



# REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

## Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue

For the third annual period ended 30th September 2019.

### INTRODUCTION

The Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue (KBTR) has just completed its third full year rescuing and rehoming Kerry Blue Terriers.

As we solely rely on public donations and fundraising we feel that it's important to inform the public exactly how the rescue operates, how it's funded and to be completely transparent. Every year we compile both a Managing Director's report and Treasurer's Report which tells all of our supporters what's happened over the previous 12 months. This is something that we will continue to do each year end.

### OVERVIEW OF THE LAST YEAR

Well the end of September 2019 saw the third full year end and sadly for the rescue we saw no let up in there being a demand for the rescue and its services to be in place. We did see a drop in the number of Kerry's being rehomed year on year which is great, however we found ourselves giving out more behavioural advice and support than ever before. In April we changed our liability insurance so that we could confidently give advice to people contacting us with behavioural problems with their Kerry in the hope that we could prevent dogs needing to be rehomed.

Whilst we will never know for sure if the advice we've given did prevent a rehoming situation, (though we're certain in some cases it has) we do know that if these dogs had of needed rehoming, the rehoming numbers would of been the same as the last 2 years. That said, it's great that there has been a drop in numbers and that the advice and support we can now confidently give out seems to be having a positive impact.

Before I go any further with the rehoming statistics, I would like to say a massive thank you to two groups of people.

The first of these is you, those reading this who always support the rescue. Without all of you this rescue wouldn't be able to function. To all of you who donate, fundraise, volunteer, share posts or help in any way, we are so so grateful. All of the Kerry's that we help rehome are down to each and everyone of you. Even though you may feel you do little,

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you all do a massive amount to ensure that our much loved breed find their loving forever homes.

The second group I'd like to publicly thank are the small group who run the rescue on a day to day basis. Unless you're closely involved, you will never realise just how much time, attention, love, heartache, frustration and hard work goes into ensuring any Kerry who needs a new start can find it through the rescue and all of the work that goes in to ensure that rehoming parents have a point of contact and support. I am daily blown away and humbled by those who run this rescue and how much enthusiasm and passion they have despite the fact that everyone involved have very busy lives, jobs and families of their own and yet volunteer their time free of charge so that any funds raised only goes towards helping Kerry's in need. We may get frustrated and upset at times but never once have I ever heard anyone complain about playing their part. All of you are simply.....AMAZING.

As a result of being involved with the rescue we do hear from owners who have some seriously sad, heartbreaking and in some cases disappointing stories to tell. Whilst we will never divulge the information it is saddening that we continue to hear of lack of contact and support from some breeders and that puppies continue to be homed with inappropriate or ill educated homes.

We are concerned around litters from breeders who have no genuine interest in the breed and also a lack of awareness from buyers/owners about the true temperament of a Kerry and then a lack of awareness of how to deal with their dogs behaviours. We continue to hear from owners who have asked their breeder for help and advice but get little genuine help. If we're contacted we will always ask them to contact their breeder in the first instance but sadly our experience is that some still end up coming back to us for support or advice.

## **RESCUE STATISTICS**

For the year 30th September 2018 to 30th September 2019 the KBTR helped 19 Kerry Blue Terriers find their new loving forever homes. This was an decrease of 30% (or 8 dogs) on the previous year.

Interestingly the number of females being rehomed has remained about the same for the, it's the males we've seen a decline in numbers needing rehoming. Of the dogs we rehomed:

- 12 were male and 7 were females (64% / 37% split).
  - 9 dogs were rehomed due to changes in the personal circumstances of their previous owners (47%).
  - 9 dogs were rehomed for purely behavioural reasons (47%).
  - 1 was sadly rehomed after their previous owner passed away (6%).

- Of the 19 dogs we rehomed, we were aware of the dogs breeder in 11 of the cases (58%) and we didn't know who the breeder was for the other 8 dogs (42%)
- Of the dogs (11) whose breeder we were aware of:
  - 3 couldn't/wouldn't help when made aware of the dogs needs or were unknown/uncontactable by the rescue (27%), N.B. We do actively seek the help of the UK clubs if we hadn't heard of the breeder or didn't have contact details for them.
  - 5 actively helped us to rehome the dog in question (46%).
  - 3 were unable to directly help but were happy for us to rehome the dogs (27%).
- Where did these Kerry's come from?
  - 16 came from the UK (84%)
  - 2 came from the Republic of Ireland (11%)
  - 1 came from mainland Europe (5%)
- Of the 19 dogs we rehomed (for the first time since we started the rescue) We've rehomed all of the dogs directly by ourselves.

We received 4912 visits to the website and 11144 page views which is down year on year by 84%.

- I have to say that I take full responsibility for the reduction in the website visits and views. Due to work commitments I haven't been able to keep it as up to date as I'd like, hence we have been doing a lot of the rehoming through our social media pages.
- Whilst we have a Twitter page and YouTube channel, we haven't utilised these at all and there are no plans to change this in the immediate future.

## **FUTURE OUTLOOK**

- The financial support this rescue receives is simply amazing and as such we haven't had to ever turn a Kerry away regardless of the vet bills, emergency boarding or transportation costs we incur. In the coming months we'd like to be able have a network of dog free foster homes to be able to offer a home environment whilst they're loved and assessed to find their perfect loving forever home.

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- The Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue's "name" is now out there in the Republic of Ireland as a good, responsible rescue who complete home checks, dog assessments, vet checks, neuter, find the very best of homes and offer lifelong support and as such we believe that contact from owners looking to rehome their dogs in Ireland will increase. We are hoping to build a strong network of supporters and helpers to enable us to do this to the best of our ability.
- Sadly the rescue will not be attending Crufts this year but we'll be represented by the amazing rehomed Blue and his owners Nick and Deborah on the discover dogs stand.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

We now realise sadly (although I guess we've always known it) that there will always be a need for the Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue and without all of our supporters, this just would not be possible. Thank you so so much.

We'd also like to say thank you to the Kerry Blue Terrier Club of England and the Kerry Blue Terrier Association who continue to endorse us as a rescue.

We'd like the numbers of Kerry's needing help to drop but the statistics sadly show that we'll be rehoming between 20 and 30 dogs per year, let's hope we're wrong this year. Regardless of the numbers we will always be here and we're proud and humbled to have all of your continued support to enable us to give help to those Kerry's who need it. We hope you are proud of the Breed rescue you have helped to establish.

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