

TTCA RESCUE

SPECIAL ISSUE

AUGUST, 2009



TTCA President's Message

By Ken Edmonds

As all of you know we have had a large "Puppy Mill Rescue" from Missouri. The dogs were shipped to New Jersey under the care of our Rescue Chair, Camille Manfredonia. She will tell the story in this edition.

TTCA started the Rescue program in 1992. Even though we have had some challenges over the years, our program has by all accounts been very successful and the club has generously funded our efforts. We always said that we needed to be prepared for the "Big One". I am not sure if any of us really anticipated what we would get when it finally happened.

The Missouri Rescue is a situation that overwhelmed our Club's volunteer resources and has seriously depleted our rescue financial funds.

Camille and her volunteers have done a miraculous job in the most trying circum-

stances.

Now, as you read through this newsletter, you will understand that along with informing the membership of this entire story, I must ask all of you, who have already done so much, to try to do more. The financial costs have been staggering, and we need to rebuild our fund. Maybe not all of us have been negatively impacted by this economy, but I dare say most of us have. I know that goes for "yours

truly"! So I know it is not easy, but we are sincerely asking all of you that can, please contribute as much as you can. No amount is too small (or too large!!)

This is a great club with great members. I know I am privileged to be associated with this group. This was a noble effort that we did. It is not totally completed, but we can be proud of the results.

Thank You

Ken



Foundation Message

By Jackie Faust

I'm as uncomfortable about begging as you are. I can't wait until this situation is resolved. I think about how I can motivate people to action, and I worry about if the Foundation will earn the trust of our Tibetan Terrier community.

It's normal to be cautious in this time of recession. We're all thinking about how to survive if the economy doesn't improve. But

recently, I'm relieved to see the improvement in our country. Housing sales have increased every month for the last 3 months. Wall Street funds are bouncing back. Maybe now we can move forward with our plans...and hopefully retire on time.

Time does not afford us the unlimited funds to care for these Tibetans. Our priority is to find caring homes who

will nurture them as family members, forgiving their appearance and providing unconditional love.

Until then, we must raise the money needed, and prepare for the eventuality that this can happen again. Please take a moment to consider this plea.

Yours in gratitude,
Jackie Faust
President, TTHWF

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FLASH!

LOST TIBETAN TERRIER FROM MISSOURI HAS BEEN FOUND!

July 23, 2009 Missouri Animal Control officials confirm that the 19th Tibetan Terrier lost on February 13, 2009 was found yesterday. Tracy, the boarding kennel worker, who has been searching for her for months picked her up and is taking care of her until a foster home can be found. She appears to be in good condition considering she was on the run for 5 months. (Her picture is below).



The puppy mill...

Disclaimer: The following is the opinion of the authors, Michelle Bender www.anewstartonlife.com/ and Kim Townsend www.nopupppymills.com/, and is based on years of experience with puppy mill dogs; we are not veterinarians or professional trainers.

At first glance a mill survivor may look like many of your friends' dogs; maybe not a perfect example of the breed, but close. What you won't see is the condition they were in when they came into rescue. Many have fur so matted that it all had to be shaved off and even the short haired breeds suffer from



Fred was severely matted and had to be clipped down.

thin dull coats. Many times removing the filth and matting have only revealed open sores, usually from flea allergies or sarcoptic mange. Their ears are often full of filth and usually mites and some survivors suffer from permanent hearing loss because of untreated ear infections. Most survivors require the removal of rotten teeth, even young dogs. The gums are usually very infected and the teeth have excessive buildup on them. Many vets who are not familiar with puppy mill rescued dogs will miscalculate the age of the dog if using only the teeth as



Fred with his new "Bro"

their guide. Many survivors also suffer from swollen, splayed and sore feet from so much time walking on wire. While finally getting some good nutrition and extensive medical care after arriving in rescue, all too often there remains the psychological damage that can't be fixed with a bath, medicine, or surgery.

Please read more of Michelle and Kim's informative puppy mill article online.

To the vet first, and off we go...

February 9, 2009. They left the filthy farm they called home. The voyage began with the help of Elizabeth of the Department of Agriculture. Elizabeth suggested we get initial vetting done in Missouri in order to evaluate the dogs as well as to keep medical costs down.

February 10, 2009. They had the first health exams they may have ever experienced, followed by sedation, anesthesia, and surgery....they were all neutered/spayed, vaccinated, and heartworm tested. The cost of having it done in Missouri versus NJ was significantly less expensive.

February 12, 2009. The veterinarian staff and technicians were optimistic. They knew these poor dogs had a chance at a new life, and that the Tibetan Terrier Club of America was stepping in to make sure of it. The dogs were loaded into a van to be taken to a boarding kennel to wait for their ride to NJ.

February 13th, 2009. "Hell Week" as most rescue organizations refer to the week of vetting and transporting puppy mill dogs is almost over. The transport company has finally arrived to take the dogs to NJ. As the dogs were being

loaded into the van, one of the TTs escaped the arms of a transport worker, and took off into the brush. The transport waited as workers fanned out, searching for the frightened dog. Hours went by and there was no sign of the escapee.

February 14, 2009. The decision to leave Missouri without the lost TT was made with heavy hearts. Kennel and state workers continued to try to lure the TT back inside the kennel fence, to no avail. The van left for the 14 hour trip to New Jersey, where TTCA Rescue Chair, Camille was waiting.

Arrival in New Jersey....

February 15, 2009. The van arrived at an interstate exit in New Jersey at 6 am and Camille reloaded the TTs into her van and continued the journey to a boarding kennel. Camille, along with 2 "rescue friends" brought the 18 filthy, tired, and fearful Tibetan Terriers one by one into their temporary home.

First they spent hours of identifying, photographing, feeding, holding and hugging. Assessments of the temperaments indicated there was a lot of socializing and handling needed to bring these dogs to the point where they could be adopted.

Four dogs were selected, and reloaded into the van, bound for a meeting point where foster homes were waiting.

Camille met Jackie Faust, Claire Coppola, and Sally Birgl in Bridgewater, NJ with 4 of the TTs. One more went to foster home with Karen Sponable a few days later.

13 Tibetans were still housed at the boarding kennel where volunteers rotated to socialize the dogs. A few more foster homes opened up for the dogs. After 2 months with no other foster homes and few other options, 4 of the TTs were placed in professional paid foster care and Camille took the final one home.

Just when, Camille thought everything had settled down and she could focus her attention on finding homes her worst nightmare occurred—the dogs were sick! 6 of the last dogs to leave



the kennel were having severe lethargy, jaundice, anorexia and depression! This led to several weeks of blood work, hospital stays and a whole lot of medication—at one point Camille's foster dog was on 24 pills a day. Sadly, we lost our 2 year old Sadie to this illness. An autopsy confirmed aflatoxin poisoning, but food and soil testing has proved to be inconclusive. After the prescribed treatment, the remaining 5 dogs are doing fabulous.

Finding new homes....

Our next challenge was finding these dogs new forever homes. Fenced yards and another canine companion was a must. These TTs had little human interaction. They find comfort in their confident canine friends while learning from them.

Although TTCA Rescue has about 3800 applications for rescue TTs, they date back as far as 2002. Cold calling people about these dogs was overwhelming, time consuming and not yielding any new homes. These dogs, who are afraid of a soda can opening cannot be transported via air.

So we took our rescue program to a new

level—posting them on Petfinder.com. Happily, Petfinder assisted us in finding wonderful homes for many of these dogs including Whisper a 14 year old female.

With the economy being what it is, and more dogs being surrendered than



adopted, our adoptions are slow.

Although we get approximated 1300 hits weekly on our Petfinder listings, the 2 or 3 applications a week are looking for puppies or much younger, more socialized dogs.

We are working through the list, state by state, contacting applicants to see if anyone would open their hearts and homes to “just one or two more”.

There is a special home for each and every one of these dogs but now we have to find it. In the meantime—they remain in foster care—and in the case of the 4 of them paid foster care.

Foster care for some of our dogs...

As of this writing, 6 dogs remain in foster care, Archie, a 3 year old male (pictured below left) is with volunteer foster, Rus Smith, and Sissy #5 (pictured below right) is with Camille.



Emma, Louise, Allie and Josie are living in a paid foster home with a trainer, Caroline, in northern New Jersey. Caroline is working wonders with the 4 Tibetans in her care. Emma and Louise,

who are pictured below, are an extremely bonded pair, sweet, lovable, housebroken, leash trained, and know some basic commands. They are still fearful of new people, situations and loud noises, and may adjust better if they can live together.



Allie and Josie, pictured together at right, are the most



affected of the original 18. They are leash trained, housebroken and acting more and more like TTs everyday. They need a very special person who is willing to step up to the challenge and reap the rewards of seeing a dog transform before their eyes and trust us—it is truly a remarkable life experience.

We need to get these four in foster care that is not paid as our funds are at an all time low.

What can you do?

If you live or travel in the Northeastern US, and can open your heart and home to one of these sweet Tibetans, please fill out a Rescue Questionnaire. This form is available online at www.ttca-online.org/cgi-bin/RescueForm.pl

Then, please contact Camille Manfredonia at (908)889-5997 or camille1063@aol.com

If you have dogs already, that is very good, as these TTs have lived as a pack, and have not one mean bone in their bodies. Sweet and receptive, these little souls are appreciative of the care you

give them. Bringing them into your life is rewarding, because they no longer have to worry about survival.

If you cannot adopt, but wish to help us with expenses for TTCA Rescue, please consider sponsoring one of these dogs in paid foster care (\$15 a day).

Any donation to our Rescue Program is sincerely appreciated, and a receipt will be mailed. With your help, we can continue our work with these sweet dogs. Medical costs have escalated due to the unexpected illness of several dogs, and we seriously underestimated our

expenditures.

Please help us recover the funds necessary to continue our work.

Thank you from the grateful TTs who depend on us to save their lives. Please view the video story of their journey on our website.

Again, here is who to contact:

Camille Manfredonia

(908)889-5997 (Please call only between 9AM and 7PM Eastern time)

Email: camille1063@aol.com

DONATION

I would like to make a donation to the Tibetan Terrier Health and Welfare Foundation.
Donations may be allocated to health and welfare generally or restricted in whole or in part to Rescue.

Amount allocated to Health and Welfare _____

Amount Allocated to Rescue _____

Name _____

Address _____

Kennel Name _____

Signature _____

I am making this donation in honor of _____

I am making this donation in memory of _____

Donors names will be published on the TTHWF Website and in the TTCA Newsletter

Do not publish. I wish to be shown as Anonymous:

Please make your check payable to TTHWF
Mail to: TTHWF, PO BOX 1001, Southport, CT 06890

Online donations can be made by credit card payment at our Foundation Store:
www.shop.tibetanterriersfoundation.org