The Cocker Home Companion

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

Vol. 46 Summer 2018

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

Special Joey Fund Auction Edition

A Return to Nature

"Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light."

- Helen Keller, author

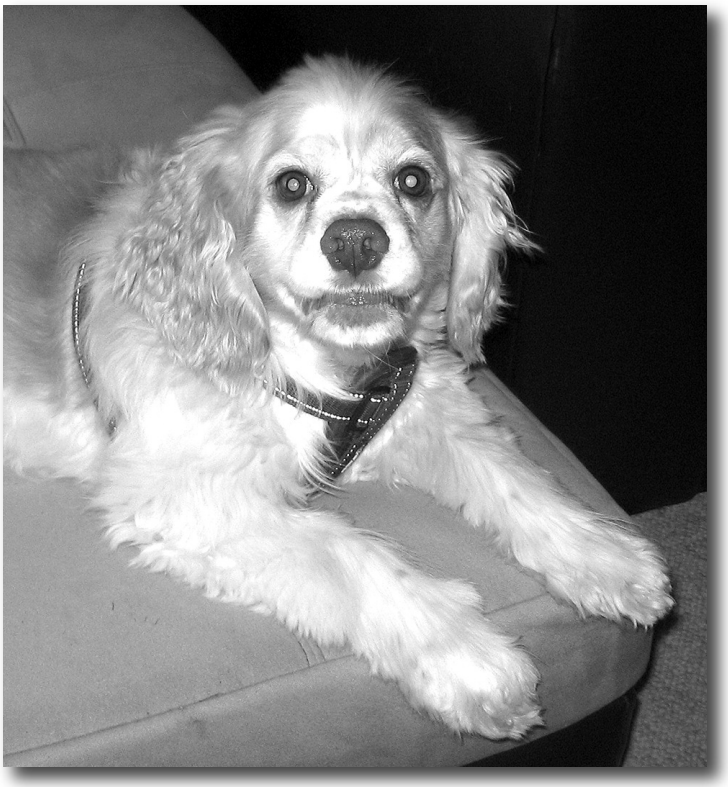
There's something special about walking next to a close friend, facing the open road and talking, if at all, about big and small matters. The experience of being out in the wider world, exploring nature, seems to reconnect us to our basic selves.

A return to nature also benefits animals. It's a joy to watch a dog being a dog: lifting its nose to catch smells wafting in the air, finding and investigating another dog's marked territory, spotting squirrels and tracking their movements. Walking a dog seems to be the place where the human and canine worlds meet.

June Quintin has three rescued cockers: Black Bear, Morgan, and Toby. Of the three, only Toby presented a problem when Quintin stepped out with him for a leash-walk. All hell broke loose.

In a flash, Toby "absolutely flew out of control," recounted Quintin. "He would go ballistic whenever he saw something – a passing dog, a squirrel. Barking at the top of his lungs, he would lunge after his target and pull me along at 90 miles an hour down the street. It was a nightmare."

After working with two local dog trainers and failing to correct Toby's behavior, Quintin began to think that Toby's problem with walking on a leash could not be solved. Her backyard is



Toby - aka "Terror On A Leash" - now reformed thanks to Thin Blue Line K-9 training

fenced in so Toby could still go outside, but being constrained was not the same as exploring. And walking is a relaxing activity that Quintin likes to share with her dogs. She wanted to find a way to make it work with Toby.

"Except for this one thing, Toby is the sweetest dog you'd ever want to know," said Quintin. "But one of us was going to get hurt if we didn't get this situation under wraps."

The solution to their dilemma came in the form of former Burlington, VT police officer and K-9 supervisor, Tom Radford, founder of Thin Blue Line K-9.

Continued on page 4

President's Message

Our guiding principle is, "The right dog in the right home for the enduring happiness of both." In this issue, you'll read about four dogs who are at different stages of the "rehoming" process, starting with bonded pair Sadie and Jada.

Sadie and Jada – blind and so sweet – are staying in a boarding facility, patiently waiting for us to find a foster or adoptive family to take them home. A passage from W.H. Auden's poem "The Age of Anxiety" captures how we might feel in their situation: "It is getting late. Shall we ever be asked for? Are we wanted at all?"

Teddy, this year's Joey Fund dog, is a smart and tenacious cocker who remains in long-term foster care. Life's unpredictable ways have taken a toll on Teddy and he struggles to protect himself from further upset. Thanks to your generous support of the Joey Fund, Teddy is receiving the specialized behavioral and veterinary attention he needs, in the calm of a loving home.

Toby's is the outcome we hope all dogs experience. Along with rescued cockers Black Bear and Morgan, Toby is flourishing in his forever home. Recently schooled by a talented and dedicated K-9 trainer, Toby has acquired new skills that make him an even more enjoyable member of his household and community.

We need your support to continue doing this work. No matter what you can do or how much you can give, we appreciate your participation. It makes a real difference. Thank you and please join us for the 21st Annual CockerPalooza on Saturday, October 20.

Sincerely,
Gerry Foss

CSRNE is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Come to the auction and meet Teddy, 2018 Joey Fund Poster Dog

The Cocker Home Companion
Volume 46
Summer 2018
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21st Annual Joey Fund Auction

CockerPalooza 2018!

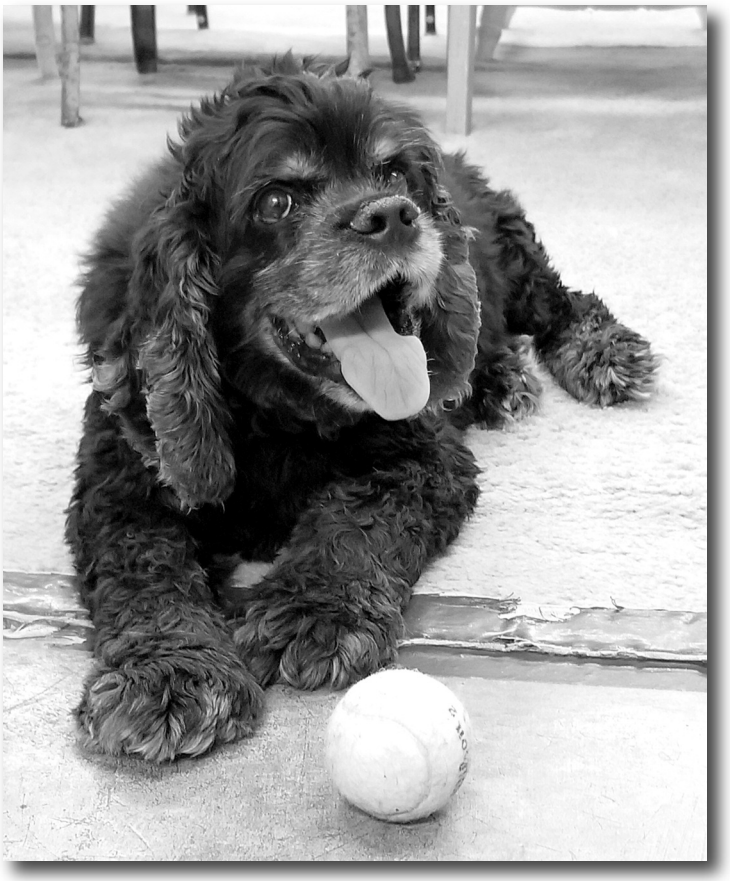
We're busy getting ready for our 21st annual Joey Fund Auction. Doors open at 11 AM on Saturday, October 20. Will this be your first time joining us or are you a "repeat attender"?

Live and silent auctions, vacation getaways, autographed sports memorabilia, jewelry and craft artistry, fine wine, theater and restaurant tickets, pet supplies. It's all there. Did we mention the free lunch?

Without your invaluable support of the Joey Fund, CSRNE could not provide medical treatment and shelter to cockers in our care. So why not have fun while we raise money?

Advance tickets are $35/person, $38 at the door.
For registration and auction info, see the attached flyer or visit www.csrne.org/Auction2018.

Laurie Drazek and WCVB News Anchor Randy Price - auction attendees really do want to see photos of your cocker!



Vinny Redmond, never far from his ball!

DO YOU HAVE THE CUTEST PET?

Enter your creature (dog, cat, bird, or bat) in our annual Cutest Pet Contest!

Help us reach our $5,000 goal!
Contest ends September 20, 2018

- Pet entries accepted until 9 PM

- Voting closes at 10 PM

- Instantly record your vote(s)

- Real-time tracking of competition

The top 12 vote-getters will be featured in CSRNE's 2019 calendar, a great holiday gift!

For more details, see the enclosed flyer or visit www.csrne.org/Cutest Pet Contest

Return to Nature… *from page 1*

Radford and K-9 partner Stoney still hold Vermont's record for most drug finds on duty

During a stellar career, Radford and his K-9 partner Stoney were the most used K-9 team in the state of Vermont. There were 50 such teams in the state and they stood at the very top. Together with Stoney, Radford held the state record for most drug finds on duty, an achievement that still holds a decade after Stoney's retirement. The pair was inducted into the K-9 Hall of Fame. As Quintin says, "Tom is the real deal."

Under Radford's tutelage, Quintin changed the fundamental nature of her relationship with Toby. Disruptive leash-walking was the manifestation of a larger issue: who was in charge?

Once Quintin conveyed to Toby that she was in command and clearly communicated what she expected from Toby, he fell back and followed her lead. According to Radford, "We have to be the boss. Too many dogs are in charge of their households. It creates great stress."

"Dogs," says Radford, "Come into our human world from their dog world. Our job is to give dogs clear instructions about what is expected to survive in our world. We will treat them well and they will benefit greatly from being with people but we are in charge."

"I try to return to a dog's nature in my training," explained Radford. A dog's mother uses a low growl to reprimand her pups. Radford has applied this technique to his own approach: he speaks to a dog in a low voice when he is displeased and a high voice when he wants to reward behavior. Dogs understand the difference.

"Tom Radford is very impressive," Quinn said. " He was teaching me as well as Toby, for sure. He never spoke a bad or harsh word, never used a harsh movement. He really cares about both the dog and the person."

Toby with June Quintin and successful team trainer Tom Radford

Basic Training Tips

- Give the dog clear communications. Be consistent and repetitive in your speech and actions.
- Hold him accountable. Use a high-pitched voice to reinforce good behavior, and a simple "no" in a low-pitched tone to discourage bad behavior.
- Don't make a dog heel all the time. Allow him to be a dog then bring him back to your side by shortening the leash.

To learn more about Radford and his training services, visit www.thinbluelineK9.net.

The improvement in her dynamic with Toby during leash-walks was so dramatic that Quintin's neighbors came out of their houses to kiddingly ask, "Is that a different dog?" Now, instead of creating a ruckus when he moves down the street, Toby can approach a familiar dog and bestow his favorite greeting: a kiss.

Practicing Kindness

Carol Redmond teaches ceramics a few nights a week at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT, where she has served as an Executive Assistant for 46 years. Look closely and you'll see that in her friendly way and through small gestures, Redmond is showing her young pupils how to be kinder people.

For so many years that she cannot remember how her affiliation with CSRNE started, Redmond has donated ceramic artistry to our annual CockerPalooza event. With help from her good friends Sue Aubin, Sue Barnes, and June Quintin, Carol creates a collection of pieces available for purchase.

Redmond also raises money for CSRNE year-round. Although it is purely voluntary, whenever a student purchases art materials from Redmond, she asks them to round up the total amount due to the nearest dollar and donate the extra change to a "Cocker Angel" collection jar.

Vinny, a 15-year-old CSRNE alumnus, and Lola, a 7-year-old "breeder surrender," accompany Redmond to ceramics class and accept donations (treats), too. Those contributions just never seem to make it out of the classroom.

Ceramics artist Carol Redmond with Vinny (left) and Lola (right)

Lola taking a break - attending class is hard work

Just a few examples of Redmond's artistic talent

Life Is Not A Straight Line

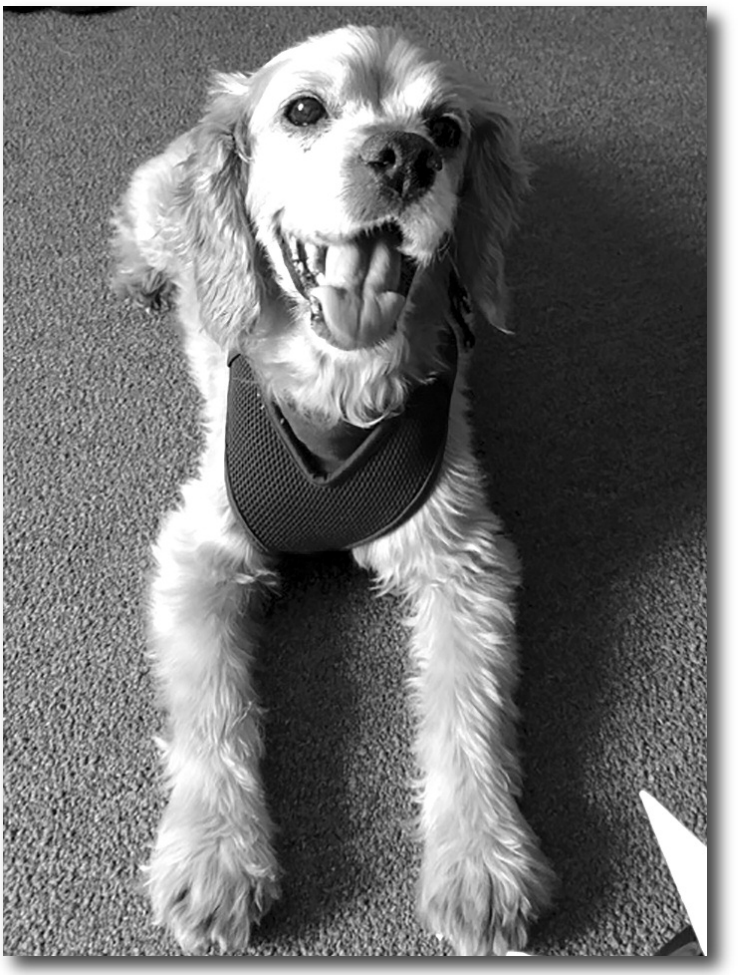
The path forward for a rescued cocker is not always straight and steady; there may be bumps and setbacks along the way as the displaced pet settles into a new routine, a new life. CSRNE is here for him. We, with help from many others, are his safety net.

Teddy, our 2018 Joey Fund poster boy, is an example of a dog who remains under CSRNE's care long after he arrived at our doorstep. You may remember meeting Teddy, now 7 years old, in our Winter 2016 issue. His story was presented in an article titled, "Fly Toward A Secret Sky." But there is more to share.

Nearly two years ago, veteran cocker mom Patti Winn offered her home to Teddy on a foster basis. Teddy's previously untreated Cushing's disease and Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS), commonly known as "dry eye," require ongoing veterinary care, including consultation with specialists and expensive medications. The long-term cost and perhaps lifetime demands of caring for Teddy's special needs make it difficult for CSRNE to find a permanent home for him. He also has separation anxiety, which requires a particularly patient caregiver.

Teddy does not adapt well to change. He needs to be in a home environment, so for now he will stay with Winn. He has formed a close bond with her and a disruption to that relationship could be detrimental to his well-being. Winn is devoted to Teddy but taking on the financial burden that he brings to an owner is not feasible for her. Thanks to the Joey Fund, CSRNE can maintain the arrangement.

Although he has been with Winn in an established routine for a long time, adjustments to Teddy's medications may contribute to periodic shifts in his behavior. As Winn says, "I have owned eight cockers but I've never had a dog like Teddy. There are times when he is not comfortable in his own skin."



Teddy, CSRNE's 2018 Joey Fund Poster Dog, enjoying life

Other factors may also play a role in Teddy's anxiety – poor socialization when he was a puppy, losing his beloved owner, being uprooted from his familiar surroundings and routine, a genetic predisposition to anxiety – but what is important now is to help him feel more at ease.

Teasing apart the possible interaction between Teddy's health conditions and his behavior issues makes his case complicated and requires expertise. CSRNE President Gerry Foss has assembled a multi-disciplinary group of premier veterinary clinicians. Together with Winn, they form "Team Teddy."

Overseeing his case is Teddy's primary care provider Dr. Cassandra Lillie, on staff at Bilmar Veterinary Service, Great Barrington, MA. Stephanie Borns-Weil, DVM and a Diplomate with the American

Continued on page 7

Life... from page 6

College of Veterinary Behaviorists, is focused on Teddy's battle with anxiety. Dr. Borns-Weil practices at the Cummings Medical Center at Tufts University's Henry and Lois Foster Hospital.

After evaluating Teddy, Dr. Borns-Weil reported, "Some of Teddy's clinical signs that appear to be anxiety-related may in fact be due to his Cushing's disease." Along with continued treatment for his chronic medical issues, she recommends a combination of pharmaceutical support, exercise, and behavior modification techniques to help Teddy.

"Some of Teddy's clinical signs that appear to be anxiety-related may, in fact, be due to his Cushing's disease."

- Stephanie Borns-Weil, DVM

Treating Teddy's Cushing's disease is Orla Mahony, MVB, an internist who specializes in Endocrinology at Tufts. His KCS is treated by Isabel Jurk, MSpVM, a veterinary ophthalmologist who practices at Animal Eye Care of New England, Whately, MA.

For Teddy, a coordinated approach that brings together highly-skilled veterinarians and an experienced caregiver has produced positive results. Recently, he followed Winn's instruction to lay down and quietly wait until she gave him the command to "come." And for the first time since he has been with Winn, Teddy played with a toy. These may seem like small events but for Teddy they are momentous. As behavior specialist Dr. Borns-Weil said, "This is a good turnaround."

Without financial support from CSRNE's Joey Fund, a dog like Teddy, who has a constellation of chronic (and costly) issues, might not have a better future. But thanks to you and to Team Teddy, our 2018 Joey Fund Poster Dog is both healthier and happier. We hope that one day soon his bouts with anxiety will diminish and he will truly thrive.

Above: Winn and Teddy check in for an appointment at Cummings Veterinary Medical Center at Tufts University.
Below: Teddy gets checked out by Tufts veterinary student Amy Skoczylas

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Saturday, October 20, 2018, 11 AM
Boxboro Regency Hotel and Conference Center
Boxborough, MA (Route 495, Exit 28)
Advance tickets $35/person, $38 at the door
More info at www.csrne.org

Bonded pair Sadie (left) and Jada are looking for their forever home

Meet Sadie and Jada!

Sadie and Jada are too polite to ask themselves so we will: can they come live with you?

This bonded pair is sweet, well-behaved, and easy-going. Although their basic needs are being met, staying in a boarding facility is no match for living in a home.

Openly affectionate with each other and people, Sadie, an 8-year-old male, and Jada, a 7-year-old female, both lost their eyesight several years ago. Even so, they are surprisingly self-sufficient and readily adapt to new circumstances. Sadie is the pair's leader with Jada content to follow.

Adept at jumping in and out of a car without assistance, they happily ride along to run errands and travel well on longer journeys. Jada prefers the backseat (better for dozing) while Sadie runs "shotgun," quietly resting his paw on the driver's leg.

These two desperately need a foster or forever home. Can they come live with you?