



# THE BOXER BEAT

## SENIOR WORLD!

### A Vision from One, for All

When rescuing dogs, some things are harder to take than others. Perhaps the hardest of all rescues to comprehend, even more devastating emotionally than the abuse cases, are senior dogs relinquished to the animal shelter.

These are animals that have spent 7 to 12 years in the same environment, with the same loved ones. These were the puppies that someone waited impatiently for. These are the gifts received at birthdays, Christmas. These senior dogs are the puppies that cuddled in your bed. These are the dogs that stood strong and stable as the toddlers learned to walk – they played “dress-up” and “fetch” – provided a warm shoulder to cry on when no one else understood. They licked your tears of sadness, disappointment and joy. These are the dogs being relinquished to shelters. Sadly more and more seniors are walking through our kennel doors frightened, confused and totally lost.

They are given up for a myriad of reasons: Not able to make any more babies? Snapping at the newly introduced puppy? Is age causing incontinence? Is that a new lump or growth? Moving but don't want to put the time or effort into the search for pet friendly housing? DUMP THE DOG!

We love our adopters. Every soul who cares enough to fill out an application is an angel in our book. But let's be honest: the majority of our applicants want a “puppy or young dog” - under 1 year old. We don't have waiting lists for seniors; however, we do have seniors waiting.

Remember, these dogs were once LOVED – a part of a family. They lived in homes, slept on the couch, were kings and queens of their calm and reliable existence. Then one day, one car ride, it all changed.

Now they live in a cacophony of endless barking, excessive heat in the summer, bone-stiffening cold

in the winter; confined to a cell with a cement floor or a cage with barely enough room to stretch stiff and weary muscles.

## EDITORIAL:

### RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE

It was a nice day for hiking as my husband and our two dogs were meandering up a trail in Angeles National Forest. Our dogs were running ahead, happy to be free and four-legged. All of a sudden, one of the dogs lunged for something laying on the trail. She picked it up in her mouth and from 10 yards away all I could do was yell “NO!” There, hanging from my dog’s mouth was a rattlesnake.

Well, to be accurate, about three-quarters of a rattlesnake. I admit that we were lucky. Apparently the snake had been decapitated prior to my dog’s encounter. What would happen if a rattlesnake bit our dog? In the middle of the woods, no cell phone reception, and no car; our dog would die.

That’s when I heard about Rattlesnake Avoidance Training. Rattlesnake training teaches dogs to avoid the sight, sound and smell of rattlesnakes. There are six rattlesnake species native to Southern California: the Southern Pacific, Western Diamondback, Red Diamond, Speckled, Sidewinder, and Mohave Green. These snakes can be found from the San Bernardino Mountains to the California desert. If you camp, hike or hunt, or live in an area known to have rattlesnakes, this training could save your dogs life.

#### How is it done?

The rattlesnake training that I attended with my dogs was done using live rattlesnakes. The way that it was explained to me was “Nothing else smells like a live rattlesnake except a live rattlesnake. If we were to use dead frozen snakes that would work . . . your dog would avoid every dead frozen snake that he encountered.” So live snakes it was. The snakes had their mouths taped shut so they couldn’t hurt the dogs, and the dogs were on leash, so they couldn’t hurt the rattlesnakes.

#### First Phase: Smell Recognition

The handler took an object that had been scented like a rattlesnake and introduced it to my dog several times. When my dog went to sniff it, she was given a low level shock using an electric collar and remote. This teaches your dog to avoid the smell of a rattlesnake. When Dodger started to avoid all the objects that smell like a snake, but still goes to the objects that don’t, she passed this part of the training.

#### Second Phase: Sound Recognition

Dodger was brought to a “blind box”. It is a box or bucket that contains a snake. The snake can see the dog, but the dog can’t see the snake. She was walked up to the box several times and from different angles. Every time the rattlesnake rattled, she was given a shock. Once she heard the rattle and backed off without a shock, she proceeded to the next phase.

#### Third Phase: Sight Recognition

The handler walked Dodger to a live, muzzled rattlesnake. When Dodger looked at the snake, she was given a low-level shock. This taught Dodger to ignore her desire to chase and kill a moving snake. When she responded without needing the shock, she proceeded to the final phase.

#### Fourth Phase: Putting it all Together

Dodger was brought up to a live rattlesnake multiple times and from multiple angles. She had the ability to see, hear and smell the rattlesnake. After she showed consistent avoidance behavior, there is a test. Your dog must pass the test in order to be considered “trained”. The dog is on one side of the training area and you, the owner, are on the other. In between you is a rattlesnake. You are asked to call your dog to you. If your dog has been successfully trained, they will alter their course and move AROUND the snake. If they have not yet grasped the idea, they will run close to the snake or even jump over the snake to get to you.

#### Did the training work?

At the end of the course, both of my dogs ran around the snake the long way. Dodger actually was afraid to come within 50 feet of the snake. As soon as she saw it she ran on a parallel line away from the snake, and then to me. Since the training, my dogs haven’t been bitten by a rattlesnake. I don’t know if that’s because the training worked, or because there haven’t been any encounters. I do know that it is advised to complete the training every year. We’re looking to sign up again this year.

#### New Rattlesnake Vaccine

Red Rock Biologics of Woodland, California have developed a rattlesnake vaccine: Two injections the first year and yearly boosters each year after. The vaccines cost from \$20-\$30 per shot and can also be given to cats. Find out more at [www.redrockbiologics.com](http://www.redrockbiologics.com)

## LONG –TIME RESIDENT GETS FOREVER HOME!

At Boxer Rescue LA, boxers come and go like crazy. White, Brindle, Fawn, male, female, cropped or natural ears and tail, it doesn't matter – they find new homes with new families looking for that wonderful boxer personality. Unfortunately, not all the wonderful boxer personalities are housed in perfect purebred boxer bodies. There is one kind of dog that stays at the kennel for months, sometimes years: boxer mixes.

They have the personality, but not the “looks”. Don't get me wrong; these dogs are by no means ugly. In fact, Boxer Mixes are the most strikingly handsome dogs you will ever see.

That brings us to this month's long time placement: Plato.



Brought to Boxer Rescue LA in July of 2003, volunteers were puzzled when Plato failed to get adopted. He was playful, sweet, loving, good with other dogs, and a great all around companion. But, like so many of our dogs,

he needed to wait for the right owners.

The perfect couple came to Boxer Rescue LA. Shelly & Kohji Ono came looking for their new boxer, and met only Plato – as soon as they saw him, they knew whose dog he really was.

The happy family reports that Plato now sleeps comfortably on a dog bed in the bedroom at night. Plato is a very smart dog, already housebroken (licking his new family members awake if he needs to be let outside) Plato is enjoying his full run of the fenced in yard 4 hours a day after his two years in the Boxer Rescue Kennel.



“You really think I'm Happy in this Dump?”

## LONG TIMERS NEED HOMES!

Do you know someone who is looking for a success story just like Plato's? Well here are some dogs that are waiting for their dreams to come true:

### Shaska



Shaska came to Boxer Rescue LA in **2001!** He has been patiently waiting for his “forever home” for 4 long, lonely years.

**Shaska's good points:** Do you want a great smart dog that will run 10 miles a day and still want to go out at night?

**Shaska's needy areas:** Shaska would be best as an only dog in an adult home. He is VERY strong and needs obedience training.

### Zipper

For **three years** Zipper has been waiting for a home he can call his own.

**Zipper's good points:** Zipper is a pint-sized, interesting-looking guy. He is a rare English bulldog/boxer mix

**Zipper's needy areas:** He needs obedience and a strong leader experienced with dogs. He needs to be the only pet in a quiet, structured, adults only home.



### Cinder



Since Cinder came to us in August of 2003, she has been waiting for the right family.

**Cinder's good points:** Cinder loves attention and is very quick to

learn. She is very energetic and loves to run!

**Cinder's needy areas:** Cinder would be best as an only dog in a family with older children.

Mixes aren't the only “Long-timers” some purebred Boxers that are setting sad records include:

Bake – 1999

Bosco – 2000

Popeye – 2003

Picasso – 2001

Lennon – 2002

Sachi - 2001

Make these dogs' dreams a reality. Adopt today.

## NEW HOSPICE VAN:



A few years ago, a very generous grant from the Magglos family

allowed us to redo and remodel the back of our main kennel. The Magglos have again blessed us in our time of need. Many of you recognize Ursula in her old, white, beat up boxer van with the BRLA logo on the side. The van had seen better days and was ready for the old junk heap in the sky. When it up and died, no one was surprised, but our medical needs dogs who rely on the van for their 24 hour care were left wanting.



In steps the Magglos, donating a new, state-of-the-art hospice van – complete with built in, easy to clean dog crates.

The vane has crated room for five dogs, plus 1 free roaming in the back and another in the front. A plastic divider keeps the dogs from hassling the driver (and each other). It is rumored that New York Cabbies may be considering a similar design.



## PLACEMENTS:

### Congratulations to the May Boxers that found new homes:

Armstrong by Shannon Glassman  
Beiser by Gaetano Frizzi  
Blossom by  
Brofina by Claudia & Don Miller  
Callie by Martin & Flo Lieberman  
Clyde by Sandra Holguin  
Delilah by Melissa & James Schumer  
Doogie by Judy Ureda  
Dyna by Scott & Anne Thompson  
Higgins by Richard Knapp  
Isabella by Brent Kessel  
Jackson by Jairo Lizarazu  
Jackson by Gloria & Ron Zev  
Jada by Richard Alvarez  
JoJo by Otto & Nicole Ellerbrock  
Jupiter by Jaime & Cheryl Fernandez  
Kiki by Alissa Quin  
Mabel by Lara Jorgensen Sheldon Estab  
Mason by Gary Robinson  
Mulligan by Todd Chambers  
Plato by Shelly & Kohji Ono  
Pockets by Michelle & Derek Pietzak  
Princess May by Robert & Karen McInnis  
Rockie by Allison & Greg Young  
Rocky by Stacy & Scott Thayer  
Roman\* by Darian Anderson  
Spanky\* by Mark McGee  
Sparkle by Greg & Mary Sharp  
Spector by Heidi & John Tovaas  
Stitch by Kim Hoang Henry Beylin  
Striper by Stacy & Scott Thayer  
Tolkein by Kim Hoang Torres  
Zeus by William G. Van Fossan  
Ziggy by Allison & Greg Young

Also a special thanks to:

**Bay Area Boxer Rescue**  
(<http://www.boxer-rescue.org/>)

for finding loving homes for:  
Brianna, Bristol, Duccio, Jackson/Stuart, Jules,  
Kate, Nelson, and Pedie

**Boxers Without Borders**  
([www.boxerrescue-la2ca.com](http://www.boxerrescue-la2ca.com))

for finding loving Canadian homes for:  
Dolly, Faith, Harley, Lucy, and Mona Lisa/Nala

## BOXER QUESTION CORNER:

### Preparing for baby:

Hi,  
My husband and I are expecting our first child. Our dog has been fine around children in the past, but we're afraid that he will be aggressive to our baby. Can Boxer Rescue take him?  
Please let us know,  
D A

### **Boxer Rescue:**

Many thousands of infants in the U.S. are victims of automobile accidents, burns, drowning, choking, suffocation, and poisoning. In contrast, VERY few infants are severely injured by dogs each year and even fewer are killed.

We love our dogs; they are our companions, friends, solace and even surrogate children...until you are expecting a human baby, that is. Now, well-meaning friends, family members and neighbors start the horror stories – stories that inevitably end up with the formerly friendly family dogs growling at, biting and even killing a newborn baby. Their advice: "Get rid of the dog." If you have a second baby, will you get rid of the first if there is any sibling rivalry? It's the same thing. Your 1<sup>st</sup> baby, the furry one, deserves the same love and respect from you that they have given you. Before you start calling your local vet, rescue, or animal shelter, why not PREPARE your dog for the new addition?

It can be done, it's easy and you won't have sleepless nights wondering what happened to your former best friend. Most dogs adjust to new babies easily, quietly and without incident.

The worst thing you, as a pet parent, can do is start your dog's introduction to the baby when you bring the baby home for the first time. Remember, you have had 9 months to prepare for the change in your life; your dog needs the same.

For the complete article on preparing and introducing your dogs to a new baby please e-mail [sarah@boxer-rescue-la.com](mailto:sarah@boxer-rescue-la.com) or call (310)714-1778.

***If you have a question for  
"Question Corner", please e-mail  
[newsletter@boxer-rescue-la.com](mailto:newsletter@boxer-rescue-la.com)***

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **June 18th**

Granada Hills, CA  
**Annual Dog Expo and Pet Adoption**  
9am - 3pm  
Granada Hills High School  
10535 Zelzah Avenue  
Granada Hills, CA

### **June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Belmont Shores, CA  
**Father's Day Adoption Event**  
12pm – 6pm  
Washington Mutual Bank  
5200 2nd St.  
Belmont Shores, CA  
A host of animal rescue groups and local shelters will have animals for adoption and products for sale or donation.  
For more information, please visit  
[www.HauteDogs.org](http://www.HauteDogs.org)

### **June 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26th**

Pomona, CA  
**America's Family Pet Expo**  
10am – 6pm Daily  
LA County Fairgrounds (Fairplex)  
Pomona, CA.  
Go to [www.afpe.net](http://www.afpe.net) for more info.

### **July 10th**

Westchester (Los Angeles), CA  
**Best Friends Super Adoption**  
10am – 4pm  
Manchester Park  
Westchester, CA (by LAX)

Thank you for your continued support.  
Together we can achieve our goal of  
**NO MORE HOMELESS BOXERS**  
Please help us:

- Adopt, don't buy
- Sterilize, don't breed

The dogs will thank you.