



Spotted News

MARCH 2007

HAPPY ST. PADDY'S

DALLY UPDATE

LOOKING FOR A HOME

Perdy is a young female that is estimated to be 9-10 months old. While in foster care, she is getting some socialization and basic training. Perdy will need to be enrolled in a positive method obedience class upon adoption. See picture on the side.

Copper is an estimated 8-year-old liver female. She was brought to the shelter as a stray, but she doesn't appear to have been out in the elements at all. Copper is a great dog. She listens well and knows many commands, including sit, stay, down and shake. **ADOPTION PENDING**

“SPOT SOS”

Brave Heart Award Winners Fundraiser March 29th

The Companion Animal Resource and Adoption Center (CARAC) and Save Our Spots Dalmatian Rescue (SOS), are co-sponsoring a photo booth

Muskego Pet Fair will be on **May 19th** from 10-4 at Alpine Lanes, S80 W18700 Apollo Dr., Muskego. This event is put on by the Calhoun Clipper and Good Shepard K9 Rescue. This Fair will be dedicated as a fundraising event to benefit area rescues. All profits from booth rental, exhibits, raffles, food and games will be donated to rescues participating in the days' events. If you'd like to help out or just stop by, we'd love to see you.

- *DALLY UPDATE*
- *“Spot SOS”*
- *Adoption Spotlight*
- *Alzheimer's disease*



UPDATE ON PREVIOUS SHOWS

Great Lakes Family Pet Expo Was a big success. The turnout was huge and many people stopped by to spin the wheel and learn about Dals. We encourage everyone to attend the expo in 2008.

International Kennel Club Show at McCormick Place was also a big success. We want to thank Lori and her daughter, Mary, for being there all weekend. We'd also like to thank, Jenni, Katie, Kim and Laura and Tom. Thanks to Diana and her husband, Greg, who traveled down on Sunday during the big snowstorm in Milwaukee. On Sunday, Lori Kirchheimer (Laura's friend) came and gave Chair Massages to humans, and Canine Myotherapy to their dogs. She was busy the whole time and did it for free. All donations were given to SOS. We loved having her at the booth and she was requested by several to come back next year. **(the first person to email SOS, will get a gift certificate for a free Canine Myotherapy session w/ Lori, which is a \$40 value) Lori is located in IL**

ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT

Charlie (previously Jorgi)

We just wanted to give you an update on Charlie. He is doing wonderful. He is a joy to have. It is amazing how well he has adjusted and fit into our lives. He decided he no longer wanted to be locked in the kitchen so he ventured over the kitchen counter to join Ivy. He has never had an accident in the house when we are gone and he also has never damaged anything. We did discover that we do have to keep Talia's door closed when we are not home because he is very interested in the gerbils. He had to do another 30 days of the ivermectin and we go back in the next week to have another skin check. Hopefully he will have a clean bill with the skin. He is also up to 61 pounds and we are going to try and keep him at that weight. Charlie had a little vacation this past week. He went and stayed at his Grandma and Grandpa's house while we were in Mexico. ! He did great at their house. He and Ivy slept in the same bed at their house. I would love to bring him by for you to see him. Let me know.

2nd update. Charlie had another negative scraping and no longer needs any medicine. He is actually a bit on the heavy side now and is on a little diet. He has to shed 2-4 pounds. He is just an all around great dog. He is lovable and entertaining as well as extremely well behaved. He also got the backyard bathroom thing down. It took the snow and the cold for him to realize that he did not want to go for a walk. In fact he hates the cold and almost has to be pushed out the door. He also has the bed thing down. He has his own and needs to sleep in it. We will keep in touch and send you a picture of him soon.



Doggy Alzheimer's Disease

Have you noticed changes in your aging dog's zest for life? Has she stopped greeting you at the door? Has he forgotten once familiar old tricks or stopped responding to even basic commands? Many dog owners attribute changes like this to normal aging, but personality changes and forgetful behavior is not a normal part of dogs growing old.

Dogs are living longer than they did in the past, due to better nutrition, advancements in preventative health care, and access to medical procedures that were once available only to humans. Loving, responsible pet owners help too. Dogs are increasingly cared for like family and many people are willing to spend whatever it takes to keep their pets alive and healthy as long as possible.

Living longer means age-related health problems are now more common. Older dogs are susceptible to many of the same diseases that affect older people... arthritis, heart disease, cancer, diabetes and a canine version of Alzheimer's disease.

A medical condition known as canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS) causes disorientation, confusion, memory loss and personality changes that are very similar to Alzheimer's disease in humans. Like Alzheimer's disease, the cause of CDS is unknown, but physical evidence found only in autopsies, reveals the same sort of degenerative brain lesions in the brain. Some age-related changes, like a graying muzzle, are inevitable. Older dogs are more sensitive to temperature extremes and move slower. Dogs with CDS, however, experience changes in behavior that are not a normal part of aging. The main symptoms of CDS are summarized by the acronym DISH... Disorientation – Interaction Changes – Sleep Changes – and House Soiling. At 7 years of age, about one in five dogs show signs of CDS. By age 11, about one in 3 dogs are affected. Almost 2/3 of dogs 11-16 have CDS symptoms.

Sometimes a disoriented dog....

- Stops responding to his name.
- Forgets once familiar tricks
- May stop responding to even basic commands
- No longer remembers routines
- Stares blankly into space or at walls
- Gets stuck in corners, under furniture or behind furniture
- Engages in repetitive and compulsive disorders
- Paces or wanders aimlessly
- Compulsively walks in circles... around a table or from room to room
- Appears lost or confused, even in familiar surroundings
- Dogs who knew exactly where their yard ended and never crossed the line, wander past the normal boundaries, becoming lost and confused.
- Easily agitated and/or barks for no reason.

Dogs who experience decreased interaction with people....

- No longer greet visitors or even family members
- No longer try to get attention

- No longer care about being petted
They walk away even when being petted and receiving affection.

Dogs who experience changes in sleep patterns...

- Sleep more during the day
- Sleep less at night
- May wander around instead of sleeping

Dogs with CDS sometimes forget housetraining...

- They have "accidents" indoors... even soon after being outside
- They stop "asking" to go out
- They seem to forget the reason for going outdoors

Canine cognitive dysfunction is defined as the occurrence of one or more geriatric onset behavior problems, which are not sufficiently accounted for by medical conditions. A diagnosis of CDS can only be made after any physical reason for such changes have been ruled out. There is no blood test or scan to diagnose canine cognitive dysfunction. Your veterinarian will probably want to perform a thorough physical exam with blood tests and a urinalysis. Other diagnostic tests might be ordered, and depending on the symptoms.... a neurological exam, cerebrospinal fluid analysis, or possibly a CAT scan.

Dementia and incontinence can be caused by other health problems, from treatable conditions like urinary infections and thyroid disorders, to heart failure, kidney failure, brain tumors and other life-threatening illness. A dog with painful arthritis will no longer be able to run down the stairs to greet you at the door or jump up on your bed at night. An elderly dog who's lost his hearing may not hear you call his name or know when someone's at the door. Your aging dog might seem disoriented due to loss of vision. Watching a dog you love become forgetful and confused can be heartbreaking. If your senior dog shows any unusual changes in behavior, tell your veterinarian so a proper assessment can be done.



8226 N. 67th Street

Brown Deer, WI 53223

Phone and fax: (414) 365-2679

www.sosdalrescue.com

Email: sosdalrescue@earthlink.net

501(c) 3 non-profit, fully volunteer, tax-exempt organization