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# The BeFreegle Howler



The Official Aarrosletter for the BeFreegle Foundation

## Special Interest Articles:

- A Special Welcome from Freegle Juno
- 'Tis the Season to Help a Freegle

## Individual Highlights:

- Let's Just Go Look.....2
- In The Spirit of Giving.....3
- Back Page.....4

## BeFreegle Foundation

*"Giving Former Research Beagles a New Leash on Life"*



*Juno visits Marist College to guest lecture on the need for sanctuary for laboratory animals.*

## Spreading the Word

Hello and welcome to our very first edition of The BeFreegle Howler, the exclusive Aarrosletter for the BeFreegle Foundation. I am proud to be one of the many Spokes-Freegles for this organization and super excited to be the first editor. (I hope that means extra snacks!)

A lot has changed in my life since leaving a research laboratory, where I spent the first five years of my life before becoming a Freegle. In the beginning, everything was new and sometimes scary. However, I am nosy by nature so it didn't take me long to learn what was expected of me. Things like peeing outside, snack and chewies, having my own bed and a family to love me. Since that time, I have been working hard to help spread the word about laboratory beagles and the importance of sanctuary when their studies are complete. I wish that animals never had to be used, but until that day we are here and ready to help the over 64,000 dogs that are used each year in the United States alone.

As this month's Spokes-Freegle I want to personally (or is that dogally?) thank you for your support. Your membership means the world to not only me and everyone else at the BeFreegle Foundation, but to all of the Freegles we have yet to help find sanctuary.

In our first issue of The BeFreegle Howler, aside from cute Freegle photos, you will find the inspirational story of my Freegle sister, Harriet, and her journey from laboratory beagle to Freegle and certified Therapy Dog. Her story will make you smile and warm your heart. The Freegle to Vice President, Melanie, Harriet, brings her quiet calm demeanor to every event we do together. Always ready for adventure, she is my go to sister when it's time to pack our lunch and hit the open road!

Also in this issue, an update on our funding efforts to file for our nonprofit status, written by my Freegle sister, Lucy. In this time of giving, please remember that the Freegles need you, now more than ever. With your support, we can help make a Freegle's holiday wishes come true.

Remember to be kind and compassionate to one another and never let a day go by without telling someone you love them, getting a belly rub or digging a large hole in the backyard.

On behalf of all of us at the BeFreegle Foundation, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Luv & Wags,  
Juno

## Let's Just Go Look

By Melanie Portsche



***Freegle Harriet has perfected the art of begging!! And who can resist that sweet face?***

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*"Her big brown eyes spoke volumes and my husband, who is forever wise, suggested that we meet her."*

In July of 2010, my husband and I received an email from Best Friends Animal Society about 120 beagles who had come from a bankrupt laboratory in NJ in need of their forever homes. We had volunteered at both the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and with the local chapter and to say that the email spoke to us would be an understatement. We immediately wanted to help and borrowed a friend's car to drive to one of the local rescues. The closest rescue to us was closed on the day we had set aside (Murphy's Law, right?) and I recalled seeing local news coverage about some of the beagles going to Save-A-Pet Animal Rescue & Adoption Center, so off we went.

We had been without a dog for a couple of years, heartbroken from the loss of our previous dog, who had contracted leptospirosis. We had been keeping our eyes open to adopt a new family member and I prefaced this excursion to my husband as, "Let's just go look..."

Save-A-Pet was so welcoming and words cannot describe how grateful we are to them. It is always overwhelming when we go to shelters (because there are so many wonderful animals just looking to be "home"). I was, of course, feeling overwhelmed looking at all of the adorable adoptables including another Freegle when Harriet mustered up her courage and came to the front of her cage and ever so timidly, taking us in, went wag, wag, wag with her tail. Her big brown eyes spoke volumes and my husband, who is wise beyond his years, suggested that we meet her. And it was a done deal. Kismet! She had our hearts. She was coming home!

Harriet was incredibly timid... Everything was new... riding in a car, hearing music on the car radio, our immediate trip to the pet store to purchase what was to be hers. Her first visit to Pet Smart was via a shopping cart because she was so afraid to walk on a leash.

In the years that have followed, we've watched Harriet's confidence grow and her sweet and silly personality emerge. She has taught us about overcoming fear, being yourself, and living life. It's amazing all that a little beagle can teach you. We thought we were helping her, but words cannot describe all that this little Freegle has taught us.



***Melanie Portsche is one of the Founders and Vice President of BeFreegle Foundation. Pictured here with Harriet***

## In The Spirit of Giving

By Lucy D'Introno



*Lucy (center) with her brothers Linus and Schroeder in the spirit of giving.*

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*"These are things that people can take for granted, but not me, every day of my new life is special."*

Hello everyone , it's me, Lucy. I'm a Freegle, just like my brothers and sisters. We've all been placed in loving homes with real families that have kids and dogs. It was a real learnin experience for lots of us and when we get to this time of year there's lots of hustlin and bustlin (whatever that means) and maybe we get caught up in confusing stuff where we don't what direction to turn.

This week , Mother Nature gave us some pretty decorations for Christmas, some ice crystals that glisten from the tree limbs and a blanket of snow to cover my backyard. These are things that people can take for granted, but not me, every day of my new life is special. On a freezin, cold day I can stand by my window and look out and appreciate what I see. It's almost like Mother Nature took a Christmas card and made it real.

But some research animals won't be nappin around a Christmas tree or helpin their mom's in the kitchen. The BeFreegle Foundation is here to help these pups, so they can have a better life and a happy ending just like you see on the TV Christmas movies. The Foundation has a goal to reach. Not like a goal in soccer or in hockey, but a money goal. They need to raise a million dollars or a number slightly lower by midnight Christmas Eve. Now I'm just absolutely positive, that somebody on Facebook, who likes The BeFreegle Foundation will win the lotto this week and make the donutation and everything will be fine. But, just in case that doesn't happen, there is always Plan B. Plan B usually works better, because B , well B stands for BeFreegle. We really really need to reach 3,125 dollars by December 31, 2013. I know there are lots of kind and generous people on the Facebook page who really really like us, but we really need the money. My brothers Linus and Schroeder and even our friend Polish Louie the Pomeranian have been donutating all along. If you send in lots of money we promise to do something real special on your behalf, I dunno , maybe somethin like eatin a box of donuts or pepperoni pizza. Even if you can't send in lots of money we'll even take a little. My brother Schroeder sent in \$6.00 last week. It doesn't sound like much, but to him it was his cookie allowance. So everyone take a step back this week and think about the Spirit of the Season , maybe if you skip the breve venti latte cino with whipped creme just for one day and send us the \$6.00 instead, it will make you feel good and and help the pups who need helpin.

So please click on the link below and see how you can help the BeFreegle Foundation and all the Freegles who are waiting for their Happy Holidays.





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[Contact Us](#)

What's on your mind?

Questions/Comments?  
Letter to the Editor?

Email:

[Contact@BeFreegleFoundation.org](mailto:Contact@BeFreegleFoundation.org)

Have lots of time on your hands?  
Love beagles?

Volunteer with us!!

Email:

[Volunteer@BeFreegleFoundation.org](mailto:Volunteer@BeFreegleFoundation.org)

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**We're on the Web!**

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<http://befreeglefoundation.org/>

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## Back Page

By Kate Aubry

As I sit here watching Juno sleep soundly, I can't help but be excited for all of the wonderful things the New Year will bring for the BeFreegle Foundation. What began as an idea was really more of an inspiration thanks to two smallish dogs who earned the name Freegles back over three years ago. Thinking back to the first time Juno and I met Melanie and Harriet, who knew that three short years later, with many miles behind us, lots of coffee and chai tea drank and so many wonderful people who have stopped to meet our precious girls, we would have arrived where we are now. On the precipice of the launch of BeFreegle, something that has been in our hearts from the first moments we brought our Freegles into our homes.

Several Freegles have passed through my home since that day three years ago when Juno adopted me. Needing a soft place to land and a patient foster Mom, not to mention a pack of dogs who could show them the ropes. I often sit and watch them interact wondering what goes through their minds. I see them processing information and wonder what makes them tick, aside from the obvious, cookies and treats! I give my own dogs more credit than myself for teaching the new dogs, as sometimes the best teacher for a dog is, in fact, another dog.

Two years ago, with the amazing talents of some people who are very special to me, we put together a song. With a slight tweak of the lyrics, (our apologies to Eartha Kitt) I think it echoes what we all feel in our hearts. Click on Freegle Skipper's photo below and he will take you to our YouTube channel to watch the video. We hope that you will enjoy it as much as we do. After all, is there such a thing as too many beagles? We think not!

Thank you all so much for your interest and support in what we are doing. We want you to know how much it means to us. As the season of giving brings us to a brand New Year let us remember those, both furry and otherwise, who do not have the blessings that we do, and give thanks.

Until next time, Happy Holidays from all of us at the BeFreegle Foundation and from all the Freegles.... Aaaaarrrrrroooooo!!!

