



# New Dogs...



Where do DVHSR dogs come? How do we know their origin and history? This was one of the biggest issues with me when I began as a volunteer. I wanted to know as much about the dog I was placing as I could. Most of our adopters ask, and it is important that we know. After interviewing one of our intake committee members, it has been decided that this information will be available to all volunteers who do adoptions by clicking on the website. However, until that becomes regular practice, here is some information about our newest:

**Lina** – Little Lina was turned in by her owner because she and her counterpart, Yasha, were constantly escaping from their home. A neighbor had threatened to shoot them, and their owner feared for their lives. Fortunately, DVHSR had recently had a flux of adoptions and had the space available. Yasha has since been adopted (Lauren Fierro), and now Little Lina is in a foster home with Mike and Amy Huffman.

**\*Brooklyn** – Again, Brooklyn was turned in by his owner. Living in a multiple dog home, Brooklyn tried to fit in to no avail. The pack alpha pug decided he simply did not like this 2yr old husky and wouldn't allow peace within the household. The owner decided that the best thing for Brooklyn was to find a home in which he would be more welcome.

**\*Champ** – Champ is a seasoned escapee. After being picked up by Animal Control on several occasions, the authorities finally decided not to return him to the home that obviously could not control him. Having spent most of his time rotating from the crate to an outdoor tie-out, this poor boy has no idea what a structured home is like. It is DVSHR's goal to find him the perfect family to set the boundaries and give him the love he so desperately needs.

**Harley** – Bought from a pet store, Harley had digestive and bowel problems that his family tried to treat. After visiting several vets and receiving multi-

ple modes of advice, the bills just got too high. They finally surrendered him to DVHSR hoping that someone else could better help him. Since being at Salfid, he has seen one vet and appears to have grown out of his digestive difficulties. He will be fostered by Pat Aeillo by the time this newsletter reaches publication.

**Dickens** – Found as a stray as a young pup long before his adult coloring materialized. He was placed at a Humane Society that utilized tie-outs and dog boxes to house their crew. Living on a chain for eight months, Dickens has managed to maintain his puppy humor and demeanor. He has been non-confrontational with all his new housemates and has a sincere desire to be accepted and loved.

**\*Needs fostering**

## 2007 Officers and Board Members

President – Chuck Daly  
 Vice President – Pat Aiello  
 Treasurer – Michelle Piazza  
 Secretary – Nina Schaefer

### 2007 Board

Debbie Curley  
 Robin Grover  
 Lisa Hirrlinger  
 Steve Kilp  
 Pam O'Connor

Melissa Robinson  
 Chris Tyrell

The duties of the officers are set forth in the by-laws. The President presides at meetings and runs the meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. The Vice-President takes the President's place if the President can't preside, and is a member of all Committees, ex officio. The Secretary records all votes, keeps the role of members, sends out notices of meetings, records and sends out minutes of

meetings, keeps a record of official correspondences.

The Treasurer maintains the bank accounts, and balance sheets, and liaisons with our accountant when we need to file a tax return (only done when income exceeds \$25,000).

The Board, in its entirety, is responsible for all policy decisions affecting the operation of DVSHR.

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The holidays are around the corner, 2007 DVSHR Calendars are still available. A great buy for a great cause.



To purchase go online to [www.siberianhuskyrescue.org](http://www.siberianhuskyrescue.org)

# Training Tip...

## Food Lure Exercise

Learning how to use a food lure during training is very important and can be a vital ingredient to any training plan. A food lure exercise teaches a dog several things at once:

1. It teaches the dog to follow a lure, which allows you to guide the dog into almost any behavior without force.
2. It teaches and/or reinforces the meaning of a conditioned reinforcer (“good” or a clicker), which communicates, to the dog when he is doing the correct thing.
3. It teaches the meaning of the no reward marker (“eh-eh” or no), which indicates the dog’s mistakes and does so in a way that motivates the dog to do the correct behavior, not to become stressed.

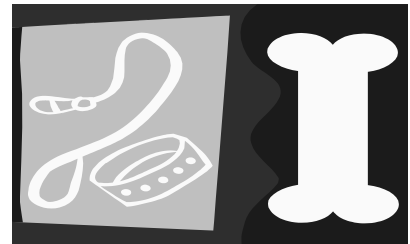
### Step #1 – Introduce the Food Lure

Begin teaching this exercise in an area where your dog is comfortable and free from distractions. The dog should also have a good appetite! Have a hundred or so small food treats (the size of a pea or smaller) close by. Place many treats in the palm of your hand, close and place your hand on the dog’s nose and let him sniff. Slowly move your hand at the dog’s nose level in a way that will get him to move forward with your hand. Watch for the moment the dog’s nose is “attached” to your moving hand. At that moment (timing is critical), give your conditioned reinforcer (“good” or clicker) and open your hand to give the food treat. If the dog’s nose falls away from your hand, give the no reward marker (“no”) and then you and the treat turn away from the dog for a moment, as this should make your dog fo-

cus more strongly on you. Teaching the dog that the meaning of the no reward marker is “Oops, I made a mistake, try again!” will teach the dog to have the right attitude about being corrected. Start the exercise over again and repeat 20 to 30 times.

### Step #2 – Increase the Dog’s Attention Level

Gradually begin increasing the time required for the dog to keep his nose attached to your hand.



## FAQ

### **FAQ #1: What is the process for bringing dogs into the rescue?**

All dogs, whether from a shelter or other location, should be reviewed with the Intake Co-Chairs, Pam O’Conner or Deb Curley (Salfid Kennels). Please do not call the shelters directly until you have talked with them to work out the details.

Things that need to be considered before taking a dog in: Are enough funds available for expected and unexpected healthcare costs (shots, neutering, heartworm treatment, etc.)? Is the dog heartworm negative? Dogs w/heartworm cost ~ \$700 for treatment, so clearance from the treasurer and the foster chair (must have foster willing to care for dog during treatment) need to be in place before taking in a “positive” dog. A positive dog will need Board approval before entering the Rescue. The same goes for any dog with special medical issues that would require expensive surgery or treatment. “Kennel cough” dogs do not go to Salfid, so a suitable foster may be needed quickly. Each new dog needs to “pass” a temperament evaluation by a DVSHR volunteer. Do we have enough history on a dog? A “biter” may be difficult to adopt out, along with liability issues, and safety is our main concern. Lastly, do we

have time to cover all the bases? If not we could be getting in over our heads.

Since the DVSHR’s home base is in PA, all dogs need to be issued a “temp” license. These annually purchased licenses can be re-issued once a dog is adopted, so it is important to return the tag to the rescue if an adopted dog goes home with one. Each dog is also provided with a DVSHR tag. Dogs processed through Salfid kennels will have these tags issued to them and from there they can then go to a foster home. Fosters outside of PA may or may not need their own state license as well; it is advised that you check with your local authorities.

### **FAQ #2: I cannot foster; can I still volunteer in the rescue?**

Yes!! Although being a foster is always encouraged, there are many other areas where your volunteer help is appreciated: Home checks/application process (up to and including the adoption itself), dog transport, exercising dogs at the kennel (Salfid), assistance at annual functions (setting up/ manning booths), fundraising, etc., are some of the areas where help is always needed. For new members, ask your sponsor how and where you can help out!

### **FAQ #3: How do I find out what is going on within the rescue?**

You can always check our website, <http://www.siberianhuskyrescue.org> for upcoming events, schedules, and to access our member directory. For correspondence, sign up to our Yahoo Pets Groups email at: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/dvsiberianhuskyrescue> to find out more about the day to day activities and news items.

### **FAQ #4: Why and how are some dogs given new names?**

Shelters will name strays; we keep the name if we like it or it’s changed. Dogs from owner give ups usually keep their original name unless they are too hard to pronounce. Strays going to Salfid or straight to foster are named by either the intake person or by the foster family.

## Abbey's Success Story...

When I decided to call Pam OConnor about her foster dog Abbey and her recent adoption, I had no idea how involved the story was. This is a dog who truly had many angels working for her with Pam OConnor being the head "wingmaster".

Originally found as a stray in Luzerne County, Abbey was adopted to a family who decided not to keep her. Breaching their contract with the shelter, they decided they no longer wanted her and brought her to a different shelter to avoid embarrassment. She was subsequently adopted out again, and escaped. A mother and daughter team of good Samaritans found her and called our rescue. The daughter of this good Samaritan team, Maria Ripa, has hence jumped on board as a DVHSR volunteer. I consider this a tribute to Pam with her excellent people skills and her genuine good heart and nature; she just naturally brings out the best in all folks and animals.

The saga continues with the Ripa's finding Abbey a home....that did not work out. A

first time multiple dog owner, Julie Klinger (who has also signed up as a member!), did not realize the potential difficulties of duo canines. Hence once again, Abby was without a home and family.

DVSHR Board voted to accept Abby as one of our rescue rascals. Pam would be her indefinite foster as she was able to integrate her into her own pack quite smoothly.

It was almost immediate that a problem with Abby's stance was noted, and her long road of medical testing and treatment recommendations began. What started out as a suspicious x-ray turned into months of limited activity and different treatment modalities which did little to improve her condition. It was about this time that two different families submitted applications.

Paul and Kathy Fries were a perfect match for her. Evelyn Graham, although very generous, would have to rely on an electrical fence to contain Abby. This would not be suitable for Abby's level of prey drive.

Instead of ending the relationship with Abby on this denial, Ms Graham instead made a very generous donation of \$5000 for Abby's possible surgeries and treatments.

Several months of different methods proved no results. Further testing at Cornell University offered no new diagnosis but did offer the possibility that no one had considered. Could this peculiar stance just be an idiosyncrasy unique to Abby and not involve any medical or structural problem?

All efforts were exhausted on the other theories and this last one became the most reasonable. Paul and Kathy Fries were consulted and the situation explained. After waiting nine full months to adopt and settling for no other than Abby, the story of Abby's new life can finally begin.



## Featured Salfid Dogs... Jaco & Mingus



Jaco is four. Mingus is three. They were adopted separately by a family from a shelter. Jaco is way too smart for his own good. He is the most creative escape artist we have come across.

Mingus is very attached so he follows.

Jaco knows how to open windows, doors and has even knocked a wall unit air conditioner out. He can go under fences and over. He only does this when the family is out. When the family is home, he is as good as gold.

We pulled them because on their last venture in Chester Springs PA, Jaco killed a pet sheep. They were not labeled dangerous animals but the Animal Warden said they must be out of Chester Springs in 3 days. We saved them hours before death. We tried a

foster home but Jaco was too much.

Ideally what they need is someone with outside kennels that will serve as a fortress and safe haven while the family is not home. We want these dogs to have house privileges. They are exceptional. They have lived with toddlers. They are leash trained, house trained and not destructive in the house. Our guess is they would make decent sled dogs, especially Mingus

## Featured Foster.... Dylan

Dylan has been with the rescue for months. He has come a very long way from his home of twenty dogs. You never get a second chance to make a first impression and first impressions are key with Dylan.

According to his foster Mom, he does not show a lot of typical Husky traits. He does not dig, door dart and is not much of an escape artist.. He comes when he is

called but because he suffers from separation anxiety, a submissive playmate would be ideal. There has to be a match out there for Dylan, he deserves to have a forever home.





**Delaware Valley**  
**Siberian Husky Rescue**

**DELAWARE VALLEY SIBERIAN HUSKY RESCUE**

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**We're on the Web**

**[www.siberianhuskyrescue.org](http://www.siberianhuskyrescue.org)**

Information was written, gathered and formatted by the Newsletter Committee.

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**VOICES OF ALL....**

I remember when I first became a volunteer for the rescue. Not only was it my first exposure to DVSHR, but it was also the first time I volunteered for any rescue. I was full of questions, and I didn't know where I could fit in to help. This newsletter is intended to, not only enlighten newcomers as to what DVSHR is all about, but also give everyone a recourse to express ideas and opinions about our management. Board members are nominated and voted to be a representative body of the entire group. However, they need your input to guide them in making the right decisions. In the next issue, we will begin a section called "Voices of All". We ask that you submit your thoughts about anything dealing with the every day happenings within DVSHR. Put on your thinking caps, turn on your PC's, and email your ideas and opinions to Heather Davis at [hyackel@verizon.net](mailto:hyackel@verizon.net). All submissions will be reviewed by the newsletter committee and we will publish as many as we are able.

**Example:**



***DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR PURINA WEIGHT CIRCLES***

Forward them to Nina Schaefer at:

1405 Grasshopper Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

Once collected, DVSHR receives coupons for dog food which can be sent back to you (please include a self addressed stamped envelope) or you can request that the coupon be sent to a foster home to help with the cost of one of our huskies hoping for a forever home.



**Welcome New Members...**

As we all know, volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Sharing a common goal, we all have different talents to tap into that help us reach this goal. To date, DVSHR has placed 52 dogs into new homes in the year 2006. We will hopefully beat last year's total of 54 by the end of the year.

Our featured volunteer this issue is 11-year-old Marcelyn Lebovitz. Her mother Robyn has been a member for a little over a year, and daughter Marcelyn has hopped aboard to help.

Being a gifted student in the sixth grade, Marcelyn is very much aware of the importance of community service and how it will play a part in entrance to college at a later date in her life. However, none of this seems to be very important right now. Marcelyn just really loves the breed and wants to help the dogs who have been misunderstood and have lost their homes. She has accompanied her mother on home checks and has witnessed tem-

perament tests for dogs in shelters. She is a quick student and understands the importance of matching the right dog to the right home.

How many kids listen to their parents when they say, "This dog is your responsibility. If you don't take care of it, it leaves". Because of her age, Marcelyn can reach out to other kids, teaching them that getting a dog is much more than just having a pal to walk. Choosing the right dog and making a commitment to it are things that youngsters need to learn from others like themselves.

Everyone at DVSHR thanks Marcelyn for joining us and would like to encourage the children of other members to get involved.



Other recent new members since August 2006:

Karen Peyton ([scs46gr@hotmail.com](mailto:scs46gr@hotmail.com)) from Jamison, PA

Lauren Fierro ([finez322@aol.com](mailto:finez322@aol.com)) from Short Hills, NJ

Nicole Weiss ([koalagrll@aol.com](mailto:koalagrll@aol.com)) from Yardley, PA

Donna DiPalma ([ddipalma800@comcast.net](mailto:ddipalma800@comcast.net)) from Brown Mills, NJ

Jason Drum ([jaxaholic19@verizon.net](mailto:jaxaholic19@verizon.net)) from Bucks County, PA

Thomas Tigue ([t\\_tigue@mail.com](mailto:t_tigue@mail.com)) from Ewing, PA

Susan Minakowski ([goherbal@comcast.net](mailto:goherbal@comcast.net)) from Wilmington, DE

Judith Spray ([MIA435033@aol.com](mailto:MIA435033@aol.com)) from Bricktown, NJ