



The Little Guild of St. Francis

Newsletter

May 2009

Dogs and Cats of The Little Guild Lead the Way

Diane Monroe

A friend is going through a character building with the heart wrenching reality of breast cancer. While the acceptance of its presence isn't enough, she knows the road ahead with chemotherapy and radiation is a dreaded, yet necessary path to recovery. She said, "Thank god for animals as they keep me going. They add to the strength you get from family and friends. Maybe you can use this in a newsletter of some type? I would be open to share."

Another friend is starting down a new road of independence after many years of marriage. Having to find a new home with a new start is devastating but with the hopes of finding a place where dogs, cats and chickens will also be accommodated is a challenging feat as well. She said, "My animals are everything to me. They will get me through this. It will take some adjusting but with them, I know we'll all settle in and everything will be okay."

You may be wondering what these scenarios are doing in an animal shelter newsletter. The essence of what our pets mean to us is the core of The Little Guild. All of our dogs and cats have histories behind them. Some of them were truly loved and cared for, others were living with the hand of cruelty, some were just numbers that needed to be dispersed. Thank goodness we are there for each other. Their stories in the past are untold; they live in the Now. We can tell our stories over and over again and they listen to all of them....Now.

The Little Guild is a place of healing for some and new beginnings for others. I'll bet both of these women mentioned wish there was a Little Guild for them, where fears would be soothed, strength gathered and the reassurance given that everything from now on will be all right but if not, they can come here anytime. A core belief of The Little Guild is that a pet's love and trust for humans will strengthen both, and that it will help us to give love and trust back to them. To them, we are the world and to us, they are everything.

The Little Guild has wonderful dogs and cats waiting to fill that special spot for someone, be it a playmate or a soul mate. Come in and look into their eyes. There is a new path ahead for both of you.

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A Note from the Director and President

Since our last newsletter, we've had great sadness at The Little Guild. Our long time volunteer, Elizabeth, better known to us as 'Liz' Locke, died. Liz was ever faithful to our animals and to her work of heading up our Little Benefit Shop, the thrift shop in West Cornwall. Liz was such a lady. Truly the kind that one remembers dressing beautifully every-day, whether going to work or going to the post office, with a lovely scarf or necklace and matching shoes to her ensemble. She loved her corgis, traditional to her English roots, and would serve tea at tea time to friends and guests who came by.



A Lady in every sense of the word, she was so distraught with the closing of 'her' shop that she couldn't bear to come to the final sale. We all mourn the loss of this wonderful Lady who gave so much and worked freely, simply for the love of the cause. The war bride from England who fell in love with her American beau, gave her all to our little town and to her two surviving sons, Tim and Tony, who supported their mother's love of animals and appreciated her kind graces. Our Liz was truly our Lady who will always be remembered.



In this same time frame, one of our faithful employees, Heather Gunther, lost her life in a tragic car accident. Heather had just come back to us after stretching her wings in another direction. She had worked for us previously at another time, left and had come back realizing that The Guild was where she belonged and the animals were her passion. Lovely and caring, this kind soul gave her all to our dogs and cats care, overseeing their cleanliness, their comfort, their exercise and making sure that all of our animals got their pets and hugs from her. The sorrow for this tragic loss is felt by each and every living thing at The Little Guild. Our love and support go out to her family and friends.

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People and Pet Mail

Dear Little Guild Members,



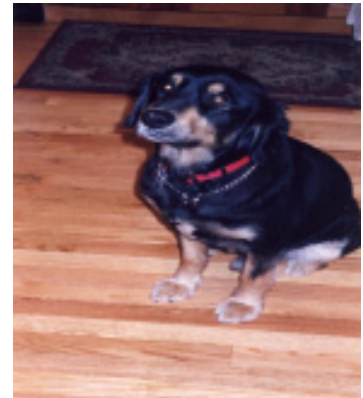
In November 2003 we adopted our wonderful dog from The Guild. Archie - formerly Heathcliff - is the most loving, loyal, intelligent companion one could ever ask for. He came to us fully trained and with the best manners. We couldn't love him more and are so grateful every day that we found him. We've enclosed a picture. Once again, thank you.

Mary and Allan Demirs.

Hi Everyone,

Update on Benjamin. He loves his hot dogs and will follow us around. He has learned to bark when he wants to go out. As soon as the leash is on, he is at the door. His tail is upright instead of down and he trusts us more and seems very happy.

This picture was taken just after his bath and hair cut. He lies with me and my mom in the chair at night, but as soon as he has had enough - he is out of there! He is funny!!



**Thank you,
The Anderson's**

Dear Friends:

Two years ago, I chose this little cat called SUGAR. She is a lot of company. When I adopted her, someone said she was the sweetest little cat at the Little Guild. She makes me happy every day.

Sincerely,

T. Sherman



Attention DOG OWNERS

Join The Little Walking Guild

Grab a leash and join us for exercise and fun!!

Organized by **The Little Guild**, the county's premier dog and cat shelter, Route 128, West Cornwall

When : Every Sunday morning from 9 to 10, come any or every week, beginning May 3

Where : A different route each week, in the various towns in Litchfield County

Who : Anyone who enjoys spending time with their dog. Even if you don't have a dog, you could "borrow" one from a neighbor who can't get out, or the Little Guild may have extras to share for the hour! Or if you want to join the gang and enjoy the fun, just come along for the exercise.

Why : Many reasons, here are a few

- Our country dogs often need **socialization** . This is an opportunity for your dog to have experience among others in a controlled on-leash setting. You'll be pleased to see how your dog will improve his dog-greeting skills as he gets used to these meetings. (All dogs must be leashed).
- New sights, smells, and sounds, are a **delight to all dogs** , especially if you can't get out daily for a vigorous walk.
- A good outing on Sunday is something to look forward to all week, and leaves you feeling happier when leaving your dog home on Monday morning.
- We will be exploring **beautiful places** in our county that you may not even know about yourself, places you'll want to return to. Meet other dog-lovers, make new friends.
- It's **free** !

Walk venues are posted for each month ahead. Contact organizer at

sculptaire@hotmail.com or 860-927-3420 for more information.

We hope you'll join the fun. Your dog will love you for it!

Miles of Love

Have you ever met a person whose dog isn't the most special, smartest, worst behaved, athletic, funny canine ever to set foot on this earth? With books like Marley and Me and Merle's Door out there for us to read, laugh and cry with, we can all relate if by only the true love that we feel for our pets. We arrange our vacations

around who can stay with them or if they're kenneled, we've checked it out and made sure that it meets our requirements for their comfort and well being. We buy them toys, special biscuits, spend fortunes on 'the best' foods and are devastated when something happens to them.

It doesn't matter if Brutus is purebred, highbred, designer or mutt, he's captured our heart and run away with it. Some people go to great lengths to check pedigrees, some travel long distances to pick out their designer dogs (a mix of 2 purebreds of their choice - labradoodles, cockapoos etc.), some people buy them in pet stores, some find their match at the pound or shelter and some dogs simply find their people themselves. When love talks, who cares if the Retrievers don't retrieve, the Rat Terriers don't rat, the Poodles don't Poo...well, you get the gist.

Our dogs at The Little Guild have miles. Some were pushed out of cars or taken some place and 'set free', some were left tied to fence posts, some are left with notes, others not. Some dogs don't make the grade in fighting rings and are used as bait dogs then kicked out, literally. We don't like writing about this much less having you read about it but the sad fact is that yes, some of our dogs have Miles. For our luckier dogs, the ones who have lost their homes due to a death in the family or an allergy that's cropped up due to their fur or simply by being just 'too much' or 'too little' dog, a mile is a mile in their life. Who's to say who has it better or worse; it's how they handle themselves and what we see in their character that leads them into our shelter.

As Dorothy said in the Wizard of Oz, "Next time I go looking for my heart's desire, I'll know that it's right here in my own back yard." Here we are, here they are and here you are. Save those miles in your journey for love and come to The Little Guild. If you're looking for a cat, dog, kitten or puppy, help us take the miles off them.



In Memory of People

Eleanor Adajian
Doug Arenz
Walter Beeman
Mr. Black
Margaret Dahlen Campbell
Lawrence Cianciolo
Rose Curtiss
Hazel Duchaine

Wahneta M. Dustin
Ruth Fenton
Robert J. Geiger
Eleanor Jorgensen
Christopher LeMay
Phillip T. Masley
Ester McElhone
John Jack Morgan

Theresa Pellett
Stephen Pitonak
Beulah Roraback
Adele Sprucinski
Margaret Tazzara
Barbara Tieman
Maida Waldron

In Memory of Pets

Ashli
Beacon
Brandie
Buddy
Coby
Duster
Fern
Freckles
Gabby
Georgia
Jezabelle
Kaele
Kaiya
Lancelot

Lyridessa
Mandu
Max
Max & Smokey
Meghan
Misty Bear
Mollie
Molly
Muffy
Nikki
Nipsy
Oreo
Penny
Riley
Ripley

Rori
Rosco
Shannon
Shelly
Skye
Sparkles
Sophie
Suzi
Tessa
Trixie
Weezie
Wheeler

In memory of Elizabeth Locke, a long standing Board Member and Leader of our Benefit Shop. She will be missed by all.

In memory of Heather Marie Gunther, a valued employee of The Little Guild, and a wonderful friend.

The Little Guild Sick Room

You have to admit that animal people view things somewhat differently than the rest of society. The talk of hair balls, bowel movements, excitable behaviors and bad breath is just the norm for us. At The Little Guild, we're excited about a sick room. We're planning a room which will be enclosed in glass walls (because glass is much better from a disinfecting standpoint) where we can house and treat new arrivals from within the quarantine section when we detect an illness or outbreak that could spread to the rest of our animals. It will have a sink in it for us to wash up in upon entering and leaving, cages that can be sprayed clean within the room, yet comfortable enough for the sick animals within those walls to feel safe and be able to see the rest of the world around them, to insure their social graces for when they are well enough to be put back into society. We've applied for a grant to help us with this as the cost of labor and supplies aren't cheap. It may take a while for the funds to come to fruition but we're determined. Look to our next newsletter to see our progress and hopefully we'll have some pictures in it to share with you on the various stages of The Sick Room.

Our Dream of No More Homeless Pets

Caring for animals is expensive. Without your donations, the shelter and the work we do is at risk. Please indicate your commitment for 2009!

YES, I want to be part of the work of The Little Guild. Here is my annual contribution.

\$45 Member

\$100 Caregiver

\$180 Supporter

\$240 Champion Other \$ _____

I'd prefer to send a monthly membership donation of \$ _____ .

Send me a monthly reminder.

Many companies offer a matching gift program that doubles the value of your gift to The Little Guild. Please ask your Human Resources representative for a form, complete it, and send it along with your gift today. Thank You!

Donations are tax-deductible under section 501 (c)(3) of IRS code. Notification of your donation will be mailed to you.

Please Mail to:

The Little Guild of Saint Francis

P.O. Box 59, West Cornwall, Connecticut 06796

(860) 672-6346 • FAX (860) 672-0213 • www.littleguild.org



Visit our animals for adoption at www.littleguild.org

**The Little Guild of Saint Francis
for the Welfare of Animals, Inc.
West Cornwall, Connecticut 06796**

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