



A PUBLICATION OF FREEDOM FARM ANIMAL SANCTUARY

• DECEMBER 2021 WINTER



## What I've Learned...

### Tips from our Dog Team Coordinator

*By: Kimberly Patton*



I want to discuss how dogs may behave differently in different environments. I'm by no means a trainer, but after being in rescue for several years and fostering many different breeds, I've learned some things. Each dog is unique and can be different from the "normal" breed behaviors.

There are a lot of things that make dogs act differently. One of those things has to do with the pack leader (you). When certain positions are filled in your pack, a new dog must figure out where it fits in. Some dogs are herders, some guardians, some just lovable and some are a mixture. You must learn the quirks and needs of each individual dog. People must be realistic about their routines and how much time they will commit to their dog. Keeping your dog mentally and physically stimulated will help them fit in with your family's lifestyle.

In my experience, pugs have been a breed that has been consistent. They typically have a very even temperament and usually do well in any home. I had a pug mix that did great at my house. But when I went on vacation, she went to another foster home. The pug's attitude was different there, and it was difficult for her to mesh in that foster home. When I got back, she came back to me and fit right in as she had before. My attitude is calm, so my dogs have an easy-going temperament, therefore the pug mix was more laid back with me.

We rescued an Akita that was adopted out to a nice family. The family had a baby, and when he started walking, they said Niko snapped at their son. When Niko was returned to the rescue, he was placed in a foster home that had a 5-year-old son. This foster home had a strong pack leader who made sure that all her dogs minded. In addition, she taught her son how to behave around dogs. The foster also took the time to learn Niko's personality. She understood he liked his own space, needed to eat in a crate to feel secure and preferred to have a bed in a corner of the house where the rest of the pack would leave him alone. Akitas are an independent breed, and his foster mom found a way to meet each of those needs.

Smokey is a hound mix that came to my house when his family could no longer give him the attention he needed. When a family that had adopted from us before met Smokey, they decided to make him part of their family which included 2 other dogs. He did great but became very protective over his family. This was something I didn't see at my house because the role of guardian was already filled by my Great Pyrenees, Portia. Smokey was able to decompress and just be a playful member of the pack. Since that guardian role wasn't filled with his new family, he took it on. Some families look for dogs to help them feel safe while others look for dogs they can play with.

We will tell you how the dog is in our home, along with whatever history we know about them. We will also caution that dogs may act differently in different environments. We place dogs with their best interest in mind, using the information we receive from the previous owner or finder and what is observed during rehabilitation while in foster care. It works out for everyone involved when the home chosen for adoption is the best fit for both the dog and the family. That's what it takes to make a fur-ever home.

# Fostering Saves Lives like “Nibbles” aka “Beans”

By: Patrice Sanders

The cats and dogs we are able to save each year is due to our incredible foster volunteers. They are life savers for homeless animals we bring into the program. They provide a home “between” homes for animals, oftentimes providing life-saving efforts for newborns, special needs, and the injured, while other times it’s providing the deserving love and hospice care to an animal that was forgotten and neglected.

We are so grateful for all our fosters that love and care for the animals until it’s their time to move into their forever homes. They are amazing people to open their homes and share their love with our rescued animals in need. Quite frankly, without our fosters, we wouldn’t be able to do what we do for so many dogs and cats.

Just like Nibbles, who is a polydactyl cat meaning he has more than five fingers or toes on one or each paw. He was being cared for in one of our wonderful foster homes, when he met the DeVault family. It was love at first sight for both the DeVaults and Nibbles.

According to daddy Michael, this is their heartwarming story of a new family.

*“My wife knows I’ve wanted a “Hemingway cat” since before I knew how to spell polydactyl. One evening she came home from a grocery run and told me about seeing a cat “with extra toes.” That was it. We went to meet the big boy, Nibbles, and his TWENTY-SIX toes! He was fun, playful, and affectionate. But he was also a special needs kitty, we were warned. Luckily for us, both my wife and I work from home. Within a few days, she’d christened him “Beans” because he has “extra toe beans!” Thanks for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts about Beans (formerly Nibbles).*

*Over the past year, this cat has become something truly special. He loves everyone, wants attention, and will hold your hand with his. But when he’s holding your hand, don’t freak out if he tries to nibble your fingers. We’re so lucky we found our cat with extra toe beans, and this Thanksgiving, he’s one of the things for which we’re most thankful.”*



The many looks of “Beans”



Vivian Keyser: One of our wonderful fosters with Stormy

If you are interested in fostering an animal for Freedom Farm Animal Sanctuary, please visit our website at [www.freedomfarm.net](http://www.freedomfarm.net).





# Holiday Safety Tips for Pets

Learn how to keep your pets safe during the holiday season

Everyone loves the holidays but did you know they can also be dangerous to our beloved pets? Here are just a few ways to help keep your pet safe and happy this holiday season:

## 1) PET BEHAVIOR AND HOLIDAY GUEST:

- A) Though the excitement of a party may overwhelm some pets, keep your pets *inside* during cold weather and provide plenty of toys to keep them busy.
- B) If needed, provide your cat or dog with a quiet room or crate during holiday parties and/or prepare ahead of time to discourage barking. Inform your visitors ahead of time that you have a pet.

## 2) SKIP THE TABLE SCRAP SNACKS: FOODS NOT TO FEED PETS

- Bones:** Bones easily splinter and can cause serious health problems (even death) for your pet.
- Candy:** Particularly chocolate—which is toxic to dogs, cats and ferrets—and any candy containing the toxic sweetener Xylitol.
- Citrus and pits:** Keep foods containing citric acid away from your pets. Foods such as cherry pits, peach pits and apple seeds contain essential oils that have the ability to cause irritations, blockages and even central nervous system depression if a significant amount is ingested.
- Coffee:** Grounds, beans and chocolate-covered espresso beans.
- Eggs** (raw or undercooked)
- Fish** (raw or undercooked)
- Grapes and raisins:** These can cause kidney problems.
- Meat** (raw or undercooked)
- Nuts**
- Trash:** Pets who engage in trash-digging can accidentally eat foods that are potentially poisonous to them. Keep trash in tightly sealed containers or hidden somewhere your pet can't access.

## 3) DECK THE HALLS: HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND PETS

- Christmas trees and holiday greens:** Make sure your dogs or cats do not chew on limbs or droppings from the tree. Ingested pine needles could get lodged in the intestinal tract, puncturing the lining or bunching together and causing an intestinal obstruction.
- Water base:** The water base of a Christmas tree may contain dangerous chemicals that could harm your pet.
- Christmas lights and tinsel:** Position your tree's lights and tinsel away from the bottom of the tree where pets can reach them. Some pets climb up or into trees and can even knock them over.
- Candles:** Don't leave candles unattended. Pets may accidentally knock them over and spill wax or start a fire.
- Firestarter logs:** Dogs that enjoy chewing should steer clear; these logs contain sawdust and paraffin which can cause an irritated stomach or even intestinal blockage when ingested.
- Plants:** A number of seasonal plants are poisonous to pets if nibbled or eaten, including ivy, holly, mistletoe and poinsettias.



# FFAS FIND A WORD

S	A	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	F	O	M	E
P	Y	E	G	L	S	X	B	T	Q	K	A	C	E	R
E	D	U	C	A	T	E	N	Z	J	L	M	W	R	D
C	D	O	N	A	T	E	L	I	E	A	I	H	R	Y
I	G	Y	W	N	S	M	X	I	M	I	L	N	Y	Q
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V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	F	C	P	P	S	A

## WORD LIST:

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Believe       | Love            |
| Celebrate     | Merry Christmas |
| Donate        | Seniors         |
| Educate       | Shelters        |
| Family Member | Special Needs   |
| Forever Home  | Volunteer       |



## Peanut Butter Doggie Treats

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 c. whole-wheat flour | 1 c. peanut butter             |
| 1/2 c. soy flour           | (sugar-free, smooth or chunky) |
| 1 Tbsp. baking powder      | 3/4 c. milk                    |

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine wheat and soy flour and baking powder in mixing bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk together peanut butter and milk until well combined and smooth. Fold peanut butter - milk mixture into dry ingredients and mix well to a soft dough. Turn out dough onto lightly floured surface; knead lightly. Roll dough out to 3/8 to 1/4-inch thick; cut into pieces (1 to 2 inch squares - depending on dogs size). Place 1/2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

Store cooled biscuits in refrigerator.





*Freedom Farm Animal Sanctuary would like to thank everyone that has continued to work with our rescue through out the past year. You always remembered us in your thoughts and prayers; your generosity was always shown through your time, donations, and fostering when we had an animal that needed a "home".*

*You are the spirit that continues to spread our message; the reinforcement that participates in our fund raisers; the angels that continue to always take our sweet babies into your home; and the gentle soul that continues to patiently care for our babies so they know they're very much loved and wanted.*

*You are our hero's and we are very thankful for everyone of you. Always know that we appreciate you and feel very special that you continue to work with us. Together, we can change lives and continue to assist our dogs and cats in finding a loving forever home.*

*From our home to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!*

*We look forward to continuing our journey with you in 2022 and making it the best year yet!*



Freedom Farm Animal Sanctuary

P.O. Box 2482

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## Be a part of FFAS!

Freedom Farm loves and believes in what we do. With your support we can continue to rescue and provide care for these little ones and find them a forever home.

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Mission:

Freedom Farm is dedicated to reducing animal overpopulation in Middle Tennessee by rescuing abused, unwanted and abandoned animals and adopting them into loving homes, by supporting spay and neuter services to low income pet owners, and by raising awareness of animal overpopulation. Freedom Farm is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1999.

### Board of Directors

Cindy Miller    Kim Patton    Scott Kemp  
Claudette Spinks    Patrice Sanders    Teresa Rippetoe

### Contact Us

To inform us of an animal in need, or if you are interested in adopting one of our animals, please call and leave a message or send us an email.

For Cats: Claudette Spinks    615-664-2380 enter 51  
Patrice Sanders

For Dogs: Kim Patton    615-664-2380 enter 52  
E-mail: info@freedomfarm.net

Check us out on the web and Facebook!!!

Website: [www.freedomfarm.net](http://www.freedomfarm.net)  
Facebook: Freedom Farm Animal Sanctuary