

The Blue Ridge Runner



Blue Ridge Greyhound Adoption

January 2010

Dogs Adopted Last Month

Atascocita Hobo (Shane) was adopted by Peter and Thea Patrick. He is a 3 ½ year old red male.

Coming Events

Saturday, February 6th – Meet and Greet, PetSmart, Manassas, 11:00 to 2:00

Saturday, February 6th – Meet and Greet, Dog Krazy Pet Store, Fredericksburg, 11:00 to 1:00

Saturday, February 6th – Meet and Greet, PetSmart, Leesburg, 12:00 to 3:00

Advance Notice of Special Events

As soon as the weather warms up – BRGA will be offering a Dog Therapy Certification training course. We will also arrange for the certification testing.

April 23rd to 25th – Greyhounds in Gettysburg. A popular event attended by a host of vendors and a greyt place to make new greyhound friends.

May 18th – Northern Virginia Grapehound Tour, being organized along the lines of the New York Fingerlakes Grapehounds Tour, is scheduled for the weekend of May 18th. It will include several of our local wineries and should be a greyt fund raiser for all of the local adoption groups.

** Please click the Events link on our website for more details about these events. Volunteers are always needed. Sometimes volunteering only means showing up and chatting with people – what could be easier? **

Book Review by Sharon Conger

[For the Love of a Dog By Patricia McConnell](#)

Patricia McConnell has a PHD in Zoology, is a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist and has written many books on dog behavior. McConnell has a conversational writing style that allows her deep love of animals to shine through while still communicating a large amount of information. She intersperses anecdotes to illustrate each chapter topic.

For the Love of a Dog compares and contrasts how humans and dogs express emotion, and also touches on the ages-old philosophical question of whether dogs even feel emotions. In order to scientifically prove her point that they do feel emotions McConnell starts each chapter with a neurological analysis of one specific emotion. She also compares facial expressions between humans and dogs.

Once you've read this book, you'll start watching your dog's face more closely.

Most often people get into trouble with their dogs because they miss very subtle body language clues that their dog is irritated. Many clients who bring their dogs in for help tell McConnell that their dog snapped "without warning". McConnell teaches us to watch for muscle tension or freezing, one of the most often overlooked warnings that a dog is displeased.

She explains how fears turn into phobias, the importance of eye contact (or lack of), how your dog is constantly reading your body language, and how to recognize each emotion that your dog may express. There are also high quality black and white photographs comparing facial expressions of people and dogs in the middle of the book that are extremely helpful in proving her points.

McConnell doesn't talk a lot about training, but she does explain how certain basic skills can teach emotional control, trust, and how to learn. For example, she advocates teaching your dog to sit and wait at the door (or for meals or anything that makes your dog excited). This is not to assert dominance over your dog, but it does teach your dog patience and how to tolerate low levels of frustration.

For the Love of a Dog is a book that's going to stay on my bookshelf and referred to often!

Passive Income for BRGA

Looking for an easy way to help BRGA? Consider shopping at [Amazon](#)! Just follow the [Amazon](#) link on our website (www.brga.org) and make your purchases like normal. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to BRGA. It's a free way to help BRGA - and won't cost anybody anything.

You can also turn on the BRGA tag by visiting the following Amazon url: <http://www.amazon.com/?tag=brga-20>.

Noteworthy Information

We now have a volunteer crew working on making coats for BRGA member dogs. Details are coming soon and will also be included on our website. Contact Lorena at lhauffe@nielor.com or Wendy Ott at dogtaxi@yahoo.com if you would like a coat.

Do you have any article ideas for The Blue Ridge Runner? Please email info@brga.org.