and our Mastiffs from doing much for the next few months, but the dogs were out in full force on September 15th for The Bella Foundation's "A Dog Walk in the Park."



Thank you to all of the mastiffs who served as amazing ambassadors for the breed, and also a special nod to our past-adoption families and pups who came and showed the public what a great success a mastiff adoption could be.



On October 21st we attended the Volunteers for Animal Welfare's "Paws on Parade" at the Stars and Stripes Park at Lake Hefner where Sammie, along with Mallori's help, showed off her wonderful training that she received at K9 University. We were also lucky to have Daisy and Bo join us as well to represent the great mastiffs that we have for adoption.



We have high hopes for upcoming events, including a gift wrapping fundraiser at Borders, and a Christmas party. We hope to have a "Mastiff Mingle" for all of our past adopters and their mastiffs, and the "Big Dog Bash" scheduled for the spring of '08. We hope all of you will be able to come to these and many more of our future events. Great Plains Mastiff Rescue wouldn't be what it is today without our volunteers. The more we are able to get our organization out into the public's eye, the more mastiffs we will be able to save.

Happy Holidays!

