



Chester at Work



Funnel Cakes by Happy Snacks



The Hair of the Dog 5k



Dogs for Adoption



Another Satisfied Customer



At
Silver Decoy
WINERY

610 Windsor-Perrineville Road • Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Chester passed on in the fall of 2011 at the age of 14. He certainly enjoyed a full life with his loving family. But he'll always be remembered for all he did as the Alpha dog of The Silver Decoy Winery, the original four-legged greeter of the winery's first customers, and the forever namesake of its 5K Wine Festival. Thanks, Chester.

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www.HairOfTheDog5k.com





The History of the Hair of the Dog 5k (A Love Affair)

On July 24, 1997, in the rolling hills of Mercer County, a pup was born. Little did he know, he'd grow to be the mascot of The Silver Decoy Winery. Chester spent the bulk of his life greeting the customers and running free in the vines, supervising the pruning and picking and aging of the grapes.... If one does not know Chester, one has not been to Silver Decoy.

A decade later, a very special neighbor moved in. He was a crazy Weimaraner puppy named Blitzkrieg. Blitzie watched Chester from across the street and could only imagine the life Chester led. He'd follow Chester around every chance he could get, and always secretly wished he could be just like him. Little did Blitz know that he'd find his niche at Silver Decoy, but it wouldn't be as a four-legged caretaker....

In late 2007, on a hazy Sunday morning, a runner, a businessman, a lifetime devotee to dog rescue, an artist, and a wine enthusiast, each perhaps dragging a bit from the prior night's activities, sat down at The Silver Decoy Winery to discuss a possible venture. With Chester and Blitzie laying at our feet, the idea of hosting a 5K was thrown about. The idea grew and crossed over the lines of our interests (as our interests crossed the lines themselves). At some point the realization struck that we might be on to something....a 5K where you could run with your dog, with an expo to follow where dogs in need of homes could gain exposure to the adopting public...and a wine-tasting. Sponsors and vendors and animal rescues, what more could we want! This could truly be a place where everyone could feel like Chester for a day!

With that, we needed a name for the event. We were overwhelmed and it was noon (somewhere) and someone suggested we take a break and indulge in sharing a bottle of wine. We were excited and tired and nervous and anxious about our new prospect, all at the same time. The artist and the runner looked at each other, rolled their eyes, and said in unison, "We need a little hair of the dog...." As if from a script, their eyes lit up and the others joined in, repeating, "The Hair of the Dog 5K?? The Hair of the Dog 5K!!"

It was born. Born because Blitzie brought the Tri-State Weimaraner Rescue to the runner's life, and born because the runner frequented the Silver Decoy, and born because The Silver Decoy Winery created an atmosphere where there's a gray area between two and four legs – it's sometimes tough to tell the difference. On one particular day, the public is allowed to share the sentiment and bring their four-legged family members to be human for a day.

The Hair of the Dog 5K and Pet Expo made its debut on May 18, 2008, and through the years, it has raised approximately \$70,000 for animal rescue. Thirty-five hundred 2-legged and five hundred 4-legged runners have crossed its finish line. Approximately fifty dogs and unknown other animals have found permanent loving homes as a direct result of the event. In 2011, The Hair of the Dog 5K began a new quest - to outfit all local fire departments with a Doggie Resuscitation mask set for every fire truck and ambulance. The event has been home to sponsors: Dayton Scion, First Choice Bank, Rita's Water Ice, Petco, Hooters, Outback Steakhouse, Lone Star, US Water, Triangle Copy, Camp Bow-wow, Barkbusters, and Mason, Griffin, and Pierson just to name a few. In its second year, ResQPets Animal Rescue joined the force and the event has grown immensely. In its Fourth Year, CHESTERFEST was added. Finally Chester got the recognition he deserves, and his wine festival was born, to follow the post-race expo. Local food, music, and wine from The Silver Decoy Winery are featured.

As Chester continued to be the omnipresent Winery Dog for The Silver Decoy Winery, Blitzie found a way to bring his own flare once a year. If you watched closely in the early years you saw Chester give Blitzie a nod of approval every year on the Sunday before Memorial Day Weekend... and Blitzie jumped and clicked his heels in delight. It was that special day once again.

Come join us in the quest for a "leash-free" world, where dogs can be human, if only for a day. The Hair of the Dog 5K .

For information on sponsorship, volunteering, or racing, go to www.hairofthedog5k.com



Blitzie and Chester circa 2007



Group Stretch



On Your Marks, Get Set. Go!



Post-Race Relaxation

