

# PAW PRINTS

Texas Old English Sheepdog Rescue News, Views, and other Tails



Fall 2011

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## JOIN US FOR PETWALK 2011

On November 19, 2011, Texas Old English Sheepdog Rescue will be participating in PetSmart Charities® PetWalk™ - an event from which all proceeds benefit local animal-welfare agencies and PetSmart Charities. For participating animal welfare organizations, all pledges raised by their walk teams will remain with the agency.

With Stephanie Crider and Cheryl Jacoby as its captains, TXOESR will have its own team, plus a booth at the event - and your help is needed!

**How can you help?** Several options are available.

1. Join the walk team. Visit [www.mypetwalk.org](http://www.mypetwalk.org), search for the TX OES Rescue Team, sign up to join, and spread the word.
2. Support the team with a donation. Visit [www.mypetwalk.org](http://www.mypetwalk.org), search for the TX OES Rescue Team, then pledge a donation (every dollar counts!) to the team or an individual on the team.
3. Volunteer to help with the booth. Ideally, TX OES Rescue would like to find at least six volunteers to help at our booth to spread the word about what our group does.

For more information, please contact us at [texasoesrescue@hotmail.com](mailto:texasoesrescue@hotmail.com).

## A SHORT WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Barkley (Foster)*

Wow what a whirl wind of a summer!

We have had lots of activity in the sheepdog department. I will keep my message short and sweet as we have a great newsletter for you all to get started reading.

TXOESR has had a constant pouring in of sheepies this summer and fall along with our share of accidents and illness with our received fosters. I would like to thank all who generously gave to help off set these huge cost.

I hope everyone in the North Texas area will think about joining us for the Petwalk in November. We still have space available for anyone that would like to help out with the booth. You can read about the details in this issue of the newsletter. If you have questions just notify Cheryl Jacoby and she can get you all set up.

Enjoy reading!

**Stephanie Crider**

## RECENT PLACEMENTS



**ZOE:** Zoe came from a puppy mill in Missouri, where she was found in a small outdoor kennel with inches of snow for her floor. She joined us thanks to the help of some local rescues in the area. Affectionately referred to as one of the “Missouri Nine”, she was extremely shy. With the help of her fosters she has now come a long way in overcoming much of her shyness. Zoe now lives in a loving forever home in the Austin, Texas area.



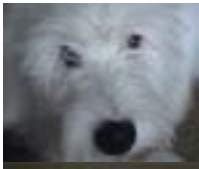
**LOUIE:** “King Louie” was a 3 ½-year-old, owner surrendered, neutered male. His owner, upon leaving for college, rehomed him because he felt he couldn’t provide the attention Louie required. Students didn’t understand OES behavior and interpreted some of the herding traits as a form of aggression. Not so. Louie is one of the gentlest Old English you’ll meet. He now spends his days playing and watching deer in the Houston area.



**PETUNIA:** Our little Mexican flower was transferred to us from Save A Mexican Mutt, who rescued her after the death of her owner. She lived on the streets in Mexico with little food or water and was near death. After several days of Vet care, Petunia went to her foster home in Mexico before being transferred to Texas.



**RUBY “1”:** Ruby Onesday came to us as an owner surrender. As the new sheepie in the family, she didn’t get along well with the older sheepdog. So, her owner decided she’d be happier in a one-sheepie environment. She now lives in a wonderful home in Katy, TX, with a West Highland Terrier for a buddy.



**RUBY “2”:** Ruby Toosday came to us within a few days of Ruby One. As a gift for the birth of the family’s child, she soon became another owner surrender who’s puppy cuteness turned into a large active girl. Ruby now has a forever home in the San Antonio area.



**PEPE:** Pepe was found running at large in a dry river bed. It took time to catch him, but he has been forever grateful. A shy little boy who is blossoming with love and attention, Pepe is currently recovering from surgery for removal of a foreign object from his intestine. We wish him a speedy recovery at his new forever home in Dallas with the Dossey family.



**HARVEY:** Harvey arrived after an accident where his “mom” received a serious injury from a fall during a morning walk. Fearing another fall, the family felt it best he be rehomed. Harvey is just a big, goofy guy with lots of love and energy for his new family, the Rash’s.



**TICKLES:** Tickles came to us from Tri-Cities Animal Shelter in Cedar Hill, TX. Dirty and flea/tick infested, she walked into our hearts with her soulful eyes and loving smile. Many have said she had the worst tick infestation they’d ever seen, so we named her “Tickles”! We later learned her blood count was extremely low, and she was had hookworms. Fortunately, after a 5-day hospital stay, the wonderful Argyle Vets pulled her through without a transfusion.



**MAX:** Sweet Max was an owner surrender due to a divorce. He has been lovingly adopted by his foster family in Oklahoma City. It’s amazing how they can wrap you around their shaggy paws in such a short time!



**BISCUIT:** Blue-eyed beauty, Biscuit, was found in the same area as Pepe. We wonder what circumstances brought these two sheepies (who look so much alike) to us within a few weeks of one another. Biscuit, who is now known as Maggie, has found her new forever home in the River Oaks area of Houston with two active boys keeping her company.



**BONNIE & CLYDE:** This male and female pair were victims of a hoarding situation in the Abilene area. After the owner was placed into nursing care, she signed the dogs over to the Abilene shelter who then contacted us for assistance. We then named them Bonnie & Clyde after Abilene's most famous couple! Bonnie, now known as Dally, just graduated head of class from Obedience School, earned her CGC, and found her forever home in the Abilene area with Becky White. Clyde has his own sheepie friend Bunny, a kitty (Pierre), and Bismark (the parrot) at his Dallas Palace with the Richards where he is definitely King of his castle!



**BENJAMIN:** "Schooner Ben" is another owner surrender. After a divorce, his "dad" gave him to a family member, where he lived outdoors in the Texas heat. After a few years, his "mom" learned of his whereabouts and placed a Craig's List ad. After we contacted her, she agreed to surrender Ben to TxOESR so we could get him some much needed vet care and place him in a loving home. He is forever grateful to his new mom Jo in Dallas.

## AVAILABLE OES



**SCOOTER:** Female, 4 years old, 60 pounds. Scooter is as sweet as pie! Like brown eyes? Like blue eyes? She has one of each! Unfortunately a previous owner failed to get her vet care when she broke her rear leg. She compensates well (it's not easily noticed) but may lead to some arthritic issues in years to come. We'd suggest a home without stairs or a very active lifestyle. She'd love to be your bed buddy and couch potato! She gets along well with other dogs, but would probably do best as a one and only if possible.



**CODY:** Male, young, 58 pounds. Wild Bill "Cody" is a very young, active male who seems to love everyone and everything. Foster homes have told us he is very smart and easily trained. Cody was found running at large and surrendered to TxOESR by the shelter for proper placement. PLEASE contact us if you would like to give Cody a new chance on a wonderful life with a loving forever family.



**DAPHNE:** Female, 4 years old, 62 pounds. Daphne, a brown eyed beauty, is not suitable for homes with very young children (under 5 yrs) or cats, but will do well with older children, adults, and larger dogs. Please consider adding this great OES girl to your family!

*If you are interested in adopting, please complete an application found online: [texasoesrescue.org](http://texasoesrescue.org).  
If you have an application already on file please contact us.*

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOSTER DIRECTOR** by Cheryl Jacoby .....

While the Texas heat and drought of true rain has been hard on everyone, this summer Rescue has been overwhelmed by a number of things.

First, at times it almost seemed to be raining sheepdogs, as they were practically coming two-by-two into our rescue Ark. Some arrived with severe medical needs which had to be addressed and required more than just the usual required vet care, immunizations, and grooming. Next, the applications to Foster and to Adopt started flowing in and we were flooded with paperwork. Processing applications and locating contacts to perform home visits and the follow-up was a full time job in and of itself. We appreciate everyone's patience while this task was completed.

Meanwhile, the Donation Dollars to help with these needs came pouring in! Thanks to each and everyone who assisted in these efforts. Your generosity has been well noted and is much appreciated.

Finally, we remain much in need and are continuing to ask for your financial support. Pepe's emergency surgery and post-operative care has left a huge hole in our rain barrel. We are busy with fund-raising activities, attending events with a sheepie in our "Donation Dog" vest, and doing our best to replace funds. Your continued support is much needed.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped in the Foster and Adoption program efforts. It has been nice to put the umbrella away for a few days. Cheryl Jacoby, Foster Director.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FOSTERS** .....

A note of Special Thanks to Jerry & Sally Reeves, Cindy Reidinger, Josh & Vicky Pond, Murdock and Janie Richard, Joe & Cecile Garcia, Becky White, Sharon Angelo and Stephanie Crider for their love and dedication to the Foster program. You will always be loved by the sheepies who shared your hearts and homes.

## **KUDOS TO SCOOTER** .....

Congratulations to Scooter Pie who recently participated in a 3k walk sponsored by the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Shown with her Foster Mom Veronica Minor, Scooter received a Certificate of Completion for her efforts and also won a beautiful basket of goodies in the raffle! Way to go guys!

Scooter is a sweet mature sheepdog with a slight disability on one of her rear legs but that did not hinder her in completing the 3k walk. PLEASE contact us if you would be interested in adding Scooter to your family.



## IN MEMORIAM

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Condolences to the families of their beloved pets. The memory of the sheepies that were old, ill or in pain. The words that can never express the pain and the loss felt by the family left behind.



**Harry** (1999-2011) - On Monday, May 23rd, Harry left us and joined his family and friends at the Rainbow Bridge. Old age finally took its toll. All day he lay in the shaded grass a distance from our home, not wanting to move or eat. We sat by his side for hours knowing his time was near. After we had withdrawn to the house late in the evening we heard barking at the front door. There was Harry. He needed to be with his family. We carried him into the foyer where he spent his last few hours. His full mouth grin, welcoming family and friends at the front door with sofa pillows, greeting us as we drove up the long driveway, and his total lack of any degree of coordination will always bring us joy in remembrance.- Bob and Laurie Osterling, Stephenville, TX.



**Queen La Tonka** (2011) - My beautiful Queen La Tonka went to Rainbow Bridge June 23, 2011. What a journey we had. Tears may last for a moment but memories will last forever.  
Joe & Cecile, Lubbock, TX.



**Martha My Dear & Sweet Melissa** (1997-2011) - Martha and Melissa were littermate and were inseparable from each other and from us. Martha My Dear is on the Right and Sweet Melissa on the left. Darrell & Darlene Witcher.



**Lucy** (2011) - In mid August 2011, our baby Lucy passed away unexplained while we were on vacation. Our kids are heartbroken and not sure if I have it in me to start over with another baby pup. Greg & Elissa Mach and family, TX.



**Thatcher & Gidleigh** (2007 & 2011) - Thatcher and Gidleigh beloved family members at rest. - Charles Reipe, TX.



**Winston** (2005-2011) - It is with immense sadness that I share with you the passing of our beloved Winston on Aug. 25, 2011. We rescued Winston from TX OES Rescue in Nov. 2005 from fosters Steve and Donna. Thanks to them, Winston is one of the dogs featured in Louisa Adams book "Caring for your Rescue Dog". I will never forget the moment we pulled up to their house and were greeted by our forever angel, Winston. He came up to me as soon as we entered the gate and walked his new "Mom" up to the house. The bond formed immediately and grew stronger every day. Winston happily got into our rental car the next morning and we began our journey back across the country to his new home in Maryland. He filled our lives with such joy and happiness. There was nowhere I'd rather be than in his company. He was my best friend, my angel, and I have a hole in my heart the size of Texas with him gone. Steve told me when we were in the adoption process that Winston was very special and had a special place in his heart of all the rescues he and Donna fostered. When I met Winston, I understood immediately just what Steve meant. I'm sure Steve and Winston had a joyful reunion and are smiling down on us. Bob & Kim Couch, Maryland.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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We are looking for volunteers to help with our Texas OES Rescue 2012 picnic. Our goal is to have the picnic committee in place by January 2012. Although the exact date is still TBD, the picnic will take place in May 2012 in Argyle Texas.

If interested, please contact us using the information below, or just send us your interest in an email [texasoesrescue@hotmail.com](mailto:texasoesrescue@hotmail.com).

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!!

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Debbie Bourgeois  
Christina Brehm  
June Campbell  
Tina Carpenter  
Stephanie Crider  
Lee DeGrasse  
Amanda Dossey  
Kristen Edward  
Paula B Frasier  
Colisa Gillespie  
Penny Guerra  
Jeff Guisto

Monty L Harrell  
Allene Hutcheson-Black  
Jennifer Jacobs  
Joanna Jeong  
Lana Jordan  
Fidge Kelm  
Erik T Lundberg  
Cathy McCoy  
Darlynn Mabon  
Martine Meiejring  
Joey C Miller  
Anna Omeltchenko

Anna Petrovic  
Jerry Reeves  
William M Reeves  
Charles Riepe  
Kyle Ristig  
Jo Stage  
Kim Straiton  
Judy and Dennis Thomas  
Carol Tryka  
Stephanie and Shane Wilson  
Darrell and Darlene Witcher  
Felipe Zavala

## HOW TO REACH US

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### Texas Old English Sheepdog Rescue, Inc.

246 Herriott Lane  
Argyle, TX 76226

**Email:** [texasoesrescue@hotmail.com](mailto:texasoesrescue@hotmail.com)

**Website:** [texasoesrescue.org](http://texasoesrescue.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Old-English-Sheepdog-Rescue-Inc/301575849880>

## OFFICERS

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**President:** Stephanie Crider

**Vice President:** Laurie Osterling

**Secretary/Newsletter:** Rhonda Rash

**Treasurer:** Position available

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Adoptions:** Position available

**Fostering:** Cheryl Jacoby

**Membership:** Kathy Rhoda

**Marketing:** Laura Teatsworth

**Website / Internet:** Walter Triebel



# STOP YOUR DOG FROM JUMPING UP from Dog Training Central

Dogs jumping up on people is at best an embarrassing, annoying habit and at worst a danger for all involved. What starts out as a cute habit in young puppies often **escalates into a big problem** that can be very difficult to correct. If you can't stand your much loved dog jumping on you, just imagine what visitors to your home must think?

## Why Do Our Dogs Jump Up On People?

1. Excitement, they're just showing you that they are **happy to see you**.
2. Your dog could be **seeking your attention** and has been rewarded with it by jumping up in the past.
3. To assert **dominance** over you or guests. This is a rare one but can happen.

## General Tips For Correcting Dog Behavior Problems - Jumping Up

Always keep in mind that your dog doesn't understand that the jumping up behavior is "inappropriate". It's up to you to clearly communicate this to your dog.

- Start as early as you can. It's much easier to **prevent behavior problems** such as dogs jumping on people, than to correct ingrained existing habits.
- Punishing or hitting a dog for jumping up just **doesn't make sense and will never work**. Your goal, and your best chance of stopping your dog from jumping up is to clearly communicate that jumping up is always an unacceptable behavior.
- Never reward a dog that jumps up on people by giving them the **attention they are seeking**. Rewarded behavior is reinforced behavior, meaning it will become more common.
- You have to send a **consistent message to your dog** in all circumstances. Make it simple for your dog and eliminate any confusion. This means that everybody who comes into contact with your dog has to reinforce the same message. It's pointless and unfair if you give your dog a cuddle and attention when he jumps up on you, but then yell at him when he jumps up on a delivery man.
- Don't give your dog what he/she wants (attention) every time he jumps up and you'll find the behavior decreases.

## How To Stop Your Dog From Jumping Up

Depending on what stage you're at with the jumping up problem, you should find one of these training techniques will do the trick. In most cases you will see some positive results **in a matter of days**. These are my favorite methods which I have successfully used to stop my dogs from jumping:

- When you see that your dog is ready to launch up at you, **turn your body away from him**. This will make your dog miss you, or at the very least deflect him off you. During this process **don't make any eye contact** with your dog and don't say a thing. Ignore your dog and make it clear to him that when he jumps he gets nothing from you.

When your dog has settled down and stops jumping, you then initiate some contact with him. Get down to his level and **lavish him with praise** and a nice scratch behind the ear. If you are consistent and persistent with this method, your dog will soon learn that staying on all four legs is a much better alternative!

- The next method is the one **I prefer to use with my dogs**. In situations where your dog is excitable and prone to jumping up, **give him something else to do**. In these situations **I instruct my dogs to "sit"** - this is sometimes referred to as "alternate behavior training".

So instead of jumping around like lunatics, my dogs sit patiently awaiting my attention (which I always reward them with). This is the dog obedience training guide I follow when training my dogs. You can also use **go to your spot** for the same purpose.

- Many dog trainers use and recommend correcting jumping up problems with a **pinch collar** (sometimes called a prong collar). This technique is most suitable for bigger, strong willed breeds like **German Shepherds** and **Rottweilers**. The key is to leave the pinch collar on whenever you are around your dog and have a short leash attached to it. At the moment your dog jumps, give a short sharp snap downwards on the leash. This tightens the collar and creates **a negative association** to your dog. It is said to replicate the correction that dogs use between themselves. Never pull on the leash for more than a second or two, and never hurt your dog.

When used the right way the pinch collar **should not** leave a mark on your dogs neck. Your dog will learn very quickly that when he jumps up on people, it will be an unpleasant experience. I believe this is an extreme method and would only consider it as a last resort for a dog who is jumping up dangerously.

The good thing about jumping up problems in dogs is that they are **usually an easy fix**. As long as you are determined to correct the problem and follow the above training techniques consistently you should be on the right track.

## **COUNTER SURFING & THIEVING DOGS** from Dog Training Central

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All dogs do it at some stage - whether it's counter **surfing the kitchen bench**, stealing the garbage, begging, thieving items from around the house or even snatching things from your hands - they can't help themselves . . .

It's important to recognize that this is a **perfectly natural behavior for your dog** - dogs are opportunistic scavengers from way back. This does not mean that we have to simply accept the thieving problem though. There are many strategies we can undertake to prevent items from ever being stolen or to rectify an existing thieving problem. Apart from food stealing being an extremely annoying and frustrating habit for your dog to develop, it is also **potentially a very dangerous one** (thieving something poisonous, a sharp item or knocking over a boiling saucepan).

### **Why Do Our Dogs Steal Things Anyway?**

There are **many reasons** why your dog may be stealing food and other household items. Take a look through this list to determine your dog's specific trigger or reason for the counter surfing behavior:

- Stealing food and other items is a **self rewarding behavior**. What this means is that when your dog steals something the consequence is that something pleasurable/desirable occurs. This could be something like getting to eat the food he/she has stolen or receiving attention from you. This is a bad situation for us dog owners because the **thieving behavior is being rewarded and therefore reinforced** each time your dog steals something. This means that the behavior is highly likely to continue and will most probably get worse in the future.
- Some dogs steal items of food simply because **they don't know any better** - they have never been properly taught that it is inappropriate behavior.
- The thieving may be a **symptom of canine separation anxiety**. Dogs will often steal things like socks or shoes which have the scent of the owner they are missing on them.

- Many dogs use their thieving as a tactic to **receive attention from you**. They learn that as soon as they pick up a shoe or cushion it gets you to chase after them - a fun game!
- If you don't leave some **tasty chew toys** around for your dog it is highly likely that they will find something else to chew on - like your expensive rug.
- Obviously **if your dog is hungry** he is far more likely to scavenge (counter surf) for food on bench tops and tables.
- A **lack of adequate obedience training** can lead to this type of behavioral problem. Your dog may not respect you or may see himself as above you in the family pack hierarchy. This means that he will feel free and even entitled to help himself to anything around the house.
- **Boredom and a lack of exercise** can lead to more thieving as well as many other behavior problems.
- A young puppy who is **yet to learn proper household etiquette** is not equipped to be left alone around food and other dangerous chewable items.

### What Can We Do To Stop The Thieving!

The answer to this is not clear cut and you will probably need to implement more than one method. What you must do is **determine the reason** for your dog's stealing habit and then come up with an action plan to put a stop to it. Here are some general tips to **help stop counter surfing** and other stealing behavior:

- **Keep food and other items out of reach** - prevention is always the best option in dog training. This involves things like clearing all bench tops and locking garbage bins. By doing this you are removing the thing that is motivating and then reinforcing your dog's stealing habit.
- **Supervision is the key** to correcting a thieving dog. When you are present you can provide your dog with instant feedback regarding his behavior. This includes both positive and negative feedback.
- Only ever **feed your dog from his dinner bowl** or as a reward during obedience training sessions. This means never throwing scraps to your dog from your dinner plate or when preparing your dinner. In fact it is a good idea to give your dog a stuffed kong toy when preparing your dinner.
- Provide your dog with loads of **physical and mental stimulation** throughout the day. Nice long walks on the leash, fun games like hide and seek and some obedience training are all great for this purpose.
- Never **chase, yell, hit or give attention** to your dog when he steals an item - this is the response he wants from you!
- Always **reward desirable behavior**. If your dog is sitting calmly on his bed while you are preparing your dinner praise and reward him with a tasty treat. This is really an obedience training exercise so it's ok to give your dog a reward in this situation. When a dog is rewarded that behavior is reinforced and is likely to continue in the future (which is what you desire in this example).

### Proven Strategies To Stop Your Dog From Thieving

Depending on the specific thieving problem you and your dog have you can pick out one or more of the following methods to help. Continue to implement the general points listed above and then add one or more of the specific strategies listed below. Good luck - I'm sure you'll get the results you are after.

1. Obedience training is the **key to preventing and solving most behavior problems** - including counter surfing and other thieving behavior. Some basic obedience training will also build respect and strengthen the bond you and your dog share. Try this dog obedience training command to help stop the stealing in its tracks - **leave it!**

2. Set up a **“booby trap”** for your dog. This method is designed so that your dog learns to associate stealing with an unpleasant consequence (not cruel or painful). This method works best for dogs who steal from one place in particular - such as your coffee table. You can achieve this unpleasant consequence through the following strategies:
  - o Place some tasty meat on the kitchen bench. Tie some cord to the meat and at the other end **tie some empty tin cans with some pebbles or coins in them**. When your dog counter surfs to grab the meat he will get a nasty surprise when the tin cans come crashing down. Ideally you will be there to witness this happen. You should immediately say “ah ah!!” and snatch the meat away before your dog eats it (most dogs drop the meat when the cans come crashing down).
  - o You can also buy some **foul tasting substances** at your local pet store for this purpose. Put some of this liquid on the “bait” and wait for your dog to try to steal it. The idea is that the food from benchtops will become unappealing to your dog and therefore he will discontinue his thieving as there is nothing in it for him.
  - o Another method involves a water pistol. This method requires you to **spy on your dog and then provide an unpleasant consequence** to any thieving behavior - the instant it happens. If you spot your dog counter surfing the bench give her a shot of water to the face and a stern “No!” Once again this will stun your dog (not hurt her). The idea is to jump out from around the corner and surprise your dog just as she is in the act of counter surfing - but before she actually eats the food.
3. Ask for an alternate behavior from your dog in situations where he may be tempted to steal. Use a command such as this - **go to your spot** to occupy your dog’s mind and behavior. Make this spot the most special and appealing place in the whole house. If you get this one right your dog will spend a lot of time in this spot!