

ABOVE & BEYOND ENGLISH SETTER RESCUE

Helping Hands  *Saving Lives*

NEWSLETTER June 2021



PICNIC TIME IS ALMOST HERE



SAVE THE DATE for the

Annual Adopter and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Saturday, June 19

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Warwick County Park
Picnic Site #2 (the most shaded)
383 County Park Road
Chester County PA.**

RSVP to sett2spring3@yahoo.com

Let Eileen know:

- What food you will bring
- How many VIPs are coming
(*Very Important Pups*)
- How many people will attend

(Full details on page 7)



Above & Beyond History

Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue was formed in PA in 2003 and became a registered non-profit dedicated to saving English Setters on January 20, 2004. We have saved so many setters as we have grown over the years and we plan to save many more in the years to come. The following summary of our history comes from our former President and Director Emeritus Alex Beswick.

Bonnie Girard, one of the founders of Another Chance for English Setters (ACES), founded Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue (A&BESR) in 2003. Another member of ACES, Michael Meyers joined Ms. Girard in departing ACES to become the vice president of A&BESR.

In 2003, pet rescue was much different than what it is today with regards to an online presence and having that presence to make a huge difference in saving the lives of pets. There was no Facebook, no Twitter and no Instagram. Many animal shelters, and animal control units, did not even have an Internet presence. At our beginning, A&BESR was a locally oriented rescue focused on rescuing setters in the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The rescue networked throughout the two states with shelters and to garner drivers and volunteers. During this time Petfinder.com began to take off as a National online resource for finding homes for pets in need.

As the Internet continued to grow as a tool for rescues and shelters, the A&BESR Board began to think about expanding its safety net. Setters were not only needing help in the two states of NJ and PA. As a result, the rescue expanded its coverage to New York, Ohio and Maryland.

A&BESR continued to grow through 2006. In 2007 Bonnie Girard stepped away from the rescue she founded, and Michael Myers stepped up to become the new President. The rescue activities expanded across several states along the Eastern seaboard and then began spreading into the Midwest.

After continuous growth, in 2014 with the start of a new year, the rescue experienced a rebirth with new officers, developing a new website, adding

transport coordinators and more volunteers to continue to support the growth. A&BESR had grown into a large national English Setter rescue. Our first international dogs arrived in 2016 from Serbia. Beginning in 2017 we began to rescue dogs in Greece and Turkey.

Over the span of its 18 years since its founding, Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue has grown from a small locally based rescue to not only a National rescue, but an International rescue. It began with volunteers committed to the mission, and continues to this day as a result of many volunteers who care deeply about our mission. It is all about the dogs, and it will always be about the dogs.

A&BESR began as, and still is, an all-volunteer rescue. A&BESR began as, and still is, an all foster-home based rescue. If you're looking to get involved in our lifesaving work, sign up on our website to volunteer, foster, or donate to help save the setters currently in our care, as well as those that we will save in the future. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load for all and the more we can accomplish. We always need more help on our Applications Team, our Buddy Corps and with Foster Home Follow Up. (www.esrescue.org)

We have a worthy mission and a proud history. Our leadership team is so grateful to our volunteers who have made us the rescue that we are. We look to our volunteers to move into leadership roles so we can continue executing our mission for many years to come. Thank you all for the emotional, technical, physical, and financial support that you provide.

Alex Beswick

From Applicant to Adopter to Volunteer

My partner and I came across Above and Beyond in January of 2019. We had lost our Irish Setter the previous June and I was desperate for a new dog. We had decided it might be time to get a smaller and slightly less hard-wired dog but loved the setters' independent outside and sweet, sweet inside way of being in the world, so we concluded that the English might be exactly what we needed. We applied in late February and met some really fabulous volunteers through the IC, Judith, home visit Carol, and our Buddy Diann. We zeroed in on a dog in Arizona, Candace, fostered by Kelly. My heart raced at the thought of finally having a dog to join me for my walks, kayaks, and paddleboards. The logistics of getting her from Arizona to northern Minnesota just fell into place. A friend of Kelly's was driving north for the summer and would be happy to have Candace as his co-pilot. We would drive from north of Toronto and meet him at the dog park near St. Cloud, Minnesota, and do the exchange. That was mid-May of 2019. Larisa, previously Candace, is a sweet little Greek girl (thanks to Jennifer for arranging her transport to the U.S.), who slipped easily into our lives and filled so many empty spots in our hearts and home.



The following year wasn't an easy one, but Larisa stood or lay by me through thick and thin. By the time spring 2020 rolled around, I knew it was time to give back to A and B – to share my joy and show my gratitude for the best little spotted English Greek girl. I reached out to Diann and Carol and they pointed me in directions of need and suitability – I have found a few jobs that I REALLY enjoy and a year later I am still very happy to be involved. All of the volunteers whom I met two years ago in our adoption process are still intimately involved, too, which speaks volumes to me.

I wrote the piece below and sent it as an email to the board and involved volunteers after a particularly busy week of incoming dogs needing fosters quickly – or yesterday :-). We on the placement team were getting lots of kudos for jobs well done, and they were deserved, but I realized, too, that without the hard work of soooooo many others we wouldn't have been able to shine.



I just want to say that there is a HUGE TEAM EFFORT involved with all of these dogs. From the frantic phone calls Carol, Diann and others receive about dogs needing to come into our care at A and B, to Teresa and her placement team scrambling to find spots, to Heidi and the transports which are mind-blowing, with dogs going every which way every weekend, to Carolle Seaton's first responders team who are working so hard with first time fosters to help them get up to speed, as our seasoned ones have full houses, to Diann's foster follow up folks who may be doing a lot more hand holding because of all the newbies.

It is impressive and Herculean and we all need each other for it to flow and look seamless. I love being a part of it and I am in awe. Barb Conyers

Have You Ever Considered Opening Your Home as an A&B Foster Home?

If you've ever considered becoming a foster home, Above and Beyond would love to have your help! We presently have 87 dogs in foster and foster to adopt homes, and we need more dedicated foster homes.

The process to be approved is the same as it is for adoption. We have a team of experienced fosters and adopters to help guide you through the process. The rescue covers transportation and all medical costs, HWP, microchips....all you do is add a loving home and food, and some helpful training if needed. You are rewarded with extra doggie kisses and love (and maybe a little extra dog hair in the house). Some of our fosters come in acting like they have always lived in a house and know what all of the rules are, some are confused and scared and take a little bit more extra loving care. But all of them are grateful to have a safe, loving place to rest their heads and to be taken care of. When our fosters move on to their forever homes it just makes your heart swell with happiness and love for them. But beware....it can be addictive!

If you are interested in becoming a foster home, or in finding out more information about our fostering process, please reach out to our Foster Placement Team with any questions.

Teresa Allen, jtbella79@yahoo.com

Barb Conyers, barb.stronach1@gmail.com

Rachel Hopple, rhopple2010@gmail.com

Heather Morris, hmorris503@gmail.com

Diann Dunwoody, Board Liaison

The Upsides to Fostering



I'm on my 4th foster with A&B. So much reward.... So little risk..... The folks on Wall Street would say NO WAY!! The changes I see within the first two weeks to a month are astounding. The dogs begin to realize they can trust us two-legged creatures. They learn how to live indoors. They learn house rules and manners. They become part of the pack so quickly. My resident setter, River, always enjoys having a playmate. Once the forever home is selected there is a joy in knowing that you have saved a life and that that pup will go on to live their best life. I stay in touch with the adopters of my fosters and love to watch the dogs grow and thrive in their new home with their new family. There really is no downside to fostering.

Tiffany Branson

Consider Fostering an “Unwanted” Setter

Hi rescue warrior friends! I hope you're all staying well. Undoubtedly, your furbabies have helped comfort you through these weird times, and kept you company through the isolation. If you're in search of a furry friend, the Foster Home Team can help you. Help us to help you! We'll build a dog profile for you with details about size, age, gender, temperament, etc.

Petite pretty girl setters are the popular kids right now. Are you getting flashbacks to high school? Cheerleaders and athletes are great, but so are the kids in the band, or the science fair. I once friend zoned a boy who was so nice, and smart, but just didn't have that “it” factor. He grew up to be Steve Jobs...Haha, not really! We've all known people who might not be classically attractive, but the personality and spirit makes them the person everyone gravitates to.

You see where I'm going with this. Our middle-aged male setters are getting no love. The same with dogs that don't have enough spots, or are too big, or had a mama who had a fling with a chihuahua, but maybe they sparkle in person. There is a dog to fit almost any home scenario, and even if it isn't a good fit, you've helped a discarded dog to learn the skills to help him find his best home. Foster parents are like career counselors, or recruiters, or wing men. Eventually, a dog will walk through your door, and everyone will know that he's found his forever home.

Please foster our dogs. They are ninjas, and will sneak attack their way into your heart.

Thank you,
J. Teresa Allen, Foster Home Coordinator

The A&B Board

Joyce Loeb - President
Carol Repic - Vice President
Tiffany Branson - Secretary
Eileen Gibson - Treasurer
Jennifer Cloherty
Heidi Kozubal
Diann Dunwoody
Patty Dietz
June Vandemark

Full contact information for our board members may be found at <https://esrescue.org/info/our-team/>

Carol Bruml, newsletter editor – cbruml@me.com



Cupid's Story

A Rescue That Will Pull Your Heartstrings

Cupid was found in Florida dumped in the woods, very sick, and mostly hairless. She was turned in to a local shelter by the persons who found her as they were unable to handle her health and medical needs. The call went out from the Shelter to rescues for help. We looked at her pictures and wondered "if there was hair on that body, would she be a setter?" We took her in.



We weren't sure that she would survive, but we wanted to at least make her comfortable. All her transporters were so worried about her, as she was weak, kept wetting her crate, and had very raspy breathing. The first night in her foster home, the foster mom barely slept, listening to Cupid breathing, but by morning, she had started to gain a little life. A trip to the vet helped to resolve some immediate problems, and told us that Cupid wasn't as sick as we had feared.

After a couple of weeks Cupid was moved to a longer term foster home where her foster mom would be a vet tech. Under the care of foster mom Cristi, Cupid's long term care needs were determined. Where initially it was thought that Cupid had a severe case of mange, it turned out that she has skin allergies, and a congenital type of mange that is chronic (Demodectic mange).

After months in care, we made Cupid available for adoption, highlighting her gentle and loving personality, "Cupid is a joyful, goofy, loving dog who isn't as pretty on the outside as some dogs, but she has a beautiful spirit. She loves life, loves people, and delights everyone." We noted the special skin care and allergy maintenance needs she would have for the rest of her life and had any interested applicants directly contact a Board member for an initial interview.



More than two years later, Cupid found her perfect forever home in central PA where she is loved and cherished. Her new name is Francesca, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi and she is called Chessie for short.



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We love to keep up with our adopted pups and the other day we received the following email from Chessie's family:

The UPS guy just came to deliver a package and Chessie was there with me when I answered the door. He looked at the dog, and curling his lip, asked, "WHAT kind of dog is THAT?"

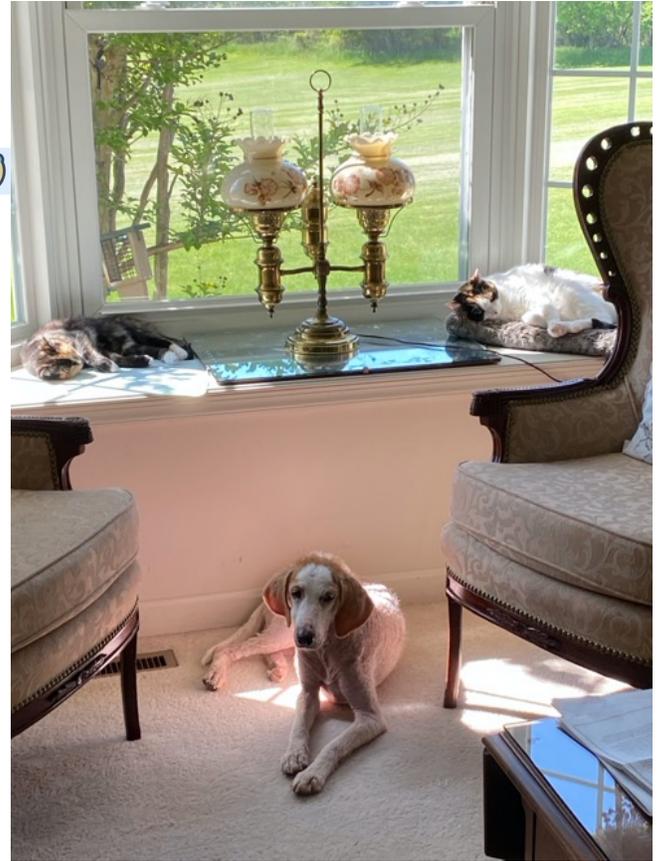
Nobody curls his lip at our dog! I responded, "Sir, she is a Georgian Hairless Pointer."

"Really? I've never heard of that breed before."

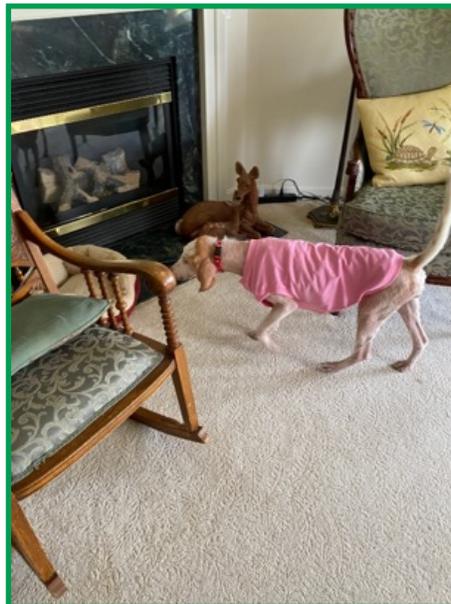
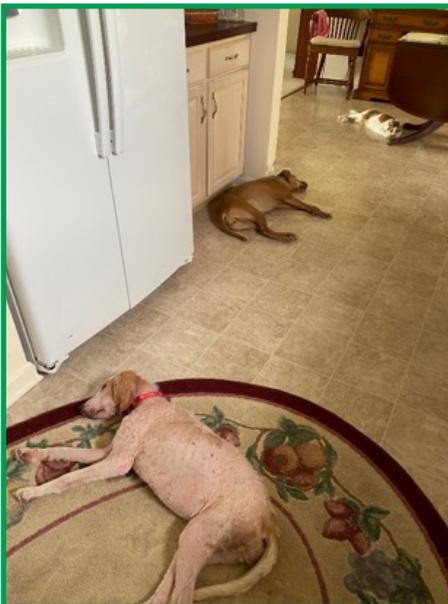
"Oh," I said, "It's a very rare breed. Her registered name is Francesca."

He almost forgot to give me the package! 🙄🙄🙄

Here's that Georgian Hairless Pointer with her cat friends!



...And a few more photos of Chessie and her family.



Who Will Take Care of Them?

As responsible owners we provide for all of our dogs' needs: food, love, shelter, medical care, etc. As our beloved dogs age, we begin to think of their mortality and, when the time comes, how we will help them cross the rainbow bridge. But how many of these same responsible owners have a plan for their dogs' care, if they should become incapacitated or pass on before them? Having a solid executable plan for them is as critical as providing for life-sustaining basic needs. In rescue, we routinely see dogs of all ages whose owners become sick or die, and then their beloved pets fall victim to extreme neglect. Family members who can't care for them or don't love them as their owner(s) did take them to a shelter or just give them away to a perfect stranger through an ad. At Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue we see this regularly and help setters whose owners passed away. It is heart-breaking. "This will never happen to my dogs!" (you say) but, it very easily could!

Don't wait until you become ill or are aging yourself to formalize your pet care plans – the unexpected happens every day. Even if you do not die, many pets are surrendered due to an owner's long-term illness. How sad would it be to battle back from a significant illness, return home, only to find your family no longer has your pets. Living out your days wondering where your pets are, what kind of life are they living without you, are they suffering, are they even alive? And then, every day, having to think "I could have prevented all this." Should something happen to you, the #1 priority to ensure your pets' continued care is to always have a file detailing the daily care and needs your pet(s) require. Include details on your vet and boarding kennel, health records, pet health insurance, diet, etc.

Having a formal plan for ongoing care is a must. Over the years, pets have become such valued family members that professionals now offer care planning for pets. Do not leave pet care commitments to a deathbed promise or trust between a friend or family member. The likelihood that this promise will be honored and they will love your

pets as you did may be slim. The likelihood that your pet will end up in a bad situation could be high, especially if your pet(s) is/are seniors or have medical issues of their own.

The traditional document people draft for their last wishes is a will or trust. Many people draft a simple will without the assistance of legal experts. Because you state something in your will about who gets your pets or give direction on how to care for them sadly doesn't mean your wishes will be carried out. Wills sometimes are not executed in a timely fashion, or can be contested, or disputed. If your estate is complicated, execution may take considerable time to settle. Your pet(s) can be in limbo, which can translate to stress and not having their needs met. What happens if the person you name says – "Whoa I didn't know I was getting the dog!" or "I never said I would take the dog!" – "My condo doesn't allow pets, it's going to the shelter!" Not what you thought could happen right? Did you know your pet wishes as defined in a will cannot be enforced? If you want funds for your pet to be provided over your pet's lifetime – a will can't provide for this either. Consider engaging a professional to insure you have a "complete and well thought out" pet care plan.

What if you can't find anyone to commit to this responsibility? If you adopted your pet from a rescue, likely the adoption contract stipulates if you are not able to care for your adopted pet, then you must return your pet to the rescue. You will see this verbiage listed on our adoption contracts. We will care for and search out a new forever family for your Above and Beyond setter. If you are wanting to "rehome" your Above and Beyond setter, we will complete the approval process to ensure the designated "caregiver" meets our "approval" criteria.

Hopefully I've made you think about protecting your fur family when you no longer can. For more ideas and information, please contact me, Eileen Gibson, at sett2spring3@yahoo.com

Eileen Gibson

PICNIC TIME IS ALMOST HERE!

Saturday, June 19, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

I can smell burgers & hotdogs already!!!!

Sending this shout out to all the A & B VIPs (Very Important Pups). Please join your A & B friends at the Annual Adopter & Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. You'll get to meet a lot of great volunteers, foster Moms & Dads, and of course a lot of VIPs – well it is all about us, right? We will have a great raffle, and the proceeds help the new setters coming in get the medical care they need.

A & B supplies all the hotdogs & hamburgers for the two- & four- leggers. Yes, all VIPs get to have hot dogs & hamburgers. We ask each attendee to bring something for the food table like buns, beverages, dessert, chips – that sort of stuff. All the VIPs get welcome bags filled with great stuff! We even bring a splash pool for the VIPs to cool off! It's so much fun and great to meet all the people. We also ask attendees to donate an item for the raffle table. There are always such great items donated and everyone has so much fun just deciding what containers to drop tickets in. It's a blast and everyone has a great time, and it benefits a great rescue! Please come!!!

Save the date – Saturday JUNE 19th
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Warwick County Park
Picnic Site #2 -- Look for all of the gorgeous dogs!
383 County Park Road
Chester County PA

- Pennsylvania just lifted the mask requirement for outdoor gatherings for those individuals who have been fully vaccinated!!!!!!
- If you can't make it to the picnic but want to help, you can send a cash donation or an item to be included in our raffle to Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue, 60 Molleystown Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963.
- Questions? Email Eileen @ sett2spring3@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE! Please RSVP to sett2spring3@yahoo.com. (Tell Eileen what food item you're bringing and how many VIPs and people will come).

Our 2020 picnic was cancelled due to COVID-19, but Warwick park has confirmed events are being held just at reduced capacity. We are limited to a capacity of 50 under the pavilion at any given time. We have plenty of space to social distance. We will also have food service disposable gloves available and will require people to use them as you make your food selections and platters. We will also have plenty of hand sanitizers under the pavilion. Save the date and don't forget to RSVP!

Hope to see you there!