

October 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. A very heartfelt thanks goes to Leanne Pugh who very kindly donated the proceeds raised at her father's funeral and to Wendy Muat who sent us the proceeds of a collection made at Tony Muat's funeral. We were very humbled by these wonderful gestures and their memories will live on through all the lovely dogs we continue to help.

Our thanks also goes to Stephanie for her continuing donations made following her talks and demonstrations with Magnus at WI meetings. Also we would love to make a special thanks to our own Peter Bruce of Peter Bruce Portraits www.peterbruce.co.uk, Aileen Toynton from K9 Clean Coats www.k9cleancoats.co.uk, Amy for her donations made towards her dry month in June and to Alison from Hounds In Pounds for sending in commissions and donations.

Thank you also to the lovely people who have helped us with home-checks, assessments and finding kennel spaces at very short notice. Also to Penny Hough who 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. Penny is based near Liverpool and if you're looking for advice, we would happily make an introduction for you. Lastly a big thank you to the team of Scallywags and the Animal Rescue Cumbria for helping us with the dogs who have needed rehabilitation prior to us being able to move them safely into new homes.

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 eight 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 the last couple of years.

In the year to 30th September 2024:

- We have had 15 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 2 dogs who are currently in foster care, a further one in kennels and another undergoing training and rehabilitation: and a further one currently being onboarded.
- We have given advice and guidance to a further 21 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 Year

When we first started our work over 8 years ago many of our cases were more of the traditional problems e.g. dog / dog aggression, however we are continuing to see a worrying trend that bad behaviours are becoming more usual 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 is a bite with a nice name. Up until now we have taken these dogs into rescue without hesitation, however they are high risk to the rescue, the foster parents and they are hard work as well as being financially costly. 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. The behaviourists prepare a plan with strict training routines which must be strictly adhered to and finding a person with all these qualities is very hard as these dogs are not your typical pets. As a result of a few very difficult cases, we have modified our onboarding questionnaires and are requesting a lot more upfront work to be done by the owner, whilst being guided by us. This includes vets' appointments, behavioural assessments and training where this is possible. In our perfect world this is paid for by the owners rather than the rescue and we have a much fuller picture of what is going on with the dog. All of this is with the intention of assessing whether we can safely rehome the dog or if it will continue to pose a threat to humans due to the severe nature of the behavioural issue.

We cannot thank our foster carers enough for what they do for us.

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 year was £17,293.

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 November. Stephanie and Magnus have also raised £268 for the Rescue.

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 year amounted to £14,120. This is largely due to vets' costs amounting to £4,478 and another £4,578 on kennel and rehabilitation. Eleven dogs have needed medical treatment, two of whom came to us and needed neutering and two who need suspicious lumps removing.

Our independent accountant charges us around £550 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, printing, hoody 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 2024 Christmas Shopping Experience

Our 2025 calendars and Kerry Christmas decorations will be officially on sale from the 11th November. So please head to our website in November, have a look and make your order. Please send your order along with your postal address and telephone number in an email remembering to add your choice of ornament to me, Emma at kbtr.sales@gmail.com and I will send you the payment details and an unique reference number to quote when making your payment. As soon as I see your payment, I will send you a confirmation of safe receipt of funds and confirmation that your order is being packed and will be on its way within the following few days.

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

