

LIVING

Simon says, rescue pets

Bloomfield foundation gives animals a second chance

By Don Pesci

BLOOMFIELD — As we were walking down the line of spotless kennels, each one with a dog in it, Mark Greenberg paused by one of them. In it was a tan dog, very lively and exuberant.

Greenberg offered the dog his hand. The dog immediately calmed down, as if he had been waiting in the dark watches of the night for a familiar presence. Finally satisfied, the dog reverted into his usual mode but, I thought, with a sprightly bounce in his step. His tail was wagging merrily.

The kennel manager, Lisa Agresti, was beside us. We had just toured the inside of the kennels, all of them shining like new pennies, and even now in the late afternoon, smelling of water, a hint of disinfectant hanging about the walls of the Simon Foundation in Bloomfield.

“Would you like some ear protection?” Agresti offered. “It can get a little loud in here.”

I waved away the suggestion. Half way down the hall of kennels I was beginning to have second thoughts. As soon as the dogs caught a whiff of us, they set up a clamor, the kind of raucous noise one might expect at the foot of a besieged castle. Each dog knew the manager. She paused at several kennels. A story of one kind or another, few of them pleasant, was attached to each of the dogs like a vanishing doom, some of the tales bitten off by the barking.

Now we were outside, in a large grassy courtyard, examining the kennels from a different angle. The front door to the kennels opened to the long hallway we had just traveled; the back door opened to a spacious grassy courtyard. Off in the corner near a wooded area was a fenced in rectangle that looked from a distance like a large enclosed tennis court.

“Do they roam free there?” I asked.

“No. None of the dogs is ever off leash. They are always with the trainers,” she said

Before adoption, all the dogs, each lovingly cared for, are pre-trained. En route, we had passed clean, well-lit grooming rooms and a large inside training courtyard where the dogs were socialized and made, as Greenberg put it, “kid friendly.”

“Where do you get the kids?” I asked.

With a wry smile, Greenberg pointed to his animated son, a curly haired blond lad, frolicking among two dogs he had befriended. Inside the large training-socialization room was an older dog who had a professorial look about him, set apart in a room partitioned with glass, watching the frolic with lofty indifference. Staff was everywhere, grooming, walking the dogs, cleaning, training. Greenberg bent down to the tan dog.

“This one,” he said, “is now doing very well. He was a particularly bad case when he came to us. He was repeatedly stabbed and came to us full of holes. He looked like someone had been using him as a dart board.”

Thinking a firing squad might be appropriate, I asked “Do they know who did that?”

He shrugged his shoulders. “You never know.”

Many of the dogs rescued by the Simon Foundation come from pounds. The foundation pulls animals from Watertown, Bristol, New Haven, and Windsor. In addition, it houses the Hartford and Bloomfield pounds, and is capable of intervening quickly in extraordinary cases.

The town of Canton recently asked the foundation for help when upward of 40 dogs, many of them malnourished, were discovered living in substandard conditions. A team was immediately dispatched, the dogs were tagged and treated, and 18 of them are now residing at the foundation.



LEFT: Joann Lincoln trains Charlotte, a 9-month-old pit bull; Lucy, a 10-month-old border collie; and Owen, a 2-year-old pit-bull at the Simon Foundation in Bloomfield. The Simon Foundation rescues dogs and puts them up for adoption.

BELOW: The Simon Foundation is located at 120 Rescue Lane in Bloomfield.

Leslloyd F. Alleyne
Journal Inquirer



Nearly all pound dogs have an inescapable death sentence hanging over their heads. Pounds generally keep dogs about eight days after they arrive, after which they are euthanized.

At the point at which the dogs arrive, their owners have long since disappeared behind an impenetrable veil. In some cases, they had never accepted ownership of the dog. In other cases, they had been unwillingly forced by circumstances to give up the dog. And, in some cases, the dogs and cats had been abused, bearing upon their bodies the marks of human depravity, the stain of inhumanity, their former masters now collectively referred to as the nameless “they” we invariably use when speaking of incomprehensible cruelty.

Of course, no one at the Simon Foundation — not the kennel manager, not the trainers, not the dog handlers who daily walk the dogs, not the groomers, not Linda Greenberg, who played no small part in pulling the Simon Foundation from the imaginations of both herself and her husband — is interested in recriminations.

They are interested in rescuing dogs and cats and placing them in what they call “a forever home.”

President Harry Truman is credited with having said “If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.” Mark and Linda Greenberg have had over the years hundreds of friends.

As we are chatting in the entrance to the foundation, amid cats prowling behind glass enclosures — one of which is a sleek, short-haired mother, who had recently given birth to a litter of four — Greenberg dances in. She is

cradling a chocolate lab mix, very frisky, lapping at her face and seeming to attend to her message as she tells Greenberg excitedly that she has placed the dog, which arrived at the Simon Foundation only a day earlier. The foundation has just celebrated its 100th placement since January.

Someone, a satisfied customer who had accepted a dog some months earlier, told her at the time he took home his dog that if she could find him a young brown dog, he would be interested. The dog, with a little chip of a scar on his forehead, had arrived; she made the call, and his new owner would be coming by within the week.

The future owner of the dog had already been interviewed in one of the rooms in the receiving area of the foundation, a process designed to match the animals with those who adopt them, during which needs are assessed and satisfied before the dog is placed. In the case of the chocolate lab, the process would be hastened. In and out — just like that. It doesn’t happen this way that often.

The story of the Simon Foundation is, in many ways, the story of every business. Businesses usually begin with the perception of a felt need and varying attempts — halting at first, later perfected after much trial and error — to satisfy the perceived need. Along the way, if the need has been sufficiently answered, the business may be successful; it may make money, or not.

It should be noted that the foundation did not flower from a bitter root of greed. Very few successful businesses do. No one at the Simon Foundation is making a pile of money. A bit like Blanche DuBois in the Tennessee Williams play “A Streetcar Named Desire,” the foundation depends upon the kindness of strangers and gratefully accepts donations:

<http://www.thesimonfoundation.org/donate/index.html>

To raise additional funds and defray costs, the foundation offers ancillary services — grooming, the boarding of pets when their owners go on vacation, training programs, and nutritious dog and cat food for sale.

Long before the Simon Foundation in its finished form was but a glint in the Greenbergs’ eyes, the couple had found Triboro, an abandoned German shepherd, running along the Triboro Bridge in New York. Yankee the cat was discovered outside Yankee Stadium. Eggy was exploring a garbage can outside a Chinese restaurant when she was rescued by the Greenbergs. Ashley, riddled with bad habits, was adopted after Linda read an ad in a newspaper. But Ashley’s imperfections were sweetly ingratiating, and later, after generous dollops of love and affection, even Ashley



Movie times are subject to last-minute changes by individual theaters. Please call the theater to verify times.

AGAWAM, MASS.

AGAWAM FAMILY CINEMAS
866 Suffield St. (413-786-8800)
Bridesmaids (R): Mon. 7:10.
Midnight in Paris (PG-13): Mon. 7:15.
Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG): Tue. 5:15.

COLCHESTER

GALLERY CINEMAS
396 Old Hartford Road (860-537-6407)
Captain America: The First Avenger 3D (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 1, 3:45, 6:50, 9:20.
Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 1:25, 4:05, 7, 9:30.
Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 1:05, 3:55, 6:55, 9:25.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 1:15, 4, 6:35, 9:10.
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9.
The Smurfs (PG): Mon.-Thu. 1:20, 3:50, 6:40, 8:55.

ENFIELD

RAVE MOTION PICTURES
90 Elm St. (860-253-0265)
Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 11:30, 2:30, 5:15, 8:15, 11:05.
Captain America: The First Avenger 3D (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 1:30, 7:30.
The Change-Up (R): Mon.-Tue. 11:10, 1:55, 4:50, 7:55, 10:30.
Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 11:15, 2, 5, 8, 10:45.
Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 11, 1:45, 4:40, 7:45, 10:25.
Friends With Benefits (R): Mon.-Tue. 11:40, 2:25, 5:25, 8:25, 11.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 1:20, 7:20.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2: 3D (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 10:20, 4:25, 10:10.
Horrible Bosses (R): Mon.-Tue. 11:45, 2:40, 5:30, 8:30, 10:50.
Rave Cinema Classics (NR): Mon. 1.
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 10:40, 11:25, 1:15, 2:10, 4:10, 5:10, 7:15, 8:10, 9:55, 10:40.
The Smurfs (PG): Mon.-Tue. 1, 7:05.
The Smurfs 3D (PG): Mon.-Tue. 10:30, 4:05, 9:50.
Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 10:15, 4:20, 10:20.
Winnie the Pooh (G): Mon.-Tue. 10:45.
Zookeeper (PG): Mon. 4:35, 7:35, 10:05, Tue. 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:05.

HARTFORD

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM CINEMA
600 Main St. Call 860-278-2670.
CINESTUDIO THEATRE
300 Summit St. (860-297-2463)
The Man Who Fell to Earth (R): Mon.-Tue. 7:30.
REAL ART WAYS THEATRE
56 Arbor St. (860-232-1006)
The Arbor (NR): Mon.-Thu. 7:30.
PALACE 17 AND ODYSSEY THEATER
330 New Park Ave. (860-236-6677)
Another Earth (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 10:50, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:30.
Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 10:30, 1:25, 4:10, 7:05, 10.
Captain America: The First Avenger 3D (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 11:20, 2:10, 5:10, 8, 10:50.

MONDAY & TUESDAY NIGHTS
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741-2936

The Change-Up (R): Mon.-Thu. 10:55, 1:35, 4:15, 7, 9:55.
Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 11:40, 12:45, 2:20, 3:25, 5:05, 6:05, 7:40, 8:45, 10:30, 11:25.
Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 10:35, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50.
Friends With Benefits (R): Mon.-Tue. 11:30, 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 12:55, 6:45.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2: 3D (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 3:45, 9:45.
The Help (PG-13): Wed.-Thu. 12:15, 3:30, 6:50, 10:10.
Life, Above All (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 11:05, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10.
Midnight in Paris (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 11:10, 1:45, 4:05, 6:25, 8:40, 11:10.
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 11:15, 12:35, 2, 3:10, 4:35, 5:45, 7:15, 8:20, 10:05, 11:05.
The Smurfs (PG): Mon.-Thu. 10:40, 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:15, 10:45.
The Smurfs 3D (PG): Mon.-Thu. 12:20, 2:40, 5, 7:30, 9:55.
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 1:30, 4, 6:30, 9:10.
Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 12, 3:20, 6:40, 10:15.
Zookeeper (PG): Mon.-Thu. 10:25.

MANCHESTER

RAVE MOTION PICTURES
99 Red Stone Road (860-646-4555)
Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 2:45, 4:55, 5:30, 7:45, 8:20, 11:10.
Captain America: The First Avenger 3D (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 2, 10:30.
The Change-Up (R): Mon.-Tue. 1:20, 1:50, 4:10, 4:40, 7, 7:30, 9:45, 10:15.
Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 1:35, 2:25, 4:25, 5:20, 7:20, 8:10, 10:10, 11.
Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 2:15, 5:05, 8:05, 10:55.
Friends With Benefits (R): Mon. 11:50, 2:40, 11:15.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 1:30, 4:45, 7:50, 10:50.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 12:30, 3:40, 7:10, 10:20.
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2: 3D (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 8:15.
The Help (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 7.
Horrible Bosses (R): Mon.-Tue. 11:30, 2:10, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35.
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13): Mon. 11:45, 1:15, 1:45, 2:30, 4, 4:30, 5:15, 6:45, 7:15, 8, 9:30, 10, 10:45.
The Smurfs (PG): Mon. 12:50, 1:40, 3:45, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50.
The Smurfs 3D (PG): Mon.-Tue. 11:40, 2:20, 5.
Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13): Mon.-Tue. 3:30, 6:55.
Transformers: Dark of the Moon 3D (PG-13): Mon. 10:25.
Winnie the Pooh (G): Mon.-Tue. 12:10.
Zookeeper (PG): Mon.-Tue. 6:50, 9:35.

PARKADE CINEMAS

308 Broad St. (860-647-1439)
Bridesmaids (R): Mon.-Thu. 2, 4:30, 6:55.
Cars 2 (G): Mon.-Thu. 12, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45.
Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG): Mon.-Thu. 12, 2:15.
Monte Carlo (PG): Mon.-Thu. 12, 4:45.
Super 8 (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 12, 4:30, 6:45.
X-Men: First Class (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. 2:15, 6:50.

MANSFIELD

MANSFIELD DRIVE-IN
228 Stafford Road (860-423-4441)
Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) and Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. Show begins at dark.
Cowboys & Aliens (PG-13) and Horrible Bosses (R): Mon.-Thu. Show begins at dark.
The Smurfs (PG) and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (PG-13): Mon.-Thu. Show begins at dark.

WEST SPRINGFIELD

RAVE MOTION PICTURES
864 Riverdale St. Call 413-732-5936 for movies and times.

'Mad Men,' style polishes office attire

By **Samantha Critchell**
AP Fashion Writer

"Mad Men" has gone beyond a fashion fad. The AMC show about a 1960s ad agency — in which style is as important as the characters and plot — continues to influence runways and retailers with a branded collection debuting next week at Banana Republic.

Movies and TV are not uncommon inspiration for fashion designers — especially when it's a highly stylized look. Vera Wang had her "Deadwood" collection, Anna Sui mined "Doctor Dolittle," and Tommy Hilfinger has tapped "The Royal Tenenbaums" more than once, but the influence of "Mad Men" has had a straight run for more than four years, reintroducing the masses to skinny ties, pocket squares, and body-hugging dresses.

The new clothing line also provides a temporary fix for "Mad Men" devotees awaiting the show's return in 2012. No new episodes of the show aired this year.

The clothes are sexy, and Joanna Coles, editor-in-chief of Marie Claire, says that's one of the things that really has resonated with both viewers and shoppers. The show gives us permission to dress to impress the opposite sex — and in fact encourages it, she observes.

"Mad Men" shows you how to look great in the workplace, and it shows you how to work it," Coles says.

It's the rare TV show that glamorizes the office and fills it with attractive people, she says. "When you look at something like 'The Office,' no male executive wants

to recreate the style of Steve Carell. No one wears lipstick at Dunder Mifflin. 'Mad Men' makes the office a more exciting place than it often is, and Banana Republic is trying to channel that."

Madison Avenue during that era was practically a catwalk with men in three-piece suits and fedoras, and women in sheaths and high-heel pumps carrying handle-top handbags.

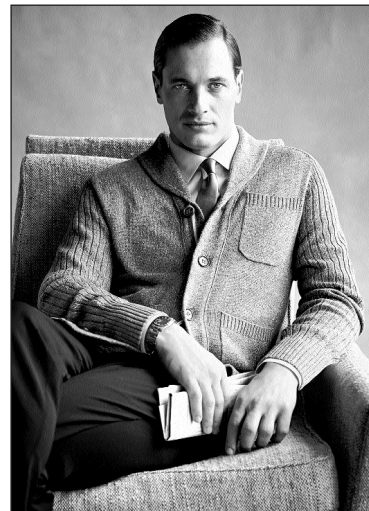
It's a good look — and one that people look good in, says Simon Kneen, creative director for Banana Republic. "It's about good tailoring, it's bon ton, and a little more buttoned up and polished."

But, he says, a key part of the collaboration between Banana Republic and the show's costume designer Janie Bryant was to be sure they weren't crafting costumes. The clothes are modern, with shapes and details adapted to a contemporary eye, Kneen explains.

Gone is the enhanced hourglass created with bust darts and high waistline, according to Bryant, and they've changed up the colors to focus on more sophisticated navys, reds, and blacks instead of the then-popular palette of acid green and mustard yellow, says Bryant. She says, the 2011 alternatives to those shades — if you're married to green and yellow — would be emerald and canary.)

Fabrics have stretch and are more lightweight, and the design has to consider comfort.

"We have a totally different way of thinking and getting dressed," Bryant says. "Sixty years ago, there was a different code of what was presentable. There was no going



A men's design from Banana Republic's Mad Men Collection.

out of the house without stockings, pantyhose, slips, and garters, and long-line bras. Now you go out of the house in sweat pants."

But, say Bryant and Kneen, you don't have to go to that extreme either. There is something to admire in a refined appearance, careful fit, and chic silhouette.

"I have always loved dressing up," says Bryant, who is again an Emmy nominee for "Mad Men" costumes. "It's exciting that people want to learn about that again, not in a stodgy or update way, but I know that when you feel better in your clothes, you feel better all the way around."

Kneen agrees: "You want to feel like you're wearing a well-made, beautiful piece that's relevant for today."

Personally, he plans to add the slim suits to his wardrobe.

"I can pull it off," says Kneen. "I was born in the '60s, so if I can't do it, who can? I remember mom and her hairspray — I'd have to get out of the way when she sprayed — and the cigarette smoke in the air."

The Simon Foundation gives at-risk pets a second chance

FOUNDATION
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succumbed to the patient care of the Greenbergs.

Both of them kept collecting cast off animals. At some point, the Greenberg's home became crowded. Surveying the Noah's Arc of abandoned and rescued animals, one of the two whispered, "We need a bigger house."

But it was Simon, another German shepherd, that turned the trick. After Simon arrived, the Greenbergs purchased a larger house with a more accommodating back yard. And the little mustard seed grew and grew and grew.

Over the years, the foundation evolved, as these things often do. Mark and Linda had been caring for the animals, posting photos and bios on Petfinder, and hand delivering every adopted pet to their newly found homes. Capacity had been a problem from the first. The Greenbergs

needed a piece of land to accommodate their vision of a world class rescue facility. The Simon Foundation in Bloomfield now offers animals that have been abused, abandoned, neglected — in some cases facing euthanasia — a sanctuary where they can live out their lives in peace or, as often happens, find a permanent home with caring people whose hearts are larger than houses.

"That tan dog," I asked on leaving, "does he have a name?" "Oh yes," the manager said. "They all must be named to be trained."

Naming things, from time immemorial, has been a way of owning things; it is the way the heart, even a heart of darkness, embraces the world. We name our children before they are born so we can call them home to our hearts.

"What is the dog's name?" I asked. "Miracle," she said, adding,

"he probably will not be placed. We'll take care of him here. This will be his home."

Perfectly fitting, too: Every home should have a miracle in it.

The Simon Foundation is located at 89 Dudley Town Road. Adoptions of dogs and cats include a six-week training class and a home visit by staff. The foundation strives to place animals in homes that offer the greatest likelihood of success and permanency, and every animal placed is appropriately spayed or neutered and vaccinated. Dogs are trained on site to respond to the usual commands: stay, down, come, leave it, heel, and go to bed. More information is available by calling 860-519-1516, or by visiting:

<http://thesimonfoundation.org/>

Don Pesci is a writer who lives in Vernon.