

FEATHERS & CURLS

Quarterly Newsletter of English Springer Rescue America, Inc.

FALL 2018



Inside this issue:

BOARD UPDATES

JOIN THE OLDIE'S CLUB

BETTY'S HAPPY ENDING





NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Board's Been Busy: Here's an Update

Members of ESRA's board are consistently active behind the scenes to keep this nearly 2,000-member organization humming. Here's what the seven members who make up ESRA's board have been up to since the last newsletter:

- The board approved the Elections Committee's report on the October election. Two current board members retained their seats—Barb Doolin (Oregon) and Gabriella Filisko (Illinois)—and they were joined by Lisa Kay Butts (Florida).
 - The board also appointed Nicole Bellemare (California) to the board to fill the seat vacant because of the resignation for health reasons of Barry Breckle.
 - In addition, ESRA's officers have agreed to continue in their positions for another year. They include Secretary Mary Guttieri (Kansas), Treasurer Sue Schroer (Georgia) and Chief Financial Officer Mike Robbins (Alabama).
- The board proudly introduced ESRA's new website in September. After a year-long effort, the team led by ESRA's Webmaster Kathy Patterson (North Carolina) and including Belle Sprague (California), Mary Viehoefer (Texas), Emily Pike (Georgia), Cindy Arnold (Georgia), Cindy Swift (California), and Tom Sprandel (Washington), condensed nearly 200 pages down to 68 pages with much easier navigation. It includes all new graphics and a new listing directory. If you haven't checked it out yet, take a spin here: <https://www.springerrescue.org/>.
- ESRA board members, as well as many other volunteers, attended and participated in the 2018 Springer National Specialty Show, hosted by the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association.
 - ESRA and other rescue groups, including Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue, conducted fundraising activities. ESRA raised \$1,180 from the quilt raffle; \$2,455 from the auction; \$3,098 from booth sales, and \$41 from donation jar contributions totaling \$6,774.
 - ESRA also hosted a pizza party attended by more than 50 people, including MAESSR and ESSFTA members; the event paid for itself through onsite donations. Also, eight dogs rescued by ESRA and now happily rehomed walked in the rescue parade, a very proud moment for both the pups and their families.
- The annual members' meeting took place Oct. 27. You can find the links to the slides and the webinar in member area of ESRA's website: <https://www.springerrescue.org/member/>.
- The board created the Membership Review Committee pursuant to ESRA's bylaws to review members' complaints of other members' alleged violations of ESRA's Code of Ethics. The committee is independent of the board and comprises seven members from states across the nation who have strong professional and volunteer experience. Its work is currently underway.



BETTY'S HAPPY ENDING

-Shawn Whitehouse, PNP Volunteer

We don't know where Betty, the Springer Spaniel's, story began, but we'll start it from being found by a county animal control officer and taken to a shelter. She was later determined to be 7-9 years old, but at the shelter they thought she was quite a bit older because she was so pitiful! She had ear and skin infections, later found to be caused by allergies.

Betty was extremely thin and she had cataracts in both eyes; she was/is blind in one eye and going blind in the other. However, luckily she was heart-worm negative! Betty was taken-in by ESRA and fostered with our family while she healed, was evaluated for temperament and matched with a forever family. She turned out to be a smart, sweet, loving and "Velcro" dog. However, while she did get along well with our cat, she didn't do well with submissive dogs. Betty was so smart; she could open (on the first try!) our lever handle doors - from either side! It's especially impressive knowing that to open a door "in," she had to press the handle and pull it toward her! Betty was with us 5 months while ESRA searched for the right forever family for Betty.

A couple from the Boston area was looking for the right Springer for their family. There were none in the area, or in the next. They spread their net further and saw Betty in the Atlanta area and knew she was the one! They wanted a calm, older dog that was loving and would get along with their older cats. They were not deterred by the fact that she was on her way to being totally blind and needed to be on allergy medicines for life. The match was made and approved! They were so excited and we were sending frequent pictures to them, which they were posting on Facebook, while we awaited vacations to complete and the adoption to be made.

My husband, Tom Whitehouse, is a new pilot; immediately upon his certification in June, he signed up with Pilots N Paws. We decided to offer to take Betty halfway to meet Betty's forever family as his maiden transport. ESRA listed Betty on PNP and Tom accepted the trip.

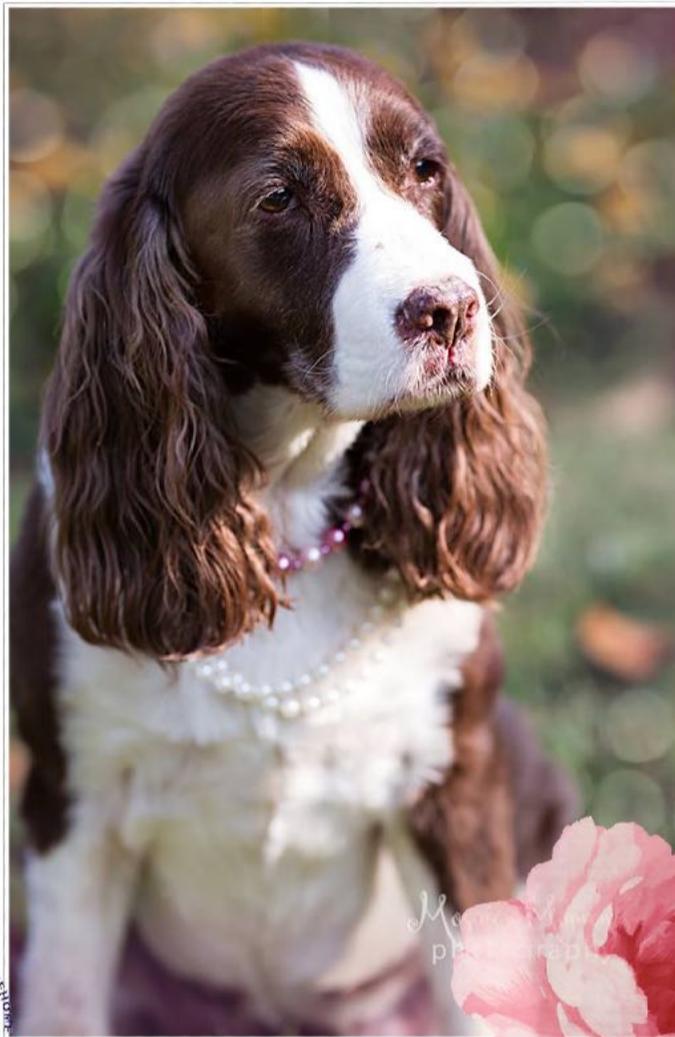
On the appointed Friday, after work we flew together with Betty from Winder, GA (in a rented Diamond DA40 from Dragonfly Aviation) to a planned overnight stop at Smith Reynolds airport, near Winston-Salem NC. Betty was so cute on the plane in her ear protectors! We spent the night in a hotel so we could arrive at our end destination when the FBO (airport) was open and we could take pictures in the daylight. Betty was really good on the flight and in the hotel! On Saturday morning we completed the journey with Betty to Ashland, VA (near Richmond, not far from WA DC). The adoptive couple was super excited! We went out to brunch with them and they were really nice; but better yet, the perfect match for Betty! During our meal, the couple's two adult sons (not living with them) both called because they too were excited and they wanted to see if their parents had Betty yet! It warmed our hearts.

After our brunch, we went back to the plane to look for something and Betty repeatedly tried to get back in the plane, she liked flying! After 5 months, as you might imagine, we were quite bonded to Betty; but parting was much easier knowing she'd found her perfect forever family!

THANK YOU to all the volunteers in rescue organizations like ESRA that make saving dogs their mission and to all the volunteers in Pilots N Paws that help get the rescued dogs to medical treatment or to their forever families!

FOSTER A SENIOR!

FOSTER
A SENIOR!



Join the "Oldies Club"!

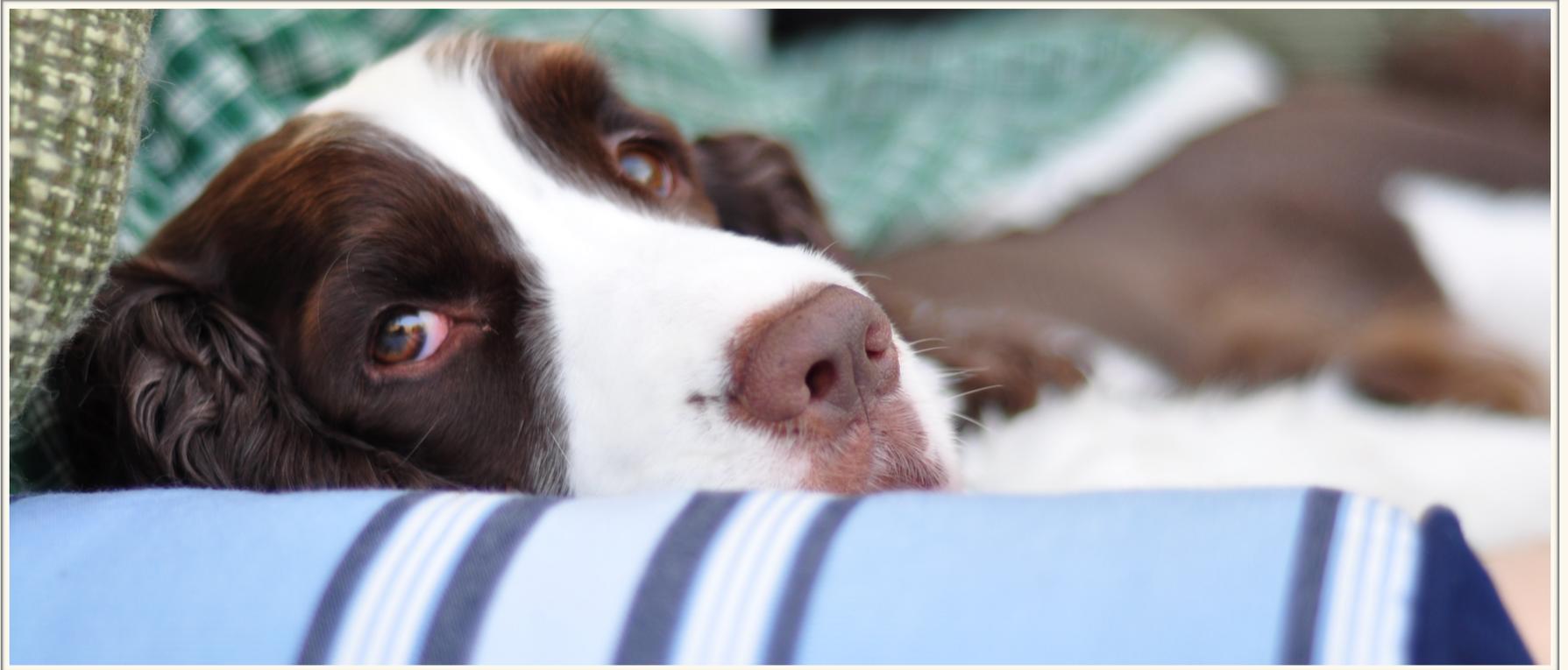
We like to refer to our seniors as “vintage springers”—the older they are, the more valuable and treasured they become. Our goal is to provide them health, happiness and stability, dignity and respect, love, more love, and then squeeze in a little more love. In 2017, ESRA assisted 86 senior springers (10+years old). The year is not over yet, and in 2018, we've rescued 88 seniors! Foster families our vital to honor our pledge to these most deserving dogs.

The role of a senior foster family is to “pick up the pieces and put them back together again.” To begin, ESRA pays all veterinary expenses. Fosters provide comfy beds, toys, and food (unless they require a prescription diet) and their heart. Our seniors usually arrive with typical old-age ailments; and sometimes with untreated more serious health issues, as well. Fostering a senior does require a longer-term commitment and more frequent trips to the vet while they regain their health and wait for their “forever” homes. State coordinators and/or case managers keep close contact and are always available for support. ESRA also has a "hospice" program. We're so thankful we're able to be here for them, to fulfill their "bucket lists." and hold their paw until the end.

Many ask if seniors can bond and be trained—absolutely! Vintage springers are the best house guests. Their days of jumping, bounding and endless energy are behind them making them champion cuddlers, instant companions, and great listeners. They are so easy to have around.

We hope you will consider joining our “Oldies Club” by fostering one of our vintage springers. There's nothing quite as rewarding as giving just a little of yourself to make a huge difference in their lives. You can complete the online Foster Application here: <http://www.springerrescue.org/CMS/forms/foster-app/>

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT



ESRA will be celebrating its 20-year anniversary in 2019! The dogs that have been assisted in the past two decades is an astounding number well over 10,000 Springers, and the dedication and commitment of our volunteers has helped us to reach this incredible milestone. We can't stop now. We must continue working together for the good of the dogs and the good of this organization. We are an all volunteer organization and cannot exist without our members.

One thing that is key to our continued success is the solicitation of new members and volunteers to the organization. ESRA needs more help so ESRA Board member Linda Parker is currently working on building committees to address the many needs of this growing organization and to actively engage membership into various roles of volunteering.

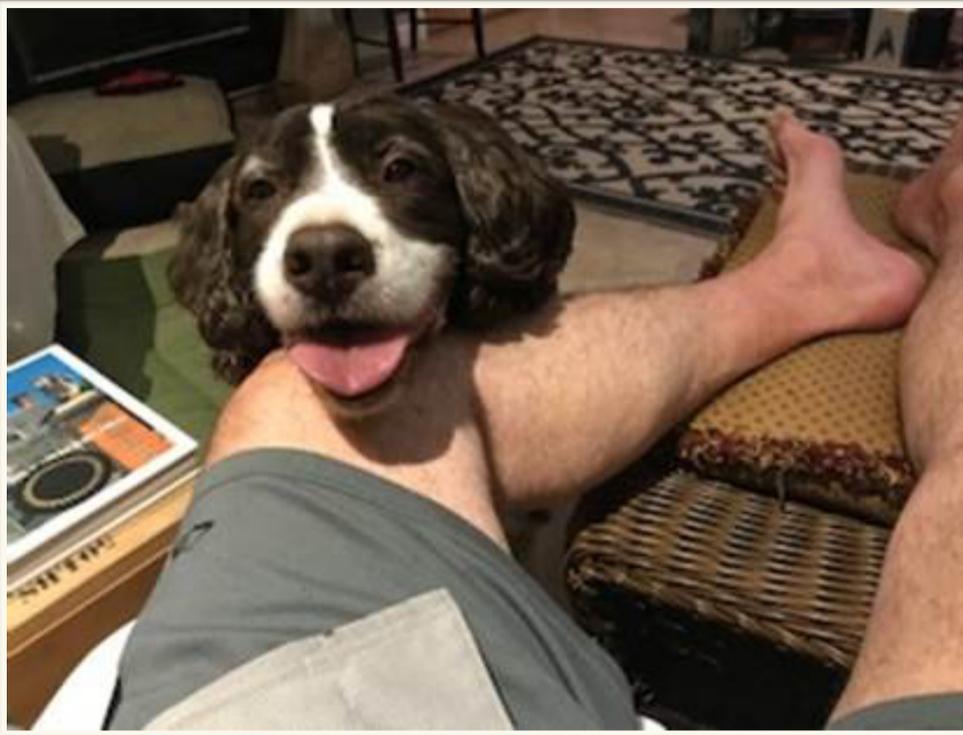
In the last several months we have created or are working on the following:

- A National Transportation Committee that is being led by Gary and Linda Zimmerman. There is now a downloadable/printable document to use for transporting of a dog. The Transportation Run Sheet is available for our coordinators and members on our webpage. This document also includes information on how to do a transport. Gary is compiling a national data base of all of our ESRA transport volunteers, which will be very useful!
- We have a Welcome to ESRA Committee. This committee will send out a welcome letter and make sure that everyone feels welcomed and informed. The committee will point new members to volunteer opportunities.
- Kathy Armstrong is tackling a new addition to the ESRA webpage for showcasing the work of our volunteers. She will be collecting photos of our volunteers hard at work in their various jobs in rescue and keep it fresh with new additions. We want to let people know that our volunteers care and love English Springer Spaniels!
- There is a new committee called the Regional Membership Management Team. Linda Gibbons and soon to be announced other managers will facilitate communications and connections between volunteers and coordinators. They will also assist our members with membership issues.
- We are looking for volunteers to form a committee to recruit more foster homes. Do you have some time and ideas to devote to a New Foster Home Committee? Please contact info@springerrescue.org.
- ESRA Membership Recruiting Committee is another goal. As ESRA grows and some of the volunteers age, we need new "blood". Please consider joining this committee if you have ideas and want to move ESRA forward into tomorrow. Email info@springerrescue.org.

One thing that that holds true is the old saying that there is strength in numbers. We must continue working together for the good of the dogs and the good of this organization so please lend a hand to enable ESRA to rescue more Springers!

ESRA RESCUES MORE THAN JUST SPRINGERS

-John Michael Wayne



ESRA has this wonderful and well-deserved reputation as *the* national referral and foster care purebred placement organization for English Springer Spaniels. Now that is quite a mouthful, but I just love to write and say it because the organization is that and more as it turns out. That's because ESRA should add to its website that it rescues more than Springers. **ESRA rescues widowers too.**

The backstory is that I have a great, full life – at least I thought I did until recently. While I have challenging days since my wife, Katie, passed in January 2014, I have worked hard at moving forward while never forgetting the enchanting and lovely life I led for more than 24 years. During Katie's last few days, she called every woman she knew and asked them to look out for me. She told them – and I didn't find this out until quite recently – that Michael is great at being by himself but not at being alone. I found out what this meant after I moved to North Carolina.

When a friend called me about an opportunity at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I took the job. I managed to move successfully by myself – for the first time in my life as my late bride did all the tough stuff and more during my career in the Navy. I arrived in Chapel Hill in April 2015 intent upon finding out what's next in my life's journey and writing the next chapter in my life.

My work life immediately was fulfilling and great. I do what I love best in the communications and public relations field – I write. My only complaint may be there is just too much of this fulfilling and great professional opportunity as the hours per week can be a bit arduous.

But something was missing. At home, when I got home (after all, why rush home?), it was a bit boring. How many times could I re-watch Seinfeld reruns and movies I had watched, hate to admit this, dozens of times before? Reading is great and I read a great deal after I get home from the office, but it isn't as much fun anymore. There is no Katie to have discussions with, share my thoughts with about what I am reading and what she is reading. And no one to sit in companionable silence with during the evening hours. Not whining, after all, I am here, in good health and I wasn't the one taken at such a young age.

I think many singles who find themselves without their pilot / co-pilot in their early 60's share my other challenges. Going to dinner alone? Not very fun. Plays and concerts alone? I feel strange doing that for some reason. Grocery shopping is great but the manager begins to stare at you if you loiter too long in the vegetable section. Clearly, reading and re-reading all the organic labels a dozen or so times brings about store management's special scrutiny. I had never wanted to sail life's journey alone after all.

Then a friend mentioned ESRA and how I could get involved. I love to volunteer, so I did. ESRA offered wonderful volunteer opportunities that go well beyond running a booth at a church picnic. It turns out, however, that I was a rescue failure the first time out. Because that is when I met Mr. Brinkley – I had transported a dog who became a wonderful friend, making me unsure about who rescued whom. While Brinkley was a Golden Retriever in Sleepless in Seattle, I kept his name. I had always loved Nora Ephron's work and Mr. Brinkley he shall always be in my life.

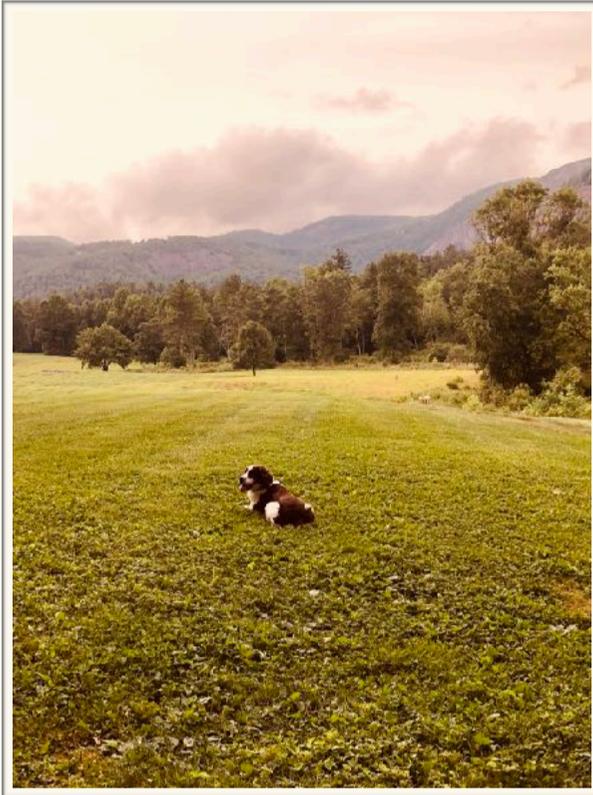
A scrappy lad, Mr. Brinkley quickly changed my life. He had me getting out of my work-chair and coming home in the evening as soon as I could so we could share a walk before it was dark. While on our evening and morning walks, he does a great job keeping my gravel road free of deer and rabbits (he is not sure – and neither am I – about the opossum so we give him or her a wide berth). He loves sniffing and random barking at critters in the woods that I can't detect. Once "the threat has passed," he looks back at me with – is that a smirk?

He also is a perfect man when folks visit, and is always the hit of the home. My company seemingly unneeded, except the cooking and grilling. Jealous? Not at all because thanks to Mr. Brinkley people do come over and then decide to come back!

Evenings are now filled with reading again while rubbing his tummy or scratching under his neck... and filled with laughter as I watch him prance about with a treat. We also go to Netflix and watch several movies where dogs are the real star. Repeatedly I should add – he doesn't seem to like movies without a canine. He joins in the barks when he hears a bark on the television. Now, being the speechwriter at UNC-CH, I think I can be a bit boring. Not to Mr. Brinkley. He watches intently while I read passages of the remarks to him. He never looks bored. On weekends, after the dog park, he loves to splash away in the children's pool I purchased. I laugh like I haven't laughed for years. He does get those looks at times while I am eating, and seems to be saying with those expressive eyes, "brother, can you spare a bite? Or maybe a chew stick?"

What a life I now have. I work extra hard to get out of the office. I rush home. There is, after all, that special gent waiting at home. He always greets me with reckless enthusiasm and abandon as if it were a national holiday to celebrate. Then he stares at where the leash is hanging. We also have that companionable silence in the evenings. While he never has much to say when I chat about the book I am reading, he still looks intently as if, at any moment, he will add a clever aside. And Mr. Brinkley knows my dirty little secret but never tells a soul, not even at the dog park – I was rescued by an English Springer Spaniel, thanks to ESRA and being a rescue failure.

SUMMER FUN!

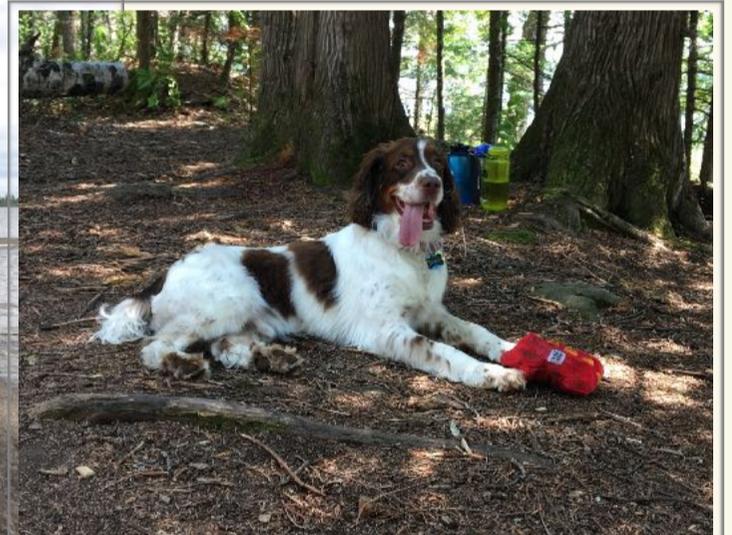


This is Georgia Sheeter. She spent her entire summer hiking and swimming in the North Carolina mountains. We live in Florida but spend our summers in the mountains every year. -Isabel Sheeter



This summer my husband, Joseph, and I took our ESRA alumni, Toby, and our corgi, Gizmo, to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness in Northern Minnesota. We stopped at a few places along the north shore of Lake Superior before heading out to camp in the wilderness. Everyone had a great time!

-Christina Burton



Pictured is Tahnee (facing camera) and Mushu (further out). Not pictured is Bella (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel). Trying to get all three dogs in photo proved impossible. This is Martinsdale Reservoir in central Montana.

-Lynn and Lance Loving

SUMMER FUN!



My grandson Sean and our dog Abbey on Buskin Beach in Kodiak Alaska. -Londa Alexander



This is Rusty enjoying a boat ride on Lake Martin in Alabama.

-Amy Replogle



Lexi (Springer) and Bodie (Springer wannabe). Like Linus, hiking in Eastern Sierra Nevada.

-Katarina Thomas



Linus, Lexi and Bodie
-Katarina Thomas



SUMMER FUN!



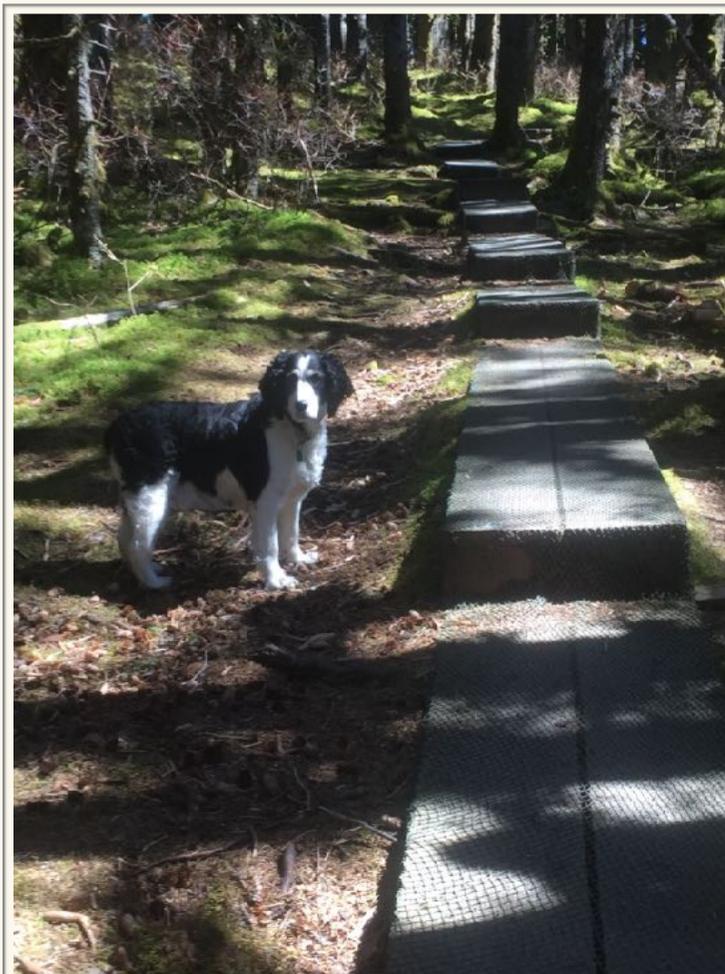
Zeke in front left side, his sister, Zoe, back right. They turned 13 in July. Chilling in our pool.

-Evie Tursack



Abbey out on a walk at Fort Abercrombie, Kodiak Alaska

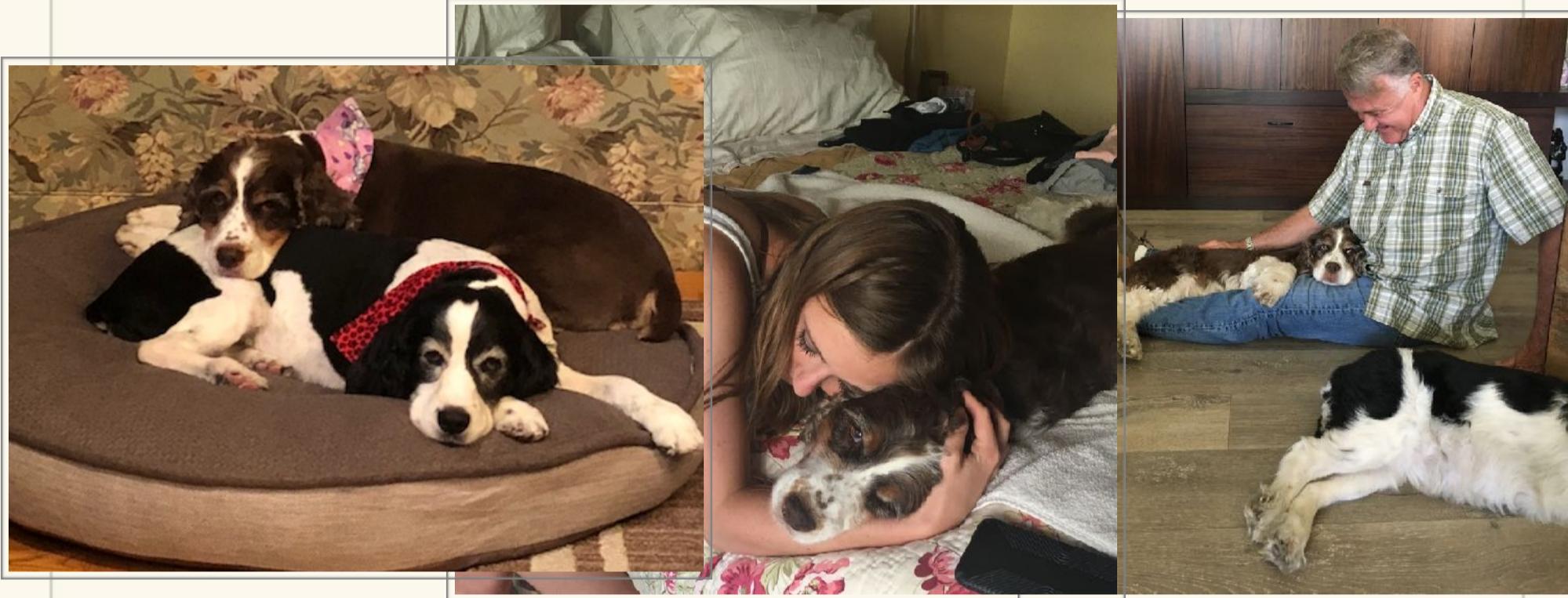
-Dale and Londa Alexander, true Springer lovers



THE GIRLS

A happy ending story...

-Cindy Pierson



In May ESRA was contacted by a woman from a tiny, remote town in Northern Nevada. She said that her friend and family were moving the following day. They were taking their young Springer with them and leaving their two senior Springers behind. Could ESRA help? Silly question – of course we could! We had no volunteers in the immediate area but the family friend said that her friend ran the local animal shelter and would board the two dogs for us until we arranged transport.

Our nearest volunteer lived two hours away but immediately raised her hand to help. Our next obstacle was getting in touch with the shelter whose answering machine stated that if there was no answer to contact the Sheriff's office. After several attempts, we once again reached out to the family friend who assisted setting things up on the NV end. Finally, "the girls" were in our care. They spent a couple days at our Northern California foster home before being transferred to another temporary foster home where they were completely vetted, bathed and groomed. Next, we began the search for transportation down to a foster home in Southern California where they would stay until they were adopted. We posted our need on the Pilots N Paws website where a couple of amazing pilots offered their help. The girls were flown down to their permanent foster home where they wiggled their way into their foster family's hearts until they were adopted into their new forever family.

A little about "the girls": Sammy is an 11-year old liver and white tri beauty while Sasha is a drop dead gorgeous 13-year old black and white lady. This pair are so truly bonded that they need to be touching almost constantly. If they were laying down, one of their heads would be on the other's body or they would be in a full body spoon. There was absolutely no question about ever separating these girls.

And then, two months later in mid-July, the day finally came – someone was interested in adopting the girls! The family, consisting of Dad, Mom, and their daughter who is a college student, was invited to meet them. It was love at first sight all the way around. These lovely ladies now live in a home where they can come and go to a shaded backyard as they please. They go on leisurely strolls in the open common ground behind their home with their new mom and dad. If the mood strikes they can "hunt" the ducks in the lake. From being abandoned by their original family to living in the lap of luxury, Sammy and Sasha have truly found their new forever home.

Our sincerest thanks to the family friend who became the girls' champion and helped get them into the ESRA program. I personally would like to thank Jennifer and Tom Scott for helping transport and foster the girls until they could be moved. Jaymie Canales was their next stop and she completely fell in love with this pair of charmers. Pilots N Paws played a huge roll in their rescue by flying them down to Southern California. Michelle Furtado and her family learned the joy of fostering our beloved senior Springers Sammy and Sasha until they were matched with their new forever home.

HOMEMADE TREATS

Moe's Oatmeal Carrot Treats

Recipe submitted by Sue Anne Weddell

- 2 1/2 cups oats
- 1 egg
- 1 heaping tablespoon peanut butter
- 1 cup minced cooked carrots, cooled
- 1/2 cup of unsalted beef broth, chicken broth or vegetable broth
(I use the liquid I cook the carrots in when it cools down)

Mix all ingredients well with your hands, kneading for a few minutes. Use a small ice cream scoop and bake balls on a parchment paper lined sheet pan for 20-25 minutes.



Moe waits patiently for his favorite treat!



Becky's Ice Cream Cups

Recipe submitted by Robert & Janet Boetsch

- 32 oz. yogurt (plain or Greek)
- 3 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1 large banana
- 1 Tablespoon honey

Mix altogether well. Freeze in individual serving dishes. (I use unbreakable ramekins because of the dogs accidentally chewing plastic cups.) NOTE: You can experiment with this recipe - making smaller portions, adding more peanut butter or banana, or trying your dog's favorite flavors. I don't use honey unless I use Greek yogurt. I usually mix about 16 oz of yogurt and add more peanut butter, and also stick a small treat in the top.



Becky & Maggie are needing Ice Cream Cups after enjoying their ride!





ESSFTA 2018 EXPERIENCE

Twas our first Springer National
Weren't quite sure what to do
Signed up one rescue for Parade
Then were told could bring TWO!

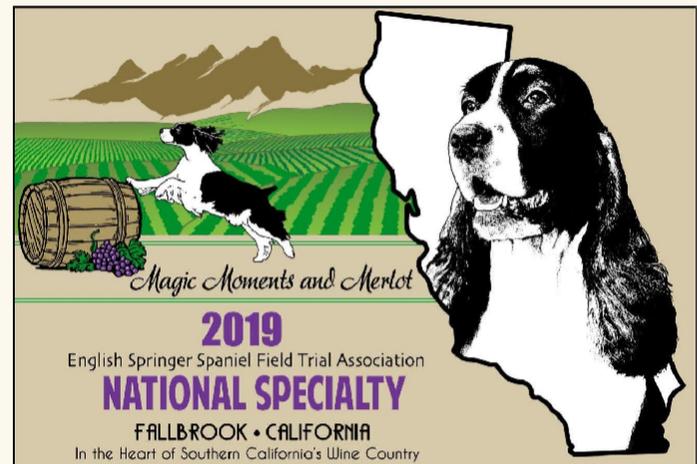
Drove a thousand miles one way
Excited as could be
To take us to Purina Farms
Gray Summit, Missouri

Had opportunity when arrived
To take CGC test
How we cheered when both dogs passed
SPRINGER PRIDE is the best!

Met ESRA volunteers and dogs
All got along so well
With friendships and advice to share
HAPPY ENDINGS to tell

If we had to do it over
Would we do it again?
The experience was great, so
Just tell us where and when!

By Suzanne, Gary, Mazie and Chevy Zimmerman



Save the Date: 2019 National

Pala Mesa Resort
2001 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92028
<http://www.palamesa.com>

Activities will take place Saturday, October 5,
through Saturday, October 12, 2019

To learn more visit:
<https://essftanational.com>



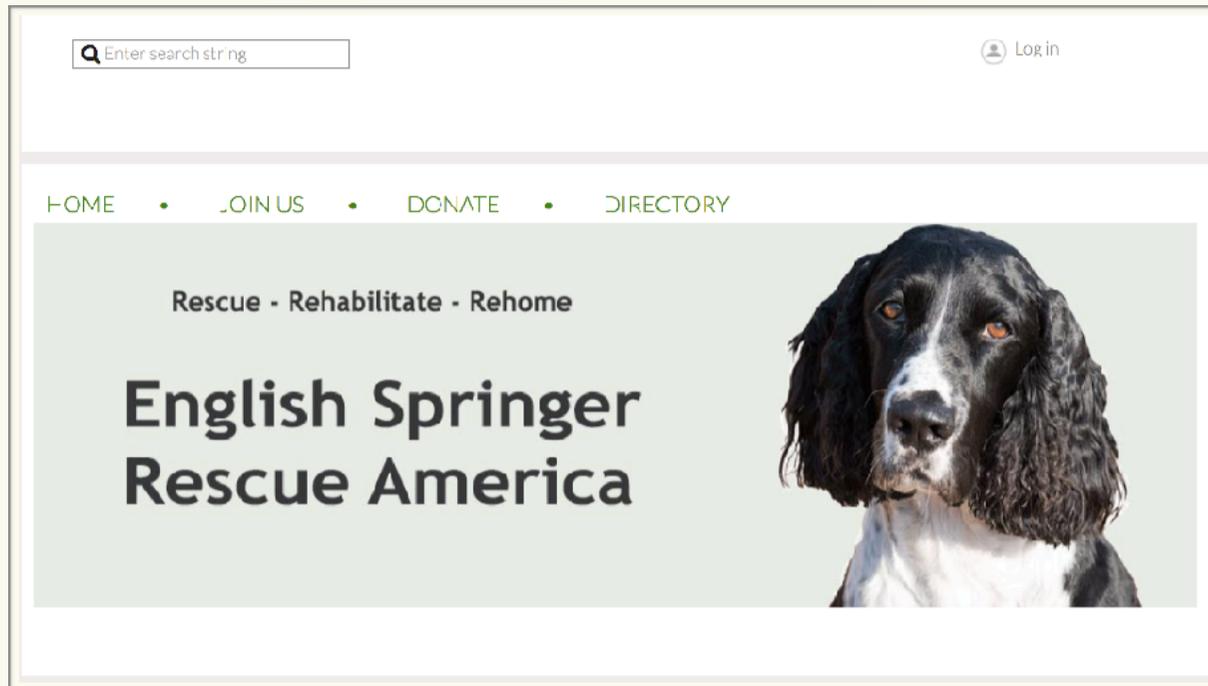
We Need You: Join Our Newsletter Team

If only ESRA's newsletters were magical and wrote themselves. But they don't, and that's why we need people to join our team.

If you'd like to brainstorm good article ideas, write articles for, and help proof ESRA's quarterly newsletter, please contact us at newsletter@springerrescue.org



RENEW NOW!



ESRA members who have not returned a ballot since 2015 are receiving notices that their membership is about to lapse.

These members will need to log into their member profile at:
<https://englishspringerrescueamerica3.wildapricot.org/>

You will be prompted to renew your membership.

All members are strongly encouraged to keep their contact information up-to-date by logging into their profile at the above email address. If you have any difficulty navigating this process, please contact ESRA's membership chair, Shelley Dearmin, at join@springerrescue.org.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: WINTER 2018

Be on the watch this Winter for our next newsletter containing Happy Endings, upcoming events and interesting news about what ESRA does day in and day out to make this a better world for both our beloved Springers and their families.

If you're like most members, you don't know all of the literally hundreds of people across the nation working hard to rescue Springers through ESRA—they're quite literally ESRA's unsung heroes. If you have a story to share, please let us know!

If you'd like to nominate someone in your area to be featured in an upcoming issue, please email the newsletter team at newsletter@springerrescue.org with the name of the person you're nominating and why.



www.springerrescue.org

 facebook.com/springerrescueamerica

 Instagram.com/springerrescueamerica