



TURNING BACK TIME; CHARLIE'S STORY

by Maureen Prendergast, Director of Outreach & Investigations



Imagine being in your late teens or early twenties. Probably in the prime health and fitness of your life. And then imagine going to a doctor's office for an appointment. You have no medical records or personal history available and upon meeting you, this new doctor starts to write down some basic information. For an age he/she marks you down as likely being around 40 years-old!

Imagine that. Someone guessing you are twice the age you actually are is usually fodder for a lot of bad jokes.

This happened to us at the ARLNH recently and it was anything but funny. On August 10th, 2020 Charlie the German shepherd, who was having great difficulty walking, was helped through the doors of the ARLNH and brought directly to our clinic for an examination by our staff veterinarian. Staff assumed he was probably brought in for an owner requested euthanasia. We all thought we were looking at a very senior shepherd in his final days. Emaciated, difficulty walking, disoriented, ocular discharge, and the often telltale sign of an elderly

animal; severe tartar on all of his teeth. His gums were pale and he just looked miserable. Assuming his teeth were close to an indicator of his actual age we had to surmise this



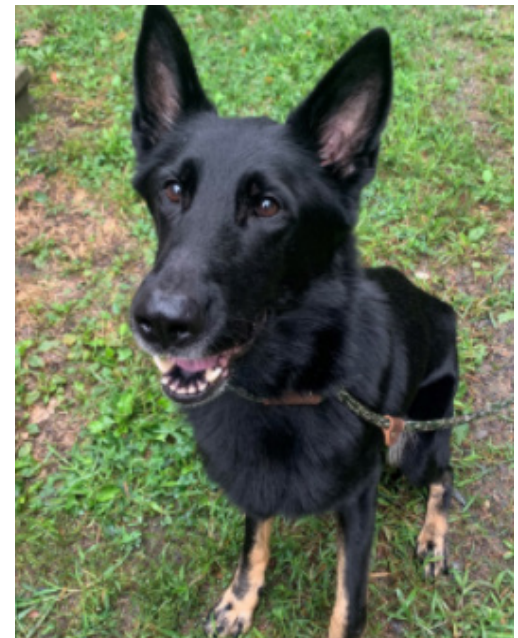
poor boy was probably close to 10-12 years old.

We were fortunate enough to find a microchip and while tracing that information back although it didn't bring us any closer to figuring out what happened to Charlie in recent months/years it did confirm that our elderly hospice boy was in fact only 5 years-old!

Broken shepherds always seem to find their way to the ARLNH. Certain staff members have shepherd beacons that I think are accidentally let off or triggered from time to time because then suddenly a broken shepherd will appear. Charlie is our newest broken shepherd and we were determined to help him heal.

After putting him on a re-feeding program to help him carefully gain weight and strength, we started to see a new boy. Finally barking like a shepherd and even starting to carry around his food bowl. Who could blame him! After we ran repeat blood work in weeks to follow, we received our answer. Charlie's blood values had rebounded. We had a 5 year-old shepherd on our hands. While this was certainly good news, it determined for us that Charlie's weakened state and likely end of life health was a direct result of a lack of proper care. Focusing on Charlie and his future we started preparing Charlie for the next and much better chapters in his story. Charlie was on his way to adoptions which would include a neuter and a dental! Back into our clinic he went and while the neuter was routine, the dental

consisted of a major cleaning. With no teeth needing to be extracted, we again could determine that the amount of tartar on this poor dog's teeth was not a result of the aging process but again, human neglect. Like the lack of medical history we also have a lack of behavioral history. As we proceed with making Charlie eventually available for adoption we will be looking for a special shepherd home. We don't know how he is with other dogs, cats, small animals or children. Given what he has been through we want the world for him though. Please follow us on Facebook and our website for updates on when he will officially be available for adoption.



Officers

Jonathan Halle, Chair
Susannah Smith, Vice-Chair
Samuel Despins, Treasurer
Lauren Gancarz, Secretary

Members

Juliaana Digesu
Geoffrey Eichhorn
Tracey Zona Francoeur
Kaitlyn Manktelow
Jennifer Noseworthy
Hannah Richard
Charlotte Williams

ARLNH Staff

Charlotte Williams
President & CEO

Naomi Stevens
Director of Operations

Stephanie Magnarelli, DVM
Shelter Veterinarian

Marianne Jones
Director of Administration &
Communications

Amanda Storace
Volunteer Coordinator

Maureen Prendergast
Director of Outreach &
Investigations

Sophia Baer
Animal Care and Adoptions
Coordinator

Eve Scarcello
Fund Development &
Communications Assistant

Leah Miller
Intake and Foster Care Liason

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & PRESIDENT



Fall is proof that change is beautiful...

Autumn is my favorite season. This year is no different in that regard although we have all seen many changes as the year has unfolded. While the ARLNH remains closed to the public and volunteers due to the pandemic, our team has continued our lifesaving work. The ARLNH is currently full of companion animals getting ready to be adopted, and, as I write this on a Monday afternoon, 14 animals found their forever homes this past weekend.



What we have all learned this year is that we need to be flexible and to be able to adapt quickly to changes. Our community has responded tremendously in their support of our “adoptions by appointment only” and in their ongoing support of our mission. We are incredibly grateful! While we have not been able to organize in-person fundraising events, we have pivoted to a virtual Howl-O-Ween 5K taking place October 15-19 and are thrilled with the community response: <https://www.rescueleague.org/howloween5k>. We hope you can join us!

As you read the stories of hope in this newsletter I hope you are as uplifted as I am every day by the amazing work of every member of our team. The ARLNH is a family: our animals, our team, our board of directors, our volunteers, our donors and our community. Thank you for being a part of that family, a branch on our tree and a supporter of our work. You make everything we do possible and although things have changed in many ways this year, as you will see in the newsletter, change can be beautiful.

THANK YOU!



CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS



TRAINING TIPS

WITH MAUREEN PRENDERGAST, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH & INVESTIGATIONS



The last time we spoke we were still under the impression it might just be a little while longer before Covid was behind us and life was getting back to normal. As a profession, animal welfare was predicting that many puppies and dogs adopted during the pandemic and with their humans 24/7 as a result were going to be facing a reality that included some mild to likely severe cases of separation anxiety. We were mentally preparing for those behavior phone calls and also for the possible rise in surrender appointments due to this often difficult to live with behavior.

Based on economic trends we are concerned that as evictions and loss of housing become the reality for many as the Fall approached that the 4-legged members of those households may not only be facing homelessness themselves but a possible separation from perhaps the only family they have known. We often say we want to be someone's last resort when faced with the difficult decision to re-home their pet/s. And while we don't want to over simplify how difficult it can be to find adequate housing that is also pet friendly we do want to keep with the spirit of this Training Tips article and recommend you brush up on your dog's crate training. Regardless if you are fortunate to be secure in your own housing and aren't facing possible re-homing, crate training is so important for every puppy and dog. Absolutely every dog deserves a place in the home that is a safe spot for them. This structure can then be moved to the family car, can be brought with you while you stay with family and friends, and can make



a big difference in the adjustment to a new household if you are in the position where a move is inevitable. Yes we often associate crate training with house training young puppies. We hope to teach them not to eliminate where they sleep (or eat, or socialize) but once a puppy or new dog is housetrained so many people decide the crate was simply a tool and that tool isn't needed anymore. If I had a dime for everyone who called or stopped by the shelter to donate a used dog crate because their puppy or dog "simply didn't need it anymore"; well, we would have ourselves a fairly good fundraiser! Absolutely, a crate is a training 'tool' but that's mostly for you the human. For your dog you are hopefully creating a safe spot where nothing ever

goes wrong. Where they are safe, warm and content. Don't we all have that place that we head to for absolute security and comfort. If done correctly that's a crate in a dog's mind. True there are times when crates cause anxiety for a dog. But the argument would be that chances are high that a dog was either crate trained inappropriately, or not trained at all and possibly crated for the first time and then saw his/her human walk out the door and leave for the day. Negative associations can ruin a good thing! Having a dog that is reliably crate trained may one day mean you can stay with a family or friend with your dog while you search for new housing. A dog that can stay safe in a crate and not loose in someone else's household is a good thing. A crate trained dog might be just the thing that puts you over the top when speaking to a potential landlord about whether they might allow your dog. A crate trained dog very often gets associated with a trained dog in general. It shows a pattern of good ownership, and of responsible ownership. That speaks volumes to landlords. If I can suggest a bright side to this extended stay at home, cancel many of our plans lifestyle that we are currently living is that you've got the extra time now. If you haven't started crate training or need to pull out the old crate and dust it off to try and re-introduce your dog to it, please do!



UPCOMING EVENTS

[Howl-O-Ween 5k](#)

Wed. October 15th - 18th

[Spooktacular Pet Show & Tell with Mrs.](#)

[Pepe](#)

Wed. October 28th | 4pm | Zoom conference

[Bunny Yoga](#)

Next Class To Be Scheduled.





FEATURED ADOPTION: **NIBBLES**

Nibbles caught the attention of many with his dashing good looks, but his hot and cold attitude could sometimes be less than charming. Nibbles would reel you in, flopping over and presenting his belly, and promptly smack anyone who dared to touch him. One young woman was



intrigued by his description online, and fell in love with him upon meeting him, despite Nibbles giving her legs a handful of swift smacks. He has been doing great in his new home, spending lots of time playing fetch with his new human, and she is finding all sorts of new ways to spend all of his energy!



HOW TO KEEP PETS SAFE AT HOME DURING COVID-19

MONTHLY TIPS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Include pets in your emergency plan:

Find someone to take care of your pets if you get sick. Have your pet's toys, food, medicine, and more ready to go at a moments notice. Have a back-up for your back-up.



Responsibly stock up on pet supplies:

Make sure to have at least a two-week supply of pet food, treats, and cat litter on hand, as well as a 30-Day supply of your pet's medication.

Courtesy of North American COVID-19 Communication Task Force