

The **Bulldog Club of
America**
Rescue Network
Rescuer

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Spring 2006



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Bulldog Club of America Rescue Network www.RescueBulldogs.org

The Bulldog Club of America Rescuer

A periodic publication authorized by the Bulldog Club of America Rescue, Inc. for the members of its Rescue Network. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide members with information to aid them in their efforts to rescue and re-home lost, abandoned and unwanted Bulldogs. To attain this goal the editorial staff intends to assemble status reports, case studies, inspirational materials, discussions of rescue-related subjects, answers to submitted questions and feedback from BCA officers and committees related to rescue for publication.

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Please send your suggestions, statistics, stories, photos, fund-raising ideas, articles of interest, questions, etc. to:

*Debbi Golding
2250 N. Rainbow Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89108
702-645-2201
Noteabulls@aol.com*

As for any medical information, consulting with your own veterinarian, as well as educating yourself through research and study will enable you to make the best decisions possible, given your particular situation and specific dog(s).



Please remember that we have several wonderful shopping opportunities featured on the BCA Rescue web site! There are many people throughout the country that are reaching out helping hands to help the program. Thank you to everyone who devotes endless hours to make the lives of less fortunate Bulldogs better... together, we CAN make a difference! ~~~ Bully Best from your Editor

BCA Rescue Network

News from the National Coordinator

First I want to thank all BCARN members and supporting volunteers for doing the rescue job AND being so enthusiastic about it. It was wonderful to meet and talk with so many rescuers at the Nationals in Dallas. I want to compliment Bethany Scott and the other members of the Lone Star Bulldog Club for organizing an excellent Rescue Parade as well as getting an outstanding location for the rescue table and helping to staff it throughout the week. The amount of funds raised through the rescue table, the rescue raffle, and the Silent Auction was much higher than in any previous Nationals.

Thanks are also due to Sharon Carr for donating the beautiful and much-desired bronze Bulldog head for the raffle; also to Linda Dawson and several others for helping staff the rescue table and Silent Auction room.

Personnel changes

You may hear through the grapevine that I resigned my position as rescue chair. True, I am no longer the BCA Rescue Committee Chair. I thought it best if someone else took over those duties. Gail Knight was selected for that position effective December 1. She will be working to promote BCA support for rescue and to keep communications open between the BCA and BCARN. I remain the President of the BCARN Board of Directors and National Coordinator for BCARN activities.

As required by the BCARN bylaws, the BCA President, Bob Newcomb, appointed two new Directors to the BCARN Board. They are Cindy Mazingo, Division V, and Bethany Scott, Division IV. The other Directors are, with the Divisions in parentheses, Stefanie Light (VII), Mary Aiken (III), Bob Cocks (VI), Julie Cromer (II), Donna Bartow (VIII), Van Blevins (IV), Gail Knight (VIII), and Dr. Nancy Rose (IV).

One more change to mention: BCARN has a new position --Membership Coordinator. The duties are to answer inquiries about joining BCARN and ensure that new members have met all the membership requirements. (These requirements were discussed in the Rescuer newsletter, July 2005.) We welcome Cindy Mazingo to this job. Please refer new volunteers who need to sign up as BCARN members to Cindy.

BCARN Directors meeting

The Directors made several decisions that affect local rescue operations:

- We approved a proposal to provide accident insurance for rescuers who are members of BCARN. The policy will provide "no-fault" coverage for BCARN members while they are engaged in rescue activities. It will be primary coverage, so the BCARN member does not have to file a claim with his/her own health insurance. More information will be available later this year.
- We decided to keep the requirement for BCARN members to be BCA members. Several rescuers had questioned this due to the time required to process BCA member applications and the difficulty that some applicants have had in making it through the process. But the Directors want to encourage rescuers to get involved with more aspects of Bulldogs than rescue and to encourage specializing in rescuing only Bulldogs. We also want to keep a strong connection to the BCA, and this would be diluted if BCARN included non-BCA members. Please note: Volunteers can still assist BCARN in many ways while waiting for BCA membership. They need only to sign the Hold-Harmless Agreement before doing any rescue work.
- We decided to remove the suggested donation amount from the national adoption contract and adoption application. Some rescuers were taking the suggested amount as THE amount to charge. It is more appropriate for local rescue groups to set their own donation amounts based on the average expenses to rehabilitate rescued dogs, the age and condition of a particular dog, and what the local adopters can afford to pay.

- We agreed that BCARN members should strive to rescue only pure bred Bulldogs. (But the Code of Conduct does allow for rescuing no more than one other breed.) There are too many of our breed needing rescue to justify putting time and money into rescuing mixes. And our supporters may not be interested in donating to help non-Bulldogs. Requiring AKC registration does not seem to be the way to ensure pure bred status. There are other valid registries, and some pure bred dogs are never registered by their owners. Therefore, determining pure bred status will be left to the discretion of local rescuers. If you know the dog is not pure bred, you should not take the dog but should assist the owner by referring them to other rescue groups when possible. Tip: Require surrendering owners to send you a picture before arranging to give the dog to you.
- We discussed providing re-homing services for breeders. Some Directors think that we should not accept surrenders from breeders at all. But we agreed not to have a policy against this. There are many reasons that it may be a good idea for rescue to place the dog rather than the breeder placing it. However, there was a consensus that breeders who expect rescue to place dogs for them should be responsible for the medical costs. At a minimum the dogs should be spayed/neutered, up to date on shots and free of parasites. However, if the breeder will not do this, we should not punish the dog for where it came from.

Just one more thing

A generous donor has provided funds to pay for rescue ads in the next few Bulldogger issues. But no rescuers have recently provided stories or articles to publish. I can't make them out of thin air!! One suggestion was to use stories on how BCA Member clubs support rescue in addition to the stories about rescued Bulldogs. If you have an idea for a Bulldogger ad and are willing to write it up, please contact me by email or phone. The deadline for the next Bulldogger issue is May 1, 2006, and the one after that will be August 1, 2006.
Submitted by Stefanie Light



BCA Rescue Network Meeting at Nationals

November 22, 2005

The BCARN members meeting at the 2005 Nationals was very energetic. About 30 BCARN members attended, and we had many topics to cover. Due to time constraints, we addressed two agenda items before the rescuers introduced themselves to each other.

Dr Nancy Rose advised us concerning how to reduce vet costs

Dr. Rose informed us that we can buy micro-chips from AVID for \$6 to \$7 per chip, with a minimum order of 25 chips. AVID will now sell the micro-chips to buyers who are not veterinarians. No special skill is needed to insert the micro-chips. It is like giving an injection with a large needle. The phone number to order the micro-chips is **800-434-AVID (2843)**.

We can use these to micro-chip the rescued dogs (highly recommended for all rescuers to do). And rescuers can conduct micro-chip clinics to raise money for rescue operations. Stan Aspey mentioned that AVID will provide a free micro-chip reader to those who buy at least 100 micro-chips.

Dr. Rose stated we should be aware of a deadly, highly contagious disease called brucella canis. It is especially likely to be carried by dogs from puppy mills.

Dr. Rose suggested some ways **we can help more rescued dogs while spending less money:**

First, in a non-emergency situation, use pain medications, if needed, and discuss the case with Dr. Rose before committing to expensive surgeries or other treatment. (Rescuers should keep first aid items and pain medications on hand.) For sure, don't rush to the nearby veterinary school and do everything they suggest. There are treatments known as "salvage procedures" that are cheaper and may involve less recovery time for the dogs. ALWAYS get a second opinion before deciding on a course of expensive treatment.

Dr. Rose will answer your questions by email – bulldawgdr@aol.com – and will consult with your local veterinarian concerning possible treatment options.

Also contact Dr. Rose when you need to obtain particular medications. She is limited by state licensing laws and the requirement to have a client/patient relationship before prescribing medications, but she may be able to buy medications at cost and ship them to your veterinarian to be administered; e.g. heartworm treatments. Sometimes expired medications that are still effective can also be shipped. Please note that Dr. Rose can provide medications only for dogs in rescue, and **not** to adopters of rescued dogs.

Dr. Rose also mentioned briefly that oral cyclosporine (a human drug for organ rejection) may be an effective treatment for inter-digital cysts in dogs, but it is very expensive.

NOTE: The attendees discussed micro-chips further, and concluded that it may be best if the rescue group registers the micro-chips instead of relying on the owner to do this. Also, the rescue group can use the special non-profit registration form to register any brand of micro-chips with AKC-CAR for \$6.25, and BCARN will receive a \$1.00 donation for each chip registered. If you need a copy of the micro-chip registration form, please contact Stefanie Light – ResQOne@rescuebulldogs.org.

Lyn Cocks discussed some legal Issues for rescue

First, Lyn advised that all surrender agreements need to state that the person surrendering the Bulldog is the sole owner and has no agreement to return the dog to the breeder or to anyone else. She recommended that all rescued dogs be scanned for micro-chips and if a chip is found, the registration should be transferred to rescue.

Lyn said it is very important that surrendering owners not be allowed to meet the adopters of rescued Bulldogs. Also, the rabies tag or rabies certificate from the original owner should not be passed on with the adopted dog. The dog should be re-vaccinated if necessary to meet local legal requirements. This helps to maintain the privacy of the adoption and avoid future claims regarding ownership of the dog.

Lyn's advice regarding dogs with a bite history is that if the bite has been documented by a county government, rescue is accepting liability when we place the dog. It is possible that the waiver of liability in our adoption contract would not stand up in court if the dog bites again. Lyn asserted that the question on our current Surrender Agreement may be worded backwards, so that people misunderstand how to answer it – perhaps it would be more clear if we asked directly whether the dog has bitten a human or animal in the last 10 days. (The current question is "To the best of my knowledge, this dog has not bitten or scratched anyone in the past 10 days.

Yes___ No___ IF no, explain.”)

Introductions

We asked the rescuers attending the meeting to state their name, location, and the most pressing issue for their local rescue efforts. All Divisions were represented except Division 1. Most attendees were from Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 6. We were especially honored to have Neil and Stephanie Koeniger present from Alaska, in Division 5.

The most pressing issues turned out to be (and it was great to hear this first-hand, instead of just assuming what the issues may be):

- The cost of supporting rehabilitation of rescued Bulldogs;
- Too many dogs in rescue – examples, 10 dogs at one time or two per week for a long time;
- Bad behavior by the rescued dogs;
- The need for more volunteers to help with rescue;
- Getting dogs from puppy mills;
- Lack of participation by Bulldog club members who are primarily exhibitors of show dogs;
- Lack of foster homes for rescued Bulldogs;
- Bulldogs being sold over the Internet without support from the breeders;
- The rescuer feeling over-run and burned out;
- Not enough education available for buyers who want to get cheap Bulldogs and breed them.

I'll Save One Campaign

Amber Smith reported on her idea for a Bulldog rescue volunteer campaign called “I'll Save One”. Buttons have been created and will be given at no cost to any BCARN member to wear to entice people to ask questions about the campaign.

The idea is that BCA members who are not already supporting rescue will agree to donate the amount of time required to rescue just one Bulldog in a two-year period. They can do this by assisting local BCARN members with foster care, transport, grooming, and so on. There will be paperwork to fill out, and the volunteers can purchase unique I'll Save One T-shirts to show off their commitment. Amber will be providing more information about this in the near future, and will need help from us to get it in motion. Local rescuers are urged to promote I'll Save One by publicizing it in their local Bulldog clubs and among their friends who are BCA members.

We were forced to adjourn without covering all the planned agenda items

Some of the leftover items will be discussed on the BulldogResQ email list beginning in January. If you are not yet a member, you can join by visiting <http://www.yahogroups.com/BulldogResQ/> All list members must be directly involved in rescuing Bulldogs, but are not required to be BCARN members.

We also discussed the need to allocate more time for BCARN members to meet at Nationals. One suggestion was to schedule the meeting on the Sunday just before Nationals. This would avoid conflicts with showing, which is often a problem for rescuers who exhibit their own Bulldogs. We may want to try this at Nationals 2006 in Florida, if it appears that enough rescuers can be there on Sunday. We would also probably schedule a shorter meeting later in the week for rescuers who cannot attend on Sunday.

Report submitted by Stefanie Light



Tribute to Bella



This is a dog Lone Star Bulldog Club placed in February of 2005. She was one of my very favorite fosters. As so many of you know, there are those fosters who we all love. Then there are those who touch us so deeply. Bella was one of those fosters for me. I loved that dog so very much. I knew when I saw an email Thursday morning from her mom and dad it wasn't going to be good. The subject line was titled "Our Sweet Little

Bella" and I just knew.

Here is her tribute from her mom and dad. Mary and Rich (and canine sister Rooby) gave Bella everything the world had taken from her in the past. She was only with us/them a few short months after we obtained her. But those were obviously wonderful months not only for her, but for her family as well. I personally am honored and humbled by this tribute. I have their permission to publish this in various BCA and related publications. I plan on spreading this as far and wide as I am able.

God rest Bella's sweet soul.

Bethany Scott
Rescue Coordinator 7
Lone Star Bulldog Club
Fort Worth Bulldog Club
Division IV

September 2, 2005 - We Miss You, Bella.

Mary and I lost one of our best friends last night. For the past four weeks, our little dog Bella had been in and out of the vet with multiple problems. First, she couldn't keep down her food, and then the doctors started to find multiple tumors all over her body that literally had appeared overnight. This past Monday, we brought Bella to the Animal Hospital. It was our last resort. We had hopes for a moment that she would get better, but unfortunately, things took a turn for the worst.

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, we went by to visit her at the hospital. Tuesday was a good day, she looked healthier and even played around a little. But Wednesday was a different story. She didn't seem to know where she was, and at one point she started convulsing and vomiting blood. We were horrified and saddened. Then, out of nowhere, the most incredible thing happened. Our sweet little pup suddenly had a moment of clarity. She looked up at Mary and I with her big beautiful brown eyes...and smiled. It was almost as if she knew it was her time, and she wanted to give us one last smile. That would be the last time we would ever see her.

At 1:30 AM Thursday morning, her doctor called and told us that Bella's heart had stopped beating. I don't remember much of the call after that...something about 'she was a fighter', 'came out of nowhere'...I don't know. It was a long night.

Bella was the little pup that no one wanted. She had been abandoned and was living on the streets near the border of Mexico before being saved by a bulldog rescue group named Lone Star Bulldog Rescue. No one seemed to want to adopt her because of her age and history of

tumors and physical problems. She had lived a hard life. When Mary and I finally met her, she was just so sweet and affectionate that we had to take her in. She had this giant head that we used to call her "gorilla muzzle" and the funniest looking teeth which all seemed to go in separate directions. She had the tiniest little bark that she only used when she had to go to the bathroom. When we brought her in, she had no hair on her tail. Within a few months, it was completely covered in fur once again. Mary used to say, "Love makes it grow".

She made me laugh everyday. I'll never forget the time she was in that doggie fashion show dressed as a ballerina in a pink tutu (not our idea!), where she poo'ed in front of all of the male models and had them screaming and running for air. She used to grunt when she was happy, she'd slobber all over you when giving you kisses, and would frequently make the kind of toot noises that always cracked up the 12-year old minded me. There was no one who ever met Bella who didn't instantly fall in love with her. She was, hands down, the most affectionate dog I have ever met. If you were sitting on the couch, she was resting her giant muzzle on your lap. If you were on the computer, she was resting on your feet. When you came home, she would greet you by running around in circles and grunting like a happy little piglet.

Some of my favorite memories are walking in on Mary as she was laying on the living room floor, softly petting the hair on Bella's back while singing to her a song in her sweet, soft voice. Mary would lie there singing until Bella would fall asleep. Every morning, Mary would walk Bella and Rooby, who were a combined 150 pounds to Mary's 105. They'd drag her in every direction, but she loved it. She'd give Bella her medication everyday, and Bella would take it like a champ...never flinching or not cooperating. Mary LOVED Bella, and her heart was broken last night like I've never seen it before.

I used to laugh at people like me who make a big deal out of losing a pet. What kind of real man cries over the loss of an animal? I guess...I do. I can't believe this hurts so bad. Mary and I have never had kids, so our pups are like our children. I feel ashamed that this has hurt more than even the loss of most friends or family members. There's just this huge void now...I don't know how to explain. Little things I see of hers make me sad. A half eaten can of food, the couch where she slept, her doggie bed, hairs on her blanket, her favorite pillow...and our dog Rooby. She doesn't know where her friend is. Does she understand what has happened? I don't know.

In the end, Mary and I are just going to focus on the great times we had with Bella. Times like these just make me appreciate what I do have even more. I have Mary to share my life with, we have our amazing dog Rooby, and we have our health. That's more than a lot of people right now can say. We're gonna miss our "Little Stinker", our "Gorilla Muzzle", our "Bella Bonita", our "Pupwich", our "Sweet Stuff".

Thanks to everyone who sent us Emails of sympathy. Many of you sent us a poem that Mary and I read together tonight, called "The Rainbow Bridge". We both just sat here and cried as we read it together. If you have a pet, hug her a little more tonight.

Mary and I miss you, Bella. We know you're chewing on the world's biggest bone, cuddling with St. Francis, and stinkin' up Heaven as we speak.

Love,

Your Mom and Dad





Please save your Weight Circles!



If you use Purina Pro Plan or Purina One, please send the Weight Circles from the bags to the Detroit Bulldog Club. Ask your adopters, friends and club members to do this, too.

The DBC sends the Weight Circles to Purina and gets back discount coupons for food. Purina also sends money to the AKC and BCA: For each 700 pounds worth of weight circles, Purina gives \$3.50 to the AKC Canine Health Foundation and \$3.50 to the BCA, which splits the money between the BCA Rescue Network and the BCA Charitable Fund (beginning in 2006). The end result is \$82.25 from the original purchase of about \$370 worth of food comes back to help the Bulldogs. In 2004, the Purina cash contribution to the BCA was \$1523.00.

Can we make this larger? Please participate if you use the Purina food!

Send your Weight Circles to:

George Cromer,
29720 Wildbrook Dr,
Southfield MI 48034.



Ask the Rescue Vet



Question: What is Brucella Canis, and why should rescuers be concerned about it?

Answer: Brucella Canis, a sexually transmitted disease of dogs, that is also contagious to humans, is on the rise. The disease is transmitted by sexual contact of dogs as well as body fluids. Beware of rescues especially those coming from puppy mill situations. It is the recommendation of the AKC to test for this disease before placing any rescues in your home, kennel or foster care to protect your human and canine family. There is a relatively cheap test available from your DVM. I believe that rescues coming from homes that are spayed or neutered are not at risk, but any others should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Question: Should rescuers be wary of taking in a Bulldog with a history of seizures?

Answer: First of all the cause of the seizures should be determined and if all other causes (metabolic, toxins, genetic or neoplasia) can be ruled out epilepsy should be the diagnosis. Epilepsy just means a brain disorder that we do not know the specific cause just like in people. Unfortunately this is also a case by case basis for evaluation. Some dogs do very well for years on medication and some do not. Some medications such as phenobarbital are very cheap and other meds are not. These pets are definitely for owners who are willing to give extra care because they will require lifelong medications 2-3X a day and testing for drug levels which is not cheap. Any pet that seizures infrequently should be reevaluated as they may not require medication. I prefer not to put on meds unless seizures are more frequent than 1 per 2 wks because of side effects and cost of the meds and testing. Some pets will have a seizure every now and then even with the meds and sometimes adjustments need to be made. Symptoms can always worsen with age. This is a hard choice and I guess best evaluated by the situation. I would be glad to help in any case. I have seen cases where stress brings on the seizures and those would just improve with good housing and care.

Nancy Rose, DVM

Gracie's Story

From a Living Hell to Heaven on Earth



This is Gracie's story, from her foster mom, Lesa Strickland, of Lone Star Bulldog Club and Rescue to her prospective family.

Sept. 4, 2005

Hi Mary,

I have thought about nothing but what it will be like if Gracie goes to live with you and your husband. For purely selfish reasons I would like nothing better than for her stay with me. But I would be failing at my passion if I thought of my feelings over Gracie's well being. That being said, I thought I would write down

everything I know about Gracie because I know I will not get everything said tomorrow.

Gracie came from a pound in the DFW area. A family brought her in crippled, emaciated, missing hair, covered with fleas, with a rotting tail. They had used her up. She had been nothing more than a puppy factory it seems. They wanted her put to sleep. The lady at the pound could see her sweet personality and that little spirit that kept saying, "Give me a chance." She couldn't do it. After much thought, she called Don Martin of Lone Star Bulldog Rescue and told him of her dilemma. She asked Don what to do. His response was, "I'll be right there to pick her up."

Don picked up Gracie and took her immediately to Trinity Clinic. Gracie's tail was rotting off and she was very, very sick, she only weighed about 37 lbs. Dr. Keating told Kelly Andrus of Lone Star Bulldog Rescue, that she would have to make the decision about putting Gracie down because he was on the fence with this dog. After Kelly visited Gracie and discussed her medical condition with Dr. Keating she decided that since Gracie did not have heartworm, we would give her a chance to fight for her life. Because Gracie was so weak, if she tested positive for heartworm infection, she could not have withstood the treatments.

Gracie was given her chance at a new life. Her tail was removed, Trinity Clinic got rid of all the fleas and filth and she was fed a proper diet. Now they had to find out why she was missing so much hair. Her skin was scraped for mange but that came back negative, she was scraped again just to be sure and again it was negative. Finally they decided it must be a food allergy. The most likely things would be corn and wheat. She was put on a corn/wheat free food and gradually her hair returned. Gracie stayed at the vet's office for about 6 weeks. Finally the vet tech told Kelly that she was becoming depressed. She had nothing to do all day but sit in her cage. An email went out to all of the rescue volunteers about a little girl that needed a temporary home. She was depressed and in need of lots of human attention. I immediately volunteered to take her, I told Kelly I would be glad to take her if she could meet me with her somewhere, as I live quite far from the DFW area. The next Saturday, Kelly met me in Canton and I took little Gracie into my home and my heart.

When we arrived home, my bully Milo was not the happy camper. Another dog was here to take his mommy's attention and he was very jealous. I was only supposed to keep Gracie for about a week. Kelly already had someone lined up to adopt her. I called the girl that was to adopt her and asked if I could answer any questions about Gracie that she might have. She told me no, she didn't have any questions. I thought that was kind of odd and to tell you the truth I didn't like it very much. A few days later she emailed me and said she had changed her mind. That she did have some questions. She told me how excited she was about getting Gracie and taking her to see all her friends and how much fun she would be. I could tell by what she said that she had no idea what kind of condition Gracie was in. I sent her an email that was completely truthful about Gracie and her conditions. I guess maybe I had come on a little strong but I wanted her to know everything, the good and the bad. Needless to say, she didn't want Gracie after that, and that was fine with me. I knew it was not a good fit anyway.

When Gracie first arrived at my home she was very reserved; sweet but didn't want to let her guard down. She was so weak I had to hold her food and water bowls up to her mouth to eat and drink because if she stood and tried to lean over to eat she would go face first into the food or water. Sometimes she didn't want to eat at all. But if I hand fed her, she would take a few pieces. For several weeks she would just leave her food in the bowl, maybe eat a little bit each day.

I would come home at lunch to check on her because she was so weak. Gradually she began to eat a little more, then a little more. I had hope. When I would come home at 5 PM she began to get up and look at me when I came in the door. That was an improvement. Day by day she got stronger. Finally one day I came home, changed my clothes and got the mail and sat in my recliner. I was just beginning to go through the mail when she came over to the chair, I leaned down to give her a pet and she started to climb up in my lap. When you see Gracie, you'll know how difficult that is for her. I helped her into my lap and she just sat there for a few moments. She then fell back against me and put her head on my shoulder. I knew then that I had been given the bulldog seal of approval. I almost cried, she had accepted me as her friend. She knew that I would never hurt her. I still get teary eyed just telling you about it. It was one of those moments that I will never forget.

From that day forward she thought I should belong to her and her alone. My Milo had a few things to say about that. They squabbled back and forth with each other but never once hurt one another. Mostly just like kids bickering, I just say "Y'all stop it!" and that was the end of it.

I know I have rattled on and on but I feel like you can understand, I feel you are someone that loves them as deeply as I do. I will have all of Gracie's medical issues written out for you to see also, so that everything is clear and you understand what it will take to keep her comfortable.

One more thing, I realize that when you meet Gracie you might not think that she is the dog for you. So please, if you feel that way don't hesitate to tell me, I will not have my feelings hurt. I will just keep her until she finds the right family or maybe I'll finally decide that "I" am the right family.

See you tomorrow!

Lesia

Sept. 5, 2005

Gracie's new family is coming today, I am terrified that they will want her! I have fallen in love with this old girl. Just moments before they are to arrive, I lean down and tell Gracie that if she doesn't like them, to let me know immediately and I will not let them take her. She agrees.

We hear the knock at the door. It's Rich and Mary Shertenlieb, Gracie's new family. Gracie seems to sense the excitement in the air. As I open the door to greet them, Gracie rushes past me and straight to them. She does her best to wiggle but she is so unsteady on her legs that she almost falls. Gracie is putting on her best for these new people. She is instantly taken with them and they with her. I'm heart broken, I want my Gracie to stay with me, how can I let her go? Rich and Mary settle on the floor so they can play with Gracie. I sit in my chair with big tears in my eyes. They are tears of sorrow and tears of joy, I try to hide them. I know I am not what Gracie needs, I know they are.

After a couple of hours with Rich and Mary, I know without reserve, they are right for Gracie. I am going to have to let my Gracie go today. Go to a new life. A life where she won't need me anymore. As time rocks on, Rich and Mary ask me that dreaded question "Can we take Gracie with us today?" With big tears in my eyes, I agree, I know it is the right thing. After much discussion of Gracie's medical needs and meds, it is time to go. I just know that Gracie is going to balk when it is time to get in their car, but no. She goes straight to the back door and waits on me to pick her up and put her in the back seat. She sits there so royally, like she is on top of the world. She has a new family and she knows it. She is happy. I can see it. I sit with her and hug and kiss her for the last time. I have to let her go, I have to get out of the car, I don't want to, I want to go with Gracie. Rich and Mary are so kind, they give me all the time I need with Gracie, finally I am able to let her go. I get out of the car and watch them drive off. I am heartbroken. My husband is waiting for me just inside the door; he knows how hard it is for me.

The next few days seem so empty. I never realized how much time I spent caring for Gracie. I find myself with nothing to do. Shouldn't I be giving her meds, checking her itchy paws, cleaning her cauliflower ear or putting salve on that crusty nose?

November 1, 2005

Rich and Mary have been so wonderful to Gracie. She has gotten all the attention one bulldog could stand. They have had her completely checked out by their vet. They recommended she have knee surgery for torn ligaments. Both of Gracie's back legs are blown out and they seem very painful to her. Today they are having her first ligament surgery on one of her back legs. Mary, Rich and I are all so nervous that we can think of nothing but Gracie; hoping everything goes well. This old girl has had such a terrible life, that it is time something good happens.

After several hours of waiting, finally we get the word that everything has gone just as planned. She is doing fine and can go home tomorrow.

At home, Gracie is very uncomfortable the first couple of days. By the third day, she has had enough of this lying around all day. She is up and trying to walk around the apartment. Gracie wants to be so active that Mary has to confine her to one room. Too much walking is not what the doctor ordered. Gracie's strong will to live is coming forth again. Nothing is going to keep her down. Mary tries to sneak into the kitchen for a snack, Gracie is right behind her. She must be with her Mary, wherever she goes.

Gracie's recovery takes several months. She goes for physical therapy to help strengthen her legs. She is placed in a tank that has a treadmill in the bottom. Gracie is not at all happy with this water thing. You can tell by the look on her face she is really not a happy camper. But Rich and Mary, in front of the water tank, coax her to walk toward them, against the water. Gracie is a smart girl. She picks it up in no time. She also learns you can walk to the front of the tank, ride the treadmill to the back, then walk again. Her physical therapist laughs and tells Rich and Mary it takes most dogs several visits to the treadmill to figure that out. They tell her, you don't know how smart and determined Gracie is.

On Gracie's last physical therapy visit, she will not ride in her cart that she has used all these months, to get into the clinic. She refuses to get in so Mary can pull her to her visit. Gracie will walk. Gracie will have no part of that cart anymore! Gracie triumphs again.

February 1, 2006

Today Gracie had her other knee repaired. As expected, she comes through like a champ. The vet tells Rich and Mary that she is already awake and wanting to move around. Dr. Wells is surprised by the amount of damage to Gracie's knee. All the ligaments were torn. She feels that Gracie had been in terrible pain for a long time with this knee. Dr. Wells remarks she "has never seen a dog with so much determination." Again, Rich and Mary reply, "You don't know Gracie!"

February 2, 2006

I sit and wait for the news that Gracie has made it home and is resting comfortably. I know she will be fine. She wants to live. She wants to have a good life. And after all, she deserves it!!

To all the rescue volunteers and foster moms, I know you can relate to this story. There is always that one that really steals your heart. For me it was Gracie. I will never lose touch with her new family, I will never forget the transformation that took place with an old crippled, down on her luck bully. Gosh, I love that dog!



Public Education Project in Division III

Many rescuers have for years discussed the need for more widespread educational efforts to help the public learn to buy Bulldog puppies from responsible breeders, and to help keep Bulldogs in their original homes, which would reduce the numbers of Bulldogs entering rescue. BCA Division III has now made a bold and exciting move to do something about this.

BCA Division III, in cooperation with the Pacific Coast Bulldog Club, has piloted a successful advertising program to provide public education to combat the negative effects of unscrupulous breeders, the recent puppy importer issues and the increasing numbers of dogs in rescue. A donated voice mail messaging service was used to provide menu options such as interest in purchasing a puppy or obtaining a rescued dog. Callers were then referred to an informational web site or given the opportunity to leave a message. Volunteers returned calls within 48 hours. The Bulldog information service was publicized by advertising in large circulation local newspapers.

Division III and PCBC are very pleased with the results of the pilot program and urge all BCA Divisions and Clubs to adopt this or a similar approach. For more information, please contact BCA members Kay Gray or Micah Leslie.

Rescuing takes patience, love

By Stormy Ballenger



Augie, a rescued bulldog at the Cascade Bulldog Rescue/Rehome, lounges in the shade of a trampoline.

Photo by Stormy Ballenger

Three-year-old English bulldog, Augie, is hoping for a second chance. Last month, Augie's elderly owners surrendered her to animal control because they could no longer care for her. Since Augie is dominant, likes to chase, and has never been socialized, it seemed euthanasia was the only option.

Fortunately, Cascade Bulldog Rescue/Rehome adopted her, and volunteers like Janis O'Neil from Central Point are working to give her the opportunity to find a great home.

The northwest-based rescue group, part of the Bulldog Club of America Rescue Network, was formed to help purebred bulldogs get another chance in a loving home. Many bulldogs are surrendered to the rescue program because their owners find that as the puppies grow they become too much to handle.

"You need to know the breed," says O'Neil. "They are more prone to skin allergies and eye problems." Most bulldogs surrendered to the program have health or temperament difficulties that need to be addressed before going to a new home. Volunteer foster families sometimes work for months improving physical and emotional health, behavioral issues, and social skills.

Even with all the time spent on rehabilitation, potential adopters should be ready to handle problems that are unique to rescued bulldogs. "People need to be willing to deal with special needs," says O'Neil, who has been showing and rescuing bulldogs since 1992.

Every potential adopter is carefully screened and a home inspection is done to make sure that each dog is placed in a home that is best suited to its needs. Before adoption, every rescued bulldog is spayed or neutered.

"Adoption can cost anywhere from \$150 to \$450," says O'Neil. However, if you are passionate about bulldogs, that price is just a fraction of what a purebred normally costs. "Bulldogs usually go for around \$1500, sometimes as much as \$2500."

At present, there are only three bulldogs, including Augie, in the Oregon rescue program, which is great news to O'Neil. "Networking helps a lot of dogs find homes."

Cascade Rescue recently received two bulldogs from the Bend area who were abused and malnourished.

"Some kids were throwing [the male] in a river on a chain and then hauling him out time after time," explained Cascade Rescue's regional coordinator Cindy Mazingo, "and the other was left in a barn and fed only once a day." Thanks to the quick action of volunteer Sky Kellogg, these two dogs are now in the safe, rehabilitating hands of Cascade Bulldog Rescue/Rehome. "Our goal is to find responsible, stable, loving new homes for them."

For more information about the bulldog rescue program, visit www.cascadebulldogrescue.org, www.rescuebulldog.org or call 664-6061.

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Post Script:

Cascade Bulldog Rescue is in a newspaper article in Central Point, OR!!! The newspaper contacted one of the Oregon contacts and she gave information to the paper and this is the article that came out!!!

Wow, this is a first for Cascade!! Many thanks to Janice for making this happen!! What a great article!!!

I am also pleased to say that Augie is in a new home close by her foster home, Benny, the male in the article went to his new home Saturday and now has a bulldog brother to hang with and Betsy the little bitty bulldog that was in the barn is still in foster care, trying to get over an upper respiratory problem before she can be placed.

The team work that went into all of these rescues was just remarkable!!

Cindy Mazingo
Div V Rescue Coordinator
Founder/Cascade Bulldog Rescue/Rehome, Inc



The Rabies Challenge Fund



World-renown vaccine research scientist and practicing veterinarian, Dr. W. Jean Dodds of California, and pet vaccine disclosure advocate, Kris L. Christine of Maine, have established **The Rabies Challenge Fund** to raise money to fund a 7 year rabies vaccine challenge study in the United States.

In addition to the challenge study, the fund will finance a study of the adjuvants used in veterinary rabies vaccines and establish a rabies vaccine adverse reaction reporting system.

Rabies vaccination is the one immunization required by law across the country for domestic dogs and cats. Researchers believe this vaccine causes the most and worst adverse reactions in animals. The Rabies Challenge Fund has been founded to improve the safety of rabies vaccines and to determine, by challenge, if they confer immunity for 5, 6, or 7 years.

The Rabies Challenge Fund's first official sponsors are Deb Odom (Florida) and Dawn Turner (Arizona), who have committed to donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their pet vaccine informed consent posters and informational flyers.

Donations can be sent to **THE RABIES CHALLENGE FUND, c/o Hemopet, 11330 Markon Drive, Garden Grove, CA 92841.**

More information about the proposed research can be found at <http://blogs.mainetoday.com/dogslife/002976.html>



Why Rescue?

I'll never bring about world peace.
 I won't single handedly save the rain forest.
 I'm not a brain surgeon and I'll never transplant an organ to save a life.
 I don't have the ear of a powerful politician or world power.
 I can't end world hunger.
 I'm not a celebrity,
 and God knows I'm not glamorous!
 I'm not looked up to by millions around the world.
 Very few people even recognize my name.
 I'll never win the Nobel Prize.
 I'll never save the rain forest or end global warming.
 There are a lot of things that I'll never do or become.

But today I placed a dog!

It was a small, scared, bundle of flesh and bones
 that was dropped off in a shelter by unfeeling people
 that didn't care what happened to it,
 but yet who were responsible for it,
 even having existence in the first place.

I found it a home.

It now has contentment and an abundance of love.
 A warm place to sleep and plenty to eat.
 Two little boys have a warm fuzzy new friend
 who will give them unquestioning devotion and teach them about responsibility
 and love.

A wife and mother has a new spirit to nurture and care for.
 A husband and a father has a companion to sit at his feet
 at the end of a hard day of work and help him relax and enjoy life. And a sense
 of security, that when he is gone all day at work, that there
 is a protector and a guardian in his home to keep watch
 over his family.



**No, I'm not a rocket scientist.
 But today, I made a difference!**
 (Author unknown)

*I found this on line... and have no idea who wrote it...
 really wish that I knew... debbi*

BCA NATIONALS RESCUE PARADE

BCA Nationals

2005

RESCUE PARADE

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO OPEN UP YOUR HEARTS & HOMES TO THESE SPECIAL BULLDOGS!!!

Photos by Cindy King Mozingo

The collage features several circular photographs: a woman in a yellow shirt with a bulldog; a woman with three children and a bulldog; a man with a white bulldog; a woman with a bulldog; a woman with a bulldog; a man and woman with a bulldog; and an elderly woman with a bulldog. The background is a gradient of red, purple, and blue, decorated with blue hearts and bones, and a red bone at the bottom right.

“I’ll Save One”

I’LL SAVE ONE



BCARN Volunteer Drive

BCARN Volunteer Drive

Objective: To enlist additional rescue volunteers.

The General Idea: This promotion involves a t-shirt and a pledge sheet. Each club/rescue group that wants to participate, will sign up to purchase t-shirts. The Pledge sheet and other necessary documentation will be available to download from the

internet. Each club/rescue group will print out these materials as needed. Start up costs will be minimal.

Each club/rescue group can then hold promotions at specialties, club meetings, their website, etc. to encourage people to Pledge To Save One. T-shirts can be sold for whatever amount the club/rescue group feels is fair, allowing them to determine what “profit” they make per shirt. In addition to the pledge, the volunteer will also need to fill out a Foster Care agreement and Adoption application (for legal reasons).

In this drive, t-shirts with the above logo will be for sale, but are **ONLY** available to those willing to sign a pledge to save one. This pledge asks the volunteer (over the next 24 months) to foster a rescue; if not able to foster, agree to perform 60 hours of other services for rescue (i.e. pick up bulldogs being surrendered, transport to and from vet visits, help socialize/train rescue bulldogs, hands-on help with fund raising and “rescue days”, groom rescue bulldogs for placement, etc.) Volunteers will be recognized in the Bulldogger and BCARN website. Each club/rescue group will report the names of volunteers to Amber Smith who will organize them for publication.

If you or your rescue group would like to participate in the I’ll Save One BCARN Volunteer Drive and want additional information or need to order shirts,

contact **Amber Smith** at

Amber@AmbroziaBulldogs.com

Thanks are Due!

The *Minnesota Bulldog Rescue* group held a silent auction at the club's annual puppy picnic and raised \$184 for the BCARN Disaster Relief Fund! The rescue group also matched the auction proceeds, making the total donation \$368. BCARN appreciates the support very much!



Dan Atcheson, author of "Puppy Dog Moon" and his special Rescue Bulldog *GEORGE*
Thank you for your help with rescue Dan!



You Don't Rescue? Then DON'T Breed!