



# Sioux Empire Pit Rescue



October, 2011

<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!

## Dispelling the Myths About Pit Bulls

Pit Bulls are dangerous, right? They bite people. They attack other dogs. They are used in dog fighting because they are naturally mean animals. You can't trust a Pit Bull with your family.

These are things that I used to think. I had never met a Pit Bull myself. All I knew was what the media showed me. I never questioned it. Then I bought my first house. I started meeting my neighbors. I started making new friends. And I started meeting all of their dogs. Many of the dogs were bully breeds. I met Dobermans, Rottweilers, Boxers, and of course, Pit Bulls.

At this point in my life I owned cats. I grew up with a dog on the farm, a collie, but had never been introduced to any of the Bully breeds. This was an eye opener for me. Here I was, with a bunch of people who owned these dogs, and I started to see the love of the animals.

I saw how gentle & caring these Bullies really are. I started to really like Pit Bulls! Every one that I met was well behaved. Their owners were the biggest advocates for the breed. These were people who educated others, broke down the stereotype the media had built.

My neighbors got involved & became foster parents for SEPR. I fell in love with their foster dog, but couldn't afford a dog of my own. I started asking questions and the rest became history. Before I knew it, I was filling out an application to become a foster parent myself.

I couldn't believe the information that was provided to me to learn more about the breed. I finally had information at my fingertips to be an advocate myself. When I am asked about their locking



jaws, I can let people know their jaws don't lock though they are strong. When confronted about their vicious temperament, I can inform the person about how well the breed does in temperament testing. Finally, when it comes to how the breed is with children, I just warn them that they better be careful my Pit Bull may just lick their children to death!

Pit Bulls may have a bad reputation. Foster parents, owners & supporters of the breed have a responsibility to be educated advocates. I take in as much valid information as I can find to help combat what the media has poisoned peoples minds with.

The task for us is to help, one person at a time. If you can change one person's outlook on the breed, they might just change the next persons.

*Betsy  
SEPR Foster Home/Volunteer  
Event Coordinator*



## BAGGAGE

By: Evelyn Colbath

Now that I'm home, bathed, settled and fed, all nicely tucked in my warm new bed.

I'd like to open my baggage  
Lest I forget. There is so much to  
carry - so much to regret.  
Hmm...

Yes, there it is, right on the top. Let's  
unpack Loneliness, Heartache and  
Loss and there by my leash hides Fear  
and Shame.

As I look on these things I tried so  
hard to leave - I still have to unpack  
my baggage called Pain.

I loved them, the others, the ones  
who left me, but I wasn't good  
enough - or they didn't want me.

Will you add to my baggage?  
Will you help me unpack?  
Or will you just look at my things  
And take me right back?

Do you have the time to help me  
unpack? To put away my baggage,  
To never repack?

I pray that you do - I'm so tired you  
see, but I do come with baggage -  
Will you still want me?

## Upcoming SEPR Events

There is so much happening with SEPR and it couldn't be more exciting. SEPR would love to see you at all these great events! Make sure to mark your calendars and tell friends, family, neighbors and coworkers. The more exposure SEPR has means better event attendance, better fundraisers, more potential foster families and ultimately more adoptions into forever homes!!

- **Monthly Adoptions Days** - Oct. 1 and Nov. 5 from 1-4 p.m. at Petco (41<sup>st</sup> St. & Louise Ave.) This is a chance to come check out available dogs for adoption. Meet and get to know your new furry friend.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Extra Adoption Day** - Oct. 15 1-4 p.m. at Nyberg's Ace parking lot (12<sup>th</sup> St. and Kiwanis Ave.) Since adoptions have been slow lately, SEPR has partnered with Nyberg's Ace to help you have a second chance to meet your next family member.
- **Pooch Pictures in the Park** - Oct 22 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Terrace Park/Japanese Gardens (N. Euclid and W. Fourth Streets). Bring your pooch or multiple pooches for a photo session. You can have pictures taken of your dog, or your dog and family...up to you. Session will be \$20 (cash or check) with all proceeds going to SEPR. This great opportunity is possible through Innate Impulse Photography by Tate Walker. Appointments will not be necessary and will be as you come between 11am and 5pm. For an additional \$5, you can enter your photo in the SEPR's calendar contest.
- **Howl-o-ween Doggie Carnival** is on Oct. 22 from 1-5 p.m. at Cliff Avenue Greenhouse (W. 41<sup>st</sup> St.). SEPR will have a booth at the carnival promoting the organization as well as handing out treats for all the doggie trick or treaters. You can even make a day of it...grab your furry loved one and get your picture taken at Japanese Gardens and then zip down to the Doggie Carnival. What better way to help SEPR and it only takes a day.

It's going to be a busy month, but SEPR is gearing up for it and ready for the challenge. Be sure to visit SEPR website or visit SEPR on Facebook. With your help of promoting, these events are sure to be successful. If you want to help out with any events, please contact SEPR...volunteers are always welcome! Most importantly, pass the word!

*Melissa Jungemann, SEPR volunteer*

## The Ins and Outs of Fostering Animals

Fostering animals has truly been the most rewarding and satisfying volunteer work I've done to date. To give you an idea of what I'm comparing it to, the following is a list of the volunteer work I've done: Hospice Volunteer, Sunday School and Religious Education teacher, Reading Buddy with elementary students, Organized Fund Raising Events, Performed cleaning and maintenance of an animal shelter, Assisted in caring for, exercise, and transportation of rescued animals, Assisted with hair care of residents in a nursing home and more. While all of these opportunities are important and worthwhile, the fostering of animals brings me the most satisfaction and fits nicely into my everyday life.

Each foster brings a new set of challenges. Some can be very timid and afraid, some anxious and reactive, and some are just happy, lovable critters that only want your attention and affection. Animals are very loving creatures by nature, and their resilience and forgiveness is inspirational. Humans can learn a lot from animals. Many people fear the attachment and eventual letting go that fostering is. This is where you have to see the bigger

picture. One of my favorite sayings is, "fear is temporary, regret is forever". If I chose not to foster out of fear of becoming attached, approximately 50 animals would not be living in their forever homes today. Of those 50, about 12 would probably not be alive.

Most rescues only ask that you provide basic care (food, water, shelter, exercise, and love), teach them simple commands, that you work on good manners and that you bring them to adoption events. You don't need to be a professional dog trainer and spend hours meeting these goals, but rather a few minutes each day consistently and repetitively. The rescue will provide you with the necessary tools, and education you may need. A good rescue will supply you with everything you need to care for the animal in your home. The greatest thing the rescue provides is much support and education to make you and the dog successful. The goal is to not only find them a home, but to give families a good, solid, dependable dog.

*Stephanie O'Brien, SEPR volunteer*

## The Love of an Adult Dog

I have worked with dog rescue for over 10 years and have met countless remarkable dogs that have sat in foster homes for months and months for no other good reason than they are an “adult” dog. Society has numerous preconceived notions that when picking out a new dog it is better to get a puppy or young adult as they will turn into better companion animals, will not have “other people’s problems”, or the number one excuse we hear - “they can’t be trusted with children”.

This is entirely not true and if we look at the top 10 reasons of why animals are surrendered to shelters every day it is clear most of the issues have nothing to do with the dog’s bad behavior:

1. Moving
2. Landlord issues
3. Cost of keeping a dog
4. Not enough time to spend with dog
5. Inadequate facilities
6. Too many pets in home
7. Pet illness
8. Personal problems
9. Biting
10. Can’t find homes for puppies

A puppy takes a good deal of time to train and grow into a well behaved adult. Most young families that already have children do not have the time it takes to ensure their new four legged friend turns into a canine role model citizen. If you do not have over 6 hours a day to spend with training, exercising etc. than a puppy is not something your family should be considering. Also, novice dog owners who do not have the time or experience to train a puppy would do much better with an adult dog that is already past this demanding stage of life. Here are some major points to consider about adopting an older dog:

- Older dogs are wiser and calmer. They will more than likely slot into your environment and bond with you on a mature level, unlike young puppies that can cause mischief and become slightly out of control if restless.
- Senior pets tend to appreciate the love and care of their owner and the fact that they have been given a second chance of happiness. Older pets in a shelter may suffer from depression. This is

your chance to give them joy, and to get that joy back tenfold.

- Although older dogs may have health problems they do not generally require as much attention and care from you as they start to wind down in their old age.
- Older dogs are often trained to follow commands and are usually toilet trained.
- Older dogs are easy to assess for behavior and temperament – meaning there is no guess work - you know whether that dog is good with dog, cats, and especially children!
- Adopting an older dog means you are not supporting a breeder when the pet population is already at an epidemic rate in the United States.
- Adopting an older dog teaches children that all lives are valuable, especially those of older dogs who desperately need homes. If your children have their hearts set on a puppy, take them to the animal shelter and show them all the amazing dogs that need homes. It might take a little persuasion on your part, but adopting an older dog will teach your children that all creatures deserve love, not just cute puppies.
- If adopted from a reputable rescue organization or shelter, they usually come fully up to date on shots, and are spayed or neutered and microchipped.

Give help where it’s really needed - Young dogs and puppies are usually the first to get adopted. Many kind, wonderful older dogs, especially seniors, languish in the shelters for weeks or months, waiting for someone to notice them. Too often older dogs are euthanized simply because there aren’t enough resources to house them until they find homes. When you adopt an older dog, you’re saving a life. What could feel better?

While an older dog can be a marvelous find, you can still be selective. Working with shelters or rescue groups that evaluate their dogs and provide them with basic training is highly recommended, as is signing up your new adult dog for a training class. It is also a great way to form a strong bond with your new four legged friend.

SEPR has a handful of fantastic adults that have been passed up for some of our younger dogs. Our adults are extremely worthy of an extraordinary home and will repay your family with not only their great doggy manners that their foster homes have already taught them, but they will adore you for finally giving them the home they have always deserved! Come adopt an adult dog today...your family will not be disappointed!

*Rachael- SEPR Vice President*

### Cesar Millan’s First Annual National Family Pack Walk

Cesar’s first Annual National Family Pack Walk will take place on October 30, 2011 at Lake Balboa in support of the Cesar Millan Foundation. Proceeds go toward the foundation to help rescue, rehabilitate and re-home abused and abandoned dogs.

The Pack Walk is for humans and their dogs to build on their relationship. The day will be full of fun activities, games, training and education. The Pack Walk is 1.5 miles and will be led by Cesar and the winner of the Pack Walk Fundraiser. “This is a movement towards reconnecting ourselves with our dogs and our dog community. It is more meaningful than just walking a dog. I want it to be symbolic to being part of a community and group that is focused on building healthy relationships with their dogs and each other.” –Cesar Millan

Enter your dog’s photo in the “Top Dog Fundraiser” to see if your dog has what it takes to lead the pack alongside Cesar. How it works:

- “Like” The Cesar Millan Foundation Facebook page
- Click on the “Top Dog Photo Fundraising Competition” banner
- Click on the “Submit an entry” tab and upload your dog’s photo with a \$5 donation
- Encourage your friends and family to make the \$1 vote donation (they can vote as many times as they like!)

The dog that raises the most money by the end of the contest on Friday, September 30th will be the Leader of the Pack with Cesar at the First Annual National Family Pack Walk! This is a great activity to do with your dog to establish yourself as pack leader. Get out those leashes and collars and start walking!

*Robin Willhoit, SEPR Treasurer*

## *Farewell to My Friends and New Family of SEPR*

In 2004 my family and I adopted our first dog. Her name was Gracie, and her breed was Great Dane. She was a great dog, and grew up with my son as her best friend. She taught us the love and compassion a dog can give. In February of 2011, she was diagnosed with bone cancer. We made the heart wrenching decision to send her to the rainbow bridge, where all dogs find peace and happiness.

My children were distraught and we really missed having the companion of a dog. I was on Craigslist, when I saw the ad for SEPR to be at Petco for their monthly adoption day in April. Not knowing anything besides what the media told me about Pit Bulls, I thought it was worth going to visit. We walked into the small room where the dedicated foster parents all had their foster Pits. The second we walked in my three-year-old daughter ran up and wrapped herself around three different dogs. Each of the dogs greeted her with the classic Pit Bull butt-wag, and a TON of Pit Bull kisses. We spent about an hour with the dogs and when we left we knew we would want to adopt one.

After a couple of months we adopted our fun-loving Tinker Bell. She instantly brought great joy, happiness, and excitement to our lives. After knowing that she came from a place of little hope, where many of the dogs do, I knew I wanted to do more to help. Two weeks after adopting her, I decided I wanted to foster and give another Pittie a chance at life. That is when we brought Sinatra into our home.

Sinatra lived with us for 2 ½ months and I became more involved with the rescue. I found a new group of family and friends from both the dogs and the people involved in the rescue. Sinatra and Tinker Bell's endless love, comfort, and pure happiness has helped get me through the most difficult time in my life. Anyone who has owned, or fostered a Pit Bull can understand what I am talking about. It is a special kind of Pit Bull love that I have never experienced from another breed.

With this difficult time in my life; my kids, Tinker Bell, and I are moving to the Minneapolis area for work and a new start on life. It is hard to part ways with the new friends I have met with the rescue but I will be forever grateful for the wisdom they have taught me about the breed, the forgiveness of preconceived thoughts from the media, and the pure satisfaction of helping foster and adopt these wonderful dogs who would otherwise be at the Rainbow Bridge. They have touched me so much that I will be in contact with a rescue group in my new area, and whenever I am back in Sioux Falls on adoption days, I will see you all there. With sadness, happiness, and a great sense of adventure I say farewell to SEPR. Thank you for what you have taught me and for all of the wonderful things you do for this amazing breed every day.

*With love,  
Michelle, Corbyn, and Evie Steen*

## *2012 Calendar Contest*

<http://pitrescue.weebly.com/2012-calendar-contest.html>



With your help SEPR is hoping this becomes a great fundraiser each year. Not only can you make a tax-deductible donation to SEPR but all entries are featured in a collage photo contained in the 2012 SEPR calendar.

Here's how it works! Submit your pet's photo with a short 250 word or less reason why your Pit Bull should be in the 2012 SEPR calendar along with \$5.00 donation. Submission entries will be accepted until November 1, 2011. At that time a panel of 3 judges will pick the twelve winners, each to be displayed on a different calendar month. The judges will be looking for creativity and originality. Calendars will be for sale through SEPR beginning January 2012.

1. Photos may contain more than one Pit Bull.
2. Photos submitted cannot be in a compressed pixel format or from a cellular device. (Small and compressed photos will be taken out of the judging panel.)
3. We will be accepting entries through October 31, 2011. All donations are non-refundable.
4. SEPR is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

### **HOW TO ENTER**

STEP 1: Click [HERE](#) to submit your short 250 word or less entry for why your Pit Bull should be in the 2012 SEPR Pit Bull calendar. In your submission please include your dogs name and families name. Please label the subject of your email "2012 Calendar Contest".

STEP 2: Next you will need to submit your \$5.00 donation fee and again please include your dog and family name so entries and donations can be match accordingly! Good luck and have fun with the camera!!



## Max's Happy Ending



When I started looking through Petfinder for a dog, we weren't even sure of our timeline for adopting a new family member. Then I ran across a posting by SEPR and things started rolling right along :) We looked at SEPR's website almost daily and really got serious about when to head up to SD to meet all the dogs. Rachael had guessed that Max would really match up with us, so on August 6th we went to meet all the pups. Long story short, we took home Max that day.



Max is doing so well here at his forever home. It's getting easier every day. He's so much fun. We did the doggy shut down for the 2 weeks and No Free Lunch as well. He picked up on the rules so quickly. We knew he was getting comfortable with us when Jon was getting ready for work one morning and Max was bored so he went in his crate on his own. He's always happy to see me when I come home at lunch to let him out.

We were unsure about him and the kitties, but now he just avoids them and gives them plenty of space. He's moved on from wanting to chase and seems more curious now than anything else.

One day he managed to snag his gentle leader from the small doggy paraphernalia basket I have on top of the crate and the little monster chewed part of the plastic clip. It's still functioning, thank god! Lesson learned. At first, Dork-a-dog (one of his many nicknames) hadn't learned (or cared?) that frogs pee on you when you bite them. We usually got him away from them in time, but he's so quick!! He would drool and lick his chops after he'd dropped the poor frog.

Max is so smart- he's learned off, drop, heel. and leave it (a MUST with the kitties), and also brings his rope bone and kong to us when we play. Every time he gets out of his crate he grabs a toy and prances around the house with it, just one of his funny routines that make us glad to have him in our lives.

He's so spoiled that he has a bed in his crate, the living room and in the shop. He's putting a little weight on and is filling out to be an even more handsome boy. He runs the property with us everyday and when the weather is good, Jon hops on his little motorcycle and Max runs with him for a mile or two. It really wears him out!

After the doggy shut down, we started introducing him to our friends and neighbors, They have all LOVED him and tell us how good looking and well behaved he is. He has met two other dogs and he walks well with them. We are taking things slow and hoping he makes some doggy friends to keep him social.

Max makes us laugh every day, he loves to roughhouse with Jon and go out to the garden with me. He's basically happy as long as he's along for the ride (even if the ride is only from the mailbox to the garage) and he's so deserving of a good life after how his started out. Thank you SEPR for helping us find our goofy, lovey, laid back Max.

*Jon, Des and Max*

