

Rescue News

Since our last newsletter 6 months ago, the Kerry Foundation rescued and/or placed 13 Kerries, ranging from 11 weeks to 11 years old. Of those, 5 were pet store puppies and 3 were auction dogs. During this time, 40 Kerries were sold at 4 auctions, 10 Kerries were monitored in pet stores nationwide, and any number of potential Kerries in shelters were investigated.

We also provided assistance to 5 owners of difficult Kerries who did not enter our Rescue program. In addition, one of our volunteers single-handedly found temporary foster homes for 7 Kerries, all of whom are now re-united with their owners.

You have heard the expression, "What goes around, comes around"? It is certainly true in Rescue. One of the puppies we monitored in a pet store last February (Brenna), was relinquished to our Rescue program in September by her owner. A littermate to another pet store puppy we monitored was surrendered to Rescue due to PNA (Blackjack). And a 3rd pet store puppy (Trooper) remained unsold at 10 months old, and was relinquished to a local veterinarian's office who surrendered him to the Foundation. Sooner or later, these pet store puppies are finding us.

Since May, the Foundation has spent \$5543.10 to rescue, vet, foster, and place over a dozen Kerries. One dog had surgery for tumor removal, 5 were neutered, 2 were treated for kennel cough, and 3 were hospitalized. Nearly all were treated for eye and ear infections. As you can see, Rescue is expensive. Your donations help us help them, so please give generously to continue our work.

Meet our Rescue kids on page 3!

Health Survey 2004 Results

by Daryl Enstone & John Van den Bergh

The Kerry Blue Terrier Foundation is pleased to present the results of the Health Survey 2004. In addition to determining the types of health problems present in the breed, the survey also provides data on how frequently the disorders occur.

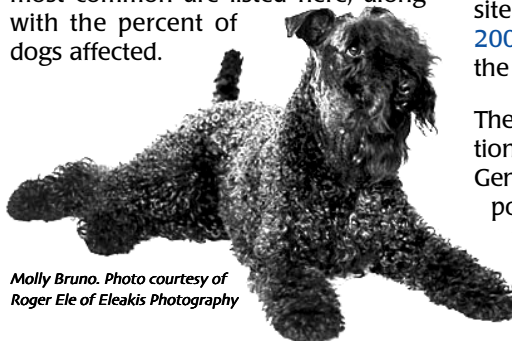
Foundation director Dr. W. Jean Dodds, DVM, helped coordinate the survey development and implementation of the survey. Her advice on format and procedure was invaluable. The analysis of the data was done by Dr. Elsa Sell, MD, who has experience in interpreting survey data and developing health databases for other dog breed organizations.

5000 surveys were printed and distributed at a cost of \$3300. The surveys were distributed through the Foundation mailing list, breed clubs, and through the web site. We went to great lengths to ensure anonymity of the replies. Our efforts were rewarded with a larger than expected response; information on 551 dogs was supplied.

The survey asked respondents to provide detailed health information, and we'd like to profusely thank the participants for their time. It was well worth their efforts!

Short Summary of Survey Findings

The survey results indicate that there are a number of disorders of varying severity that occur in the breed. The most common are listed here, along with the percent of dogs affected.



Molly Bruno. Photo courtesy of Roger Ele of Eleakis Photography

Sebaceous cysts 22.7%
 Digestive symptoms, food intolerance 8.3%
 Temperament problems, all combined 8.0%
 Warts, papillomas 7.8%
 Lipoma 6.7%
 Spicules 6.7%
 Cataracts 4.7% (only 4 of 26 were less than 6 years old)
 Conjunctivitis 4.7%
 Hypothyroid 4.5%
 Chronic ear infections 4.4% (most were in younger dogs)
 Dry eye 3.4% (only 6 of 24 received immune-suppressing drugs)
 Trembling, tremors 3.3%
 Hair follicle tumors 3.1%
 Mammary cancer 2.9% (average age at onset 8 years; youngest 4)
 Lymphoma, lymphosarcoma 2.7% (average age at onset 7 years)

The survey results also suggested that bitches may be more susceptible to spicules, hypothyroidism, cystitis, and pancreatic disease. On the other hand, males seem more susceptible to conjunctivitis, tremors, aggressiveness, degenerative myelopathy, diarrhea, and hemolytic anemia. It must be borne in mind that in some cases, the number of dogs reported as affected with a particular disorder is low, and a more detailed study is needed to confirm the trends found here.

The full report of the Foundation Health Survey 2004 is available on the web site at www.kerryblues.info/HEALTH/2004SURVEY.HTML, or by contacting the Foundation.

The Foundation will use this information as a guide to fund future Health & Genetics projects. In fact, financial support has already been supplied to further research on hemolytic anemia and thyroiditis (see announcement on page 5 in this issue).

Projects Update

Education

The Foundation educates the public about the Kerry Blue Terrier through its web site at www.kerryblues.info and the KB-L Newslist.

Recently Completed

- Developed and published a "Contract and Bill of Sale" that protects the buyer, seller, and puppy in sales transactions. We believe it is an enforceable contract that will help avoid misunderstandings, disagreements, and legal actions.
- Made arrangements with the *AKC Family Dog* magazine to reprint certain articles. Together with a similar arrangement with *The Whole Dog Journal*, these agreements ensure a steady flow of quality articles for the web site.

On-Going

- Place ads in newspapers to counter puppy mill advertising.
- Send "puppy information packets" to all known pet stores currently stocking Kerries.
- Mentor Kerry owners who have problems with their Kerries to avoid the need for rescue.
- Pose Question of the Week. Over 120 questions have been posted. Their answers provide a mosaic of how we live with our breed.
- Update the web site on a daily basis.

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Volunteers Needed

If this heading didn't scare you off, please read on! In the sidebars, we have listed all the work the Foundation has completed since the last newsletter. If you would like to be part of our team, please consider rolling up your sleeves and doing something for the Kerries that are not as fortunate as your own.

Everybody can be a Newspaper Scout or Shelter Scout as explained on page 4. But we also need people for other important work.

eBay Seller: If you like to sell things on eBay, have a few hours per week, are reliable and are willing to work for the Kerries, then contact me regarding our auction program at 800/532-2890 or johnv@kerryblues.info.

Rescue Coordinator: The need for additional Rescue Coordinators is acute. Many Kerry clubs have abandoned their rescue programs and more than half of the Kerries are now produced by puppy mills. The burden of helping these dogs in need falls on the Founda-

tion. But we need your help to do it. The Foundation has the tools, policies, and procedures in place to get the job done. If you are self-motivated, can think on your feet, and make responsible decisions quickly, please contact our Rescue Director at 800/532-2890 or jjoers@kerryblues.info. You will be guided and supported by our seasoned and dedicated team of Rescue Coordinators.

Kerry Mentor: We receive many requests for specific help from Kerry owners. Most of the time we can refer them to the web site, but some requests are assigned to a Kerry Mentor for a personal response. If you are an experienced Kerry person, please contact me at 800/532-2890 or johnv@kerryblues.info to sign up to become a Kerry Mentor. It can make a huge difference in the life of a Kerry.

None of these "jobs" pays money, and some may actually cost you some change. However, the satisfaction is in knowing that you did the right thing for the Kerries. If you won't help, who will?

2004 Christmas Card Contest

For the eighth year, the Foundation will have a Holiday Greeting card Contest. It is the most popular annual feature of the web site. The idea originated with some KB-L Newslist subscribers who wished to post Christmas cards on KB-L. To avoid any possibility of distributing viruses through KB-L, we do not allow attachments to KB-L posts. Instead, we offered the web site as a repository for Kerry Christmas cards, and made it into a contest for everyone's enjoyment.

The 2004 cards will be posted after Thanksgiving, voting begins on December 20, and the winners are declared on December 26.

Go to the web site to look at the past Christmas cards and the 2004 submission rules (www.kerryblues.info/XMAS/RULES.HTML).



Last year's winner: Youlia Anderson

Our Recent Rescues

Bridgett was our incredibly sweet and gentle 8-year-old PA shelter girl who was placed just in time for summer fun on the Jersey shore. She also loves to run in the dog park with her 2 favorite guys—only one of whom is a Kerry!



Diesel & Storm were littermates rescued at 11 weeks old with kennel cough from an IL pet store. Today, one boy is a Starbucks junkie in Seattle, and his brother is a beach bum in FL!



Maggie was one of the 3 Kerries rescued at a MO dog auction. Very shy and unsure of herself, she was placed with a loving family in CO who had previous experience with a shy Kerry. Tragically, Maggie bolted from her owner, leash and all, and all efforts to find her have failed. We continue to pray for her safety and well-being.



Charlie was the auction boy who most appreciated his new world of freedom and everything in it. Charlie turned out to be loaded with personality, with a great sense of humor to match. He entertains friends and family in Baltimore with new antics every day.



Finnian (formerly "Danny") was the auction boy who wanted nothing more than someone to love him, and that's what he got! This handsome fellow is adored by his family, who says he is a real love-bug and "absolutely wonderful!"



Skipper (formerly "Trooper") spent most of his 10 months of life in a cage at a NY pet store, until he was given up to a local vet's office who contacted us. Skipper's sunny personality and irrepressible zest for life so charmed his foster mom, that she formally adopted him—much to the delight of his 2 Kerry "sisters"!



Blackjack was our PNA puppy, whose rescue was so stunning, and the end so tragic, that his full story appears on our web site (see Rescue Stories on our Rescue page).



"Angel" would be a perfect name for this little girl who died of a disease shortly after her rescue. She is with the angels now, and will not be forgotten by those whose lives she touched.



by Janet Joers, Rescue Director
rescue@kerryblues.info

Guinness came bounding into Rescue at 4 months old, bursting with joy, confidence, and enthusiasm, as if to say, "Let the games begin!" He is, of course, the smartest guy in his puppy class, and the apple of his owners' eye.



Mulligan is a soft-tempered, sensitive boy who suffered the effects of his puppy mill past. Today, he is gaining self-assurance under the expert guidance of his Kerry-savvy family—a labor of love, for sure!



Brenna was sold in a CA pet store and given up by her owner at 1 year old. Playful, energetic, and ready for action, this little girl is giving her Wheaten housepal a real run for his money!



STILL AVAILABLE!

Kirby is a healthy, active 9-year-old male who lost 2 homes—one to cancer and one to an overseas move. He does well with other dogs, is gentle with children, and friendly with everyone. Kirby is an affectionate boy with a strong will to please, and will make someone a delightful companion.



Projects

—continued from page 2

Rescue

The Foundation provides assistance to Kerries requiring rescue and owners requiring help with their Kerries.

Recently Completed

- Rescued and/or placed a total of 13 Kerries within 6 months.
- Rescued a PNA puppy and delivered him to researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia.
- Rescued 5 pet store Kerries, and 3 Kerries from a dog auction.
- Monitored 10 additional pet store Kerries that were sold.
- Attended (through our representatives) 4 dog auctions where a total of 40 Kerries were sold. For each auction, made arrangements for rescue, including payment, transportation, vetting, and foster care.
- Mentored owners of 12+ Kerries who were at risk of becoming homeless.

On-Going

- Provide an online Adoption Questionnaire which is being used by many breeders and rescue groups.
- Scan the web for Kerries in need through our Shelter Scout program.
- Review up to 5 Adoption Questionnaires weekly to find our Rescue Kerries the best possible homes.

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Newspaper Scout Program

UPDATE!
by Tom Sawyer

The Foundation has been monitoring major city newspapers for Kerry Blue Terriers for sale. When an ad is listed, we place a counter ad requesting that the prospective buyer obtain knowledge about Kerries prior to a purchase—a “Know before you buy” ad. This year we placed close to 200 ads across the USA and Canada.

Several Kerry owners have notified us about Kerries for sale in their area newspapers and this has been a tremendous help.

Does placing a counter advertisement really help? You bet. Not only does it inform prospective Kerry owners about responsible breeders, it also provides a chance to explain rescue programs and Kerries in general.

Could we make this program better? Yes. People like to call a phone number in their

area. If you would like to talk Kerry, then by all means volunteer for this program. Right now the program is re-active (ad placed when an ad has been seen). It would really help if Kerry clubs would become pro-active and periodically place an ad providing Kerry information (a benefit for the organization and breeders).

But does any of this do any good? After talking to hundreds of prospective buyers the answer is definitely yes. What about the non-responsible breeder? Unfortunately, they have called too! They certainly do not like our counter ads, which just proves our ads are working! C'mon and monitor those ads and volunteer to speak Kerry.

Email: sawyertom@comcast.net
Tel: 972/393-9444

Shelter Scout Program

UPDATE!
by Janet Hopkins

Each morning—somewhere between feeding Flurry, our Kerry, and setting out to do the day's errands—I do my most important work. I call it “Looking for Murphy”—the first Kerry that adopted me in 1986. Perhaps today will be the day that I find a new “Murphy,” a Kerry Blue turned into an animal shelter as a stray or as an unwanted pet needing medical attention. I utilize the facilities of www.Petfinders.com to do most of my searches, and scan at least 10 or 12 breeds a week since there is always a potential that an ungroomed Kerry Blue might be identified as a Bouvier, a Portuguese Water Dog, a Poodle, a Schnauzer. This list goes on and on.

Have I found a “Murphy”? Yes! Have I found other purebred dogs, such as Puli and Wheatens, for referral to specific breed rescue organizations? Yes! This technique works for a Foundation Shelter Scout such as myself, but there are many shelters and rescue

organizations that are not part of Petfinders. Currently, the Petfinders web site lists over 100,000 dogs, purebred and otherwise. It appears to me that the number of unwanted dogs is increasing every day with the arrival of large commercial breeders and “puppy stores” in the shopping malls of major cities.

The Kerry Blue Terrier Foundation could use more help scouting shelter web sites and sites of all breed rescue groups that are near to you or within your state. A few minutes a day, 30 minutes to an hour a week, can make a big difference to an unwanted Kerry Blue. Since I was adopted by “Murphy” the KBT in 1986, I have found my life so much better—richer, more fun, more caring. Helping Kerry Blues in need is my small way of saying thank you, not only to “Murphy,” but also to this wonderful breed of dog. Won't you say thank you by helping too?

Email: jhopkingsv@cox.net

President's Message

2004—A very productive year!

The first comprehensive survey of both frequency and incidence of health problems in our breed was an overwhelming success. We far exceeded our goal of receiving health data on 500 Kerries. The full report is available on the web site. Skin diseases and immune issues were the major problems in the breed.

Another project that has been in the works for several years is the puppy Contract and Bill of Sale. Many of the problems that arise between breeders and their puppy buyers could have been avoided if they had known each other's expectation at the time of the sale. The Foundation, in cooperation with the breeders, puppy buyers, and attorneys, has developed a contract that appears to be enforceable. It is available for all to use by simply downloading it from the web site.

Recently there were some breakthroughs in PNA research. The Foundation was happy to participate by providing an afflicted puppy to the research team in Columbia, Missouri. By having a live Kerry available, the researchers were able to study, validate, and test their recent identification of the gene that causes this fatal disease.

The Foundation has established a PNA fund. All donations to the fund are matched by a donation of the King Endowment. Please send your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope to help this important work.



PNA researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia, from left: Dr. Dennis O'Brien, Dr. Joan Coates (with Blackjack), Dr. Gary Johnson

The number of Rescue Kerries continues to climb. Our Rescue teams are bracing themselves for the next holiday season which always seems to be "dump-your-Kerry" time. Unfortunately, it is also the time our Rescue people are busy with their personal lives, yet are needed to work rescues. If any of our Rescue team members contacts you during this holiday season and asks for help, please don't turn your back to them. They need your help more than ever.

Finally, we should step back and take a look at why the Foundation exists and how it affects you. The Foundation was established to protect the Kerries in areas no one was addressing, or where efforts were inadequate. The breeders, the clubs, and the pet owners were not doing all that could be done to protect the Kerries. Some people who wished to do some good for the breed were turned away. The Foundation was established to form the structure so that those people, or anyone who wished to work for the breed, had an organization that supported their efforts.

If you have an idea that will benefit Kerries, feel free to make a proposal and we will work with you. The rest of you should consider working with the Foundation on existing projects. Page 2 lists some jobs we need to fill. Please help.

If you think the Foundation's work is worthwhile, please consider sending a generous donation in the enclosed envelope. All donations received before the end of the year are tax deductible in 2004. Your verbal support and encouragement are deeply appreciated, but only manpower and funding will continue our work.

John Van den Bergh
President
johnv@kerryblues.info

Projects

—continued from page 4

Health & Genetics

The Foundation assists in the funding of research for the benefit of the breed.

Recently Completed

- The first health survey of the breed that identified both the presence and prevalence of health problems. Some very interesting results are published on the web site.
- Through the AKC's Canine Health Foundation, funded a study for "Histocompatibility alleles conferring susceptibility to canine diabetes, immune-mediated thyroiditis, and immune-mediated hemolytic anemia." The last two diseases were identified by the survey as significant problems in the breed.
- Secured matching funds for PNA research: Your donation for PNA research is matched by the King Endowment.

On-Going

- Raise funds for H & G.
- Identify and fund research projects to benefit Kerries. The Board is currently evaluating several research projects.
- Build bridges between the Foundation and breeder clubs to do joint H&G projects.

Congratulations to the winner of the 2004 Fly Me Away raffle—Bridget Greer of Ontario, Canada! Bridget is hoping to find a special ski destination served by American Airlines.

A sincere thanks to all of you who purchased raffle tickets. You made the 2004 raffle the best yet!

Dog Contract and Bill of Sale

by John Van den Bergh

When a puppy is ready to be sold to its new home, both parties in the transaction—the breeder and the puppy buyer—need to understand each other's expectations. Too often, misunderstandings result because no written contract was used.

Until now, many breeders have avoided using puppy contracts because they claim they are unenforceable. In most cases they are right, but it doesn't have to be that way. The Foundation believes that a puppy contract can be made enforceable if it clearly outlines the responsibilities of each party, and both parties agree to them in writing.

With the help of many Kerry breeders and owners, a draft puppy contract was created. This draft was then

presented to an attorney for comment and improvement. The result is a solid, well thought out Contract and Bill of Sale that can be used by breeders and puppy buyers of all breeds.

The contract and its accompanying instructions are made available on the Foundation web site for all puppy buyers and breeders to use or modify as they wish (www.kerryblues.info/FOUNDATION/FORMS/DOGCONTRACT.HTML). The contract is not copyrighted, but rather, is provided as a free service to the dog community in the hope it will prevent disagreements between buyers and sellers of dogs.

We believe the contract, if properly completed, should be enforceable in most US states, Canada, and even in other countries.

If you are buying a puppy and your breeder does not provide you with a contract, you are encouraged to present this one to the breeder. If the breeder offers you a different contract, identify the differences with the Foundation contract, and make sure none of them are important in your situation. If the breeder dismisses the use of any contract, you should consider purchasing your puppy elsewhere to avoid potential problems.

We expect to update this contract over the years, and would appreciate your input. Please contact the Foundation at johnv@kerryblues.info.

This project was made possible through the donations of the Kerry community to the Foundation's Education Fund.

Address Service Requested

P.O. Box 1495, Solvang, CA 93464



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