



PAW Shakes

The Newsletter of the Partnership for Animal Welfare 🐾 Fall 2016
PO Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 🐾 www.paw-rescue.org

The legend of Bobo the Super Dog

By Bob Klein

Bobo was a super dog. “Bobo”—what a clownish name for a dog, but he was not deterred by his name. He would *not* be a clown dog. Bobo was the fastest, strongest, and bravest of all dogs. He was also kind and gentle, a friend to dog and man. Bobo had many adventures that made him famous among the dogs of the world. Dogs always know when one of their ilk distinguishes himself through acts of bravery and heroism. The stories of Bobo’s exploits were legendary. There was the story of Bobo saving a woman drowning in a river, and the one of him lying with a freezing man to keep him warm enough to survive the night. Of course, Bobo leading two children out of a burning house was a huge sensation. A few other stories—such as Bobo dragging a tree off the road so a pregnant woman could get to the hospital or the one where he thwarted an attack on the President (or was it the Pope?)—may have been exaggerated, but the stories were so numerous that there had to have been some truth to the legend of Bobo. His reputation grew far and wide. All dogs came to call him Bobo the Super Dog.

Now, Sirius is the Dog Star. Sirius is the brightest star in the heavens; none shines brighter. Dogs and people look up at the night-time sky and point to the brightest light and say, “That is the Dog Star.” Sirius grew concerned that another dog would outshine him. Bobo saw the brightest star but did not long to shine brighter than the Dog Star. He was happy to be a dog, do dog things, and if acts of speed and strength and bravery came his way, he was up to the task; glory was not his goal. But as people and dogs told and retold the stories of Bobo the Super Dog, Sirius worried about losing his eminence as the brightest star. Stars have powers that neither we humans nor dogs can understand. Thus Sirius used his powers to ensure that Bobo would never outshine him. Sirius zapped Bobo



Bobo, a brave and superlative dog

with a terrible disease, a disease that caused one of Bobo’s front legs to be cut off at the shoulder. Bobo was no longer the Super Dog. Sirius had seen to that.

But Bobo survived. When you have been a Super Dog, you can overcome hurdles like a missing leg. Bobo was not the fastest or the strongest of dogs any more, he was just . . . Bobo the Dog. He was still the kindest and gentlest of dogs. He was surely the bravest. Bobo the Super Dog did feats of bravery as they came his way, but now Bobo the Dog needed to perform acts of bravery every day. Going up and down steps and hopping across slippery floors are truly feats of courage for a three-legged dog. Bobo the Super Dog is not with us anymore, but Bobo the Dog lives on and dogs still marvel at his outstanding heroics. Bobo is no longer the Super Dog, but he is super at being Bobo the Dog. You can even make Bobo the Dog part of *your* legend! To learn more about making Bobo a part of your family, write to pawdogs@yahoo.com.

Babka: a sweet addition to our family

By Pam and Craig Axler

It all started with a photograph of a sweet-faced sleeping dog named “Thomas,” who was described (among other things) as a “wiggie-butt.” Well, that’s not exactly correct. It had started years before as our youngest child Noam became increasingly fixated on dogs—including leaving the house to visit every dog in our neighborhood at their homes, sitting on the corner of our cul-de-sac until he could greet enough dogs, and asking (incessantly) in the cutest and sweetest way possible, “Should-we-get-a-dog?” That five-word question became a single word in our family’s lexicon. And while we planned on getting a dog for nearly two years, it was never “the right time.” We knew we wanted a dog, but really, we knew we *needed* a dog, particularly as Noam’s interest in a dog only grew deeper with time. Noam is on the autistic spectrum, and we were used to fixations that had a way of developing and then fading, sometimes to return after some months or years. But the connection to dogs was one constant that kept growing more and more pronounced.

About a year ago we were invited to attend a rescue festival at Lake Elkhorn in Columbia. It was a beautiful day and seemed like a good opportunity to let Noam get his “dog fix.” We also thought maybe, just maybe, the time was right for us to finally “get-a-dog.” We’d been mulling over different breeds of dogs, as well as the pros and cons of puppies versus grown dogs. Toward the end of the festival, we spoke with one of the organizers who had observed Noam with some of the dogs. “Oh, no, you don’t want a puppy. You need an older dog with a developed temperament, what we

call a ‘bomb-proof’ dog—one that will love you and need you and take all the love that Noam and all of you can give. You don’t want to stress out an animal.” We asked, “Do such dogs really exist?” She assured us that they did. A friend put us in touch with PAW, saying they were wonderful folks for us to work with locally.

A little over a month later, we met PAW dog Thomas—and just as



Noam taking a stroll with Babka

importantly, we met Jodi Koehn-Pike, a long-time PAW volunteer and foster mom to Thomas. Meeting both at an adoption event in Rockville and then talking in subsequent days, we arranged for a home visit and ultimately adopted this amazing two- to three-year-old mix of a dog who has enhanced all our lives in an untold number of ways! We gently shifted his name from Thomas (which he’d been called during his months of fostering in Jodi’s home) to Babka—though we retained both Thomas and Wiggle-butt as parts of his long-form name! A babka is a compact, flaky, and choco-

lately dense cake—and he looked and seemed like a Babka to us!

In nearly a year since adopting Babka, we have learned the joys that having a four-legged member of the family can bring. Our two older children, Lev and Eliana, love playing with him, walking him, and generally enjoying his sweetness. We all are blessed by his presence and “character” in our family. But probably nobody has been as affected as Noam. He helps in walking Babka several times a day, including all of the early-morning walks—which have proved to be an excellent source of sensory input before each school day, as well as helped him develop his hand and muscle strength and awareness. His vocabulary and conversational language have improved tremendously as well. For a long time, we used a “two-leash” system, where one of us would hold the backup leash while Noam held his own leash (sometimes unpredictably!). Soon, Noam took to holding both leashes as he got better at controlling and leading Babka on his walks, especially when the temptation of another dog, or a biker, runner, squirrel, or garbage truck came by! Now, we are generally down to one leash, and Noam happily introduces Babka to each and every person we encounter. We now know so many more of our neighbors (and, of course, their dogs!). The social impact as well as physical input have been amazing secondary benefits of adopting Babka.

We are forever grateful to Jodi and PAW for the ways in which their work facilitated the completion of our family through the addition of Thomas Babka Motek Wigglebutt Axler IV (he wears the name well!).

The lucky link . . . to Linc!

By Keith Chapman

Before sitting down to record my thoughts for this story, I needed to walk the dog—not so much because he wanted to (and boy, *did* he), but I wanted to take a walk with him as well. I could have just let him loose in the backyard that he’s just now figuring out is his, but then we would have missed getting some exercise, seeing the neighborhood at night, and watching the numerous foxes that have taken up residence on our street. So, this dog-walking thing is definitely not a chore. For us, it’s a comforting return to a familiar routine, made possible by a funny little dog named Linc and a wonderful group called PAW.

Beginning when my wife and I met, our home became the Brady Bunch residence for pets. I came to our relationship with Mr. Dog, a mixed terrier found homeless wandering the streets of Baltimore; Dr. Pussimus Maximus the First (“Doc” for short), a cat found as a kitten wandering the woods of Pennsylvania that embodied all that is feline in his svelte gray form; and Sebastian, a black and white cat who figured out that sitting by my back door in the pouring rain was his best shot to gain sympathy and membership in the menagerie. My wife brought home Freddie (as in Freddie Krueger, for her sharp claws), a calico found as an abandoned kitten whom she fed with an eye dropper; Van Gogh, the rescue kitten who was born without an ear; and Hobbes, the rescue tabby who was more dog than cat. Later we would add Austin, the golden retriever we puppy raised for Fidos for Freedom who failed his physical (bad hips), and Gumbo, a large athletic yellow lab who came to us late in her life as her

family, to their great sadness, found one of their children to be badly allergic.

Thus we were no strangers to life with four-legged companions. But alas, one by one, old age took its toll and one day we found ourselves without our furry friends. As anybody in this situation finds out, it’s a mix of sadness and freedom: you miss your animal buddies but now you can go places without worrying about who’s going to care for the pets, the house becomes marginally cleaner, and there are no more vet bills. You feel that getting another pet would somehow not be right—you can’t just replace your best friends! But the house is missing the familiar sound of paws and the sight of wagging tails. Many years passed.

Animal people are wonderful, and so it is with Grace, a former co-worker who had volunteered with PAW. Once we traded pet stories, Grace knew she had a mission to complete. Soon I was introduced to the PAW website, and whenever a new dog came to the group, I received an email from Grace with a link that I would then forward to my wife. However, we were never able to agree that it was time and that the newest candidate was “the one.” But now the kids were getting to a point where Grace and I knew they needed a good pet experience. It was getting to be too many years without wagging tails, and then—Grace sent another email.

This one had a link to a “Linc”! He was a scruffy white and black



Linc sniffing the salty air at the beach

mix of some kind of long and short hound and terrier (perhaps). I dutifully forwarded the email to my wife, and he was a hit! We quickly made arrangements to meet him to see if he was truly the fellow to end our pet-less streak. Filling out the paperwork for the application was actually kind of hard given the many previous furry souls who had been in our family. But once we met Linc, we *knew* he was the one. What a character! The whole experience with PAW was truly great, and after the home visit, Linc came to his new family. We were happy, Linc was happy, and Grace was *extremely* happy!

Now there is the sound of paws and the sight of wagging tails in our home again. Linc is a joyful and mischievous boy, and anybody who meets him loves him. He still has puppy-spirit in him, and he is an energetic player. Like any

new relationship, there are still things to work out—mostly Linc’s getting used to his new surroundings and routines, and our working through the typical puppy challenges. We’re once again learning about the joys of chasing your dog through the house to retrieve the clean pair of socks that are now part of a game of “Catch me if you can!”. Linc is enjoying his new life. He loves the beach—running in the sand, hanging out in

water, and going for kayak and paddle board rides. He has recently discovered a passion for playing fetch. He’s usually right there with us sharing the couch or the bed. He loves the girls, and they love him. Even our youngest, who had been a bit scared around dogs before, has formed a bond with Linc. Doggy kisses tend to have that effect! But I wouldn’t be surprised if one day he actually *did* eat their homework.

So it is with joy that we take on the “chore” of walking the dog and all the other must-do’s that come with having a new furry friend. Welcome to the family, Linc! We’re so happy that you found PAW and we found you. I suspect that after a certain amount of time has passed, I might start getting emails from Grace when she figures it might be time for Linc to have a friend.

Fostering Rocky, now “Maximus”

By Sandi Duverneuil

Last spring, our family submitted an application to become a PAW foster family. I had volunteered in Life Phase BC (before children) through the ASPCA, so I had an idea of what to expect. Nothing prepared us, though, for the strong bond we would feel for our first PAW foster kitten, Rocky. He is a delightful brown tabby who instantly bonded with the younger of our two orange tabbies, Peter. The two of them played fast and furiously and then “crashed and burned” on the window sill, snuggling together to nap. Happily, Rocky had his foster dad’s undivided attention because my husband Pierre works from home.

Given the time of year, Rocky had numerous inquiries from potential adopters. My husband and children

attended the cat adoption show in College Park to help evaluate Rocky’s “suitors.” One family stood out above the rest: the Komarov family. Just seeing Rocky fall asleep in their arms and their gentle handling of him helped us reach a unanimous family decision. Pending a home visit, we were certain this was Rocky’s forever family!

PAW cat coordinator Lori Simmons handled the vet reference check and confirmed that Rocky’s future feline sibling Gandalf was current on his vaccinations. We arranged for a home visit.

Our family was graciously and warmly welcomed. Rocky’s new human mom loves to cook and baked a special treat for us—yummy chocolate cupcakes, as well as international treats!

Walking into Rocky’s new home, we saw that he would have ample space to play in the giant cat tree/condo with Gandalf. Rocky had no inkling that he was smaller than Gandalf and just started playing with him. He was such a fearless kitten!

My family left Rocky knowing that we had made the perfect match. This was confirmed

several times after receiving email updates and pictures of Rocky. We were amused and delighted when we learned that Rocky had been renamed Maximus, or Max, for short, as my younger son’s name is Max!

Please consider fostering a kitten or a cat. Snuggling with furry felines is an excellent stress antidote, and seeing the happiness a cat brings to his or her new family is rewarding. While we miss Max and all of the foster kitties who followed in his pawsteps, we know they are thriving in their forever families.



Rocky lounging



Rocky with foster brother Max

Happy Memory



Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

Among all the stars in the sky . . .

By Joanne Goldman

There is one very special star shining down on us. This “Star” joined our family on a warm September day in 1998. We found Star after attending many different adoption shows with several rescue groups. One day, we walked into a Bowie adoption show and immediately saw Star with her PAW volunteer Jerry. We explained to Jerry that none of us had ever had dogs, we had recently lost two cats, and we now had only one. Jerry assured us that with Star’s gentle nature, she would be a wonderful family dog and likely fine with the cat. He was absolutely right! We finalized the adoption about a week later.

Star made herself at home with me, my husband, my two sons, and our cat Skittles. It was as though she had always lived in our home. She loved every human she met, big and little. She would bring the kids to school every morning and pick them up every afternoon. Star

enjoyed long, leisurely walks in the neighborhood and family vacations at the beach. She was the perfect passenger on a car ride, long or short. Star enjoyed playing ball, chasing squirrels, and splashing in the ocean water on our trips to the beach. Over the years, she welcomed many foster cats and kittens, as well as four more PAW cats of her own. Our family was very lucky to share our lives with Star for 13 years. They were years filled with love. Sadly, on January 11, 2011 at age 14 ½, Star crossed over the Rainbow Bridge comfortably in our home with the family surrounding her. We miss her so very much.

After we adopted Star, I decided to begin volunteering for PAW. Since then, I have enjoyed all 18 years with PAW. I



Star on the beach with Bryan, 2000

thank my sweet, sweet Star for getting me involved in a truly wonderful rescue group full of devoted, loving volunteers, and extra-special dogs and cats—each one also a glittering, unique star.

Membership/Donation Form For Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc.
PO BOX 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 • www.paw-rescue.org • 301-572-4PAW



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Please make checks payable to the Partnership for Animal Welfare and mail to the address on this form.

The Partnership for Animal Welfare is an officially recognized non-profit organization which is funded through donations and adoption fees. Donations are tax-deductible (Tax ID # 52-1979581). If you would like to help, you can do so by donating money, earmarking your charitable donations to PAW, helping with some of our fundraising activities, or donating food, blankets and other supplies.

Paw Prints in the Park 2016

By Jodi Koehn-Pike

On Sunday, September 11, PAW held its annual Paw Prints in the Park. On this beautiful late-summer day, 40–50 PAW volunteers, adopters of PAW dogs and cats, and former PAW dogs gathered at Lake Needwood in Derwood, MD. The day featured a potluck and cookout, and raffles; it ended with a 2.57 mile walk around Lake Needwood.

It's always great to see former PAW dogs now living happily with their forever families. Thank you to everyone who came out for the day. We hope to see you again next year! Special thanks to Lenore Boulet for joining us and taking such great pictures. See Lenore's photos at:

<http://www.lenorebouletphoto.com/Pawprints>



Mickey, Whiskey and Jennifer, and some of the "PAW-sters" at the park

PAW alumnus Monti for President!

By Jennifer Altoff-Keepes

Have you heard about PAW alumnus Monti's campaign for President? As Chief Canine Officer of the acclaimed Jefferson Hotel in Washington DC, Monti is leaving his paw print on both political and animal rescue circles. As part of his campaign, our favorite beagle has selected cabinet members to support the issues that matter most to capital canines: rescuing animals and finding treats! On August 29, Monti held his national convention at the Jefferson, and Whiskey, another member of the PAW beagle alumni club, was there to serve as the proposed Secretary of Adoption Affairs to spread the word about PAW. Whiskey was rescued in late 2015 and has been living the high life in suburban Maryland ever since. He and VP candidate Buster of the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco, plus other future cabinet members, were thrilled to have a big night out in DC to show their support for Monti's campaign and educate the public about PAW and the important work we do! So when November 8 rolls around, remember to vote for Monti as your write-in candidate for President. It's a guaranteed "sniff in the right direction"!



Jefferson Hotel Managing Director Philip Wood, Monti, and Buster



Donations in Honor of and In Memory of . . .

In honor of people:

- In honor of Bob & Nancy Klein, by Erica Rose & David Wulff
- In honor of Jim Scott's 80th birthday, by Mike Backenheimer & Twyla Henderson
- In honor of Liani & Mark, by Theresa O'Donnal
- In honor of Liani's birthday, by Anonymous
- In honor of my grandson, Ason Hammond, by Toi Hammond
- In honor of Shelly, a stray's best friend, on her big five-0, by Philip & Carol Thomas

In memory of people:

- In memory of Barbara Bloom, by Rosanne Bloom's Pokeno Group, Gerilyn Pats, and Anonymous
- In memory of Denise Machado's beloved father, by Amy Bleich
- In memory of Suzanne Mattingly, by Diane Calabrese & Peter Tallerico, Bob & Karen Huguley, and Barbara Barton

In memory of people and pets:

- In memory of Suzanne Mattingly & her sweet pup, Brenda, by Joanne Goldman

In honor of pets:

- In honor of Dalton, by Hannah Patrick
- In honor of Ernie, our PAW dog, by Cheryl & Patricia Johnson
- In honor of Storm, by Barbara Evans

In memory of pets:

- In loving memory of our PAW dog, Cassidy, by Martha M. Sippel
- In memory of Coty, beloved dog of the Gazda family, by Paula Friedman
- In memory of Geronimo, by Kate Sheridan
- In memory of Hampton, by Suzanne & Trey Goulden
- In memory of Kramer—forever in our hearts—by Michael Backenheimer & Twyla Henderson

- In memory of Luke, AKA Man Cat, and Zoe the Toe, by Skye & Daniel Chacon
- In memory of Magic, 12-year-old Cardigan Welsh Corgi belonging to Ginny Esposito, by Philip Wood and The Jefferson Hotel
- In memory of Max, by Philip & Carol Thomas
- In memory of my granddog, Barbara Jolles, a black lab rescued by PAW many years ago, by Austin Sedicum
- In memory of Pete, the dog, by Mary Carlson
- In memory of wonderful Sammy and precious Marco, Liani & Ron's babies, by Paula Cabrera
- In memory of my beloved dogs and grand dogs Daphne, Brigitte, Otto, Alex, Charlie, Krysti, & Bear, and kitty, Sunshine, by Rosalind Elahi

Calling all PAW Federal employees!

By Twyla Backenheimer



PAW has participated in the Combined Federal Campaign for many years.

It is a major source of funding for our animals. Federal agencies sponsor CFC and encourage their employees to support local non-profits in their communities. Events are held at various government buildings throughout the National Capital area. These events give PAW volunteers a chance to meet with employees and tell "our story" and allows employees to choose whom they would like to support. Payroll campaigns are run by CFC and United Way and are by invitation only. For many years, there were only several hundred non-profits registered. There are now over 4,000, so competition for a coveted spot is fierce! That is why we ask for our volunteers'

support to secure invitations for PAW to their workplace event. Volunteers have come to our aid the past couple of years, and it has doubled the number of events we attend. Thank you volunteers! CFC accounts for 35–40% of our budget and provides much-needed funds for medical care, including medicines, vaccines, surgeries, boarding, food, and spay and neuter services for our animals. If you are a Federal employee, please consider asking your coordinator for an invitation. It can make a huge difference for our animals!

Give to PAW through the United Way/CFC campaigns. Our CFC number is 65456, and our United Way number is 8156.



Partnership for Animal Welfare
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- PAW's ADOPTION SHOW HELPERS, DRIVERS, and FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS for donating their weekend hours to help keep our group going from week to week. Meows!
- PAW's KENNEL BUDDIES, who exercise and socialize our kennel dogs throughout the week and the TRANSPORTERS who take them to and from the vets. The dogs are so grateful. Four paws up!
- PAW's FOSTER and ADOPTIVE FAMILIES. We couldn't save lives without you. Slobbers and slurps!
- Woofs to Your Dog's Friend (www.yourdogsfriend.info/) for free workshops, training referrals, and more.
- Dale Martins of Dale's Pet Grooming in Laurel for free grooming for PAW dogs and cats.
- AMY L. PIKE, DVM/DACVB of Veterinary Behavior Medicine of Northern Virginia for her wise counsel and excellent recommendations for PAW dogs Dash and Winston.
- VETERINARIANS AND STAFF at Beltsville Veterinary Hospital, Beltway Referral Associates, Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates, College Park Animal Hospital, Kenhaven Animal Hospital, Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic, Chesapeake Veterinary Surgical Specialists, Spay Now Animal Surgery Clinic, The Spay Spot, Patuxent Valley Animal Hospital, D.C. Vets Inc./Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates; Veterinary Orthopedic and Sports Medicine (VOSM) of Annapolis Junction MD; and VCA Veterinary Referral Associates for providing reduced-cost vet care to PAW's homeless dogs and cats. Woofs and wags!
- Special thanks to Dr Luis Braz-Ruivo at Dogs and Cats Veterinary Referral, Bowie, MD, for discounted cardiac care for PAW dog, Megan.
- Jennifer Owens for her generosity in training PAW dogs Buddy and Leila.
- Fred Wolpert, Quan Harper, and Nikki Ice at PRESTON COUNTRY CLUB FOR PETS in Columbia, and Hillary Stains, Laura Mathieson, Kate, Racheal, and staff at SNIFFERS DOGGIE DEPOT in Rockville for boarding some of our homeless pets at discounted rates.
- District Lithograph of Rockville, for printing this newsletter at reduced cost. Bow wows!
- LAST BUT NEVER LEAST, Maryland-area PETSMART and PETCO, and MIGHTY HEALTHY PET stores for hosting our weekly dog and cat adoption shows. Paw shakes and purrs to all.

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