

The **Scarlett** (news) Letter

Special Edition



July 5, 2008

Jethro Roy Buckshot Bullet August 2, 1995 – July 5, 2008

JR with Debra at home, July 12, 2003.



A Story of a Dog Who Found Love in His Own Heart

JR, Jethro Roy Buckshot Bullet, was born to Samantha Smiles and Weber's Buckshot Bullet on August 2, 1995. He was the product of a backyard breeding. All you had to see was those straight legs and butchered dew claws to figure that out. He was the only boy in the litter, and the first born...His first seven years were to an undeserving family outside Doylestown, PA. JR had allergies to wheat, common in dogs. For years, his first vet told these people to change his diet to rice based. They did not. So for 7 years he had horrible ear infections. They did not let him be a dog, they wanted a fashion accessory. JR came to breed rescue at age 7. Thank G*d for Steve and Stan. JR was returned several times due to common rescue issues. "There are no bad dogs, just bad owners". These are old words to live by.

In June 2003, Debra and I were looking for a puppy at Rheingold Vizslas. We had lost our previous 17 year old Vizsla rescue a few months before. Deb wanted a Sunny puppy. While we were visiting Sunny, I got jumped in Steve and Stan's kitchen by JR. He picked me, and that was that. We got him 4th of July weekend, 2003.

JR went on vacation to Stone Harbor, NJ within a few days of living with us. J.R. loved watching birds on the bay and loved the bacon he and his new daddy would buy in town each morning. He would travel and meet people and dogs like never before. Debra made great lengths to socialize JR and make him a better dog citizen. He was even at our wedding and honeymoon!

Scarlett became part of our family in August of 2005. JR was a little upset at first, but after the first night, they became best friends. JR also loved Scarlett's brother Cooper, who came to stay over. Because of Scarlett, Cooper, Piper and all the rest of the extended dog family, and Debra's hard work, JR learned to be part of a pack. A year later, Miranda joined the Rheingold family and J.R. finally learned to love a little puppy. He finally learned how to be a good dog, a happy dog, a well adjusted dog.

Dogs other than Vizslas were all suspect. And any bunny, ground hog, deer, squirrel, chipmunk, bird, fox ... am I missing anything? ...were all fair game. JR had a strong hunting instinct, which is not surprising as Ch. Randy Duke and DC Vahli Stick to Your Guns were prominent in his pedigree.

J.R. would do a perimeter walk every morning, even the last mornings. He was a protector, a companion, and a lap dog. And a grump, like his daddy Paul. Despite all his growling, he never hurt another dog or puppy or his mommy. He could play rough (that's all he knew – rescue dogs again), but that calmed down as age and wisdom came, and he became exposed to more and more of our little red friends. J.R. was not aggressive, his grumpiness was fear.

RIGHT: JR takes 2nd Place at 2006 Vizsla Nationals, Seniors 10-12.

JR was also a sneak. Strategic planning. He'd wait until you left the house to go trash diving. He'd sneak down at night and lick out a perfect square of brownies out of the dish, while leaving the fork in place.

When we got JR from Stan/Steve's, there was a young male named Blaze. Male dogs being what they are, Blaze had to challenge all the other males. When he came to JR, JR started to run away from the porch, Blaze followed. JR made a 90 degree right turn. Blaze followed. JR made a second 90-right. Blaze followed. Now JR knew how Blaze would step into a 90 degree right hand turn. When JR stepped into a third turn, Blaze made an identical turn and – POW – JR had turned inside, grabbed Blaze by the throat, flipped Blaze in the air and on to his back, marked and walked away.... We knew he was smart and knew we had some work ahead.

JR also had a kind side. He was very gentle around small children. Toddlers were known to pull his ears and bite his butt, but he always stood there and took it with a smile. Over the summer Debra would have special education children over the house for tutoring and continuing education. The more impaired the child, the more JR would go out of his way to comfort and show affection for the child.

JR made many friends, and to all of you, thanks for your kindness.

Not that it was all roses...As a result of the earlier ear infections; JR had 2 operations to resect his ears. He also developed laryngeal paralysis in 2007 as a result of his food allergies. That's 3 operations that could have been avoided if he had been fed rice based food early in life...it's not like it costs any different.... Anyway, we fixed all that. His back went out the first week of June, 2008. He was diagnosed with a ruptured disc. The prognosis was surgery or permanent paralyzation. J.R. was fighting to stand up the whole time, so I had to give him a chance. As it turned out, it was all too much for him. Two weeks after a successful operation, JR got an infection. He just never came back after that...

I'd like to say thank you to
Dr. Stephanie Dobbins,
Dr. Evelyn Orenbuch,
Dr. Clarke, and all the staff and at
Hickory and Dogma.



He was an old dog who was a fighter all the way. He remembered all of you, I can say this as a fact. And he loved all of you. Just think of how he wanted your attention when you came to visit. The leaner, the foot stander, the head on your lap.

Another J.R. Story:

Fred Sapp was the person who picked up JR when he first came into rescue. He lived with Fred for a few months in 2003. They had not seen each other for 5 years. When JR finally saw Fred again at the Boardwalk Show in Feb 2008, JR started to kiss and lick Fred all over. Jenna and Debra were crying. It was a real sight.

JR remembered someone who had shown him kindness, which means he will always remember all you who knew him. So say a prayer for the old pup. He turned out to be a great dog who had some love in his heart to give. And he turned out to be a big love.

JR came to us on the 4th of July and left on the 4th of July, like a shooting star. I only wish we could have owned him since he was a puppy.

Paul



JR: Life of the party! 2006, 2007



BELOW: JR taking up a whole bed (after midnight of course) 2008



Right: Michael Weiss, one of JR's many, many friends. 2007.



Below: JR and his special girlfriend LuLu out for a stroll. J.R. had two hotties, Lulu and Chloe, who visited the Evalds - Rheingold Home for In Season Bitches several times a year, and he loved them both.



Letter From The Editor:

I met J.R. when I was four weeks old at Steve and Stan's house. He wasn't very interested in us pups, but he didn't bother us either. My Mom and Dad, Debra and Paul, decided to take me home. When I met J.R. on his turf on my first night home, he wasn't thrilled. He threw me once, but Daddy let him know that I was here to stay. For the first six months, I was only allowed around him when Mommy and Daddy were home. He got used to me, and I got used to him. Over time, we became soul mates, companions, and a pack. J.R. and I learned how to be good dogs together. He adopted my sweet spirit and trusting nature, and I took on his wisdom, knowledge, and tracking skills. J.R. even went to obedience school with me, at age 10, and learned to accept dogs that weren't the red, crazy kind. I am not sure if he thought I was his wife or his daughter, but he loved me unconditionally. He taught me how to play rough and be bold. He also taught me that there was no sweeter place to be than curled up cuddling on the bed with Mommy and Daddy. I followed his every step, and he made sure I was right behind him. I may miss J.R. more than anyone, as he was my constant companion, teacher, leader, and best friend. At the end, I never left his side and watched over him. I couldn't do anything else, as that is what he had always done for me. He will always be in my heart.
Fondly, Miss Scarlett

BELOW: JR after back surgery, Scarlett by his side trying to comfort him.

