



The Montana MountainEAR

Basset Rescue of Montana Newsletter

President's Nose for News!

My nose sniffed way up north here in Montana to find a special Basset who is an artist. Pawcasso Blossom, from Kalispell, MT, has found a great friendship thriving between my Gussie via the computer. She is very clear, though, about the fact she is a married hound to Motley McDuff Reynolds ("Mo"). Blossom's "slave", Cookie (Cynthia Goldizen), emphasizes how shy Blossom



really is, too.

In Feb. 2003, Blossom and Cookie got the idea of creating art to use as a fundraiser for rescue work. Cookie at first dipped her paw in finger paint, but that was too smeary. Regular paint was messy, too, so the ticket was using a stamp pad! After much trial and error, and lots of ink on Mom . . . AN "ARTISTE" WAS BORN!



Pawcasso Blossom's paintings do not always seem perfect but, she states, "I yam jus' a houndie" . . . My career got started with 45 local orders, then spread to stores in Whitefish, MT, a great story in *Woman's World* magazine, then 22 sets of Christmas cards, and so on!"

Blossom's hubby was chosen for her. He sent Blossom a ceramic heart dish, which was opened in February 2002. Inside was a huge engagement ring with a marriage proposal. They were married over the speakerphone – with the slaves' help, of course – last June 28, after a four-month engagement.



Hunter's Glen – a retirement home in Missoula, MT – again invited our Bassets for their Pet Day. This time I chose my Lola, the Kissing Champion of the West! She wore her special hat, "oo la la'd" the crowd, and gave lots of kisses. The resident named Lola was escorted to the foyer to meet another Lola. So many smiles from these elders! They asked some great questions: "Where do the dogs come from?" and "Do they dig?" Lola and I left feeling like we brought a spot of happiness to them. We had our annual Yard Sale in June,

and guess who came to visit? Yes! Pawcasso Blossom and her "slave" Cookie, along with their friend, Linda. Also, Ann Croft and her Mom traveled down from Ronan, MT. And none other than my August McRae's twin brother Buddy, whom I'd never met.



We could hardly tell them apart! We had lots of donated items, and made over \$400 for the hounds. So there we were at the beginning of the sale in my front acre . . . being scanned and sniffed by our own "Queen of Partner's Place" – Maybelle.

"Repawting" on our Ultimate Raffle Day at the Five Valley ACK Dog Show, held June 24 at the Missoula County Fairgrounds in Missoula, MT, here is V. P. Dee Dee, Charlie, our wonderful volunteer, and Barb, one very helpful Board member.



We were honored to have the entire 4H group from Deer Lodge, MT to see the dog show and assist with our raffle. Dr. Minott Pruyn, DVM, was gracious enough to take time to answer a few questions about animals.

Also, our sympathies go out to Donna Owens, our founder, who lost her Basset J. D. this year. Jack Daniels (my Gussie's father) went to enjoy his new beginning ATB, after fighting a long, hard battle against blindness and illness. In his memory, Donna donated a denim shirt with an embroidered Basset resembling J. D.'s progeny. Of course, Gussie and I were the high bidders! To Donna and Art: *We send to you all of the fondest memories of J. D. to cherish. We are so sorry, we know he fought a hard battle and you gave to him all your love.*

Every now and then the "slaves" of our adoptees write very poignant letters back to our rescue organization. I received one the other day from Homer/Hudson's family in Oregon. It was a long, two-page letter, and I want to quote some of it – it made me tear up. I feel so grateful and humble to be involved in helping the animals: "Momma Sue wants to be happy and follow their passion instead of working in the world of stress and deception." They want to open a doggie daycare and kennel, and volunteer to help train and socialize those without homes so someday they can be adopted. " 'Auntie Leslie' was one of the reasons she decided to retire and work with animals." I went to bed that night feeling even more like "I AM MAKING A DIFFERENCE!"

--Your One and a Half Armed President, Leslie

I would like to dedicate this poem to Michael,
Hope, Julie and Duane – my kids . . . who
sometimes think I'm crazy, but love me
anyway.



WHEN I AM OLD

I shall wear Turquoise and soft gray sweatshirts . . .
And a bandana over my silver hair . . .
And I shall spend my Social Security checks
On sweet wine and my dogs . . .
And sit in my house on my well-worn chair,
And listen to my dogs' breathing.

I will sneak out in the middle of a warm summer
night
And take my dogs for a run, if my old bones will
allow . . .
And when people come to call,
I will smile and nod as I show them my dogs . . .
And talk of them and about them . . .

The Ones so Beloved and Past
And the Ones so Beloved of Today . . .

I still will work hard cleaning after them
And mopping and feeding them
And whispering their names in a soft, loving way.
I will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat like a
jewel,
And I will be an embarrassment to all . . . and my
family . . .

Who have not found the peace in being free
To have dogs as your Best Friends . . .

These Friends who always wait,
At any hour, for your footfall . . .
And eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep,
To greet you as if you are a god.

With warm eyes full of adoring love
And hope that you will stay and hug their big, strong
necks . . .

And kiss their dear sweet heads . . .
And whisper to them of your love
And the beautiful pleasure of their very special
company . . .

I look in the Mirror . . .
And see I am getting old . . .
This is the kind of woman I am . . .
And have always been.

Loving dogs is easy, they are part of me, accept me
for who I am,
My dogs appreciate my presence in their lives . . .
When I am old this will be important to me . . .
You will understand when you are old . . .
And if you have dogs to love too . . .

--Author Unknown

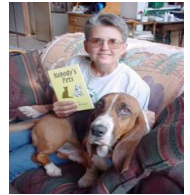


UPCOMING EVENTS



September 18, 2004: The 2nd Annual Basset
Round-Up. See our web site for details: [http://
bassetrescueofmt.tripod.com](http://bassetrescueofmt.tripod.com)
The registration form is enclosed. Pawcasso
Blossom's art will be on display.

Debra White, author of *Nobody's Pets*, came to
visit Basset Rescue of Montana from her home
in Phoenix, AZ. She is pictured here with her
book and my Gussie. *Nobody's
Pets* is a riveting page-turner
and charming, inspiring
adventure tale. The story is told
by homeless dog and cat
characters who are seeking to
escape the fate of being sold to
a research laboratory. It will be
on sale at the Basset Rescue, and 100% of the
profits will go to the hounds!



Basset "Goodies"

We have wonderful "**Got Bassets?**" tee shirts and sweatshirts for
sale. 100% of sales goes to help our rescue! Tee shirts: M - XL
\$18; 4XL \$22. Sweatshirts: M - XL: \$30; 4XL \$35.



Hats for sale . . . \$20 Each. The Basset
picture is raised suede. Our lovely model is
MAYBELLE, Queen of the Bed!!!!



Rescue Requests:

- Rescue Remedy – found in health food stores and through pet catalogs.
- Glucosamine Sulfate and chondroitin with vitamin C.
- Much needed help driving a rescue to the vet and/or for grooming.
- Folks interested in being a part of our transport teams: **Legs are usually 1 – 2 hours in any direction.**
- Rolls of stamps.

ULTIMATE RAFFLE WINNERS

CONGRATS TO THESE WINNERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Set of Knives...Nancy Merk (being mailed)
\$100.00 Ranch call visit by **Dr. Fanelli, DVM** - Kim Hendryx
George Foreman Hamburger Cooker..Tracey Allison
Steaks for you and your Basset.....Pat Vandell
Lunch at Jakers Restaurant.....Paula Reed
Truck full screened topsoil \$155.00 value..Bitterroot Valley Bank
Toy train squeaky-rawhide chips...by Pro Pac Enterprises.....Sue Ann
Small animal vet visit.& Petfinder.org Tee-shirt..Jan Reva
Trellis..designed by Rocky.....Peg Gabriel
2 Dinners at Johnny Carinos.....Christine Foot, Att.
Basket with Hushpuppy in it.....Keesha Tate
2 --30-min Massages.....Maura Costea and Katherine Price
Small animal vet visit with vaccinations.by our rescue vet **Dr. Ken Hannum**.....Denise Heikkila
\$100.00 Cowboy Print framed.....Dr. Cindy Wood, DVM
Stack of older Buglers from 90"s.....Lucy Harris
\$250 Lodge Pole dog bed with pad of choice..Deb Rivey
Lovely binder with animal prints...Carol Northcot
Apartment size Refrigerator.....Colleen Dunlop
Original painted dog house valued at \$1000.00 signed by artist..Lynne Head Geiss.....Elaine S.
Bless all these folks who bought tickets and assisted with this raffle. Thank you!

Basset Rescue of Montana
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501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Basset Hound Rescue

Helping hands helping hounds



of Montana

a non-profit organization