



Rescue and Welfare Trust of the BTCA

Mission Statement of the Rescue and Welfare Trust of the Bull Terrier Club of America:

*To coordinate with local rescue associations' efforts to locate, obtain, house, evaluate and re-home

any abused or abandoned Bull Terrier. *To contribute to the financial support of homeless, abused or abandoned Bull Terriers, including medical and dental care, temperament and health evaluations, grooming, food and shelter requirements. *Promote educational opportunities regarding the breeding, care and keeping of Bull Terriers for the members of the BTCA and the general public. *Encourage and support health research projects conducted by reputable scientific researchers and their supporting institutions.

Just as the website is dedicated, so is this newsletter – with heartfelt gratitude to all Bull Terriers; and for what they teach each of us gracefully about living and love.

The Rescue and Welfare Trust is a 501c3 charity and all donations are greatly appreciated and tax-deductible. Thank you!

Chairperson: Glenna Wright glntom@aol.com

Trustees:

Melanie Whitehair sandstbt@rochester.rr.com

Susan Murphy susan778@aol.com

Barb Deevers geneva2168@yahoo.com

Ginny Baxter GinnyBax@aol.com

Visit:

www.bullterrierclubofamericarescue.com

Or Face book: Rescue and Welfare Trust of the BTCA

BTCA Rescue Hotline: 1-800-BTBT-911 or 800-282-8911.

Newsletter editors:

Debbi Kovash dkovash@msn.com

Christine Schuur cschuur@charter.net



From your editors: Adopt, Foster, Donate – A mantra you have undoubtedly read in other rescue publications. Why repeat it you ask? Because it remains a very apt and worthy

reminder for us all – it is our participation and support that makes happy endings possible in rescue. There is not a creature drawing breath, that does not need to feel safe and loved, has not needed a hand up when life just got too tough, or needed the protection and guidance of a guardian angel. Today, we ask you, on behalf of our displaced Bullies, to please be that helping hand, that guardian angel, earn your wings and halo; pitch in, help out, locally or nationally, in whatever manner you can. Remember, together, we can accomplish much.

Yay!! For Buddy and Zack (last issue) who have successfully transitioned into forever homes.

Debbi and I have been concerned about highlighting specific needs that Rescue may have. After talking to several of our trench-sloggers, it is evident that one of the most **urgent needs is foster homes**. Please read the following article thoughtfully. Until next time, hug those Bullies tight.

Feature article: Fostering a Bull Terrier

Next to owning a Bull Terrier, there may be nothing more enjoyable or rewarding than fostering a displaced Bully. Even if you currently own one or more Bullies, you just might be able to fit in a temporary tenant. It can be tremendously fulfilling to know that you have helped an animal through a difficult period in their lives, and potentially even saved its' life!

Don't worry, there is no such thing as the "perfect foster profile" that you must fit into. You just need to be willing and available; and more than a little ready to risk your heart. There is a time commitment of anywhere from 3 weeks to several months. The routine dog-care articles are necessary: leashes, collars, crates, food, and bedding. It is prudent to decide ahead of time just how much of a challenge you are willing and able to undertake. For example, do you and your household lend itself better to just routine feeding, grooming and exercise i.e. sheltering an older dog, displaced due to divorce or death; or, can you accommodate a lively youngster, or potential behavior modification candidate, where training may be necessary to curb or extinguish behaviors? Fostering doesn't mean you must foster all types, and the rescue coordinators will rely on your input to facilitate the best rescue/foster-home match; and of course, those same advisors are available for



you to call upon to answer questions or concerns that crop up. It is also wise to remember that we work in gray zones here; there are no guarantees on exactly what will crop up. Expect the unexpected. Recall the story of Miley and Cyrus in the last issue - while the duo began their rescue journey as loving companions, they lost "that loving feeling", unpredictable yet true.

Some fosters require veterinary care and medications. If you take in an animal recovering from an illness or disease, check in advance with your veterinarian if you have concerns about the health of your own dogs.

If the foster Bully has not been evaluated prior to coming to you, keeping the animal in a separate, quiet space to de-stress and re-acclimate is ideal. Rescue guidelines require this settling in period to be of at least 3 weeks. Consideration can be given to the use of soft background music, pheromone dispensers, rescue remedy, or check with your veterinary advisor on the use of melatonin and theanine to help calm the adrenal load. Thyroid levels can be checked, as low thyroid function can exacerbate behavioral issues. Bland diets are recommended to prevent intestinal upset. Whatever can be done to promote rest, de-stressing and re-balancing prior to behavioral evaluation is ideal.

Foster homes take care of the physical needs of their charges, and are also asked to put the Bully through its' paces; identifying what the dog likes or dislikes, tolerates or not, observing and reporting the limitations and emotional baggage that show up, and hopefully discovering any hot buttons. The BTCA Rescue Trust is oriented to ultimately achieve a successful adoption, and try like heck to prevent a "problem child" slipping through the cracks, especially an aggressive one. This helps us avoid liability issues for the BTCA and the Trust, and most importantly - it preserves good Breed reputation.

Steve Block, a foster parent, has generously shared some of his thoughts on fostering. Thank you!! Steve, both for your wisdom and for the fostering of Maggie:

There have been many things that I have learned about fostering a dog from a shelter. Shelter dogs need a chance to recover from the stress of being kenneled. The foster home can get an opportunity to see if there are behavior problems and try to correct them. Fostering can give you an idea of why the dog might have been surrendered.

Older dogs are prime candidates for fostering. They may be overlooked at shelters since they are too big, and unruly. They are past the puppy stage, but still may have plenty of energy to make them difficult to be placed. If given enough time and training these dogs may now become great loving pets in a permanent home, rather than be euthanized for lack of space in a shelter.

Aside from regular day-to-day care (feeding, grooming, exercise), the responsibilities of a foster home may include basic training (housetraining, walking on leash, sit, down); behavior modification (to correct problems such as jumping, mouthing, barking, destructive chewing, dashing through doors); socialization and temperament evaluation (to determine whether the dog is good with different types of people and other animals); medical care (dispensing medication, taking the dog to vet appointments), and of course plenty of playtime and snuggling.

Since I started fostering, I have discovered that there are a number of misconceptions about the true purpose of fostering a dog. Some people view fostering as a trial period to determine whether they want to adopt a dog permanently. Some start out with the right intentions, but become too attached to the dog and are unable to give it up. Others are only willing to foster one particular dog that they already feel an attachment to. Some potential adopters think fostering is a good way to get a free dog, free vet care and supplies. In my opinion, none of these attitudes reflect the true spirit or intent of foster care programs.

Fostering is not a way to get a free dog. It is not a trial period before adoption. And it certainly isn't easy. Fostering is a way to help a dog that really needs you. At times, it's incredibly stressful. It requires dedication, hard work, and serious time commitments. **SB.**

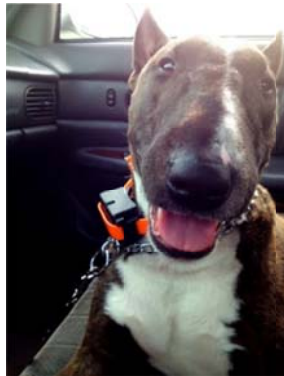
Clearly foster homes are one of the most essential components of the rescue system. It is incredibly important and useful work. Without them, many Bullies would be euthanized. Foster families help to shelter, rehabilitate, care for and generally love many worthy but fragile Bull Terriers right into forever homes. What noble folks, and a noble undertaking – BRAVO!



Dexter - is ready and eager to go to his forever home. – Dexter as you can see is an adorable white bull terrier with a large black eye patch and weighs about 45 pounds. Since he is only about a year and a half he is still full of puppy energy and enthusiasm. Dexter has undergone professional training lessons to curb his puppy enthusiasm. He is also crate and leash trained, however he may need a refresher course on house training. Since Dexter is reactive to other dogs, he must go to a home as an only pet so that he can focus on maintaining the training he has received and also a home that is **bull terrier experienced**. Dexter is currently being fostered in the Santa Rosa, CA area. If you are interested in Dexter please contact Susan Murphy at susan778@aol.com



Ella –is a retro bull terrier - Ella is 10 to 14 months old, and is a real old fashioned girl. She is tall and leggy, and very 1880's in style, her nose and eye color are liver. Ella is not only smart and friendly but good with other dogs as well (provided she's not overwhelmed). Ella's a darling and a very sweet girl. However she is **Very** interested in cats. This may be rectified with the proper training and careful management, but only with someone savvy and dedicated. If you are interested in performance, rally- or agility then Ella's your gal. The only place you will ever find a bull terrier quite like Ella is in India, where a bull terrier still looks like the original bull terrier bred by Hinck's. If you chose to give Ella a forever home you will truly have a unique and special bull terrier. Contact Victoria (corsairebt@yahoo.com)



Patton –or General Patton as he prefers. Patton is a 2 year old outgoing brindle and white boy looking for a new forever home. He was doing very well at first in his foster home, but then started having jealousy issues. He wanted all the family's attention. Many other terriers are just like Patton, wanting the attention one on one, so he will need a home where he is the only pet. He is a very loyal boy who waits for his foster dad's return with anticipation!!!! Please give this boy a second chance, he certainly deserves one. He is being fostered in Idaho. Contact Glenna at (glntom@aol.com)



Rukus is just looking to play play play! Rukus is a handsome tri color boy 2 years old and about 56 pounds. He is house, leash and crate trained. Rukus is a very sweet boy and wants to be a good boy but he tends to like to run the household. He needs a family that will be in control and one that has had experience with a bully breed or a large outgoing dog. Rukus has started training and will **definitely** need to continue in his training. Rukus is not always good around other dogs and no cats. Rukus is too rambunctious for young children. He is a very smart dog and continues to learn each day. Rukus will require a home with no other pets and a secure fenced yard. He is not suited for apartment living. Contact Glenna (glntom@aol.com)



“Hi! There, my name is Raider”: Raider is a 3-4 year old tri-colored male, fairly small so better lap size!! And who can resist that face??!! He is a gentle and very well-mannered dog, who loves kids. He’s also very smart - he can sit, down and shake. He prefers the life of an only pet, and would do best with a securely fenced yard to play in. Please help us find Raider the best family and forever home. Contact May Ross in Dallas, txgal2x2@yahoo.com.



Maggie – Adopt this Beauty Queen She was found in an empty house, in a locked bathroom with no food or water. When she was in the shelter she played with a pit bull nicely, but has not been socialized with other dogs since. She is about 4 or 5 years old and about 50 pounds. Maggie loves children. She knows the basic commands, walks well on a leash, and is crate and house trained. She loves to cuddle and give kisseS and would love to be someone's best girl. She is currently being fostered by Steve and Shelley Block. Please contact either Steve Block at adobebullterriers@netzero.com or Heidi Clayton at jpony543@comcast.net.



Dozer is a Texan too!! He was owner surrendered, flea infested, covered in sores, but still a happy and gentle cowpoke!!! He too is 3-4 years old, and with great care by the vet and his foster family, Dozer is healing spirit and body. He loves people, his ball, and is good with other dogs and children. Oops, small issue, he can climb a fence!! He promises to be a good boy for his new forever home; once there, he never wants to leave again!! Please help us find a happy ending for Dozer. Contact Glenna (glntom@aol.com)



Tammy aka the ever ready bunny – Tammy as you can see is a real Beauty, a fawn smut of middle age, filled with loads of energy. However she does not like the company of other animals and must go to a home as an only pet. Tammy needs to go to an active family as she is high energy and requires a lot of exercise. Tammy needs a home with a fenced yard so she can work off some of that exercise. She is fine with children over 8 years but she may be a little bit too rambunctious for younger children. Tammy is ready to pour out her love on a family who will love her in return. Contact Glenna (glntom@aol.com)

Thank you! Ruthy Stephan for the artwork!!





The following article was submitted by Susan Murphy. Thank you! Susan for thinking of us- we appreciate it!

The Joys of Adopting an Older Dog

Let's admit it: We have a youth bias. Puppies and young dogs up to about three years of age are the first to be adopted in shelters and rescues up and down the country. Meanwhile, dogs older than seven – or as young as five- are overlooked, which means they are often the first to be euthanized when space runs out. For many potential adopters, it's an obvious choice. Who wouldn't want as much of a dog's lifetime as you could get? Nobody looks forward to the inevitable physical decline and eventual loss of a loved companion and it makes sense to postpone that heartbreak as long as possible. But these considerations, while certainly valid, leave out a great deal of important information.

Older dogs, for example, are often easier to live with than their younger confreres. They are usually house-trained, may have learned polite manners, rarely require daily marathon exercise sessions, and have left most youthful follies behind, which means they won't chew up the living room rug or pull shoulders out of sockets when walked. Senior dogs are low-maintenance dogs. By contrast, puppies and teenage dogs require round-the-clock monitoring and attention – and they're blank slates. What does "no" mean? When is it okay to plant muddy paws on clean slacks? Oh, never? They have no idea and must be patiently taught everything. What's more, maturity in a dog equals predictability. Size, personality, grooming requirements; it's all there in plain view. Not so for puppies, who may grow up into Rosemary's Dog (Baby).



(Above is a photo of two of our favorite "mature" gentlemen –each infamous in their own right - "Billy", English and American Champion Aricon's Chief Eye Shy ROM, comfy in the lap of Arthur Miller, Brobar Kennels) We had the distinct honor and pleasure of sharing Billy's retirement years. We have added several older dogs to our household over the years. Yes, the time together is more compressed, but we would never trade a single moment of our time with any of them. They always gave much more than they were ever given. We are richer for their love. If an opportunity to adopt a mature Bully ever presents

itself to you, I suggest you embrace it enthusiastically; as Cynde Morse would say, "old dogs are best" CS.

K-9 Kitchen:

Henrietta Morrison's Hearty Stew for Bullies:

- 1 pound chicken (breast, thigh or ground)
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- 3 or 4 parsnips, peeled and diced
- 6 large carrots, peeled or scrubbed and diced
- 1 teaspoon dried (or 1 tablespoon freshly chopped) herbs – parsley, rosemary, thyme or turmeric
- 1 cup oats
- 2 sweet eating apples peel, core and grate
- 2 Tablespoons runny honey
- 1 teaspoon ground flaxseed

1. Dice or chop the chicken
2. Heat oil in sauce pan, add meat and brown over medium heat.
3. Add vegetables, oats and about 1¼ cups water (enough to cover all ingredients). Bring to a boil, reduce heat and cover and simmer for 20 minutes.
4. When the stew has cooked add the apples, honey, herbs and flax seed into the stew and stir. Let the stew cool and serve it to your bully warm but not too hot.



Helping Hands and Angels Needed

Reggie is a 2 year old Bully, turned into the BTCNE rescue, after being hit by a car. Routine casting and treatment for his broken leg was undertaken by the regional club, and then Sharon McGee lovingly nursed this boy for over 10 weeks. Unfortunately, the leg did not heal as hoped, and surgical intervention became necessary and was subsequently performed at Tufts Vet School. There have been extensive costs for care. The Rescue Welfare Trust is helping, but additional costs for specialized bandaging and rehabilitation remain on the horizon. We know that many of you have already graciously responded to the Facebook postings for Reggie, and your generosity is appreciated. If you have not yet had a chance to respond, please consider making a donation toward this worthy cause. Even a donation equivalent to the cost of a designer coffee aids the cause, and makes a **HUGE** difference. . Checks can be sent directly to Ginny Baxter the new treasurer **or there is a PayPal button available on the BTCA Rescue Website:** (www.bullterrierclubofamericarescue.com). **Just remember to designate your donation to Reggie's care. Thank you!! All.**



And Now For Some Happy Tails!!!!



ZACK: Every dog must have his day. Mine was 8 months ago when I was adopted into my forever home. Love to all of you active in the Rescue Trust for your support.

Love, Zack.

(We thought the pictures alone speak more eloquently than any story.)



Bryan: the beginning of the journey.

Bryan was hit by a car last April and turned into MHBTC rescue. Initially, it was feared that he would lose his leg. After splints, wraps, therapy and lots of TLC by Barb Deevers, his leg was saved and rehabilitated. Bryan was adopted by the same forever home as Winslow, see last issue. (Talk about helping hands and guardian angels!) He has since gone on to become a huge hit as a model for Target . Life is good! Says Bryan.



Journey's End – Home sweet Home!!



It's a Bully thing