



Winter 2024

### In This Issue:

- ♥ Grace's "Bark" Sale – Sweet Success!
- ♥ One Sick Puppy
- ♥ Post Covid – Crisis in dog adoptions
- ♥ Lizzy's Fund® is Grateful!

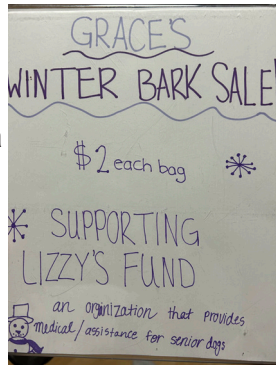


## Grace's "Bark" Sale - Sweet Success!

Lizzy's Fund® appreciates and values every single one of our volunteers. Each brings their own special talents to our organization. Our team's energy and enthusiasm keeps us going. Sometimes it's the youngest of our volunteers who amazes us. We are excited to share the following story.

Grace, age 12, lives with her family in Chicago. She attends a school that encourages students to perform community service projects. Grace, a kindhearted and generous student, has always stepped up. She recently spearheaded a book drive for the children's wing of a local hospital successfully collecting over 100 new books. Energized by the success of her book drive, Grace was challenged to find another service project.

Grace has recently been blessed with a special gift. Her parents surprised her with a new puppy. As excited as she was to get her new pug, Harvey, she thought back to how much she loved her previous dog, Rocket. Grace had grown up with Rocket. She and her sweet terrier mix had been best friends for many years. Rocket left Grace and her family in March of 2023 when he was fourteen and will always have a piece of Grace's heart. With her love for Rocket as her inspiration, she launched her new great endeavor. Her next service project would benefit senior dogs ... Enter Lizzy's Fund®!



Bringing in the New Year, Grace hosted a very successful bake sale at her church. With the help of her mother, Grace prepared a batch of their favorite treats: peppermint bark, chocolate bark, and winter trail mix bark. Selecting a catchy name for her event's booth was important. Considering her fundraiser end goal was to help dogs, "Grace's BARK Sale" sounded the perfect name! Grace took charge and planned every detail. Grace prepared and packaged the bark, created the artistic signs for her display, transported and set up her booth, and ran the

sales table during weekend church services. Greeting customers, selling her homemade treats with pride, and making change was a great experience as well as a satisfying accomplishment for this young entrepreneur. When Grace presented Lizzy's Fund® with an envelope containing her earnings of \$270, it was not only a moment of pride for Grace, but it reminded us of all that's wonderful about our generous volunteers, no matter their age.



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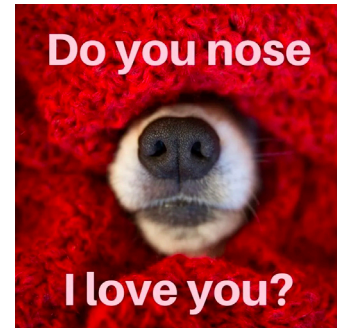


Grace has a special place in our hearts and we are so proud of her. We've promised to send Grace photos of the specific dog(s) her project will be helping in the very near future. Not only do we want Grace to realize how important she is to us, but we want her to see firsthand how her act of volunteer kindness has made a difference.



*Happy Valentine's Day!*

♥ *Lizzy*



## *One Sick Puppy*

During the winter, everyone is worried about getting the flu. Humans get flu shots, avoid large crowds, incessantly wash their hands, and yet we sometimes still get sick. When we do, we know what to do; we rest, drink plenty of fluids, take a pain reliever, and wait the illness out. Everyone usually avoids us during our confinement; our family, friends, everyone except the dog....

What happens when our trusted canine companion gets the doggie flu? Do we know what to do and how to help them? A recent article written by Sharon Albright of the American Kennel Club gave much insight into understanding exactly what canine influenza is and how it affects our treasured canine companion.



**CAUSES:** There are currently two common strains of the canine influenza virus in North America. H3N8 (identified since January of 2004) originated in horses, spread to dogs, and now spreads between dogs. H3N2 (identified since February 2015) originated in birds, spread to dogs, and now spreads between dogs. Both are spread through direct contact between dogs and transmitted by coughing or sneezing or contact with infected surfaces of any sort. Fortunately, there is no evidence that canine flu is contagious to humans.

**SYMPTOMS:** Symptoms often start with coughing, sneezing, nasal or ocular discharge or decreased appetite. More severe progression can be lethargy, and decreased appetite. However, the flu can progress to pneumonia and secondary bacterial infections. The cough, if present, usually lasts 10-21 days. Notwithstanding the above, approximately 20% of the dogs diagnosed with the flu do not have any symptoms.

continued on page 3...



...from page 2

**TESTING:** A diagnosis is usually made based on clinical signs and your veterinarian's interview about your dog's exposure to other sick dogs or its exposure to dogs in common areas such as dog parks or kennels. The vet can run blood tests to test for anti-bodies or submit nasal swabs for DNA analysis but previous vaccinations can make these tests difficult to interpret.



**TREATMENT:** As with humans, there really is no medication that can effectively cure the virus. Rest and possible cough medicine is usually the only remedy. And yes, there are cough medicines for dogs. In more severe or advanced cases, IV fluids can keep your dog hydrated and antibiotics can be prescribed to help with a bacterial infection that resulted from the original strain of flu. Vet clinics have varying requirements if you want to bring your dog in for an evaluation. Make sure to call your clinic first to find out how they handle suspected cases of canine flu.

**PREVENTION:** Good hygiene is key. Keep your dogs' bowls, equipment, and beds clean and away from other dogs. Disinfect your dog's bowls daily. Also, vaccines are now available for both strains, but as with the human vaccines, they do not completely prevent infection. If utilized, vaccines will most likely make the illness less severe. Consult with your vet to see if they believe that the vaccine is appropriate for your dog.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation has a resource on their website, [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org), that provides strategies to prevent infectious disease among dogs in group settings.



## *Post-COVID Crisis In Dog Adoptions*

Recently, we were speaking to several of our shelter and rescue partners and were saddened to hear of the crisis that they are experiencing. There is a massive influx of dogs being surrendered, particularly ones that were previously adopted during Covid.

One of our shelter partners reported: *"Shelters are currently struggling due to reduced adoptions (especially large dogs) and increased returns as many companies are instituting return to workplace for employees. Many of the dogs we see returned are dogs adopted during the pandemic. These dogs are typically dogs who are used to their owners being home with them and now as people return to work many of these pandemic dogs have issues with anxiety and under socialization. Their owners do not have the time they once had, and some are unwilling to work through the transitional behaviors and choose surrender instead. Once surrendered they do not do well in the shelter environment and experience extreme anxiety, making adoption very difficult, as most adopters are looking for well-rounded family dogs and are less willing to take on a dog with special needs especially when it comes to behavioral needs."*



How sad this is for a dog, particularly a senior dog, to be re-surrendered and put back into the animal welfare system. As such, the shelters are now overcrowded and noisier than usual.

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from page 3...



Another of our rescue group partners reported: *“When the pandemic hit and we were in ‘lock down’, rescues were pulling dogs so fast the shelters were practically empty. Everyone was fostering or adopting since most were working from home. We believed that this would come full circle because pulling that many all the time was not sustainable.*

*Thankfully, we stayed the course, kept our foster circle small and pulled what we had space and finances for. As folks started to transition back to the ‘new normal’ and were traveling again, going back into the office..etc. and having time to care for these pets became an issue. The other issue was that most rescues adopted out so fast fosters did not have time to understand that dog’s behavior and neither did the adopters. Separation anxiety was more prominent and of course, most of these adopters either did not do training during the pandemic or did not want to even try once that became an issue. Dogs were being returned at an alarming rate. On average most rescues had over a 40% return rate. So many dogs were sitting in boarding, while other rescues refused to take dogs back and asked the adopters to rehome on their own.”*

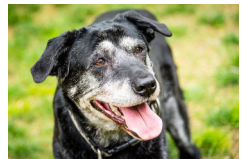
We will be watching this situation closely and genuinely hope that, with some training and intervention, these dogs will be able to be adopted into a loving, patient, and caring home. We encourage anyone that has the ability to take in one of these unfortunate dogs, to do so.



## *Lizzy’s Fund® Is Grateful To All Of You!*

During mid-October and November of 2023, Lizzy’s Fund® was celebrating senior pet month. We partied, starting with our October 22nd Paint Your Pet event and continued on through the entire month of November. During this time, generous benefactors generously agreed to 100% match all donations!

We are happy to report that, with our donors help and generosity, we exceeded our goal of \$20,000 of donations and with the match, the Fund will has been enriched to enable us to help even more dogs.



During 2023, Lizzy’s Fund® assisted in the care of **104** senior dogs. We are humbled for our donors’ and benefactors’ generosity!

**Lizzy’s Fund®** is an IRS approved not-for-profit charity that provides financial support to senior canines, aged 7 and older.

***Donations are gratefully accepted, please consider helping a senior dog today!***

**Lizzy’s Fund®, 1700 Park Street, Suite 202, Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 447-8035  
[www.lizzysfund.org/donate](http://www.lizzysfund.org/donate)**

