

It's purr-fectly entertaining!

Volume 1, Issue 4

March 2015



Happy Tails!

A Diamonds in the Ruff Publication

Puppy Mills and Why We Urge Adoption!

Recently, DITR has been working with several out of state and local rescues to help find forever homes for dogs that breeders no longer want: the infamous puppy mill dog. Some can no longer be bred and others have some sort of "defect" that means they can't be bred. Whatever the reason, DITR has risen to the call of giving them a new reason for life!

A brief background: the Animal Welfare Act outlines specific minimum standards of care for dogs, cats, and some other animals bred for commercial resale. Certain large-scale commercial breeders are required to be licensed and regularly inspected by the USDA. But there are many inefficiencies and loopholes in the system. Only large-scale commercial facilities that breed or broker animals for resale - to pet stores for example - are required to be licensed. Despite the AWA, according to the Humane Society of the United States many licensed breeders get away with repeated violations as they are rarely fined and licenses are rarely suspended. Furthermore, those that sell directly to the public are not required to adhere to the AWA or to any federal humane care standards. Certain states and cities have started to adopt stricter laws but need help from the public to make the laws stick.

As a foster or adopter of these rescued dogs, there are things you should know and be prepared for with a puppy mill dog. While some adjust fairly quickly to the life of family companion, others find the transition more difficult. Many dogs are not house-trained, are confused by common household items (rugs, stairs, etc.), and do not react to normal dog luxuries (toys, petting, etc.). There are often fears and phobias: extreme wariness of people,

picky eating habits, or a fear of sudden movements, unfamiliar objects, or loud noises. While most dogs grow less fearful over time, some may always be shy. Here are some tips on how you can help your dog adjust:

GO SLOWLY. Don't force your dog to come to you; this only reinforces the idea that people are unpleasant. Instead, sit calmly on the floor and wait for him to approach. Also, remember that many aspects of everyday life may arouse anxiety: objects in motion such as bikes and strollers, the sounds of a washing machine or hair dryer, car rides. Introduce these new experiences gradually, and use treats to build positive associations and encourage exploration.

DON'T MAKE LOUD OR STARTLING NOISES. Never chase your dog. Instead, call his name and walk the other way. Keep your voice calm and quiet, and ask visitors to do the same.

USE FOOD AS A MOTIVATOR. If your dog shows fear of a dog bowl, try hand feeding. This technique also can entice your dog to come to you and show him that human contact is pleasant. Learn the foods that most appeal to your dog, and use them to strengthen your bond.

STAY POSITIVE. If you catch your dog in the act of misbehaving, use an interrupt sound, such as "ah, ah, ah!" and praise her when she looks at you. If you discover the behavior later, ignore it; dogs don't understand correction when it's delivered after the fact.

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Volunteer Spotlight:

Laura Randolph

1) Do you have any pets?

We have 5 furry family members. Izzy is our infamous quiet little gray tortie cat. She is the first pet that my husband and I adopted. Next to join our family was Aberdine, our sweet little Brussels Griffon. Third in was our shy little black tortie, Bashful. Our fourth member, whom was also supposed to be our final member is Fiona, a Cur-Boxer mix. I saw her on a post being shared on Facebook pleading for her life. She was in a high kill shelter in Florida. With the husband's approval and the help of some wonderful new found friends, Fiona was adopted by a phenomenal woman in Florida and we arranged transportation to get her up here. She officially became a member of our family on November 12, 2012. Fiona never ended up being our final because a stray long haired orange kitty moved into our hearts last October. Rafiki is our little hellion and co-exists wonderfully with our other cats and our dogs.



2) How long have you been involved with DITR?

We became involved in April of 2014 when we took in our first foster, Spuds, now known as Sully. I had toyed with the idea for awhile about fostering but I don't think my husband or myself thought we were ready for it. I talked to Amy Drum a few times before I actually filled out the form and she was always informative and supportive. When we saw the picture of Spuds, that was it for me. I filled out the form on April 4th, a Friday night and that following Sunday (4/6/2014) we welcomed Spuds - our first foster!! Our foster count is now at 9, and currently in our house we have Francie (foster # 7) and Maggie (foster # 9).

3) What's your favorite DITR memory?

I truly do not have one particular single favorite memory. There have been so many memorable moments. What really is profound for me though is the amount of support I have found within the fosters and volunteers of D.I.T.R. I have had some moments where everyone shared in the joy thinking that a foster was adopted and have also received the private messages making sure I am okay when a foster shakes things up a bit at our house. When our first foster got adopted I received a message that night making sure I was okay with everything. There has never been one single moment or person. Rather many people and many moments that have made this experience so rewarding. I have yet to regret our decision to foster.

4) What is your favorite TV show/movie?

My favorite TV show is American Horror Story and my ALL TIME FAVORITE movie is Law Abiding Citizen. Black Hawk Down comes in second.

5) Do you have any other hobbies?

In my spare time I love to make chain maille jewelry. I find the opening and closing of all these tiny different colored and sized rings extremely relaxing. Now if I could only get all the furries to understand they aren't chew toys or play toys, we would be all set!!

6) A fun fact about you -

Someday I really would love to open my open kennel/boarding facility. I can't imagine having to leave my animals for an extended amount of time and know that it can be tough. I would love to be able to offer a form of comfort and safety to the families as they trust me with their babies. Of course, a few of those kennels would be used to help DITR foster animals as well.

Update from the Board

We are truly blessed to have such wonderful volunteers! That being said, please make sure that whatever you do in the name of DITR is run past our board members for approval. We rarely say no but in the event something should happen, it is the Board who is held liable. We appreciate everyone's hard work and dedication, we truly do and thank you for working with us!



Featured Diamonds:

Darwin

Sir Darwin is quite the feline. Just look at that regal gaze! He sauntered into his foster's home on Halloween and settled right in! Don't let his size fool you (he's 14 pounds!) as Sir Darwin is only over a year old but is as playful as a kitten still! He loves catnip (we think he may need Catnip Anonymous) and to pounce on things. Out of all of his toys, his favorite thing is a strip of fabric, which he will chase for hours. Sir Darwin does not care for dogs and is particular about cats but loves to sing opera.



Tess is a 3 year old Rhodesian Ridgeback mix. She spent the last year and a half in an outdoor kennel but despite her misfortunes, she's one happy lady! She is good with other dogs and loves everyone she meets, cars rides and walks. Her favorite place is the dog park, where she can frolic to her heart's content. She also loves a good game of catch and fetch with her tennis balls. Her picture doesn't do her enough justice, as she is just beautiful in person!



CONGRATULATIONS TOBY!

For those of you who have been part of DITR for a while, we have a very happy tail to report: TOBY!! This lovable guy has finally found his furever home and didn't have far to go for it either! Handsome Toby Wan Kenobi was adopted by his foster family Nicole and Matt Pelkey and he now has two siblings, Luca and Pita, to call his own! Here he is all dressed up for his adoption selfie. A thousand "woofs" for your good fortune, Toby!

DITR in the News!

DITR recently participated in the Modern Recycling's "Your Recycling Makes a Difference" program. Thanks to both recycling as well as votes by our volunteers and community supporters, DITR took first place in the program and was recently presented with a check for \$468.00. Thanks again to our volunteers and community supporters for making the program such a success! Watch for 2015 program dates, coming soon!



Welcome

New Arrivals

Welcome to the DITR family:

Marshall	Angel	Calvin
Perry	Bentley	Wendy
Ron	Pluto	Penny
Rex	Sanza	Aria
Molly	Miles Bradley	Special
Lacey the cat	JJ	Bella and her kittens
Bebe	Hampton	Sugar
Zeus	Lootah	LB (fka River)
Cheetara	Bearley	Titan
Sadey	Gabby	Maggie Moo]
Gwen	Dez	Louie

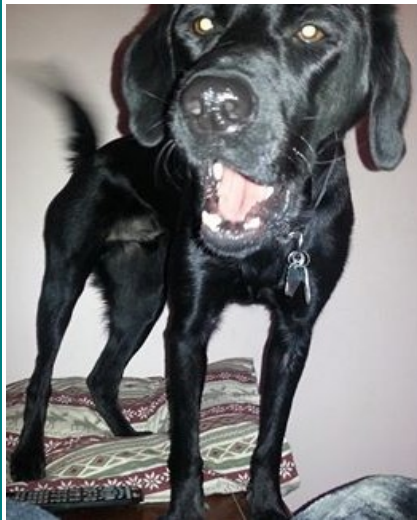
Success Stories

Happy Tails to some the following DITR rescues:

Leonard	Piper	Jack
Coco	Rex	Lacey
Owen	KO	Chance
Buddy	Snowflake	Panda
Roscoe	Marshall	Odessa
Pooty	Calvin	Perry
Skittlez	Prince	Klhoe
	Sadie	



Wildlife Living with Morris the Moose!



Hey Guys, I'm Morris, Morris the Moose (that's me). Are you paying attention? Rhwoof? Hey, Hey you, yeah that's right, you. Just makin' sure your payin' tention to me! I don't want ta have ta paw you but, I will!

So, Mom works a lot. Ya know, she's gotta pay the bills, like for obstruction surgery and stuff. Which means, I gotta find ways to keep from gettin' bored. It ain't easy keeping busy. Sometimes, ya gotta be creative. Me, I love unscrewing caps from pop bottles. Mom has given them to me when she finishes her pop. I was really bored one day and I didn't have any empty ones. But, there was a whole bunch of full ones Mom got on sale.

My buddy, who comes and feeds me when Mom's at work (he sneaks me extra meals, I really like him!) left, and Mom wasn't gonna be home for 45 minutes! Well, I just didn't know what to do with myself, that's a long time to wait. I thought, maybe, I could break a record, or something. Do you think Guinness Book of World records is interested in a dog who can open 22 bottles of pop in 45 minutes? I sure hope so. Maybe Mom won't be so mad then.



Community Events

On the first Sunday of every month, DITR will be at Grandpaws Pet Emporium on Center Street in Lewiston from 1pm-4pm with adoptables and merchandise.

DITR will be at the Lockport PetSmart store every second Saturday of the month from 10am-2pm with some of our adoptables.

On the last Saturday of every month, DITR will be at Clyde's store in Wrights Corners from 10am-2pm.

Stop out and see us or bring your foster for an outing! If you would like to volunteer at any of our community events or if you know of any community events DITR may be interested in participating at, please email us.

Fundraisers

Save the dates!!

Saturday, March 14th is our annual St. Pawtty's Day beer blast and basket raffle. Tickets cost \$20 presale/\$25 at the door and include food and drink. Basket Raffle tickets are \$5/sheet or 5 sheets for \$20. High end item tickets are \$1 per ticket.

Friday, April 17th we are hosting a comedy night at Rob's Comedy Playhouse, featuring Mike Green! Tickets are \$25 and a mini basket raffle will be available separately. Space is limited so reserve your seats today!

Sunday, June 28th is our first **Diamond Dash 5K** event with pet walk. Race starts at 9 am and is followed by the first annual DITR vs. NCSPCA softball game. Race registration will open soon but the softball game is free so grab your friends for an entertaining afternoon!

Monday, August 3 Paint on Tap in Williamsville will host a painting fundraiser benefitting DITR. Cost is \$40 for your reservation and materials, with DITR receiving half of every registration fee! And guys, don't be shy! You can join too! Hurry, space is limited!

Did you know there are ways you can donate to DITR besides donating? DITR has the following ongoing fundraisers:

Cans and Bottle Drive: just drop them off at any Bottle Junction location and tell them it's for DITR!

Gust of Sun Winery crafts a special wine for DITR and donates a portion of the sales to us! So if you need a gift for a wine lover, consider Gust of Sun's Diamond wine!

ResQwalk: download this walking app and select DITR as your favorite walk to donate your miles. Those miles turn into shares of the weekly prize pot!

Amazon Smile: order from Amazon and select DITR as a designated charity!

FreshScoop: order cat items from FreshScoop.com and donate your Paw Points to DITR for future litter, cat food, cat toys, etc. purchases!

As always, monetary donations can be made to Diamonds in the Ruff at any time. Also, if you have any fundraising ideas or opportunities that Diamonds in the Ruff qualifies for or may be interested in, please contact us! Watch for new fundraisers, coming soon!