

Ollie Gets a New Family

It was getting close to Joseph's 12th birthday. Everyone was asking him what he wanted for his birthday. His response was always, "The only present I want for my birthday is Ollie!" It didn't take very much convincing for Mom and Dad to say yes!

Ollie officially became part of our family in June, 2012. Some may call him a "foster failure" because he had lived with our family as a foster for a few months before that. I think Ollie knew he was with his forever family shortly after he walked through the door to our house; it just took us a little longer to realize what he already knew.



Ollie is a great addition to our busy family. He loves to go with to pick Joseph up from school. He watches all the kids as they come out of the building until he sees "his" kid Joseph! He has also become quite the soccer fan. He goes to practice, games, and tournaments with us. Another of his favorite activities is to go camping with his family. *He is a great ambassador for the pit bull breed during all of these events!*

On the days he gets to stay home, he likes to spend his time lounging downstairs on the couch hanging out with Joseph and dad in their man cave.

We think Ollie is the best birthday present ever, although how will we top it next year?

Joseph, Mom, Dad and Ollie



**2013 SEPR
Calendar Contest**
Submit your entry today!
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**Rock Band Black on High
Creates Video to Help
SEPR dogs**
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Who We Are

An all volunteer 501(C3) rescue group in Sioux Falls South Dakota, Sioux Empire's 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. However, 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!

Rock Band “Black on High” Creates Music Video Showcasing SEPR Dogs to Help Raise Awareness of our Cause

The rock band Black on High has created a new music video with the Sioux Empire Pit Rescue to raise awareness for our cause, finding proper homes for rescued Pit Bulls. SEPR is grateful for this wonderful opportunity to reach out to people in another form of media. To view and listen to the video go to <http://blackonhigh.com/News/20121005.html>.

More about the band

From the Black on High web site:

Omaha, NE is about as small of a city as you can get. The music scene is very tight niched, everyone knows everyone. Scott Armstrong (Forever/Hollowed) and Dan Cinotto

(Downshift/Narcotic Self) were no exception. After years of playing shows together in their respective bands, in the winter of 2008 they felt it was time to work together and bring something new to the scene. They decided to work under the moniker of 'Black On High', which refers to the last page of The Dresden Codex (Mayan book of prophecies), which depicts the destruction of Earth by a great flood. The Codex had been damaged throughout time, and this page had been referred to as 'Black Earth', 'Black Sky', and 'Black on High'. They decided on 'Black on High' because it represented a turning point in human evolution, and the music that was being written was a turning point for them.

With the release of 2010's 'The First Seal', Black on High's distinctive throw back sound to the early nineties had started to take shape. The band cited Alice In Chains, Kyuss, and Rush as major influences.

In late 2010, Brent Johnson (Hello From Ghost Valley) was added on drums, and James Doke (Sepulcro/Disposable Heroes) on bass. The music has been taken down a much different path than the previous two records. While the band's love for early 90's heavy music still comes through, new influences has started mold the BOH sound. Check the band and video out on their web site!

*A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated
in the 2nd Annual Pooches in the Park photo shoot to
benefit SEPR dogs on September 22!*

Check out the beautiful photos at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/siouxempirepitrescue/collections/72157631581192130>

Fostering Benefits Dogs and Humans

A few months ago my family decided to bring a foster dog into our home for the first time. As with any foster animal we did not know all of the details about the animal's past or any behaviors that may be exhibited once in our home. This dog had led a very sheltered life with little social contact from what we know.

A couple of weeks after the arrival of the dog in our home he started to show some behaviors that would require additional training. In order to accomplish this though, our family had to make a commitment to provide additional training both inside and outside of our home which meant we had to set time aside every day to train and work with him one on one.

The training included working with a dog behaviorist to learn techniques to help improve the behaviors. These techniques then need to be practiced and used on a regular basis as we work to change the behaviors. Consistency, routine and the willingness to dedicate time

each day are all important factors when working to change a behavior.

In addition to this, many SEPR volunteers have assisted with the training. Every day we introduce him to new people and new experiences. We started slow with having volunteers come to our home and have now progressed to having him go to the volunteer's home for visits. Daily walks are also necessary to provide him with exposure to new people and situations on a regular basis. Every situation is a teaching opportunity to help him become more comfortable in his environment.

Even though our first foster experience has been difficult at times it has been extremely rewarding to know we are making a difference in a dog's life one day at a time.

Vanessa Harty





Kingston is a Big Teddy Bear and is Available for Adoption

Kingston is a big old teddy bear. This 6 year old 80lb. English Bulldog/pit mix is a lover . . . of everything. This big old boy's tail NEVER stops wagging. He is very laid back and sadly found himself in a city shelter that had a breed ban. On top of all of that this poor kid was sick..he had sarcoptic mange/elephantitis - SEPR had the opinions of two vets that believe he has been sick with some type of allergy/mange for quite some time. Kingston deserves a healthy and happy life and we are committed to ensuring a happy ending.

Kingston had been ill and recuperating from sarcoptic mange. When he first entered his foster family to live he was a VERY sick dog. His skin was raw and red from him scratching. He had some bald spots where he had lost hair. He was so swollen with elephantitis that you could hardly see that his face had any structure - he was just one big swollen round head. Kingston had quite a few vet visits, and had been poked, prodded, weighed and needle stuck with never a whimper or fuss. He had become popular at the vet as they loved seeing him become well again! As his treatments are finishing up, Kingston has been emerging as a fine dog. While at first he was very lethargic and slow, he has now become an alert, playful, and at times quite the goofy dog! Did we mention he is gorgeous!!! His coat is getting shiny and he is a total head turner for sure. Kingston is now on a weekly doses of immunosuppressant (not a steroid) that is helping his body deal with his allergies – his response has been good and the vet has high hopes after a full treatment that Benadryl should be able to regulate most of Kingston's skin issues due to grass and dust.

Kingston is being fostered with two female dogs and one cat. Kingston does fine with his canine housemates and would do fine in a home with a nice submissive female companion. On the other hand, he wouldn't mind being the only king of the castle either. A home with no cats though will be a must! He is *very* prone to chase little furry things, so a future owner will need to be very aware of this. Kingston loves to play fetch with his furry hedgehog toy, but when he feels he has had enough play he will take the toy and proceed to bury it. He does this by digging a hole with his snout, and putting the toy in then patting the dirt back on top of it. Very funny thing to watch!

Kingston is a strong big boy. He is a VERY stout dog. He will need an owner who will continue with his training – well if you can talk him off the couch first. Kingston is being trained to a gentle leader to ensure proper leash manners and to give that extra advantage of easy handling. Kingston is crate trained and house trained. He will make an excellent companion for an owner who is willing to take on the responsibility of owning such a majestic animal! Kingston would love a forever home that has plenty of room on the couch and bed as those are his favorites spots. Don't wait around this head turner will quickly be scooped up.

To fill out an application to adopt Kingston click "[here](#)"!

Social Media to the Rescue!

How did you come to find out about Sioux Empire Pit Rescue? For me, it was Facebook. A friend sent me to a link of a plea for a foster home on the Sioux Empire Pit Rescue Facebook page because she thought I might be interested... and I was. I'm sure many of you have come to be involved with SEPR (whether it's by adopting, fostering, volunteering your time, or donating funds) because of social media.

Businesses today of every kind have found social media to be a great advertising tool and for us in rescue work it's invaluable. We use it to send out messages about the need for foster homes, we advertise our local events, we promote our dogs that are available for adoption, and we spread the word about responsible pet ownership. There isn't anything we do that isn't somehow linked to, if not dependent on, social media.

If you aren't on Facebook already, you should check it out. And if you do have a Facebook account but you haven't really used it much, log on and share one of the dog's profiles from our website with your friends so maybe he or she can find a home. Even if you don't think it's your thing just give it a try, if not for your personal interest and entertainment then for our rescue because it touches everything we do and not only has it helped bring together this wonderful group of volunteers, it has helped find forever homes for so many of our dogs. And that, my friends, is worth everything to our pit bulls!

Brittany Snyders



Installing a Fence for Your Dogs Provides a Safe Place to Exercise

My family has three dogs living in our house right now. Two of our own and one foster. Before we got the foster we did not have a fence and had basically just adjusted to taking the dogs out when they had to use the bathroom and having them run back and forth in the house playing because they had no where else to go. Let me tell you three big dogs can really take a toll on the house even with just normal play. We didn't dare miss our daily walk because that was the only time the dogs got to be outside. With three dogs, that usually meant taking two walks every night. During the summer and when it is nice outside this is ok but as it gets darker earlier and winter is around the corner we needed a better solution.

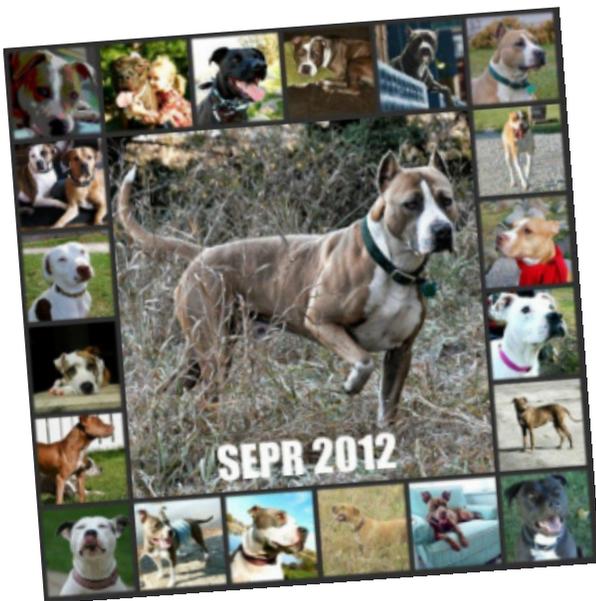
We had discussed building a fence several times but were just not sure if we wanted to spend the money on it. After we got our foster dog we made the decision to break down and spend the money to buy a fence. Then came the issue of how were we going to get this fence built. Not being expert fence builders we needed help. Well, SEPR volunteers came to our aid and helped us build our fence. With the help of several volunteers, we were able to build a six foot privacy fence in two days.

It took us less then one day to realize that was one of the best purchases we ever made. The dogs love being able to go outside to play and the opportunity to be outside for longer than a few minutes at a time on a leash. We love the fact that we can just open a door to let them go outside and as long as we check on them regularly they can get the daily exercise they need. Walks continue to be important but if we miss a night or two it is ok. The dogs no longer run around our house at top speed or play in the middle of our living room. They are able to expend their energy outside. So for anyone debating purchasing a fence I highly recommend doing it.

Vanessa Harty



Submit your Entries for the SEPR 2013 Calendar Contest



With your help SEPR calendars have become one of the biggest fundraiser we do each year! Not only can you make a tax-deductible donation, but all entries are featured in a collage photo contained in the 2013 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 2013 SEPR calendar along with \$5.00 donation. **Submission entries will be accepted until November 1, 2012.** 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 before Christmas of 2012... these are great stocking stuffer gifts.

Interested in submitting your pit bull for SEPR's 2013 calendar?

Step 1: Make your \$5.00 donation with the button listed below that says DONATE - please include "2013 Calendar submission" in the instruction box when making your donation.

Step 2: Email us a short essay of 250 words or less why your dog should be one of the calendar stars. **INCLUDE** a well taken picture of your four legged friend (pixels cannot be less than 1000x1000). Camera phone pictures will not be accepted.

Step 3: Tell all your family and friends that your dog will be in this years calendar, so they will be ready to order their own.

<http://pitrescue.weebly.com/2013-calendars.html>



Cool Doggy DIY Projects

In my opinion, there are three types of Do It Yourselfers: those who find cute projects and actually do them, those who plan on doing projects but never seem to finish them, and those who have no interest in doing anything they could pay someone else to do. I myself am stuck firmly in category 2. If you are in category 3, you probably won't find much of interest in this article. But if you are in one of the first two categories, along with me, then you probably like the idea of combining two of your interests: dogs and DIY. Here are some of my favorite projects—finished and unfinished!

My first foster animal was an extremely pregnant yellow lab named Hannah. Hannah ended up having 15 puppies—and when you have 15 puppies to find homes for, it's inevitable that you are going to talk some of your friends into taking a few! So, when the puppies turned one year old, I hosted a birthday party for the ones adopted out to my friends. I served doggie cupcakes, and they were a big hit! My dog Penny still asks for them, but I tell her they are for special occasions only.

Doggie Cupcakes

from www.dogtreatkitchen.com

Ingredients:

Muffins:

- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup applesauce, unsweetened
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 3 cups whole wheat flour

Frosting:

- 8 oz. low fat cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup applesauce, unsweetened

Instructions:

Muffins:

- Preheat oven to 350° F
- Lightly spray cups of muffin tin.
- In a large bowl stir together the carrots, eggs and applesauce. Set aside.

In another medium bowl whisk together the cinnamon, oats and flour. Slowly mix in the dry ingredients. Stir until well blended.

Spoon mixture into muffin tin. The dough will be thick, so you may wet your fingers to press the dough into place.

The dog cupcake will not rise very much, so do not worry about over filling the muffin tin. Bake for 25 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack before frosting or serving.

Frosting:

Blend both ingredients with a hand mixer until well blended. Spoon into a pastry bag for easy decorating.

For a finishing touch, I put a small milk-bone on the top of each cupcake. They looked good enough to tempt even the human party guests!

My most neglected DIY projects involve sewing, since I don't own my own sewing machine. I keep pinning sewing projects onto Pinterest thinking that I will get them done when I go to my parents' house, but my list just keeps growing longer and longer. Here is one project I am excited to actually make, though:

Round Dog Bed

from bhg.com

Materials:

- 1-1/2 yards each of print fabric and lining fabric
- 1/2 yard of contrasting fabric for piping cord
- 2 -1/2 yards piping cord
- 22-inch Zipper
- Shredded foam for pet beds

How to Make It:

Cut two 25-1/2-inch circles from print fabric. Cut two 25-1/2 inch-diameter circles from lining fabric.

Cut bias strips of contrasting fabric; sew

the strips together end to end to make a piping strip long enough to go around a fabric circle. Fold piping strip in half lengthwise with wrong side inside. Slide piping cord inside folded strip. Using a zipper foot on your machine, sew long edges together, stitching close to cord.

Place piping on right side of a print circle; align raw edges and baste, clipping the seam allowance as necessary.

Layer print circles with right sides together; piping will be contained inside. Pin, adding zipper according to manufacturer's instructions. Using a 1/2-inch seam allowance, sew print circles and zipper together; clip seam allowance. Turn right side out through zipper to complete the bed cover.

Layer lining circles with right sides together; stitch together using a 1/2-inch seam allowance, leaving an opening for turning. Clip seam allowance and turn right side out.

Fill lining with shredded foam. Stitch opening closed. Insert filled lining into bed cover; zip closed.

Okay, I admit this last one isn't actually a DIY project—it's a product I was tickled to find that you can actually buy. However, for those among us into homebrewing, it might be worth a (careful) try! Bowser beer is a non-alcoholic, non-carbonated "beer" beverage that your best friend can share with you. It can be found at <http://bowserbeer.com> . . . how cool is that?

If you want more doggie DIY projects, a simple web search will bring up hundreds for you to try. I especially like the ones listed on <http://tipnut.com/projects-pets> . Pinterest has plenty idea of pooch projects as well. Happy crafting!

Amanda Potter



Cisco: A SEPR Dog Featured in the Video is Looking for His Forever Family - Please Consider Adopting Him

Cisco is nearing his 1st birthday. If you are looking for a sweet, devoted boy with a touch of playful puppy energy, then this is the dog for you! Cisco, or Ciscie he's sometimes called, was picked up with his friend Bijou in Pierre and was just hours away from being euthanized when SEPR pulled him. Now Ciscie just wants to live the good life with a family of his own.

Cisco is a very handsome boy—everyone who meets him comments on his good looks, especially his expressive face. He is the perfect size at around 57 pounds—not too big, and not too little. His coat is soft and strawberry blonde with a darker streak running down his back all the way to the tip of his tail—like his tail was dipped into a pot of paint! His foster mom says that's where all his naughty is stored...because 99% of the time he is so good, but 1% of the time he looks at you with that glint in his eye and you know he's planning some mischief. All is forgiven when he flashes you his charming movie star smile, though—the running joke is that he could be on that “Doggie Dentures” commercial, with his perfectly straight, white teeth!

Cisco is crate and potty trained, and he walks nicely with his gentle leader. On walks, he is interested in everything and friendly toward everyone—especially kids! He would love to have a home with some kids to play with! He is tolerant and loving towards children. If the children are very small he can forget that he can't play with them as exuberantly as he wants to, so he has to be reminded to calm down. With a reminder, though, he minds his manners—even with the most temptingly tiny of human playmates!

Cisco likes to cuddle and be loved on with hugs and kisses. His favorite way to end the evening is with a pre-bedtime snooze curled up under a blanket on the couch—he even likes his head to be covered! He's used to taking his meals in his kennel so he goes in very willingly—it's only when he



stops eating and realizes that the door has been locked behind him that he gets upset! As a special treat he sometimes gets to sleep in the big bed—again, preferring to be wrapped up under the covers and snuggled as close as possible to his person. He follows his foster mom around in the mornings while she gets ready for work and even waits patiently for her in the bathroom while she showers. If you've ever wondered why Pit Bulls are called “velcro dogs,” Cisco would be more than happy to show you!

He lives with an 85-lb Rottweiler “sister” and he loves to play with her. They have great times chasing and wrestling in the yard together. Cisco would do fine in a family with a nice submissive female companion to keep him company or wouldn't mind being the only dog as well - as he

certainly loves to be the center of all attention and affection! Cisco hasn't been around many cats for any length of time so we are not sure how he would do with them.

He is very smart and works on his obedience and manners every day—now he has sitting and not crowding the door down pat. Cisco enjoys going for car rides as well and assisting as co-pilot—especially if he gets to hang his nose out the window! Truly Cisco likes to do anything as long as its with you!!! He would love you to teach him even more things and more importantly share your pillow at night with him. This handsome boy is waiting patiently be someone's BFF--Best Fur-riend Forever!

To fill out an application to adopt Cisco click "[here](#)"!



Delta and Boomer: Adopt These Loving, Fun Soul Mates Together



This love story begins in January 2012 when SEPR received a plea from a Kansas City resident who found a family of 5 Pit Bulls sitting on her doorstep. Boomer and Delta had started a family weeks earlier only to be abandoned with their three puppies in the middle of winter. SEPR loaded them up and brought them into our foster program immediately. The puppies were old enough and Delta had fulfilled her motherly duties, so the pups were separated and placed in foster homes. Soon after, they were adopted and are growing up to be great ambassadors of the breed.

The happy couple were pleased to be together in a home where they could get some rest and relaxation that they so deserved. It quickly became apparent that these two were not healthy. Delta was diagnosed with Heartworm, while Boomer struggled with Babesia and Ehrlichia. All of which are caused by ticks. This, along with their lack of social skills, led us to believe that these two had not been beloved members of a family, but rather a couple of animals living their life outside on the end of a chain. That was all about to change.



It took a long time for these two to become healthy enough to show their true personalities. Both dogs now healthy and happy! Delta definitely wears the pants in the relationship. She keeps Boomer in check, but has a fun and playful side that she shows while romping in the grass. She earned the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate in July. Delta possesses all of the qualities to become a terrific therapy dog. Her favorite pastime is napping anywhere, anytime.

Boomer can be the galloping goofball when he's in his element. He maintains a loose leash while out on his daily walk. Even though he was not enrolled in obedience classes, he earned the CGC test in July as well. Both dogs are food motivated and are easily redirected with a sharp "ah, ah".

This perfect pair is house and crate trained, spayed and neutered, up to date on vaccinations, and microchipped. They have solid obedience skills, and a

good foundation of doggy manners. Our dynamic duo truly love one another and deserve to live out their days together. They have waited all of their lives to be apart of a loving and fun family. Please consider opening your home and heart to them. Fill out an application today.

To fill out an application to adopt Boomer and Delta click "[here.](#)"

If you adopt this beautiful couple your days will be filled with much happiness and laughter!

