

October 2023 Newsletter



To our dear Kerry Blue Terrier friends and family,

We'd 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. A special thank you goes to Shona and Betty who walked 110 km along the Forth/Clyde and Union canal towpaths from Bowling to Lochrin Basin, culminating in a climb to Arthurs Seat in Edinburgh. They have raised a fantastic **£1,680** for the rescue and got interviews with the Tow Path Talk which will come out towards the end of October and also with the Clydebank Post, which can already be found online. Shona and Betty had an amazing support team along the way comprised of volunteers and supporters of the rescue along with the help of our own Peter Bruce who worked very hard on the media side and Gemma who helped us with our online media presence. 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 7 years old, and we continue to work tirelessly to make a difference to the lives of many kerries and their owners.

In the year to 30th September 2023:

- 🐾 We have had 19 dogs adopted.
- 🐾 We have another 2 dogs who are currently in foster care: and
- 🐾 We have given advice and guidance to a further 9 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.
- 🐾 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 Result of the Pandemic

We have not been left untouched by the effects of the last few years. Not only have we seen a lot more work with dogs being surrendered but we have also continued to see some alarming changes in behaviour. We continue to work with dogs who have become accustomed to biting humans. There is a worrying trend in that this behaviour is becoming more normalised in homes, families work around the 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". This is very hard work, financially costly and time consuming as these homes require a lot of questioning by us and 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 and the fully qualified behaviourists involved. Finding this type of person is very hard as these dogs are not your typical pets. This year we saw our first case where a successful outcome was not possible due to the severity of the behaviour and the danger to human life so it was recommended by the qualified behaviourist that the dog should be put to sleep. He was with the trainer with whom he was living for that last vets visit and passed away peacefully. Believe me when I say that this is utterly heartbreaking for all involved and the decision would never be taken lightly nor without full documented information, as every Kerry life is a precious one.

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 totalled £16,782.

A special thanks goes to all the following people: -

- 🐾 Stephanie for handmaking all the lovely Kerry felt ornaments and gifts we saw over Christmas 2022; you'll be seeing loads more this Christmas too. Claire for the lovely handmade Christmas cards last year. All our handmade gifts literally flew out of the door. Stephanie and Magnus have raised over £1,100 for the Rescue between Stephanie's handmade gifts and their talks to local WI meetings.
- 🐾 Many of the members of the Kerry Blue Terrier Bark-Up Global for their immense help on a regular basis. They have provided us with home-checks, dog assessments, short term foster care homes and some wonderful monthly walks for all Kerry owners to attend, not to mention the generous donations and the permission for us to be part of their group to help spread the word.
- 🐾 Our own team member Peter for his percentage of sales on his Kerry drawings www.peterbruce.co.uk. Please visit his website if you're looking for a special present, you won't be disappointed.
- 🐾 Our own team member Gemma for her amazing Tough Mudder Yorkshire 2023 Challenge.
- 🐾 Sheena and Neil for their kind donations for our silent auctions.
- 🐾 Maisie and Murphy, K9 Clean Coats

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 £17,908. This is a frightening amount and largely due to vets' costs amounting to £3,127, residential behavioural work, assessments, and kennelling amounting to £10,675. Nine dogs have needed medical treatment, three of whom came to us and needed castrations and neutering and seven dogs who have needed assessments or training.

Our independent accountant charges us around £530 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, hoody 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 balance to help those who come to us in the future.

Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2023

The paperwork has all gone to the independent accounting and fully signed accounts, once they're ready, will be posted to our website.

Our Thanks

Our sincerest 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
Peter at www.peterbruce.co.uk
Cara at www.etsy.com/uk/shop/MaisieandMurphy
Siobhan at 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.

A special thank you from us all also goes to Amber Marie from www.ambermariestudio.com who donated 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.



Our 2023 Christmas Shopping Experience



Our 2024 calendars and Kerry Christmas decorations will be officially on sale from the 27nd October. So please head to our website at the end of October and 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 (eg milker, piper, geese and turtle etc) 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

