

April 2026 Newsletter



To our dear Kerry Blue Terrier friends and family,

Every day we receive messages from incredible people. amongst which are messages from folk who have taken the brave decision to rehome their dogs, others who have chosen to start a new adventure, alongside calls from Rescue centres and State Pounds asking us to take Kerries in. However, in February Jo contacted us for the first time and literally stopped me in my tracks. She explained that her son Greg had died tragically just one week before his 18th birthday, two weeks previously, and she asked me if it would be all right to raise funds for the Rescue from funds donated in Greg's memory at the funeral. During the time Jo and I spent chatting I learned so much about Greg and his passions in life, especially one of his biggest ones, the bond that Greg shared with their dog Doug, a cross KBT and Lurcher. Greg's Celebration of Life took place on the 11th March and Doug did the family proud. He had been washed and groomed and wore a beautiful jumper and bow tie. It's not known how many chunks of cheese and sausage rolls he may have eaten but he behaved impeccably, loved by all. We were so humbled by the kindness shown by Jo and her family during a time of unbelievable sadness and the words "thank you" really don't feel adequate. Greg's memory will go on in our hearts and in our daily work as we help all those kerries find their paws in their new homes.

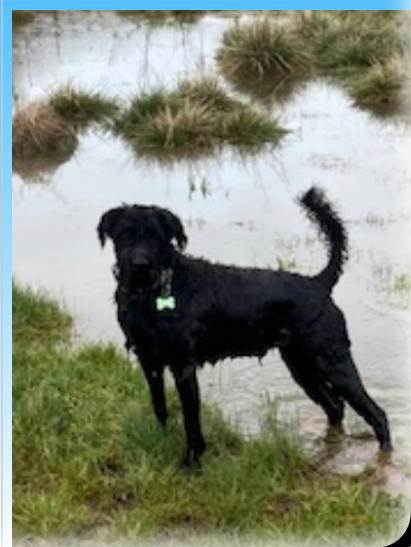
Greg with Doug



Doug dressed for the celebration!



Doug Enjoying the Water!



There have been so many different sources of fundraising, such as funds donated in lieu of sending Christmas cards, postage and various costs being paid for without request of reimbursement, dogs who have forgone their snacks in order to send us a donation and we have been very grateful recipients of them all. Aileen at K9 Clean Coats (<http://facebook.com/K9CleanCoats>) is still sending us a proportion of her funds received for every dog coat she sells to Kerry Blue Terrier owners. A special thank you also goes out to our wonderful group of sewing bees who kindly helped Stephanie by cutting and sewing many of the Kerry ornaments. Our own Peter designed and painted some beautiful painted wooden ornaments too and donated them to us for sale. Of course, we have a very special thank you for Stephanie who put together, decorated and packaged all our lovely Kerry felt ornaments.

This last six months we have seen a couple of dogs sadly pass over the rainbow bridge and donation made in their memory. It's the most heartbreaking part of an owner's adventures with their Kerry and our thoughts and love go out to their families and those pets left behind.



Big Thank You!

Lastly, a big thank you to Shona and Betty who have raised the profile of the Kerry Blue Terrier and our Rescue beyond belief during their challenge to conquer the Full House. Last year they climbed more than 1,000 summits and Betty became the very first dog to ever do this. Shona was involved in a whirlwind of media, appearing on Reporting Scotland, News at 7, Radio 5 Live, BBC1 National News and Radio 2 mid-morning news to name but a few and is continuing to do interviews and sending us funds.

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 nine and a half years old, and we continue to work tirelessly to make a difference to the lives of many kerries and their owners.

This last six months we have continued to see a shift in interest for the Kerry Blue, and we are struggling to find appropriate homes for dogs who show dog /dog aggression, separation anxiety and other issues that come up in day-to-day life. We have also seen a definite slow down in dogs coming into rescue and are quietly hoping that we are experiencing the new norm.

This last six months we have

- We have had 5 dogs adopted.
- We have another 2 dogs are currently looking for homes and a further 1 whose paperwork we are awaiting paperwork for her to come into Rescue.
- We have given advice and guidance to 6 more owners, who we hope will continue to work with their dogs in the knowledge that we will always be there for them.
- This year we have also seen 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 native breed. In 2025 only 57 puppies were registered with the Kennel Club (2023 - 96 and 2024 - 77 puppies were registered). We eagerly await information on the first quarter of 2026.

Our Finances for the Year

Income

We continue to rely on 3rd 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 was £7,200. Our Christmas sales income totalled an amazing £2,101 and total donations received during the same period have raised a further £4,297. Other income is received from Easyfundraising and sales of merchandise.

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 6 months to date amounts to £7,988. This is largely due to rehabilitation and kennel costs amounting to £6,200, transport costs and vets' fees another £556. Other costs are attributable to postage, merchandise, website hosting, Pay Pal and data protection costs. 2 dogs have needed extensive kennelling, training and behavioural assessments.

Our independent accountant charged us £560 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. 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.

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
30th April 2026