

To our dear Kerry Blue Terrier friends and family,

Spring is finally in the air and things are looking brighter. We have a very big thank you to you all for your very kind donations, support and offers to help us through a fairly tough time. As you may remember from our Autumn Newsletter we have changed our process a little in order to comply with various rules and regulations around the UK and Ireland but hope that we will be able to return to a more normal process as restrictions become more relaxed.

The Rescue in General

As we have just completed four and a half years as the Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue, I thought that it would be nice to let you know how we, and you, continue to make a difference in the lives of many kerries and their owners. Since 1st October 2020 we have had 9 dogs who have found their forever homes and have been fully adopted by the families who lost their hearts to their kerry foster companions. We continue to speak to many of them regularly as well as provide updates to owners who have had to give up their dogs. We think of all those who come into contact with the rescue as part of a very big family and we really do work with some very remarkable people, with the biggest hearts. We currently have a further 4 dogs in foster homes and hope that they too will be adopted soon. One further dog has come in to us during this last week and he will be on his way this weekend to his new home. (post script – he's arrived at his new home 😊)

Our heartfelt love goes out to the families of kerries who have found their loving homes through us and whose dogs have made the final journey to cross over the rainbow bridge. We know that each kerry takes a part of everyone they meet during their lives with them and we are thinking of you.

One of the things that we have discovered along the way is that owners have often had to make the difficult decision to give up their dogs due to incompatible behaviour with family life. In many cases, this is absolutely the right decision but we have also seen that there are families who don't feel that they have yet explored every possible avenue in order to ensure that they can keep their dogs. We are able to give advice and recommendations on training and trainers and this has successfully seen 8 dogs who, to date, remain with their families and are being helped by accredited trainers in order to help them change their behaviours. Funds raised by the Rescue do not go towards this service but it is a nice add-on to what we do.

We have received over 100 requests for dogs during the last 6 months and forms have been sent out to each and every person. Nearly half of those have been completed and sent back to us and are held by us ready for what we predict will be very busy few years.

Our 6-month financials to 31st March 2021

Income

Thanks to some amazing supporters we have been able to accumulate funds for future dogs. This is due to many contributing factors, but a special mention has to go to Stephanie for her wonderful Christmas tree decorations, Christmas bunting and furry felt game. In total she raised £613.96 for the Rescue as a result of her beautiful handicraft. A further thank you goes to Aileen at K9 Clean Coats, Cara at Maisie and Murphy, Alison at Hounds in Pounds, Becki for her kind gifts of kerry photos which we used for "Choose the Kerry Names", Arty for his wonderful donation of handmade leads and Judith for her donation of wine stoppers, and coat which will come up in a future auction. I can't leave this section of "thank you" without a very special thank you to all of those wonderful kerry enthusiasts who donate monthly. I can't tell you all how much help it is to us knowing that we will not have to turn a kerry in need of attention away as we don't have the funds to be able to meet potential invoices.

We have agreements in place with the following people whereby if you purchase anything from them, they will send a donation to us. We are also currently working with a couple more too, so watch this space.

- Aileen at www.k9cleancoats.co.uk
- Peter at www.peterbruce.co.uk
- Cara at www.maisieandmurphy.co.uk/

Our Christmas campaign, sales of calendars and poop bags generated a further £900 for the Rescue, so a big thank you should also go to all those who bought a calendar packed full of kerries who have passed through the rescue.

Expenditure

Our expenditure has been much lower during the last 6 months and only 5 of the foster dogs have needed any medical attention, there have been no kennelling nor training costs and all of our foster parents have kindly purchased everything that the dog under their care needs, on their own accounts. As I've already said, I don't know how to thank everybody enough to show the deep gratitude that we feel.

The Future

As with many rescues we expect to be very busy as restrictions start to ease and the burden of "normal life" takes its toll on family life. We have seen an increase in the number of puppies and dogs during the pandemic and we are gearing ourselves up for a busy future, so it is paramount for us to start planning now. We have started on a strategic plan to ensure that we are able to cope with increased demand, whilst remaining kind, caring and professional in all that we do. Our belief is that whilst the Rescue is here, potential owners and owners of kerries will always have a place to come to for advice or help in the rehoming process.

As one of our supporters are part of our future and we hope that we can continue to count on you as much as we currently do.

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

Please stay safe, keep calm and Kerry on!

With love from the whole team

The Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue