

4 Luv of Dog Rescue

Fargo, ND rescue devoted to rescuing and rehoming dogs



The Daily Bark: Pleas From the Pound and Other Happenings

2009 — What a Year!

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Our organization receives no government funding, we rely on fundraisers and your generous donations to help pay for the expenses we incur while caring for the dogs. Please consider making a tax deductible donation.



To donate using PayPal please visit our website and look for this graphic. It is linked to our PayPal account so all you have to do is click!

www.4luvofdog.com

We started off the year with an average of 20 dogs in foster homes, a few more in boarding, and averaged about 14 adoptions per month. Within two to three months, those numbers had nearly doubled. We rescued dogs from local and regional pounds, received calls from owners who could no longer keep their pets, and from owners who needed help feeding their pets.

Our rescue group believes there is a home for every single dog we rescue. Some dogs find forever homes very quickly, such as one little pug that was rehomed to a pre-approved applicant within two hours of being surrendered by her owner! With other dogs, it takes awhile to find the perfect fit, as with Georgia, a four-year old Shepherd/Pit Bull Mix. She was rescued from a pound in Georgia a little over two years ago, and spent the majority of her time with us in boarding facilities. Georgia was never properly socialized with other animals, so could not be in a home with other pets –

in particular small animals - which made finding a foster or adoptive home a bit more difficult. Georgia loves people though, and would always greet her visitors and friends at the kennel with a smile and wagging tail. Georgia met a young couple this past July who decided to foster her. After having Georgia in their home for a few months, they did not want to give her up. Finding homes for every single dog we rescue is so important, but Georgia's adoption seemed really special. Her foster parents wanted to adopt her for Christmas. What a wonderful Christmas gift not only for Georgia and her new family, but also for us!

The year ended with a very busy month of taking in dogs from the pounds that were filling up and from many owners wanting or needing to surrender their pets. We were at an all-time high of over 70 dogs in our rescue, and approximately 65 foster homes. We never imagined we would have this many dogs to care for at one time.

It's been a hectic but successful year for our rescue. As an all-volunteer run organization, who would have imagined we could grow at such an astounding pace. We couldn't do this without a lot of help and support from all of our volunteers and followers.

We placed 301 dogs in new homes in 2009 and rescued even more that are still awaiting their forever home. Approximately 57% of the dogs have come from pounds, where they would have been euthanized if we had not rescued them. The remaining 43% were surrendered by owners who could no longer provide for their continued care.

It's been quite a year, and we look forward to what the new year may bring. Our wish would be that no pet loses their life simply because they do not have a home and family to call their own. All of the volunteers with 4 Luv of Dog Rescue wish you and your furry friends and family a very safe and Happy New Year!

A Look Back at 2009

“Over 450 dogs rescued to date! All ages, sizes, breeds, some in good health and some not – all with a brighter future ahead.”

Current volunteer needs:

- **Become a Foster**
- **Grant Writing and Researching**
- **Reference Checking**
- **Dog Walking**
- **Newsletter**
- **Advertising and Marketing**
- **Fundraising**
- **Printing and Distributing Posters**
- **Web site maintenance**

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.

Anatole France

Here's a look back at some of the events and accomplishments of the past year.

- We held “Meet the Dogs” events every other Saturday at PetSmart in West Fargo so people could stop by and meet some of the dogs and visit with volunteers.
- The Kibble Kitchen program was implemented to help provide pet food to families having a difficult time feeding their people, let alone their beloved pets.
- Three State Bank of Fargo employees gave Pay-It-Forward money to our rescue!
- We helped educate the public about a variety of pet related issues and concerns via our web site and community outreach events.
- Many dogs that could not be placed locally were rescued and transported to other shelters and rescue groups in

surrounding states.

- Our First Annual Silent Auction and Gala was a phenomenal success.



Balloons Etc provided decorations for the Silent Auction.

We were overwhelmed by the support we received from the community. We had a great night and raised a lot of money for our dogs! We look forward to planning an even bigger and better event in 2010.



Many supporters showed up to celebrate a good cause.

- We created our own **facebook** page, and have acquired

over 3400 fans.

- We received a number of grants to help cover some of our costs. Thank you to The On Shore Foundation, Petfinder.com Shelter Challenge, CorgiAid, Pit Bull Rescue Central, The Onyx and Breezy Foundation, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), The Pedigree Foundation and the PETCO Foundation.
- On-line fundraisers were held for a number of dogs with serious medical problems. Thank you to our supporters who are always there when our dogs need your help.
- Our Newsletter finally hit the presses.
- **Over 450 dogs rescued to date!** All ages, sizes, breeds, some in good health and some not - all with a brighter future ahead.

“Meet the Dogs” Event Schedule

- Saturday, January 30, 1-3pm, at West Fargo PetSmart
- Saturday, February 13, 1-3pm—PetSmart National Adoption Days Event
- Sunday, February 14, 1-3pm—PetSmart National Adoption Days Event
- Saturday, February 27, 1-3pm, at West Fargo PetSmart

Reasons People Overlook Black Dogs

By Lindsay Stordahl

Larger, black dogs tend to wait a little longer to find their forever homes. If rescue volunteers acknowledge the reasons why, it's easier to work around them and shine some light on the black dogs for adoption.

1. People want unique-looking dogs.

People are obsessed with appearances and want dogs with unique markings. There are tons of black lab mixes, and people see them as ordinary. It's up to rescue volunteers to show people how beautiful black dogs are, and to play up their personalities.

2. Black dogs aren't featured in movies.

Movies feature Chihuahuas, golden retrievers, yellow labs and Dalma-

tians. Even when a mutt is the star, the dog is almost always light.

3. Black dogs can appear older.

Gray is more noticeable on a black dog. Even if the dog is young, a tint of gray or white may cause a potential owner to believe she is too old.

4. It's hard to get good photos of black dogs.

It takes patience and natural light to get a decent photo of a black dog. It helps to take pictures outside, and to dress them up in bright-colored clothes.

5. People associate black dogs with evil or aggression.

Even if it's subconscious, people might see a black dog and think of supersti-

tions of black cats or perhaps the "big, bad, wolf."

Since black dogs already have a strike against them, it's important for us to train, socialize and exercise these dogs so they will be on their best behavior when they meet potential adopters. If the black dog is barking or jumping, it's just another reason for someone to move on to the next dog.

Lindsay writes the blog ThatMutt.com and is the owner of Run That Mutt dog running and pet sitting.

“People are obsessed with appearances and want dogs with unique markings. There are tons of black lab mixes, and people see them as ordinary.”



Stormy (above) and Shadow (below) are two of our black dogs available for adoption.



Vote For Us—We Could Win Money to Help Our Dogs!



The Animal Rescue Site is hosting a special challenge for eligible Petfinder.com member shelters and rescue groups.

A \$10,000 grand prize will be awarded to the organization with the most votes and a \$1000 state prize will be awarded to the organiza-

tion in each state with the most votes. Although the competition is tough for the grand prize we are hopeful that with your help we can win the state prize for North Dakota.

Help us win! All you have to do is visit our web site at www.4luvofdog.com and click on the graphic (as shown to the right) to get to the Animal Rescue Site website. From there you can make your daily click on the purple "Click Here to Give- it's Free" button, and then click the "Vote

Today!" button at the top of the page and select 4 Luv of Dog Rescue as the group you are voting for. You can vote once each day through April 18th.

Please remember to vote for us every day and tell all of your friends to vote for us too!

Thank you for your help!



If you would like more information about adopting Stormy, Shadow, or another dog, please visit our web site at www.4luvofdog.com.

Separation Anxiety, by Jill Stern

Contact Information

4 Luv of Dog Rescue
c/o Natural Pet Center
3037 13th Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58103

Phone: (701) 205-0190

Please understand that our phone is monitored by volunteers. If no one answers, leave us a message that includes:

- Your name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Why you are calling
- The best time to reach you

Our preferred method of contact is email. We will make every attempt to return your call or email within 48 hours. [Email us at one of the following:](#)

info@4luvofdog.org - for general questions.

foster@4luvofdog.org - for questions regarding fostering.

volunteer@4luvofdog.org - to find out how you can help.

donate@4luvofdog.org - for questions regarding donations of money and/or supplies.

Becoming a foster home is one of the most important things you can do to help our organization. Please consider becoming a foster today!

Apply online at:
www.4luvofdog.com

When my husband and I invited a 4 Luv of Dog Rescue dog into our little family in early July of this year, we assumed she would have a tough time adjusting to her new life. Of particular concern was the new job I acquired about a month after Phoebe's adoption; she would have to learn to spend 6 hours alone every other day instead of the 24/7 companionship and entertainment she had enjoyed so far. But when a month and half went by with no major problems, I breathed a huge sigh of relief and assumed we had an exceptionally happy little girl. It turns out my relief was premature!

Seemingly out of nowhere, I started coming home to find accidents and destruction. The dog began ruining her own favorite toys, as well as our belongings. No matter what I put out to entice her, she still managed to find something off-limits (even things she had never before shown interest in) to shred. My initial reaction was a feeling of frustrated helplessness. But separation anxiety, and the damage that results, is a common problem in canine homes, and requires understanding and patience from dog owners. And I believe we, as caretakers for dogs with difficult pasts, have an even greater responsibility to try to empathize with our furry family members.

Separation anxiety results when our dogs love and

miss us. Although my pup did well when I first started my job, she seems to miss me more now that we have had more time to bond. So petlibrary.co.uk points out, punishment is not a successful solution for this problem because we will be punishing our dogs for wanting our company and attention. Additionally, October 1st's DogAge tip of the week (DogAge.com) helped me trace the beginning of our problems back to Phoebe's first stay at the kennel. Even though she enjoyed her stay, the tip pointed out how such a change in routine can really confuse our hairy friends, who are creatures of habit. Notably, petlibrary.co.uk also states "dogs rescued from animal shelters contribute a highly disproportionate number of Separation Anxiety cases." But is there a way to "fix" Phoebe's behavior?

While there seems to be no easy solution to this problem, a common recommendation is to work on desensitizing an anxious dog. DogAge addresses the tendency of nervous dogs to become frenzied as you prepare to leave; the website recommends to go through your normal routine (putting on shoes, grabbing keys, etc), but not to leave until you have taught your dog to remain calm throughout this process. Reassure him that you will come back. Since separation is the trigger, part of desensitization is to teach your dog, while you are

home, that he is ok when you are away from him. Your dog feels alone even when you are in the other room, it may help to slowly get him used to alone time by increasing the time and distance you spend apart while you are in the home.

According to these websites, the next step is to try leaving the house again. Start by stepping outside for just a few seconds, and return before your dog becomes distressed. Slowly he will begin to tolerate your absence for longer periods of time. As most people try instinctively, it is recommended you still give your dog something to stimulate and entertain him while you are gone for extended periods of time. Also, a trainer suggested leaving a personal belonging that smells like you, such as an old T-shirt, to lessen your dog's loneliness.

I plan to try this advice to help Phoebe with her anxiety. Although my initial instinct was to just allow her to tear apart certain things while I am gone (so long as she is safe), I believe that would be putting a band-aid on Phoebe's emotional needs. As a dog-owner I feel it is my responsibility to create a safe and happy environment for my furry family member. I cannot attest to the success of these steps yet. In the meantime, I am spending the day and night in an old t-shirt Phoebe can snuggle with tomorrow while I am at work.