

CBRR&R history BRENDA NAIZBY

Group began small, grew via Internet and other rescues

People have been rescuing dogs, including Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, for many years. Most, if not all, of these CBR rescue efforts were the work of individuals. An organized effort dedicated to the rescue and re-homing of CBRs was not in place in 1997 when the seeds of the current

history: roo two JEN JOHNSON

3

included: "There are no CBRs needing to be rescued; they are a rare breed," "A CBR cannot be re-homed; they are one person dogs," "There are no real CBRs needing rescue as the breeders take them back" (Inferring the only dog truly able to be considered a CBR was one with papers. If the dog had papers, it had a breeder who would do the right thing and take the dog back.)

The advent of Internet technology and the Chessie -L list brought together many CBRs devotees. Some of these folks found a mutual interest in rescue work, which led to the formation of a loose network. Efforts included creating the earliest versions of the cbrrescue email list as well as the cbrrescue.org website. Many

Continued on

2

Rescued Alaskan pups on the mend

Taiga, one of the first seven saved Chessies, is well on her way to a forever home.

5



DAN RUGGIRELLO / CBRR&R

Name the Newsletter Contest

And the winner is...

Congratulations are in order for Mary Kay Christopherson and her 11-year-old daughter, Beth. Their prize package is being negotiated and will be shared in a future email.

Other entries that were very popular: Brillo Butt Bulletin, The Brown Dog Gazette, Chessie Chatter, and Rescue Roos.

Thanks to all who participated in the contest, either with entries or voting.

inside

2

editor's column

Moving, a reminder and an opportunity

4

spotlight

Two available CBRR&R dogs

5

updates

Lucy, lost in a traffic accident, is returned to owners

6

behavior

What is Alpha?

7-8

volunteers

Current members and new signees

9-10

board profiles

Who is the board?

11

main office

Report from Taberg about the year

12

coming up

The next edition....

editor's column
TIM MYERS

A move to the West, a reminder and a public relations possibility

The past few months have been busy for me and my family. We packed the house and moved from Virginia to Colorado Springs, Colorado. I've wanted to live in Colorado after vacationing here several times. I love the sky, mountains and people. The street I live on would go directly over the summit of Pikes Peak if it continued about 10 miles farther west. The percentage of "dog people" here is very high. On our daily walks, it seems like every other house has a canine. There are several dog parks that are well used. Sonny, Buck and I found one that is a converted baseball field, completely fenced with a double-gated entry. On

pretty weekend mornings there may be 75 dogs there. The boys chase down the cadre of resident tennis balls, oblivious to everything. With the number of dogs, conflict is very low. Until a rainy Friday morning. Another woman and I were the only ones there - five dogs total. I threw a tennis ball for Buck, and he chased it down. The woman's greyhound chased him. On the return jog, the greyhound bumped shoulders with Buck, one of them growled, another bump and another growl. I can only guess that Buck felt threatened. He defended himself quite strongly. And I got a minor bite stopping it.

It really brought back that no matter how well we know our dogs, they're still animals and have a streak of unpredictability. If they sense some threat, they can go off. And with the size and strength of Chessies, the damage can be great. Buck's a big, gentle baby, but can't tolerate a hint of aggression. At the dog park, the chance of that happening is small, but not nonexistent. He's not going back. Both dogs will be fine, though the greyhound might have a sizeable bald spot on his neck. I needed a precautionary tetanus shot and antibiotics.



ABOVE: I've made business cards for myself and a few others. I've had luck in handing them to the curious while walking the boys, posting them on pet store bulletin boards, and distributing at events. If interested, please send me the contact information you'd like on the card and a photo of your favorite rescue. I'll return a PDF that you can print - I've had good luck with photo paper. Cut them out and you're in "business." Your cards may be different from the above; the logo is still unofficial.

CBRR&R history BRENDA NAIZBY

Continued from **1**

folks - (You know who you are! Take a bow!)- worked hard to create tools to facilitate rescue. The German Shepherd, Chow Chow, Rottweiler, Keishund and Doberman rescues gave generously of time and experience to help the CBR organization get started. A six-month pilot program was proposed to see if there were CBRs needing rescue and if an organized effort could prevail. Principles of "first contact," building local capacity, minimizing front-line worker administrative efforts, and education were organizational building blocks. Fundraising efforts were initiated and regional coordinators created along with a volunteer coordinator, behavior specialist and transportation coordinator. An all-breed group located in upstate New York allowed

what was named - as the result of a vote of the volunteers - Chesapeake Bay Retriever Relief and Rescue to operate under their wing. This gave us a tax exempt, not-for-profit status and, for those who belonged to the group, insurance. We began rescuing CBRs. The relief part of the name referred to the determination of volunteers to support people having trouble with their CBRs through education and support. Before the six months of the project ended, it was apparent there were many, many CBRs needing help. Some were too much for owners to handle, others simply were lost, abandoned, abused or homeless due to domestic and life events. At the end of the six months, the all-breed group reorganized and requested Chessie rescue to handle its own finances and adminis-

trative duties. By this time the CBR offshoot was larger than the rest of the rescue program. Faced with the need to secure insurance and not-for-profit status, a small group of volunteers banded together to formally incorporate Chesapeake Bay Retriever Relief and Rescue, Inc. as a not-for profit organization in New York state. The rag tag, but determined, Internet rescue gang was finally "official." Being official offered benefits, but also responsibilities related to not for profit and tax exempt operations. The next step was to create an administrative structure. Much of the work of the last few years has been dedicated to supporting the work of those doing hands-on rescue, while keeping up with the operating requirements and limitations set forth by virtue of the not-for-profit

and tax exempt status. An additional complication has been dealing with the recent spate of lawsuits against dog rescue groups. These lawsuits, none of which have involved CBRR&R, have resulted in many rescues folding and many insurance companies refusing general liability coverage. CBRR&R's professional structure and standards has enabled us to continue to provide this vital coverage to our members. A priority for this year's action plan will be establishing policies that support rescue work while protecting against liability. CBRR&R, Inc., is a rescue group and also a not-for-profit business. The future will be successful if we continue to engage members in both aspects of that work. There is a role for everyone and all are needed if CBRs are to be helped.

history: roo two and BoD profile

JEN JOHNSON

From "What is a CBR?" to "Bear" to hundreds of rescues

A Chesapeake Bay Retriever. I'd never heard of this breed, let alone seen one.

I ran across a website in late 1997, www.cbrrrescue.org. It was a rather new, but very well organized, site for a national rescue group. There weren't many volunteers, but it had been up for less than 6 months.

I was fortunate enough to have a volunteer, Elaine Bloom, near me. She had just taken in a 6-year-old male chessie. After talking with her, she felt he was a perfect match for my home. Of course I was looking for a young deadgrass female, but I thought, "What the heck!"

"Bear" was beautiful and smiled ear-to-ear.

After our home visit and the standard application process, Bear came home.

I was on the phone with Elaine at least once a week trying to work through the typical chessie issues. After about a month or so, Elaine recommended that I join this "group" interested in rescuing and educating people about Brown Dogs.

That's how I became a part of CBRR&R.

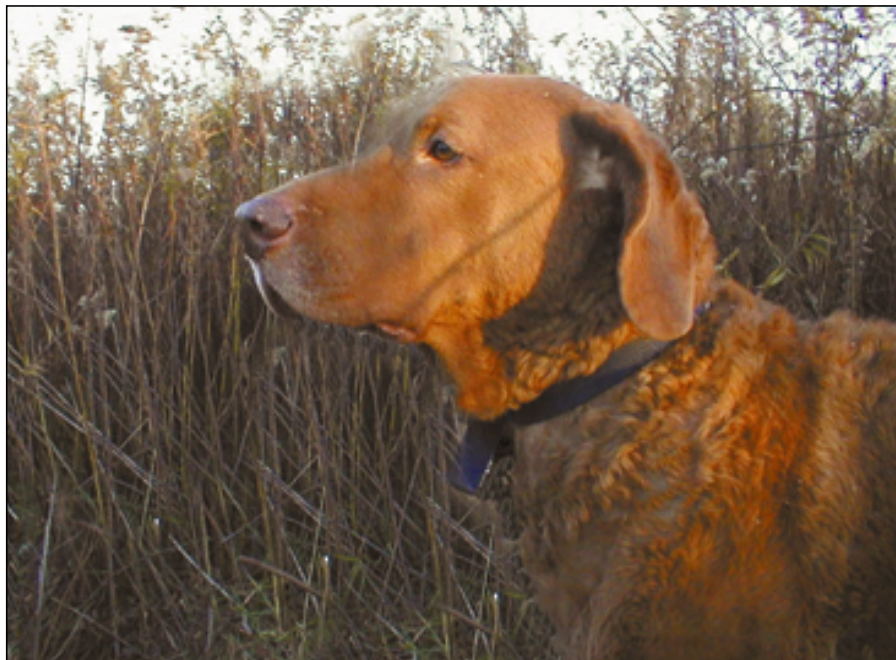
I guess you could say Bear was my first real rescue.

Elaine was kind enough to walk me through the tough times. As an older chessie, Bear was very set in his ways. He missed his old family and wasn't about to let anyone new into his life.

But, he was my shadow at the end of a year. He had his "brother," a lab which I had gotten a few months before him. The two were great together.

I was learning more and more about rescue and CBRs through our email list. I was meeting new people and enjoying the work.

I logged over 3500 miles in that first year of transporting, homevisits and the occasional rescue event.



JEN JOHNSON / CBRR&R

I adopted Bear" in 1997 when he was about 6 years old. My first Chessie, he showed most of their inherent traits. After a rather lengthy break-in period, he became my shadow. He passed away last year after a battle with prostate cancer.

Additional board member profiles are on page 9

The group was growing quickly by 1999. A need for organization was foremost on our minds. We set up regional directors, handling all areas of country. Kat Wilson, Cori Amend and several others played key parts in helping make sure no applicant or dog got lost. Brenda Naizby, our group's founder, was busy behind the scenes trying to help us become incorporated.

We were a fully operational by 2000 with a Board of Directors.

I was lucky enough to be asked to serve on the board as Secretary and even hosted our first official BOD annual meeting.

Like any group we had our bumps and spent much of the first year and a half trying to iron them out. By the fall of 2002, we were on our way to being one of the top rescue groups in the nation, at least in my mind.

Today we have a 10-member BOD and several committees that help CBRR&R Inc., function smoothly. We have close to 100 official members nation-wide, with grow-

ing international interests. Every member is fully insured. We have an established account from which every official CBRR&R dog is able to receive medical care. Most importantly, we are still actively rescuing CBRs.

When we began, we were so excited with the first year's total number of dogs rescued; I believe it was around 35. I'm more than sure that number has tripled.

I have fond memories of several rescues along the way. For instance "Ike," the Kentucky puppy mill dog who escaped from his crate on the way to the airport with his new owner. The word spread to every rescue group out there; and a lone rescuer found him. He was returned to his new owner and, when I last heard, he was doing great.

Then there was Jake, a reported Chessie mix, who made it from Montana all the way to Maryland. By the time he got here, every CBR rescuer along the way had the same thing to say: "There's not a lick of CBR in him." Oh well, we still found him a home. I guess the

farmer who gave him up because he kept biting the heels of the cows didn't realize he had an Australian Shephard on his hands.

I remember Brenda telling us all in the beginning, "I'm not sure if there is a need for a CBR Rescue but let's find out".

I lost Bear last fall to prostate cancer, which is very rare in neutered dogs. We did everything we could to help him live a comfortable life. He was the best rescue dog I could have ever asked for. He was everything CBRs are supposed to be: loyal, trustworthy, faithful and one heck of a retriever.

My work in rescue hasn't changed, but my motivation has. I remember that Chessie I picked up from Elaine and I realize there are many others just like him.

CBRR&R has a wonderful purpose and has some of the best volunteers and people that I am proud to call my friends.

spotlight
AVAILABLE CHESSIES

delta, fostered by mary lichtenberger in ohio

The average life expectancy of the Chesapeake Bay Retriever is ten to twelve years. If you had lived over half of your life already, what would be your greatest hope? Would it be that you would have a home? Would it be that your humans would be as devoted to you as you are to them? Would it be that you simply had a name? Would it be that you could have a happy ending?

A rescuer who has picked up, placed, fostered, and evaluated many brown dogs in need, is usually prepared for the next dog to come down the line. No matter how many dogs come into rescue – nothing can prepare a rescuer emotionally to understand or comprehend why a senior dog is dropped off at a shelter – left to die, alone. What we can't fathom is how this very dog would breathe it's last breath to save his master, yet we (humans) can load up this same dog and leave him stranded, locked behind bars – to die.

Mary Lichtenberger in Ohio has had over 100 Chesapeake guests come through her home in the past two years. Most of them move from foster care to their new home fairly quickly. However, one rescue has been with Mary for over a year. This 8-year-old had very few of the things that I imagine a dog would hope for at this age. No name, no home, no human in which she can devote her life.

One of the first things she got in rescue was a name. Delta got her name because a rescuer who picked her up from the shelter flew her to Mary via Delta Air Lines. Delta also got the promise of a happy ending, when Mary picked her up. Delta adapted quickly to the life of a rescue at Mary's. From making snow angels to spending time with the grandchildren, Delta thinks there is nothing better than being around the family. Mary, her husband, and her grandchildren provide an extra special human touch to Delta, knowing that she is a transient. In return, Delta has showered the whole family with



love, affection and devotion.

Mary says that Delta is one of those unusual Chessie's that are so easy to work with.

Although she has many great qualities to offer someone, she does have what some of us would consider a downfall; Delta doesn't get along with other dogs. She can tolerate them if she's on leash and they aren't in her space – but she would prefer to be an only dog.

Because Mary has many other dogs that she is also helping, she is unable to provide the 'free' life that Delta longs for and deserves.

The great thing about Mary, and CBR&R, is that when Delta leaves rescue, she will have all of the things that create a happy ending. She will have a home. She will have a name. She will have humans that will be as devoted to her as she is to them.

Like the slogan for the airline that she flew in on says, "Delta is Ready When You Are!"

If you're interested in adopting Delta, and giving her the happy ending that she so desperately deserves, please contact Mary Lichtenberger at countryhaven@accnet.com or 740-726-2552.

tucker, fostered by kevin brunk in alabama

Tucker is a 6-year-old, full of energy, brown, male CBR in search of a forever home. His owner, a US military serviceman who was being sent overseas, left Tucker at a shelter. Tucker has adjusted well in his foster home – but desperately needs and deserves a human of his own.

Tucker gets along very well with people and other dogs. He is always eager to please and loves attention. He listens well and follows the commands he knows.

Tucker does okay on lead and knows the basic commands like sit, down, heel, ensure stay.

Tucker hasn't had much hunting training or practice, but has been tested to make sure he is not gunshy. He retrieves, but has never had training to re-enforce giving the retrieved item back. It is unknown if Tucker is housetrained or not – but since he's such a quick learner and so eager to please, it could be taught easily.

Tucker is a wonderful, exuberant dog who, with an assertive owner, would benefit greatly from obedience training and having a 'job' and home of his own.

If you'd like to learn more about Tucker, or are interested in adopting him – please contact Kevin Brunk at chessierescue@hotmail.com or 205-429-4846.



all of the available dogs are listed on our
website at www.cbrrescue.org

update
HEATHER RUGGIRELLO

Mistreated Alaskan puppies find health, happy homes

You may recall the seven Alaska puppies that were featured in the last issue. We thought you might like an update on where they are now!

Puppies #3 and #4 in last issue's lineup picture remained here in Alaska for placement by CBRR&R. The other five puppies were shipped to ACC rescuers in the lower 48.

Dan and Sara are thrilled with their boy Taiga (#3), one of the puppies that became severely ill. He recovered completely from what may have been severe coccidia with the help of Dr. Dawson at the emergency clinic. One night on an IV drip and a week eating rice and Albon brought back his usual bouncy self. True to form, he wagged his tail through the whole experience. Dan and Sara take him on long hikes and show his traits in training classes.

Verty (#4) is a true confessions puppy; we found several great homes for him, but they all fell through. We found ourselves advertising him less and less; his quiet personality and quirky intelligence had worked their way into our hearts, so we adopted him ourselves.

The new owners of the largest boy, Casey (#6), report that they are tickledpink. He is well-mannered and



DAN RUGGIRELLO / CBRR&R

prefers his own toys to their shoes. He practices his agility moves on the fences in rural New Mexico.

The rest were shipped to ACC rescuers for placement, and are doing great in their new homes as well! Thanks again to Sybil Winfield, Camille Drugé, Diane Mazy, and the many other hard-working volunteers who helped find them happy new homes.

A second litter was still nursing when we pulled the first. Thanks to the hard work of Jennifer, some of them came into our home as well. These younger

pups were suffering from severe neglect; Dan and I spent several weeks nursing them back to health with the advice from many experts.

Aaron and Cary adopted their too-new-to-name female out of this litter. The others were shipped to ACC rescuer Camille Drugé for further evaluation and placement.

Best of all, Jennifer has been making great progress in education. Several adult chessies have, or will be, altered thanks to her efforts.

lost lucy
PATTY GIBSON

Escaped dog captured after traffic accident in S. Carolina

We were on the way home from a hunt test with The Palmetto Retriever Club in Cheraw, SC, on Sunday, March 9. My husband, Mark, passed a car on a divided highway; he didn't see there were two cars. When the front car turned left in front of us, Mark tried to miss him but we went into the ditch. We ended up rolling several times.

While we were still trapped in the car, I asked those gathering at the scene about Lucy - she had been in a crate in the back of the Trooper and had gotten out after the accident. They said she was across the road and

wouldn't come to anyone.

I yelled for her with no luck. My husband had a training whistle; he tried to bring her in as well. I asked people to try using turkey from the cooler. Nothing worked.

She must have been so scared; I know we were and we knew what was going on.

After we were discharged from the hospital the next night, we went to the crash site. I walked the road yelling for her; Mark tried the whistle again.

I left my coat, her bowl and food bag because she had been seen there a few times.

At home, I emailed rescue groups and friends. I was so

shaken, I'm still not really sure who I emailed.

The support from all groups, ACC, CBRRescue, the Palmetto Retriever Club, etc., was absolutely wonderful. They were checking shelters, vets, groomers and whoever might have a stray dog.

SCHP officer RH Olney, who has owned a beagle for 13 years, patiently trapped her. His main concern was that she was going to get hurt or killed on the road. She escaped from the trap twice, but got her on the third try.

Richard McDonald, a professional trainer in Hartsville, SC, kept her for a week. East Tennessee Retriever Club

member Bill Weaver drove me to South Carolina her.

Officer Olney has refused reward money. It will be given to the Buck a Cup program, a money-raising effort for the South Carolina Highway Patrol, and to his area animal shelter.

Several letters have been sent to the capital and his captain in our appreciation.

We are extremely grateful to all who helped us. Also, all the emails of encouragement and prayers were wonderful. What a great bunch of friends to have.

ROOOS and smiles
The Gibsons

behavior
 LAURA BLEDSOE

The Head of the Pack: What is Alpha?

Noun: The first one; the beginning.
 Adjective: First in order of importance

Lets start by explaining what Alpha is and how it relates to our everyday lives as dog owners and rescuers.

The structure of pack animals is really quite simple and relates directly to domestic dogs.

Chesapeake's, and all breeds, have a mind that still functions in the 'pack' capacity. Meaning, they constantly have a need to have a leader: an Alpha.

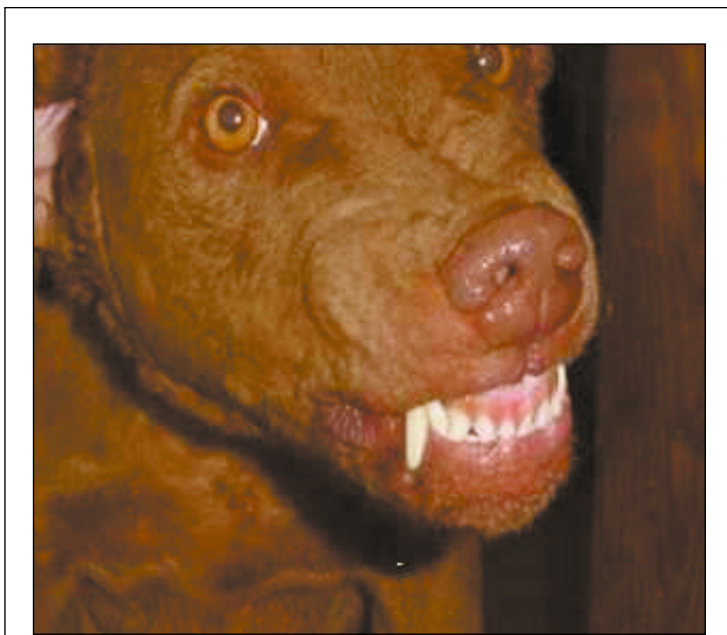
If a Chessie doesn't have strong and consistent leadership, they will become stressed and will attempt to fill the alpha shoes. What they do and how they act is all part of the pack structure and where they lie in it.

Dominance is one of the many keys to happiness. Obtaining and maintaining your Alpha position is everything when dealing with a Chesapeake Bay Retriever.

If you lack the ability to maintain the Alpha position in your 'pack,' it can result in being ignored, growled at, snapped at, and picked on or in extreme situations, even attacked.

Dogs communicate primarily by body language. As humans, we often go about our normal daily tasks without regard to what signs/signals we may be giving to our dog. Here are a few things you can do to make sure your dog has a clear idea of his position in your pack.

1. The Alpha eats first. In the wild, the alpha decides when to hunt, what to hunt, where to hunt, and who hunts. The Alpha is always the first to eat. In the mind of the pack animals, if the Alpha doesn't eat - no one eats. To help enforce your Alpha role, you should make certain that you always eat before your dog.



TAMARA MITCHELL

The loving "smile"

Chesapeakes' smiles are often misinterpreted as aggressive behavior. Its really one of their ways of showing endearment.

2. Position. If you are both in a small area, such as a hallway going opposite directions, don't move around your dog. Make the dog move out of your way. This is a direct signal of dominance to your dog. If you step over your dog - you are telling them that they are the boss.

3. Training. Take the time to have daily mini sessions with your dog on basic obedience, working especially on the 'down' and 'heel' commands. Use verbal praise as a reward, not treats. Making your dog do a 'down-stay' before being fed will help them understand that you are Alpha.

4. Toys. Keep tennis balls, Frisbees, etc., in a high area when they are not being used. This will help your dog understand that the toys are yours and you will say when they are to be played with.

5. Sleeping area. Put the

dog in their kennel or on their bed at night before you go to sleep.

6. Walking. Keep your dog at a heel when walking, on or off leash, and only allow them to 'play' when given the command "okay."

7. Volume. Never raise your voice to your dog(s). A pack leader is a known leader and never has to get 'out-of-control' to enforce their control. A leader stays calm, cool and collected at all times. Your dog can sense your frustration/insecurity when you raise your voice/yell at them.

In doing all of these things, the dogs will know that you are Alpha of the human/animal pack. Each of your actions/signals to your them should be similar to what an Alpha does in the wild.

With large breeds, you want to make certain the animal knows who is boss.

Hormone driven male dogs,

and even intact females, are the most likely to want to dominate everything they can. Some won't go down without a fight of some sort, either one of wills or of strength.

There is a lot you have to do if you are going to be a Chesapeake Bay Retriever 'owner.' The challenges for dominance actually begin much earlier than people often recognize. Some owners tend to slack off of corrections in the beginning and then only attend to the challenges when they become serious.

A hypothetical example: You try to take something from your pup and it growls. You back off and say to yourself "this isn't that bad," and you ignore the behavior. With a bigger challenge, many will back off yet again. So, the animal has won several small battles. Next thing you know, you are no longer are in control.

A challenge to your authority can be as subtle as ignoring a command out of laziness or for any other reason. Make it a point to never give your dogs a command - even one as simple as 'sit' - unless you are able to enforce it. If you tell your dog to 'sit' and he looks around or takes his time before following through, that is a sign that he doesn't see you as the leader - they need to have the pack order re-enforced.

The point to this is, be firm, but kind. Don't ignore those little infractions that are most likely already happening. With a few minor changes to your lifestyle, you can help your dog understand the order in your home - and you can feel more at ease. Your dog will be much happier knowing the pack order, and you will be happy watching your pet transform from a little terror to a happy, loving, respectful pet.