

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the very first issue of *Sato Tales*. It's been a long time getting to press, but we now hope to get this out to all of you on a regular basis so that you can keep abreast of the situation in Puerto Rico and also enjoy some of the amazing rescue stories. You can't help but be moved by the transformation of a badly abused dog like Buddy, who is now living the good life with Liz Holland and her family in Massachusetts. It's these happy endings that keep us all going.

It's been a challenging year for our foundation. Last year, we sent 1,450 satos and 135 gatos to new homes in the continental United States. That figure is a little less than we would have liked, because of a change in our ability to transport these animals. For many years, we have had a very generous agreement with one of the airline carriers, which flew our satos to the states for a very low cost. Due to various changes in administration and procedures, that agreement was ended and we have been paying as much as \$100 per animal now for transportation. You can imagine the effect that that change has had on our budget! We are working very hard to restore the original agreement and hope to have good news soon.

On other fronts, the Puerto Rican Senate recently voted to unfreeze some \$1.5 million in funding to animal care. That money will go toward spaying and neutering, educational programs, and certain animal groups--perhaps even Save a Sato--to continue our mission of rescuing and rehoming dogs. While this is a step in the right direction, the situation on the island is still very bleak. Estimates place the number of satos in Puerto Rico at between 100,000 and 150,000. We have a long fight ahead to make a change, but with your support we are making progress--one sato at a time.

We are also introducing our new recurring giving program. Now you can have a monthly donation automatically withdrawn from your bank account or major credit card. We're trying to make it easier to donate. The recurring program is also especially helpful to us, because it allows us to budget our resources in the best way to help the most animals possible. Please know that almost every cent that we receive goes directly into food, shelter, and medical care for our satos and gatos.

At our shelter right now, we have a wonderful group of satos all ready to find their forever homes. In the next few weeks, we'll be sending Jaime, who's brown and white and fluffy; Linda and Herbie, who are both very cute terrier mixes; and the mother/daughter team of Opal and Topaz. Please keep checking the Websites of the shelters listed in this newsletter for their arrivals.

We could never function without the support of so many friends across the United States and Puerto Rico. I want to personally thank each of you for caring.

Edi Vazquez

Edi Vazquez with two friends



To make a donation through our website, please visit us at: www.saveasato.org.

CONTENTS

On this page

- Letter from the Director
- Donate-a-Bed Program

Page 2

- Volunteer Spotlight
- Taking Action
- The Sato Community
- Sharing Stories
- Upcoming Events
- Save a Sato in the News

Page 3

- Our Shelters
- Happy Endings
- Donation Form

Page 4

- Happy Endings (continued)

DONATE-A-BED PROGRAM

The Kuranda Dog Bed Company has created a wonderful program to help animal shelters and rescue organizations receive sturdy, long-lasting chew-proof dog beds at a reduced rate. The details of the program and an on-line sign-up form can be found on our homepage at www.saveasato.org. Save a Sato is in desperate need of beds for its bigger dogs, who need a raised place to sleep when it rains.



This could be a Sato!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Some people love their satos so much that they are willing to go that extra mile. Take **Donna Lenz** for example. Mother to satos Gypsy and Amber, Donna is so dedicated that she has set her alarm for midnight several times to drive 68 miles and meet the 3:15 (a.m.) cargo flight that brings satos in to Hartford, Conn. Donna says the flight crew is so enamored of their cargo that they even make sure to keep the heat nice and high so the pups will be comfortable on their way up from San Juan. She loads the dogs into her car--there are usually between eight and ten of them--and drives another 68 miles to the Danbury Animal Welfare Society, arriving at about 4:30 or 5 a.m. Every sato then gets a walk and some hugs and kisses, and settles in for a good long sleep. Donna drives home and does the same!

To make a donation through our website, please visit us at: www.saveasato.org.

Donna, Gypsy, and Amber Lenz



Then there's **Alma Kenyon**....without Alma, you literally wouldn't be reading this newsletter. It was Alma who contacted us last February and suggested that we develop a vehicle for contacting our extended network of sato supporters. She volunteered to get the project off the ground because she had had similar experience in producing a newsletter for German Shepherd rescue. Her help and guidance in lay-out, mailing lists, and content--not to mention her drive and energy--were essential in getting this project off the ground.

We couldn't function without people like Donna and Alma and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

TAKING ACTION

We urge everyone who is concerned by the way satos are treated to make their feelings known to our Governor. The plight of the satos costs the island many millions of dollars a year in lost tourist revenue--after all, who wants to spend their vacation watching starving dogs forage for food? Letters of concern, which are polite and thoughtful, can be very helpful. If you'd like to weigh in, please do so by writing Hon. Anibal Acevedo Vila, La Fortaleza, P.O. Box 9020082, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-0082.

Also, be sure and tell your friends about satos and the desperate conditions they face in Puerto Rico. Some people have the mistaken impression that satos are really feral animals (like coyotes and hyenas!) and that they bring diseases into the country. The truth is that satos are loving companions and they are subjected to very strict health protocols before entering the country. Some people believe that satos displace local dogs in animal shelters. The truth is that the spay and neuter campaigns have been so effective in the Northeast that there are very few local animals being surrendered to shelters. Please speak up and be an ambassador for your sato.

THE SATO COMMUNITY

Did you know that there is a chat forum for sato/gato owners? The Sato/Gato Families forum is a way for families to come together and compare notes, as well as ask each other questions about every aspect of being a sato/gato family. Can your sato leap tall buildings in a single bound? Does your sato seem fascinated by watching a bug? Is the first thing your sato does with a new stuffed animal remove its eyes and nose?

Thanks to the efforts of **Dave Mainwaring** of Framingham, MA, who has a sato named "Samba," we now have a communication method available for Sato/Gato Families to unite. Membership is free and joining takes

only seconds. As a member, you can send emails through the forum that are automatically distributed to all members. To become a member go to www.nixes-mate.com (Dave's web site) and scroll down the page to the pictures of Dave's sato "Samba." On the left, just above Samba's picture, is a link that says "Click here to become a member of Sato/Gato Families." Follow the instructions from there. You will then receive a confirmation email.

SHARING STORIES

Do you have a "Happy Ending" that you'd like to share? We are always eager to post photos on our Website of our beloved satos in their new forever homes. Please send yours to Valerie at vbatrice@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for the week of September 4th for the Massachusetts Partner Shelters yearly Save A Sato Reunions. (Most of us from Puerto Rico will be there--provided there isn't a hurricane.) Also try to join us at PetRock 2005 on Sunday, September 11 at Quinsigamund Community College in Worcester, MA. www.petrockfest.com. This is a great chance to meet the rescuers and foster parents from Puerto Rico, along with other sato owners who share the joy and love of owning a sato or two. You and your sato(s) are guaranteed a wonderful time.

SAVE A SATO IN THE NEWS

Primer Impacto is a Spanish language television magazine that covers a variety of current news topics. Earlier in the year, the show explored the sato situation in a three-part series that drew lots of attention to the plight of these wonderful animals. The reporter interviewed Gloria Marti, who is our shelter director, Edi Vazquez and Leilani Belendez and talked at length about Rubio (a.k.a. Buddy), who is featured in our sato happy endings section.

The New York Daily News published "A Little Love from Puerto Rico" last spring, which followed a few lucky pups from a dumpster on the beach near San Juan to wonderful new lives in New York.

OUR SHELTERS

Save a Sato works with some wonderful shelters in the Northeast. Please check their Websites frequently for updates and listings of new sato arrivals.

Bloomfield-Bukowski Animal Shelter

61 Bukowski Place
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 259-0016
www.petfinder.com/shelters/bukowskishelterforanimals.html

Buddy Dog Humane Society

151 Boston Post Rd
Sudbury, MA 01776
(978) 443-6990
www.buddydoghs.com

Cape Ann Animal Aid

260 Main St.
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 283-6055
www.petfinder.org/shelters/MA128.html

Danbury Animal Welfare Society

PO Box 971
Danbury, CT 06813
(203) 798-5816 (answering service - your call will be returned ASAP)
www.daws.com

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter

194 Route 10 West
East Hanover, NJ 07936
(973) 386-0590
www.njshelter.org/molly/index.html

Northeast Animal Shelter

204 Highland Ave
Salem, MA 01970
(978) 745-9888
www.northeastanimalshelter.org

Sterling Animal Shelter

17 Laurelwood Rd
Sterling, MA 01564
(978) 422-8585
www.sterlingshelter.org

HAPPY ENDINGS

My name is **Evelio**. Not too long ago, a very kind man rescued me from a horrible situation and saved my life. I was abandoned in a very bad area where a group of young boys decided that it would be fun to torture me. They kicked me, hit me, and then one held me while another gouged my eye out. The kind man took me away from the boys and delivered me to Gloria of Save a Sato who took directly to a nice doctor. He tried to save my eye but couldn't. After I recovered, I went to Danbury, Connecticut, where Linda and Charles Guy adopted me. I have a wonderful life now. Linda's daughter, Mallory, is the one hugging me in this picture. I bet you can tell that I'm enjoying it! I have lots of toys and a friend to play with now, but most of all, I have lots of love from everybody! When we have company over to our house, my job is to go and "meet and greet." It makes me feel very important. I'm a lucky guy!



Evelio before his adoption

I am **Nita** and I now live in Waltham, Mass. with William and Vicki Meaney who adopted me after I arrived from Puerto Rico. When Save a Sato volunteers saw me and a bunch of my friends, we were trying to find something to eat at a construction site. These nice folks tried to approach us, but we were too scared. They finally got some chicken to tempt us

closer and we were so hungry that we couldn't resist. Even though we went to a nice place where we had plenty of food and a nice bed, we were still scared for a long time. After we were checked out by a doctor, we were taken away on a long trip. We didn't know what was ahead for us. But one day, William came by and even though he'd been told that I was shy, he held out his hand to me and I trusted him right away. He and Vicki took me home. I still get a bit nervous at times, but it goes away quickly because I love my family so much. My Mom and Dad sometimes call



Evelio and Mallory



Nita's rescue at a construction site

To make a donation through our website, please visit us at: www.saveasato.org.

Cut Here



Yes, I want to support Save a Sato's rescue mission!

Enclosed is my donation of: \$25 \$40 \$50 Other \$ _____

We're pleased to announce our recurring giving program. Regular monthly contributions help us help the most animals in need.

Please sign me up for Save-a-Sato's automatic giving program. I would like to contribute \$_____ **Monthly**. (Please enclose a voided check or fill out your credit card information below.)

Name (please print)

Address

City State Zip

Telephone

Email

Name on Credit Card

Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

Credit Card # Exp. Date

Signature

Telephone



Fundacion
Save A Sato
P.O. Box 37694
San Juan, PR
00937-0694

To make a donation through our website, please visit us at: www.saveasato.org.

HAPPY ENDINGS (CONTINUED)



Nita with Mom Vicki and boyfriend Jake

me "Princess" and I sure feel like one. I even have a boyfriend--Jake! We have a great time playing together and he lets me kiss him. None of this would have happened to me without the wonderful Save A Sato volunteers.

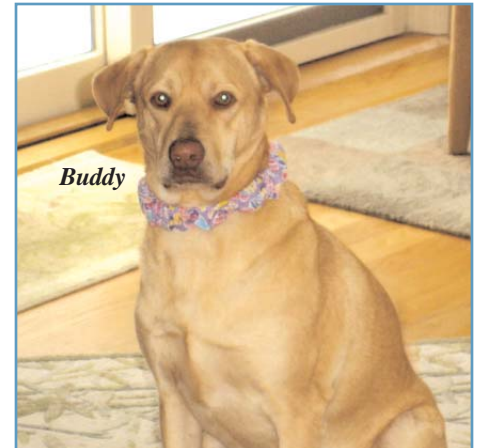
I am **Buddy**, the handsome blond in this picture. Don't I look good? Well, my life started out pretty sad. I had a Mom, but when she left her abusive husband, she left me, too. To get back at her, he tied me up to a tree without food or water so that I would die slowly. When I barked for food, he would throw hot water at me.

One day, a Save a Sato volunteer and her husband drove by and saw me. She had to get the police to help her get me out of there. After she was able to remove me from there, she took me to a vet right away. I was in such bad shape that Gloria was told I should be put down, but she refused to give up on me. I recovered and came to Massachusetts where I was adopted by Don and Liz Holland. I was kind of nervous at first, but I soon got used to my new home because my new Mom and Dad were ever so gentle with me. My doctor says I'm in great shape for all that I went through. Now I get to play all the time, even in the snow! It's so much fun to jump, sink, and dig in it. When I first came to my new home, I used to sleep on the floor of my Mom and Dad's bedroom, but one day they let me get on the bed. Wow! That was so nice and comfy. Now my Mom says I'm



a bit of a bed hog. She trained me to sit on this rug when I'm ready for dinner, but sometimes I go and sit on it even when it's not dinner time, just in case she feels like giving me a snack. Thank you, Gloria for saving my life and helping find such a great home.

If you know the history of your sato and would like to share it as a "happy ending" in *SatoTales* please contact Alma Kenyon at sheplvr@yahoo.com.



Fundacion Save A Sato
P.O. Box 37694
San Juan, PR 00937-0694

In This Issue...

- *Evelio, Nita, and Buddy in their forever homes*
- *How you can help improve the lives of Satos*

*To make a donation through our website,
 please visit us at: www.saveasato.org.*