

PE1396/A

THE PROBLEM WITH STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIERS? HUMANS!

This year for the SSBTR has been horrendous. We have rehomed in the region of 400 dogs, raised sponsorship for some dogs whose owners do NOT want to part but veterinary fees have been too much on top of losing their employment. We know we are only touching the tip of the iceberg. If we and dog owners in general could have cheap neutering for rescues and pets that would be just so good. How can we limit breeding? The Kennel Club could help – they know too many dogs are being bred so limit it. They know the breeders who breed have a number of bitches and who breed too often. If the dog clubs do not show by keeping proper records that they run a good rescue for Staffords then the KC could refuse or withdraw their Championship Status – that would focus the mind! At the Scottish Parliament re discussion on DDA, I was told by the KC that it must please me to see so many registrations – “why” I asked. “ they will go to good homes” was the reply, yes maybe one or two out of the litter (and they will go on to be sires or bred from) what about the others – even if they would ensure that the new owners would neuter – perhaps with the breeder paying the cost it would help.

This weekend, we picked up a stafford who had been tied to a fence – he had not enough leash to lie down. Any raised voice he hides! He needs a quiet home. That same day found another abandoned, lovely nature, thinks he is a lap dog and is brilliant with kids and other dogs. Can we take some pups selling at 4 weeks of age on Gumtree, we did they are in foster. A two year old dog in Western Isles, we will take him but hope to get help with the cost of kenneling. Sunday phonecall from a girl who had found a staffie howling outside her house on Sat late at night, she had other animals so could not take it in, so took to Police station, they sent to Bandeath kennels nr Stirling, phoned them, they too inundated so we said when 7 days were up we would take the bitch as her teats are enlarged unsure whether she is in pup. She is about a year old. Also said we would put dogs from Bandeath on our site to see if we can help them shift some. We have a pair in foster who we would like to go together, they were brought up together and belonged to a girl who helped as a volunteer and she has died from cancer. Another dog handed in had been fought, so had to check him out with other dogs. He is scared stiff of other dogs and would much rather avoid contact. This is so often the case with dogs “trained” to the “sport” of dogfighting, when they have only been with much weaker animals and encouraged to fight with reward for doing so, that is when they are at their most dangerous with other animals (not humans) but the dog who has been used in proper fights and suffered does not want to have a confrontation but wants a quiet life. They are intelligent dogs. So if we find the right home, he can be rehomed. Phonecall from friend of a man suffering from severe depression – cannot exercise his dog – can we take him in, an emergency so we do. Phone call from mother of a girl who is terminally ill and refusing to go into hospital till her dog is found a safe place, dog is seven years old and she has had it since a pup, mother cannot take it – no dogs allowed by landlord. We must assure the girl that we will take dog and find a good home. Phonecall from man who tells us that he is to be “sent down” this week when he appears in court and can we take the five pups, when we arrive one of the pups has died, girlfriend now says she will look after them. We leave our contact numbers, they will sell the pups – the bitch was impregnated by her father. We ask that they make sure all the pups and the bitch are neutered – highly unlikely even if we pay. On top of this we are trying to find homes for our other dogs.

This is 3 days in the life of stafford rescue. We have a number of dogs in kennels and our foster homes bar 1 are full up. All our volunteers are unpaid, we have a few homechecks to be done and if they are ok we will fit them a dog appropriate for their lifestyle. I had ONE call at the weekend from someone wanting a stafford and whats more SHE SOUNDS GOOD !

Kay Hamilton
Dowager Duchess of Hamilton
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