

SHIBA SCREAM



Autumn 2011





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Announcements

NYC Shiba Rescue Alumni Calendar

We held the contest and we've announced the winners, now it's time to place your orders so you can have a part of history. Featuring eightysix of our Alumni who have found happy furever homes, this Calendar will surely bring a smile to your day. The price is fantastic: \$10 for one, \$16 for two or \$37.50 for five! Best yet, all proceeds support NYCSR's continued effort to rescue and rehome shiba inus. Don't just buy one for yourself, they make great gifts for shiba lovers everywhere. To order, visit <http://nycshibarescue.org/shop/2012-nycsr-alumni-calendar/>

Kuranda Dog Bed's Dog of the Month Competition

NYC Shiba Rescue has been entered in a photo contest to have up to 5 Kuranda beds donated. The photo titled *Sharing is Caring*, features Tikaani (honorary shiba) and Safyre the cat. Voting takes place throughout November, the winners announced on December 1st. Vote daily with your Facebook or Kuranda account, these beds would be greatly appreciated by our senior and special needs foster dogs. Place your vote at <http://kuranda.com/blog/dog-of-the-month>

NYC Shiba Rescue Alumni Gotcha Day Anniversaries

Oct. 20th - Fuji	Nov. 17th - Autumn
Oct. 25th - Coia	Nov. 22nd - Kato
Oct. 26th - Bean	Nov. 29th - Rusty
Nov. 1st - Mr. Squeakers (Scooter)	Dec. 2nd - Brandy
Nov. 8th - Sasha	Dec. 7th - Candy
Nov. 8th - Dylan	Dec. 8th - Nikko
Nov. 9th - Prince	Dec. 14th - Roxy
Nov. 10th - Kato	Dec. 21st - Clay (Kit)
Nov. 14th - Molly	Dec. 21st - Zucca (Betsy)
Nov. 15th - Jack	



Upcoming Events

Some of the major dog events coming up in the area

Dec. 4th - Eleventh Hour Rescue's Winter Wonderland

10am-4pm - Paws-itive Experience, Rockaway, NJ

Right in time for the holidays, Paws-itive Experience and Eleventh Hour Rescue invites you to ring in the holidays with your dog. Take photos with Santa, check out vendors and crafters, and much more. For more information, visit ehrdogs.com

Dec. 17th - North Pole Holiday Doggie Party

2pm-5pm - Happy Paws, 316 Lafayette Street, New York

Join in on this holiday party to raise money for the ASPCA. Goody bags, pictures, games and loads more. Admission is \$10 and space is limited so don't forget to RSVP. For more information or to RSVP, email Jossymh314@hotmail.com

Upcoming Meets

November 26th - Sewell, NJ

December 11th - White Plains, NY

For more information, to attend a listed meet or to see additional meets, sign up at www.nycshibameetup.com



Past Meets

A Collage of Memories



For more information or to join in on a meet listed,
sign up at www.nycshibameetup.com



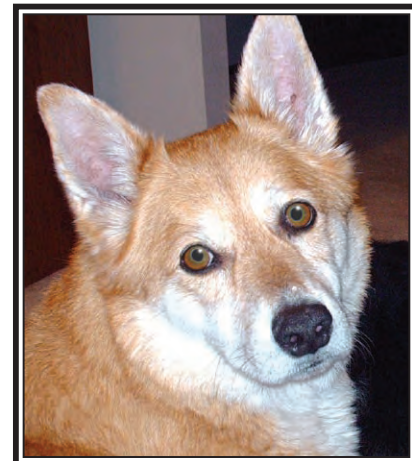
Featured Inu

The Tale of Foxy

by Marlene Aquilano

At 3-4 months old, Foxy was found off of a main road in Newburgh, NY. A young woman saw her while driving down the road and stopped to pick her up. The woman immediately called her friend Joann, who agreed to take Foxy sight unseen. My husband was a “Big Brother” at the time and his “little brother” was Joann’s nephew.

The first time I met Joann we immediately clicked as we both had such a love for dogs. I had Dakota (German Shepherd) and she had Foxy (Shiba-mix) and over the years we’d get together for walks, hikes and swims. When Foxy was seven, an eight week old yellow Lab named Amber and a cat named Bobbie joined her family, and we continued to walk, talk, swim and hike together.



In June 2007, Joann was killed in a motorcycle accident, leaving her pets home alone, with no one to care for them. After the funeral Amber and Bobbie were adopted, but Foxy, at nine and a half years old, had no takers as she was “too old”. Joann’s friend, who originally found Foxy, had convinced Joann’s sister, who was not a dog person, to reluctantly agree to take Foxy.

Over the next five months I visited Foxy from time to time. I tried finding her a permanent home in conjunction with Joann’s sister. I contacted websites and shelters, and when I got some interest I would forward the information to Joann’s sister, thinking she would follow through but I later found out that wasn’t the case. At the time, my German Shepherd, Dakota had been diagnosed with kidney failure. I was giving him IV therapy at home, taking him back and forth to the Vet and holistic Doctors, working and trying to come to terms with his mortality, which was devastating me emotionally and financially.

One day I got a call from Joann’s sister, saying that I needed to find Foxy a home ASAP. She had bought a townhouse and didn’t want to take Foxy with her. I was overwhelmed with Dakota’s situation and told her that she needed to follow up on the emails I sent of people interested in Foxy. The following morning I got a call from Joann’s nephew, he was crying hysterically and said that Foxy was missing, his Mom not telling him where she was. He begged me to find out what had happened, and I was told by Joann’s sister that Foxy was adopted but when I pressed for more information she hung up on me.

I called all the local shelters, animal control and every Vet in Rockland County, putting up posters and flyers in parks and supermarkets, looking for Foxy. About 3 weeks later I got a call from a woman whose neighbor had found Foxy on a road to a mountain top in a desolate park. He saw her running towards him and thought she was either a very big fox or a small coyote. He walked back towards his truck not knowing what it was but saw the collar and leash and knew it was a dog. Shaking from the cold, Foxy ran up to him, and when he opened the door to his truck she jumped right in. He took her home and for weeks waited as his neighbor (Dee) tried to find who Foxy belonged to. A friend of hers remembered seeing a poster of Foxy in a local park, but when she went back to the park the poster was gone. They called the library and supermarkets, and on the first call to Shoprite the employees not only knew of

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Featured Inu

A Tale of Foxy - Continued

the poster but knew Foxy personally because Joann had worked in that particular store for years.

Dee managed to get Joann's sisters number but Joann's sister didn't want Foxy stating that her children were allergic and that Dee should take her to a shelter. When Dee asked for more information she would not give it. Dee knew something was very wrong and when they hung up she called the police. Dee was given the name and number of an Animal Control officer who in turn gave her my name and number.

Dakota and I picked up Foxy on a cold December day and brought her home to live with us until I could find her a good home. She had double ear infections as well as vaginal and urinary tract infections. Her Vet bills were expensive, so I called Joann's sister asking her to help pay the vet bills since Foxy was HER responsibility. She sent a lawyer and threatened to get an order of protection against me if I asked her again. I called the police to report her for animal cruelty for abandoning a domestic dog but when the officers questioned her, and even with inconsistent stories, Joann's sister walked away with no punishment.

Without Dakota, her adjustment to our home would have been much more difficult. She was scared, anxious and confused, sleeping between my husband and I at night, becoming petrified if we left her sight. In the following weeks she settled down with Dakota watching over her. They slept side by side, sat next to each other in the car and he even gave her his bed in the yard so she would not be laying in the snow (which he loved anyway!). We walked through several parks and trails together, Foxy getting to meet Dakota's canine friends. Foxy had become part of the pack, with Dakota was showing her what life with us was like.

Four months after bringing Foxy into our home Dakota passed away. Not a day goes by that I do not think of him...he was and always will be my heart dog just as Foxy will always be Joann's. After his passing, Foxy and I grew closer as we both dealt with the loss of loved ones. We were both walking similar paths of grief and God brought us together to lean on one another.

Three and a half years have passed since Foxy came into our lives and she is loved and spoiled every moment that we are together. She will be fourteen in December, and after all that she has gone through she still has a love for life and is such a happy girl. She has given my heart a reason to love again and she has taught me how to be a survivorjust like her. I now know that Joann and Foxy were brought into my life for a very special purpose. Who knew down the long road of life I would be here with Foxy while Joann would be in heaven with Dakota. Everyone that comes into your life is there for a reason. It may take days, month or years to find out why but eventually it will become clear.





Amazing Activities

Canicross: The Power of Pulling

by Beth Bennett

On a crisp autumn day, the sun's rays danced between the forest leaves. As I hike under these trees, Tetsu pulls me with all his might, my repeated praises echoed for all to hear. Many people looked at me as if I was crazy. As they struggled to keep their own dog's leashes loose, I encouraged mine to be tight. No, I had not gone crazy. What I was actually doing was an activity called Canicross.

Canicross is a form of mushing that has the dog pulling a person instead of a sled. It is of European origin and literally means to move cross country with your dog. The dog wears a pulling or racing harness that is attached to a special belt around the person's waist, allowing the dog to pull safely. Most often, the person is jogging but this activity has also been practiced during a brisk walk or while hiking.

There are many benefits with practicing Canicross. One is that you will find yourself moving faster and capable of going longer distances. Many professional runners have taken up Canicross during training, noting longer strides and better running times on the track. When it comes to those long hikes through the woods, carrying a backpack full of supplies doesn't seem as heavy, the pull from the dog helps to alleviate that weight. The benefit to the dog is the joys of being out and the chance to burn off more energy than they would during a normal walk. This also gives a pulling outlet for those dogs that love to pull, which can make it easier to teach loose leash walking as they will learn that there is a time to pull and a time to heel.

Even though the dog is pulling, teaching some obedience and mushing commands will help maintain an enjoyable and fun time for all. Heeling on command will help with preventing downhill falls. Carry some treats to get your dogs attention and lure him to your side before heading downhill, and giving a command word such as 'heel' or 'side'. With practice, your dog will learn that downhill equals heeling, and will start to do it automatically. Sometimes you'll bump into other joggers, hikers or cyclists; so it is a good thing to practice 'sit' and 'watch me' if you feel that your dog would be uncomfortable or not ignore others that are passing by.



Just as you would give a command to heel, giving a command to start pulling will help let your dog know when it is alright to do so. When coming to a fork in the trail, teaching a command to go left or right will allow you to keep pace and not stop to decide which way to go. You can use any command terms that are comfortable to you, or you can go with what has been traditionally used by mushers. 'Hike' or 'Go' to start pulling, 'Gee' to turn right and 'Haw' to turn left.

Once you and your dog get the hang of it, Canicross can be a very fun and fulfilling activity. To learn more about Canicross and other mushing activities, check out these sites:

<http://www.skijor.com/canicross.html>

<http://www.canicross.com.uk>

<http://americanmusher.webs.com/canicross.htm>

Have an Amazing Activity you do with your Shiba Inu, why not share the fun? Send your story and a picture to beth.bennett@nycshibarescue.org and see it in a future issue.



Screaming Recipe

Yummy Chicken Stew

With the approaching holidays, don't leave your inu out of the festivities. Here is a recipe that they will certainly go wild for and enjoy on those cool autumn days.

Ingredients:

- 2 chicken (or turkey) breasts or thighs
- 3 carrots, peeled and cut in half
- 1 stick of celery, sliced into chunks
- 2 small potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 cups rice, uncooked

Directions:

Place chicken in large pot and cover with 5-6 cups of cold water. Add carrots, celery and potatoes. Cover and simmer on low heat for about 2 hours or until chicken becomes tender. Remove chicken from pot and strip the meat off of the bones, discard bones. Add rice, and cook until rice is tender and most of the liquid is absorbed. Place shredded pieces back into the pot, stir and remove pot from heat. Let cool before storing in the refrigerator or freezer.

Remember, cooked chicken bones are not safe for inu consumption and could cause blockage. Be sure to remove all bone content before giving to your inu.

Have an amazing recipe you would like to share?
E-mail it to beth.bennett@nycshibarescue.org and see it in a future issue.



Mind & Body

Escapes II

by Patrice Grossman

In our last issue we discussed some of the underlying reasons for escapes. Some dogs escape due to stress, others out of pent up boredom, and for some there is sheer enjoyment in making a break for it. Regardless of the reasons, entering into a new home after adoption can create uncertainty for many animals that manifests as part of roaming behaviors. Consequently, after adoption there must be time for acclimation through provision of safe spaces, appropriate relaxation comfort zones, and consistent guidance through appropriate management and handling. Depending on your dog's previous behavior patterns and tips from your dog's foster family, new owners can begin staging the home for their newly adopted dogs before their Shiba enters the house.

Before bringing fido into your home, survey the landscape and determine where your Shiba will eat, sleep, and safely spend its time indoors, and also where the easiest and safest access to elimination areas will be. Remain cognizant of the fact that Shibas can slip through relatively small openings, negotiate obstacles with ease, and slink through narrow passages with stealth. As part of transitions expect that your dog will test their boundaries. What a Shiba cannot push through they may very well be able to scramble over. Never underestimate their capabilities. For those who have already adopted it can't hurt to make periodic checks of the home and yard to assess your situation.

The following suggests 7 steps that can lead to success in managing escapes.

First, have in place several interior buffer zones through use of baby gates or barrier devices (i.e. ex-pen) at exits and entrances. Buffer zones are pocket areas with secondary gates that block a dog's access to the external doors and gates. They are akin to dog park safety gate areas. The benefit of buffers and barriers is that they can often slow dogs enough that human counterparts have enough time to grab a collar. In particular, dogs that bolt through open doors are best restricted through a system of double gates. In case your Shiba gets through one, the dog can be contained or blocked by the next. Locks on storm doors are also helpful in curtailing dogs that charge and attempt to blunder out of buffer areas.

Second, be prepared with some basic equipment (martingale collar, extra leash, treats, toys, crates, and barriers) ready for use and set up as soon as your Shiba arrives. For example, a crate can be used to place your Shiba into when you must have open doors for extended durations of time, or have repair people in your home. In such cases, having a Shiba that is crate trained or can be easily contained will ease your mind and avoid frustrations of "catch me if you can" during emergencies. In the case of dogs that have habituated to full freedom and developed escape patterns from a former life, implementing "Crate Games" is a beneficial method to begin new habits. Owners using Crate Games (see resource section) signal their dog to its place as a fun activity when the doorbell rings providing an alternative practice that fulfills a dog's need for motion, and also redirects to a defined location instead of a mad dash to the door.

Third, determine optimal placement of crates to reduce stress. Dogs tend to prefer a safe space or den away from the hubbub of high traffic areas for rest and relaxation. Some helpful locations include kitchen/family rooms, TV rooms, or rooms that do not directly open to the outside, and can be blocked by baby gates. These canine low-key areas should not be accessible to rowdy children, prying hands, or loud noises. In terms of crate escapes, be forewarned, there is the occasional Shiba that can slip locks on a crate. Take advantage of bolt snaps and a secondary baby gate in a hallway etc. as backup for the artful dodger dog that can escape a crate.

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Mind & Body

Escapes II - Continued

Fourth, review exterior areas and consider buffers zones near exterior areas outside of front and back doors within the yard area as well. Keep in mind, although there may be multiple measures in place, a barrier is only helpful if everyone in the family consistently makes sure the Shiba is behind the barrier before coming in or going out. When in doubt, keep a padlock on buffer zones that lead to exterior fences or gates, specifically if you have had an open door policy for neighbors and visiting children that come and go on your property.



Fifth, appraise your exterior perimeters and boundaries for potential hot spots to flee. Door bolting is only one method of escape, some dogs manage to become loose by taking varying approaches such as climbing, jumping over a fence, or digging under it. If your outdoor fence is four feet in height, do not expect it to be a deterrent for a stressed or highly motivated dog that wishes to escape. In such cases, either walk your dog on leash within your yard, or create an extension to your fence to make it taller (at least by 2ft). Always make sure there are no woodpiles, deck railings, children's toys or other objects close enough to provide a lunch pad over. If climbing is not an option some dogs will dig. Blocking the base of a fence below the fence line by two feet can reduce gaps, keeping the most ardent diggers in. Perform occasional spot checks behind plants for dips in the earth, soil erosion, and collapsed rodent holes that will attract a dog's attention as a gap to be squeezed through. Even with the best barriers, dedicated escape artists must be monitored at all times outdoors.

Sixth, develop a consistent training and play program. Enroll your dog in a basic obedience program, nose work or tracking type class to reduce boredom, increase mental stimulation, and increase exercise. Overall training and enrichment activities through toys and interaction can go a long way in building a bond that reduces the desire to escape. Training a "sit" and also a "wait" at the door, until given release, is a great control exercise, as is a "down stay" on a mat or doggie bed during visitor entry or exits.

Seventh, develop positive physical contact with your new dog through grooming and handling to reduce anxiety when it comes to clipping on a leash or reaching for a collar. Reaching for the collar in a "gotcha game" or through "T-Touch" helps your Shiba become familiar with your movements and intentions. In an emergency your dog may be less likely to pull away from your hand if he understands your personal cues that you have developed through positive and respectful handling.

Invariably, even with the best of intentions, there will be a time in every dog owner's life that will involve an escape. A few measures can make it much easier to regain control over the situation once a dog becomes loose.

Once an escape occurs do not chase directly behind your dog as he makes a run for it, unless you know you are close enough and accurate enough to step on the leash. Instead encourage your dog to chase you as a game. (Follow the leader games can be developed as part of enrichment and play with a toy or treats). If your dog is a known dodger, "Hansel and Gretel" with dropped treats near the dog if possible in order to gain closer proximity and access to his/her collar, or use a favorite squeaky toy to gain attention and direct the Shiba back into your yard, or nearby empty yard. If your dog likes to go for a ride, cue him toward your car and have him jump in. Put to use whatever



Mind & Body

Escapes II - Continued

it takes that will bring the dog to you, rather than moving toward your dog and spurring your Shiba to run off in the other direction. For dogs that become frightened or are extremely shy, a second friendly dog may encourage them remain in the vicinity and seek security with a familiar pet. At the very least a second dog may help you trail a lost Shiba to its hiding spot.

No matter the perceived motivation for escape, once you catch your dog do not punish him/her regardless of how flustered you become. Once caught, walk your dog on leash, play, and try to relax. Avoid an immediate trip back home to furiously place your Shiba in a crate. Bear in mind if you punish, the next time an escape occurs it will be much more difficult to catch your dog. Instead, hug your dog, catch your breath, provide treats for him, and be thankful you have another chance at training.

To conclude, make sure your dog is getting enough exercise, play, and mental stimulation. Play games with your dog, provide puzzling activities, and investigate the neighborhood on leash to combat curiosity. Teach your dog an on leash “go home” game when returning from walks and reward when he/she gets to the front doormat. Attempt to manage the environment, but remember to keep the atmosphere light and have fun with your new family member so settling can occur as soon as possible through positive routines. A good training class can help with the adjustment process. By all means keep a buckle collar with id tags on your dog as a just in case measure.

In overview, it may take some time for acclimation, six months or more depending on the dog. In the duration a balance of management and training will provide the means to keep your new family member safe. The old idiom an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure applies to Shiba escapes and thwarting the development of habituated escape patterns.

NYC Shiba Rescue strives to support and guide new adopters with the acclimation process. If your pet becomes lost please contact us, we are here to help.

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- Nina Ottosson dog puzzles and interactive toys: <http://www.petconnection.com/blog/2011/03/23/nina-ottosson-how-often-does-a-dog-toy-designer-become-a-star/>

REBETZEL

Once upon a time . . .



To experience more of Kit, Natto & Betsy's escapades, visit them at <http://shibal-inu.blogspot.com>

Credits

The Shiba Scream is the official newsletter for both NYC Shiba Inus and their Human Companions, and NYC Shiba Rescue, Inc.

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If you would like to learn more about NYC Shiba Rescue, make a donation
or to submit a foster/adoption application, visit nycshibarescue.org

To join the NYC Shiba Inus and their Human Companions,
visit www.nycshibameetup.com

