

AIREDALE 911

Rescue and Adoption Committee
Airedale Terrier Club of America

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**Airedale Terrier Club
of America
Rescue & Adoption Committee**

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Thank Heavens! • A Rescue Story

It was a most unusual request that came in to PA's Airedale Rescue & Adoption Service in February. The Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children in western PA had recently lost their 16-year-old Airedale to old age and wanted to fill the empty spot he left with another Airedale.

This had to be a very special Airedale! The school is a Catholic residential home for developmentally disabled boys from the ages of 6 to 18. Corey, their previous Airedale, had also been a rescue dog obtained through a local all-breed rescue group. And so they knew they wanted to adopt another Airedale in need of a home.

Corey had been the school's second Airedale. Their first Airedale had also been an adopted dog. At the time the church purchased the estate that was to become the school, an Airedale was living there. The owner of the estate placed the dog with a friend in a town twenty miles away.

One day one of the Sisters looked out the window and screamed, "There's a bear in the yard." It wasn't a bear, just a weary Airedale who had trudged twenty miles to get home. After his valiant effort, all concerned decided that he should remain at the school, where he lived happily for many years.

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Puppies, Poop & Other Pitfalls

It does our rescue hearts good when we sense our adoptive families' excitement at having the privilege of adopting a mature dog. Not everyone is enamored with the pitfalls of puppyhood - peeing, pooping, chewing, digging - and tons of inexhaustible energy!

It's true that adult dogs have some of their own idiosyncracies. But adjusting to these is minor when compared to the Perils of Puppy Parenting.

For many modern families an adult dog is often the most sensible solution to already busy lives.

A Prayer for Animals

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals. Especially for the animals who are suffering, for any that are hurt or lost, or deserted, or frightened, or hungry.

For all that must be put to death,
we entreat for them all thy mercy and pity.
And for those who deal with them we ask a heart of
compassion, and gentle hands and kindly words.
Make ourselves to be true friends to animals and so to
share the blessings of the merciful.

Albert Schweitzer

Hoeing Turnips: The More Things Change, The More They Stay the Same

From *Our Friend the Airedale*
(ed., Rowland Johns, England, 1932)

Chapter 4: Buying An Airedale

"The most important requisite to begin with is the love of dogs. Everyone wants to be protected from burglars, and there is no merit in that. The hard-bitten fancier sometimes talks about 'sob-stuff' when anyone places affection for dogs as a primary need, and the best way to treat a man like that is to suggest that he should be hoeing turnips, not breeding the most lovable and sensitive of creatures."

Thank Heavens . . . Cont'd from Page 1

Here was rescue's dream - people who needed no persuading about how special a rescue Airedale is! They were eager, but patient, for the right Airedale to come along.

"Bailey" surfaced in a shelter, four years old and sadly abandoned because his family was moving. After a foster care evaluation period with Cheryl James, it was decided that Bailey was the dog for Clelian Heights. Ben McCarthy set out on the long drive across the state.

Bailey's arrival couldn't have been more eagerly anticipated. The children, of course, were excited. Even the night nurse had left instructions that she was to be awakened as soon as Bailey arrived. Bailey was an instant hit - and thrilled to be a star.

After a few weeks, Sister Rosemary Zaffuto wrote, "How can I ever thank you enough for choosing Bailey for our pet here at Clelian Heights! He is the perfect dog for our children, so friendly and gentle with them. They love him and he gets many hugs and kisses each day. Since our children are all developmentally disabled, having a pet like Bailey brings so much happiness into our lives. You can be assured that Bailey has a wonderful home and is receiving tender loving care."

Several months later, Sister Rosemary again wrote, "Needless to say, we are very pleased with Bailey and he has adjusted so well and quickly to his new environment. He does love a lot of attention and he surely gets it here. However, these last two weeks all the children have gone home to their families so he misses them and keeps looking for them. They will be back Sunday and he'll jump for joy to see them and get all those hugs again! The Sisters substituted for the children, so Bailey did not suffer too much!"

Once again, another rescue Airedale rises to the occasion. Bailey makes us very proud - of our rescue dogs and of the breed. Can there be any doubt that these dogs deserve our help?

The Rascals of Rescue

In case you were wondering if rescue is really important, meet a few of our "kids." This is only a partial list of some of the dogs who have come through Airedale Rescue in the year since *Airedale 911* was published last October. The following list includes dogs representing rescue groups serving the following states: NY, AK*, AZ, MI, FL, MO, KS, CA*, CT, MD*, and PA. There are many more. (*Listing is incomplete)

Hannah	Danny	Coco	Cody	Kip
Willy	Willie	Sir Jack	Isis	Teddy
Chelsea	Carlie	Tinker & Taylor	Shane (Archie)	Reuben
Major (Goliath)	Annie (Sadie)	(brother & sister)	Brandy	Casey
Phifer	Calamity Jane	Oso Negro de	Max	Dee Dee
Samantha	Truman	Prescott (Nino)	Tori (Paige)	Renny
Amex	K.C.	Buster Brown	Remington	Alex
Buddy	Annie (Mitsy)	Elvira	Lacy	Ted
Rufus	Rocky	Maggie	Metro	Katie
Heather	Hacksaw (Sparky)	Tonee	Spencer	Duffy
Teagin	Patti	Noel	Willie	Caspar
Kyser	E.T. (Exceptional	Byron	Freddy	Taro
Sadie	Terrier)	Izzy	Jessie	Shaska
Alex	Tara	Cassie	Bingo	
Babe	Jake	Candice	Dusty	
Obie	Katie	Ladybelle	Chester	
Ruffy	Samson	Sparky	Radar	
Hogan	Woodrow	Cindy	Jasmine	
Jester	Dolly	Piper	Huck	
Robin	Goliath	Lady Tramp	Abby	
Arthur	Rusty	Lambchop	Maggie Sue	
Angel	Koz	Remington	Billie	
Molly	Sam	Clarabelle	Tinicum	
Nick	Duke	Morgan	Woody	
JoJo	Hadley	Bear	Reggie	
Mandy	Lady	Coppy	Ginger	
Tyler I (Alfie)	Scout	Abigail	Sam	
Jellie bean	Katy	Spencer	Jake	
Jill (Aunt Bea)	Princess	Napolean	Skipper	
Sandy	Laurie	Frankie	Bumpy	
Sir Ross	Paws	Fonte	Farley	
Tyler II	King	Ketty	Rocky	
Mugsy	Rio	Argus	Brie	
Casey	Cricket	Sparkle	Leo	
Spunky	Caesar	Moose	Abby-Girl	
Scooby	Tater (Couch	Ridgley	Maggie	
Kody	Potato)	Zora	Rosie	
Jocko (Jack)	Rufus II	Zachary	Jim Dandy	
Chauncey	Nellie Tobin	Button	Bailey	
Fergie	Muggs	Jake	Angel	
Josey	Cassidy	Trucker	Big Mac (Gator)	
Piper	Khaki	Bear	Moses	
Delta	Joey	Max	Buddy	
Trixie	Megan	Alex	Daisy Mae	
Brownie	Amigo	Mandy	Lucy	

How
distressing
to learn
the latest
statistics
that only
ONE pet in
every six
lives out
its entire
life with
its original
family.

From The Women's
Humane Society

And We Get Letters

Archie is doing great! He's been to the vet, got his license, etc. He seems to be well-adjusted and is even learning some manners! He's a wonderful companion, and he's met a lot of neighbors . . . Many thanks for everything.

Jim Fleming

NY

Coltrane idolizes Ira and they make a handsome duo. When he's not being Coltrane (testing), he's a real lover. He's become very much a part of us, to the point of forgetting he's a dog. He's a real joy and we love him very much.

Lynn & Ira

MI

Jim Dandy is doing swell. We get along great! He loves to ride in the car. He sits in the passenger seat and I feel like a chauffeur! I can't go anywhere in the house that he doesn't follow. We're still on our honeymoon! God bless and keep up the good work.

Bob Wilson

PA

Duffy is doing beautifully - - a real joy to us, a great dog. He had Ben & Jerry's Rainforest Crunch ice cream tonight. I think it's his favorite so far. Thanks.

Janet Morgan

NY

Boy, do I like my new home! My Mommy and Daddy are just wonderful. I MUST kiss Daddy all over the face and nibble on his nose and ears until he's dripping wet . . . I came in third place at dog school! I like to sleep on Mommy's lap when she's watching television . . . Thank you for taking care of me before I came to be in my new home, and for letting me be in this family. I'm a very happy dog now!

Rosie Wig

NJ

I'm doing just fine. I want to thank you for finding a wonderful home for me. They love me very much and I love them . . . They've gotten used to my strange habits now. I don't have to go to the vet every other week. He told them I just like to spin on my butt and rub my face in the dirt. I really like rolling in ashes and on dead things.

Annie

MI

Quaker has been an unending source of joy for me. He still hasn't lost his Pennsylvania accent. Thanks for the newsletter, the Christmas card, and most of all for my precious Quaker.

Sarah Bowman

GA

Spencer is doing great. He fit into his new home with no problems at all. It is almost as if he lived here all his life.

The Olsons

PA

Wanted you to know I'm doing fine with my new Mom and Dad. My cystitis is under control & I enjoy my two walks a day. My favorite thing is barking at all the other dogs that walk, too . . . they don't understand that I own the neighborhood! I'm really a great watchdog and everyone here seems to love me as I am, so thanks for letting them have me - I love being spoiled!

Jody (now Brownie)

AZ

Our Abbey is wonderful . . . such a good sweet dog . . . and has the nicest disposition. I would like to again say "Thank you" for sending our Abbey to us. She has been a great joy and has brought us a lot of happiness. We love her.

Claire Hanlon

MA

Metro is a love. We're both learning a lot at doggie school, and, I think, changing the mental outlook of our trainer, who doesn't like to train terriers. Last week Metro surprised us all, including me, by turning into the star pupil!

Virginia Borland

NY

I want to say how grateful we are for the gift of Tyler. We owe it to you and all the other members of Airedale Rescue for such a handsome dog . . . Tyler is everything anyone could want of a pet/companion . . . It is very hard to look at Tyler as a dog by the way he behaves. He is one with the family.

Velma Sifontes NY

And We Get Letters

Just a word to tell you how Jill is doing at her new home. She is now part of a home with 4 little girls. She was a birthday present for our 7 year old. The girls have decided to call her "Aunt Bea." Really we couldn't have got a better dog to suit our family than Aunt Bea. . . Our youngest is 2 years old so we needed a mature dog that liked kids. The little one is always trying to look in her ears or mouth and Aunt Bea has been real patient with her . . . When the older kids are in school and the littlest one is napping, our four year old has tea parties with Aunt Bea . . . I have volunteered Bea for a special program. For 2 hours a month she will visit a children's home as part of a "Pet a Pet" program for emotionally disturbed children.

Randy Hurn

MI

Joshua & I dropped by to say hello but you were away. Enclosed is a small check to support your rescue efforts. If you get a chance, please call me. Joshua ate the list of other dog rescue associations and I would find it very useful to have another . . . He is doing well, is extremely popular with the obedience trainer, and has taught me more than I could have imagined.

Mitchell Stewart

AZ

Our dog (Gaby) is delighted to have another canine in the house, and Abby (AKA Robin) is thrilled with all the attention. She seems to thrive on it and has such happy bright eyes that we sometimes call her "Bright Eyes." She has changed a lot in the two weeks we've had her and is finally beginning to trust us. She seemed quite pleased with herself after a haircut last week and looks quite the sophisticated lady. When I took her to the groomer, I guess she and Gaby both thought she was "going away." The sight of the two of them when I brought her home nearly made me cry. They were so thrilled to be back together. They are quite a pair and my husband and I are so happy we were able to adopt her.

Anne Brooke Stokes

MD

Casey (Scoobie) is so lovable and has such a cute way of getting what she wants (*the dog is smart!!*). She won the battle of the couch. The only way I can read a book is if she is on the couch with me. Needless to say, I don't get to read very long because she wants the attention. As you can tell from this letter, Casey has wormed her way into my home and also my heart. Thank you for the wonderful care you gave her while she waited for me to find her.

Pam Wooliever

MI

Sorry I haven't written sooner, but I've been awful busy! I've learned a lot of neat things from my sister Bernie - like how to sit and stay and how to crawl up on the bed after our owners are asleep. Typically, our days begin with a nutritious breakfast followed by a game of "ring around the coffee table," then a well-deserved afternoon nap. By that time it's supper time, another quick nap and then off for a romp in the park. So, as you can see, that just doesn't leave much time for correspondence, especially when you consider the extraneous digging, barking at cats, and wood-chewing we're involved in.

Maxwell

AZ

Just wanted you to know that Mom and I just completed Obedience Training, and here's a copy of my graduation certificate to prove it! For a while, I thought I'd have to do *all* the work (Mom's a little slow on the pick-up sometimes), but she got better and I did swell! I love living in Colorado and you know what? They've got SNOW here!! I didn't know what to make of it at first, being from Arizona, I so I barked at it a lot. Now, I run through it and shovel it up by the mouthful. It's keen!!
P.S. Mom and Dad say THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Grand Slam Sam

AZ

Why Foster Care?

We're beginning to realize that there is more than one important reason to have rescue dogs in foster care before they're placed in their adoptive homes.

Obviously, foster care allows us to evaluate dogs before we match up them up with their new families. When we live with a dog, we get to know what he or she is really like.

We learn what the dogs like and what they don't like. We learn what they don't know and what they've learned in their previous lives. We learn how they handle different kinds of situations. We learn what kind of pets and companions they will make. We learn what homes would be best for them.

But an equally important aspect of foster care has nothing to do with the dogs. It has to do with us. When you have lived with a dog, when you watch how hard he has worked to fit into your own family, you get very protective of his future. And you get very fussy about his new home and new life. Only the best will do.

Human nature being what it is, it's hard to be as diligent (not to mention well-informed) about placing a dog that you have only talked about over the phone or seen only briefly in passing. When YOU have bonded with a dog, you are in a much better position to be his ally and advocate in the search for the very BEST new and final home for him.

Bonding & The Adult Dog

A persistent myth exists among pet purchasers (and even among knowledgeable dog people) that a puppy "bonds" more closely to its owner than an adult dog does.
Hogwash & Baloney!

As those of us in rescue know so very well, nothing bonds better or more quickly than a dog who has not been appreciated in his previous life. If you really want to learn about bonding:

Get to know a rescue dog!

Rescue & The National Committee

Unfortunately, the ATCA Rescue & Adoption Committee was not formed to provide foster care for individual Airedales who find themselves in need of new homes. Committee members are actively involved in rescue efforts in their own areas and can't be expected to be responsible for your club, regional, or individual rescue dogs.

You should not think of national committee members as the place to send rescue dogs from your area - any more than you would send your own dogs to the Hunting & Working Committee to teach them how to hunt upland game, or to the Obedience Committee to train for an obedience title, or to your club's show committee to finish their championships.

The purpose of this committee is to provide support and assistance to regional and individual rescue efforts through fundraising, development of policy and guidelines, promotion of a national rescue network, and the distribution of various information and paperwork that will assist YOU in rescuing and placing Airedales in need of new homes.

We must all work to develop local rescue capabilities that include foster care, grooming, transportation, spaying and neutering, basic inoculations, and veterinary evaluation and treatment.

Of course, national rescue committee members are always ready to get involved if there is a real need, so never hesitate to contact them when an Airedale's future is at issue. They do have numerous resources and contacts (not to mention wisdom!). And there are national funds available when needed. But please don't expect them to do rescue for the entire country.

We're all in this together!

Stud Dog Owners

When Those Chickens Come Home To Roost

Rescue tends to be a place where things come home to roost. While we do get to know a lot of super Airedales, meet many caring families, and see a lot of happy endings, we also get to see the other side.

It upsets us greatly when "Airedale people," intentionally or not, let down the very breed they are supposed to be improving and caring for. There are always a number of uninformed people out there who don't know any better. But there are also some who should know better - and do know better - but choose to ignore doing the right thing.

Put simply, in rescue these days we see some dogs who are poor specimens of the breed and who have been sired by champion dogs belonging to our own club members. And we are seeing dogs whose sires are nationally ranked coming out of breeding-for-profit-only operations that crank out continual litters of puppies.

We've had the opportunity to see some of the dams and, clearly, they shouldn't have been bred in the first place. Period. Breeding a champion to a clearly inferior bitch who barely resembles the breed standard is not "improving the breed." We wonder why the owner of a well-bred champion would want to be involved at all.

In the case of breeding kennels whose sole goal is to mass produce puppies for sale to the general public: (1) The bitches used for breeding are usually home-bred and have never been objectively evaluated against the standard for the breed. (2) The bitches are seldom, if ever, evaluated for hip dysplasia and other genetic predispositions. (3) The breeders cannot be too fussy about the homes the puppies go to since they have to push puppies to make room for the next batch. (4) The very highly spirited nature of many top dogs (which makes them show so well in the ring) may not be the most suitable disposition for dogs mass-produced for the uneducated general public - many of whom will never have owned, met, or known an Airedale before.

The excuse that seems to get trotted out by many, including people who should know better, is: Well, if they're going to breed their bitch anyway, they might as well breed her to my (wonderful) stud dog. Bad logic and bad practice.

It's easier for stud dog owners to be invisible in the immediate responsibility for puppies produced by a breeding. But they are equally responsible for the results of a mating that involves the use of their stud dog. If the breeder of a bitch is unwilling or unable to be responsible for unwanted puppies produced by a breeding, the stud dog owner must be ready to step in. Responsible stud dog owners may even be more crucial than responsible owners of bitches. Stud dogs have the capability of producing hundred and hundreds of puppies.

This is a new era of Reproductive Responsibility. Please be certain that you would be proud of EVERY one of your stud dog's puppies. Be sure that you would be proud for your Airedale friends to meet EVERY bitch who has been bred to your dog. Be convinced that you yourself would be proud to own EVERY one of your dog's puppies.

Rescue vs. Return

There continues to be confusion about who a rescue dog is.

A rescue dog is NOT a dog that a breeder takes back. This is a returned dog, returned to the breeder from whom it came. This has nothing to do with rescue.

We hear stories of "rescue" dogs who go on to become champions - dogs who are returned to their breeders for some reason and whom the breeder then decides to finish. **THESE ARE NOT RESCUE DOGS.** These are dogs who have been returned to their breeders.

We commend all breeders who take back their own dogs, as they should, but this is not considered rescue work. This is breeder responsibility and is expected of all reputable Airedale breeders.

Calamity Jane (Some Girls Just Get a Bad Rap)

Things were silent for a couple of weeks . . . and then Calamity Jane appeared. Her Kansas shelter info read that she was not housebroken and had a fierce propensity for chasing livestock.

Since there were no placement prospects in Kansas City, Calamity Jane "Airedale-networked" her way to St. Louis. She arrived just in time for the holidays, with everyone a bit leery after seeing her shelter bio.

The meeting with Calamity Jane turned out to be much different than anticipated. Her spirits seemed very broken, and she offered neither animation nor tail wags. In the three weeks that followed, she never once had a housebreaking accident and was undoubtedly one of the nicest girls you could ever take into your home.

After clipping and grooming, Calamity Jane followed the metamorphosis of a butterfly. She took on a whole new personality, looking down at her body as if to say, "Gee, look at me now!" Now she had an attitude to go along with her wonderful personality.

Not only was she housebroken, but her new owners even have horses - and she never makes any attempt to chase them. Life for Calamity Jane is very good.

Carolyn Campbell/Mary Johnson MO/KS

Nick

The story of Nick is so typical of many rescue Airedales who have been banished to basements, laundry rooms and backyards, usually only for the crime of behaving like a dog. Needless to say, Airedales do not respond well to such a life.

Nick's owners had decided that Nick "just didn't fit their lifestyle any more," and wanted to get rid of him. When Marilyn Rowles and Edie Young arrived to pick him up, Nick was confined to the laundry room with a baby gate - and very thrilled with the attentions of his rescuers.

Marilyn writes, "Nick now has a huge fenced yard to romp in, his own bed, numerous toys, and best of all celebrated his first birthday with dog biscuits, cards, toys, and his very own birthday cake with 'NICK' in big letters on it."

Marilyn Rowles Mid-Michigan Rescue

Different Strokes for Different Folks

Trixie was 18 months old when she came to us. She didn't know what a dog dish was. She drank from the toilet, ate off counters, foraged in the trash. She didn't know or chose to ignore all verbal commands. She barked constantly. She was the only dog who, when I put on a bark collar, barked louder and more often when wearing it. She hated being kenneled.

It was a long three weeks until we found the perfect home: 4 adults, all obedience instructors, all home all day. They could choose between sweet Delta or bouncy Trixie - and, you guessed it, they preferred Trixie!

Carol Dickinson

Alaska Rescue

And Sometimes You Get Really Lucky!

Annie, 38 pounds and with almost no hair except for a little tuft on her tail, arrived at the Kansas City shelter. The shelter employees said, "If there ever were a dog that needed rescuing, this is it."

One of our applicants had told us that she *much preferred* a problem dog! Her whole family had a history of rescuing everything from cows to strays on the interstate. Boy, did we have just the dog for Gail!

Annie was cleaned and groomed as best we could. Not only was she missing a great deal of hair and loaded with fleas, but she was virtually covered in scales as a result of a massive flea allergy.

We tried to prepare ourselves for the meeting with Gail. She was undaunted. After some trying days and many medicated baths and creams, Annie is now fully recovered with a full coat of hair all over - and has a wonderful life!

Mary Johnson/Allsion Huck

MO/KS

Rescue Gets Global

In case you thought things might be getting simpler . . . Several things happened this year that made us all realize once again what a small world it really is. And even our Airedales are affected by world events

Taro

Candy Kramlich (White Plains, NY) reported on "Taro's" rescue experience. Taro had been adopted from the Yonkers Animal Shelter by a Japanese family living in this country. After 9 months (and many strides in socializing Taro), the Fujisaki family was very upset to find themselves being transferred back to Japan, without adequate space to care for him. (And we've all heard about how crowded Japanese housing can be.)

As they researched the situation, the Fujisakis were dismayed to learn that the life of a pet in Japan isn't what many of us consider standard in this country. And they had come to love Taro as a family member. They declined an offer from a home-owning friend in Japan to keep Taro chained outside in a small yard, knowing this would not be the quality of life he had been used to here in the U.S. As Rieko said, "Mike and I learned many, many important things through taking care of Taro. Taro taught us how important to love animals . . . all living things."

Fortunately, the Fujisakis found Airedale Rescue. After several months, Taro had just learned to "play like a little boy" and Reiko was very worried that he would revert to "being a little old man." But Candy reported that a follow-up visit to his new home found Taro with a "twinkle in his eye and a bounce in his step." And his new owners said they "wouldn't trade him for a million dollars!"

Desert Storm & Rescue

Carol Dickinson of Alaska Rescue wrote that 25% of their rescue dogs last year came in after local troops shipped out for Operation Desert Storm. Apparently, other rescue groups there experienced the same thing.

"Josey," their second Desert Storm rescue, showed up engorged with milk. An intensive search turned up no leads on Airedale litters. Carol said Josey arrived "with the jail crazies doubled by the lost-litter crazies." It was a long Thanksgiving holiday for Carol!

"Piper" was lost or released around troop movement time. They estimate that she wandered and starved in heavy snows for two months before being found - so weak she couldn't walk and unable to hold down food.

Their policy is to bring dogs back to health prior to placement, but a family was in the interview process as Piper arrived. So Beth came over "just to meet us."

Carol writes, "We all were loving her and checking her over, our hearts breaking. Beth sat on the floor and held Piper's head in her lap, stroking her. Beth said, 'She'll go home with me.' Piper sighed contentedly."

As Carol reports, "Beth felt the dog would bond faster to the person who cared for her. Beth, the mother of 2 pre-schoolers, cleaned up Piper's loose stools and carried her out to the yard for a couple weeks before she could keep food down and was able to walk. Now Piper is a happy, healthy family dog."

An interesting inquiry came to the all-breed rescue coalition that Arizona's **Melissa Moore** helped to start. A military wife stationed in Germany wrote of the problem of pets in the armed services, "Military families are infamous for abandoning their pets when they get an assignment. Most German animal shelters will not allow Americans to adopt."

This kind lady was interested in trying to start a rescue organization at her next base, England. She had all the right ideas about what should be done to effectively launch such an effort.

How nice to know that someone "on the move" herself would want to take time to help the dogs getting shuffled around in nomadic military life.

Brownie

by Carol Dickinson (Alaska Airedale Club Rescue Project, Anchorage, AK)

[Ed. Note: While Brownie's story is not typical of the Airedales who come into Rescue, it highlights not only the dedication of rescue workers and foster homes, but also the determination and hard work of the Airedales who "choose to be saved" in spite the odds against them.]

We are most proud of our success with Brownie. She was brought from a New York puppy mill to Alaska to tree and kill bears. It was not in her nature. She was beaten in an attempt to make her mean enough. She came to us with a severely scarred eye from an infected scratched cornea. She suffered from abuse and neglect.

Brownie had learned that all human kindness is a trick. She had obviously been repeatedly coaxed with friendly words and bribed into coming to someone who then hurt her. She was suspicious of everyone and unwilling to be touched. She wouldn't let you look at her. She limped as she would slink away to hide. Her tail was glued down by fear.

Bright lights, shadows, the sound of rattling metal such as car keys, chains, dog runs, pots and pans - all sent her zooming to a hiding place. If there were none, she'd immediately freeze and cower. She was not housebroken. Logic said this was a hopeless case.

And yet there was something there. Brownie was not a broken dog. When she was outside only with dogs and didn't think anyone was watching, she was a free spirit - joyful, mischievous, the ring leader, and she had no limp. And she wanted to be with humans. When other dogs were being loved, she would sneak up next to them and get under your hand to be touched. She'd stay if you didn't look at her, but run if you did.

Brownie spent several months with Kathy and her dog, Fancy - total quiet, adults only. She was eager to know the rules and followed them. Then she moved to Wendy's - less quiet, more people, more dogs. Eventually she was placed with a single person at an oyster farm, but she was returned after several weeks - much improved, but she had not been considered affectionate enough.

Returning to Wendy's was not possible, so Brownie came to my house where she was exposed to noise, confusion, surprise, annoying hyperactive kids, and lots of bright lights and shadows. She learned they don't all mean danger. She had learned that some people don't play tricks, that you could come when called - and be issued bones or get a tickle instead of being hurt.

A model house guest, she was still at her best outside. She ran my three dogs ragged. Roxy lost 12 pounds chasing her. We tried another placement but again - not affectionate fast enough. Back she came. We decided she would not be placed again except as a second dog.

One day Brownie forgot herself during a romp and discovered she was on the bed. Oh, oh! She got an ear rub instead of a whack. That was probably the turning point. She decided it was OK to be a real dog and went through a second puppyhood. She tested all the rules, romped, and foraged in the trash. We had to explain that chewing was not allowed with each individual item. She always adhered to the rules about any one item but tested us continually with each new item. It was a long two weeks of puppyhood.

In her ninth month with rescue, Brownie interviewed two families as prospective owners. I really liked family number one. Brownie hated them. Well, she hated all strangers at first, but my Dusty couldn't stand them either, so we discouraged them. Then Greg and Debbie came by.

Not only did Brownie not tuck her tail and hide, she greeted them warmly, trustingly turning her back to them in a minute or so. Soon, she was almost crawling onto Greg's lap. Out in the backyard Brownie and their Airedale, Boggs, had a fine romp. We had planned several visits before any attempted placement, but Brownie didn't see the need to wait and neither did they. They left with Boggs and Brownie happily sharing the back seat. At the end of the trial period, they pronounced her a keeper. Brownie's a real dog again.

The point of Brownie's story is not that every abused dog can be turned around. We know she is an exception. Her circumstances were unique, and pure luck played a large part in our success. She was born to be a family dog. We were able to see past the damage and recognize her brains, courage, and spirit. Maybe her breeder played a part by socializing her and giving her a desire to be a beloved dog, perhaps a memory she kept in the back of her mind. Most important, Brownie is a survivor. She worked very hard to be rehabilitated. She chose to be saved.

The Pleasures of an Older Dog

by Linda Pirolli

[Fortunately for the older Airedales who come through rescue and are so very difficult to place, there are wonderful people like the Pirollis, who adopted 8-year-old Brandy, in spite of her age and less than perfect hips.]

We don't know why Brandy's former owners gave her away. She is housebroken, gentle, protective, and pretty. And she is so-o-o grateful to have a family, a bowl of food and two other dogs to play with. Because of her age, she is not athletic; her hips give her trouble when she goes up and down our stairs. Also, because of her age she is much quieter than she must have been as a puppy.

In our family, she is the ideal third dog. She gets along beautifully with our Airedale Bones, an aggressive male, and our Welsh Terrier Karadoc, who has chronic health problems. And though she is quick to bark at strangers, she is loving and patient with our 4 year old son. We have had many problems trying to integrate younger dogs into our home in the past, but Brandy has adjusted with practically no difficulty.

My husband and I chose to adopt an elderly Airedale after reading the poem in your last newsletter about Hannah, an elderly female who was euthanized because no one would adopt an old dog. We were moved to tears to think that a healthy dog should die simply because no one understood how pleasant a quiet, gentle, older dog can be.

Sure, Brandy is 8 and might only live to 12 or so. But we can enjoy those four years (if that is all we have). There is no guarantee that a young dog will be healthy longer than an older one.

No adoption is problem-free. Brandy is still getting used to us and so she is nervous and jumpy. But a younger dog's nervous energy is greater than an eight year old's. It seems to us that families considering a first Airedale, or looking for a quiet dog who won't cause much trouble, would do well to consider an older dog and reduce the number of behavior problems inevitably encountered in dog ownership.

For Hanna

by Elizabeth Clark

What morning when you waken
Is the right one to decide
That this dog will be forsaken
And no more with you abide?
A dog like this, she'll find a home
And what will be the harm
In telling all the children
That she'll be living on a farm?
As you bring her in and leave her
In her lonely metal cage
And act as though you have no choice
I feel a silent rage.
What heinous thing has this dog done?
What had been her crime?
Or are there other things more pressing
And you don't have the time?
This dog who loved her master
And served him day by day
Has become an inconvenience
And has now been sent away.
She keeps a faithful vigil,
The tears in my eyes burn.
While with trusting expectation
She waits for your return.
A dog like this will have no home,
No master will be found
For who will take an older dog
When younger ones abound?
Now at last her time has come,
And with a gentle nod
I'll cradle your dog in my arms
And send her back to God.

Old
Happens!

Save A Place
For an Older Face