

Our New Look

A facelift of the Kerry Blue Terrier site was long overdue. The new web site is more than just a pretty face; it is completely redesigned to make it easier for you to find what you need and for us to be able to add more content.

When you visit the Foundation site at <http://www.kerryblues.info>, you will first see a list of new articles and updated directories.



Across the top of the page, you will notice a new menu bar. It lists the three main function of the Foundation: Breed Info (education), Rescue, and Health & Genetics. We've also added information about the Foundation and an extensive Resources section. The top menu bar also includes the powerful Google search tools to search the site and the world wide web.

By selecting an option from the top menu bar, the left menu column will be updated with detailed topics. By clicking on any of these topics, the left menu will expand and allow you to select subtopics. Most subtopics will then list a selection of articles.

It was a real challenge to design easy access to the approximately 1000 articles about the breed. Now that the redesign is complete, more time can be dedicated to new content and new features.

Health Survey 2004, Update

Daryl Enstone, MSc, Survey Coordinator

In the fall newsletter issue, you received the 2004 Kerry Health Survey questionnaire form and introductory article, and now it's time for an update. The survey project is well underway: as of the end of January, responses for over 170 dogs have been received and more are arriving regularly. Dr. Sell has set up the database for the survey analysis and the data entry is underway. Entry of the survey responses will continue to proceed as the forms are returned until the deadline of May 31, 2004.

This survey will benefit the Kerry breed by updating our knowledge of health problems that affect the breed and, in addition, will provide new, up-to-date information on the prevalence and severity of those problems. The survey format is recommended by the Canine Health Foundation, with whom we have deposited Health & Genetics funds for future health research specifically on Kerries. The knowledge obtained from this survey will aid in directing how those health funds are spent for health research projects. The Foundation is also prepared to finance smaller health projects directly, and survey results will help guide the funding decisions. Survey feedback will also be useful to breeders when they are planning their breeding programs, which in turn will have a great effect on the future health of the breed. That's a

lot of influence obtained from simply filling out and returning the survey form.

Which dogs are eligible to be included in the survey? Any Kerry living in the past five years, including those who have since passed away. This includes show and breeding stock, companion dogs, and rescue dogs. Breeders can help by encouraging their puppy buyers to fill out the survey; additional forms are available on request. To help prevent duplicate responses, if you have transferred a dog to a new owner, please do not fill out a form for that dog, but do encourage the new owner to respond.

Remember, all survey responses are confidential, and no one within the Kerry fancy, including people associated with the Foundation, will have access to the individual survey forms. The survey analysis summary will be prepared by Dr. Sell once all the responses are obtained and compiled, and it will be promptly released to the Kerry community.

Thank you to all those who have filled out and returned their forms already – your efforts are greatly appreciated. If you have not yet completed the survey, please take a few minutes now to do so. Your response will make a difference!

To request a survey form: 1-800-532-2890, ext. 1

Projects Update

Education

The Foundation educates the public about the Kerry Blue Terrier through a comprehensive computer web site—<http://www.kerryblues.info>—and its internet newsletter, KB-L.

Recently Completed

- Made arrangements with the publisher of Edith Izant's book to put four chapters of *The Kerry Blue Terrier* on the web site. These chapters are about the history of the breed and will greatly facilitate research about the breed.
- Redesigned the appearance and structure of the web site for an updated look and greater ease of use.

On-Going

- Place ads in newspapers to counter puppy 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.
- Update directories of breeders, groomers, handlers, and trainers.
- Pose Question of the Week.
- Advertise in dog magazines.
- Continue to add new web content.
- Publish "Best of KB-L."

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Setting the Standard in Kerry Rescue

John Van den Bergh, President

The original goal of our Rescue program was to promptly respond to, rescue, and place every Kerry in need—our "No Dog Left Behind" program. Now, 2 years later, we have added a new goal: to be one of the best rescue groups out there.



Our Rescue Kerries

To our Rescue Kerries we provide:

- prompt rescue, regardless of age or health
- a complete veterinary exam and diagnostics immediately after rescue, prior to entering a foster home

To do that, we have established contacts with a number of respected professional breed rescue groups—groups like the Cairn Terrier Rescue Network, Wheatens In Need (WIN), Westie Rescue of California, and others—and learned much from their experiences. We have also developed relationships with a number of shelters, both public and private, and been approved for preferential treatment when a Kerry is impounded.

In addition, we are building on our experience in working with shelters and pet stores, in screening prospective adopters and making placement decisions, and in expanding our network of volunteers.

Here is a quick rundown of what our Rescue program provides.

The Shelters

To shelters we provide:

- a "Kerry Identifier" handout written exclusively to help shelter personnel ID our breed
- positive Kerry identification
- a toll-free 800 number and near round-the-clock hotline support
- a 3-hour response time
- an opportunity to work with a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization like themselves (especially valuable to those shelters that won't work with breed clubs)
- donations, in addition to adoption fees, for their help with our breed
- courtesy follow-up information after the adoption
- legitimacy, given our adoption screening tools, contracts, and agreements with Rescue volunteers

Every shelter is treated with courtesy and respect, and help is always extended.

- immediate spay/neutering, other required surgery, and ongoing medical treatment as needed
- foster care in a home environment where they are treated like members of the family—we do not "warehouse" our dogs in kennels or crates
- initial bath and trim, followed by regular grooming
- evaluation of the dog's temperament and behavior, and training if needed
- a posting on our web site to reach the largest number of applicants to ensure not just a good home, but the perfect one
- a fully screened home that completed our 8-page Adoption Questionnaire, was interviewed, reference-checked, and home-checked, and carefully matched to the dog's temperament and needs

No Kerry is ever returned to a shelter, or left in a shelter to be visited by our prospective adopters, or denied rescue because of its age or health or pedigree.

Our Foster Families

To our foster families we provide:

- an opportunity to do something meaningful and rewarding for the breed
- a Foster Family Agreement that outlines responsibilities and sets the standard for quality foster care
- regular updates on the placement process and the option of participating in the selection of a permanent home
- reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses
- the safeguard of allowing only vet-checked Rescue dogs into their home, especially when other dogs are present
- insurance coverage while the dog is in their care

—continued on back page

Rescue Activities

by Janet Joers, Rescue Director
rescue@kerryblues.info

Within 3 1/2 weeks at the end of last year, the Foundation rescued 4 Kerries throughout the country (IL, MI, IN, and FL)—two on the same day! Since then another Kerry was rescued (TN), another remains with its owner awaiting a new home (CA), and 2 Kerry mixes (CA, TX) are receiving help from the Foundation. All 5 Rescue Kerries have been placed.

During this time, several Kerries “got away.”

- A PA shelter alerted the Foundation to the imminent surrender of an 8-year-old “show bitch” which failed to materialize. The owner apparently placed her privately.
- A 7 1/2-year-old male was surrendered to a TN shelter, then was reportedly retrieved by his owners the next day.
- A 10-year-old male in TX remains confined to a crate in a laundry room because the owners are unwilling to relinquish him.

- Three Kerries were sold in a MO auction—all to the same puppy miller.
- Six Kerry puppies were found in pet stores, and all—with the possible exception of one—were sold at discounted prices. One pup was over 6 months old, having spent half her life alone in a cage.
- A litter of Kerry/Golden Retriever mix puppies was born in TN and placed by the owner.

In addition, the Foundation provided assistance to 2 Kerries rescued by 2 Kerry Clubs—the KBTCNC and the KBTC of Canada.

We’d like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for all their support and willingness to help these Kerries in need. Even with their donated services, rescuing Kerries is expensive. Please consider making a donation to help continue our work.

Our Recent Rescue Kids

Cricket was rescued at 4 1/2 months old



from an IL pet store where she sat unnoticed for 2 months. Unsocialized, untrained, and full of herself, Cricket has since become quite a lady in her new home where she gets the love and training she needs, along with plenty of homemade peanut butter cookies!

Casey was recovered from a FL shelter that



humanely clipped him down after months (years?) of neglect. Awesome in conformation with a temperament to match, Casey now plays in the snow with a full coat of hair.

Sprite, possibly a Kerry/Schnauzer mix, was



recovered from an IN shelter at about 4 months old. She was adopted by longtime Kerry owners who are completely delighted with her sweet and spunky personality.

Jonah was surrendered to us shortly after



his 1st birthday by his owner who had purchased him from a pet store in MI. He was adopted by a family who promptly dubbed him a “one-man comedy team” because he kept everybody constantly in stitches—and even entertained the cat! What a ham!

Jagger lived outside in freezing temperatures



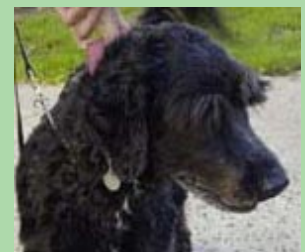
until his rescue. Once indoors, he curiously poked his nose into every closet, drawer, and corner, and discovered the joys of a soft warm bed and people to love him.

These Kerries Need Homes!

The Foundation is assisting in the proper placement of a champion Kerry (CA) and 2 Kerry mixes (CA and TX) that temporarily remain with their owners. Full descriptions and more photos appear on our web site at www.kerryblues.info/.



Celt is a healthy, active 9-year-old champion male in Southern CA.



Smokey is a good-natured, happy-go-lucky 8/10-year-old Kerry/Lab male in Southern CA.



Calamity Jane is a very sweet 2-year-old Kerry/Lab or Schnauzer mix near Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX.

FLY ME AWAY!

Raffle 2004



If the winter blahs have you down, it's time to think about your next vacation. To that end, we are announcing our 2nd annual raffle—2 free tickets to just about anywhere you want to go! The drawing will be held July 4, 2004.

Whether you've dreamed of attending Crufts, Westminster, or Montgomery, or visiting a major European city like London, Brussels, Paris, or Rome, or just hanging out on a tropical beach somewhere, you can go there.

For a \$10 raffle ticket, you can win:

1 2 roundtrip coach tickets to *any* city served by American Airlines® or American Eagle® in Europe, North America, South America, the Caribbean, and Hawaii. Travel is also valid *from* any city served by American Airlines—that's good news for our friends in other parts of the world. Some restrictions apply, but not many. Tickets must be used by May 15, 2005, they cannot be traded for cash, and travel is subject to seat availability.



2 Plus we even pay for the taxes on your tickets and all the delivery charges.

Ready to go? Just complete and return the tickets attached with your check for \$10 each or \$50 for 6, or fill out the credit card form below. You can charge your raffle tickets on any major credit card—even European and Canadian cards. Need more tickets? They can be printed from our web site at: <http://www.kerryblues.info/>.

All proceeds benefit Kerries—reason enough to participate!

Note: All Kerry Blue Terrier Foundation Board members and their immediate family members are excluded. Ticket purchases are not tax-deductible, nor are they doubled with matching funds.

Credit Card Donation

I _____
(name as it appears on the credit card) authorize the Kerry Blue Terrier Foundation to charge my credit card:

every month every quarter every year, or
 one time only in the amount of US\$ _____

I am purchasing _____ tickets (1 for \$10, 6 for \$50)

Visa MasterCard Discover/NOVUS Cards
 American Express JCB
 Diners Club/Carte Blanche

Account number (16 digits): _____

Name of bank: _____

Expiration date: _____

Authorized signature: _____

Telephone or email: _____



**FLY ME AWAY
ON A TRIP FOR 2!**
\$10 Raffle Ticket

Name _____
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Enter by 6/30/04 P.O. Box 1495, Solvang, CA 93464



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Thanks to you . . .

We are now in our third year of serving the Kerry Blue Terrier.

In 2003 we achieved our fundraising goal of \$17,500, and our donor base increased by 45%.

We completed our registration in Canada as a "Society" (a public charity), and are looking forward to working with our Kerry friends across the border.

I'm happy to report that we are now realizing more and more cooperation from the Kerry breeder clubs. Many breeders now recognize the solid work we are doing on behalf of the breed, and realize that any organization dedicated to protecting Kerries is not a threat to their clubs.

2004 will see some major changes in our web site, the expansion of many of our programs, and the implementation of a few new services. It all depends on the number of volunteers we can enroll.

The 2004 Health Survey will be our guide in funding Health & Genetics projects to help the Kerries, the owners, and the breeders.

Please join us by volunteering, purchasing a raffle ticket, or making a donation to benefit the breed.

Thanks to you, our work continues.

Very truly yours,



John Van den Bergh, President
johnv@kerryblues.info

Updates

—continued from page 2

Rescue

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

Recently Completed

- Last holiday season was "dump-your-Kerry" time. The Foundation rescued 4 Kerries within less than 4 weeks, including 2 on the same day! All are placed and doing well.

On-Going

- Provide an online Adoption Questionnaire which can be used by all Kerry breeders and rescue groups.
- Scan the web for Kerries in need through our Shelter Scout program.

Health & Genetics

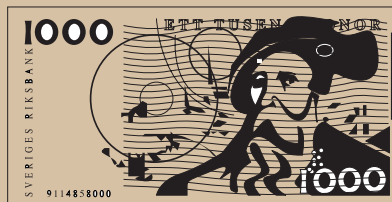
The Foundation assists in funding research of Kerry health & genetics projects, and supports the existing health registries for data collection and dissemination on disorders that may afflict our Kerries.

Recently Completed

- Published multiple health-related articles on the web site.
- Provided the free use of a donated cart especially sized for Kerries with hip problems.

On-Going

- Distribute a comprehensive health survey.
- Raise funds for H&G.
- Identify and fund research projects to benefit Kerries.
- Build bridges between the Foundation and clubs to do joint H&G projects.



Our 2003 raffle winners went to Europe

"We will never forget this trip. It was more than we could ever have dreamed of. We enjoyed many happy days with our family and friends. So thanks again to you and your organization—the Kerry Blue Terrier Foundation."

—Liz and Clay

Setting the Standard in Kerry Rescue—continued from page 2

- ongoing support, advice, and help of all kinds

Our foster families are worth their weight in gold! No Kerry is ever “parked” with them and forgotten. Every day a dog is in foster care, someone is working to find it a home.

Our Adopters

To our adopters we provide:

- breed education and guidance, and encouragement to research and meet the breed before pursuing adoption
- a written evaluation of the dog’s temperament, behavior, and training needs
- complete documentation on the known health history of the dog
- a personal home visit with a Kerry person and the chance to ask ques-

tions, and, whenever possible, meet the dog in advance

- a cooling-off period before making an adoption decision
- local resources and referrals for grooming, ear-pasting, training, veterinary care, and more
- an Adoption Contract to help avoid misunderstandings and to ensure the dog’s future well-being and its return to Foundation Rescue if the need arises
- support throughout the lifetime of the dog
- a dog that has been carefully matched with their lifestyle, expectations, and needs

Collectively, our adopters represent the cream of the crop of breed-knowledgeable, responsible Kerry owners.

Our Donors

To our donors we provide:

- the convenience of donating through Paypal or by credit card, and the acceptance of foreign currencies (Canadian dollars, euros)
- our guarantee that your donation will be carefully invested and wisely spent for the purpose you intended
- a prompt receipt for tax purposes and thank-you card
- acknowledgement of your contribution on our web site (if you so authorize)
- our respect and appreciation—always!

Without our generous donors, our Rescue work could not continue. Thanks to them, every Kerry in need has a place to go.



P.O. Box 1495, Solvang, CA 93464

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