



Summer 2008

# ...to the Rescue

ABRN News

Rehoming Some Of Colorado's Most Eligible Dogs

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## Rescue Spotlight: Westie Rescue Network

by Erin Bradford

Founded by Martha Smith, Carolyn Foley, and Joe Downey in 1991, Westie Rescue Network, Inc. is now an organization that is efficiently run by a dynamic duo, Paul and Laurie Peterson. If you look at All Breed Rescue Network's roster of rescue people, it is evident that the women far outnumber the men. In some cases, the spouse of a dedicated rescue woman is long suffering, as in, "If you bring home one more dog, I'm leaving you!" In other cases, we women generally do what we do with the resigned acceptance of our husbands or life partners. It is the exception rather than the rule for a husband to work as hard or be as dedicated and enthusiastic about rescue as his wife. That's why I found it extremely refreshing to interview Paul Peterson for this article.

In 1997 Paul and Laurie Peterson adopted

a Westie, "McCloud", from Martha, the organization's director. Impressed with the couple, Martha asked if they would be willing to handle some of the rescue operations around Colorado Springs; they were glad to volunteer. As the years have passed, Laurie and Paul have steadily taken on more and more of the Westie Rescue operation.



Sara

According to Paul, Laurie does the lion's share of the rescue work: "I help out with emails, the website, fostering and transporting. Laurie handles talking to the people, vets, volunteers, coordinating transportation, adoptions, surrenders, coordinating events, and making placement decisions. She

amazes me."

Paul said, "We are most knowledgeable about the Westie breed. That gives us an edge on assessing the temperament and needs of a Westie, which gives the dogs an edge on landing in a home best suited to them. Terriers are independent and intelligent and . . . fetch the rest on page 6

ABRN Hotline: 303-989-7808



Freckles

# Profile: Table Mountain Animal Center

Every day Table Mountain Animal Center (TMAC) bustles with activity. Citizens come in to relinquish family pets they can no longer care for, sometimes shedding copious tears. Other pet owners are there to retrieve pets that were found running at large, grateful to get them back safe and sound. Often, tears of joy are shed. People come in looking for a new pet, and often, they find the right one. When that happens, everyone is happy. Animal control officers, volunteers, and staff members are in and out. It's a very busy place where untold stories abound.

Located at 4105 Youngfield Service Road in Golden, Colorado, TMAC has served the cities, towns, and unincorporated areas of Jefferson County, as well as the City of Sheridan, for over 30 years. They are an "open admission" animal shelter; they are required to take in any animal that is brought in, regardless of their age, health, breed, or temperament. Their stated mission is "to provide the best CARE possible for every animal that enters our doors". That translates to being a Community resource dedicated to strengthening the bond between pets and people by Adopting homeless pets into loving homes, Reuniting lost pets with their families, and Educating our community on issues related to responsible pet ownership, animal welfare and humane education.

Partially funded through yearly assessment contributions from the government members they serve, their members pay about 33% of their annual operating costs. The balance of the revenue for operation of the center

is supported by fees they charge for their services and donations from the community. The Animal Assistance Foundation recently awarded them \$40,000 to conduct spay/neuter procedures on the Surgical Utility Vehicle. In addition to spaying and neutering shelter animals prior to adoption, they provide low-cost spay/neuter procedures to the public. They have a full-time veterinarian and a managing surgical tech.



Low Cost Vaccination Clinic at TMAC

With a staff size of 22, TMAC relies heavily on volunteers. Some of the volunteer opportunities include helping socialize, exercise and market the dogs; assisting the TMAC Foundation Board with fund-raising projects and events; assisting the busy front office area to welcome customers and guide them to the appropriate place in the shelter as a Lobby Ambassador; serving as a PetsMart/Petco adoption representative to increase adoptions and visibility to the public; providing foster homes; helping with events and auctions; phones and clerical work; public speaking, building maintenance, or gardening and landscaping.

Perhaps you would be interested in

helping with the Psychology Health and Training (PHAT) program. At many open admission animal shelters, animals with behavioral problems or other issues would be euthanized. TMAC's PHAT program works with animals that would otherwise be deemed unadoptable so they may be adopted and have a second chance at life. TMAC's Executive Director Nick Fisher says that when breed-specific breed bans were passed in Denver and Aurora, "we were overrun with Pitbulls, Pitbull mixes,

and a variety of other banned breeds." They were one of the few shelters that gave these dogs a second chance. A tragic number of these dogs were euthanized in Denver shelters because of their breed. Many were young, healthy family pets with wonderful dispositions, and many distraught families brought their dogs to TMAC. Nick says, "it's the behavior, character and temperament of a dog that predicts whether or not he will be the perfect addition to your family, regardless of whether he is a Poodle, a

Chihuahua, or a Pitbull. I am so proud we embrace the philosophy and am also grateful that our animal control officers, city and county governments and the citizens in Jefferson County also see the wisdom of our philosophy."

ABRN has two volunteers who serve as shelter liaisons to TMAC, Janet Nelson and Lois Williams. They help facilitate the transfer of dogs from the shelter to the appropriate rescue groups when the dogs aren't readily adopted in-house.

The day-to-day operations are run by Angela Davis, Center Manager, along with a capable management team that includes Heather Dulcy, Customer Care Manager/Foster Coordinator; Stephanie Arms, Animal Care Manager; Jennifer

. . . fetch the rest on page 3  
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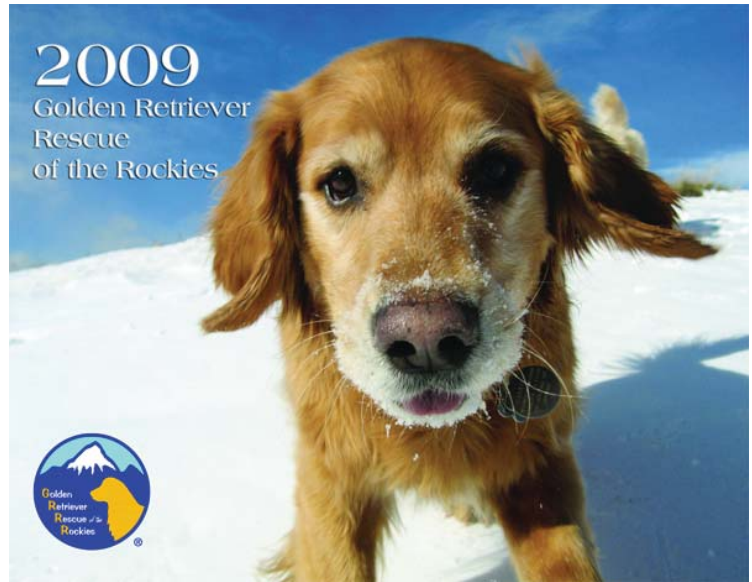
# Calendar Fundraiser

by Debbie Davis

Dog rescue can often be a costly endeavor. We can spend thousands of dollars on veterinary care and surgery for the dogs that come to us, but we cannot ask the dogs' adopters to give us thousands of dollars for an adoption fee. That frequently puts us upside-down financially. Unless you have many generous benefactors and/or an abundance of grant money, fundraisers are a must. If you're looking for a fundraising idea, you might think about publishing a wall calendar. Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies is selling its fourth annual calendar this year. We have a photo contest and charge \$5 per entry, and have been getting about 500 entries for a \$2,500 profit. The first

year we sold 600 calendars, the second year 1,000 and last year and this year about 1,500. If you sell 1,000 calendars, you can make about \$6,000 - \$9,000 profit (selling for \$12-\$15). We have the photo contest deadline in May, and then start selling them in July parties and events, on-line, and at about 25 stores throughout Colorado and New Mexico. If

you need any more information on a calendar fundraiser, call Debbie Davis at 720-254-3124, or e-mail [debbie@designdogstudio.com](mailto:debbie@designdogstudio.com).



## ... You Found It! TMAC

certified euthanasia technicians.

The euthanasia decision must be approved by two managers before it is final. In the past some rescue groups' perception was that TMAC euthanized dogs that they would have been willing to take. Angie says that, "For the past three years TMAC has embraced the opportunity to work with rescue groups to help increase the number of dogs we save." When TMAC was hit with a serious canine influenza epidemic, they turned to ABRN, who came through and took a lot of dogs out of the shelter and into their programs. Angie has tremendous respect for ABRN and says they are "living angels that are on earth providing another option for these deserving dogs. I've been in animal welfare for over

20 years, and 20 years ago there were far fewer options and rescue groups for these dogs. Now there are many more groups and opportunities for us to work together. It's been a great relationship. The Metro Denver Shelter Alliance has helped to improve communication amongst us. I probably have hundreds of success stories about working with ABRN rescue groups. We're all going for the same goal."

To contact TMAC, call 303.278.7575 or visit their website, [www.tmac4pets.org](http://www.tmac4pets.org).



Poodle

Strickland, Volunteer Coordinator; and Ben Drotar, Developing Marketing Director.

TMAC does euthanize animals when necessary, often for behavioral, medical, or space considerations. Angie says that, "The shelter wasn't built to accommodate the large number of animals we take in." This difficult task is performed by



Molly

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## Giving Blood is Giving Back

by Cosmo Horner (Lu Horner, typist and personal assistant)

I've often heard people say that dogs that are adopted from a rescue or a shelter know that their lives have been saved and are forever grateful. Well, I am here to tell you that it is true! I was adopted from a shelter and I will always be grateful to those who found me and took me to the shelter; to the staff and volunteers who took good care of me and worked to find me a home and of course to my "pawrents" who adopted me and made me part of the family.

So, I've often thought how great it would be if I could find a way to return the favor and give back to help other dogs. Then one day Mom told me about a canine blood bank right near our home. She said that I could donate my blood and it would be used to save the lives of other dogs! In fact, a single donation of blood can save more than one life because both the red blood cells and the blood plasma are used.

I was so excited about this that I asked Mom to sign me up right away. She called Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital and made an appointment to bring me in to apply to be a blood donor. I passed the first level of screening, because I am between 1 and 7 years old, in good health, not on any medications and over

50 pounds in weight. At this appointment a nice lady took some blood to test my type. I didn't know that we dogs have many different blood types and that the type they are most



That's me, Cosmo

interested in is DEA 1.1 negative. Because dogs are fully awake during the drawing of the blood, I also had to pass a test to show that I am friendly (!) and that I could tolerate lying down for the duration of the procedure. I passed all the screening tests easily.

So now I am an official blood donor! I am called to donate every three months. The process takes about an hour with preparation and follow-up. Since we live near the blood bank, Mom drops me off and waits for a call that I am ready to be picked up. She says that if she were working, she'd be able to drop me off for a half day or even a whole day.

While I am lying there giving blood, I

get "loved up" by the vet techs and told what a good boy I am. They give me treats and when I'm not looking, they even give me a free nail clipping. After the procedure, when Mom comes to pick me up, I get to pick a toy from a big bag of toys. That is my favorite part!

Mom is happy because after donating two times, I get free annual blood work, including free annual heartworm test. This will continue for as long as I am an active donor. And if I ever need blood, I'll receive free blood products on a 1/1 basis until after two years as a donor.

My canine pals all tell me that I am a hero, but to tell the truth, I enjoy going to Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital and getting pats and treats and toys. If you think your dog might enjoy becoming a blood donor and you live in the Denver metro area, call the blood bank coordinator, Colleen Todd at 303-996-1366 or visit



Blood Donor Cosmo

[www.wheatridgeanimal.com](http://www.wheatridgeanimal.com). If you live outside the Denver area, you might call your vet to find out if there is a blood bank near you. Different blood banks may have different screening rules and different rewards. No matter where you donate blood, it's a wonderful way to know that you are helping to save the lives of other dogs.

Licks and doggie kisses from your canine correspondent,

*Cosmo*



### To The Rescue, ABRN News Published Quarterly

Susan Heidicker Brown, Editor; Erin Bradford, Assistant Editor; Reagan Osborne, Designer ([www.ZeaCreative.com](http://www.ZeaCreative.com)); Jeanne Phipers, Board Liaison; Lois Williams and Maria Barnes, Distribution.

ABRN reserves the right to edit any submissions for content, length, or grammar prior to publication. By submitting your article, you grant ABRN the right to publish your material in any future publications. While we welcome all submissions, only a limited amount of material can be published. To submit articles for the newsletter, please call Susan Brown at (720) 851-7222 or e-mail [editor@mesanetworks.net](mailto:editor@mesanetworks.net). Photographs of rescued dogs are always welcome. If photos are digital, please set your camera at the highest resolution (3 mg minimum). Deadline for submissions for the next issue is September 15, 2008.

# Temperament Testing Rescued Dogs

by Ted & Tiffany Terroux, Ted Terroux's Canine College

A new dog comes into your rescue organization. What's this dog's story? What are his issues? When there is no known history on the dog, it can become a best-guess effort to discern what issues he may have. The dog may have been abandoned or became irretrievably lost. He may have escaped and the owner didn't care. Perhaps the owner passed away and no one else knew anything about the dog. The owner may have surrendered the dog and might have been vague about the dog or perhaps even lied about the dog's issues.

What can we do to help us get to know what a dog's issues might be? One of the most popular tools that canine professionals and volunteers use is the temperament test. While temperament testing is helpful, it is not a guarantee of what a dog will do in any given situation. At best, a temperament test will only give the evaluator an indication of what the dog's responses might be. A dog with a serious biting problem may very well "pass" the temperament test without showing any signs of aggression. Conversely, it is possible for dogs that have shown no aggressive tendencies in their past to growl, snap or even attempt to bite the evaluator. There are so many

variables that can have an impact on how a dog behaves at any given moment in time, that it is impossible to count on a single test or a single response as being a reliable indicator of what a dog's real tendencies are.

Some elements of temperament testing may not necessarily bring out a dog's normal response and some elements of testing are risky. While we are seeking an overall impression of the dog's temperament and experience, the primary purpose of a temperament test is to push a dog to his limit to see if there might be aggressive, fearful or over-stimulated responses, and identify the level of those responses. Some parts of a test may seem unfair because they are likely to elicit a negative response, even from the most composed dogs, but we want to know what a dog's response would be regardless. In several of these tests, the evaluators place themselves at physical risk with a possible biting response from the dog being evaluated. Therefore, it is vital that the evaluator never let their guard down because that's when most dog bites happen. It is a good idea to have the dog checked over for any potential health problems that may impact his behavior and thereby, the results of the temperament test. Keep in mind that

pain, illness and discomfort can all make a usually nice dog very cranky.

**History is More Accurate:** If it is possible, a personal interview with the original owner of the dog is often the best source of information on behavioral tendencies. An interview conducted in the dog's own home environment before the dog is surrendered is optimal, but can be quite impractical for some rescue organizations. If a home visit is practical, an experienced evaluator can observe actual dog-people interactions within the household that will provide invaluable specifics. We can observe not only the behavior of the dog, but witness how the people interact with the dog and evaluate the physical and psychological environment in which the dog was raised. Seeing how the dog reacts to the evaluator in the dog's own environment should be very telling as well. The home visit is strongly recommended if it is determined that the owners didn't seem forthright on the phone, or if there were some indications of an aggression problem. It often helps the owners to "open up" if you ask them to be perfectly truthful while adding (whether it's true or not) that your organization has the resources to handle most types of behavior issues. Tell them it will help your organization immensely in placing their dog in exactly the right kind of home. It will also help the placement of their dog to receive appropriate training . . . fetch the rest on page 8

## A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Generous Donors!

🐾 Jan Larkin to "Max's Waggin Tales" Fund  
In Memory of Norman Stille

🐾 Lu Horner

🐾 Martha Rosner

🐾 Diane Balkin and William Wise  
In Memory of Rigby

🐾 Deb Cserhalmi and Spike

In Honor of Cosmo's Happy Adoption Day Anniversary

🐾 Theodore D. Sheldon and  
Beverly J. Sheldon

🐾 Terrye Hoffman

Prairie Skies Technical Services, LLC

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Giant Schnauzer Rescue, Inc  
Carolyn Janak

We are grateful, also, to our regular donors who wish to remain anonymous.

## ... You Found It! Westie Rescue

believe they are as big as any other dog. Still, they want to be with their people.”

The group has adopted over 500 Westies since it began, with the number of dogs coming into the system increasing yearly. For the past several years 40-50 Westies a year have found new adoptive homes. 2007 was a record



Wish

year, with 69 re-homed Westies, and in 2008 so far, they have taken in over 30 dogs. Whatever Westie Rescue is doing is working, as they currently have more applicants than available dogs. In fact, 2007 was the first year that the wait for a dog was less than 6-12 months. In the last year it has begun to get tighter trying to keep up with the incoming Westies and the number of suitable applicants.

Most of the dogs come from owner surrenders. The second-largest source is shelters, although Paul admits that not all shelters will turn over such a seemingly adoptable breed. “Many, but not all, shelters are willing to turn over the Westies to our rescue, as they are overloaded already and they recognize that we have a list of already-screened people looking for this breed of dog. The adoption process begins with a phone screening from a volunteer. Our goal at this point is often to talk the person out of a Westie. They can be a handful, and it does no good to place the dog and have the new home not work out and the Westie come back to us. The adopter must submit an application with references; then a home check is done to ensure the safety of the environment.” Each dog that is placed must first receive an exam, any required health care, spay or neuter,

and a microchip. Keeping up with expenses is always a challenge. As a 501© nonprofit, the adoption fee is meant to cover vet expenses; they also benefit from donations and fundraisers.

“The sale of a Westie calendar has been helpful, and some of our volunteers have begun looking at some of the online fundraising tools.”

Originally descended from Cairn and Scottish terriers

and bred to be tenacious hunters, the West Highland White Terrier can be a challenging breed. With their feistiness and courage, they can be a difficult dog for a first-timer: “Many people see the

cute, white puffball and think they are like the little white toy breeds, a notion we discourage during our initial phone screenings. We steer away from homes with small children, unless they have had prior terrier experience and understand the difference in having kids with Westies versus other more child-friendly breeds,” says Paul. The West Highland

White Terrier Club of America rescue website, [www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com), has lots of good breed information, as well as a profiler to help people determine if a Westie is right for them.

If Paul has advice for other rescuers, it would be “Delegate. There are volunteers who want to help. Training is on the job, with the more veteran volunteers available for assistance.

One person cannot do everything and do it well for the dogs.” As for finding new volunteers, he looks to applicants, prior adopters, and breed club members. If people are willing to go the extra mile, they ask them to foster. “Keeping volunteers has not been a big problem. Those who are willing to help usually enjoy it and are willing to continue volunteering as long as they are valued and not exploited. Since we are also volunteers, we try to treat them as we would like to be treated.” For people thinking about starting a breed-specific rescue group, their advice would be to contact other rescues in their area and network. If there is another group for your breed nearby, try to grow the group and pool resources (volunteers, applicants, vets, etc.). A breed club can be a good resource for knowledge and volunteers.

Paul admits that all the hard work is worthwhile when they receive a happy update from an adopter telling them how wonderful it is to have their Westie in their



Prince

lives. On the other hand, it is difficult when a dog comes back into rescue too sick or aggressive to be placed again. Fortunately, this occurs rarely. In fact, Paul and Laurie hung on to a little dog that came in with health issues. “Mayhem was surrendered by a hobby breeder/puppy mill. She has some neurological issues and cannot go

down stairs or walk a straight line, but she loves life, especially making Westie angels in the snow. Oh, and showing off at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.” A Scottish dog at an Irish parade? Now that’s the independence that makes the Westie breed such a one-of-a-kind. If you are interested in fostering or adopting a Westie or for more information on Westie Rescue Network, go to [www.westierescuenetwork.org](http://www.westierescuenetwork.org), or email [westie@westierescuenetwork.org](mailto:westie@westierescuenetwork.org).

# ABRN Board Members

# ABRN Shelter Liaison List

# 7

President: Martha Smith (303) 338-0878  
Vice President: Karen Brown (303) 841-6052  
Secretary: Jeanne Phipers (303) 985-2811  
Treasurer: Susan Lummanick (720) 320-2413  
Member-at-Large: Diane Leshar (303) 680-6265  
Member-at-Large: Sandy Moore (303) 751-6704  
Member-at-Large: Lisa Ransdell (303) 635-6620  
Member-at-Large: Mary Toornman (303) 973-0212

## ABRN Hotline Volunteers

Susan Brown: Hotline Coordinator (720) 851-7222  
Cassandra Benton Sarah Brashear  
Chris Collins Jordan DiMarco  
Carol Farina Nancy Gregory  
Lu Horner Valerie Horner  
Sandra Rector

## Stay in Touch!

• If you are interested in being on our rescue referral list or if you are on the list and have changes you need to make, please contact a member of the ABRN List Committee: Bonnie Guzman, (303) 733-4220 or [terrierlvr@comcast.net](mailto:terrierlvr@comcast.net); Jenni McKernan, (303) 783-5772 or [colosheltierescue@prodigy.net](mailto:colosheltierescue@prodigy.net); or Mary Kenton, (303) 929-7355 or [mail4mjk@aol.com](mailto:mail4mjk@aol.com).

• Would you like to feature a dog on ABRN's website? Contact Jenni McKernan at (303) 783-5772 or at [colosheltierescue@prodigy.net](mailto:colosheltierescue@prodigy.net) to highlight a rescue dog on the website. Please follow up with Jenni when that dog has been adopted.

• If you have a temporary change, such as a vacation, please contact the hotline coordinator, Susan Brown, at (720) 851-7222 or [editor@mesanetworks.net](mailto:editor@mesanetworks.net)

• To find the appropriate rescue group to adopt or surrender a purebred dog, first check our website, [www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com](http://www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com). If the information is not found there, call our hotline, (303) 989-7808.

Adams County Animal Shelter (Brighton, CO):

None at this time\*

Aurora Animal Care Center (Aurora, CO):

Diane Leshar (303) 680-6265 or Cell: (303) 520-0705

Denver Municipal Animal Shelter (Denver, CO):

Lisa Ransdell (720) 985-3300

Martha Smith (303) 338-0878

Bonnie Guzman (303) 733-4220

Dumb Friends League (Denver, CO):

Martha Smith (303) 338-0878

Backup: Sandy Moore (303) 751-6704

DFL Buddy Center (Castle Rock, CO):

Karen Brown (303) 841-6052

Humane Society of Boulder Valley (Boulder, CO):

None at this time\*

Humane Society of Weld County (Greeley, CO):

None at this time.\*

Larimer County Humane Society (Ft. Collins, CO):

None at this time.\*

Longmont Humane Society (Longmont, CO):

None at this time.\*

Mesa County Animal Services (Grand Junction, CO):

None at this time.\*

Table Mountain Animal Care Center (Golden, CO):

Janet Nelson (303) 466-2459

Lois Williams (303) 986-5296

Backup: Susan Lummanick (303) 948-2526

\* Note: If unable to contact a shelter liaison or if there is none, please contact a board member.

## ABRN Mission

The mission of All Breed Rescue Network, Inc., is to provide a vehicle for the fostering and rehoming of abandoned purebred dogs, to assist in increasing the adoption of shelter dogs by promoting awareness and working with shelters, and to educate the community regarding responsible dog ownership including the spay/neuter of companion animals.

## ABRN Vision

Ending euthanasia of adoptable dogs in Colorado.

## All Breed Rescue Network Needs Your Financial Assistance

All Breed Rescue Network needs your financial assistance! Please help rescue dogs where it is most needed with a tax-deductible donation. Go to [www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com](http://www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com), click on "How You Can Help" and donate through PayPal. Or mail a check to ABRN, P. O. Box 150803, Lakewood, CO 80215-0803.

Thank you for your support!

ABRN Hotline: 303-989-7808

# 8 Happenings...

## Furry Scurry Breaks Record

The 2008 Dumb Friends League Furry Scurry was held on Saturday, May 3rd, at Washington Park in Denver. This event is the Dumb Friends League's major fundraiser of the year. With more than 5,000 participants, it was the largest

Furry Scurry ever. Colorado Sheltie Rescue, Pug Rescue, Borzoi Welfare, Colorado Greyhound Rescue, Rocky Mountain Scottish Terrier Club and Basenji Rescue all helped to make sure that the ABRN booth was well attended. Many thanks also to new Board Member Lisa Ransdell, who

worked at the booth for a good part of the day. We especially appreciate the efforts of Board Member Sandy Moore for coordinating volunteers and making sure the booth was set up and dismantled. To date, the 2008 Furry Scurry raised over \$830,000 in pledges and donations, which will help thousands of lost and abandoned animals find shelter and new homes.

## ... You Found It! Temperament Testing

if there are any problems.

If you can get a personal interview with the original owner, avoid asking "yes" or "no" questions. Ask questions that would lead the dog owner to believe that the behaviors you are asking about are "normal." For example, instead of asking whether their dog has ever growled or snapped at a person, ask "When was the last time your dog growled or snapped at a person?" Instead of asking if a dog is housetrained, ask "How often does

your dog soil in the house?" These types of questions are likely to give you a lot more information than a yes or no question will and you are certainly likely to get more truthful responses.

**The Foster Home:** An observant, dog-savvy foster parent can be very helpful in identifying issues with a dog that has spent a significant period of time in that foster home. Many dogs

don't show their true colors for three or four weeks! This can work both ways. A dog that shows some fear or aggression in a new environment may become relaxed and friendly while a dog that shows calm or submissive behavior early on can become a monster once he becomes comfortable in his new surroundings.

For the entire article that includes the specifics of the temperament test itself, please visit our website, [www.tedterrouxdogtraining.com](http://www.tedterrouxdogtraining.com).

[www.AllBreedRescueNetwork.com](http://www.AllBreedRescueNetwork.com)

Summer 2008



All Breed Rescue Network  
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Lakewood, CO 80215-0803



Frick and Frack

