

# Good Dog! Gazette

The Rover Rescue Newsletter  
Spring 2023 – 20th Anniversary

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## Chicken & Sweet Potato Chompers

10 oz. can shredded chicken breast in water (don't drain)  
½ c. boiled sweet potato  
2 eggs  
3 c. whole wheat flour

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line baking sheet with parchment.
2. Combine chicken, egg, and cooked sweet potato in blender/food processor—puree until smooth.
3. Pour puree over whole wheat flour in lg. bowl and mix well.
4. Turn out dough on flour-dusted countertop and knead a few times until it comes together. Roll out to ¼ in. and cut out with cookie cutter.
5. Bake on cookie sheet 20-25 min. until crispy, then cool.
6. Dough can be frozen up to 6 months.



## The Rover T-Shirt Design Contest is Back!

It's time to rev up your imagination and create a fun, original design for the annual Rover Rescue T-Shirt Design Contest. Along with a dog theme, we want your design to focus on our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, since we're celebrating two decades of saving homeless dogs and puppies this year. Be sure to include our web address – [roverrescue.org](http://roverrescue.org) – and use no more than three colors. Remember, this t-shirt will be unisex and for both adults and kids.

To enter, email your design to Rover Rescue at [info@roverrescue.org](mailto:info@roverrescue.org) and include your full name, email address and phone number. The design must be sent as a pdf, eps, ai (with a transparent background), png or jpg file no more than 10MB in size. The recommended resolution is 300 dpi.

The deadline for submission is **May 20, 2023**.

We'll notify the winner by email, as well as announce the winner on Facebook, on our website and in our next newsletter. We'll include the ordering link in the announcement, so everyone can get the new Rover Rescue t-shirts. The winner will receive a free t-shirt with the new design – and the title of Rover Creative Genius for the next year!

All entries must be original designs. Please submit your graphics to [info@roverrescue.org](mailto:info@roverrescue.org) in one of the file formats listed above by May 20, 2023. We reserve the right to make any adjustments needed to the winning design, and the winning submission will become the property of Rover Rescue. Our decision on the winner is final.

Your great t-shirt graphic could help us find the perfect forever homes for our foster dogs. So, get your creative juices flowing, and send us your terrific t-shirt design today!



Winning 2022 T-Shirt  
Design by Taylor Kuchta

# Rover Rescue

An All-Volunteer Group Dedicated to Giving Homeless Dogs a Happy Future

PO Box 4074 📧 Aurora, Illinois 60507 📧 630-897-7454  
[www.roverrescue.org](http://www.roverrescue.org)

# Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Family,

2023 marks Rover Rescue's 20th year since we began saving dogs. It's an amazing accomplishment, one we're so happy to celebrate with you and our other supporters. Many of you have been with us from the beginning and many more of you have joined us on this journey. We are grateful for your continued support from the bottom of our hearts!

Looking back, we realize just how far we've come from rescuing our first dog in 2003. And looking forward, we see how much more there is to do. Adoption has grown in popularity over the years and euthanasia numbers have declined slightly, but we still have so much work ahead. There is always a dog in need of rescue.

As you know, Rover Rescue has always been – and continues to be – an all-volunteer organization. We've had the opportunity to touch so many lives, canine and human alike. Yet, there are so many more homeless pets in need of our help. If we had more foster homes, we would save so many more lives.

Being a foster parent to a homeless dog is a touching experience. The first time she snuggles into your lap, knowing she's safe and loved is sure to make you smile. That's when you know, beyond any doubt, that you've made a difference, *you've saved a life*.

It's sloppy kisses, muddy paws and a ton of first moments. Teaching your foster dog manners and how to sit, come and walk on a leash. Loving her unconditionally, while knowing she'll be adopted soon. You'll experience tears, excitement and pride, then do it all over again to rescue another life and help the next dog find a loving forever home. And all the while, Rover Rescue will be there to support you, provide food and supplies, and cover the veterinary costs.

More than 11,600 dogs have come into our foster homes through the years to find loving new families. Each one touching our lives, leaving their pawprints on our hearts, and creating a lasting memory that makes everything we do worthwhile. Won't you join us? Consider becoming a foster home and discover what a difference you'll make. Become a lifesaver today!

Warmest Regards,



Kelly Janulis, President

*"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."*

– Unknown



## Join Us for Rover Eats Out

Want to help our homeless dogs and give your family a great meal, too? We'll be at Chipotle Mexican Grill at 2902 Kirk Rd. in Aurora from 5-9 pm on May 3rd. Just tell the cashier you're there for our fundraiser. Chipotle will be donating part of their sales that evening to Rover Rescue!

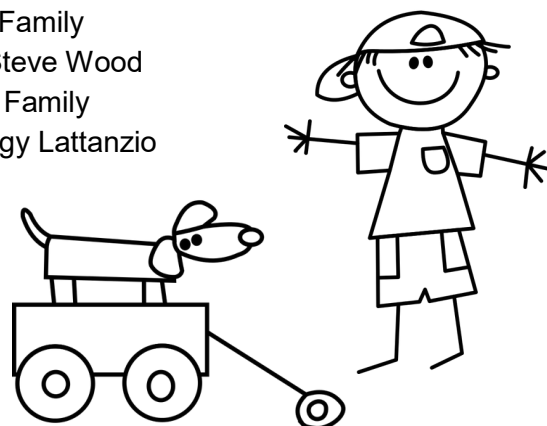


# Cheers to Our Wonderful Sponsors!

We can't thank our Rover Rescue sponsors enough for your generosity to our homeless dogs and puppies – *you're terrific!*



The Leska Family \* The Hall Family  
Rebecca Vodraska – In Memory of Steve Wood  
Kelli Harrison & Jennifer Warner Family  
The Ganbarg Family \* Keith & Peggy Lattanzio  
Theodora Vamvouris



## Is Your Dog Left or Right-Pawed?

Humans are usually left or right-handed, but did you know your dog may have a dominant side, too? Some experts believe that dogs can be “lefties” or “righties”, although many dogs have no preference. To find out if your pup has a dominant paw, you can try one of these two tests, both of which have been used in scientific studies:



**The Kong Test** – Give your dog a Kong toy filled with food, then watch to see how many times she uses each of her front paws to hold the toy as she tries to get to the food. The results can show she's left-pawed, right-pawed or has no preference.

**The First-Stepping Test** – With this test, watch to see which paw your dog puts down first as she begins to walk. This indicates which paw she prefers. Some experts believe this test shows more significant paw preferences than the Kong test.

You can also simply try asking your dog to shake and seeing which of her paws she gives you most often. Or hide a treat in your hand and hold it out to her – which paw does she use to touch your hand? You may be able to determine your dog's dominant paw – or lack of one – with easy games like these. But remember, it will take time to determine the real results. The scientific tests each require 50 “observations” for accurate data.

## Beware of Retractable Leashes

While a retractable leash can be a convenient way to give your dog more space to sniff and explore when you're taking her for a walk, it might also be more hazardous than you realized. Here are some of the potential dangers:

**Safety Hazard** – If the nylon cord wraps around your legs or your dog's, it can cause burns.

**Risk of Malfunction** – All the moving parts make it break more easily, which can result in eye injuries, contusions and even broken bones for you and your dog.

**Inadequate Control** – It limits your ability to correct and control your dog, especially if she's large or especially strong.

When choosing the equipment for your four-footed friend, think twice about selecting a retractable leash.



# The Great Rover Rescue Barn Sales are Coming

We'll begin accepting donations for the Great Rover Rescue Barn Sales on May 1st, so start clearing out all the nooks and crannies in your closets, garage and basement! You can bring your donations to us at 326 Sharon Lane in North Aurora, plus we'll be taking donations one night each week at the barn at 5401 Rte. 71 in Oswego (the day will be announced on our website).

We're also looking for people to help at the sales. If you can volunteer for a few hours, please call or text us at 630.897.7454 or email [info@roverrescue.org](mailto:info@roverrescue.org) We need all the help we can get!

The first Great Rover Rescue Barn Sale will be June 2-4, and we'll need lots of assistance for setup, too. Watch our website at [roverrescue.org](http://roverrescue.org) for details on all the sales throughout this summer.



## Oat and Apple Doggy Pretzels

2 c. Oat Flour

$\frac{3}{4}$  c. Rolled Oats

1 egg, beaten

1 c. unsweetened applesauce



1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Beat egg and set aside. Combine applesauce, oat flour and rolled oats in a large bowl. Pour all but 1 tbsp. of the egg over the mixture and set aside the remaining 1 tbsp. of egg.
3. Using a wooden spoon, stir the mixture until a dough forms. The dough should be tacky but not overly sticky. Add a bit more or less flour if needed.
4. Take about a 2 tbsp.-sized piece of dough and roll it in a 10 in. long tube the width of a pencil.
5. Make a U-shape out of each tube and twist the ends together, then fold back to the top (making a pretzel shape) and pinch in the ends.
6. Put the pretzels on the baking sheet and brush the top of each one with the remaining egg.
7. Bake about 25-30 minutes until they're slightly browned and become crispy. The pretzels should be pretty hard.
8. Allow to cool and store in an airtight container (up to 2 weeks).

# Puppy Tours

Rover Rescue brought puppies to over a dozen different schools throughout the Fox Valley area this spring. Not only did it raise the spirits of the staff, it also helped socialize the puppies and gave them plenty of fun and play. A great time was had by all!



## We're Celebrating Nearly 12,000 Lives Saved

Rover Rescue has been rescuing desperate dogs and puppies from high-kill shelters for 20 years with the help of our wonderful, dedicated volunteers. Over 11,600 sweet, lovable dogs are now happy and safe with their new families. And our work has only begun!

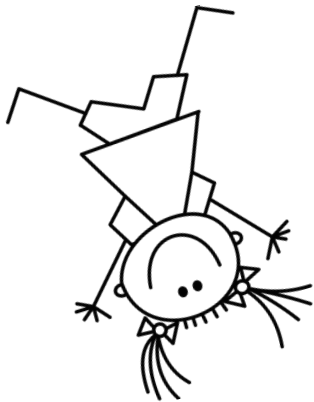


## Spring Cleaning Checklist

Spring is a time for fresh air, new beginnings and cleaning! Here's a checklist of things to catch up on for your pooch:

- ◆ Picking up poop during the winter months can be hit and miss, so it's time to really clean up the backyard
- ◆ Wash your dog's bed and any blankets or towels you use for her
- ◆ Thoroughly wipe down her crate
- ◆ Check that her toys are in good condition, and throw out the ones with holes, tears or bad smells
- ◆ Wash all the toys you're keeping
- ◆ Scrub her food and water bowls with hot water and mild soap
- ◆ Give her a bath, brush her coat, trim her nails and brush her teeth





# Rover Rescue

## Celebrating Our 20th Year of Saving Lives

Rover Rescue launched in 2003, sparking the start of the  
*Good Dog! Gazette.*

This is the 46th doggy approved issue...with many more to come!



## Communicating with a *Short Tail*

A lot of your canine buddy's communication is with her tail. In a recent study, scientists used life-sized robotic dogs to eliminate variables such as posture, scent and other behavioral indicators, as well as isolate the live dogs' reactions to tail length and movement in social interactions.

In the study, nearly 500 dogs were videotaped approaching a robotic canine. In some cases, the robot had a short tail and in others it had a long tail; they compared reactions to both lengths of tails when wagging and still.

The scientists discovered the dogs were more likely to confidently approach the robot with a long, wagging tail than one with a long, still tail. On the other hand, the dogs were more likely to be hesitant approaching the robot with the short tail – either wagging or still – than the robot with a long, wagging tail. However, a short tail that was still or wagging inspired less caution than a long, still robot tail. The conclusion? Dogs with short tails have a harder time communicating than those with long tails, so tail length can make a difference to your dog.



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## Stopping Toy Destruction

Tired of finding the stuffing from your dog's toys trailing all around the house? Or the head of a squeaky toy in the hall and the rest of it on the stairs? Replacing your dog's toys regularly can be pricey and frustrating. But there are ways of teaching your pooch to enjoy her toys without ripping them apart.



The first step to is to teach her how to play with the toy. Begin by playing fetch, tug o' war or hide-and-seek with the toy, or drag it along the floor for your dog to pounce on it. If she has fun playing a game together with you and the toy, she'll get a better sense of the purpose of the toy (other than something to rip to shreds). While she's still learning the game, put the toy away when you're done playing. The idea is to get her to want to play the game rather than chew on the toy. Don't let her destroy it in the meantime.

Take toys away strategically – offer the toy to your dog, but if she starts to destroy it, take the toy away. Give it back right away so she can try again and treat it gently. If your dog's careful with it, let her keep the toy and give her attention, praise her or play a game with her using the toy. Be sure to supervise her and take the toy away again if she goes back into destruct mode.

Basically, you're teaching your dog that destructive chewing makes the toy disappear. If she tries to rip up the toy three times, take it away for the rest of the day. Some dogs figure it out in just three tries, but others need several days of this repetition to stop chewing on toys that are meant for play.





## Keeping Your Pup Out of the Petunias

Does your dog like to get into your flower beds and vegetable garden? She probably loves the new growth, pungent smells and fascinating changes in “her” yard. Sniffing the plants, walking through the beds and digging up the flowers is a common problem for any gardener with a pooch. Another concern is that some plants and flowers can be toxic to your dog. There are some ways to keep her out of the growing zones, though.

Barriers, such as a fence, chicken wire and other barricades are one of the easiest and most effective methods while you train your dog to leave your garden alone.

Supervising your pooch in the yard is another effective way, but it requires you to be constantly vigilant. Left on her own, your dog would most likely dig up the plants, chew on the flowers and trample the new shoots. You can redirect her to other activities, such as games of fetch, tug o’ war or chase, which are far more appealing than the garden, or distract her with a chew toy or a stuffed Kong toy. Having a variety of toys on hand can help you keep your dog focused on something other than your flower beds.

Another option is to create a dedicated digging spot. Many dogs like to dig, which makes it a challenge to teach them not to. So instead of saying “no” repeatedly, you can train her it’s ok to dig *there* – making the garden a less alluring target to your dog. The best place for a digging area is somewhere with good soil *and* a good location for your pooch to bury (and uncover) her treasures. Putting chew toys, Kongs and treats there will increase that spot’s appeal for her.

You could also move your plants into containers or raised beds, providing a separation that your dog may be able to understand as “off limits.” They make it easier to redirect your dog to other areas she’s allowed to romp in.

Or you could try only gardening when your dog isn’t with you in the yard. Many dogs copy their humans’ behaviors, so if they see us dig, they may want to join in. At the very least, they may want to investigate the area we’re working in – a form of “social facilitation” that sparks their interest by our presence.

Remember, your dog is digging in the garden because it’s interesting, not because she wants to drive you nuts. You need to communicate to her that her garden-tromping behavior is wrong. Teaching her the “leave it” cue will help her learn she’s not supposed to approach something or take it in her mouth. “Drop it” is another useful cue, so if she pulls up a plant, she’ll release it in your hand (and maybe you can replant it). Also, if the plant is toxic, that command may keep her from swallowing it. Positive reinforcement with treats and toys will help her learn these cues more quickly.



Keep in mind that dogs *need* to chew – some more than others. You should allow your dog to engage in this natural activity, but only with the right toys, such as chew sticks and nylabones.

If your dog enjoys the comfort of stuffed fleece toys, teach her to snuggle with them instead of chewing on them. Give her a fleece toy when she’s really tired after a play session or hike, so she’s more likely to treat it like a teddy bear. As long as your dog treats it gently, let her keep the toy, but if she starts chewing on it, take the toy away.



Surprisingly, giving your dog several of the exact same toys can reduce her destructive chewing. Start by giving her one of the toys and as soon as she becomes interested in it, give her a second one. Once she focuses on that one, toss the third one to her. This approach keeps many dogs from shredding their toys, possibly lowering the value of the toy in their eyes.

Avoid the dual traps of spending a fortune on replacing toys or not giving any toys to your dog at all because you’re tired of the short time they’re in use. By teaching her to truly enjoy her toys, you both win.

# Rover Rescue

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Aurora, Illinois 60507

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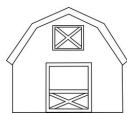
## What's Ahead?

### Join Rover Rescue in Celebrating **20** Years of Saving Lives!



#### Be a Lifesaver – Foster a Dog

Become a foster parent to a homeless dog!  
Get details at [roverrescue.org](http://roverrescue.org) or call or text 630.897.7454 now.



#### The Great Rover Rescue Barn Sales

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#### Rover Eats Out

Join us for dinner at Chipotle at 2902 Kirk Rd. in Aurora from 5-9 pm on May 3rd and part of the sales will be donated to Rover Rescue! Keep an eye on our website for other upcoming dates and locations.