

# Shelter Notes



SPRING/SUMMER 2008 NO. 7

## Travels with Junior

Junior, a darling little Beagle mix, was surrendered by an owner who didn't have the time to care for him. Left alone for long periods of time, Junior decided to chew on furniture to ease his boredom, but that ended up getting him tied to a radiator day in and day out. When he came to us, he was very scared, and had little socialization skills or experience with regular household life. Gradually, with lots of love and attention from the staff and volunteers, he began to blossom into his sweet self.

One day, after several months at the shelter, Capt. Patrick Barry of the Pittsfield Police Dept. spotted him. Something clicked between the two of them, and he started to visit Junior often, taking him for long walks. He even brought him home for overnight stays. With the support of Capt. Barry's wife Tracie, Junior soon found a great new home.

Now, Junior's life is no longer filled with boredom. He has a huge fenced-in yard that he gets to run around in with his brother, Snoopy II, and sister, Emma Lee. The whole family enjoys frequent hikes to Lenox Mountain, Kennedy State Park, Pittsfield State Forest, and trails in Richmond. And on top of all that fun, Junior and his family recently took a trip to Monticello and Shenandoah National State Park in Virginia.

The Eleanor Sonsini Animal Shelter, Pittsfield's municipal shelter, is managed by The Friends of Eleanor Sonsini Animal Shelter, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) public charity. We are dedicated to reuniting stray animals from Pittsfield with their owners, providing shelter and veterinary care for animals in need, and finding loving homes for adoptable, homeless animals.



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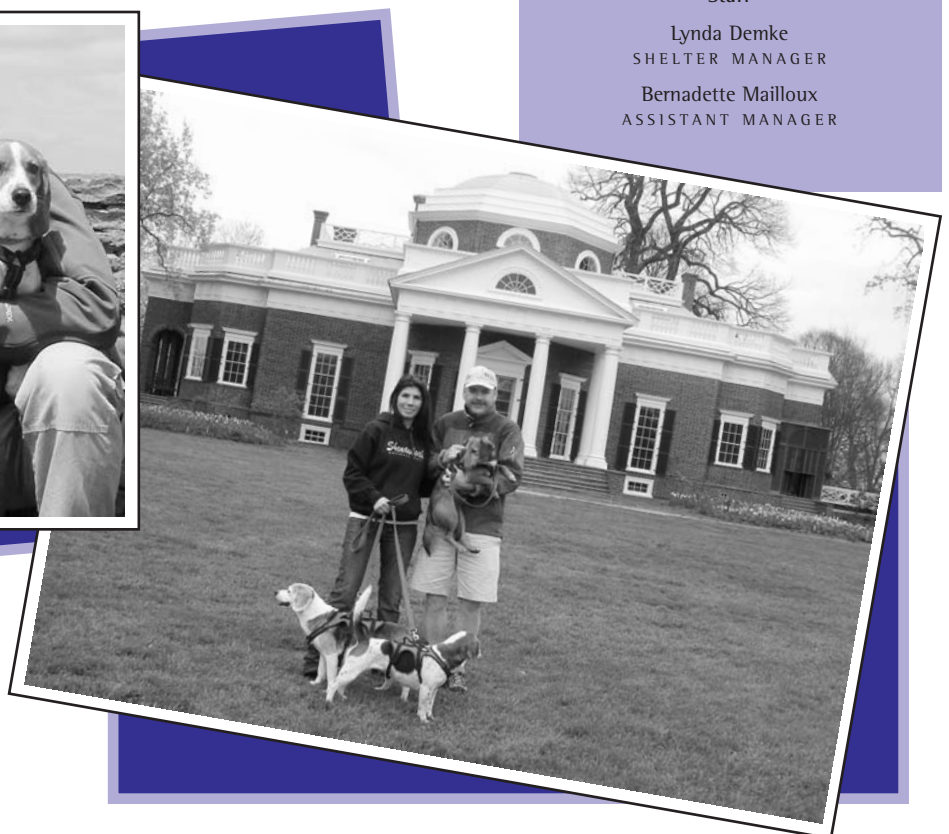
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*Greetings from Virginia! Junior (at left in top photo) on vacation with his new family; Capt. Patrick Barry and his wife Tracie, and canine friends Snoopy II and Emma Lee. The family enjoyed a hike in Shenandoah National State Park (top) and a visit to Thomas Jefferson's beloved home, Monticello. (right)*





## From the Chair of the Board



One of my favorite things about being involved with the shelter is that we frequently get updates from the wonderful people who have adopted our cats and dogs. Sometimes they even come back for a visit with a former shelter dog who is now part of their family. I think back to some of the sad situations these animals came from and how some of them, while they were at the shelter, were recovering physically or emotionally from their previous life. But to hear those happy ending stories, and to see the pictures of smiling dogs and contented cats enjoying life in their new home makes it all worthwhile. It completes the story of the work we do at the shelter. It wouldn't be possible without your support. Thank you. And stop by the shelter sometime to look through our scrapbook. You'll see some great, heart-warming pictures of animals who can't believe life can be so good.

*Carol*

Carol Lew



## Two lucky dogs



*Victor is enjoying his new life on a horse farm in Goshen.*

Victor and Buddy were on the loose and rounded up by the Pittsfield police. They came from an owner with too many dogs, and an inability to care for them well or keep them from roaming the neighborhood causing havoc. After many complaints from neighbors, all of the dogs were taken, and we ended up with these two, who were good dogs in a bad situation.

Buddy's break came when John and MaryAnn saw his picture on the Sonsini Shelter web site. They had lost their dog of 12 years to cancer a year before, and something about Buddy reminded them of him. They decided he was just the dog for them. "He loves to be close to us at all times and even sleeps with us in our king-size bed," MaryAnn wrote to us. "He's taken over our hearts and home and is a hit with our neighbors and friends too. We are so happy to have him be part of our life."

*If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, you can e-mail [eleanorsonsinishelter@yahoo.com](mailto:eleanorsonsinishelter@yahoo.com), write "no newsletter" in the subject line, and your name and address in the body of the email. You may also call or write to the shelter to request removal from our mailing list.*

Victor, an older dog who was extremely thin and ragged when he came in, is now a beautiful boy who lives with his new canine friend, Skylar, on a horse farm. They spend their days romping together, chasing squirrels and chewing on horse poop. (It's a dog thing.) His new person, Virginia Berry wrote, "By his fourth day here, Victor figured it out — that this is home. He follows me around, wagging, saying "You're my mom, aren't you?" And I say yes, and we do hugs and pats."



*Buddy loves to be close to his new people.*



## More happy tails...



### Everybody loves Milo

Little Milo was one of the many Sonsini kittens who grew up in foster care. He was adopted by the D'Amato-Mickanin family where he's the star of the show now. "He's such a sweet little guy!" we read in a recent letter from the family. "He's playful and full of energy, but as soon as you pick him up and snuggle him, he goes right to sleep." reports Allison D'Amato.



*Milo*



### Mandy comes around

Mandy, a beautiful, blue-eyed, long-haired cat came to our shelter last July. She was about as grumpy as they come. Just walking by her cage would send her into a hissy fit! And it didn't get better as time went on, so volunteer Ellen Casey, our resident cat consultant, decided to foster her in September. It took a long, long time, but Mandy started to come around ... a little.

In January, she was adopted into a home that didn't mind a cat with a little bit of an attitude. Adopter Joan DiCroce said, "The first ten days were awful. She growled, hissed at me and bit me too! Finally I'd had it. I gave her the riot act and told her if she didn't stop that nonsense I'd take her right back to the shelter." Apparently Mandy got the picture. "From that moment on, she has been just wonderful," says Joan. "She loves to be brushed, follows me from room to room, and sleeps right next to me."



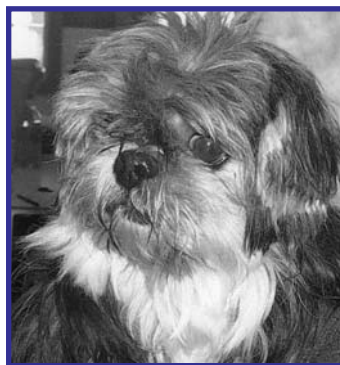
*Mandy*



### Mr. Darcy's turn

Leslie Makings visited our shelter certain she was going to adopt Peanut, a Chihuahua/Jack Russell Terrier mix she saw advertised in the Berkshire Eagle. But Peanut is a shy gal with her own ideas about who she likes. After an hour of sitting in the office, coaxing Peanut to come near, Leslie left in tears saying, "Why doesn't she like me?"

Several weeks later, a stray Lhasa Apso we named Mr. Darcy met Leslie and it was love at first sight for both of them. As Leslie is a ballet teacher, she wanted a dog who would join her as she taught classes. "Mr. Darcy is adored by my students, and he absolutely loves class time. I have to tie him up though, otherwise he'd be right out there, distracting everyone while they're dancing. When the music stops, he starts barking." Maybe he's giving critique, or maybe he's cheering them on. But one thing for sure, he's thoroughly happy being part of Leslie's life.



*Mr. Darcy*

## Shelter Wish List

Canned or Dry Kitten Food  
Canned Dog Food  
Soft Dog Treats  
Nyla Bone style dog treats  
12 or 15 ft. heavy-duty tie-outs  
Garbage Bags (30 gal.)  
Dryer Sheets  
Dishwasher Detergent  
Gift Certificates to Petco,  
Staples or Rite Aid  
HP Premium Photo Paper (5x7)  
Paper Towels  
Staples 15A Toner Cartridge  
Postage Stamps

*Congratulations*  
to Fawndia Santelli of  
North Adams for  
winning 100 gallons of  
home heating oil in  
Walter's Raffle!



*In Memory of Walter  
from SavMor Oil*



*Stay tuned for persnickety little  
Peanut's story in our next  
newsletter!*



# They come in all shapes and sizes but they all want one thing...



*Great Pyrenees mom and son, Belle and Bear, each weighed in at about 120 lbs.*



*Don't tell the lovely Mary Margaret we mentioned it, but she arrived weighing almost 30 lbs.*

*... and three-week-old Pimienta, just starting out in life, was as tiny as a mouse when she was born in foster care.*




*... and tiny Dulcé, a Chihuahua, weighed less than 3 lbs.*

**These animals and many more come to the shelter with one big wish: a loving home. Thanks to your generosity, this is a place where their wish will come true. ♥**



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Tuesday-Sunday  
10am-2pm  
Thursday evening 5-8 pm  
CLOSED MONDAY

