



# Echo Dogs White Shepherd Rescue Newsletter

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Echo Dogs White  
Shepherd Rescue  
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## Note:

Stay tuned to our Facebook Group and Page for information about upcoming events.

**Fund Raising** is ongoing. You can find information about some of our fund raising opportunities by clicking on "Fundraising" on the front page of the Echo Dogs website.

**Also on the front page of the website:**

**In Loving Memory** is a place to donate in memory of a loved one.

**In Honor** is a place to donate in honor of someone.

## Foster? Why? Why Not?

By now, most of you who read this newsletter or keep up with Echo Dogs rescue on Facebook know that every dog Echo Dogs saved needs a foster. When we pull a dog from a shelter we need for it to go into a foster home for at least a couple of weeks. We need to get it medically ready for adoption and learn something about the dog's behavior so the right forever home can be found.

So, it comes down to we can only save as many dogs as we have fosters.

Can you foster?

People give reasons why they cannot foster. The one we've heard most often is, "I would get attached and I wouldn't want to give them up."

How can it be more difficult to give up this dog then to let it be killed? You are the surgeon who has saved the patient. You are the one who stopped the needle from going into the vein or heart. You are the one who actually prevented a living being from dying. That's having power over death! The thought lives inside of you forever: "That dog would be dead except for me."

Another reason we hear is "I can't afford another dog." Echo Dogs pays for the veterinary fees and, if you want, also for the food.

Some people are afraid they will get a dog who is mean, who will be aggressive to the family or the resident dog. Echo Dogs asks shelters and owners about the dog's temperament. Most shelters employ a temperament tester who will use various means to determine the aggressiveness of a dog.

Another reason some folks are afraid of fostering is that they think they don't "know enough" about dog care and problems may arise that they can't handle. The Echo Dogs foster coordinator, as well as other Echo

Dogs officers, are available for help. The Echo Dogs Facebook page is another source for fosters.

Will I get "stuck" with a dog? There are rescues who will ask you to foster a pet and then you never hear from them again. But reputable rescues like Echo Dogs will never do that. Their reputation demands that they do what they say they will do.

Why does anyone foster? Imagine the thrill of seeing a dog go from the picture on the left to the one below. This is Bridget, who was so frightened she shook uncontrollably when she was first pulled. She is now living the good life in Michigan.



Look at the picture below of Powder when she was rescued. Her life was saved by her foster! **Few thrills outshine the feeling that you saved a life. Few thrills last that long. Few things that you do in life will make you feel that good.**



## Heartworm...the Facts

Here are the facts about heartworm:

- Heartworm has been reported in all 50 states.
- It is carried by a mosquito (the intermediate host).
- It is not contagious from dog to dog, but if one dog in the area is heartworm positive, the mosquitoes in that area probably carry the larva.
- Most veterinarians are now suggesting that dogs be kept on heartworm preventative all year 'round.
- A dog should be tested for heartworm at least once a year and when starting heartworm preventative for the first time.
- While the parasite is easily prevented, untreated heartworm is fatal.

If you've ever seen a dog being treated for heartworm, you'll know how important prevention is. The treatment is expensive and very hard on the dog. Dogs can die from the treatment. The injections consist of enough arsenic to kill the adult heartworms but not enough to kill the dog.

Before heartworm treatment is started the dog must be "staged" by the veterinarian to determine the extent of the disease. After the injections the dog must be kept very quiet for a number of weeks to prevent the dead worms from clogging the veins

There is a "slow kill" method that can sometimes be used, but it also requires that the dog be kept quiet, in this case for as long as a year, until the worms are expelled.

### Prevention is the answer...

While there are several FDA-approved products to prevent heartworm, your vet probably has a favorite. There is a six-month injection that must be given by a veterinarian. Other products are given once a month, either tablets to be chewed or swallowed or a topical liquid applied to the skin.

Whatever product your vet suggests, keep your dog on heartworm preventative.



### Other facts about heartworm...

Cats can get heartworm, but the disease is a little different in cats and only supportive treatment is available.

If a human is bitten by a heartworm-carrying mosquito, larva can be transmitted, but, because the human is not a natural host, the larva will die.

When a dog is "staged" before treatment, it is classified as being in one of four classes:

Class 1: No or mild symptoms, such as a slight cough.

Class 2: Mild to moderate symptoms, cough, lethargy.

Class 3: Loss of condition, persistent cough, lethargy.

Class 4: Severe lethargy: Surgery is the only treatment.

For more information: [www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org)



## Poison...What to Do?

You learn that your dog has ingested something dangerous. It may be food a dog shouldn't have, a toxic chemical like anti-freeze, somebody's blood pressure medications, or something physical like a ball or your sock. What should you do?

Of course, if your veterinarian is available, make the call! There are many good reasons for medical intervention because physical items may require surgical intervention and some chemicals should not be regurgitated.

No vet knows what to do for every single kind of toxic chemical or medication. She may tell you to call poison control, where they do know. If you call one of the poison control numbers, have your credit card handy (there is a charge) and be sure you get the case number. Your vet will want to call the same number and get exact instructions.



**ASPCA Animal Poison Control (\$65) 888-426-4435**

**Pet Poison Help Line (\$39) 800-213-6680**

That being said, there are a few things that your vet will probably want you to flush immediately, like anti-freeze or medications.

If the dog has eaten medication, try to count the pills or capsules in the vomitus so you can tell the vet about how many went in and how many came up.

You want to be very careful about inducing vomiting so the pet doesn't aspirate anything into his lungs. Never induce vomiting in a dog who is not wide awake and aware.

Have an UNOPENED bottle of hydrogen peroxide solution and a syringe always ready in case your vet wants you to induce vomiting. The dose is one tablespoon per five pounds of body weight with an absolute maximum dose of three tablespoons even for your 80-pound GSD "puppy" who thinks those pretty purple pills look tasty.

## From the President

By Terry Demag

Happy New Year ! At the beginning of each year, I like to share our adoption statistics from the previous year.

Echo Dogs had another busy and successful year, with 122 dogs finding forever homes (66 females and 56 males).

Our dogs were adopted in 21 different states, the top 5 being Illinois (28), New Hampshire (14), Indiana and Pennsylvania with 10 each and Connecticut (9).

Most of our dogs come from shelters (83) and we placed 14 from owner surrenders. Eight pups (Liberty's) were born in foster care. Our adopted dogs were mostly from the south and mid-west. We pulled 31 dogs from North Carolina, 14 from Georgia, 9 each from Florida and Tennessee and 8 each from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. We took in dogs from 21 different states altogether.

**Foster Home of the Year** went to Laura Cox, who fostered 24 puppies and eight adults. Fifteen other people fostered more than one dog last year. Sixteen families fostered one dog in 2013 and nine dogs were "foster to adopt" placements.

**Transports were amazing this year.** Eighty dogs traveled a total distance of 48,945 miles – and this was just our monitored volunteer transports – this doesn't count the thousands of miles Laura covered picking up and delivering dogs all over the country.

Thank you to everyone who helped with all the work it takes to pull, transport, care for, finance and place our beloved family members! It takes a village – and we have a strong one.



## Ask Your Vet

### New Drug for Allergies (Atopic Dermatitis)

A new allergy drug has been approved by the FDA for use in dogs. The drug is Apoquel (oclacitinib). Apoquel is an immune system modulator that targets (i.e., inhibits) the production of chemicals that cause inflammation and pruritus (itching). While Apoquel does suppress the immune system (as do other drugs used to treat allergic skin disease), it does so in a very targeted or limited fashion. Reported side effects during the research and clinical trial

phases have been few and generally insignificant.

As with any drug used to treat Atopic dermatitis, Apoquel does not cure the disease, it controls the itching and inflammation. It has been shown to help approximately 70% of patients suffering from various forms of allergic dermatitis. Apoquel is a tablet that is administered initially two times per day and then is decreased to one time per day administration. *Used by permission of Circle City Vets.*

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*Please have "Echo Dogs" in your subject line.*



## Super Seniors!

Once in a while Echo Dogs pulls a “senior” dog (seven years and up) from a shelter. Often these dogs are simply discarded as “too old.” Some have lived with the same family all their lives and don’t understand what has happened. Others may have been used for breeding. Some have easily corrected medical issues. Some have lost their homes due to the sickness or death of their owners.

Occasionally a dog who has been living outdoors all its life will be pulled by Echo Dogs to live its last days knowing a warm place, a soft bed, and a loving hand. This was the story of Bumble, who was rescued from a hoarding situation and lived ten months, loved by his foster –turned-adopter mom and his many Echo Dogs supporters on Facebook.

Macy was ten years old when she was dumped at the Indianapolis shelter. The volunteer who picked her up that day said she smelled so bad they had to drive with all the car windows open.

She was one of those dogs who had spent her life outdoors and then been dumped for no apparent reason.



Her terrible smell was the result of both poor hygiene and very bad teeth. Seven were rotted and had to be pulled. After a visit to the vet and a couple of baths, Macy started smelling as sweet as her new life.

That’s Macy in the picture above. One ear is bent over from trauma or former ear infections. All that is behind her now as she soaks up the years of love and good times she now enjoys in Wisconsin.

Deeohgee’s owner had passed away. His owner’s niece took him in, but couldn’t keep him. He became an Echo Dogs dog and after some expensive medical treatment he, too, is living the good life in Wisconsin.

That’s Deeohgee’s big smile on the right. Before he was adopted he charmed the attendees at the Indianapolis Pet Expo and was a wonderful ambassador for Echo Dogs. Deeohgee’s mom has another senior, too, named Katrina.

Katrina and Deeohgee are friends who play and enjoy finally living the kind of lives they deserve.



Deeohgee’s and Macy’s moms helped write this article be-

cause they love their seniors and want others to know the pleasures of adopting a senior dog.

Deeohgee’s mom said, “It’s almost like they realize that after all the years, and through all their experiences, they are finally home.”



## Why Adopt a Senior?

Why would a senior dog be a good choice for you??

- The dog’s personality is well known.
- They bond very strongly.
- They aren’t teething, so chewing inappropriate items is much less likely.
- They are usually already house trained, but if they aren’t, the training is a lot faster and a lot easier.
- They are fast learners. Older dogs DO learn new tricks, and usually faster than pups, too.
- The adoption fee is lower.

- Their energy levels are somewhat lower, although most still love to play with their toys and run around in the yard.
- You could have four, five, or more years of companionship with your senior

Mary Gleason, Echo Dogs secretary and Macy’s mom, adds, “When we adopted our first senior, Shea, we adored her so much, we decided that seniors was the way to go! I was afraid that maybe after she died we might change our minds about that, that having them for fewer years might be too heartbreaking. Fortunately, that did not change our opinion. The truth is, we have NEVER had a dog live ‘long enough’ to suit us, no matter how young they were when we got them. And we never will.”

## Transport Volunteers Needed

It seems Echo Dogs has a transport every weekend during the year. That may be an exaggeration, but not by much. Many of the dogs pulled by our organization require transporting to fosters, and then transporting to their adopted homes.

Echo Dogs has two transport coordinators, Amy Lusty and Alice Donovan Magby. Early in the week they send out requests for transporters for the weekend.

Each transporter agrees to drive a "leg" of a transport. The "leg" can be anywhere from 50 to 80 miles long. Each transporter connects with the one before and after, setting meeting points.

The transporter coordinator assigns times and is available during the transport to help if the transport is running fast or slow. Each person calls the transporter to let her know when a dog is dropped off or picked up.

It's amazing how well these transports work. Dog after dog gets where they need to be, time after time. Mostly, the dogs start out a little frightened, but warm up after loving driver after loving driver picks them up, offers a drink of water, gives them a loving pet and maybe a scratch or two, offers a short walk, then starts them down the road to the next leg.

Facebook comments from the drivers show how much fun they have and how much they enjoy meeting the dogs. From the time of the transport, the drivers will remember that dog and as they see pictures on Facebook they'll be able to say, "I helped that dog out of the shelter," or "I helped that dog to its new forever home."

To become a transport volunteer, just send your email address to Echo Dogs President Terry (terrydemag@comast.net). She will send it to the transport coordinators. Then, when a transport is going to happen near where you live, you'll receive an email asking for volunteers. You will be asked to give your cell phone number, a description of your vehicle, and indicate what leg you can drive.

Transport volunteers are an important part of the whole rescue program. If you can't foster, perhaps you can offer help as a volunteer driver.

Monitored transports drove 48,945 miles in 2013. This is an amazing number, but if we are to grow and rescue more dogs, we'll need more volunteer transporters.

Here's an example of a piece of a transport plan:

<b>7</b>	<b>Dickson TN to Franklin KY (Nashville Area)</b> 80 miles, 1 hr 20 min Leave 4:15 pm (CDT) Arrive 5:35 pm (CDT)	<b>Needed</b>
	Meeting Spot Franklin	
<b>8</b>	<b>Franklin KY to Munfordville KY</b> 62 miles, 1 hour Leave 5:50 pm (CDT) Arrive 6:50 pm (CDT)	<b>Needed</b>

Can you help? Let us know! We need you!

## Pet Insurance?

*Editorial by Joyce King (This is just my opinion)*

Whenever I have seen an ad for pet insurance, I've wondered if it's a good thing to have. We have four dogs, and while two are older and wouldn't qualify for reasonable rates, and one has a grade 3 heart murmur that would be considered a pre-existing condition, at least Jasper is young and healthy. So I did some research.

A number of pet insurance companies advertise on the pet Facebook pages and on the pet finder pages.

Consumer Reports researched pet insurance with the main four companies: VPI, Trupanion, ASPCA, and 24PetWatch. Using a healthy 10-year-old beagle as a potential patient, they found that none of the companies would have paid out as much as would have been paid in premiums. Those expenses included wellness checks,

routine vaccinations, a few trips to a veterinary emergency room, dentals, ear and eye infections, and gastrointestinal distress.

A few of the plans paid out more than would have been paid in premiums in the case of serious medical problems such as cancer treatment.

Consumer Reports summarizes their research with the suggestion that you'd be better off putting aside the amount that a premium would cost and saving it for vet bills, but if you don't have the discipline to do that, pet insurance could save you money, but only in the case of severe problems.

Jasper was due for his yearly wellness check, so I asked the people in the vet's office for their opinion. The woman at the desk told me that their clients that have had pet insurance have stopped it, saying the insurers refused to pay on most claims, citing "pre-existing conditions."

## In Loving Memory

### *The Fragile Circle*

*"We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own, live within a fragile circle, easily and often breached.*

*Unable to accept its awful gaps, we still would live no other way.*

*We cherish memory as the only certain immortality, never fully understanding the necessary plan."*

*...Irving Townsend*

Bumble—Mindy Shepler

Bella—Joan and Alan Alexander

Maize Dae—Ruby and Frank Mara)

Spencer —Jeannie and Peter Hebert

Heidi—Christie and Brian Kegg

Chazz—Theresa and Daniel Berner

Bailey—Brian and Kerry Mueller

Kane—Ian and Becki Duquette

Buddy—Glen Soldan

