

April, 2012

<http://pitrescue.weebly.com>

## Who We Are

An all volunteer 501(C3) rescue group in Sioux Falls South Dakota, Sioux Empires mission is to promote responsible Pit Bull ownership, provide breed education, combat pet overpopulation, and find qualified homes for sound Pit Bull dogs in South Dakota as well as in other states.

### Adopting a Pit Bull

As for adopting a Pit Bull, they are wonderful dogs for the right family! Pit Bulls are very intelligent and they need a structured home that will teach them how to be well mannered and socialized. Pit Bulls are not a type of dog you adopt to ignore and leave on the end of a chain. Pit Bulls are great in families with kids. They are rough and tumble type dogs that are not easily scared or hurt-making them a great jungle gym. Pit Bulls love their owners with a heart and devotion unlike any other breed and with this kind of admiration comes great responsibility! To know the love of a Pit Bull is like none other and families that are responsible, committed owners know their dogs are well worth it!

We DO NOT make same sex-placements or place Pit Bulls in multiple dog homes. We might place a Pit Bull in a home with a compatible dog of the opposite sex, but we ask our adopters to follow certain safety measures - never leave the dogs unsupervised, always monitor roughhousing, avoid triggers that could cause conflicts such as bones, toys, etc. We also ask that the dogs we place NOT be taken to dog parks. Dogs are adopted as inside family members only!

## Thank You to Our SEPR Volunteers

When people check out our website, the first thing they see is “**Sioux Empire Pit Rescue -An all volunteer rescue group in Sioux Falls, SD that is not afraid to get DOWN and DIRTY for PIT BULL RESCUE!**” An ALL VOLUNTEER RESCUE GROUP, that’s exactly what it is. Lots of people giving their time, talents, and energy to save dogs that would not otherwise have the chance to save themselves.



Available for adoption—A 3 to 5 year old 45-lb pocket pit bull, Leo found himself sitting in a city shelter in Missouri that had a breed ban. This adorable young man has it all going for him - likes dogs, cats, kids and knows many basic commands.

SEPR has grown by leaps and bounds over the last year and we could not do it without the assistance of wonderful, dedicated volunteers. SEPR wants each of you to know that no matter how much you give, do, or help even the littlest bit means so much and is so needed!

There have been more adoptions, more fostering and more events that in turn

mean more opportunities for volunteers and more people stepping up. Everything you do for SEPR, whether it is fostering, donating time or money, helping at events, even just hanging out at adoption days is a big deal to us and an even bigger deal for the dogs.

SEPR has a new email that will be used for volunteer opportunities. The email is [seprvolunteerinfo@gmail.com](mailto:seprvolunteerinfo@gmail.com). Please add it to your safelist and make sure to be checking your junk mailbox to see if you have received any emails from us. Be watching for opportunities and make sure to let us know if you are interested in helping out with anything. Thank you for all you do!

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.” Dr. Seuss

*Melissa Jungemann  
SEPR Events/Volunteer Coordinator*



Available for adoption—Meet Perrywinkle. She is a unique looking 2-3 year old blue and white female pit bull. She is SEPR’s heart warming little snuggle bunny.

SEPR has been added as a participating charity on the Simple Dog website [www.simpledog.com/pit\\_bull\\_decal](http://www.simpledog.com/pit_bull_decal). SEPR earns a full \$5 cash donation for any of the fun bumper stickers and magnets sold when supporters choose SEPR with their donation.



**SEPR 2012  
Poker Run  
Saturday, June 23  
Starting place:  
Tea Legion VFW  
Tea, SD**

**Entry fee:  
\$20 Per Rider**

Includes t-shirt, lunch, and 2 raffle tickets

Poker Run winners will receive:  
1<sup>st</sup> - \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$75, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$25

Plus: Raffle prizes/packages will be awarded from over  
100 South Dakota local businesses!

You are not going to want to miss this years SEPR Poker Run! **Our 3rd annual run will lead us to Klock Werks Custom Cycle Shop in Mitchell, SD.**

We will be getting the royal treatment at the shop with a guided tour by the owner himself, Brian Klock. Hear the story of winning the 2006 Discovery Channel Biker Buildoff, the concept behind the Flare windshield, and meet the world fastest bagger driver, Laura Klock. This year the ladies are going to attempt to become the first mother-daughter-daughter team in history to set land speed records on the same motorcycle!

**Look for more info to come soon.**

## House Training Manual

Housetraining your puppy requires far more than a few stacks of old newspapers—it calls for vigilance, patience, plenty of commitment and above all, consistency. We have listed some things you can do to make house training more successful.

### Establish a routine.

- Take your puppy outside frequently. Remember they are puppies and their bladders are small, they cannot be expected to hold it for long periods of time – take your puppy out **AT LEAST** every two hours when possible, after eating, sleeping, drinking or eating.
- Reward you puppy when he/she eliminates outside – praise or a treat, myself, some prefer to tell them **GOOD DOG** and praise praise, praise, praise.
- Put your puppy on a feeding schedule, and limit water intake – no water at least 3 hours before bed.
- Supervise. In the beginning it will feel more like they are training you. Be alert to the puppy's behavior and signs that he/she might need to go out (.e. sniffing, going to the door, preparing to squat). Pick the puppy up quickly and put him outside.
- Confinement – crate your puppy to avoid accidents in small crate they can stand up in but don't have enough room to walk around. They don't like to soil their beds.

### Oops:

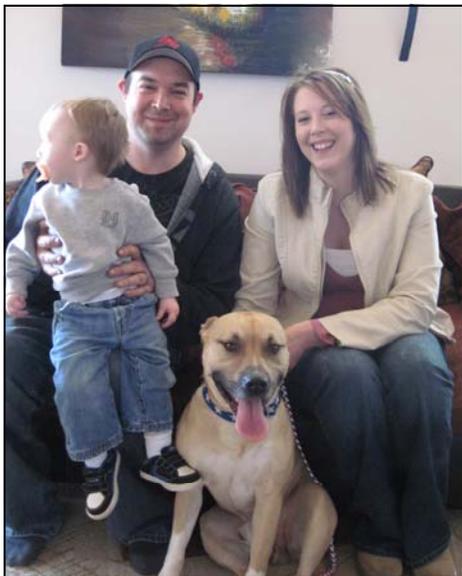
- Expect your puppy to have a few accidents in the house. It's a normal part of housetraining. Here's what to do when that happens:
- Interrupt your puppy when you catch him in the act of eliminating in the house.
- Make a startling noise (do not to scare him) or say "OUTSIDE!" Immediately take him to his bathroom spot, praise and give him a treat if he finishes eliminating there.
- Don't punish your puppy for eliminating in the house. If you find a soiled area, it's too late to administer a correction. Just clean it up. Rubbing your puppy's nose in it, taking him to the spot and scolding him, or any other punishment will only make him afraid of you or afraid to eliminate in your presence. Punishment will often do more harm than good.
- Clean the soiled area thoroughly. Puppies are highly motivated to continue soiling in areas that smell like urine or feces. Check with your veterinarian or pet store for products designed specifically to clean areas soiled by pets.

### When you are away:

- Expect your puppy to have accidents when you are away for longer than two hours. Some prefer to use a baby gate in a small room where accidents can be readily cleaned up. Put their crate in the room as well.
- Remove food and water.
- Be sure to **IMMEDIATELY** clean up any messes and sanitize well, puppies can smell the spots they went and they will have fewer accidents if this is done.

## *"I Wonder if I Like Peanut Butter"—Chap Finds His Family*

We welcomed Chap into our home "officially" on March 10th, but fell in love with him after seeing his picture and story back in February. He has only been with us for a week and a half, yet he feels like he's been a part of our family all along. This shy boy is coming out of his shell and starting to let us see the "real" Chap....which is a big goof-ball! The latest thing to intrigue him are the squirrels in our yard. If only he could climb trees! He is also overcoming his fear of his new playmate...our 1-1/2year old son Maddox. Chap quickly learned that Maddox is a "good



thing". He's kind of like an automatic food dispenser- he is always "sharing" his food during meals! (Although, Maddox thinks Chap has to share HIS food too... mmmm kibbles!)

Chap may be shy, but he is certainly a lover! He likes to snuggle in bed, sit on our laps and give kisses! I think his foster mommy Tori nailed it when



she said he doesn't have a mean bone in his soft little body! I know it was mixed emotions for Tori when she handed him over to us. It's hard not to get attached to such a sweetheart! We are so grateful that she started the process of showing him that he will be loved unconditionally and that his life is going to be better from here on out. We are excited to keep seeing his personality evolve as he settles in to his new life and becomes a more confident dog! Thanks SEPR for rescuing our sweet little Chap and making sure he gets the life he deserves!

*Kat, Brooks, Maddox, and Libby*

### *Calendar of Events*

**May 13th**—1st Annual Bully Walk partnering with Globe University for a Spay/Neuter Clinic SEPR is partnering with the Sioux Falls Storm and the Sioux Falls Jaycees for the 1st Annual Bully Walk. The walk 1000 N. West Ave., back parking lot of Non-Profit Center (corner of Lake Ave & Madison St.). Walk will be around Terrace Park/Covell Lake. While this is a great opportunity to show our ambassadors for the pit bull breed, the walk is open to dogs of all kinds and their owners, with the costs being \$15 per dog. Globe University will be on site as well to sign up eligible families for free spay/neuter of their four legged friends. SEPR is passionate about helping to control the pet population!!! Enjoy a beautiful afternoon with a leisurely walk downtown. Door prizes and fun will be offered. Spread the word.

#### **June 23rd—2012 Annual SEPR Poker Run**

Its official Sioux Empire Pit Rescue 3rd annual Poker Run will be Saturday June 23rd - starting location Tea Legion/VFW. Please mark your calendars today and watch for more upcoming exciting news on this great event to raise awareness and money for the dogs!

Get your motors running ! It's gonna be here before we now it! This super fun event is currently in the planning stages so be looking for details to come soon. You know you are itching for warm weather and to get out to ride. What a better way to raise money, save dogs and have an awesome ride. Pass the word to all your motorcycle buddies!!

#### **Adoption Day—1st Saturday of the month 1-4pm @ Petco - Sioux Falls**

As always, the 1st Saturday of the month is adoption day. This is a cool way to come see the amazing dogs we have and find which one you would like to give them their furever home. Watch the web site and Facebook in the upcoming months as we may be at a few different locations as well.



Greetings everyone! Spring time is quickly approaching and with that so is flea/tick season. Sioux Empire Pit Rescue provides all flea and tick protection for all or our foster dogs. We are looking at about 20 pit bulls to cover this spring and are looking for any donations anywhere from \$5-\$500 – no amount is too small!

It's a fun time to be outside and enjoy the weather with our dogs, but at the same time keeping them healthy and save is priority one. Please think about donating a least a couple dollars today as the SEPR dogs truly appreciate every penny.

## Are We Guilty of Judging Pit Bulls?

There is nothing that can get a bully owner's blood boiling faster than the mention of breed specific legislation. The hair on the back of our neck perks up and we're ready to set someone straight in their thinking. We don't want anyone judging or labeling our dog because they appear to be a pit bull. We want each dog to be seen as an individual, not lumped together into what a few have brought attention to. But wait, are we doing the same labeling of our dogs?

We have a tendency to think that because a dog cowers in fear they have been beaten. When our pit bulls show aggression towards other dogs, we assume that they have been used for fighting. We see a dog with scars and scratches and immediately think that they were used as bait dogs in a fighting ring. We come across a female that is recovering from giving birth to a litter of pups and determine that is all she has been used for, breeding. Just as people judge the character of our pit bull by the big block

head, we are doing the same judging based on appearance.

The life a dog lives before we take them into our homes is their secret. It may have been a great life with a sudden turn of events. It may have been a secluded life with little human interaction. It may be exactly what we assumed. As humans we feel we need to know this information to "help" them. We think it will assist us to figure out what to do with this new member of the house. It's a mystery we want to solve, but we don't need to. Put your spy-glass away, you don't need it.

Animals live in the moment. Yes, they are smart enough to figure out that when they do this, they get that, and when they hear/see that, this is what happens. That's how we train our dogs. We've taught them, if I sit and wait, I will get my bowl of food, or when I hear the jingling of the car keys, my family is going to be gone for awhile.

Take them into your home and your life. Give them food, water, shelter, exercise and guidance no matter what their past may have been. That life is gone for them. It's history in their book, done, over with, time to live for now! The past may have shaped your dog, but will not define it. We can learn a lot from our dogs.

*Stephanie  
Sioux Empire Pit Rescue Volunteer*

Mustang Sally has been looking for her forever family since October.



## The Importance of a Personal Health Record (PHR) for Your Pet

Submitted by Cynthia Paulson

Our pets play an important role in our lives, impacting our physical, psychological, and social well-being. When a pet is injured or ill, a pet owner, like any caregiver of a beloved family member, needs information to make informed health-care decisions. More and more health-care consumers understand the importance and benefits of starting and maintaining a Personal Health Record (PHR) for themselves. But PHR's are not just for people; every pet owner should keep a PHR for their pet.

PHR'S are very easy to set-up. All you need is a binder and inside the binder include the following basic information for each pet that you own:

- Name, birth date, and gender.
- Breed and general description including color, approximate weight.
- A recent photograph.
- Microchip or tattoo information.
- Name of your veterinarian, veterinary clinic, and phone number.
- Name and number of your local emergency veterinary hospital.
- Names and numbers of specialty clinics you have visited.
- Vaccination history and an up-to-date rabies certificate.
- Results from physical exams.
- Medications and their dosages.
- Major illnesses and surgeries, plus dates.
- Any test results, biopsies, etc.
- Any allergies, hypersensitivities, or adverse reactions, especially to anesthesia.
- Diet regiment.
- Your pet's insurance policy, if applicable.

There are many reasons to keep a PHR for each one of your pets. It allows you to become a better consumer of veterinary care. PHR's empower you to ask more informed questions about your pet's health. It allows you to be a better advocate for your pet and to ensure that your pet is getting the proper care. PHR's can reduce costs that can be caused by redundant testing or missing medical information.

Keeping a PHR lowers the risk of medical mistakes because you have your pet's medical information right in front of you. Your pet's PHR can help you keep track of appointments and keeps important information in one place in case you move, change vets, travel or board your pet and need proof of vaccinations. But the biggest reason to have a PHR is that it can save your pet's life.

As pet owners understand the importance of keeping a PHR for each of their pets, you will see more and more veterinary clinics and pet insurance companies offering electronic PHR's on their websites and the growth of smartphone apps that will enable you to keep all your pet's information at your fingertips.

PHR's are an important tool for pet owners because it allows a pet owner to be a better consumer of veterinary care and an advocate for their pets to make sure they are receiving the best possible care. But the most important reason for pet owners to maintain a PHR is that it can save your pet's life.

## Can You Help the Dog that Needs to be Rehomed?



Dozer needs a family!

We receive countless pleas from people wanting us to take their pit bull. The reasons are anywhere from, I'm losing my home, have to move, can't take dog with, he/she doesn't get along with other dog, don't have enough time for the dog, going to have a baby, and on and on. Many of these pleas may very well be legit, but somewhere along the way these people chose to have these dogs and need to take responsibility for them. \

When an owner wants to surrender their dog we will give them a whole laundry list of ways for them to find their dog a good home. First we encourage them to find a way to keep their pet.

It may mean living in a not so posh residence, finding a family member to keep the dog while you get your feet back on the ground, but most of the time it is education. Helping them to realize that you can have a dog and a baby at the same time, you can give the dog exercise without walking a mile each day, or

you may need to crate and rotate the dogs for awhile until they get used to each other.

If they truly believe that these suggestions are not options, then we talk to them about rehoming options. The importance of getting good photos of the dog and a video showcasing his personality. Write up a biography of the dog, just as rescues and shelters do, send it via E-mail to your contacts and ask them to forward it on to their contacts. Post it on your Facebook page and ask others to cross post, put it on Craig's List, [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com) and [pbrc.net](http://pbrc.net). We also explain the whole screening process that we do as well as contacting references and doing a homecheck.

It always seems to be an urgency and they only want to rid themselves of the dog, not do the work themselves. Who suffers? The dog of course. For this reason it is very difficult to deny people, but we have to look at those dogs that don't have anyone at all to do this for them. The dogs that have ended up in shelters where due to lack of space are euthanized. These are the dogs that truly need us, therefore these are the dogs we rescue.

Stephanie Sioux Empire Pit Rescue Volunteer

## Web Links to Happy Dog and Animal Stories

A few weeks ago, I was browsing through Facebook when I came across a post from my new SEPR friend Stephanie that I think a lot of us can relate to. To paraphrase it, she basically said that she had been reading so many upsetting stories about people's mistreatment of animals that she was feeling really down. I think all of us have felt that at one point or another, and being a champion for a misunderstood animal such as the Pit Bull can, at times, almost intensify those feelings of hopelessness. Consequently, I'd like to present some links that I've come across in the few weeks that have made me happy to be a pittie/dog/animal lover.

### Pittie Specific Links:

This story is incredible. The love of a rescued Pit Bull puppy saved one former soldier's life; in return, he has created a non-profit organization to match veterans with shelter dogs <http://tinyurl.com/herotohero>. While the beginning of this story may not restore your faith in humanity, the ending just might. You can buy prints from the adorable Harper's photoshoot to help defray her medical costs <http://tinyurl.com/Harperpup>. Victoria Stillwell, one of my favorite trainers, has positive things to say about Pit Bulls in this interview: <http://tinyurl.com/73x739d>. Finally, if you're at

all a grammar nerd like I am, it may be bothering you that everywhere you look, you see Pit Bull written differently. Capitalize both words? Only the first? Neither of them? Put them together into one word? These kinds of questions really can keep an English major up at night! Here's one blogger's opinion on the issue <http://tinyurl.com/pitcaps>.

### Dog Links:

Some of my favorite things on the interwebs are GIFs, small, compressed graphic files that usually include a short, funny looping movie. This GIF of a Rottweiler and a Corgi makes me laugh every time: <http://tinyurl.com/rottorg>. This next story may make you cry, but you can't help but smile when you see the pictures of the smiling dog looking out from the plane that transported him to his person's deathbed. Kudos to the volunteer groups who made the long (and surely expensive) journey happen <http://tinyurl.com/lastwishdog>.

I came across this incredible story on my MSN homepage at work. Mr. Gibbs, a Goldendoodle, acts as a service dog by carrying a three-year-old girl's portable oxygen tank. Can you imagine the work of trying to keep up with an active toddler?

Happily, little Alida's rare health problem seems to be something children grow out of so, as the author said, someday Mr. Gibbs may be able to retire into a life of being "just" Alida's best friend <http://tinyurl.com/6vrp7y9>. Here's one way for us to wear out or dogs on those cold, snowy winter days! Thanks to my friend Idabelle for sending me thins link. <http://tinyurl.com/gettingdizzy>.

### Just Animal Links:

Here's another GIF that makes me laugh out loud. Despite any mixed feelings I might have about zoos, there's just something about a bear head banging with a bunch of schoolchildren that makes me really happy: <http://tinyurl.com/86fvw33>

If you are wondering how you can find great links like these throughout the web without spending all your time sorting through Google results, try out stumbleupon at <http://www.stumbleupon.com>. With the quick download of a toolbar and the entry of a few of interests ("dogs" and "Pitbulls" are among mine), a click on the stumbleupon button will bring you web pages that other stumblers with the same interests have found. Be warned: it's addicting! Happy surfing, everyone!

Amanda Potter

## *Famous Pit Bulls - by Tracey Franco*

The name of Helen Adams Keller is known around the world as a symbol of courage in the face of overwhelming odds, yet she was much more than a symbol. She was a woman of luminous intelligence, high ambition and great accomplishment. She devoted her life to helping others. Helen chose a Pit Bull as her family companion.



Petey the Pit Bull was famous for his role in *The Little Rascals*. He performed daily with children and was loved by all.



The Pit Bull is the **ONLY** dog to have graced the cover of *Life Magazine*, not once, but **THREE** times!



Sgt Stubby died on March 16, 1926 as a hero, yet today many people do not know who he is. Sgt Stubby is the most decorated

dog in military history, and the **ONLY** dog to have been promoted during battle. He fought for 18 months in the trenches for France during WW1 for 17 battles. He warned his fellow soldiers of gas attacks, located wounded soldiers, and listened for artillery rounds.

Jack Brutus was another famous military dog. Although, he did not get nearly the publicity as Stubby, Jack Brutus was the official mascot of Company K, First Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. He was much larger than Stubby and was never smuggled anywhere with his troops (as Stubby had been). Jack Brutus died in 1898 of spinal troubles. He was much larger than the famous Sergeant Stubby but was definitely a pit bull type dog.

The Pit Bull was so respected in the early 1900s that the US Military chose an image of a Pit Bull to represent our country on war posters.

Me...I just hope that the future of the great American pit bull terrier is as good as that before it. I hope that one day, we will again see the pit bull in advertisements not promoting BSL. I would like to see the pit bull in advertisements of strength, dignity, and loyalty, versus fury, terror, and rage.



Why can't we remember being kids and watching the "Little Rascals" and thinking how cute Petey is, and wanting a dog just like him versus run at the sight of a child playing with a pit bull?

**Boomer and Delta are available for adoption!**

