

# April 2023 Newsletter



To our dear Kerry Blue Terrier friends and family,

As always, I would like to start by thanking all those who have donated, supported us, and offered to help us with our rescue work. We really do appreciate it. There is another special group I would like to mention here too, the Kerry Blue Bark Up. They have worked together to promote the breed and educate the greater public in all things Kerry. Please look them up on Facebook or write to them by email at [kerrybluebarkup@gmail.com](mailto:kerrybluebarkup@gmail.com). They hold monthly walks in and around the London area, with people coming from as far as they can to join them, sometimes with their Kerries and sometimes not.

## The Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue in General

The Kerry Blue Terrier Rescue has reached 6.5 years old and what a 6-month period it has been. We have continued to work tirelessly to make a difference to the lives of many kerries and their owners.

In the 6-month period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023:

- We have had 10 dogs adopted from us. This has required an enormous amount of work, especially when you compare it to the full year last year where we had 11 dogs adopted.
- We have another 3 dogs who are currently in foster care and another 3 coming into us once their paperwork has been received. This doesn't include a further dog who will be going to her foster parent next weekend.
- We have given advice and guidance to a further 4 homes, who to date continue to work with their dogs in the knowledge that we will always be there for them, however their adventure unfolds.

## The Future of the Breed

The Kennel Club still have the Kerry Blue Terrier categorised as a vulnerable breed. From statistics shown we saw only 156 dogs registered in 2021 and only 122 puppies registered in 2022. We also understand that 5 registered Kerry Blues were exported in 2022. We are still seeing many litters of puppies appearing on sales platforms, along with social media sites along with other puppies who are being bred and sold by less experienced individuals. We have started to monitor the sales platforms for owners selling their dogs and recently we have been successful in rehoming a dog whose owner was contacted by us to tell them that there is a better way to rehome their dog. We are aware that we need to do more work on this front as there are many owners who don't think to contact us because they are unaware of us.

## The Result of the Last Couple of Years

We have not been left untouched by the effects of the last couple of years. Not only have we seen a lot more work with dogs being surrendered but we have also seen some alarming changes in behaviour. Last year we saw 5 dogs who had become accustomed to biting their owners, and any other folk who happen to be around, to get their own way, already this year we've seen another 4. This is very hard work, costly and time consuming as these dogs require 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 very carefully. Another effect that we've seen, especially when individuals wish to rehome their dogs urgently, is that we have been unable to find safe and secure facilities in which to kennel the dog, to complete full assessments on the various behaviours seen. Available kennel space is very hard to find quickly, and we are not yet big enough to have an emergency reservation for us 24/7. This leads to a lot of stress, both to the owner but also to those members of the team who are on the front line every day.

## Our Finances for the Period

### 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 have also been given some lovely gifts through the period to sell on our website or use in silent auctions. 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 totalled £10,304.08.

A special thanks goes to all the following people: -

- ✈ Stephanie for handmaking all the lovely Kerry felt ornaments and gifts that you saw in our shop over the festive period. Rumour has it that Stephanie has drafted the help of another lovely supporter and that we will see more designs next Christmas. Many of you will also know Stephanie and Magnus from our Facebook page as they often do fantastic fundraisers for us by giving talks and training demonstrations to groups of people.
- ✈ Claire B for the beautiful handmade Christmas cards.
- ✈ Aileen at K9 CleanCoats for her continued donations of a percentage of her sales of handmade bespoke dog coats. [www.k9cleancoats.co.uk](http://www.k9cleancoats.co.uk)
- ✈ Judith and various members of the Bark UP team (mentioned earlier) for their immense help to the rescue team on a regular basis. One of the founding members of the Bark Up lost her dog, Paddy and as a result we received several donations in his memory.
- ✈ Cara from Maisie and Murphy for her continued donations of a percentage of her sales of Kerry merchandise, all designed by her. [www.etsy.com/uk/shop/MaisieandMurphy](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/MaisieandMurphy)
- ✈ A special thank you from us all also goes to Amber Marie from [www.ambermariestudio.com](http://www.ambermariestudio.com) who donated 200 hand drawn cards to us in three different styles. These are for sale on our Rescue website. Please do take this opportunity to visit Amber's website if you are looking for anything Kerry Blue Terrier as she has some amazing gifts there including pillows, posters, stickers and blankets too.

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 period amounted to £9,495. This is largely due to residential behavioural work, assessments, and kennelling amounting to £7,100 (75% of total expenditure) on 5 dogs with a further £859 (9%) on medical treatment for 4 dogs.

Our independent accountant charges us around £500 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, minor foster expenses, hood costs, stationery, insurance, data protection, 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 healthy balance to ensure that we can continue with our work in the future.

### Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The annual accounts have been signed and filed and have been posted on our website.

## Our Thanks

Our deepest 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)  
Siobhan at [www.facebook.com/QualifiedDogGroomer](http://www.facebook.com/QualifiedDogGroomer) (Dun Barking)

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

