



*Edi has an emotional reunion with Fernando, the dog she rescued from eight lanes of traffic.*

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been a busy time at Save a Sato, as you'll see in this issue of *Sato Tales*. We've all been working hard to make a difference in the lives of Puerto Rico's homeless dogs and cats. The work can feel overwhelming at times—there are just so many animals that need help—but whenever we start to get discouraged, a special animal or person comes along to remind us why we work so hard in the first place. That was exactly what our SAS Vice President, Edi Vazquez, experienced when she saw Fernando at the Save a Sato reunion in Gloucester last October. **Fernando**, a black lab mix, was one of Edi's special rescues. She saw him one day as he was crossing an eight-lane expressway in San Juan. He miraculously made it to the other side. She was fortunate to have some tasty Vienna sausages with her that day and Fernando was so interested in them that he climbed right into her car and she sped away with him to the vet. The vet staff discovered that he was blind in one eye—he had probably been beaten—and also had a bullet lodged in his shoulder. Can you imagine the pain he must have been in? Yet, despite that, he was indescribably sweet. He had a kiss and a tail wag for everyone he met, as though he were letting us all know that despite the abuse he had suffered, he believed that every human had something good to offer. By the time he was ready to go to **Buddy Dog** in

Sudbury, MA to find his forever home, we knew that he had taught us something very important. Fernando was adopted last year by the Rossow family and couldn't be happier.

We try every day to deserve the faith placed in us by these animals. And we are blessed to be surrounded by compassionate and kind people who make that possible. Take our shelter manager, for instance. Gloria Marti spends every day of the year caring for our rescued dogs and cats. She cleans more than 50 cages every day, gives hundreds of dog baths, cleans thousands of ears, and makes every creature feel safe and loved. She is so critical to the island's animal community that she was recently honored as a finalist for the ASPCA's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.

Then there's Donna Lenz. Donna is a Conn.-based volunteer and wherever she goes, she tells people about the plight of Puerto Rico's animals and encourages them to adopt from a shelter. These days Donna is working hard to raise money to pay the medical expenses for Morgan, a beautiful brown kitty rescued from the streets of Puerto Rico, who has a rare form of diabetes along with serious eye problems. Donna was also instrumental in helping rescue Bravo, whose story you can read here.

We also have wonderful people who give up many hours of their day to pick up our animals at the airport when they arrive from San Juan and drive them to one of our partner shelters. Lianne Bensley and her daughter Jordan, who adopted Sato **Mildred** from **Cape Ann Animal Aid**, took an afternoon off to escort ten puppies from Logan Airport in Boston to the **Animal Shelter** in Sterling. Christina Aquilino even flew all the way to San Juan and back just to pick up Satos....that story is here too.

With all these Guardian Angels, we know that the animals in our shelter right now have a lot to look forward to....

Thank you for your support,  
**Chantal Robles, President, Director,  
and Co-Founder**

## LIFE IS GOOD

This oh-so-relaxed Sata is **Jimena**....her people, James and Natalie Shelton, were so determined to adopt a Puerto Rican rescue that they flew all the way to San Juan just to visit our shelter. That's when they fell in love with Jimena, who had arrived on our doorstep with a mangled tale and a bad skin irritation. But that's all in the past. These days, after an exhausting work-out with her many friends in doggy day-care, Jimena likes to lie belly up in her own comfy dog bed. Jimena and the Sheltons live in Beverly, MA.



## ISLAND MAGIC

After some terrible early experiences, two Satas—**Cinnamon** and **Brenda**—arrived separately at our shelter last spring. They shared a kennel and grew closer and closer, until they decided to be sisters for life. They made a secret pact one night, while the coquis sang, that they would always be together.

One day in July, Gloria Marti our shelter director, took Cinnamon from her kennel, held her close, and told her she was flying to Conn. to find her forever home. A heartbroken Brenda was left behind. Cinnamon went to **Danbury Animal Welfare Society (DAWS)**, where she met her new family Rich Evans and Jodi and Meghan Presnell and quickly made herself at home.

In September, another lucky group of Satos flew to DAWS. This time it was Brenda's turn, and the wheels of the secret pact began to turn. Cinnamon had already worked her magic, and her family was ready for a second dog. There was no question that it would be a Sato. At the shelter, Brenda was having a rough time. She met a few families, but



*The Spice Girls resting...*

none of them clicked—until Jodi, Rich, and Meghan came along. Brenda kissed Meghan first and then kissed Jodi. They fell in love with her, and the coquis sang.

What Brenda didn't know was that she was about to be reunited with her best friend. When the girls "met" at the shelter, everyone was surprised that they immediately got along, and Brenda went right home with the Evans/Presnells. Cinnamon wiggled with delight, bringing her toys to her long lost sister. The girls played together and then cuddled and went to sleep. Brenda was renamed Honey and the two are now known as the Sugar and Spice Girls. They're never more than a few feet apart. Where Satos are involved, magic happens.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Helen Bouscaren, Jill Bresky, Jack Fitzpatrick, Jan Gomes, and Lauren Streeter; our new recurring donors: Eileen Pacheco, Judy Pezdek, and Kathleen Shopa; and the Seventh Grade at the Joyce Middle School in Woburn, MA., which raised \$80.00 for us during "Pet Day." Their teacher, Carol Ann Solares, adopted **Mambo** from the **Animal Shelter** in Sterling, MA.

### LEAVING ON A JET PLANE

When Christina Aquilino contacted us last summer to offer to bring Satos from San Juan to Boston, we were elated. We always need volunteer passengers who can escort the dogs, since federal law



*Christina and Odie, her inspiration...*

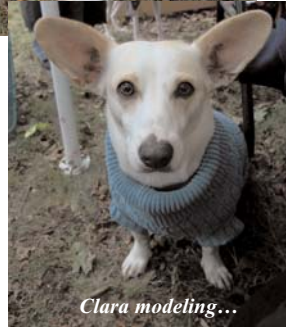
prohibits our sending them alone. Many kind people provide this service for our animals when they are flying back from vacations or business trips. What we hadn't realized was that Christina was ready to make a special trip to Puerto Rico and back just to pick up Satos. Her inspiration in making this offer was her own Sato **Odie**, adopted from **Buddy Dog** in Sudbury, MA in 2001. Odie had been starving on the streets and was very skittish. But after a few weeks with Gloria Marti at our shelter, he blossomed into a loving soul. Thanks to Christina, another 17 Satos were given the same second chance as Odie. If you are flying out of San Juan on American Airlines and would like to escort Satos to their new homes, please contact [twig@saveasato.org](mailto:twig@saveasato.org).

### MEET ME IN THE PARK!

Imagine a hundred cold noises and



*Long time no see...*



*Clara modeling...*

wagging tales, cries of joy, tears, hugs, pats, and sloppy kisses and you get a sense of the annual Save a Sato reunion. This year, rescuers, Satos, and their new owners all converged on Stage Fort Park in Gloucester, MA for an October afternoon of sharing stories, comparing training tips, eating pizza, and chewing squeaky toys. About 150 people attended this year and there were many highlights—like seeing style icon Clara (adopted from the **Northeast Animal Shelter** in Salem, MA) model her new cable-knit sweater—and many touching moments—like Edi's reunion with Fernando, her special rescue. (See the Director's letter.) Everywhere you looked there were healthy and happy Satos thriving in their new families. Please join us next year...

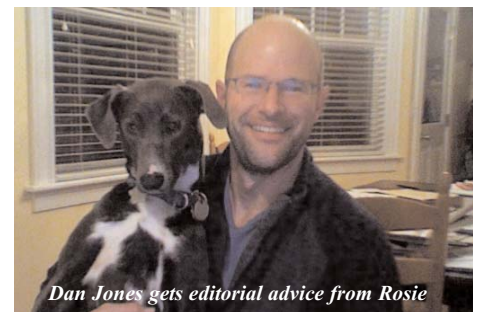
### THE SATO SECRET BEHIND TWO BEST SELLERS

Daniel Jones and his wife Cathi Hanauer caused a national sensation with their twin best sellers: *The Bitch in the House* and *The Bastard on the Couch*. So guess where they get their behind-the-scenes support? Sato **Rosie** by Dan Jones.

I think Rosalita was meant to be our dog. We—my wife, Cathi, daughter Phoebe, and son Nathaniel—live in Northampton, MA. Two years ago the time seemed right for a dog. But we couldn't agree on what kind. Cathi and the kids wanted a miniature Dachshund, but I would be walking the dog two miles to work and back, and I didn't think a tiny dog was the best fit. We "test drove" a few of our neighbors dogs and, in the end, decided not to get one after all. It was January. The temperature hovered at zero. Several days later, my wife and daughter were out for an evening walk when they met a woman with what they thought was a miniature Dachshund.

They ran up and learned that the dog was a Sato. The woman was Keishya, who runs a hang gliding school in Puerto Rico and rescues pups on the side. Rosie had wandered out from under a junked trunk chassis and right into Keishya's car. Now she needed a home. Keishya asked if we were interested.

Hours later, we had our dog. She is among the most loving and smart dogs I've ever known. When she was a little smaller, she liked to climb into my lap while I was writing or editing my weekly column "Modern Love" for the Sunday Styles section of the *New York Times*. She's a little too big to get up there now, but she's never too far from my side.



*Dan Jones gets editorial advice from Rosie*

### CHAMPION SOLDADO

When John Macone and Dana Moses approached a trash heap on Soldado Beach in Culebra, PR there years ago, they couldn't have imagined that the

skinny little Sata they found rummaging there for food would one day be Champion of the Northeast "Boatyard Dog Trials." That little pup, quickly named **Soldado**, wasn't expected to live. But she surprised everyone. Within a month, she was fit to travel with John and Dana to their home in Maine. Because of their travel schedule, the couple thought Soldado would be happier with their friends, so they gave this intelligent and resourceful Sata to Bruce and Rose Woollett as a wedding gift. The gift came with one stipulation: John wanted to put Soldado's obvious talents to the test at the legendary dog trials held each summer during the "Maine Boats, Homes, and Harbors" show. The dog trials consist of a variety of feats—such as getting in and out of a dingy. Each contestant must also come up with a unique trick and here's where Soldado blew away the competition. Under John's direction, she emulated a local Maine custom in which people run across a series of rapidly sinking lobster crates hoping not to end up in the chilly North Atlantic. Soldado made

it across her string of crates without getting so much as a paw wet to become the Champ.

**HAPPY ENDINGS....**

I am **Baxter**. Do I look important to you? Well, I must be, because a band of angels worked very hard to save my life. I was trying to survive in the brush of Villa Montana in Puerto Rico and not doing very well when the first angel, Cindy Cox, saw me. I was starving and sick and had little bugs all over me. They itched a lot and sometimes I scratched till I bled and that hurt! Cindy tried to help me, but I was too scared to let her near. So she called Save A Sato for help and another angel, Julio, drove two hours to get me. I didn't want to get caught and didn't make it easy for him—he had to jump into a stream to catch me! Boy, was I scared. But Julio was kind and took me to the doctor right away. Everybody there was nice, but they didn't think I was going to make it. They gave me food and stuff to get rid of those bugs in my skin. They said I had an infection in my eyes and ears. I spent a couple of months there and then went on a long trip—this time to Conn. I was scared again, but I went to Cindy's house and stayed for several weeks. It was fun because she spoiled me. But that wasn't my final destination. My new Mom and Dad are Sue and Brian Alexandre in Meriden, Conn. I have gained 20 pounds, my hair has grown back, and my ears and eyes are



fine. People say that I'm a handsome boy, but all I know is that I feel a lot better! I still get nervous sometimes, but I love my new mom and my forever home so much that I like to lie right by her side and look at her every few minutes, just to be sure that she's still there and I'm not dreaming!

Hi. My name is **Ginger** and the handsome boy holding me is my brother Matthew. Does either one of us look scared to you? Of course not. We love each other, but when we first met I was petrified of everything and Matthew was scared of dogs. You wouldn't guess by looking at us, huh. This is how it happened. Our mom wanted Matthew to get over his fear of dogs and decided that a puppy would be good. She went to the Broward County Humane Society in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and saw three of us in a cage. I was at the very back because I was the most scared. When Mom came back the next day, I was the



Cut Here 

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

- \$25** (provides food and shelter for one dog for a month)
- \$40** (provides vaccinations and other medical care for one Sato)
- \$50** (covers the cost to spay one dog)
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_** (goes toward general animal expenses)

Please make checks payable to **Save a Sato** or charge my credit card:

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** I want to provide monthly care and hope for Satos throughout the year.

I authorize Save a Sato to transfer from my bank \_\_\_\_\_ or my credit card \_\_\_\_\_ the amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month. In the event that I wish to discontinue my pledge, I will write to Save a Sato or to my bank. A record of each donation will be included on my regular bank statement or credit card statement and will serve as a receipt. I have enclosed a check for my first monthly contribution.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



**Fundación 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](http://www.saveasato.org).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.**  
*Gifts to Save a Sato are tax deductible.*



only one left and even more scared. She decided to bring Matthew to see me. Well, he liked me a lot and that was it. I had a new home. Yeah!!! I love to wake everybody up and give them kisses.

We make a handsome pair, don't you think? My name is *Bravo* and here I am with my cute sis, Carrina. I made sure to sit up nice and straight. Hey, I wanted to look my best. I sure didn't

look this good when she first saw me. I was waiting to die. Carrina was visiting her grandparents in Lares, Puerto Rico when she saw me on the ground next to some grocery carts at the market. She asked others to help me but nobody cared. She was pretty desperate and called her mom, Lisa Phillmore, who remembered seeing something about Save A Sato at DAWS when she had gone there to adopt my brother, who weighs 90 pounds! They put her in contact with the local SAS volunteer, Donna Lenz, who got to work on my rescue right away. Well, it took several days to find someone who could make the two-hour drive to Lares from San Juan. Finally, a wonderful lady, Leilani Belendez, who was sick herself, came to get me. She found me in the same place by the grocery carts. I'd been hit by a car and couldn't move. Leilani took me to Dr. Casta who fixed me up real good, but it took a long time before I healed completely. Then, Leilani flew with me to be reunited with my beautiful sister and meet my new mom and brother. Can you believe it! So many wonderful people worked so hard to save ME!

### *How You Can Help*

*Would you like to ask the Governor of Puerto Rico to find a humane solution to the problem of stray animals on the island? Then join our postcard campaign. We have printed postcards with a photo of a sato and a message to the Governor. All you have to do is sign one. Just email us ([twig@saveasato.org](mailto:twig@saveasato.org)) with your mailing address and we'll send you as many as you want. Get extra for family and friends. So far, we've sent 2,000!*

Thanks Mom, Sis, Donna, Leilani, DAWS, and Dr. Casta. You're all my heroes.



*Bravo and Carrina in a photo taken by the Republican-American of Waterbury, CT*



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

### *In This Issue...*

***Island Magic  
Champion Soldado***

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