



## PAWS FOR THE NEWS

A monthly publication for Praying for Paws, a non-profit dog rescue serving the needs of Henry County, GA and surrounding areas

[www.prayingforpaws.com](http://www.prayingforpaws.com)

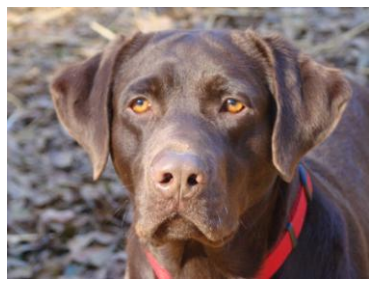
February 2011

Phone 404-202-4208



## Meet Our New Additions

We got an entire family from the animal shelter – a beautiful mom and her eight pups, whom the shelter dubbed “Kate Plus Eight.” They are so beautiful and sweet, so we hope to find homes for the mom and babies soon. We also have two chocolate Labs – Happy and Deano – and a beautiful Great Pyrenees named Ben. Check out [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) or our website to see our weekly updates on new dogs and adoptions!



*Deano (left) was wandering as a stray for over a month before he was rescued. He is housetrained and great with kids, dogs and cats! He is still a little nervous around strangers, but he is learning to trust people again. Happy (right) is another great boy who was abused by his former owners. He still shows some physical signs of his ordeal, but he is such a loving, sweet dog. Both of these guys deserve a home filled with love and affection.*



*Ben is a 2 ½-year-old Great Pyrenees who was given up by his owners. He is very sweet and gentle. He loves everyone!*

*Kate is a sweet Lab/Border Collie mix who has eight little pups. They all live with us now and are waiting for a home of their own. She is a little timid when first meeting strangers but is a great girl!*



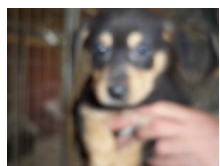
Abel



Beau



Noelle



Sascha



Sebastian



Shadow



Zoe

*Kate's pups are black with various accent colors. We believe that they are Lab mixes but unsure of the “mix” part! Luna's photo will be available soon. They are approximately 8-9 weeks old.*



# Ten Adoptions in January



*Sweet little Otis was adopted right after he visited Locust Grove Elementary School last week. We will miss him but are so happy that he has found his forever home!*



*Baby Girl, a little black Poodle, was adopted before she was even posted on Petfinder!*



*Bert, a puppy who was fostered by the Martin family, was adopted by the Mesereau family, which includes 3 kids and 2 Great Danes!*



*Vicki Conley adopted Lady and then came back to get her two sisters, Dottie and Sadie!! All three girls were abandoned together, and we are so happy that they were adopted together as well*



*Toby, now renamed Gus, is doing terrific in his new home. His owner sent this photo and a great progress report on how well he has adapted!*



*Gorgeous Gabe was adopted very quickly and into a home with another German Shepherd companion.*



*Ellie, a little black Poodle, was adopted before we could list her on Petfinder. She is so happy in her new home!*



*Little Oliver was with us for several months before being adopted to the Pittman family.*



# Four Great Dogs Get Transported in January



*Bailey*



*Mixie and Trixie*



*Kaplan*

## TOP TEN MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WHEN GETTING A NEW PET

### 1: Getting a Pet Spontaneously

**Why this is a mistake:** That doggie in the window may be darling, but he might not be the right fit for your family or lifestyle. **How to avoid it:** Fully inform yourself before you bring home a pet. Every dog or cat has its own needs, some of which are specific to the breed. If there's a breed that interests you, read up on it, talk to owners, and get to know someone else's pet.

### 2: Skipping Obedience Training

**Why this is a mistake:** Bad habits can be difficult to train out of a pet. So unless you have the know-how to school an animal, you need the help of a pro. **How to avoid it:** Even before a puppy starts formal training, teach him simple commands, such as sit and stay. A puppy can begin formal training at eight weeks (and ideally before 12 weeks), after he has had his shots.

### 3: Being Inconsistent With the Rules

**Why this is a mistake:** If one child lets Fifi on the bed and another punishes her for it, the animal will be confused. Bad behavior is inevitable. **How to avoid it:** Make sure everyone in your household knows—and follows—the rules. Pets thrive with a sense of order, so discuss with your family when yours should be fed, exercised, and even given a treat.

### 4: Dispensing Too Many Free Treats

**Why this is a mistake:** Treats lose their training value if your pet gets them for no reason. **How to avoid it:** Assign each type of treat a value, and pay according to how well your pet behaves.

### 5: Neglecting to Socialize Your Pet

**Why this is a mistake:** Pets that aren't exposed to a variety of animals and people at a very young age can develop fears and aggressive behavior. **How to avoid it:** Introduce your pet to adults, kids, animals, and environments so he'll take every novelty in stride. It's optimal for a pet to start the process before you bring him home, since the critical socialization period is early in life.

### 6: Skimping on Exercise

**Why this is a mistake:** Pets have pent-up energy that needs to be unleashed through physical activity. Otherwise it will be channeled into barking, jumping, or even hostile behavior. **How to avoid it:** "Walk your dog at least twice a day for a minimum of 30 minutes each time," says Cesar Millan, host of *The Dog Whisperer*, on the National Geographic Channel. "To your dog, that's a primal activity—birds fly, fish swim, and dogs walk."

### 7: Neglecting to Keep Your Pet Mentally Active

**Why this is a mistake:** Bored pets are more likely to get into trouble. **How to avoid it:** Give your pets something to do. For a dog, that can mean having him hunt for food. Place a meal or treats in spots around the house for him to sniff out, or feed him out of a food-dispensing puzzle toy instead of his bowl.

### 8: Leaving a Pet Alone for Too Long

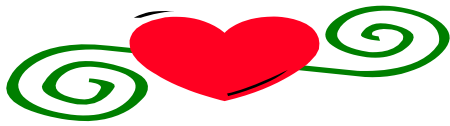
**Why this is a mistake:** A lack of proper companionship can lead to separation anxiety and destructive behaviors. **How to avoid it:** "Don't leave a puppy alone for eight hours," says Reid. Hire someone to watch him or drop him off at a doggie day-care center. Your puppy will need to learn how to be alone for a few hours each day, however, so teach him to self-pacify almost immediately. Put him in a a foot or two away from you, then gradually increase the distance over the course of a week. Then make sure that he spends escalating amounts of time alone in his crate or confined to a room. Break up the day for dogs of any age with a visit from a dog walker or a neighbor, and give your pet access to toys and visual stimuli.

### 9: Failing to Make Your Home Pet-Friendly

**Why this is a mistake:** A cat without a proper litter box will just use the carpet. A dog without a cozy bed will end up on the couch. **How to avoid it:** Location is key with a litter box. Cats and dogs also need spots where they can cuddle up and feel safe. "A dog needs a crate like a teenager needs a room. Provide a crate or a cozy bed, and make it taboo for your family to pester the dog while he's in it. Cats naturally want to climb to an optimal vantage point, so set up a place where yours can look out a window.

### 10: Punishing Your Pet

**Why this is a mistake:** You might think Chewie knows you're screaming at him because he ate the loaf of bread on the counter, but he won't connect your behavior with his action. **How to avoid it:** Never physically punish your pet; he'll just learn to fear you. It's OK to startle a pet out of a behavior, but only if you catch him in the act. Command him with a firm "No!" or "Down!" and he'll connect the reaction with what he's doing and learn that it's not OK.



## Featured Pets



**Samson** is an adorable **Shepherd** mix who is about 2 years old. He weighs about 50 lbs. and is very active! **Samson** tends to pull on a leash because he is young and hasn't been taught obedience yet, but he is extremely affectionate and loving, so he should be very easy to teach. He seems to prefer being the only dog, but it could simply be a lack of socialization around them. He would make a great pet for an active owner who will give him the exercise that he needs.

**Rodney Lee** is a young boy who appears to be a **Whippet/Shepherd** mix. He is energetic and very loving! This sweet boy would love a home where he could get lots of attention and exercise. He seems to like other dogs just fine, but we aren't sure of how he will do with cats. He has been with us for several months, and we really hope that he can find the home that he deserves very soon!



## Some "Happy Tails" – Recent Adoption Updates

**Otis** was found on the side of a road when he was a young puppy, along with his brother. He has grown into a large **Lab** mix boy and was adopted recently by the **Halcome** family. He loves playing with his human family, as well as **Tilly**, a **Catahoula** mix.

**Otis** (formerly Jumbo), far right, is shown with the **Halcome** family and his "sister," **Tilly**, who was adopted from us last year.



Sweet little **Schnauzer**, **Buddy**, was adopted recently and has quickly become part of the family. He loves his new bed, as you can see in the photo, and he likes to hang out anywhere that his family might be!



## Beta Club at Locust Grove Middle School



**Otis** (left) had a great time visiting the **Beta Club** at **Locust Grove Middle School**. He was a great ambassador for **Praying for Paws**, and everyone had a great time meeting him and learning more about our organization. The **Beta Club** sponsor, **Miss Christi Cope**, has started a competition at the school to raise money for us. The **"Penny War"** will involve students who want to donate money, and the grade with the most points will be the winner. Competing grades can "bomb" the other's collection jars with silver coins, which deduct points. We thank them so much for this fun competition that will help us so much!

## Pooches and Parents Day – Playtime at The Paw Pad



Join us each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Saturday** at **The Paw Pad, 133 Jonesboro Road, McDonough, GA** for **Pooches and Parents Day!** Bring your small dog from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Large dogs can play from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Our first meeting was a great success, and we are looking forward to meeting more new friends. The cost is \$5.00 for up to three dogs. Don't miss out on all of the fun!

Check out our **Facebook** page, keyword **The Paw Pad**, to see more fun photos of the dogs and their owners playing and having a great time. Thanks to **Doug's Mugs** for providing hot, delicious coffee and refreshments for our meetings!



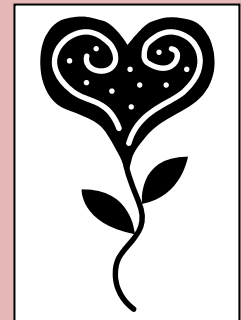
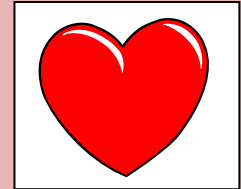
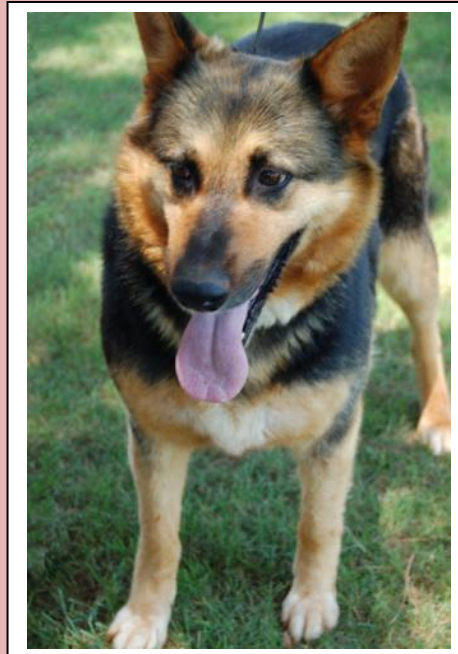
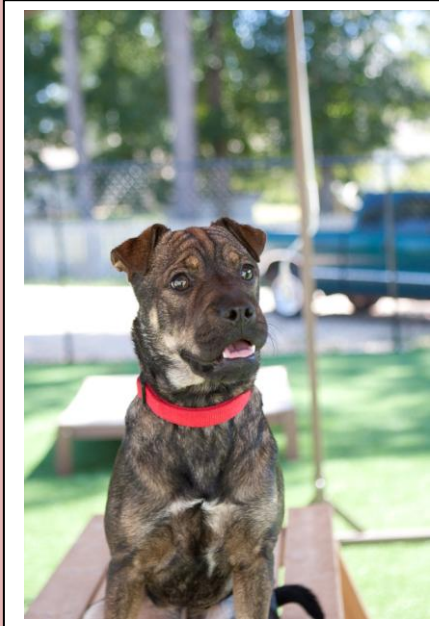
**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day**  
♥♥♥



*Please continue to help us with dog food and treat donations! We need them every month. Our dogs eat Pedigree dry food and eat Beggin' Strips bacon treats. You can drop off at The Paw Pad on Jonesboro Road.*



We still have some 2011 Praying for Paws calendars. PLEASE support our rescue group by purchasing one for \$20! Contact **Carol Kelly** at [carolkelly0000@aol.com](mailto:carolkelly0000@aol.com) or call 404-202-4208 for information on how to purchase! THANK YOU!!



You can support **Praying for Paws** every month by making a tax-deductible online donation. Just go to our website, [www.prayingforpaws.com](http://www.prayingforpaws.com) to donate online. If you prefer to mail a check directly, you can send it to our address on the website or to **The Paw Pad**. Our monthly expenses continue to grow as we have been at full capacity since last summer. Your help is greatly appreciated!

You can change a dog's life by fostering! Dogs like **Looy** (above left) and **Snow** (above right) would love to have a temporary place to give them lots of love and attention until their permanent home comes along. For more information on becoming a foster parent, contact **Carol Kelly**.

Spring is just around the corner!! It's time to make reservations now for your **Spring Break** travel plans at **The Paw Pad**. Your pet will receive top-notch care and lots of love at our facility. We offer 24/7 staff, grooming, doggie daycare, a cattery, luxury suites, doggie cams and lots of TLC from every employee. Check out our website at [www.georgiapawpad.com](http://www.georgiapawpad.com) for more information. You will love us, and your pet will, too!

