



# Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc.

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An Official 501C Not-For-Profit Organization

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## FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER JAN - MAR 2011

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### FROM THE SHRF BOARD

Spring has sprung and SHRF has been running full speed ahead since the new year started!

So far this year there have been several great events throughout the community that we have attended and there are still more to come.

This included two of our own events. First, our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Husky Olympics was a great success. Close to 100 huskies attended with their owners and families and there were several silent auction items and drawing prizes. The cash winner of the 50/50 drawing received \$150! The biggest success of the event was the two Huskies that were adopted into their fur-ever homes! You will see what a great event it was from the photos in this issue.

Second, our first ever Idita-ride Poker Run took place and was also a success. This included silent auction items and a 50/50 drawing, where the winner donated their winnings back to the rescue! We hope to have this event again making it bigger and

better. Thanks to everyone that donated time, money, and items to make both of these events fun and enjoyable for all!

On a more serious note, we really need everyone to spread the word about SHRF to help drive more adoptions and foster homes. There are many huskies to be saved but without adopters or foster homes to place them in, we are limited to how many we are able to rescue.

Please do what you can by sharing our information with others whether it is through Facebook, conversations, or through emails. Let's work together to save these beautiful dogs.

We know this is going to be a great year for the Siberian Husky Rescue and we ask you to be a part of it. Volunteer, attend events and be involved. We need your help and appreciate your involvement!

**Board members can be reached at any time at 727-391-8934 or by e-mailing: [board@siberrescue.com](mailto:board@siberrescue.com)**

**Dr. Nicholas Dodman, Animal Behaviorist  
Animal Planet TV, Dogs 101—referring to Siberian Huskies**

**"... and they are a real 'dog of a dog', not a toy dog, not a pretend dog. This is a real dog."**

**"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." Will Rogers, 1897-1935**

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### **RESCUE PARTICIPATION**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or sponsor of the Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc., please visit the website and fill out the appropriate application OR call or fax us anytime.

### **NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING**

Business card size \$20 per year  
1/4 page \$5 per issue  
1/2 page \$10 per issue  
Full page \$15 per issue

### **SUBMISSIONS**

All submissions and suggestions to this newsletter are encouraged and welcomed. Please forward to the mailing address at the top of page 1 or: [events@siberrescue.com](mailto:events@siberrescue.com)

## **From the Editors Bob & Lorraine**

The results of our First Quarterly poll are in! The question was:

**Do you allow your dog(s) to sleep in bed with you?** I was surprised at the results, initially expecting them to be close to 50-50. Nevertheless, here they are:

Selection	Votes	Distribution
Yes	205	77%
No	60	23%
Total	265	100%

After thinking about it for a while, I decided that the results are not so surprising after all. Presuming that most of the respondents are Husky owners it's no wonder the "Yes" votes were so high, what is more comfortable than being cuddled up with a Husky, not counting your loved one?

I am open to other poll questions if you think you have one that is of interest to dog and/or Husky owners. Just e-mail them to [webmaster@siberrescue.com](mailto:webmaster@siberrescue.com).

Now on to something more serious. I have been a huge fan of Siberian Huskies for over twenty years, beginning with my first Husky/Red Wolf hybrid that I adopted when living in Atlanta. She was the finest animal I ever had the pleasure of owning.

Over the subsequent years, I have owned only Huskies, all females, about a dozen so far, including my current pack of five. After this amount of time, I have come to view myself as somewhat of an expert in Husky behavior.

Well, I got my "expertness" thrown in my face a few days ago when I almost, inadvertently, caused the death of one of my girls.

We have citrus trees off in the corner of our property and occasionally get citrus rats or mice eating the fruit. I had requested my pest control person to leave me a couple of rat poison bars to resolve

the problem. I left them on our breakfast counter (42 inches high), and was intending to use them the next day.

That night, after taking my girls for their 11:00 PM walk, I finished getting ready to go to bed and noticed that one of my girls, who usually waits for me to give her a cookie treat, was nowhere to be seen. Just out of curiosity, I went to look for her and found her in the den happily chomping on the rat poison bars! I was able to determine that she had eaten one entire bar.

I rushed her to the emergency vet and they induced vomiting. Luckily, she evacuated what looked like all of the rat poison and she is now on a Vitamin K regimen for at least two weeks. So far, she has shown no ill effects.

I would have bet money that none of my girls could reach anything on top of the breakfast bar and I know the poison was not hanging over the edge but somehow she got it.

I am one lucky guy that I just happened to check on her whereabouts because she would have been gone by the next morning.

I am now redoubling my efforts to be aware of leaving things around even when I am sure that it is out of reach of the dogs.

## **Bob**

**Editorial opinion pieces by Bob and Lorraine reflect the opinion of the writers only and are not necessarily the opinion of Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc nor its Board of Directors and volunteers.**

**Customer: "Has this dog a good pedigree?"  
Shop Owner: "Has he? Say, if that dog could talk, he wouldn't speak to either of us."**

**"In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog."**

**- - - Edward Hoagland "Dogs and the Tug of Life"**

## Dolphins save Doberman Pinscher stranded on sandbar

Updated: Wednesday, 02 Mar 2011, 11:09 AM EST  
Published : Wednesday, 02 Mar 2011, 10:42 AM EST

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. (Newscore) - A Pennsylvania woman on vacation in Florida took a tip from two dolphins to save a lost Doberman Pinscher that got stranded on a sandbar.

When Audrey D'Alessandro and her husband, Sam, walked out of their home on Marco Island, near Naples, Fla., to go fishing, "we saw these two dolphins, and they were splashing and making this big commotion" in a canal behind their vacation home, she said.

Although it is not uncommon to see dolphins swimming through the canal on their way to the Gulf of Mexico, Audrey D'Alessandro said that this time, "they were just there, in one place, splashing water against the canal wall."

When the D'Alessandros went to investigate, they saw that an 80-pound Doberman Pinscher was

standing on a sandbar, half-submerged even at low tide. The dog, which disappeared from a nearby home some 12 hours before, was too weak to bark, she added, and could not get back onto land because of a several-foot-high canal wall.

By the time the nurse lowered herself into the canal to get onto the sandbar, the dutiful dolphins were gone, but her husband called firefighters, who helped Audrey D'Alessandro hoist the dog out of the water. Turbo, who was shaking and unable to stand after being rescued, was quickly reunited with his owner -- who got the happy news while putting up lost-dog posters.

A few days later, a thankful Turbo and his owner made the eight-block trip to visit the D'Alessandros, who have a yellow Labrador of their own. But Audrey D'Alessandro brushed off the island-wide praise the couple received afterward, saying that while "people pulled up to us when we were driving and said, 'You're the couple that saved that dog,' I said, 'Yeah, sure.' But I think it was really those dolphins.

## Musher scratches after resuscitating dog on the trail

By [BETH BRAGG, bbragg@adn.com](mailto:bbragg@adn.com)  
Published: March 9th, 2011 08:10 PM  
Last Modified: March 10th, 2011 01:15 PM

Iditarod musher Zoya DeNure scratched from this year's race at Rainy Pass after one of her dogs collapsed while running. Photographed in Anchorage on March 9, 2011

Reunited with the dog she had feared dead, Gakona musher Zoya DeNure on Wednesday said she was done with the Iditarod for awhile but not done with sled dog racing.

In fact, she's planning to enter the team -- minus a male named Miller -- in this weekend's Chatanika 200, a mid-distance race outside Fairbanks.

"You should see them. The dogs want to run. They've been training for the Iditarod. A 200-mile race is not going to faze them," DeNure said the

day after she scratched from the Iditarod out of concern for one of her dogs.

Miller, a male believed to be 8 years old, collapsed in harness Monday night for reasons still unclear.

DeNure couldn't find a pulse and didn't get a response when she performed mouth-to-snout resuscitation on the dog. She thought Miller was dead. She put the animal in her sled basket and backtracked to the previous checkpoint at Rainy Pass, her heart in her throat and tears streaming down her face.

"My whole body was trembling," DeNure said. "I felt like it was my fault. I felt like the worst person in the world. I hated myself because I put him on the trail."

*Continued page 15 , see Iditarod*

## Annandale civic association elects dog as president

By Brigid Schulte, Washington Post Staff Writer  
Saturday, February 19, 2011

For more than 20 years, candidates running for office in the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association in Annandale have stood, waved and received polite applause at the annual meeting in June. Everyone votes, eats ice cream, chats with neighbors and goes home.

This past election, to make the meeting move faster, only the names and qualifications of the candidates were announced. Running for president, Ms. Beatha Lee was described as a relatively new resident, interested in neighborhood activities and the outdoors, and who had experience in Maine overseeing an estate of 26 acres.

Though unfamiliar with Lee's name, the crowd of about 50 raised their hands, assuming that the candidate was a civic-minded newcomer. These days, it's hard to get anyone to volunteer to devote the time needed to serve as an officer. The slate that Lee headed was unanimously elected. Everyone ate ice cream, watched a karate demonstration and went home.

Only weeks later did many discover that their new president was, in fact, a dog. Ms. Beatha Lee is a shaggy, dirty-white wheaten terrier.

The news broke in the association's newsletter with Lee's promise to "govern with an even paw." The dog's photo appeared under the heading, "Dog Rules, Humans Apathetic (Pathetic)."

A veritable storm erupted in the bucolic 1950s neighborhood of about 250 families who live in split levels or colonials with about 90 dogs.

"She had a name," said Robin Klein Browder, who grew up in the neighborhood and moved back after she got married. "It wasn't Spot or Rover. It was a first and last name, so everyone thought she was human. I'm not thrilled, I'm embarrassed."

"At first, people would say to me, 'This is crazy!' " said Helen Winter, a director emeritus of the board who is in her 80s and is a major force behind the neighborhood watch, the welcoming committee and the annual block party. "And I'd say, 'It is crazy. Isn't that fun?' It's one of those things that breaks the monotony."

Dave Frederickson, who read the dog's name and qualifications to the crowd at the annual meeting, said: "Many people, like myself, were amused. But some were extremely upset. I've spent a lot of time on the phone explaining things."

The duly elected president is actually the pet of the former president, Mark Crawford, who inherited Beatha (pronounced Bee-AH-tah) in 2008 from his mother and stepfather in Maine.

Crawford had served three consecutive terms as president and, according to association bylaws, could not run for the office again. For weeks leading up to the election, he begged, pleaded and cajoled neighbors to run for the often-thankless volunteer post. No one bit. Newer, younger families told him that they were too busy juggling work, long commutes and kids. And longtime residents, many burned out after losing a bruising zoning battle against a Montessori school in their neighborhood, said they'd already done their time.

Out of sheer frustration, Crawford decided to put up his dog.

"This isn't a power trip," said Crawford, who now serves as vice president under his pooch. "We wanted to send a message to the neighborhood that they needed to get involved and get engaged. That they can't count on the same people to do this year in and year out."

Crawford and the nominating committee carefully scanned Article V of their bylaws on officer qualifications. Resident of the neighborhood: Check. Attained the age of majority: Check (in dog years). "Our charter language did not mention that a human had to serve," Crawford said. "The way it was phrased was very accommodating, to be frank."

Those same bylaws also outline the fairly substantial duties of the president, everything from running meetings and appointing committee members to executing contracts and co-signing checks. Not to mention speaking for the association at public meetings. So how has the canine managed?

"Well, she delegates a lot," Crawford said. "That's what executives are supposed to do -

The dog occasionally attends the monthly board meetings, usually held the first Tuesday or Wednesday of the month in Crawford's home. "She's sometimes sitting under the table, listening to what goes on," Frederickson said. "Until she gets bored and wants to be let out. I don't know if the board members need to pet her on their way in."

*Continued next page, Civic Assoc*

## **SHRF RESCUE VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER!!!!...**

### **SHRF is proud to announce our Volunteer of the 1st Quarter 2011**

The Board of Directors of SHRF wishes to applaud and thank Volunteer **Kathy H** for her OUTSTANDING and LONG STANDING Service to our Rescue.

Kathy is one of the Original Veteran Volunteers and has volunteered since the Siberian Husky Rescue first originated back in the early 2000/2001.

I am sure she has watched it grow and change to become the successful Rescue it is today. We could not have achieved this without the dedication of such a wonderful Volunteer who has stuck with her original ideals of helping to save our beautiful dogs.

Kathy and her husband live in Naples with their 2 furry Husky kids Nikki and Jupiter. Despite the long drive Kathy religiously attends the Husky Olympics every February to Volunteer.

You can always stop by and meet her at the Registration table next year as I am sure she will be there again.

Kathy devotes many hours throughout the year helping with administration. She is very conscientious and her response to any request is always the same.....I've got it....I'll do it.....leave it to me and in no time the task is completed which helps in the speedy adoption of our Rescue dogs waiting for their forever homes.

Over the years Kathy has also helped out at other events at the Devil Ray Stadium and Dog Wash event to name a few. If there is a home visit needed in the Naples area Kathy will take care of that in her usual efficient way.

Kathy's love are her 2 precious Huskies and she delights in taking them to the North Carolina mountains during the year to hike in the cool mountain air.

Kathy is the backbone of our Rescue and without her energy and tireless volunteering we would not be able to continue our task to save and re-home abandoned and abused Huskies.

**Thank you** so very much Kathy, we appreciate all that you do.

**SHRF Board**

*Continued from previous page, Civic Assoc*

Crawford and the other seven human board members have kept the annual block parties and ice cream socials running without a hitch - the president was too out of sorts to attend.

Other than a few rumblings about speed bumps and tree trimming, it has been a pretty quiet year for the association. "We're dealing with things like trying to get our phone book out," Crawford said. "Pretty mundane stuff."

Over time, the neighbors have come to accept their new leader.

"It doesn't surprise me one bit that a dog is the president - our neighborhood is so dog-friendly," said Meghan Pituch Myers, who moved in a little over a year ago. "

We often find ourselves referencing people by their dogs - 'I saw Daisy's mom today at the store.'"

So has the ploy worked? Are people getting more involved?

Crawford said it's too early to tell.

Browder, whose father ran the association when she was a girl and whose husband also served as president, said she might be willing. "If we elected a dog, I'm thinking, okay, maybe I better do my duty," she said.

But if she doesn't, "maybe we'll get a cat this time," groused longtime resident Dave Borowski.

Added Frederickson: "We're hoping for a Homo sapiens."

### **Frequent baths make dogs smell nice. But can they also cause doggy dandruff?**

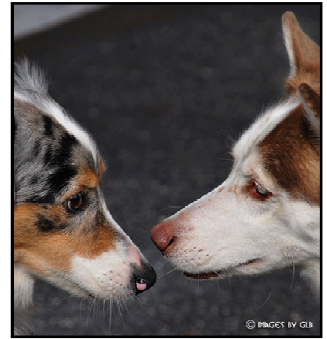
They sure can. So let's not cause a dry-skin blizzard. Keep the washings to a minimum and make sure you only use soap that's made specifically for canines. Human shampoo can irritate a dog's skin. If you take these steps and still notice flakes when your dog shakes, talk to your veterinarian to make sure you're providing proper nutrition for a healthy coat.

## SHRF Events 1st Quarter 2011

### Rally to Rescue- January 22<sup>nd</sup>



The weather was a little breezy that day but Nala and Calvin were on their best behavior all day. Nala almost found her forever home from this event but Kaiba ultimately did. We had a lot of fun this year at this event. The Pinellas Park Police Dept did K9 demonstrations. Purina had representatives at the event. There was a bounce house and face painting. You should mark your calendar to make sure you attend next year.



### Get Rescued in Gulfport – Feb 26<sup>th</sup>



This event gets bigger and bigger every year. The city of Gulfport closes down its main street to rescues and other pet friendly vendors for the day. This year the weather was outstanding. We had a lot of fun. If you have never attended this event... this is a must do. In the evening, there is



a great silent auction/dinner to benefit the participating rescues. The band for this event this year was GREAT! Hope to see you out at next year's event.

### Bark in the Park – Mar 5<sup>th</sup>



This event benefits the Humane Society of Tampa and this was the 24<sup>th</sup> year of this event existence. This year it coincided with Rescue Ink's Humane Highway Tour. We all got to hang out and meet the guys from Rescue Ink. It was a fun day for all!



### Petapolooza – Mar 13<sup>th</sup>



This event was sponsored by CBS radio and Animal Based Charities. There were several artists including Kris Allen, who won the 8<sup>th</sup> season of American Idol. It took place in beautiful Coachman Park in Clearwater. Even Dino got to meet Kris Allen too.



**Heaven goes by favour. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.**

**- Mark Twain**

# SHRF Events 1st Quarter 2011

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### Mutt Strut – Mar 19<sup>th</sup>

This event takes place every year out at beautiful Honeymoon Island State Park. It was a packed day with tons of people, dogs, and vendors. The weather was amazing as well.



### Idita-Ride Poker Run- Mar 20<sup>th</sup>



This was our first year of putting on this event. It was a motorcycle poker run where all vehicles were welcome. We had almost 50 participants this year. Everyone that participated had a lot of fun. We started and finished the run at Quaker Steak and Lube in Pinellas Park. We had a great band that played in the afternoon at Quaker Steak called Cellfish. We had silent auctions, drawing for a patio cooler, and 50/50 drawing. Hopefully, this can be an annual event.



### Clearwater Pet Festival – Mar 26<sup>th</sup>

This is the third year we have attended this event and it gets better each year. There is a pet parade, pet races, and contests. There are several rescues and pet-friendly vendors. The Clearwater Police K-9 team was there to answer questions as well. Dino showed off his cuteness by getting his picture taken numerous times, especially while sitting in our chair.



**God Made the earth, the sky and the water, the moon and the sun. He made man and bird and beast. But He didn't make the dog. He already had one.**

*Native American saying*

## SHRF Events 4th Quarter 2010

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#### Pet Supplies Plus Fall Festival

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – Pet Supplies Plus

This was a fun event that included a bounce house for kids and the Pinellas Park K-9 team with demonstrations. Gus and Seiko showed off their beauty as well. It was a fun day! Hopefully, they do this fall festival every year.

### Tiny dogs major culprits behind record number of bites

By Lorena Mongelli and Kevin Fasick  
NYC



There were a record number of dog bites in the city last year -- with pint-sized Chihuahuas and Shih Tzus surprisingly among the top five culprits, The Post has learned.

The city's most vicious dog - measured by the number of bites on humans reported last year -- was the pit bull, with 815 reported chomplings. That's nearly a quarter of the 3,609 bites recorded in 2010, the highest annual number in the data provided by the Health Department. The pit was followed by the Rottweiler, Shih Tzu, Chihuahua and standard poodle.

The aggression by little dogs can sometimes be blamed on the way fashionable New Yorkers choose to cart them around while going shopping or running errands.

"Small dogs may frequently be put in situations that are more provocative than, say, a Labrador is exposed to," said Dr. E'Lise Christensen, a vet-behaviorist at NYC Veterinary Specialists.

"For example, most people don't take their Labradors to Bloomingdale's," she said.

"We call it the 'poor little rich dog' effect, where people take their small dogs to department stores and all the sales people touch them. Owners get bitten, and stranger aggression is really a problem in dogs."

Anthony Jerone, who runs a dog-training school in Queens, said that in the dogs' minds, size doesn't matter. "Dogs don't know how big they are," he said. "Whether they are a 5-pound Chihuahua or a 100-pound Lab, they act out of instinct."

Joy Oriol, 38, who was walking her pet pit bull on the Upper West Side, defended it as "playful."

"They're yippy and loud, and they have the Napoleon complex," she said. "It's just a given that when those kinds of dogs walk by, they're going to be aggressive and act like, 'You're big, but I'm going to get you.'"

Staten Island dog trainer Amanda Quattrocchi said she was surprised that Shih Tzus were only five bites behind Rottweilers on the list.

"I know they are nippy but they don't really bite that much. I have never worked with a Shih Tzu that is ferocious."

**One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling blue is that he doesn't try to find out why.**

*~ Author Unknown*

## Some Texas Dog Owners Barking Mad Over Proposal to Mandate Dog Insurance

By Diane Macedo, February 18, 2011 | FoxNews.com

Dog owners in Texas are hot under the collar over a proposal that would require them to buy \$100,000 insurance for their pooches.

And they've vowed not to roll over and play dead for what they're calling yet another example of needless nanny-state legislation.

House Bill 998, introduced by state Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon, D-Texas, would require owners of unleashed, un-neutered male dogs over 20 pounds to carry a liability insurance policy of at least \$100,000. Violations would be classified as a misdemeanor, and punishable by a fine up to \$500.

McClendon said large, un-neutered dogs present the highest risk for property damage and injuries to others, and that owners should be held more responsible for their dogs' behavior.

But getting HB 998 passed -- the bill is currently under review by committee -- will be no walk in the park.

"There is a movement inside the animal rights lobby to try to force mandatory spay and neuter laws across the states, and this is just another way to get at it," said Rob Sexton, vice president of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance. The group, which works with sporting dogs, calls the bill "unnecessary and unreasonable" and has asked Texas sportsmen to actively oppose it.

McClendon says she's just trying to take a bite out of a loophole.

"Existing Texas law allows a dog 'one bite' without making the owner responsible. However, it is clearly not working to resolve problems with dog bites," she told FoxNews.com. "According to county animal-control personnel, over 400 dog bites occur in San Antonio each month."

McClendon said one of the victims was a member of her district who was seriously attacked by a dog whose owner was not willing to help pay for the resulting medical bills.

"Situations like this would be remedied under this bill, as insurance would help cover medical expenses incurred as

a result of a dog attack," she said.

McClendon added that a revision of the bill is being drafted to apply the law only within incorporated municipal areas; it would also exclude dog owners in hunting and sporting activities in less-populated areas.

Trial Attorney Herb Subin said he thinks the proposal is a great idea.

"It's the same as driving a car," Subin told FoxNews.com. "If you want to have the chance to have a dog that could cause an injury to someone else then the government has a very strong interest to make sure their citizens have the ability to be compensated."

But pet expert and author Wendy Diamond said the same argument can be made for children.

"There are more bullies at school playgrounds than dog fights in dog parks," Diamond insisted. "The government is overreaching with the proposed bill ... when they demand liability insurance on children then this will be fair."

The Heartland Institute's Charlie Vidal added that if McClendon is trying to reduce dog attacks, she's barking up the wrong tree.

"While Jones McClendon wants to protect people from large dogs, her proposal would do just the opposite. Dog owners, knowing that they are insured against any wrongdoing their dog does, will take less care to ensure that Rex is a good boy," Vidal wrote on the institute's blog.

Fox News Legal Analyst Lis Wiehl said dog owners need not worry, and predicted a dog insurance law wouldn't survive a court challenge.

"The whole issue of mandating insurance is being dealt with right now in federal courts with healthcare, and the latest decision says that it's not constitutional to mandate health insurance. So how could you mandate insurance for your dog?" she told FoxNews.com.

Wiehl said the law already holds dog owners responsible for any damage done by their dogs. And victims of dog attacks that haven't been properly compensated can always sue.

"Most homeowner's insurance policies already cover dogs," she added. "The whole thing is ridiculous."

## SHRF UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUND RAISERS

### 2nd Quarter 2011 Upcoming Events

Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> — Pawfest 2011, Largo, FL 10 AM - 3 PM

Apr 10<sup>th</sup> — Fletcher's HD Pet Adoption Event , 10 AM - 3 PM

Apr 16<sup>th</sup> — Family Fun Fest & Doggie Daze, Island Estates, 10 AM - 3 PM

Apr 16<sup>th</sup> — Loving Care Pet Fair, Pinellas Park, FL, 10 AM - 4 PM

May 28<sup>th</sup> — Yappy Hour, Clearwater Wine Company, Clearwater Beach, FL, 6:30 PM - 11 PM

*Please check the calendar of events on the website or Facebook for updates to our events.*

WE CAN ALWAYS USE MORE VOLUNTEERS!!! So if you can help, please call **727-391-8934** or email [events@siberrescue.com](mailto:events@siberrescue.com) . If you can't help... please come out and see us at any of these events or our recurring monthly events at Petco and Petsmart. We would love to have you.

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR EVENTS UPDATES!**

**"If you don't own a dog, at least one, there is not necessarily anything wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your life."**

**Roger Caras, *A Celebration of Dogs***

### **Dogs 'share their owners' emotions'**



Photo: ALAMY, 18 Feb 2011

The bond between dogs and their owners may be deeper than we thought, according to research that suggests the pets may share their owners' emotions.

When the animals are confronted with a human displaying strong feelings, they themselves produce a similar emotional response, the researchers found. The discovery could cast light on how dogs' pack behaviour has been translated into the modern world.

Biomedical scientist Dr Karine Silva, of the University of Porto, says that dogs even possess certain human-like social skills that chimpanzees, our closest relatives, do not.

Writing in the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*, she says the animals' response goes beyond simply mimicking their owners' - a reaction known as

"emotional contagion".

Dr Silva said: "A study showing that pets, namely dogs, behave as 'upset' as children when exposed to familiar people faking distress, strongly suggests 'sympathetic concern'.

"Also, it has been reported that untrained dogs may be sensitive to human emergencies and may act appropriately to summon help, which, if true, suggests empathic perspective taking."

The researchers believe there are three main reasons for dogs empathising with human.

Modern pets originated from wolves which are highly social animals that engage in co-operative activities and have developed empathy towards other animal species.

Furthermore, biological chances as dogs were domesticated mean their empathy towards man has been fine-tuned over generations.

*Continued on page 19, Emotions*



**15th Annual Siberian Husky Olympics - 2011**  
**Page 2**



**"Every boy who has a dog should also have a mother, so the dog can be fed regularly"**  
**- Anonymous**

## 2011 Husky Olympics Award Winners

**KODI**  
Curliest Tail



**SHEEBA**  
Best in Show



**NANOOK**  
Best Trick



**CUBBY**  
Huskiest



**ALLEY**  
Fastest Cookie  
Bobber



**STORM**  
Best Howler



**NIKITA**  
Best Kisser



**TOVA**  
Hairiest



**EVA**  
Prettiest Eyes



**ENKAI**  
Best High Jump



### Inscription on the Monument of a Newfoundland Dog

Near this spot are deposited the remains of one who possessed Beauty without Vanity, Strength without Insolence, Courage without Ferocity, and all the Virtues of Man, without his Vices. This Praise, which would be unmeaning Flattery if inscribed over human ashes, is but a just tribute to the Memory of Boatswain, a Dog.

~George Gordon, Lord Byron

## Clever Hounds

The Economist, Feb 15th 2011, 9:05 by M.K.



IN THE early 20th century, a horse named Clever Hans was believed capable of counting and other impressive mental tasks. After years of

great performance, psychologists put the ruse to rest by demonstrating that though Hans was certainly clever, he was not clever in the way that everyone expected. The horse was cunningly picking up on tiny, unintentional bodily and facial cues given out not only by his trainer, but also by the audience. Aware of the “Clever Hans” effect, Lisa Lit at the University of California, Davis, and her colleagues, wondered whether the beliefs of professional dog handlers might similarly affect the outcomes of searches for drugs and explosives. Remarkably, Dr Lit found, they do.

Dr Lit asked 18 professional dog handlers and their mutts to complete two sets of four brief searches. Thirteen of those who participated worked in drug detection, three in explosives detection, and two worked in both. The dogs had been trained to use one of two signals to indicate to their handlers that they had detected something. Some would bark, others would sit.

The experimental searches took place in the rooms of a church, and each team of dog and human had five minutes allocated to each of the eight searches. Before the searches, the handlers were informed that some of the search areas might contain up to three target scents, and also that in two cases those scents would be marked by pieces of red paper.

What the handlers were not told was that two of the targets contained decoy scents, in the form of unwrapped,

hidden sausages, to encourage the dogs’ interest in a false location. Moreover, none of the search areas contained the scents of either drugs or explosives. Any “detections” made by the teams thus had to be false. Recorders, who were blind to the study, noted where handlers indicated that their dogs had raised alerts.

The findings, which Dr Lit reports in *Animal Cognition*, reveal that of 144 searches, only 21 were clean (no alerts). All the others raised one alert or more. In total, the teams raised 225 alerts, all of them false. While the sheer number of false alerts struck Dr Lit as fascinating, it was where they took place that was of greatest interest.

When handlers could see a red piece of paper, allegedly marking a location of interest, they were much more likely to say that their dogs signalled an alert. Indeed, in the two rooms where red paper was present and sausages were not, 32 of a possible 36 alerts were raised. In the two where both red paper and sausages were present that figure was 30—not significantly different. In contrast, in search areas where a sausage was hidden but no red piece of paper was there for handlers to see, it was only 17.

The dogs, in other words, were distracted only about half the time by the stimulus aimed at them. The human handlers were not only distracted on almost every occasion by the stimulus aimed at them, but also transmitted that distraction to their animals—who responded accordingly. To mix metaphors, the dogs were crying “wolf” at the unconscious behest of their handlers.

How much that matters in the real world is unclear. But it might. If a handler, for example, unconsciously “profiled” people being sniffed by a drug- or explosive-detecting dog at an airport, false positives could abound. That is not only bad for innocent travellers, but might distract the team from catching the guilty. Handlers’ expectations may be stopping sniffer dogs doing their jobs properly.



In an effort to raise money, **SHRF** is asking that you **please donate all empty/used Inkjet and Laser Cartridges as well as old cell phones with a camera.** Cartridges and Phones can be collected from home, work, friends and neighbors. This will help us raise much needed funds as well as protecting the environment. Please put Inkjet cartridges in a Ziploc bag or put tape over the end to prevent leakage.



You can drop them off at any event or email [d.bauer71@yahoo.com](mailto:d.bauer71@yahoo.com) or call 727-391-8934 and ask for Dawn to schedule a pick up or directions on where to mail them.

*Iditarod, continued from page 3*

As DeNure mushed back to Rainy Pass, her team seemed to sense her urgency.

"Our team speed was really good anyway but it felt like they knew we had to get back to Rainy Pass. They flew. They didn't even hesitate. It was like, 'Yep, Mom, we know.' They knew there was an emergency. They hurried."

Near Rainy Pass, Miller opened his eyes and looked at her.

Once at the checkpoint, she carried a weak and shaking Miller inside.

"They put an IV in right away," DeNure said, and they covered the dog with blankets. For the rest of the night, Miller was weak -- even after 10 hours, he was unable to walk, DeNure said.

At 6 the next morning, DeNure scratched from the race -- even though, as some had reminded her, she could have dropped Miller and continued racing.

"I said, 'Is my dog going to make it?' They said they didn't know. I said, 'No, I'm going to stay with my dog.'"

"These dogs are like my life. My life is built around these animals. We love them all. It doesn't matter if we've had them one year or 10. I'm responsible for him. I put him on the trail; I have the responsibility of getting him down the trail safely. No way was I going to dump him off and continue with my dogs."

Tuesday morning, Miller was flown to Big Lake, where DeNure's husband, John Schandelmeier, waited.

"When I got him yesterday morning, he was his normal Miller self," said Schandelmeier, a former Yukon Quest champion. "The vets gave him a 100 percent clean bill of health. He's hydrated and everything's fine."

But the vets didn't advance any theories on what might have happened to Miller. DeNure wonders if he was suffering from myopathy, a weakening of muscle tissue and sometimes organs that sometimes affects Iditarod dogs early in the race.

The mystery of Miller's collapse factored into DeNure's decision to quit. If the dog's problem had been diarrhea or a

sore wrist or something else vets could pinpoint, dropping Miller and continuing down the trail would have been an option, she said.

"But it wasn't like that. I didn't know if he was going to make it," said DeNure, who didn't get a flight out of Rainy Pass until Wednesday, a day after Miller was flown out.

DeNure and Schandelmeier run a rescue kennel for sled dogs and Miller was one of five they took from a musher who could no longer afford to keep all of his animals.

"He's a dog we don't know a lot about," Schandelmeier said. "We traced him through his chips and from where we got him, and we sort of know some of his past history. He's about 8, in his prime or the tail of his prime. He completed two long races with us this year, the Tustumena and Copper Basin."

DeNure said that for the foreseeable future, races like the Tustumena 200, the Copper Basin 300 and the Chatanika 200 are what she plans to run.

She's in no hurry to return to the Iditarod, she said. She finished 53rd in her rookie run in 2008, skipped the 2009 race because that's the year her daughter Jona was born, and scratched last year.

"I had a lot of time in Rainy Pass to think, and I feel like the 200- and 300-mile races are more for me," said DeNure, 34. "It doesn't take so much time to train for those races and you have more time for your family."

"There's no way I'm going to stop racing. I absolutely love to train dogs. They live to run, and so do I. No way I'm going to stop -- it'd be like cutting off my arm."

Though she believes she had a competitive team this year and was happy with its performance through the first 160 miles or so of the 1,000-mile race to Nome, she doesn't regret scratching.

"I made a good decision. I made the best decision for my dog and my dog team," DeNure said. "I'm not going to jeopardize my dog team for a dog race. Miller's got a life, and he's going to live and be with us for a long time."

"I don't know if I could live with myself if he hadn't made it."

**"The more I see of the representatives of the people, the more I admire my dogs."  
- Alphonse de Lamartine**

**Please recognize and support these great professionals who help  
Siberian Husky Rescue of Florida, Inc.**

**Altamonte Animal Clinic**

510 East Altamonte Drive  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701  
(407) 834-0202  
[altamonteanimalclinic@yahoo.com](mailto:altamonteanimalclinic@yahoo.com)

**Amazon Animal Hospital**

5300 East Bay  
Clearwater, FL 33764  
727-535-5433  
[www.amazonanimal.com](http://www.amazonanimal.com)

**Animal Hospital of Largo**

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Largo, Fl 33774  
727-595-2287

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[www.dayandeveningpetclinic.com](http://www.dayandeveningpetclinic.com)

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352-373-8055

**North Bay Animal and Bird Hospital**

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Tampa, FL 33615  
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Brooksville, FL 34601  
352-799-9990

**Shores Animal Hospital**

Dr Shores and Assoc  
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Gainesville, FL 32609  
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**Steele Animal Hospital**

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**Temple Terrace Animal and Bird Hospital**

Link V. Welborn, DVM  
5023 Busch Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33617  
813-988-1189

**Underhill Animal Hospital**

Dr. Kelly Cole  
4900 Lake Underhill Rd  
Orlando, FL 32807



**WEB SITES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST**

**Husky Gets Prosthetic Paw**      <http://www.wsmv.com/news/26627630/detail.html>

**Husky Saves Owner**      <http://www.irishcentral.com/news/Siberian-husky-dog-saves-its-grateful-owners-life-in-Limerick-116974713.html>

**Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend. ~ Corey Ford**

## LUCKY ADOPTERS

Comments from some people lucky enough to have adopted one of our SHRF dogs.



### Teeko

**Teeko** came into our lives as an unwanted foster dog in search of his forever home. He was such a good fit for our pack that after a few months it became obvious that we would never be able to give him up. Now Teeko is a permanent part of our pack and we couldn't be happier



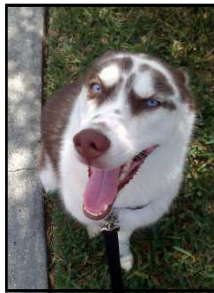
### Kira

**Kira (formerly Izzy)** has been such a wonderful addition to our new family. Her antics keep us laughing and her sweet nature is constantly endearing. Kira is always ready for anything, and makes a great companion. I can't believe how lucky we are to have her in our lives! Thank you SHRF!



### Kira

**Kira (formerly Weezie)** Here are a couple of pictures of my girl. She's been doing very well and antibiotics have cleared up her wheezing, hence her name change.



### Boli

Jason and Amy with Boli.



Dogs' lives are too short. Their only fault, really.  
~ Agnes Sligh Turnbull

## LUCKY ADOPTERS

### Page 2

Comments from some people lucky enough to have adopted one of our SHRF dogs.

### **Shiloh**



**Shiloh** (formerly Whiskey) has settled in with normal puppy problems. He's now two and well on his way to dog normalcy. He's pampered; with 2 1/2 acres of fully fenced yard at his beck and call. He gets to take us on 2 mile "pulls" every morning. (He hasn't grown to understand the concept of weekends, however, so it is



every morning.) The food is good, and a standoff between he and the cats has allowed the house to return to normal. He had a second annual last week and the vet declared him healthy. Between he and Dakota (our 10 year old) we spent \$474.00 (Six months of associated pills included.) Thank goodness they were healthy. Shiloh is well, happy and a loved member of the family, and he reciprocates that love every day. We've had a successful integration.

### **Yukon**



The older the girls and **Yukon** get the easier things seem to have become. He listens to me.. (I guess I'm the Alpha around here). He thinks he can get away with anything with Kyle- it's actually funny :)



I have been babysitting a friends children a couple days a week and Yukon seems to enjoy the extra attention from the kids! Carmen is 7 months old and thinks that he is so funny, he kisses her and cuddles her all the time! We bought Claire a play veterinarian kit and she is always checking his heart, taking his temp, and removing thorns from him- hysterical to watch. Kyle talks about adopting a brother or sister for Yukon... it might be nice in the future when Carmen is a little bit older but I don't think we are quite ready to entertain that idea!



I attached some pictures from a day when we were on our way to the dog beach... one of the pictures is of Claire and I but Yukon's face in the background is classic!

**My sunshine doesn't come from the skies, It comes from the love in my dog's eyes.**  
*Unknown Poet*

## HAPPY ENDINGS 1st Quarter 2011



***Congratulations to all of these newly adopted dogs and their families!***

*Continued from page 10, Emotions*

And breed diversification and selection for increasingly difficult working tasks, such as herding animals or hunting, have led to more complex understanding of human emotional communication.

The researchers said despite limited research they consider dogs' capacity for emotional contagion and perhaps for some mental processing of humans' emotional states is supported by both anecdotal and experimental data.

One study published 18 months ago found pet dogs tend to yawn when they see people doing the same while another reported five years ago showed pet pooches' stress hormones rose or fell in direct relation to their owner's.

Dr Silva and colleagues said: "Curiously, contagious yawning has been connected to higher levels of empa-

thy in humans, with studies suggesting that it probably shares a developmental basis with self-awareness and perspective taking."

They said research on the empathic abilities of dogs is of special importance for decisions about our obligations towards them.

The researchers went on: "Clearly, there is a need for additional investigations to analyse the emotional and cognitive components that may be involved in dogs' seemingly empathic behaviour towards humans."

They added: "Dogs have been increasingly involved with human activities and further studies are crucial if specific needs are to be met.

"For instance, it would be important to conduct rigorous tests on therapeutic dogs that seem to 'take on' the emotions of patients, needing massages and calming measures after the sessions."

**If my dog is barred by the heavenly guard  
We'll both of us brave the heat!  
-W. Dayton Wedgefarth**

# THE DOG HOUSE...we need homes!



*PLEASE! Can you find room in your home for one of us? We promise to be good furballs and to love you forever and ever!!*



**MAKES 16  
SERVINGS**

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 pinches ground cinnamon
- 1 cup chunky peanut butter
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup carob chips

**Pet Friendly - Peanut-Carob Isabooscotti**

From Every Day with Rachael Ray

**Directions:**

Preheat the oven to 400°. In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Place the peanut butter in a medium bowl and microwave at high power to soften, 5 to 10 seconds. Whisk in the milk, then stir the mixture into the dry ingredients.

Shape the dough into a long, flattened log and place on a greased baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes; remove from the oven and let cool for 10 minutes. Slice the log crosswise on an angle into 1-inch-thick pieces. Set the slices on their sides (they should look like biscotti) and bake until crisp, 10 to 12 minutes more. Transfer to a rack to cool.

Melt the carob in a microwave or on the stovetop over low heat. Thin the melted carob with 1 tablespoon water, if needed. Using a spoon, drizzle the melted carob over the biscuits. Let cool completely. Store in an airtight container.