

The Cocker Home Companion

Cocker Spaniel Rescue of New England, Inc. (CSRNE, Inc.)

Vol 31 Summer 2011

Since 1987, CSRNE has saved, improved and extended the lives of abandoned and neglected American Cocker Spaniels

The Joey Fund

Joey's Legacy

By Deborah Huegel

Many of you are long time supporters of Cocker Spaniel Rescue of New England, but we know there are always new readers who are curious about the great work CSRNE does on behalf of cocker spaniels. CSRNE is one of the oldest and largest cocker rescue groups in the country. We are composed of many volunteers throughout New England who are dedicated to rescuing and placing homeless cocker spaniels. Since CSRNE began in 1987, hundreds of abandoned or unwanted cockers have found homes with caring, loving families.

To support our good works, we depend on donations and the proceeds from our biggest fundraiser, the upcoming 14th annual Joey Fund Auction on Saturday, October 29th at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough, Massachusetts. Why do we call it the Joey Fund? It has to do with one little homeless cocker spaniel that started it all.

On a bitterly cold New Year's Eve in 1996, an aging cocker spaniel aimlessly wandered the streets of Somerville, Massachusetts, searching for a familiar landmark, a friendly face. He had been abandoned by his heartless owners and forced to fend for himself. Freezing cold and starving, the little black cocker was essentially left to die a slow and painful death.

But thankfully, the kindness of strangers prevailed. He had the good fortune to seek shelter at the home of a Good Samaritan who took in the frightened but trusting cocker, dismayed to find no collar or identification - a sure sign of a dump and run. She noticed the odd way

he walked; to her horror, she discovered why. An oozing orange-sized lump was growing on his underbelly. Other signs of neglect were also apparent.

This cocker angel contacted CSRNE, who took over the care of this sweet senior. From this point on, his world was filled with hope and promise. His tumor was removed but, as feared, it was diagnosed as malignant.

The cocker spaniel, who has since become known as Joey, was actually one of the "lucky" ones. He was taken in by a compassionate person and found his way into the safety net of CSRNE. He was nurtured in a loving home where he lived for four more years as part of a wonderful family. Doesn't every dog deserve this much?

When Joey's story was first published in the CSRNE newsletter, many kind and generous members sent donations to help with Joey's medical expenses. Therefore in honor of this brave little cocker, we established a special fund, the proceeds of which were earmarked specifically for cock-

ers with extraordinary medical needs. And we called it - The Joey Fund.

Fourteen years have passed with the memory of Joey still lingering in our hearts, and throughout it all, CSRNE has continued to rescue hundreds of cockers in desperate situations just as traumatic, or sometimes worse, than Joey's. One of the most important ways in which you can help the Joey Fund stay alive and well is to attend our biggest fundraiser, the 14th Annual Joey Fund Silent and Live Auction.



Our hero - Joey

Every Penny Counts!

Penny was found late one night in April tied to a post behind a busy shopping mall. No one knows how long she had been there. When CSRNE volunteer June Quintin rescued her and took her home she was tired, dirty and desperate for water – she couldn't seem to drink enough.



Penny - 2011 Joey Fund Poster Dog

Our vet diagnosed her with Cushing's Disease and she's now on expensive medication and regular blood tests to control this condition.

Penny is a sweet, happy senior girl with the temperament and personality that makes cocker spaniels so endearing. We are hoping that someone will want to adopt her even though she has Cushing's.

Thanks to the Joey Fund and foster mom June, Penny is now receiving the care she needs.

Penny's vet expenses to date are \$1573.00

Help Find Auction Items - Save a Cocker

We still need your help in finding great gifts and coordinating the many aspects of a successful auction. If you'd like to join the auction committee, or simply help with getting items donated, Deb would love to hear from you. Her email is dhueg@msn.com, and she reports that new committee members often have original and very creative ideas that are invaluable to the auction's success. Here are some of Deb's tips:

•**A successful auction relies heavily on unique and sought after auction items.** It's a tough economy out there – so think creatively. Do you have a friend or family member who owns a vacation home, a sailboat, or is an artist? Or maybe they're a gourmet (or just a good) cook and would love to treat a group of people to dinner at their home? They are the perfect people to "hit up" for an auction gift. They know you, love you, and want to help you. Asking can be the hard part, but many times people

WANT to be asked. They are flattered that you thought of them as the expert cook, artist or that their home is so beautiful it's worth bidding on! It's an easy sell when you talk about the selfless work CSRNE's devoted members do every day to save cockers in the most desperate of situations. What would YOU like to bid on at an auction? Do you have everything you need – are you looking for something specific? Give it some thought, and then go after it. Remember, our theme is "Get a Jump on Your Holiday Shopping and Save a Dog". We know you like shopping for the holidays – and we know you have lots of good ideas for auction items. Jump into action to find donations – and help us save a dog!

•**Do you frequent a particular restaurant, hair salon, museum, book store, or wine shop?** The owners or managers of these establishments will more than likely be happy to honor your loyalty with a donation. One good deed deserves another!

•**Got a few extra minutes at home?** On-line research takes just a short while, you can do it from home, and it's fun! Think about great gift items - hotels, airlines, jewelry, restaurants, art work, dog related items, gift shops - and - whatever you can think of that would be a great addition to our auction. If you "Google" the businesses in your area – or nationwide – you will have endless choices of places to contact. Tell those businesses about the extraordinary work CSRNE does to rescue cockers and ask for a donation. There are many dog lovers out there – you just have to hit the right ones at the right time. **The time is now!**

The Cocker Home Companion

Volume 31

Summer

Edit and Design

Cyndy Bremer

Debra Gesimondo

Logo Design

Susan Tasillo, D.V.M.

CSRNE, Inc.

Officers and Board

President

Gerry Foss

VP/Secretary

Linda Simoneau

Jane Morgan

JoAnn Hall

Hartley Scribner

Joyce Kelbaugh

Bookkeeper

Jennie Harris

Consultant

Joyce Tilton

webmaster@csrne.org

Gordon LaGrow

Web Consultant

Joyce Kelbaugh

Donations and Information:

CSRNE, Inc.

P.O. Box 162

Greenfield, NH 03047

Tel: 603-547-3363

CSRNE is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit

email: info@csrne.org

website:

www.csrne.org

also visit us at:

www.petfinders.com

Get a Jump on your Holiday Shopping and Save a Dog

**Come to the 14th Annual Joey Fund Auction
Saturday, October 29th at 11 AM- 5PM
Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA**

We have a fun new theme for our silent and live auction that we think will appeal to everyone – holiday shopping. Skip the malls, traffic jams, and harried shoppers – attend CSRNE’s auction instead – and save a dog! At the same time have lunch, have fun, make new friends, and get some really unique and beautiful holiday gifts, all the while supporting the angel works of Cocker Spaniel Rescue of New England to save dogs like our standard bearer - Joey.

We’ve even managed to lower our prices to \$25 per person. That price includes a nice lunch, exciting silent and live auction items, fun raffles, our popular Cutest Pet Contest, a Pampered Pets table where you may purchase items for sale, and a Gourmet Bake table. All this for just \$25 per person pre-paid, or \$28 at the door. Where else can you have this much fun and food for an inflation busting price?

Already, the auction committee has reported that it has better than ever and very desirable gift items – vacation getaways, airline tickets, electronics, fine wine, gift baskets, sports memorabilia, restaurant gift cards, museum passes, and much more. Shop early and often for yourself and your loved ones - and save a homeless dog at the same time.

Our Special Guest - To make the pot just a little sweeter (actually - a lot), Randy Price, a well known and respected cocker spaniel breeder – and - Boston Channel 5’s morning news anchor, will again be our special guest. And that’s not all! Randy is bringing his champion cocker named Rudy. Wow - a chance to meet an award winning show dog AND Randy Price up close and personal! We even have a professional photographer who will take photos of you, Randy, and Rudy together. And bid on lunch with Randy- one of the hottest auction items! Make your reservations today – seats will sell fast for this special event.

Meet our New Auction Chair – Debby Huegel has agreed to lead our committee to another successful auction. In her professional life, Deb works for a busy non-profit that helps children and families. Deb is in charge of a very large silent and live auction for her company, as well as their other fundraising events. She enjoys the challenge of surpassing goals and raising money for those most in need. Deb says, “I was excited to come on board as CSRNE’s Auction Chair when I saw how dedicated the committee members were in their efforts to help the very needy and homeless cockers. Every day I am inspired by their hard work, creativity and tireless efforts to think of new ways to help the cockers in such desperate need. I am honored to join this group effort, and I hope people will support the auction, pick up some nice holiday gifts, and save a dog at the same time”.



Debby Huegel



Randy Price

Urgent Appeal from the President:

“Every Penny Counts”

Dear Friends,

By now, we really thought the economy would have turned around and our finances would be on a more even keel but the future seems more uncertain than ever.

As a non-profit organization Cocker Spaniel Rescue of New England, Inc. (CSRNE) relies on donations as a major source of income. When people are uneasy about the future, some naturally cut back on giving. Our income for fiscal year 2010-2011 is down over 13% however the number of seriously neglected cockers needing expensive veterinary care has gone way up. Almost all the dogs we are rescuing now have not seen a vet for a very long time – if ever.



Penny

None of us at CSRNE are good at saying “no” to the people who are asking us to help these badly neglected cocker spaniels. In fact, we’re hopeless at turning away a cocker in serious need of help. Consequently, our poor treasurer stays up nights worrying how in the world we’re going to pay our veterinary and kenneling bills. (Some of our vets have allowed us to set up payment plans, but obviously this cannot go on forever).

Penny is a classic example of a cocker who was in dire need. Back in April, someone left her tied to a post behind a busy shopping mall. As soon as we received the call from the people who found her, our volunteer drove over immediately and picked her up and took Penny back to her home.

Penny was tired, dirty and desperate for water – she couldn’t seem to drink enough. Sure enough, our vet confirmed Cushing’s disease and Penny is now on a regimen of medication and regular blood testing to treat this condition.

Penny’s vet bill to-date is \$1,573.90. Should we have told our vet “no” – we just cannot afford to help her? Of course not, so we just worry a little more about yet another big bill.

The joy of helping cockers like Penny is priceless – but the costs are very real.

This year’s 14th Annual Joey Fund Auction may be our most important auction ever. (Our goal is to raise \$40,000- or more!) “Every penny counts” and all the proceeds will go directly towards paying our enormous veterinary bills for needy cockers like Penny.

Please support this all-important fundraiser. Come to the auction on October 29th! Bid on the many lovely items in both the live and silent auctions. Meet and greet the “hopeless” CSRNE volunteers who just can’t say “no.”

And if you just cannot make it to the auction, please consider making a special donation as a Friend-of-the-Auction.

See you there!

Sincerely,

Gerry Foss, President

Shorty – Happy and healthy thanks to the Joey Fund



Thanks to the Joey Fund, Shorty can relax and enjoy good health and a good nap...



"Dogs are our link to paradise.

They don't know evil
or jealousy or discontent.

To sit with a dog on a hillside on a
glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden,
where doing nothing was not boring--
it was peace."

- Milan Kundera

By Gerry Foss

When eight-year-old Shorty's owner took him to the city's Animal Rescue League (ARL), the staff took one look at him and called CSRNE. Shorty had a pervasive yeast infection, his ears were a mess, he had glaucoma and he was loaded with fleas. But he was as sweet a dog as ever lived.

The kind ARL staff knew they would never be able to place him but they couldn't bear the thought of euthanizing such a happy, tail-wagging boy.

Fortunately, our Joey Fund was established to help cockers just like Shorty and we assured the ARL we would take good care of him. I could hear the sigh of relief on the other end of the phone – there was one less sweet but medically needy dog they would have to worry about.

I recall the shelter manager telling me that the only certainty at crowded shelters for dogs like Shorty was uncertainty. She said it meant a lot to her and her staff to know Shorty would get the help he needed and they would not have to endure the stress and sadness of putting him to sleep because he was "unadoptable."

We placed Shorty in a loving foster home with his new devoted mom, Camille Bertrand. Not only did he have to have his left eye removed due to long standing and untreated glaucoma, but he also managed to slip a disc and was temporarily paralyzed in his hind end. (We think he did this trying to impress Camille's beautiful female cocker spaniel). Luckily, he responded well to steroids and cage rest and today, four years later, he's loving life with Camille.

Despite moments of stress and panic, Camille cannot imagine life without her honeybun – and we can't imagine saving Shorty without Camille's love and commitment to caring for a high maintenance cocker boy.

In the past 4 ½ years, the Joey Fund has paid \$5,521.43 for Shorty's surgeries, medications, and veterinary care. It's been wonderful to restore this incredibly dear cocker to good health and a pain free life.

Please support our auction so we can always be there to help the next special needs cocker.

Thank you.

Editor's note: If you are interested in providing a foster home for a special needs cocker, please call Gerry at 603-547-3363 or email info@csrne.org.

In Memory of Irene Ragno

January 21, 2011

Dear CSRNE,

I am writing to let you know my mother, Irene Ragno, died on Oct. 9th.

I wanted to let you know about my mother and Goldie, the cocker we adopted from CSRNE 10 years ago. Goldie was always her boy. She felt that he picked her when he ran up to her at the kennel on Cape Cod. He spun around, jumped up and gave her a kiss – even though he was afraid of her walker. They were an inseparable pair for 10 years. One of her doctors commented, “I don’t think she would have lasted that long if she didn’t have him to love and care for.

Goldie was just her special boy. Because of him, she had a reason to get up in the morning. They shared their breakfast time and they had a routine right after they ate. He would bring a toy – preferably one that made a lot of noise – and she would throw the toy to him. He would grab the toy, run around the house with it, and then return it to her for the process to begin again. Neither of them ever tired of the routine. He sat at her feet and he was her protector. If he saw anyone on the sidewalk or driveway, he barked to alert her that someone was there. She always felt safe with him.

When she sat in her rocking chair, he would jump up on the couch and it was quiet time – she would pet him or groom him, and he would lick her hands for the appreciation of the attention.

She went into the nursing home last April and Goldie immediately became very withdrawn and depressed. I began bringing Goldie to the nursing home and he realized he had a job to do – comfort my mother. Each time I brought him he would move from the chair to her bed and find a way to snuggle with her. I truly feel he was the reason that she didn’t give up hope for so long.

Goldie saw her for the last time about a week before she died. As I was walking him out to the car, he whimpered and kept looking back – as if he already knew his special person who loved him so dearly would soon be gone.

Goldie and my mother had a bond from the day they met. While we had had other cockers, they always seemed to bond with my father or me – not with her. I’m so glad that she could call Goldie “her boy” and really mean it. He brought a lot of love into her life, and he understood that she loved him in return.

My mother spent the last 10 years of her life as a shut-in, and caring for the dogs gave meaning to her otherwise confined life. I’m just happy that Goldie picked her and that they had many happy years together.

Sincerely,

Susan Roberts

(Editor’s note – Susan recently told me that Goldie still sits or lays on the spots he shared with Irene for so many years.)



COCKER SPANIEL RESCUE OF NEW ENGLAND, INC
P.O. Box 162
Greenfield, NH 03047

Non Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #49
Peterborough, NH



Rusty was a totally neglected cocker who is now living the good life in his new home where he has his own wardrobe and gets lots of leash walks.

Available for Adoption

Waiting and hoping for our forever home...



Baby -

6 years old - a very special girl - very smart - affectionate - loves lap cuddling - adores her walks - playful with her toys - she sings when she's happy - you'd never know she's blind.



Freckles

6 years old - outgoing personality - smart - learns new things very quickly - adores her leash walks - loves playing with a tennis ball - totally housebroken - excellent house manners.



Scrappy

2 1/2 years old - walks well on a leash - listens well - eager to learn and please - likes other dogs - loves attention - a happy tail wagger - lived with children.

