Hello everyone, it's me, Lucy. Time for another xcitin issue of the Befreegle Howler. I'm so glad that spring is finally here. When you're little like me, winter can be a scary season. The snow was so deep in our yard that my dad had to shovel paths for my brothers and me so we could still play. The yard was snow filled for almost 60 days. We weren't getting so much exercise when we caught some ailment called cabin fever. It's the worst possible thing for a beagle to be locked up in a house and no yard to run and play in. Well suddenly, all the snow vanished and we were ready for yard duty, only problem was my brothers had forgotten how to behave. So my dad had to leash walk them and re-train them on proper beagle behavior. Just when we thought the training was going well, there were new visitors in our neighborhood. Seems there was a pair of coyotes two houses over that were sniffing around and just making everybody nervous, so we are still being leash walked until this drama ends. You think we live in Montana or something.

Now in this issue, the Freegles have been really super busy. This past March featured the NYC Veg Fest that Aunt Kate and Juno were attending. I was invited to help out, and lucky me, I finally got my chance to stand on a table without getting yelled at. From behind the scenes, we are going to introduce you to Kitty, our Treasurer. She likes dogs and she likes numbers so I guess she makes a good Treasurer. Thanks to Kitty for doing such a great job.

We're also going to update you on Freegle Sunshine on how she is progressing in foster care before she heads off to her furever home. There is news about the BeFreegle Foundation 501c3 status. This must be really important adult stuff, so I hope you pay attention.

One of most important things you can do for a Freegle is foster. You can take a Freegle in your home and gradually help it adapt to real life. If you think you would like to foster, it's a feel good moment so reading the article may inspire you to help out.

Lastly, I know everyone wants an update from Freegle Daisy. Using something called BeagleMail, Daisy sent BeFreegle Central a letter, giving us some xcitin details of her new life. So sit back, relax and enjoy the warmer weather and this issue of "The Howler".
"...we were taught our greatest gifts came from within, not by reaching into our empty pockets."

So, this month I was "asked" by BeFreegle's founder and Grand Poobah, Kate, to come out of my hiding place - which is usually hovering over a computer surrounded by mounds of accounting files or escaping to Mother Nature’s playground. Now she knew I’d kick and scream to stay in my cave, but she would not take no for an answer, which is one of the best things about her – her keen ability punch through the blockades surrounding issues, and do what it takes to find fur-ever homes, and provide released dogs a new leash on life. Kate my dear, you asked for it, so here it goes.

While I was asked to do write up of my accounting prowess, I opted to rebel against "the man". This of course, is no surprise to those who know me. I figured most folks could look me up on Yahoo, Google and any one of the plethora of professional media sites (and even my existing bio on BeFreegle) to view my business history, finance knowledge base, and read how my clients espouse my financial expertise. What you won’t find there is…me, as a person - about my volunteerism, which runs through my veins, and why I’m even involved with BeFreegle Foundation.

I spent more than half of my life at, or below, the poverty line. Throughout my youth, my mother always instilled in us not the concept of entitlement, but rather a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude for what little we had. We were taught the simple truth – someone else is always in greater need than we are. While we didn’t have funds to assist others, we were taught our greatest gifts came from within, not by reaching into our empty pockets. Volunteering at food pantries, being a Sunday school teacher, giving of our talents by singing at nursing homes and children's hospitals, assisting our elderly neighbors trim their rose bushes, was the meager beginnings which created my own sense of service above self.

As I grew, the deep-rooted sense of paying forward continued to grow, and I have passed this sense down to my children at every opportunity. This included my business being a long time corporate sponsor of the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots program as well as their reading outreach program in Westchester/ Putnam County. I am active in the local chapter of Rotary International. My deep-seated belief that education is the key to all things prompted me to volunteer as the co-chair of the annual “Stuff the Bus” program, which provides school supplies to the underprivileged local children. I am a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow. I am also a SCORE accounting coach for up-and coming new business owners, which ties neatly into my love of education.

I have always had a sense a community via various human and humane advocacy groups. My personal mission of paying it forward and service to others, is engrained in me, and likely one of the reasons I was asked to utilize my financial skill set by joining the BeFreegle Board of Directors. Simply put, the mantra of “Service above Self” was a perfect and natural match for me.

Kate, no doubt will promptly remove this last part, but let me tell you...If you had known her and I back in high school (yep, that’s how long we’ve known each other!), the last thing either of us would have thought is “Oh, one day we’ll be working happily side by side on a splendid project to assist in giving research dogs a new leash on life.” I will let her tell the grand tale if she wishes, but I will say this. We have both found our footing in the world and the paths that we were meant to tread. I couldn’t be more delighted that our trails intersected. I am equally thrilled to volunteer for the BeFreegle Foundation team, as what the organization stands for is simple...

FREEDOM TO BE…TO RUN, TO LEAP, TO DO ZOOMIES IN THE BACKYARD, TO BE LOVED UNCONDITIONALLY. ARRRROOOOOO!!!!
**The State of Aarros**

By Kate Aubry

It’s been a busy month here at BeFreegle Central, where there is never a dull moment. March indeed, came in like a lion, with all the snow and ice we were never sure if there was still grass underneath it all. So we focused our efforts indoors as exhibitors at the New York City Vegetarian Food Festival where we welcomed by one and all. There is something about setting up a booth and having Freegles at the table, or on the table for that matter, that attracts people. Very few people can walk by a Freegle without stopping to ask what we are about. Helping dogs used in research find a new leash on life, of course!! A special thank you to Lucy for being so well behaved and standing so proudly on the table, and to her family for all of their amazing help. Thanks also to Gail for giving up her weekend to be a part of what we do! Thank you to everyone who stopped by to speak with us and meet our Freegles. We were so well received, we met and signed up some really wonderful new volunteers and fosters.

Foster families are a vital part of our organization and not for the faint of heart. Fostering a Freegle is both a challenging and fantastically rewarding experience, something that I wish for each of you to experience at least once in your lifetime. We have all seen the videos of Freegles, stepping on grass for the first time and feeling the sun on their faces and we have all been equally touched by that experience. However, bearing witness to them coming out of their shells and learning how to be a dog has been the most amazing experience in my life. Seeing them run outside, taking them on their first hike and watching them learn how to play with toys to name a few. As we grow our foster network, we can begin to reach out in earnest to research facilities and work with them to help take in more Freegles. Its simple math, the more fosters we have the more Freegles we can help. Please visit our [website](http://www.befreeglefoundation.org) and learn more about what it takes to foster a Freegle or you can email us directly to sign up to become a foster hero to a Freegle.

**Contact@Befreeglefoundation.org**

Speaking of foster hero’s, we are extremely happy to say that Freegle Sunshine is now living with her new foster family and doing extremely well. She has been doing so well, in fact, that we remain hopeful that this may end up being her forever home. She is so incredibly sweet and brave and I miss her every day but am so glad that she is getting her new leach on life!

With Sunshine’s new foster family stepping up to help, it has allowed me to dedicate my time to getting BeFreegle up and running. Our 501c3 application has been filed with the IRS and now we wait. A huge shout out to everyone who helped us to finance that endeavor. The entire process will take another 90 to 120 days and we are super excited!

The springtime is bringing a lot of event activities our way and we are looking forward to all of them!!

On April 26th we will be at [Beacon Barks](http://www.beaconbarks.org) on Main Street in Beacon, NY. If you live in the area, please bring your pets and enjoy the outdoor parade and festival, which runs from 10 am to 3 pm. We will have BeFreegle t-shirts, tote bags and of course Freegle Juno and possibly, making her Freegle debut, Juno’s sister Maya!! Stop by for a t-shirt and rub a Freegle belly for a lifetime of good luck!!

Stay tuned for new and exciting news in the coming months.

As always, on behalf of everyone here at BeFreegle Central, especially those Freegles who have yet to find their way home, thank you for your support. Until next month may you aarreo in the mud and find joy the each day.
What a wonderful surprise to find a letter in my inbox from our Freegle girl, Daisy. She promised to keep us updated on her new life. She is exactly where she should be and living the good life of a dog. We hope that Daisy will be a regular contributor to our Aaroosletter so that we can all live vicariously through her fabulous adventures!

### Driving Miss Daisy

By Freegle Daisy

Hi Everyone,

Exciting news! I had my very first Vermont adventure at the end of February, I travelled up (and what a wonderful traveler I was!) with my new family (Mom, Dad and big brother Professor) to Mt. Holly, Vt. and was introduced to a wonderful getaway situated at the end of a long dirt road surrounded by woods, apple trees, meadows, a pond and a big red barn. I have to say, I took to the Green Mountains like a native Vermonter! I loved our long walks on the country road, listening to birds singing and watching deer feed on fallen apples in the snow. My family was quite impressed with my explorer skills as I sniffed my way through endless snow banks and woodland trails. Professor showed me the doggie ropes to enjoying Vermont’s great outdoors as he led me to “secret” holes in the ground and curious dark spaces under rocks – what fun! Each evening we all snuggled in front of a roaring fire and each night I took turns sleeping in my crate and jumping under the covers with Mom and Dad. I also got to meet my big brother Jeff and many other nice people who gave me lots of attention and told me that I was very sweet and beautiful (I really loved those compliments!).

It was a wonderful vacation and I can’t wait to go back. Mom and Dad said there will be lots of other wildlife (that's a new big word for me!) to watch when spring arrives (can you believe I will get to see baby turkeys eating at our blueberry bush in the summer?). I’m very excited – you know - I really like my new life! 😊

Luv,

Daisy

---

Freegle Daisy with her Mom and brother, Professor, enjoying the Vermont snow.

“I loved our long walks on the country road, listening to birds singing and watching deer feed on fallen apples in the snow.”

BeFreegle Foundation
PO Box 705
Putnam Valley, NY 10579

Contact Us
What’s on your mind?
Questions/Comments?
Letter to the Editor?
Email:
Contact@BeFreegleFoundation.org

Have lots of time on your hands?
Love beagles?
Volunteer with us!
Email:
Volunteer@BeFreegleFoundation.org

We’re on the Web!
Find us at:
http://befreeglefoundation.org/

Like us on Facebook!

Follow us on Twitter!

Freegle Daisy – Exhausted after a long day of exploring

©BeFreegle Foundation 2014