



CHECK IT OUT!

Give the Gift of Life This Christmas!

Make a gift donation in a loved one's name to SCMR this Christmas! What greater gift can you give than helping to save a life? All gift donations will receive a gift card to give. And all donations are **tax deductible**.

SCMR Doggie Lavender or Peppermint/Tea Tree Spa Pack

Total weight:
24 ozs.
Cost: \$49.00
+ S/H



The Doggie Spa Pack includes the Every Dog has his Day Spa® Shampoo, Between Baths Spritz, and shea butter Paw Rub, along with dog bathing accessories (a bathing sponge and rubber duck!). Available in the Original Lavender scent or Peppermint/Tea Tree. The Pack is shrink-wrapped and makes a unique dog gift.

See all our spa products! Go to our web site: www.scmradoption.com, click on **Visit the SCMR Store** and then click on **Dog Spa Page**. Enjoy!



A rescue story!

Saving Possum by Cynthia Brundage

Some aspects of rescue are just not pretty. We often try to spare the public the gory details and just refer to the dog in question as the victim of a puppy mill. But there are situations of private abuse that can still shock even the most experienced rescuer.

Meet Possum. Today he is a prince living the Life of Riley. Not so long ago, he was a helpless victim of the unnatural urges of a truly depraved individual. A man had been turned in to the authorities (by his brother!) because of sexually abusing his dogs. Sorry, there is just no other way to state the facts. Possum was part of the flotsam and jetsam in this case. Since it was determined that Possum is Maltese, SCMR was called to help.

Gaylon Sperle, one of SCMR's helper angels in Atlanta, jumped right in and took possession of this frail little fellow. Poor Possum...he had so little going for him! He was emaciated, had no lower jaw (rotted away from dental disease), blind in one eye, cataract in the other eye, scabies and unknown at the time, an enlarged heart. But he had survived! He looked like a little Possum so what else could we call him?!

(continued on page 3)

Bark Busters Offers Tips to Make This Holiday Season Merry

November 19, 2008-In the spirit of the coming season, Bark Busters, the world's largest dog training company, offers helpful holiday tips for the estimated 44.8 million U.S. dog owners on how to keep their dogs safe and happy during the holidays.

"In planning for this season's holiday festivities, it is important to keep your pets in mind. While most of us welcome the sights, sounds and smells of the season, holidays can also be chaotic - especially for dogs," said Liam Crowe, President and CEO, Bark Busters USA. "Holiday festivities can disrupt a dog's routine and present potentially dangerous circumstances. But by following a few common-sense tips, the holidays can be cheery for everyone-including the family dog."

- **Tinsel can be deadly** when eaten. It can twist in your dog's intestines and cause serious problems, so do not put it on your tree.
- **Don't let your dog drink the Christmas tree water.** It often contains chemicals to help the tree last longer; these chemicals can cause severe indigestion in dogs.
- **Pine needles** can cause health problems. If ingested, they can puncture holes in your dog's intestines. Regularly sweep up fallen pine needles to avoid a trip to the emergency animal clinic.
- **Be aware** of these poisonous holiday plants and keep your pets away from them.
- **Many snow globes** contain antifreeze, which is extremely toxic to dogs-so it's best to



- keep snow globes and all antifreeze out of the reach of a happy, tail-wagging dog. If there is an antifreeze spill of any kind, send your dog out of the room while you clean up the liquid. Dilute the spot with water and floor cleaner to make sure your dog does not lick these harmful chemicals later.
- **Life-threatening illnesses in dogs.** Keep all sweets away from your dog and in a place where they cannot be reached.
- **Cooked turkey and chicken bones** are not for dogs as they can easily break, causing choking or bone shards to get stuck in your dog's gums. Stick with "dog bones" specifically designed for dogs to chew. Ask your local veterinarian for suggestions.
- **Most dogs are excitable when guests arrive.** Exercise your dog prior to the arrival of guests. After 30 minutes of

walking or playing, most dogs will be more relaxed or ready to take a nap. As a general rule, it's best not to allow the family dog to greet unfamiliar guests because commotion and unusual circumstances can cause stress for dogs. Give your dog a break in a quiet room with a familiar doggie bed or blanket or in his "den." Allow your canine companion to join the festivities after the initial commotion of arrival has subsided.

- **When pets are stressed** by unfamiliar circumstances, they typically pant more, so keep fresh water readily available for them to drink.
- **While it might be convenient** to put your dogs outside when guests arrive for holiday festivities, dropping temperatures and snow can be dangerous to pets. In addition, never let your pet roam freely, as icy roads can make it hard for cars to stop if your dog wanders into the street.
- **A cute and cuddly puppy** might seem like the perfect gift choice, but many of these holiday presents end up at animal shelters. A dog takes a real commitment of time, and adoptive owners must be ready to participate in training and managing the responsibility of their new family member. If you know someone who's serious about wanting a dog, consider giving a leash, collar or dog training certificate from Bark Busters, along with a note saying a dog of the recipient's choice comes with it. This will help ensure the lucky person receives the dog he or she

wants to have as part of the family.

- Help your dogs stay occupied and out of the holiday decorations by giving them their own gifts. The Buster Cube™ or a Kong™, for instance, both are nearly indestructible toys that will distract your dog for long periods of time.

"Following these simple tips will help make the festivities safe and happy for you and your canine companions." 🐾



Chloe Is a Little Lamb Chop!

by Helen Thomas

Her curly and straight hair is so cute on her! Once an overweight little lady, she is now a healthy 10 pounds. No more huffing and puffing after her walks. Chloe is as fearless as a lion or as gentle as a lamb. She loves to say hello to my husband and son when they return from work in the evening. First she barks, then she wags her tail, and as the door opens, there are lots of kisses being exchanged.

Since fostering Casey, Chloe has been helping me train him to do his business outside. Chloe constantly watches and listens to how I communicate with Casey. She has come to trust me and expects that I put her first with the daily routines. She actually watches me out of the corner of her eye to make sure I'm not giving Casey more sugar than she!

Chloe is perfect for me! As I am writing this article she is on the bed next to me snoring. 🐾

Saving Possum (continued from page 1)

Life suddenly changed for Possum! He received all needed veterinary care, was cleaned up for probably the first time in his life and introduced to cuddling and gentle handling. He was also introduced to good food, and it took no time at all for him to catch on to chow time! All those knobby little vertebrae are hidden now under a snowy coat of new hair on a filled out frame.



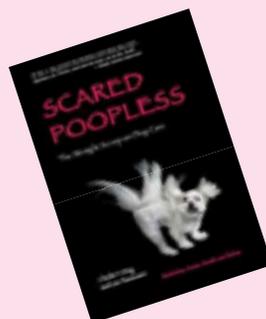
Possum has just finished a bowl of food on his first night of freedom.

At first Possum didn't know what a caress was. I would hold him and kiss his head and rub his ears while he held very still wondering what was happening! I won't ever forget the first day that I held him and kissed him, and he lifted his little head and kissed me back!

After that, there was no stopping him! He soon got up the courage to scratch at my knees and demand some loving! Possum also discovered what fun tummy rubs are! And he will roll around on the sofa with his mouth open in a silent laugh! He made special cuddle friends with Bubble, my Maltese, who is about the same size.

The amazing thing about Possum is not so much his astonishing recovery from his former life, but his ability to simply leave it behind! From the day he gave his first kiss, Possum has lived totally in the present moment, happy and contented. He is a daily inspiration in the art of living well. Last week he suddenly got sick and nearly slipped away! But dedicated vets and the prayers of all who love him pulled him through. Possum may never get adopted. But SCMR is committed to caring for him. We can't do so without the generosity of our supporters. Please send your tax deductible donations now, and let Possum know you think he's worth it as much as I do! 🐾

Great Christmas Gift for the Dog Lover on Your Christmas List



"Scared Poopless: The Straight Scoop on Dog Care"

Learn the truth about pet food, vaccinations, parasite control and more! Buy your copy now in our store at www.scmradoption.com.



Harley and Heidi Find Loving Homes *by Cindy Lawson*



Harley



Heidi

Harley and Heidi came into rescue from a puppy mill in Minnesota. I remember the evening I got them off the transport. They were both very matted and smelled awful. I took them home and shaved them down and bathed them. It would take multiple baths to get rid of that puppy mill smell.

Harley was a friendly little guy. When I let him out in the backyard he ran around jumping over his foster brothers and sisters and having a great time. You could see the joy in his eyes to finally be experiencing freedom! Harley was a joy to foster. He was so happy and loving and playful. I loved it when I would call him, and he would come running and jump into my arms.

Harley was adopted by a very nice lady, and he has a sister he can play with. I am so happy he has his forever home and is being loved and spoiled.

Heidi was a scared little girl. It would be awhile before she would be able to trust humans. She did learn to play with toys and her foster brothers and sisters. She slowly was learning to trust. Heidi was adopted by a very nice couple that was willing to take the time and have patience with her. Heidi is now being pampered and treated like a princess along with her sister. 🐾

Quick Links...

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