The Cocker Home Companion

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

Vol. 48 Summer 2019

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

22nd Annual Joey Fund Auction

New Venue, Lower Ticket Price!

Doors open at 11 AM on Saturday, October 26, 2019, for this year's 22nd Annual Joey Fund Auction. CSRNE's Auction Committee is bursting with excitement to announce that we have a wonderful new venue for this year's gathering: the Bancroft School Field House!

The Bancroft School Field House overlooks Indian Lake at 100 Shore Drive in Worcester, Massachusetts. Located close to I-190 and across from the Greendale YMCA, this is a modern, multi-use, state-of-the-art facility, with ample parking. Please note, though, that dogs are not welcome in the building.

Preparations are underway for this fabulous event! As always, we will offer both Silent and Live auctions, shopping at "Blooming Tails," and a delicious lunch that is included, along with entertainment by CSRNE Special Guest and WCVB News Anchor Randy Price, with the purchase of your auction ticket. Prepaid tickets are $30/person, or $33 at the door – yes, LESS than last year's ticket prices!

This year marks the return of our ever-popular "Barkery" with an irresistible selection of handmade goodies. Come see old friends and make new ones. Get a jump on holiday shopping with the purchase of a 2020 Calendar featuring the 12 winners of our Cutest Pet Contest. Or ease into the gift-giving season by starting off with one for you: a photo taken with Randy Price! Come to think of it, what family member wouldn't love to receive a photo of you for the holidays?

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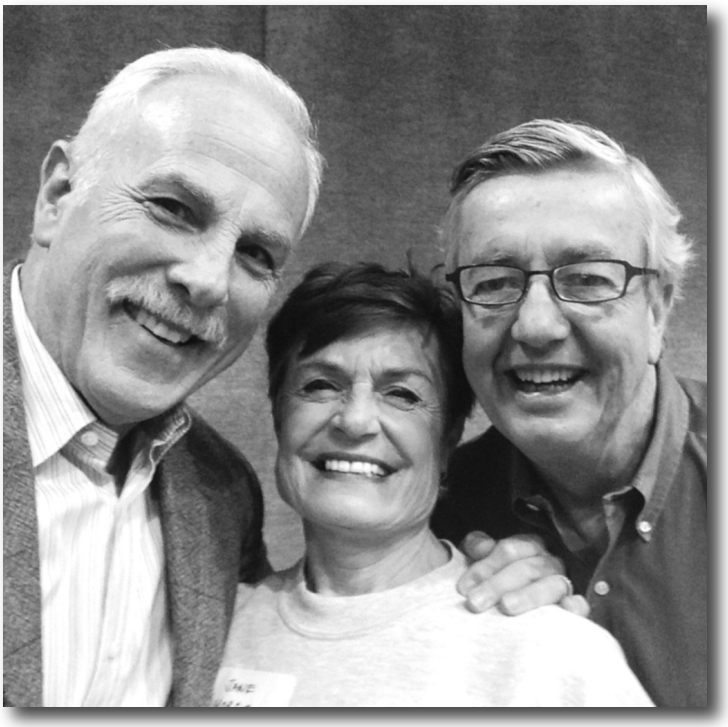

Randy Price (left) with CSRNE "Super Adopters" Jane Morgan and Ray Quinlan

22nd Annual Joey Fund Auction

Saturday, October 26, 2019, 11 AM
Bancroft School Field House
100 Shore Drive, Worcester, MA
Advance tickets $30/person, $33 at the door

For more information about the auction and to pre-register (until Oct. 23), please visit our website at www.csrne.org/csrne-auction.

Lucas, 2019 Joey Fund Poster Dog, adopted by Jim and Nancy Adams

Want To Help Us?

Donate. Adopt.
Foster. Volunteer.

To learn more about CSRNE,
visit www.csrne.org or call (603) 547-3363.
info@csrne.org
www.csrne.org

Stay connected with us!

Petfinder.com

President's Message

In the wise words of an African proverb, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Another saying is more pragmatic: "Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won't eat you." Truly, words to live by.

Being part of a community has tremendous advantages. Studies validate what the second proverb advises – people who come together live longer – but we know from our own experience that we feel better when we are socially supported. Sometimes it is our time to give and at other times we are the beneficiaries of what those around us put into action.

CSRNE's generous community of supporters continues to inspire us. Some people, like Ellen and Norman Cormier, help us by providing their home and attentive care to foster a needy cocker like Dylan. Others, including this year's auction sponsors, CareOne at Millbury and Country Bank, give to the Joey Fund so a sweetheart like Lucas can live without debilitating seizures. Any way you can contribute is welcome and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

The important thing is to stay connected with CSRNE because your engagement benefits us all. Please participate in the Cutest Pet Contest and come to the auction on October 26. Let's heed the advice of this last African proverb: "I am because we are."

Sincerely,
Gerry Foss, President

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

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Lucas (left) and Ella: "Do we still have 'turkey neck' when we raise our chins like this?"

Lucas, CSRNE's 2019 Joey Fund Poster Dog

Lucas, this year's Joey Fund Poster Dog, has stories to tell since he and Ella were profiled in our Winter 2018 newsletter. He recently had 14 teeth extracted – and is doing better than ever – but the real news to tell you about concerns his seizures.

It took time and perseverance to identify just the right regimen of medications for Lucas but his veterinary team at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine struck gold. Once the optimal balance was reached, says foster dad Jim Adams of Plaistow, NH, Lucas's seizures stopped virtually overnight. Now, instead of having three seizures per week, Lucas has had only two events in the last six months and the severity of each event was less than in the past.

Thank you, Ella and the Adams, for supporting Lucas through his ordeal, and thanks to all Joey Fund contributors for making this success story possible!

Joey Fund Auction... *from page 1*

Spectacular auction items include a James White-autographed Patriots game shirt, an official Major League Baseball signed by two current Red Sox players, a weeklong Cape Cod retreat at a luxurious condo in Truro, custom pet portraits, getaways, gift baskets, gift cards, artwork, jewelry, beer and wine, and oh so much more!

On a more serious note, this year's Cutest Pet Contest is in honor of our generous friend, Camille Bertrand, who passed away on March 7, 2019. Camille was an integral part of the Cutest Pet Contest for many years and we celebrate her gifts of time, creativity, and enthusiasm to CSRNE. Please help us pay tribute to this compassionate woman by participating in the contest. Our fundraising goal is $5,000 and contributions of any size are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

The 22nd Annual Joey Fund Auction is sponsored by CareOne at Millbury, and Country Bank. CareOne is a long-term care and sub-acute rehabilitation facility

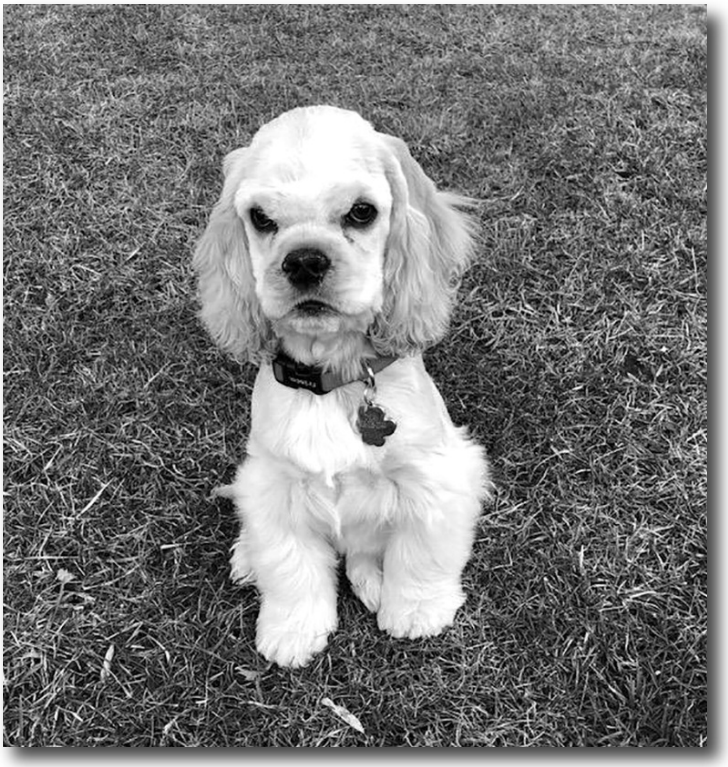
New auction venue:
The Bancroft School Field House

serving the Massachusetts communities of Grafton, Shrewsbury, Sutton and Worcester. Country Bank is a full-service financial institution dedicated to building mutually beneficial relationships with individuals and businesses in their region. As in past years, all auction proceeds go to the Joey Fund to pay the medical expenses of dogs CSRNE rescues. Thank you CareOne at Millbury and Country Bank for your valuable support!

A Galaxy of Stars
Dylan's Story

Sirius, commonly known as "the dog star," is a star in the southern hemisphere's Canis Major celestial constellation. Sirius is not the largest star in this galaxy but it is the brightest in the night sky.

Little Dylan is Cocker Spaniel Rescue of New England's own Sirius. Often described as a "rock star" by people who know him, Dylan must be made of a special kind of cocker star dust that helped propel him into a galaxy of human stars. This is Dylan's story, an uplifting tale about a charismatic cocker spaniel and the many exceptional people who helped him overcome a life-threatening congenital defect. Their commitment to him, along with Dylan's own remarkable fortitude and cheery disposition, increased the chance he'll enjoy a brilliant future.



Dylan patiently awaits the next step

Soon after Dylan's birth in October 2018, it was determined that a cleft palate was the reason he failed to thrive. A cleft palate is an opening in the roof of the mouth that occurs during development when the tissue is insufficient to knit properly. A hole between the oral and nasal cavities prevented Dylan from nursing and put him at risk for aspiration, or sucking food and fluid into an airway. There are two types of cleft palate and Dylan had both: an opening in the "hard palate," the front, bony roof of the mouth, and a second one in the "soft palate," the area at the back of the mouth that aids swallowing.

Thanks to his first owner who diligently tube-fed him, Dylan survived his early days. A cleft palate does not resolve itself so surgical repair is the only solution. This kind of procedure is intricate and costly, and recovery requires attentive care. Sadly, Dylan's owner was not prepared to undertake these challenges.

Dr. Alexander Reiter examines Dylan

Last December, Dylan's owner contacted Ellen Cormier of Somervale, NJ, asking if she could find a home for Dylan. Cormier and her husband, Norman, are experienced dog and cat foster parents who also have three cockers of their own. While it was not feasible for the Cormiers to add Dylan to their pack --

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Galaxy of Stars... *from page 4*

as much as they dearly wanted to -- they were committed to helping him. On January 27, 2019, the Cormiers brought him home where he was welcomed by their cat, Winston, and cockers Layla, Sadie and Lennon.

Immediate problem solved, Cormier's next thought was, "I don't know anything about cleft palate. Is that something dogs have? I'm in way over my head." Cormier knew who to call first. Years earlier, Cormier had worked with Gerry Foss, President of Cocker Spaniel Rescue of New England, to place a cocker so she reached out to Foss. Without missing a beat, Foss offered CSRNE's full support and assumed official custody of Dylan.

Progress came quickly. A social network of friends and acquaintances jumped in to provide Cormier with support and encouragement. She dove into the challenge of caring for a puppy with cleft palate and came up to speed fast by talking to her own veterinarian and searching online for information. Pivotal in this journey was the discovery of a Facebook page started by Jenn Clayton called "For the Love of Ruby," a forum for people to share information about dogs born with this malformation.

Clayton referred Cormier to Dr. Alexander Reiter, a top-notch veterinary oral surgeon at "PennVet," the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Reiter and his staff have successfully treated dogs with cleft palate who have made the pilgrimage to this teaching hospital, from around the country, seeking the special skills and caring approach there. To learn more about Dr. Reiter, please visit the school's website at www.vet.upenn.edu.

Cormier emailed Dr. Reiter to ask if he would evaluate Dylan. "I was amazed. Dr. Reiter himself immediately called me back," says Cormier. "He's a busy doctor. Who does that?" Dr. Reiter agreed to operate on Dylan and provided Cormier with information about cleft palate as well as instructions to follow until Dylan's surgery in mid-February.

Just shy of 4 months old, Dylan underwent the first of two successful procedures on Feb. 12; a follow-up procedure took place on Apr. 23.

Clockwise from lower right, Dylan enjoys "cocker TV" with Lennon, Layla, and Sadie Cormier

Dylan is adored at PennVet. In a wonderful example of treating the whole patient, the PennVet staff suggested that Cormier create a flyer about Dylan to broadcast his search for a loving family. It worked! Abby Goldberg, a PennVet student, learned about Dylan and knew that her parents, Richard and Patti Goldberg of nearby Merrion Station, Penn., would be a perfect fit for Dylan. Richard Goldberg is a physician and they are an experienced cocker family. CSRNE approved the adoption and on Apr. 29 Dylan landed softly in his forever home.

"He is a delight," said Dr. Goldberg, "A sweetheart who is friendly with everyone." Dylan receives typical primary care at PennVet where Abby accompanies him to his appointments. "He is a rock star. It seems everybody knows him," said Dr. Goldberg.

Thanks to all those who assisted him this past year, including CSRNE's community of supporters, Dylan is thriving.

President's Tribute to Camille Bertrand

From fostering senior cockers to administering our annual wreath sale, Camille Bertrand, who passed away in March 2019, was involved in almost every aspect of CSRNE's activities. When Camille adopted Miko in 2004, we never realized how lucky we were because she also adopted CSRNE and became an indispensable member and volunteer.

Camille's first love was caring for the dogs - she had a real soft spot for the senior cockers who needed a berth and post-operative care after surgery. Her first long-term foster dog was Shorty, long neglected for years who came to us with painful, untreated glaucoma. Shorty was on our website for many months but no one wanted to adopt a blind dog - which was fine with Camille because she always chose the cocker "nobody wants."

Shorty had never received such devoted care in his life and he blossomed under Camille's daily regime of eye drops, special treats, cuddling, and best of all, he got to sleep in her bed.

Camille was a tireless, attentive caregiver. She never once complained about making frequent vet visits, at any time of day or night, or about following a daily regimen of medications. If she thought one of her foster cockers wasn't feeling well, she was at the vet's then and there - appointment or no appointment!

Rescue organizations like CSRNE are constantly involved in the next fundraising project and Camille participated in them all. She was a member of every auction committee and she loved presenting the Cutest Pet Contest photos and final voting at the auction. For this reason, we have dedicated 2019's Cutest Pet Contest to Camille.

CSRNE is a better rescue organization because of her 15 years of tireless devotion, enthusiasm and effort on behalf of the homeless cockers we rescue. At the end of every meeting or event Camille would always say, "remember, it's all for the dogs." We miss Camille but she occupies an indelible part of our best memories.

Gerry Foss
CSRNE President

2017 Cutest Pet contender, Brandi

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!
In Honor of Camille Bertrand!
Contest ends September 20, 2019

- Pet entries accepted until 9 PM
- Voting closes at 10 PM EDT
- Instantly record your vote(s)
- Real-time tracking of competition

The top 12 vote-getters will be featured in CSRNE's 2020 calendar, a great holiday gift!

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

C0CKER SPANIEL RESCUE OF NEW ENGLAND, INC
P.O. Box 162
Greenfield, NH 03047

Non Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
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Saturday, October 26, 2019, 11 AM

NEW VENUE! REDUCED TICKET PRICE!

Bancroft School Field House
100 Shore Drive, Worcester, MA
Advance tickets $30/person, $33 at the door
More info at www.csrne.org

Hello, Lady and Tyson!

Lady and Tyson are looking for a home. They have always been together and are best buddies. These are two of the sweetest, most affectionate cockers you'll ever know! They approach the world with a "hail fellow well met" attitude. This pair is very sociable, excited to make a new friend of every person they meet and always on the lookout for a chance to cuddle and snuggle.

This pair loves to play fetch and go for leash walks. Don't be surprised if a walk turns into a "meet and greet" because people often want to pause and touch Lady and Tyson. There is just something irresistible about these two.

Lady and Tyson are the quintessential joyful cockers. All they need now to be sublimely happy is to share their love with a family of their own.