

# April 2024 Newsletter



To our dear Kerry Blue Terrier friends and family,

We'd like to start by thanking all those who have donated, fundraised, supported us and offered to help us with our rescue work. We really do appreciate it. A special thank you goes to Leanne Pugh who very kindly donated the proceeds raised at her father's funeral. We were very humbled by this wonderful gesture and his memory will live on through all the lovely dogs we continue to help. We also have a very special thank you to give to a fabulous behaviourist, Penny Hough. Penny has given all her behavioural work on one of our dogs for free. This work has turned the dog's life around and she is now living with another Kerry as well as behaving out in public. We are truly hoping that this little dogs' foster period will continue the way it has done so far and that we will be announcing another happy adoption soon. Penny is based near Liverpool and if you're looking for advice, we would happily make an introduction for you. Thank you all for being part of this amazing adventure but more importantly for promoting our dearly loved breed and our Rescues presence in the wider world.

## The Rescue in General

The Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue has reached seven and a half years old, and we continue to work tirelessly to make a difference to the lives of many kerries and their owners. Like all the rescues we talk to we are very overworked and have been for at least a year and a half.

In the 6 months to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024:

- 🐾 We have had 10 dogs adopted. A further dog sadly passed away from pneumonia before we could get him into the lovely home that had been arranged for him.
- 🐾 We have another 5 dogs who are currently in foster care: and a further one currently being onboarded.
- 🐾 We have given advice and guidance to a further 14 homes, who we hope will continue to work with their dogs in the knowledge that we will always be there for them, however their adventure unfolds.
- 🐾 Every year we also see kerries that we have worked with make their way over the rainbow bridge. No loss goes without the sadness of our team and our heartfelt condolences go out to all those involved.

## The Future of the Breed

The Kennel Club still have the Kerry Blue Terrier categorised as a vulnerable breed.

## The Result of the Pandemic

Much of the work that we are experiencing now is due to the effects of the last few years. We continue to work with dogs who have become accustomed to biting humans. When we first started our work seven and a half years ago many of our cases were more of the traditional problems e.g. dog / dog aggression, however there is a worrying trend that bad behaviours are becoming more normalised in homes, families work around those problem, and quite often the behaviour is excused for a long time by the owners as it being their fault and that the incidents result in "only a nip". Most of the time a nip isn't just a nip.

These cases require a lot of hard work, they're financially costly and time consuming as these homes require a lot of questioning by us and a case-by-case rehabilitation, all with the hope that the dog learns that there are other options available to it which doesn't require the use of its teeth. In every biting case we also need to find responsible and experienced people to take on these dogs and follow the rules set by us and the fully qualified behaviourists involved. Finding this type of person is very hard as these dogs are not your typical pets. This is very stressful physically and emotionally to the Foster parents too as the rules and routines are not part of normal dog ownership. Their job for a

long while after they take the dog into their homes is to continue with the guided advice and recommendations. We cannot thank our foster carers enough for what they do for us.

## Our Finances for the Year

### Income

We continue to rely on 3<sup>rd</sup> party fundraising events, generous monthly receipts from supporters, one off donations, sales of merchandise and percentages of sales given by businesses. We do not charge people giving up their dogs nor those taking on dogs, so our income streams are vital to our continued work. Our total income for the 6-month period is £9,298.

A special thanks goes to Stephanie and Maureen for handmaking all the lovely Kerry felt ornaments and gifts we saw over Christmas 2023; We raised a tremendous £635 for them. We've already seen proformas for next year's ornaments too and will be very excited to get those into the shop in October. Stephanie and Magnus have also raised £135 for the Rescue in payment for their talks and demonstrations at local WI meetings.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we'd like to say how appreciative we are to all those people who send in monthly donations to the Rescue. It is very comforting to know that because of these funds and your generosity we haven't had to turn a dog away because we are unable to meet our possible financial obligations. As I've said before we absolutely couldn't do what we do without you all.

### Expenditure

Our total expenditure for the six months amounted to £4,705. This is largely due to vets' costs amounting to £3,000. Seven dogs have needed medical treatment, two of whom came to us and needed neutering and one who need suspicious lumps removing.

Our independent accountant charges us around £540 each year and kindly continues to keep his cost to a minimum as he knows we are a very small rescue. We continue to negotiate discounts with kennels, vets and groomers wherever possible to minimise the impact on the rescues pocket. The remainder of the expenditure balance is made up of purchase of materials for Christmas decorations, postage, hoodoo costs, stationery, insurance, data protection, transport and fuel costs, website and Pay Pal expenses. Rest assured, we are financially able to meet all our commitments to the dogs we have in our care and a balance to help those who come to us in the future.

### Our Thanks

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to all those who have donated funds to us so that we have been able to continue to provide the standard of care that the kerries under our care have needed.

As well as people who donate on a monthly basis our supporters also include all the wonderful people who have donated their skills and expertise to raise funds for us:-

Aileen at [www.k9cleancoats.co.uk](http://www.k9cleancoats.co.uk)  
Peter at [www.peterbruce.co.uk](http://www.peterbruce.co.uk)  
Cara at [www.etsy.com/uk/shop/MaisieandMurphy](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/MaisieandMurphy)

Please do have a look at the links and make your order through them mentioning that you've come through us. Part of their proceeds will be paid to us.

On behalf of all the dogs who pass through us we want to say thank you to every person who has supported the Rescue and enabled us to help all the dogs. You're all amazing.

With love from the whole team of the Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue

Emma Bendel

Treasurer