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# Twice-rescued dog still looking out for family

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Staff Writer

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Wednesday, October 22, 2008

SOUTHAMPTON - Jake sits and stares out the window, his nose alert for familiar scents - and seems to just wait. Beth Brogle, a Holyoke woman who saved him from euthanasia last week believes he's waiting for his owner.

"He's somebody's pet - if it were my pet, I'd want to know where he was," said Brogle.

Jake, a male black and white border collie mix who is about 10 years old, neutered and likely deaf, was picked up by a friend of Brogle's in July near the Southampton Country Club where he was found wandering without a collar or dog tag.

Brogle - who believes Jake was wandering around the town for about a month before she received him - brought Jake to the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center in Springfield hoping he'd be adopted. (She volunteers there so she's familiar with the shelter.)

She says she believes part of the reason Jake was lost for so long has to do with the fact that Southampton has no animal control officer, which means nobody was available to follow up on a wandering lost dog.

Meanwhile, once she'd placed him at the shelter, she set about finding the dog's owner by posting notices in local police departments and area veterinarians' offices. Sadly, she heard nothing.

"I think the owner thinks that he's dead," said Brogle. "Even if something happened to this dog's owner, one of the neighbors, somebody, has to recognize him."

Brogle, who attends monthly board meetings at the O'Connor center, checked on the dog periodically and decided to take him home when she learned there were plans to euthanize him. He had suffered increased levels of stress, anxiety and

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depression during his three months at the shelter.

She said he had behavioral issues and was not chosen for adoption. An older dog and a slow mover, Jake's arthritis condition worsened while sleeping on the concrete floor at the shelter, workers there said, and he also had stressful barking when potential adopters came to look at him.

"A lot of our senior animals get adopted pretty quickly; I never suspected Jake would be a problem," said Barbara Hays, executive director of the O'Connor center. "He's probably just trying to find his home still. While he enjoys the company of people, they're not his people. People are not getting warm and fuzzy feelings from him."

Hays said she was growing concerned about the animal's depression and stress. The center thought putting Jake to sleep would be the humane thing to do.

"He wasn't the Jake we first met," Hays said. "He's alive, but he's not living while he's in the sheltered environment."

Meanwhile, Brogle reports that Jake behaves well in her



GORDON DANIELS

This dog was found at the Southampton Country Club in July

house. She believes the dog was once trained and well cared for, noting the animal's healthy teeth and social tendencies.

"He lies at your feet, he doesn't tinkle anywhere, he doesn't get on the furniture," she said.

A cat and dog owner for years, Brogle said when the lost dog goes somewhere new, he sniffs around in what seems to her to be a search for a familiar place, particularly in garages. In Brogle's home, the dog repeatedly looks out the window.

"He's trying to see where he is. He's like a Walt Disney movie, this dog," Brogle said. "I can't describe it. I just know."

There were no missing pet reports for this dog filed at the Southampton Police Department, according to the department. Brogle was surprised to find out the town does not have an animal control officer.

"Considering how Southampton has grown, you would think they would have some sort of animal control," Brogle said.

Hays noted the center had an animal control contract with Southampton that ended about five years ago. The center is a municipal department with animal control, adoption and veterinarian services in Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke, West Springfield and Hampden.

"We used to cover them, then they decided they could do without animal control or something changed and they couldn't afford it," Hays said.

Town Administrator Diana Schindler said the Board of Selectmen operates as the town's animal control officer.

The board calls the Highway Department, where stray animals and missing pets are kept until retrieved. If an animal is not retrieved in 10 days, the board works with an animal shelter to house it or a veterinarian to put it to sleep, Schindler said.

"The issue in Southampton is that it doesn't happen that frequently," Schindler said. "People have said it's not an issue here. We may just not know about it."

She also said she's asked the board about appointing an official for animal control and will look into it in the future.

The Police Department maintains a lost-pet listing.

"That's pretty much the extent of what we're able to do," Police Chief David Silvermail said.

For more information on Jake, Brogle can be reached at 534-0101.

Catherine Baum can be reached at [cbaum@gazettenet.com](mailto:cbaum@gazettenet.com).

and was nearly euthanized last week, but Beth Brogle of Holyoke took him in so she could search for his owner.



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Sat, 10/25/2008 - 10:20 — [HampTaxPayer](#)

[Findtoto.com](#)

I just heard an ad on the radio for this company. It looks expensive, but it just might work to reach out to a lot of people.

<http://www.findtoto.com/>

I am so sorry about your lost dog. :( I hope you are able to bring him home soon.

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Fri, 10/24/2008 - 21:41 — aussiegirl4

### another missing dog

I have been searching for an Australian Shepherd since the beginning of May. I'm shocked to find out about Southampton's policy of sending dogs to the highway dept. I brought a poster of this cherished pet to the police dept. where he was logged in as far as I know and I was not told about the highway dept. OMG what if Cain was there,now when I go there are they going to remember this boy?? I had sightings in Southampton way back. Unfortunately, he's not microchipped but he is tattooed.I truly need to know if he is still out there somewhere or at least being loved by someone else. Maybe that is why everything that I have done so far has not been successful. Every shelter and veterinarian office in New England has been notified with his pic. I need help. I need his pic in the paper.

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Wed, 10/22/2008 - 09:37 — zjemi

### Animal control services

Another reason to vote No on Question 1. There are many small services that we take for granted until they're not there. I hope Southampton arranges for some animal control service soon, in cooperation with another town if necessary.

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