

Upcoming Events: Sunday, September 26

Brat Fry

Full Circle Bar— Music by Fine Line Acoustics

2513 South 8th St, Sheboygan

Raffles and music by "Fine Line Acoustics"



Furry Bottoms Rescue Announces Acquisition of Office Space and Store By Joel Gollhardt Furry Bottoms Rescue (FBR) has seen extreme growth from its humble beginnings in a corner of Founder Lisa Young's home. Now with dozens of volunteers, foster homes in multiple cities across eastern Wisconsin and over seven hundred dogs saved thus far; FBR is poised to take the next step in the quest to secure homes for displaced dogs.

FBR is proud and excited to announce the acquisition of an office and store space in The Mill Street Transfer, located at 435 East Mill Street in downtown Plymouth. The nicely updated space occupies over 700 square feet of the second floor of this historic downtown building. There is ample parking available and well-behaved dogs are allowed to visit.

The space has a kitchenette, office and a multi-purpose room. There is a storage space in the basement of the building and additional space is currently available to rent out for fundraisers and other FBR events.

The much needed space will serve many functions for FBR. In addition to centralizing vital records and offering office space for the board to meet and volunteers to work, it will also serve as a place to hold community education events and fundraisers.

In order to offset the cost of rent, FBR will also feature dog items for sale, with all proceeds going to the rescue. Fromm and American Natural Premium Dog Foods, Lupine leashes and collars, toys, blankets, treats and other dog-related items are stocked. Donated items such as dog-oriented gifts will also be sold.

Some may have had the opportunity to view the space at the Grand Opening held in conjunction with Mill Street Festival on July 10. For those who have not, the store is currently open Tuesdays from 1pm to 5pm, Fridays from 2pm to 6pm, Saturdays from 9am to 12pm and by appointment.

Personality and Behaviors. Is your personality in sync with your pets? I

was asked to write a small article on dog behaviors for Furry Bottoms Rescue Newsletter. Let's begin with this, I do not have all the answers, nor do I think I ever will. This one thing I do know, the majority of the behaviors displayed by our dogs is a direct reflection on our behaviors. Other aspect of behaviors to consider is health, breeding, past and current life styles, and training techniques and most of the personality of your dog. Today I am going to tie together our behaviors and the personality of our dogs.

Like people, dogs have different personalities. People have many faces they wear at work, home, play, with extended families etc. Many times so does our best friend on four legs. Why? Because, like us, they are responding to the stimuli of their environment. Our reactions to the environment will range from quietly observing our surroundings to fully engaging in play. Dogs for the most part do the same thing: assess the surroundings and look to us for expectations. When the human displays fear VS confidence in new situations, don't be surprised when your pet reacts the same.

When choosing a pet, it is important to know what your lifestyle is: Activity level is crucial to choosing the new family member. If your activity is going to work, home again to flip the remote and call out for home delivery, choosing a working class dog of any size would set both of you up for failure. It would be true for the individual who enjoys high-energy sports adopting a dog that prefers the pillows and cream. If you are expecting something your dog is unable to deliver, behavioral problems will ensue. Linda Gray

I joined Furry Bottoms Rescue as a volunteer and Foster Home in January

2007. Since then, I have served a short term as Treasurer, an even shorter term as Vice President and now am President. My "canine" background has roots in the world of dog shows. I bred German Shepherds and Chow Chows, showing them and other breeds in conformation for several years. Prior to joining Furry Bottoms, I served as Treasurer of the Sheboygan County 4-H Dog Project. I am employed by Aurora Pharmacy, Inc. as a Category Management Coordinator. I have a strong background in merchandising with a current focus on data management for the point of sale system. When not working or volunteering, I spend my free time with my family. What little time is left is spent maintaining the ramshackle remnants of what used to be a farm that I live on outside of New Holstein. ~ Joel Gollhardt



Furry Bottoms Friends and Volunteers

While our office/store is not open every day, all day I've been meaning to provide you the hours that it is open so you can stop by.

Tue: 1pm to 5pm

Fri: 2pm to 6pm

Sat: 9am to 12pm

By Appointment

Please Stop In! Dogs welcome!

Ruby (Formerly Seven) --The Levy Family

A year ago we were so lucky to be able to adopt a handsome puppy named Bugs from Furry Bottoms and he was such an exceptional dog, we decided we had room in our home to adopt another. We again searched the Furry Bottoms website only this time we were looking for a dog beyond the puppy stages, one a little more mature

yet good company for Bugs. And we found Ruby (formerly Seven)! Ruby is a beautiful little yellow lab mix. Even though she is approximately 2 years old, people often mistake her for a puppy because she is so petite! All we know about Rub's past is that she was picked up as a stray and was slated to be sold to an animal research lab until Furry Bottoms saved the day! Ruby rode the ferry

across Lake Michigan to Milwaukee and was placed with her foster mom, Dee, until we found her.

Ruby is extraordinarily smart and there is an intensity about her that took me some time to understand. When she first arrived in our home, there were certain behaviors about her that I couldn't quite figure out and I often found myself wishing she could talk and tell me about her previous life. Although I'll never

know the answers to those mysteries, I have come to understand that what makes Ruby tick is love. She is almost obsessive about it. Once she decided it was safe to love and trust us, she has made it her life mission to make sure she never loses us. She has become a second mother to my children, makes sure our other pets are safe and behaving, worships my husband and is my constant companion - Velcroed to my side whenever possible. During the night it is not uncommon for Ruby to make the rounds, going from room to room to make sure everyone is sleeping safely. Her capacity to love sometimes boggles my mind! Recently Ruby was voted the Most Improved in her dog training class and she will begin working on her Canine Good Citizen certificate this summer. She works so hard to please us. I have never met a dog quite like her. Although we have now had her only six months, it has been one of the most amazing and rewarding experiences of my life watching this relationship between Ruby and my family bloom. She is truly a gift from heaven and we are so grateful to Lisa Young, foster mom Dee, and Furry Bottoms for helping us find her!!

**** MORE HOME VISITORS ARE NEEDED** Please consider adding your name to our list of home visitors. You'll be helping a foster dog find a much needed home. Email me at volunteer@furrybottomsrescue.com

The importance of a home visitor - Renae Harris

Have you had a home visit? Many of you have adopted from FBR, so the answer is probably yes. Were you nervous at first? I'd wager, though, that by the end of the visit, you were enjoying yourself. As most of you know, the Furry Bottoms adoption process involves three parts: application approval, meeting of potential adopter and foster dog, and finally the home visit. During the visit between applicant and dog, the fosterer observes the interaction between family and dog, and asks and answers questions. There are three possible outcomes of that visit. 1) the fosterer absolutely loves the family and thinks it's a great match, 2) they absolutely do not think it's a good match, and 3) they are unsure if it is a good match.

As a fosterer myself, I know that when I am unsure, I rely strongly on the outcome of the home visit and the opinion of the home visitor to help put things in perspective. Feedback from the home visitor provides another opinion which may support my reservations or overcome them completely.

The home visit is the litmus test. It helps to keep the adopters honest. They cannot say they have a fenced yard when they do not. They cannot say they own their own home when they do not.

Furry Bottoms provides the home visitor with a list of questions to ask and things to look for. The applicants are often nervous at first. Once everyone starts talking about dogs (our favorite subject), everyone relaxes. Often the family likes to talk about their current dog, or one recently lost. Listening to those stories provides clues to how a new dog would be treated in the home.

By asking about the family's plan for taking care of the dog, the home visitor is able to determine the family's commitment to the dog's comfort and well-being, both physical and emotional. After the visit, the home visitor reports back to the fosterer and the person doing the application approvals. The three of them compare notes and determine if the adoption should proceed.

The home visit and the opinion of the home visitor is absolutely critical in the adoption process. FBR considers itself the guardian of their foster dog's future. That future will take place in the home that is visited. The visitor is not judging cleanliness, wealth or lifestyle, only the love and comfort the family is willing to provide. The home visit is one part questionnaire and one part *intuition*. Those of you who love and pamper your own dogs would recognize the devotion and kindness of a potential adopter when you saw it.

Our adopters are anxious to get a dog and love it when we can turn the whole process around in a few days. All too often though, the hang-up is finding someone in their area to complete the final step. FBR has a handful of fabulous people who travel throughout eastern Wisconsin doing home visits. But the fact is, visitors are spread out pretty thin and we really could use more people. It's a big state and we often have a problem finding home visitors in the remote areas, like northern and western Wisconsin. Sometimes, because of this, the visit is delayed, the adopter loses interest and our puppies lose a chance at a home.

Are you uncomfortable going to a stranger's home alone. There is really no reason that you could not take a friend along if it would make you feel better. Visits can last 20 minutes or an hour depending on the amount of time you want to invest. Depending on where you live, a visit may only need to be done once every couple of months. As a volunteer, you never *have to* do a visit. We'd only like to expand the list of people that we can ask.

If you think you could help with our home visits, it would take a great deal of pressure off of the individuals who are doing them now. I've done a few visits myself and have really enjoyed it. The family is usually really excited about getting a dog and open to any suggestions that might make it easier for the dog to fit into their home. It's heartwarming to meet people who are determined to "rescue" rather than buy from a breeder.