



the LEASH

Second Chance Animal Rescue Member Newsletter | Issue 1.0



100% Peanuts!

When SCARS first heard about Peanut, they were responding to a call from a community in Northern Alberta. SCARS were informed an unwanted dog and her pups had moved into a local resident’s doghouse. When the volunteers arrived, they found two adult females and some puppies. These unwanted adult dogs were later named Pumpkin and Peanut. The volunteers caught Pumpkin and the puppies, which belonged to Peanut, but Peanut evaded repeated capture attempts. The volunteers were eventually forced to leave without her, but Peanut would not be forgotten. It wasn’t until a year later that Peanut was captured and SCARS was able to collect her from the community’s dog pound. Once again, Peanut had a batch of puppies, but Peanut was finally safe and SCARS was able to find homes for all of her puppies.

Peanut is what many would call a “feral” dog. She was very frightened and shy so human interaction was next to impossible. However, she did have a tremendous love for other dogs. She found comfort in a new friend named Buzz, a shepherd cross that was her kennel mate. Peanut’s caregiver, Sylvia Christiansen, could tell that Peanut was just scared, not aggressive or confrontational. She saw the potential for Peanut, and knew the timing had to be right for her rehabilitation so she made a deci-

sion to keep Peanut at SCARS’ primary foster facility near Athabasca. Then one day in February, Buzz found his furever home! Peanut watched as her best friend moved on to a bright new future—without her. She was sad, and seemed confused about the lack of companionship. SCARS knew the time had come to advance Peanut into a foster family environment.

To rehabilitate a dog such as Peanut, the foster home had to be prepared to introduce new things very slowly. For the first two weeks, Peanut only left the safety and comfort of her crate to eat and to go outside. She would allow her caregivers to pet her, but only while she was in her crate. Slowly, she started to venture down the hallway but then would hide under the table. Her curiosity was an excellent sign that she was starting to trust her surroundings. Her foster family would encourage her to eat from their hands, and to allow them to approach and pet her. Her relationship with the resident dogs became

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stronger. They were pivotal in Peanut's rehabilitation process. They showed her that human interaction was actually a very positive thing. Within six weeks, her four-foot safety distance had been reduced to about one-foot and was allowing her foster parents to approach her slowly and pet her gently.

After being in SCARS care for almost 18 months, Peanut was ready for adoption if the right home came along. The new home would have to accept that she might always be shy. Within four days of announcing Peanut was ready to be adopted, her family found her. The family came to meet her and saw the same potential that Sylvia saw in her many, many months ago. Peanut was brought home by her new family in May 2009 for a long life of unconditional love!

HOUSE TRAINING 101

Searching for the right puppy for your home is an exciting experience. Choosing a name, picking out collars and leashes, selecting a healthy choice of dog food and finding just the right bed for your new furry companion is very rewarding. When you bring your new puppy home, you might find things a bit overwhelming. Schedule changes and new routines are made. One of the first routines that should be made is a house training schedule for your puppy. House training can be one of the most stressful tasks when owning a puppy. Consistency is vital when conducting a routine.

The most important thing an owner must remember with house training is patience. It is a team effort between members of your family and your new puppy.

The first course of action in housetraining is to promote the desired behavior. You need to:

- designate an area outdoors where your puppy can eliminate;
- always guide your dog to the designated area to do its business; and
- give positive reinforcement when your pet is finished.

Your pet will eventually learn that this is the place business should be completed.

A two- to four-month old puppy's bladder muscles are not completely trained so it will need to be taken outdoors every one to three hours. Older puppies can generally wait longer between outings. Most puppies should be taken out:

- Immediately after waking in the morning
- Immediately after naps
- Immediately after meals
- Immediately after playing or training
- After being left alone
- Immediately before being put to bed

Teaching your puppy a command or cue to eliminate is an effective way to encourage them what they're doing is a desired behavior. If your puppy eliminates on cue, be sure to praise it with plenty of positive reinforcement.

Avoid giving your puppy a large meal just prior to confining it or it may have to go when you're not around to take it out. Limit feeding to two times daily for a consistent schedule.

- Have food available for only 20 minutes, and then remove it.
- The morning feeding should be at least one hour before you leave for work, with plenty of supervised outings so the puppy has the opportunity to eliminate before being left alone.
- The evening feeding should be done several hours before the puppy is confined for the night.

A puppy should always be supervised when they are in the house and outside of his x-penned space.

Watch for signals that the puppy may need to eliminate:

- Sniffing, circling or whining
- Gravitating to corners or trying to go out of sight
- As the puppy gets older, try to distract and redirect the puppy as you see these signs before taking it outside to its designated elimination area. This will teach it to hold its bladder longer. It is suggested to increase this time by five minute intervals every two weeks.
- Baby gates can be helpful to control movement throughout the house and to aid supervision.

In summary, keeping a puppy in a confined area when unsupervised, by controlling the feeding schedule, exercise sessions, confinement periods and trips outdoors to the designated elimination area, your puppy will quickly develop a reliable schedule for eliminating.

CRATE TRAINING 101

Training a puppy to be comfortable in a crate is a good way to keep him safe and confined during house training and when left unsupervised. Most puppies will quickly accept a crate if you make the introduction very positive.

Dogs are den animals, so it is actually normal for them to gravitate to a "safe place." A puppy will not normally eliminate in its crate, provided that it is given opportunities to eliminate outside of it, or if the crate is not too large for it. When choosing a crate size, choose one that is one and a half times the length of the dog/puppy (excluding the tail) and wide enough that they can lay down with their legs stretched out and their feet and ears are not touching the sides.

A good rule to follow when trying to determine how long a puppy can be confined in its crate is to take its age in months and add a month. For example, a three month old puppy can be left in a crate for up to four hours. If you can not provide the opportunity for your puppy to be out of its crate within this time frame, place the crate in a small area, and provide puppy pads or paper on the floor, and leaving the door to the crate open while you are away is best. Be sure this area is as close to the door that you would like the puppy to use when going out to eliminate. Placing an x-pen around the open door crate will provide the puppy with enough space to leave his crate to eliminate on puppy pads and to return to the crate to rest while you are away.

letters from home

Hi SCARS

It's me Teri, checking in to let you guys know I'm doing great and you guys never have to worry about me again. Everything is awesome here! I have a mom and a dad and my very own boy! He always wants to play with me and pet me. They even made me my favourite toy, a ripped up tee shirt with a knot in it, great for tug of war.

I'm learning a lot here. Did you know that sitting and staying gets you petted all over and everyone gets happy with me? And my mom says that although I am very well behaved there's a lot more she wants to teach me.

I'm grateful to SCARS for saving me and my puppies and finding homes for all of us. And even though it has only been a month, I have found my furever family. The little blue blanket story has found a happy ending.

Best of Wags,
Teri

Date

Teri

Read Teri's rescue story on
www.scarscare.org

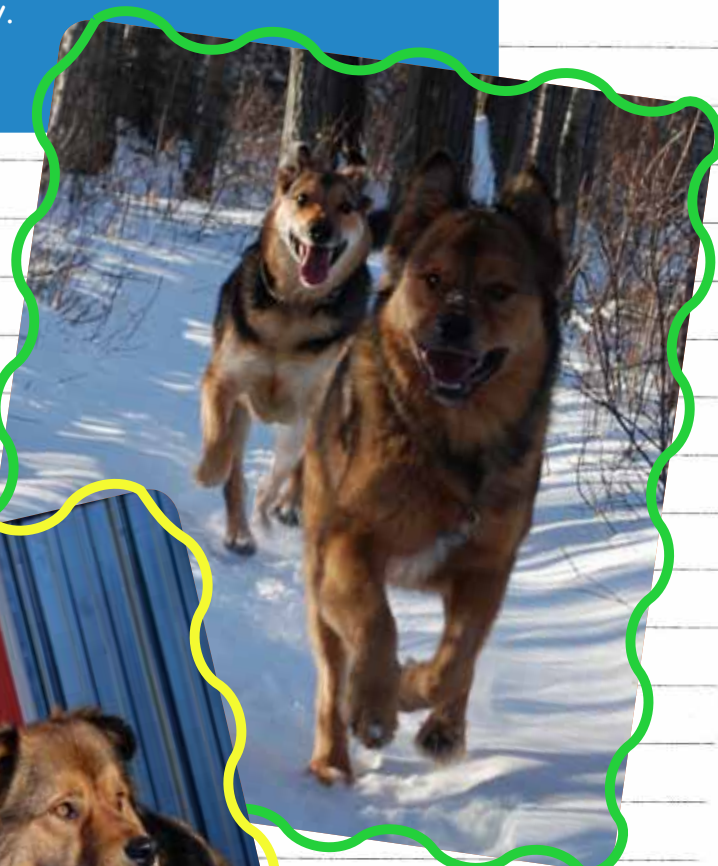


Hello everyone!

I just wanted to update you on my new life with my new family - I'm so so happy. I live on an acreage in Stony Plain and have a new big brother (Ziggy) who's about the same size as I am, so it's really fun running around with him -we bite each other's tails and ears. I also have 2 big sisters (Britney who's a 10 year old toy poodle and Suzie who's an 11 year old kitty cat); I luv them both. Britney and I chase each other around the house and nibble on each other for fun-she's really cool (quite a bit yappy but that's ok). Suzie is pretty quiet, she doesn't really bother anyone and quite frankly is kind of cute -maybe I'll date her.

My parents luv me lots and treat me very good (especially my dad when he scratches my belly). I now know how to sit, lie down and give my paw-I'm learning all sorts of new stuff. I'm a lucky boy.

Chewy.



Chewy



news & events

SCARS receives Community Spirit Donation

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, SCARS has received a grant of \$25,000 through the Alberta government's Community Spirit Donation Program. Only non-profit and registered charity organizations that have received more than \$1,000 in annual donations from individual donors are eligible. SCARS received the maximum amount given through the program because of the generosity of our donors, and that is why your ongoing support is more important than ever!

For more information on the Community Spirit Program, which includes new tax incentives for donors, visit www.communityspiritprogram.ca. To donate to SCARS, visit www.scarscare.org.

New Website launched!



On May 21, 2009, SCARS launched its new and improved website. The website highlights a pet of the month, along with a number of adoptable animals. Many user-friendly features have been added to help animal lovers keep in touch with the latest news and events happening with SCARS. Thank you to Market Web for donating their time and services! www.marketweb.ca

SCARS can also be found on Facebook and Twitter!

Canines and Cocktails 2009

Canines & Cocktails is the place to be on September 18! Join us for an amazing non-stop evening in support of animal rescue. "Woof it up" with your friends and enjoy delicious cuisine, and the opportunity to bid on a huge assortment of items in our silent or fun-filled live auction.

Place: The Palace Banquet & Conference Facility
3223 Parsons Road (99 St.)
Date: Friday, September 18, 2009
Time: 6:30 Cocktails
7:30 Dinner

Canines and Cocktails Tickets are \$35.00 and includes dinner and a live and silent auction.

Tickets can be purchased on our website or at selected The Bone & Biscuit Co. and Tail Blazers locations.



news & events cont'd

SCARS visits Dog Town in Utah

During the 2009 Pet Expo Conference last April, SCARS and PARS had the opportunity to go on a tour of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah, guided by one of the original founders. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah is best known as “Dog Town” by the National Geographic. They are home to about 2,000 dogs, cats, and other animals, who come from shelters and rescue groups around the United States for special care they can only receive at Best Friends.

Most of the animals who find their way to Best Friends have special physical or behavioral needs, and the expert staff of veterinarians, trainers and caregivers offer them all the help they require. Most of them are ready to go to good new homes after just a few weeks of special care. A few, who are too old or too sick, or who have suffered extra trauma, find a home and haven at the sanctuary, and are given loving care for the rest of their lives.

Dog Town operates very similar to SCARS, but on a much greater scale. “It was amazing to see first-hand how such a large scale animal rescue group operates, and all the opportunities to grow SCARS to help even more animals,” says Sylvia Christensen, Founder and President of SCARS.



Left: Sylvia and company at Dog Town.



Farm Credit Canada donates \$500 to SCARS

SCARS would like to thank Lorraine Spreadbury and Farm Credit Canada for donating \$500 to SCARS. Lorraine is a foster home for SCARS, who also adopted Zoe, a SCARS dog to keep as her own.

Right: Sylvia and Lorraine with furry friends, Uma and Zoe.

Tails & Trails another success!

A really fun and very successful Tails on the Trails event was held on Saturday, June 6 at Lion's Park in St. Albert. This year, 110 registered dog walkers raised \$25,000 in pledges plus an additional \$1,500 from raffle tickets and a BBQ.

This year's event included adoptions. Event supporters got to meet many of our adoptable animals and we are thrilled to report that fourteen dogs found their forever home as a result of this event.

A heart-felt thank to all the pledged walkers, and the close to 40 volunteers. As well, we sincerely thank all of our generous sponsors (listed below). Without you, this event would not be possible. A very big bow wow WOW to each of you!

2009 TAILS & TRAILS BUSINESS SPONSORS

Absolute Dollar
Auntie Em's Dog and Puppy Care
Barker's Pet Motel
Beaverhill Veterinary Services Ltd
Bone & Biscuit - St Albert
Bone & Biscuit - The Hamptons
Busy B Thrift Store - Tofield
Callingwood Safeway
Canada One Office Products
Caps Cold Beer Store - Tofield
Champion Pet Foods
Costco Wholesale 149 St
Dogma Decorum
Doggy Style Deli
Elliesslie Dental Studios

G&E Pharmacy
Gateway Village Safeway
Goodwill
Happy Tiers Ltd Cake Design
Hastings Lake Gardens
Hermitage Vet Hospital
Inglewood Safeway
Italian Bakery
K-9 Choice
Kingdom Pets
Medical
Oxford Square Save-on-Foods
Pet Rescue Magazine
Priority Printing
Purina

Rae "The Nutman"
Reynolds Mirth Richards &
Farmer LLP
Ricci Hair Co
St Albert Canadian Tire
Sturgeon Valley Athletic Club
Superstore Wholesale Club
Tail Blazers - Gateway Blvd
The Coast Edmonton Plaza
Hotel
Tim Horton's Capilano Mall
Tofield Bottle Depot
Tofield True Value
Vic's Super Drugs



adoptable & adorable!



Rueben

My favourite game is tag, oh besides playing fetch. I am crate trained, house trained, listen very well, and am just an all around happy go lucky guy. Also, I am only about two years old. Just like you I have some stipulations as to where I would like to live. I would love to go to a home that does not have cats, as they are too fast to catch, and because I love to live life to the fullest, a home without small children might be best.



Zahara

I'm a red heeler, likely close to two years old. I'm leash trained, crate trained and house trained. I'm 60 pounds and medium sized. I need a fully fenced yard about six feet high to keep me safe. I still have some work to do when it comes to meeting strangers, so a calm assertive, active family would be the best fit for a girl like me.

I am a very gentle soul. I am about 6 or 7 years old which means that I am in the prime of my life. I am extremely laid back around other dogs (even the yappy small ones who try to jump on my back), but am pretty scared of people. I know I will come to trust my people soon.



Fionn MacCool



Puggle

I am about the size of a Beagle with the sweetest Pug face. I LOVE attention from the kids and grown-ups alike, and seem to like the other animals (as long as they are not too bossy).

how can you help?

Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) is a non-profit, registered charitable organization dedicated to reducing the number of homeless animals in Northern Alberta, Canada. To date, SCARS has rescued and rehomed over 2,000 animals.

Our mission is to promote the humane care and protection of all animals and to prevent cruelty and suffering. We believe there is a suitable home for all homeless animals: young or old; large or small. We provide veterinary care and foster homes until permanent homes are found. Our foster homes provide the animals with warm shelter, food, exercise and tender loving care – something that so many of these animals have never experienced. We also promote responsible pet ownership, the importance of spaying and neutering, and community awareness.

We rely solely on money raised through memberships, donations, sponsorships and other fundraising efforts. Because we have no paid staff and use private homes for fostering, we can only take in as many animals as our resources will allow. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- **Donate or sponsor** – our medical expenses are enormous. Please consider donating to our rescue efforts. We will issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20.

- **Foster an animal** – we rely on our volunteer foster homes to provide temporary care until we can find suitable permanent homes. There is no cost to becoming a foster home. We will provide everything you need.

- **Volunteer** – we are always looking for volunteers to help with adoption events, animal care and transportation, and our daily operations. As a volunteer, you will become an integral part of a team that is dedicated to giving animals a second chance.

- **Buy an annual membership** – memberships cost just \$25 and include newsletters, a calendar and opportunities to volunteer.

- **Adopt an animal** – provide a needy animal with a loving, permanent home. To see pictures of adoptable animals, visit our website. Their stories might make you cry, but they will also fill you with love and hope. There are so many people who care and the animals are so grateful.

- **Buy our merchandise** – please buy SCARS clothing or our 2009 calendar. Visit our website to view our complete selection.

This is our first issue of The Leash, an exclusive newsletter for SCARS members. We hope you like it!

For more information, other ways to help, or to provide us with feedback or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact:



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