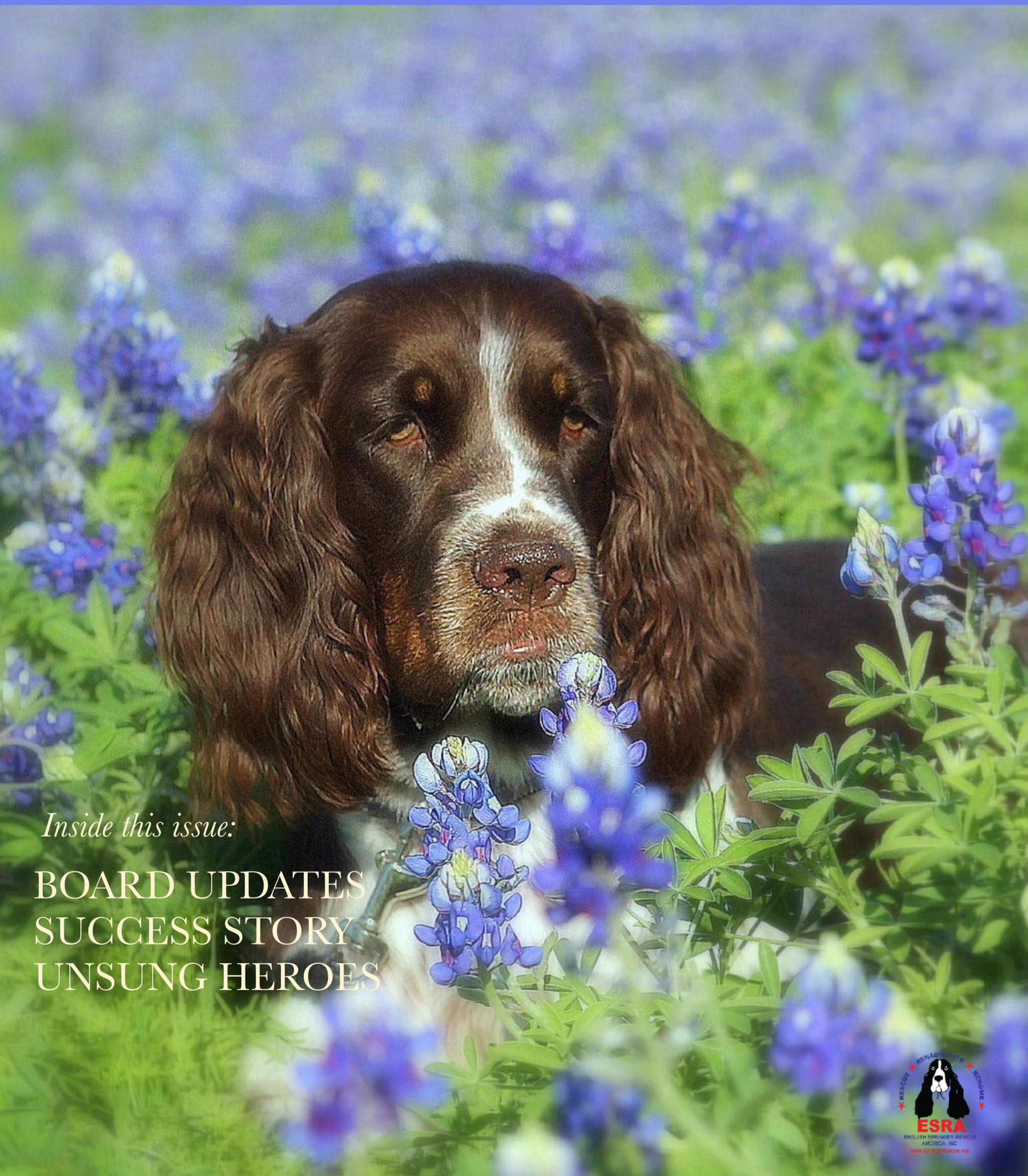


# FEATHERS & CURLS

*Quarterly Newsletter of English Springer Rescue America, Inc.*

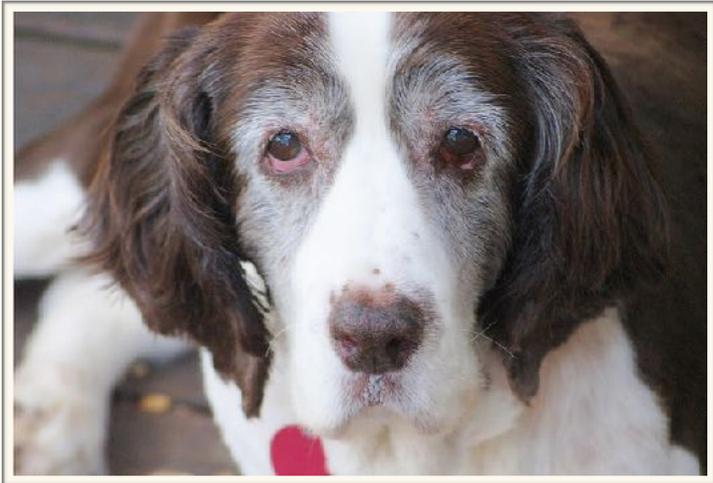
SPRING 2018



*Inside this issue:*

BOARD UPDATES  
SUCCESS STORY  
UNSUNG HEROES





# NEWS FROM THE BOARD

## **ESRA: No Senior Left Behind**

ESRA's commitment to rescuing and caring for seniors—or those dogs 10 years or older—remains strong. As of March 13, it had already rescued 11 seniors nationwide. California led the way with three senior intakes early in 2018. Louisiana had two, with seniors also entering ESRA's care in Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

In 2017, the states with the highest number of senior intakes were Florida, with 9; Minnesota and Texas, with each taking in 8; Illinois with 7; and California with 6.

Those numbers are consistent with two 2017 ESRA board announcements to coordinators stressing that ESRA's policy is to pull all Springers in shelters regardless of their age or health status; the only time a coordinator shouldn't take in a Springer is when the dog has a known bite or bad-temperament history.

## **What ESRA's policy says:**

Specifically, in ESRA's February 17, 2017, and December 17, 2017, quarterly meetings with state coordinators, ESRA President Susan Zuker informed coordinators of the following specific policy:

“The current policy on pulling shelter dogs as stated in the coordinator's manual is not consistent with the philosophy of the current ESRA management team. We feel that every effort should be made to pull shelter dogs if you have available state resources. Obviously this does not apply to dogs who are a risk due to poor temperament or bite history. But we do not agree that a dog's age or health should be a reason not to pull them. We are lucky to be in a stronger financial position than in the past and there has been a tremendous amount of fundraising and support for seniors.

We are in the process of updating the coordinator's manual to more accurately reflect this philosophy. In the meantime, please reach out to your vice president or a member of the board before you decide not to pull a dog. We are all available to help you decide the best course of action, even if that means bringing a dog into ESRA for hospice care. We can help reach out to other states if a lack of foster homes is the problem. There will be times when shelters prefer to adopt the dog out on their own, but we feel our first question should not be to ask what the dog's risk is but to ask if they'll allow ESRA help and take the dog into our program.

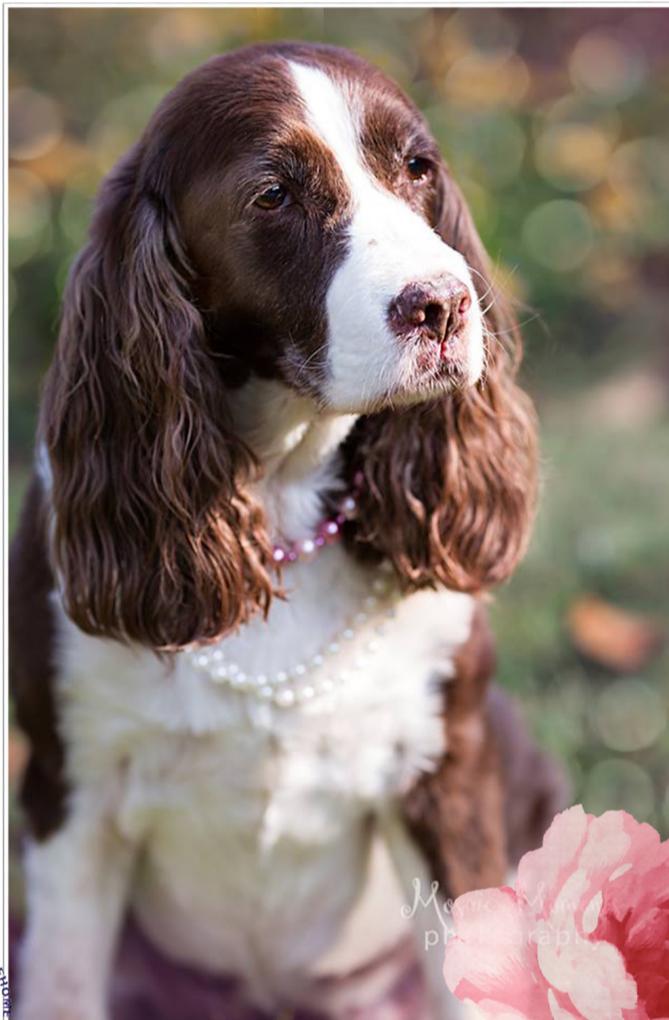
If anyone has any questions about this policy, please contact me [Susan Zuker] or another board member.”

If you have a question about ESRA's policy toward sick or senior dogs or are concerned a Springer is being left in a shelter, please contact a board member immediately.



# JOIN THE “OLDIES CLUB”!

FOSTER  
A SENIOR!



*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). In 2018, we are making the same commitment to rescue seniors. Foster families are vital to honor our pledge to these most deserving dogs.

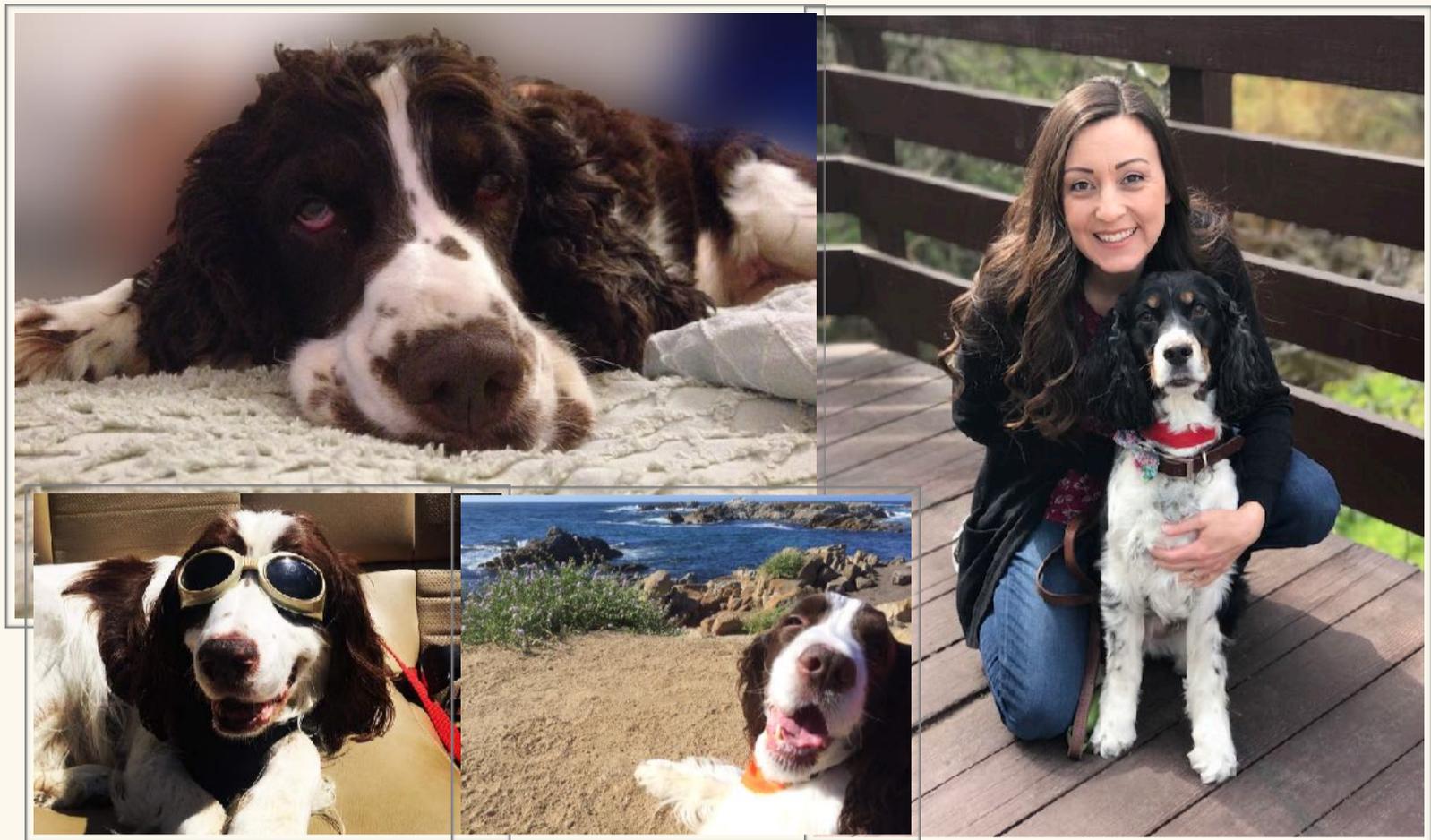
The role of a senior foster family is to “pick up the pieces and put them back together again”. To begin, ESRA pays all veterinary expenses. Fosters provide comfy beds, toys, and food (unless they require a prescription diet) and their heart. Our seniors usually arrive with typical old-age ailments; 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.

Please complete the online Foster Application here: <http://www.springerrescue.org/CMS/forms/foster-app/>

# CALIFORNIA CHANGES



## **Exciting Changes in California**

California has been busy with some exciting new changes and a renewed membership on the rise. Volunteers in the Golden State have created a new dedicated regional Facebook page ([facebook.com/EnglishSpringerRescueCalifornia](https://facebook.com/EnglishSpringerRescueCalifornia)) and have been working hard updating the California volunteer list with a new state-wide email newsletter.

It's had some leadership changes, too. Cindy Pierson has been named the new VP of the Pacific Region and Jaymie Canales has joined the California coordinator team.

Cindy has agreed to assume the responsibility of regional VP for the Pacific Region. Laurie Schirger will continue to serve as regional VP for the Rocky Mountain Region. The board is grateful to Laurie for her extended service to both the Pacific and Rocky Mountain regions following Barb Doolin's appointment to the board and is pleased Cindy will take on a part of the responsibility for the western states.

Jaymie has joined the California team of coordinators that includes Terry Sprague, Myrna Riesz and Cindy Pierson. California is excited to take a team approach to rescue, and the coordinators are available regardless of location.

Jaymie has been an ESRA member for five years and has assisted with adoption interviews, home visits, and shelter pulls and is a member of the Social Media Committee. Jaymie is also supported by her amazing family--two daughters and her husband, Mike. Please join us in welcoming Jaymie to this very important role.

There's also a Parade of Rescues picnic and bake sale planned for April 28 at the Industry Hills Exposition Center in Industry, Calif. Join us for the fun! Contact Lea Alexander at [lea@animalheartstrings.com](mailto:lea@animalheartstrings.com) for more information and to RSVP.

Congratulations to our ESRA volunteers in the West for keeping up the great work.



# ESRA'S UNSUNG HEROES

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.

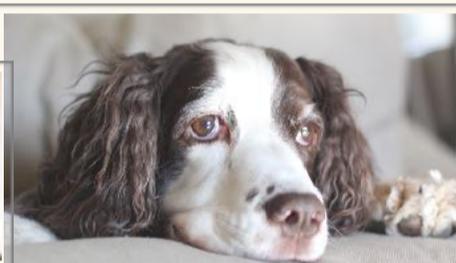
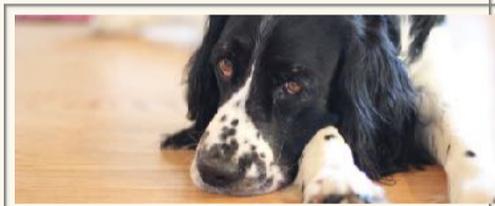
Every issue, we'll introduce you to an ESRA member who's making a difference in the lives of Springers in their own little corner of the world. If you'd like to nominate someone in your area to be featured in an upcoming issue, please email the newsletter team at [volunteerspotlight@springerrescue.org](mailto:volunteerspotlight@springerrescue.org) with the name of the person you're nominating and why.

## **Beth Maryan, Dallas, ESRA member since 2005**

**The Springers in her life:** I am "Mom" to two Springers currently. I started fostering senior Miss Charlotte in the fall of 2014. She tipped the scale at close to 90 pounds, was heartworm positive, and had severe skin, ear, and eye infections. After nursing her back to health the following six months, we formally made Miss Charlotte a part of the Maryan family. She is our special girl and is the queen in our house.

We then adopted Bella Marie in the fall of 2017 at 10 years old after her family surrendered her. I was taken by her striking beauty the moment I laid eyes on her. She walked into our home, and it was like she'd been here forever.

I do also have a Springer wannabe. Six years ago, I pulled Merlin from a shelter right before his euthanization date. From his photo, he vaguely resembled a Springer, but I couldn't let him die there. At six months old, he arrived a feral dog and virtually unadoptable. We have now loved him for six beautiful years!



Stacey Smith, Beth Maryan and Elizabeth Hall - ESRA friends are the best!



**How she's making a difference:** I've been North Texas/Oklahoma coordinator for years and years and years, but have no idea when I actually received my title—maybe 8-10 years ago? I handle our North Texas/Oklahoma dogs from intake thru adoption, fostering most of them, getting them vetted, groomed, and hand picking their perfect forever homes.

I'm also a member of ESRA's social media team, which I love! I post weekly on the ESRA Facebook page, primarily with a senior focus. I also fundraise for ESRA, most specifically for Charlotte's Senior Fund along with bringing awareness to the public of the many senior Springers in need.

I, along with a couple other amazing volunteers, will also be handling the silent auction at the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association Nationals 2018 in St. Louis Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

**When did you get involved with ESRA and why?** I got involved with ESRA in 2005. Funny, I had my original Springer pair, Sarah and Lil Hoss. I adored them so much I wanted to add yet another Springer to my family. To be certain, I decided fostering one might give me some insight as to what three young Springers would be like to raise. Hahaha!

**Why do you do what you do?** I do what I do because I can't NOT do it, if that makes any sense. ESRA is a huge part of my life and defines much of who I am and brings a tremendous amount of happiness into my life. I'm so proud of what I contribute to these dogs' lives and couldn't be any more proud of this amazing organization.

**What would you say to others who are thinking of getting involved but haven't yet?** DO IT! Your involvement will not only benefit our wonderful breed, but it will also enrich your life more than you could ever imagine. There's something about the connection created when you're working with a group of people with a shared goal and passion. You'll meet some of the most amazing, huge-hearted people. So many of "my" adopters have also become my friends. My dearest and most special friends I met thru volunteering with ESRA. We work continuously and closely for these Springers and have the most wonderful time doing so. It will change your life . . . I promise!

# CANINE CANCER

by Linda V. Plate

*(Linda is a contributing author to ESRA's and MAESSR's Newsletter Teams)*

Most of us, at some point in our lives, will be affected by cancer. Unfortunately, cancer doesn't spare our animal friends, and in recent decades it has become increasingly prevalent, especially in dogs.

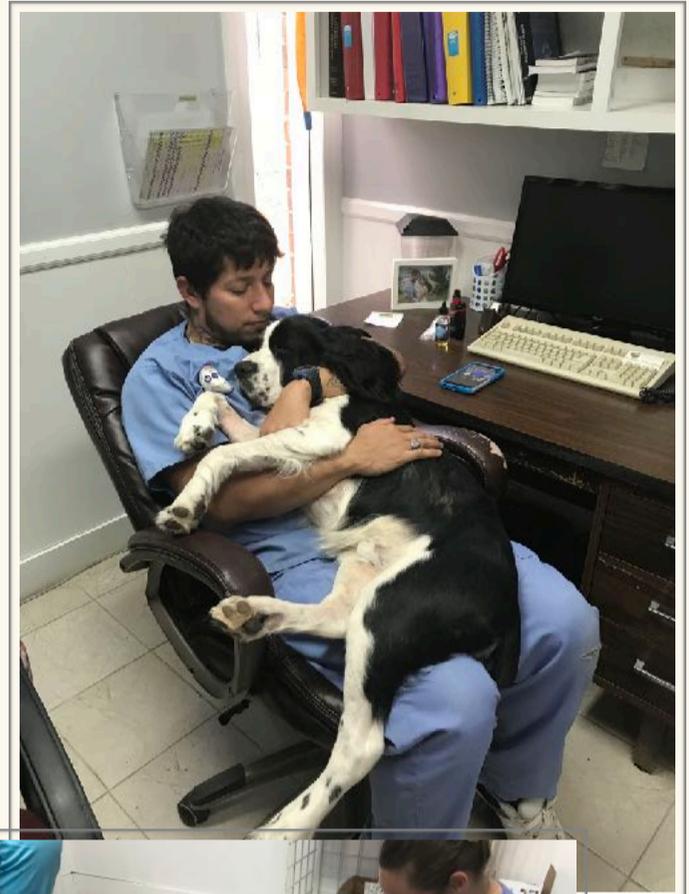
Advances in veterinary medicine have made it possible to diagnose cancer earlier and more accurately. This, in turn, has opened the way to new and effective treatment protocols. These options are allowing our pets to live longer, healthier, more active lives. On the other hand, we're seeing more cases of age-related cancer in our senior companions.

The types of cancer that affect dogs vary widely. From the smallest basal cell carcinoma of the skin to melanoma and hemangiosarcoma, which can metastasize rapidly, cancer can affect our pets with an abundance of symptoms and outcomes.

The key to an increased survival rate is an early diagnosis, and dog owners are urged to be diligent about observing their pets' overall health, behavior, eating habits, and energy levels. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, there are 10 specific signs that may point toward possible cancer in our pets.

They are:

- Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
- Sores that don't heal
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
- Offensive odor
- Difficulty eating or swallowing
- Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
- Persistent lameness or stiffness
- Difficulty breathing, urinating, or defecating



Conventional veterinary medicine is available to help dogs that have been diagnosed with various forms of cancer. This includes surgical removal of tumors, oral or injectable forms of chemotherapy, or in some cases radiation treatment.

In recent years, there has been a rise in non-traditional modes of treatment, perhaps because many other approaches have proven unsuccessful. These treatments might include a cancer-fighting diet with high antioxidant properties or treatment with a variety of common herbs. It also might include administering an ancient Chinese herbal remedy known as Artemisinin to a dog with osteosarcoma (bone cancer), which has proven successful in the treatment of malaria.

While not all cancer treatments are successful, collaboration with your veterinary care provider (whether a practitioner of traditional or non-traditional approaches) is the best way to explore your beloved pet's viable options if you are faced with a cancer diagnosis.

Nobody wants to be faced with a cancer diagnosis in one of our furry family members, but it's reassuring to know there are many potentially successful treatment options. Don't give up hope. Educate yourself and strive to keep a positive attitude. As always, if your pet exhibits any of the specific signs of cancer or just doesn't seem like himself, call your veterinarian. This is the best way to ensure that your best friend remains healthy, or, at the very least, is given an opportunity to fight off a serious illness, even cancer.



# SUCCESS STORY



*ESRA works hard to ensure that every rescue who comes to us with heartworm disease gets the treatment needed to cure the dog from this deadly disease. Here's another success story. This one is about Archie and is written by his dad, Ed.*

## **Archie's Happy Ending**

by   
*Ed Leed*

Happy Birthday, Archie! On January 26, 2017, we met Archie. We saw Kathleen Clickett Newsome's post about transporting him from Pekin, Ill., and loved the energy we saw in his face. So we brought him home with us on February 2. It has been a wild year!

Archie was such a mess. Combine a one-year old Springer with being transported from Virginia to Pekin to Flossmoor to Barrington and add heartworm and prednisone. Archie was an out of control, stressed out, and a delightful Springer.

His heartworm treatment meant that for the next two months he needed to be kept quiet to allow his treatment to be successful, so he lived in his crate while his heart healed. My wife Debby deserves equal, or more, credit for Archie's successful rehab. She made sure that he received his heartworm medicine, prednisone, at the prescribed time and the other care he needed. As well as his ongoing doses.

Next add in some prednisone to help with the healing process. Oh boy!. Can you visualize a prednisone-crazed Springer who has been cooped up all day getting out of his crate? Super Springer! Able to leap tall furniture and gates with a single bound!

Slowly but surely, the prednisone left his system, and Archie spent more and more time out of his crate. He began to calm down. Next, one-on-one training with a really savvy trainer who taught us how to handle Archie's rambunctious behavior. Archie responded immediately.

Today, Archie is a sweet, calm, adoring Springer who loves galloping around his yard, chasing squirrels and deer off of his property without crossing the property line. He also loves to torment his nine-year-old Springer buddy Lewie, who merely tolerates this young punk.

Archie has decided he's the protector of the realm and barks and hollers at the FedEx delivery guy or whoever rings the doorbell. Then when the door is opened, he snuggles up to their feet and begs to be petted. Archie is such a ferocious guard dog. We sleep well at night with him on duty.

Thank you, Anne Solak-Tennant and Kathleen for bringing Archie into our lives. Although Lewie, the boss dog, is our perfect Springer and has set a very high standard, someday Archie might be the very best ever. At least in the Springer exuberance category.

# VET'S CORNER

*Dr. Andrea Olson from The Carolinas Animal Hospital and Dental Clinic kindly provided the following article on dental health from The American Veterinary Medical Foundation. Excerpts were taken from the article due to space.*

Dental health is a very important part of your pet's overall health, and dental problems can cause, or be caused by, other health problems.

Have your pet's teeth checked sooner than once a year if you observe any of the following problems:

- Bad breath
- Broken or loose teeth
- Extra teeth or retained baby teeth
- Teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar
- Abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from the mouth
- Reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- Bleeding from the mouth
- Swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth

## **What causes pet dental issues?**

Although cavities are less common in pets than in people, they can have many of the same dental problems that people can develop:

- Broken teeth and roots
- Periodontal disease
- Abscesses or infected teeth
- Cysts or tumors in the mouth
- Malocclusion, or misalignment of the teeth and bite
- Broken (fractured) jaw
- Palate defects (such as cleft palate)



Early detection and treatment are critical because advanced periodontal disease can cause severe problems and pain for your pet. Periodontal disease doesn't just affect your pet's mouth. Other health problems found in association with periodontal disease include kidney, liver, and heart muscle changes.

It starts with plaque that hardens into tartar. Tartar above the gum-line can often easily be seen and removed, but plaque and tartar below the gum-line is damaging and sets the stage for infection and damage to the jawbone and the tissues that connect the tooth to the jaw bone. Periodontal disease is graded on a scale of 0 (normal) to 4 (severe).

The American Veterinary Dental College doesn't recommend dental cleanings without anesthesia because they don't allow cleaning or inspection below the gum-line, where most dental disease occurs, and can result in injury to the pet or the person performing the procedure.

## **What can I do at home for my pet's oral health?**

Prevention of the most common oral disease in pets consists of frequent removal of the dental plaque and tartar that forms on teeth that aren't kept clean. Regularly brushing your pet's teeth is the single most effective thing you can do to keep their teeth healthy between dental cleanings and may reduce the frequency or even eliminate the need for periodic dental cleaning by your veterinarian.

Daily brushing is best, but it's not always possible, and brushing several times a week can be effective. Most dogs accept brushing, but cats can be a bit more resistant--patience and training are important.

There are many pet products marketed with claims that they improve dental health, but not all of them are effective. Talk with your veterinarian about any dental products, treats, or dental-specific diets you're considering for your pet, or ask your veterinarian for a recommendation.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## 2018 National Specialty

Gabriella with Chudleigh and Nita with Ava at last year's National Specialty

*Thank you to Nita Watson and Gabriella Filisko for contributing to this article.*

Have you ever wondered or been curious about why ESRA promotes our membership at the Nationals?

### **What does ESRA do there?**

ESRA has a booth all week long where we sell items to raise funds and spread the word of rescue. We also lend support to the ESSFTA where available.

The typical scheduled events for ESRA are an auction and a parade of rescued Springers. The auction is typically on Friday evening and is open to all.

### **What is your favorite memory from there?**

Just spending time with and getting to know fellow ESRA supporters and fellow Springer enthusiasts from all over, many whom you've 'known' for years via email, or social media. Here you get to talk with each other, tell dog stories, and laugh a lot.

### **What can you do there during the day?**

Well, the dog trials are the obvious answer... conformation, agility, obedience and rally, field tracking, dock diving, and this year scent-work trials have been added. Team obedience is always fun to watch. Each team of four dresses up in a theme. This is usually very entertaining.

Also, depending on how long you're there and what your other commitments are, there are local sites to visit. This year's venue is near St. Louis, so there's the St. Louis Zoo, the Arch, Busch Stadium, among other places

# UPCOMING EVENTS (Continued)



## 2018 National Specialty (Continued)

### Where did you stay?

There are nearby hotels and onsite you can rent an RV. A rented RV is great for those bringing their springers to get away for a quick meal or rest and it makes it easier to check on them when needed to leave for an event onsite.

Another selling point on the National is shopping. Usually, there are several cool vendors at the event. It was also just plain fun. Oh, and so many beautiful Springers!

### Reasons why it is important that ESRA be there?

The nationals are informative. If you've never been involved in the breeders' side of Springers, it is good to see there are many dedicated and responsible breeders. They often get a bad name in the rescue world.

It is also important to personally meet and build relationships with leaders in other Springer rescues, such as MAESSR and NESSR. Now, if I have a question that leaders of those groups can help with, I'm much more comfortable approaching them. I also hope they're comfortable contacting me and other ESRA leadership if we can help. That's the whole point of rescue, right--the dogs!

Lastly, ESSFTA supports ESRA in our efforts to rescue Springer Spaniels. They invite us to attend their national and regional shows and want us to participate. We're given show ring time to have rescue parades, they support us monetarily, and they want us to sell our merchandise at their shows. They're very proud that we participate side by side with them. They want us to attend and belong! Email Sue Schroer or check out <https://essftanational.com/events/rescue-events/> for further information.

**For more information:**  
<https://essftanational.com/>



# HOMEMADE TREATS

## **Frosty Paws Recipe**

*Submitted by Cathy Scheffer*

32 ounces vanilla low-fat yogurt  
1 jar baby bananas  
2 tablespoons honey  
4 tablespoons peanut butter

Blend all ingredients until smooth, and put a mini dog bone treat in bottom of each mold. Pour into trays and freeze.

## **Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treat**

*Submitted by Evie Tursack*

Prep: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 40 minutes  
Makes approximately 80-100 treats

### Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup canned pumpkin (make sure it's 100% pumpkin - some cans contain sugar and other ingredients)  
2 tablespoons peanut butter  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 F (175 C). Mix together the flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl. Add water as needed to help make the dough workable, but the dough should be dry and stiff. Roll dough into a 1/2-inch thick roll. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Bake in preheated oven till hard, about 40 minutes. Zeke & Zoe approved!

## **Frozen Dog Treats**

*Submitted by R. Roberts*

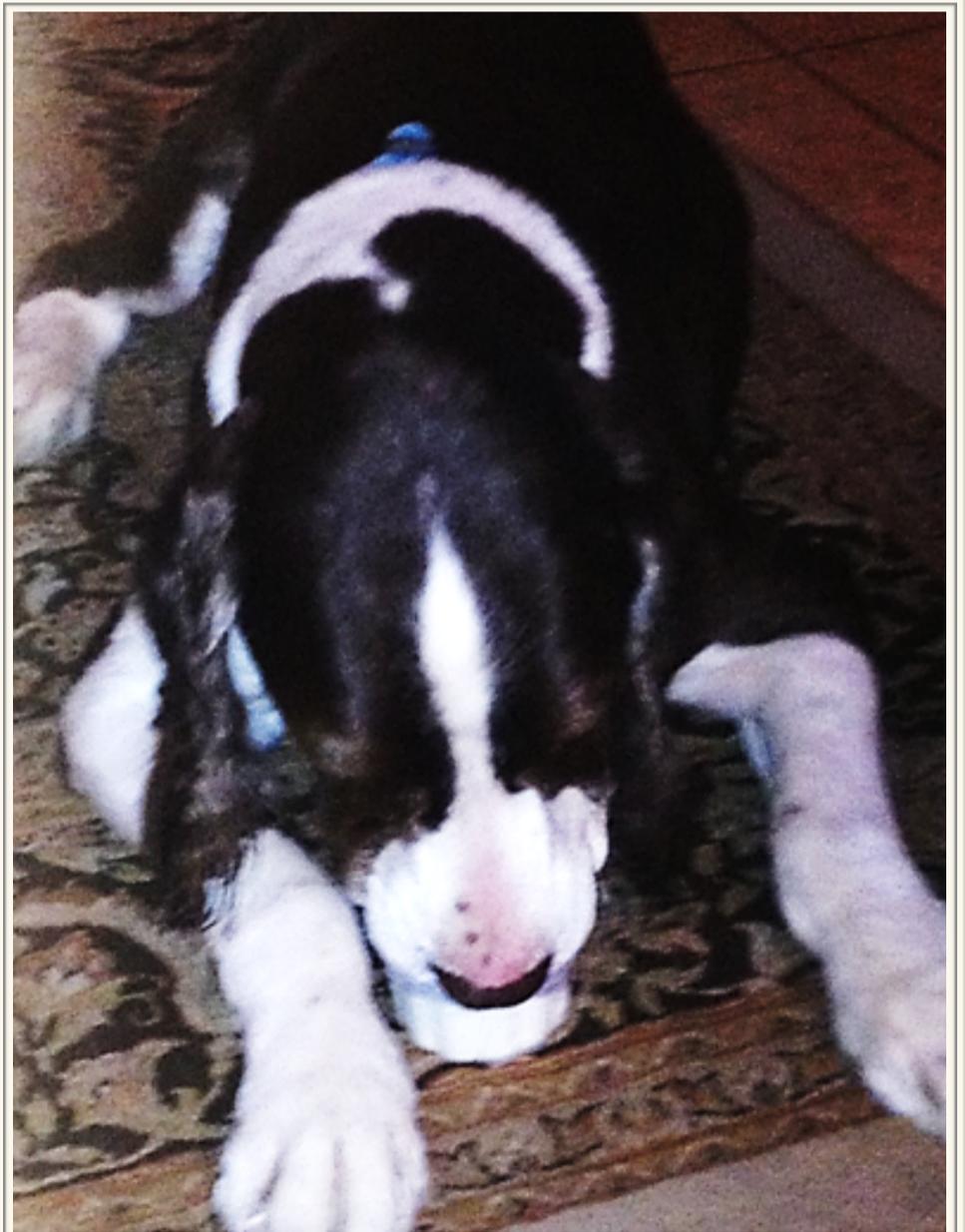
Plain Greek yogurt  
Peanut butter powder (PB fit)  
Enough water to blend

Throw it all in a blender.  
Pour into small cups (I get mine at Gordon Foods) with lids and freeze.

I also make beef (or turkey, etc.), carrots, and potatoes into a stew (boil until tender), and cool in the refrigerator to allow the fat to rise. Skim the fat. Throw in a blender, pour into cups, and freeze. My guys love their ice cream treat!



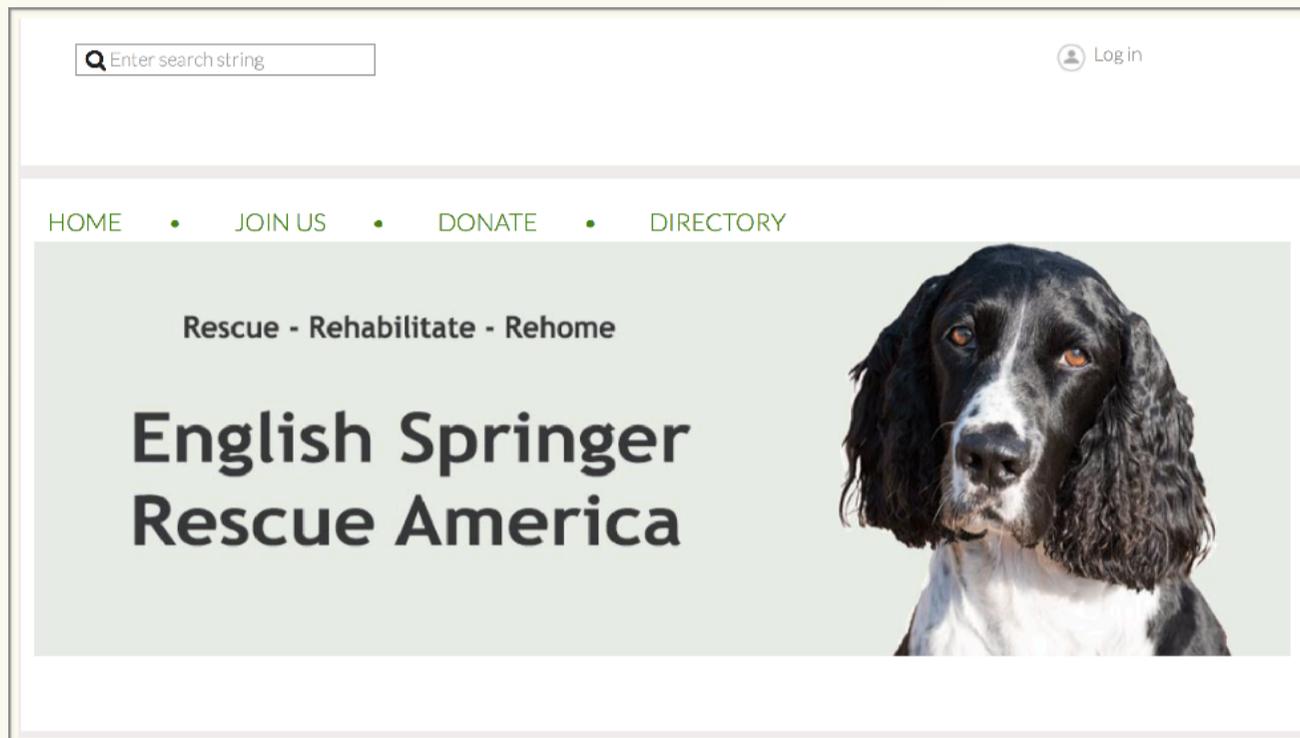
Frosty Paws Frozen Treats are a great healthy treat



Frozen Treats are delicious!

*In future quarterly **Feathers & Curls** Newsletters, we will share healthy dog treat recipes that have been tested and approved by your favorite dog critic(s).  
Email recipe submissions, along with a photo of your dog(s) enjoying the prepared recipes to [esranewsletter@springerrescue.org](mailto:esranewsletter@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 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](mailto:join@springerrescue.org).

## NEXT NEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2018

Be on the watch this summer for our next newsletter containing Happy Endings, upcoming events, Volunteer Spotlights 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.

In every issue, we'll introduce you to an ESRA member who's making a difference in the lives of Springers in their own little corner of the world. If you'd like to nominate someone in your area to be featured in an upcoming issue, please email the newsletter team at [volunteerspotlight@springerrescue.org](mailto:volunteerspotlight@springerrescue.org) with the name of the person you're nominating and why.



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