

to the RESCUE

ABRN News

working together to re-home purebred dogs since 1989

A Parade of Love and Success

Jamie Noebel

The 2004 All Breed Rescue Network Parade was held on Valentine's Day at the National Western Complex in Denver and was sponsored by the Plum Creek Kennel Club Dog Show.

The Parade was emceed by "The Troubleshooter," Tom Martino and co-announced by Ted Terroux, APDT, owner and trainer of Sage Valley Pet Center in Golden, Colorado. It highlighted 21 purebred dogs that had been rescued from unfavorable living situations and placed into new loving homes.

Each adopted dog has a history, some more heart wrenching and tragic than others. Some we never know, but their behavior can help indicate some past living conditions or circumstances that they have endured.

The rescued dog may come into a new family with some behavior issues as a result of their history, but as with a new puppy, understanding, patience and love can help the dog learn to trust again and become a significant part of the family.

"The Rescue Parade is an opportunity to educate the audience on the benefits of re-homing a purebred puppy or adult dog. The success stories are endless; thousands of adult dogs are rescued each year from unfavorable living conditions

and adopted into new loving families," says Becky Frazer of Colorado Cocker Spaniel Rescue. "If we can educate the public on Rescue Groups that place these purebred dogs, we can give a new life to these wonderful animals that have nothing but love to give back."

This procession was like watching a VFW parade, where the sometimes forgotten and mostly wounded survivors show their strength and perseverance and show that theirs were lives worth living. Some dogs, such as Douglas, the Newfoundland, were rescued as puppies. Douglas came from Champion stock and unfortunately fell into the wrong hands and was sold at 3 days old. The Newfoundland Rescue Group found out about Douglas and his family, rescued them and placed them into foster care until they were weaned and new homes were found.

Others such as Max, a 10 year old Lakeland Terrier, was locked in a closet because he didn't fit the owners' new lifestyle. His next owners kept him locked in the basement for weeks at a time, often forgetting to feed him. Then, when he finally made his escape, he was hit by a car and lost a leg. Most animals in this situation would have given up or would



Alyssa McCluskey showing Amber the Vizsla, who she fostered and then adopted

If we can educate the public on Rescue Groups that place these purebred dogs, we can give a new life to these wonderful animals that have nothing but love to give back

Continued on page 6

All Breed Rescue Network • How It All Began

By Bonnie Guzman, Fox Terrier Rescue

In the summer of 1990, a good friend of mine had two Rottie puppies stolen from his yard, and being the dog lover I was, I made every attempt to help him locate his pups. I always had a knack for attracting strays and the like, but really knew very little about where to go or what

I soon realized there were a couple of other women who had the same mission I did. Their names were Ginny Brannon and Kaye Farmer. All three of us had been frequenting Denver Municipal and in our own way, trying to do our part in helping find homes for the animals. We had very diverse backgrounds, ambitions and personalities, but none of that seemed to matter. We were passionate about our mission and determined to find a way to make a difference.

There were a few other individuals back in those days who had attempted to help for many years, and to this day I think Kaye, Ginny and I would agree that we owe them a debt of gratitude. They included Kitty Langdon, Betty Holmes, Lee Clark, Betty Stratton, Sharon Fuerst, and others. They had combed shelters for years, trying in their own way to do their part. They helped find permanent, loving homes for countless numbers of dogs. Ginny, Kaye and I wanted to build on what they did for so many years and take it to a broader level. Our goal was to find responsible, knowledgeable people who were either doing purebred dog rescue or interested in starting a rescue group for their breed.

We had no idea where to begin, so we started compiling lists of every contact we made to determine who would help and how. Many folks were well intentioned but few really had the combination we felt was and is necessary to do this work: stamina, patience, and most importantly, credibility and integrity.

Working with shelters can be challenging. We witnessed many things we found daunting. We contained our anger at the indifference of the waves of people we saw discarding their dogs at the shelters, often because they hadn't made a thoughtful decision about acquiring a dog in the first place. Some of the shelter staff were indifferent and even suspicious of us at first. We were able to win over many of them when they realized that we were helping to reduce the number of dogs that had to be euthanized, a task that every shelter worker dreads. Other shelter staffers displayed compassion, tenderness, and understanding, and we were buoyed and encouraged by them. Nurturing the relationships we had with the shelters was integral in making a positive impact, and it still is. We recognized that we could accomplish so much more for the dogs by working in partnership with the shelters, rather than approaching them in an adversarial way.

(Continued on page 3)



6 year-old Ruby the Bloodhound

to do when you've lost a pet. My friend Warren and I made a list of all the area shelters and started combing them. Denver Municipal Animal Shelter was a stone's throw from my house, so it was only natural that I go there. I never did see Warren's pups there, but I got a reality check that would change my life forever. Not only was there a stray Wire Fox Terrier there, a breed I had owned for 18 years, but there was also a Smooth Fox Terrier, and as any Smooth person can tell you, that is a mighty uncommon sight in Colorado. And that's how it all began.

I managed to get both the Wire Fox and the Smooth Fox Terriers out and find homes for them, one with me. In my few trips back to the shelter fretting and checking on those dogs, I was astounded at the number of purebred dogs there. There were Poodles of all sizes, Beagles, Retrievers, even a Komondor. I simply could not believe my eyes, and my heart sank every time I went back and saw the ones nobody had claimed. From that point, I was on a mission, making numerous trips to shelters and hundreds of phone calls to everybody under the sun whom I thought could help.



Chessies
Echo and Thule

The Power of Language: "save Rate" vs. "No Kill"

Martha Smith, President

In June of 2000, All Breed Rescue Network joined with most of the metropolitan area shelters and animal control agencies, other rescue organizations, Colorado veterinary associations, and the Animal Assistance Foundation to form the Metro Shelter Alliance.

We knew that, in the four major shelters that had been keeping statistics, the euthanasia rate had been cut by more than half in ten years, and we wanted to see if we could do even better. We were all agreed that ending euthanasia is a community effort. As Roger Carras said, "Until we are all no-kill, none of us is no kill."

At first, we stated the goal as 100% adoption of adoptable animals, but it did not take long for us to realize that it was an impossible conversation as long as "adoptable" meant different things to different people. We decided that we had to develop consistent vocabulary and definitions, so that words describing animals and their behavior would mean the same in the Aurora Animal Shelter as in the Boulder Valley Humane Society.

Words have power and meaning. They can inspire, and they can

Continued on page 8

How It All Began, *Continued from page 2*

We worked tirelessly making phone calls, picking up and delivering dogs, fostering, advertising, and placing dogs in homes. It didn't take us long to realize there was a huge demand for purebred dogs, and sadly, a small market for mixed breeds. We also realized that three women could not re-home all the dogs at one shelter.

In time, we realized that there were quite a few other people who were out there trying to make a difference, all doing the same work redundantly. There were a number of breed specific rescue groups, quietly and efficiently going about the business of saving the breed they loved. To name just two, Keeshond Rescue and High Country Bassett Rescue had already been around a long time. Maybe there were more. What we needed was a network of people who all shared the same mission, goals, values and ideals so that we could work together and save time. Saving time meant saving more dogs.

We started "the list" quite informally back in those days. We even called ourselves All Breed Rescue. The first "list" was just that, a list of folks whom we had grown to trust and could count on. It wasn't enough, however, because the intricacies of placing so many purebreds required specific knowledge of those breeds. It was clear almost from the beginning that the best source for a specific breed was oftentimes a breeder. This presented a dilemma for us, particularly for Ginny, as our aim was to eliminate purebreds at shelters. It was hard to not see breeders as part of the problem.

None of us was a dog exhibitor or moved in dog show circles, so we were naïve to the difference between commercial, high volume puppy mills and hobby breeders. We quickly learned, though, and the backbone of All

Breed Rescue Network today incorporates some of Colorado's finest hobby breeders. Their expertise, knowledge and dedication to their breed greatly contributed to make ABRN what it is today. What started as "three women and a leash" has evolved into the finest and most reputable coalition of purebred dog groups in the entire region.

Kaye, Ginny and I have moved on over the years. Ginny is a successful practicing attorney and actually owns no pets. Kaye continues to move behind the scenes in helping dogs in need. After a hiatus of about five years doing only referrals, I am back on the scene doing hands-on rescue of Wire and Smooth Fox, Lakeland and Irish Terriers.

The biggest thrill for me is to see how far ABRN has come in these last few years. ABRN has over 100 purebred rescue groups on its list, shelter liaisons in numerous shelters, an seven-member board, and several volunteers who work on the hotline who handle from 50-100 calls every week. ABRN is involved in CFAWA (Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies), PACFA (Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act), which gives the Colorado Department of Agriculture the responsibility to inspect, license and discipline all pet care facilities, the Pet Overpopulation Fund, and the Metro Shelter Alliance. ABRN's involvement with these organizations, legislative discussions and proposals, and the continuous building of relationships with all of Colorado's animal shelters show me that Ginny, Kaye and I were on the right track in building something wonderful, meaningful, and more importantly, sustaining.



Talaya the Bullmastiff pup at 8 weeks

After the Fact Punishment: A Destructive Force

Ted Terroux, APDT, Owner & Trainer, Sage Valley Pet Center, Golden, Colorado

"I came home and discovered that my dog had chewed a hole in the couch. I woke him up and took him to the living room to show him what he had done. I scolded him and spanked him while I showed him the pieces of material that he had destroyed.



Joey the Westie

He looked so guilty. It was obvious that he knew what he had done."

Informed dog trainers and behaviorists cringe when they get calls like this from dog owners. This is yet another example of people treating dogs like people. Dogs are not people. Their thought processes are different, and their behavior is different. When a teacher calls from school to inform us about our child's misbehavior, we can talk to the child when they arrive home after school about the problem. We can explain why they can't go to their friend's house or watch TV tonight as a result of their behavior and they will know exactly why they are being punished. We sometimes apply this same "after the fact" reasoning in our dog training. We reason further that since the dog showed guilt that they knew what they did was wrong.

In the vast majority of cases, when a dog appears to be guilty, the dog is responding to our verbal tone or body language – not to recognition of wrongdoing. Even when a dog acts guilty before our discovery of the wrongdoing, the dog is likely relating to a previous experience of after-the-fact punishment.

The Incompatibility Reward System

While discipline can be helpful, don't bank too much on discipline to help your dog understand the difference between right and wrong. Discipline should actually take a back seat to the control and reward systems of training. Try to think of ways to reward good behaviors that contradict the undesirable behaviors. Instead of focusing your energy on punishing the dog for doing things wrong, focus on ways to reward your dog for doing things right. For example, if your dog has a chewing or mouthing

problem, concentrate on getting your dog to pick up things that he is supposed to have, then reward him generously for the good behavior. Imagine what your dog would do if everyone in the house made a gigantic fuss over him every time he had a dog toy in his mouth. After two or three weeks of consistent effort, he would likely choose the dog toy over your fuzzy bedroom slippers. If the dog has a dog toy in his mouth, this behavior is "incompatible" with chewing on your slippers or mouthing your hands. If your dog likes to jump on people, paying attention to him only when his feet are on the floor would be an incompatibility reward.

To discipline or not to discipline

"No-discipline" approaches are recommended by many behaviorists today for their clients. The no-discipline philosophy is certainly a better alternative than the fear and pain-inducing methods that have been with us for so many years. The no-discipline approach can be effective if it is applied consistently, beginning very early in the puppy stage, with calmer, sensitive and less determined dogs. It isn't as successful with more determined juvenile or adult dogs that have established behavior problems. It may take a prohibitively long time for some dog behaviors to change using the no-discipline approach, and there are other dogs that will never accomplish permanent change using this approach.

For some dogs, a form of active deterrence is often necessary. With a more sensitive dog, words alone can be an effective deterrent, but most dogs need something that will be more memorable to reduce, and finally eliminate, a particular behavior.

The first imperative in changing behavior is catching your dog in the act, not five seconds after the act is done. Never discipline your dog after the act even if he appears to know that he has done something wrong. Catching your dog in the act is effective. Catching him at the beginning of the act is more effective. Catching him thinking about doing the act is very effective.

I offer the following scenario that helps to put this in perspective. Picture a donut on your counter. Is it better to catch the dog as he is grabbing the donut, or should we wait until he's finished eating it? The answer is obvious, but people fail to recognize that all undesirable behavior needs to be addressed the moment it starts. If the dog finishes the donut, the degree of discipline would have to be increased dramatically to deter the dog from doing it again. On the other hand, if the dog were corrected effectively before eating the donut, a much lesser form of

discipline would be effective. Why? Because you don't have to erase the pleasure the dog experienced at having successfully eaten the donut!

Correction Clarifications

Never yell at or run after your dog. Yelling will generally be perceived as threatening (or stimulating) by your dog, and running after your dog only kicks in the fear, aggression, or stimulation drives. Be persistent! If you don't consistently out-persist your dog, your dog will learn that he can out-persist you! Contain your dog to prevent behaviors when you can't supervise until he establishes trustworthiness. Practice with your dog daily around everything that causes him to misbehave until the behavior has been eliminated. Catching a dog every time he engages in the act is vital to your success, because he will likely remember the circumstances under which he was able to repeat the behavior. You may think that you are doing really well in catching your dog 95% of the time, but what will most dogs remember? The 5% of the time you didn't! Also, give your dog chances to show related proper behaviors so that he learns what is right. End all corrections on a positive note by giving the dog an opportunity to exhibit the opposite behavior that he can be praised for! Practice several times daily to direct your dog's behavior in a positive direction and help him learn the difference between right and wrong faster. For aggression issues, housetraining problems, or for dogs that misbehave intentionally to get any kind of attention, call a reputable professional for advice.

Correction or interruption?

Your method of response to your dog's behavior can be classified as a correction only if you see a pronounced decline in the undesired behavior over a relatively short span of time. If the behavior continues on week after week, with no considerable change in the behavior, you are either being inconsistent or you are only interrupting your dog. For example, when a person yells out the window into the back yard at their dog to stop barking, most dogs will stop barking briefly, only to start barking again shortly thereafter. In this case, the person's response to their dog's behavior can be categorized as an interruption. If, however, the dog stops barking long term and the behavior eventually goes into extinction, this person's method of response can be referred to as a correction. Words can be an effective correction tool with more sensitive and responsive dogs. Unfortunately, words alone mean very little to most dogs, particularly those who are young, energetic and determined.

Are some corrections harmful?

There are a multitude of methods that people can use to change a dog's behavior, but many of these methods can cause dogs to become fearful of, or aggressive towards their people. I recommend against techniques that use pain or fear as the source of deterrence. Methods that use hitting, kicking, choking or pinching will often result in fearful or aggressive behaviors from the dog and may create an injury. Electronic shock collars

should be used sparingly and only by those who are well informed on their proper usage. More dogs have been ruined by improper use of the shock collar than have been helped by them. Sudden noises such as loud clapping or slamming of a newspaper can contribute to fear of thunder or fireworks in dogs.

Pinning and

scruffing: Some very popular dog training

books recommend that you pin your dog upside down on the ground or grab them by the sides of the neck while you chastise them for misbehaving. Secure dogs and other dogs that have been raised from puppyhood using these techniques may do well by them. Juvenile dogs, adult dogs and dogs that are more apprehensive or determined could respond fearfully or aggressively to these methods.

Squirt bottles: Some dog owners have found that squirting the dog with water has a corrective effect over the long haul. Others have found that it only worked a few times before the dog started to develop a liking for the stream of water. Another drawback to the squirt bottle is that you have to have it with you.

Shaker cans: The aluminum shaker can has grown in popularity over the years. This device, often made up of a soda can with several pennies dropped inside, makes a loud rattling sound when the person shakes or throws it. This can be a corrective device with some dogs, but an interruption with others. As with other "training tools", you have to have it with you.

Collar Corrections: Slowly grasping and gently shaking the dog by the collar for several seconds (not choking) can be an effective correction tool. Since most dogs usually wear a collar all the time, the collar is a tool that remains available to use without having to remember to keep other tools with you.

Conclusion: Use control/reward based techniques as frequently as possible. When using correction, be sure your method is effective at reducing the undesired behavior without using injurious, painful or frightening techniques that will cause your dog to become fearful or disrespectful of you.

Editor's note: Ted Terroux can be reached at (303) 279-6969 or at svpcted@att.net for dog training or behavioral questions.



Molly the Lab pup

RESCUE Parade (cont. from page 1)



Participating in the Hound Group is Rusty Mellon handling Dee, the 11 year old Otterhound.

not have gotten another chance, but Max was luckier than most. A Lakeland Rescue group member found Max at a shelter and fostered him until he could be re-homed. He was

then adopted by a loving family with another senior Lakeland, and they have become the best of friends.

From Otis the Tibetan Terrier that was tied to the bumper of a car for weeks on end in inclement weather to Cheesai the Chinese Crested that was kept in a kennel for the majority of her life, these dogs bring new hope to even the most downtrodden.

Ruby the Bloodhound was taken to the pound after being abused by children that left her with behavior problems. Her rescuer, a member of Bloodhound Rescue, has since trained Ruby to become a Search and Rescue Dog and expert in her field. She has become a local celebrity and is very respected in the community. She is frequently sought after by law enforcement agencies to help solve their cases.

Chip, the American Cocker Spaniel,

was rescued from a shelter two days before being scheduled to be put to sleep. He was re-trained to hunt and has earned prestigious AKC titles for hunting and agility. Jo Mann, an animal trainer and animal behavior consultant says, "Chip's story is so illustrative of so many amazing rescued dogs. When given the chance, they can fulfill their greatest potential and have wonderful, long, loving lives."

Rescued dogs are special...but they aren't for everyone. Sometimes it takes some extra time, patience and lots of love to give these animals another chance. In return, they give us so much more joy than we ever expected. For the wonderful new owners – the experience can be a positive, rewarding and life-fulfilling labor of love.

Editor's note: All Breed Rescue Network is grateful to all those individuals who helped make this event such a success. We especially want to thank Becky Frazer, Colorado Cocker Spaniel Rescue, who coordinated the event with lots of help from her sister Jamie Noebel, who also contributed this article; and Cathy Heyer from CM Heyer Associates, who created the program. Thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and attention to detail. Good job! We also want to thank Sandy Benton for generously donating bandannas for all the dogs participating in the Parade. And the chocolate roses brought by Karen Brown for the human participants were greatly enjoyed! Great work, everyone!



Al Dietz, owner/handler of 3 year old Mactavish the Bearded Collie



ABRN's President Martha Smith with the "Troubleshooter" Tom Martino

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STAY IN TOUCH!

Would you like to feature a dog on ABRN's website, www.allbreedrescuenetwork.com? Jenni McKernan is the liaison with the Webmaster, Becki Hahn. Contact Jenni at (303) 783-5772 or at colosheltierescue@prodigy.net to highlight a rescue dog on the website. Please follow up with Jenni when that dog has been adopted. Also call her to add or delete names or phone numbers or if you are interested in being on our rescue referral list. If you have a temporary change, such as a vacation, please contact the hotline coordinator, Susan Brown, at (719) 748-5777 or mollybrown@pcisys.net. We need you to stay in touch - and besides, we enjoy hearing from you!



Piedra

ABRN shelter Liaison List

Adams County Animal Shelter (Brighton, CO):
Amy Jones (303) 487-0930

Aurora Animal Care Center (Aurora, CO):
None at this time.

Denver Municipal Animal Shelter (Denver, CO):
Laurie Janak (303) 746-1570
Back-up contact: Bonnie Guzman (303) 733-5446

Dumb Friends League (Denver, CO):
Martha Smith (303) 338-0878
Back-up contact: Sandy Moore (303) 751-6704

DFL Buddy Center (Castle Rock, CO):
Karen Brown (303) 841-6052
Back-up contact: Kitty Korth (303) 617-8316

Larimer County Humane Society (Ft. Collins, CO):
Michelle Bartz (970) 407-9011 or (970) 988-5957

Longmont Humane Society (Longmont, CO):
Neil Davis (303) 485-6159

Mesa County Animal Shelter & Roice-Hurst Humane Society
(Mesa County Humane) (Grand Junction, CO):
Ken Cox (970) 243-4567

Table Mountain Animal Care Center (Golden, CO):
Susan Lummanick (303) 948-2526
Back-up contact: Nancy Larrew (303) 932-0461
Janet Nelson (303) 466-2459

To The Rescue, ABRN News, published quarterly.
Susan Brown, Editor, Debbie Davis, Designer.

To submit articles for the newsletter, please call Susan Brown at (719) 748-5777 or e-mail mollybrown@pcisys.net. Photographs of rescued dogs are always welcome. If photos are digital, please set your camera at the highest resolution (300 dpi at about 3X4" needed). Regular snapshots preferred. Deadline for submissions for the next issue is May 25, 2004.

Like to Help?

Please help rescue dogs where most needed with a tax deductible donation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Please mail to: All Breed Rescue Network, P.O. Box 150803, Lakewood, CO 80215-0803.

Thank you for your support!

Power of Language (Continued from page 3)

wound. The Alliance has agreed to terminology that is clear, positive in tone, and builds understanding among shelters and with the public. Shelters are either "open admission" or "limited admission". In other words, we are dropping the no-kill language as being unfair to those organizations that accept all animals brought to them, no matter how old, ill, or aggressive. They do so because the law requires them to or they have voluntarily shouldered the burden. In spite of our very low euthanasia rate,



Winona the
Golden Retriever

ABRN has never described itself as a no-kill program, but it was not until participating in the Alliance that I realized how hurtful and divisive the terminology really is.

We also recognize that adoption rates are subject to manipulation and that "100 percent adoption of adoptable animals" is consistently misinterpreted by the public to mean zero euthanasia. We have decided to talk about the save rate in our various organizations,

instead. The save rate is the percentage of the animals who came into a program that were either re-homed, transferred out, or returned to their owners. These are objective facts that mean the same everywhere. In the last two years, the community-wide save rate has been right around 75 percent, a very high number of which we can all be very proud.

We are so fortunate to be part of a community where people have made a conscious choice to focus on our common goal of reducing euthanasia, instead of our different paths to that goal. Almost anything works, as long as we respect each other's differences and join forces in every way we can.

Finally, and sound the drumroll please, preliminary results show that ABRN's collective efforts in 2003 adopted, transferred, or returned home all but 100 of the over 3,500 dogs we took in, giving us a save rate of a whopping 97 percent. Total veterinary expenses were just under \$435,000. That is more than some fair-sized humane society budgets. Awesome!



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Inside...

- 1 | Dog Rescue Parade
 - 2 | How ABRN Began
 - 4 | Punishment No-No's
 - 7 | Who's Who
-