

BCOC Rescue Program Report

by Bob Brewster, B.C.O.C. National Rescue Coordinator

As another year draws to a close, all in all, it was been a good year for me. For others however, it may not have been so. Some may have lost family members, friends or their beloved canines.

Canine rescue has been on my mind all year. "What extra can I do to help all those dogs in need." When Lynn approached me about coordinating the B.C.O.C. Rescue Program, another "What to Do" had come along. One just has to look at the dogs listed on Petfinder.com to see the need for rescue programs and the need for dog lovers to help.

You may or may not have seen the Dec. Issue of *Dog World*, but the issue dealt with purebred rescue. Two things they talked about were, "Why Dogs End up in Rescue", and "How to Volunteer in Rescue Programs."

As far as basenjis are concerned, this past year there were very few basenjis living in Canada known to need help. While the latest Basenji Rescue and Transport, (BRAT) listing shows 88 dogs in need of help with the biggest problem being, as with all rescue organizations, the need of foster homes for dogs while waiting to find their forever homes.

The good news is that during 2006 many dogs were able to find forever homes. BRAT alone, as the year ends, was able to place 277 dogs in new forever homes, thanks to the efforts of many hundred volunteers.

The B.C.O.C. Rescue Program, while still under construction, needs many hands to make it work. We need volunteers for evaluation of dogs and possible adopters, transport, and foster homes.

The Christmas Season has always been known as a time of giving -- thinking of others, not ourselves. When the New Year comes along, we make our News Year's resolutions.

Many B.C.O.C. members may wonder how they can help in canine rescue without making any long term commitment.

I would like to suggest that over Christmas, you might visit a Humane Society, animal shelter, or rescue organization near you and drop off a gift of a bag of food, a toy or whatever. It doesn't have to be expensive. It will be just a sign you care.

As far as New Year's Resolutions are concerned, I might suggest:

1. You complete the B.C.O.C. Volunteer Application Form, which was included in the last newsletter. You may contact me directly if you have any questions about what you might do to help with the B.C.O.C. Rescue Program.

(For those without computers or Internet access, you can help as well. Just write and let me know you want to get involved and what you might like to do.)

2. When someone comes to you and says what a nice dog you have and would like to get one, and you have explained to them a basenji is not the breed for everyone, OR, if you are a breeder who is unable to accept an applicant, for whatever reasons, suggest they contact a local humane society, local shelter or a local rescue group where they might find a dog they would like to adopt.

While dog rescue may not be for everyone, I feel everyone can give something in their own way. One of my New Years resolutions for 2007 is to try and build a Canadian Basenji Rescue Network through the Basenji Club of Canada. I know it's going to take time, but I know that you are out there to help me.

Watch the forthcoming newsletters for further information about the B.C.O.C. Rescue Program.

Until next time, Tori, Tigger, and I would like to wish each two and four-legged members of B.C.O.C. a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2007!

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Watch for the Basenji Club of Canada website for the Rescue Page
www.basenjiclubofcanada.com