

American Bouvier Rescue League

RALPH GOLDMAN RESCUE FUND

Guidelines

PURPOSE:

To find homes for misplaced, neglected, and unwanted Bouviers; to contribute to the educational process encouraging responsible dog ownership.

DEFINITIONS:

Rescue

1. Removing a dog from danger.
2. Removing a dog from confinement in a facility such as a shelter, a pound, a humane society, etc.

Placement

1. Removing a dog from its existing home because circumstances have changed and the owners can no longer keep the dog.
2. Locating homes for dogs no longer in danger.
3. Locating homes for breeders' dogs.

Friend of the Bouvier

1. The person accepting responsibility for (adopting) a Rescue or Placement dog.

Bouvier Befriender

1. The person who agrees to temporarily foster a Rescue dog.

1. ORGANIZATION

- A. This organization shall be called the **American Bouvier Rescue League (ABRL)** and will be funded by the **Ralph Goldman Rescue Fund**.
- B. This League shall consist of a Director, four Assistant Directors (Chief, Publicity, Administration, and Finance), a Regional

club Coordinator, eight Regional Directors, and as many ABRL members as wish to participate.

The AMERICAN BOUVIER DES FLANDRES CLUB Board of Governors shall appoint the Director. The Assistant Director, Administration, shall be the ABdFC Secretary. The Assistant Director, Finance, shall be the ABdFC Treasurer. The appointments for all other positions shall be made by the Director. The Director shall have the sole responsibility for accepting new members into the League.

- C. The Director will serve as League Secretary. The Director will provide the League with guidelines, questionnaires, adoption contracts, release forms, and an informational article on the Bouvier. The Director is responsible for writing thank you notes to Friends of the Bouvier and Bouvier Befrienders and providing the new Friend of the Bouvier with a free copy of Second Hand Dog by Carol Benjamin and the "Beginners Guide to the Bouvier des Flandres." The Director will prepare a summary of the League's activities to be presented at the Annual Meeting in October. The Director will submit as necessary signed and dated receipts for money spent in the Region for rescue efforts with a short explanation for accounting purposes and will in general act as a center of information. The Director will prepare a bimonthly report to the Board of Governors compiled from the monthly reports from the Regional Directors. (See F. below.) The report will, in addition, contain the following:
 1. Number of prospective foster homes.
 2. Number of dogs currently fostered.
 3. Number of new ABRL members.
 4. An itemized list of donations received.

- D. The Chief Assistant Director will assume the responsibilities of the Director upon request of the Director or when the Director is not available. The Assistant Director, Publicity, is responsible for making the ABdFC membership aware of the activities of the ABRL and making them aware of the need for funds. Articles and information received will be prepared and submitted to the Editor for each edition of all-ABdFC publications. Prepared information will be reviewed by the Director prior to publication. The Assistant Director, Administration, is responsible for directing the public to the ABRL Director when appropriate. The Assistant Director, Finance, will receive all financial records from the ABRL and, upon request from the Director, will issue reimbursement checks and/or pay bills promptly, so long as funds remain in the Ralph Goldman Rescue Fund.
- E. The Regional Club Coordinator shall keep in touch with all Regional Clubs, whether they are recognized by the AKC or not, to make sure that our efforts do not overlap theirs and to make sure that all areas are covered.
- F. Regional Directors will be responsible for their Regions, will report directly to the Director, and will assist the Director in evaluating all questionnaires originating in their region. They will be required to submit a monthly report to the Director. The report will include the following:
1. Number of adoptions.
 2. Number of dogs in Rescue.
 3. Number of application packets mailed.
 4. Number of applications received.
 5. Number of trips to Shelters to ID a Bouvier.
 6. Number of dogs euthanized and reason(s) why.
 7. Known health problems.
 8. Number of miscellaneous breeds rescued.
- G. An individual becomes a member of the ABRL upon receipt of the signed form entitled "Registration for Membership in the ABRL." The League will have as many members as are willing to serve and will have representatives from as wide a geographical area as possible. These members will inform their Regional Director of Bouviers in need of adoption, names and addresses of Friends of the Bouvier, and names

and addresses of prospective Friends of the Bouvier. Copies of questionnaires originating in their area will be submitted to both the Regional director and the Director.

- H. All appointments to the American Bouvier Rescue League are to be considered long-term appointments. They are not to be given artificial time limits.

II INITIATING INVOLVEMENT

- A. Each League member will contact all local animal control agencies (pounds, shelters, humane societies) and get to know the personnel of these agencies. These agencies will be provided with the name, address, and telephone number of local members as well as that of the Director. They will also be provided with pictures of cropped and uncropped, groomed and ungroomed Bouviers. They will be requested to contact a local member if a Bouvier should appear among the dogs picked up, or if one should be turned into them by their owners.
- B. When the animal control agency has progressed to the point of taking physical control of a Bouvier, League members will request that the Bouvier be released to them as quickly as possible.
- C. League members taking possession of the dog(s) are responsible for getting a signed release. (See Release form.)
- D. The American Bouvier Rescue League does not sanction the buying of Bouviers as a rescue effort. Membership in the League does not grant nor imply authorization to do so on behalf of the ABdFC or the League.

III BREEDERS ASSISTANCE

- A. Try to identify the breeder of the rescued Bouvier and inform that breeder of the situation. Such notification should occur via certified mail from the Director; the breeder should have a maximum of 10 days to reply.
- B. Once located, enlist assistance from the breeder in one of the following ways:

1. Suggest that the breeder take the dog back **as required by the ABdFC Code of Ethics.**
 2. Suggest that the breeder pay all expenses incurred by Rescue **as required by the ABdFC Code of Ethics.** These expenses include the cost of obtaining the dog (should a fee have been charged by the sheltering agency), returning the dog to the breeder, and all medical and placement costs.
- C. Try to obtain information on the background of the dog for use by the new owner.

IV. VETERINARY SERVICES

- A. League members should seek to establish a working relationship with a veterinarian in their area who is willing to work with the rescue dogs and is willing to reduce fees for spaying, neutering, vaccinations, fecals, heartworm check, brucellosis test, boarding, medication, etc.
- B. All rescue Bouviers must be taken to a veterinarian and examined. Health problems whose treatment would result in care in excess of \$250.00 must have the approval of the League Director before treatment begins. Dogs will be checked first for heartworm and, if appropriate, brucellosis. Euthanasia for dogs testing positive for heartworm or brucellosis will be decided on an individual basis by the League. If the dogs are negative for heartworm and brucellosis, they will then be checked further for other problems.
- C. Once a dog is considered in good health and adoptable, it will be neutered or spayed. If for any reason it is inadvisable to neuter or spay the Bouvier prior to adoption, neutering or spaying will be done not more than sixty days from the date of adoption. One exception would be a dog testing positive for and being treated for heartworm; in this situation the dog should be neutered/spayed at the earliest date feasible as indicated by the veterinarian treating the dog. Another exception would be the placement of a very young puppy, in which case the dog must be spayed or neutered at the age of six months. (See Contract and Release Agreement.) The Regional Director involved in the placement

will stay in touch with the Friend of the Bouvier to insure the operation is performed.

V. WHICH DOGS TO SAVE

- A. All Bouviers are not adoptable. Dogs with brucellosis, severe and long-standing skin disorders, severe injuries or vicious temperaments may be euthanized immediately. It is sometimes very difficult to place an older dog. Occasionally, a dog will display temperament problems after it goes to a foster home, necessitating a decision as to whether to keep him or euthanize him.
THE DIRECTOR CAN GRANT EXCEPTIONS TO ALL RULES.
- B. Euthanasia will be a decision made by the agreement of no less than three League members, one of whom must be the Director.

VI. FOSTER HOMES

- A. The American Bouvier Rescue League will secure as many foster homes as possible among the membership of the ABdFC and other interested persons.
- B. A foster person (Bouvier Befriender) must sign a Fostering Contract and Release form by the time custody of a dog is temporarily transferred to the Bouvier Befriender's care. The individual must also be a member of the ABRL, having submitted a signed "Registration for Membership in the ABRL."
- C. A foster home must be willing to keep and care for one or more rescued Bouviers for an undetermined length of time, and must furnish food and regular care without reimbursement.
- D. Approved veterinary fees will be billed to the American Bouvier Rescue League. The Director and Regional Director will decide on an individual basis how long the Bouvier must be fostered. Charges over \$250 must have the approval of the League Director.
- E. Any League member assisting in an adoption or acting as a foster home is responsible for being aware of any applicable city, county, or state laws governing animal control in their locality.

entitled “Contract and Release Agreement” has been signed.

VII. PLACING THE BOUVIER

- A. An ABRL member and/or person knowledgeable in the breed will evaluate the temperament of a prospective rescue Bouvier. The preliminary and final evaluations will be reviewed by the ABRL member prior to placement. The evaluation will be reviewed with Friend of the Bouvier before placement.
- B. ABRL members may contact persons in the community who have expressed an interest in adopting a rescue Bouvier, place an ad in the local newspapers, and put notices in veterinary clinics, pet food stores, dog training schools and local dog publications.
- C. ABRL members may contact Bouvier breeders in their area asking for the names of persons that might be interested in adopting a rescue Bouvier.
- D. All prospective rescue Bouvier owners will be screened thoroughly. They will be sent a questionnaire and articles entitled “Don’t Buy a Bouvier” by Pam Green and “The Bouvier des Flandres.” (See articles and questionnaire.) Upon return of the completed questionnaire, a League member will request that the prospective Friend of the Bouvier visit a League member’s home to interact with a well-adjusted Bouvier.
- E. If at this point the League member feels the Friend of the Bouvier will provide a good home, and if an appropriate dog is available, the League member will schedule a home visit. (A good guideline to follow is only to approve families to which you would sell one of your own dogs.)
- F. The Friend of the Bouvier must be willing to take the rescue Bouvier to eight weeks of basic obedience classes.
- G. When the Friend of the Bouvier has been approved, the League member will make an appointment with the agency, foster home, or individual in order to take the prospective Friend of the Bouvier to see the rescue dog.
- H. The Friend of the Bouvier may take possession of the dog only after the form

- I. The League member will follow up with a telephone call within three days to see how the rescue Bouvier is doing and to determine whether or not assistance should be given. The League member will continue to keep in touch and to offer assistance.
- J. The League member will provide information and assistance to the Friend of the Bouvier concerning maintenance, nutrition, training, grooming, and medical care of the Bouvier.
- K. The rescue Bouvier will be placed only as a **HOUSE DOG**.
- L. Refer to the “Contract and Release Agreement” as to the responsibilities of the American Bouvier Rescue League and the responsibilities of the Friend of the Bouvier.
- M. All registration papers will be sent to the ABRL Director. The Director will forward the papers to the AKC along with a note telling them the dog has been rescued by the American Bouvier Rescue League.
- N. The ABRL Director will be responsible for assisting those Friends of the Bouvier in applying for ILP numbers if they wish to compete for working titles.

VIII. CHARGES

- A. The adoption fee of \$200 will be assessed to the Friend of the Bouvier. Any additional medical expenses up to \$250 (exceptions being made for those who have **prior** approval from the Director) may be submitted to the ABRL for reimbursement. The League members should attempt to collect from the Friend of the Bouvier those expenses that would exceed the \$200 adoption fee, such as medical fees, boarding fees, crate, leash, collar, etc.
- B. The League will itemize the charges, and the list will be attached to the Contract and Release Agreement and become a part of the Contract.
- C. The Friend of the Bouvier may return the

Bouvier within two weeks from the date of adoption for a full refund.

- D. The American Bouvier Rescue League will attempt to assist breeders in placing neutered/spayed Bouviers. As soon as a breeder contacts the ABRL with a request for assistance, the ABRL member will first ascertain that the breeder is familiar with ABRL Guidelines in general and with all clauses under section VIII in specific. A signed affidavit from the breeder affirming their understanding will be requested immediately. Accompanying this affidavit the breeder will transmit a \$75 fee per dog in the form of a cashier's check, certified funds, or money order to the American Bouvier Rescue League before the League attempts to assist in placement. No personal checks will be accepted. The breeder will be made aware that this \$75 fee is for administrative purposes and is not a guarantee of successful placement. Once help has been solicited, the breeder will be responsible for all expenses incurred. If a breeder is also an ABdFC member, it is understood that the above charges are considered to be a debt owed to the ABdFC once assistance from the American Bouvier Rescue League has been accepted and that they are required to abide by the ABdFC Code of Ethics. Any breeders contacting the ABRL whose Bouviers are not neutered/spayed at the time the League is contacted, must neuter/spay those dogs at the breeder's expense prior to placement. If it is not practical for a Bouvier to be neutered/spayed prior to the ABRL accepting custody, then the breeder will prepay \$50 per dog toward the cost of this surgery which will be performed as soon as it is medically appropriate. All breeders are responsible for paying the balance of the charge(s) to neuter/spay once the operation has been successfully accomplished. All vaccinations and health checks, including fecal and heartworm tests, will be supplied by the breeder at the breeder's expense prior to placement. These records must be documented by a licensed veterinarian. In addition, the breeder will surrender all registration papers to an ABRL member prior to the placement.
- E. When the American Bouvier Rescue League accepts a dog for placement from a private owner, the ABRL shall charge the owner

surrendering the dog \$50. The owner is required to sign the ABRL Release form which the League member has completed. The ABRL will not refer or reveal the names of adoptive homes to the previous owner. This fee can be altered/waived with the approval of the League Director.

IX RELEASE AND CONTRACTS

- A. The Release form and the adoption Contract and Release Agreement will be filled out in triplicate. This also applies to the Foster Home Contract and Release Agreement. A copy will be given to the Friend of the Bouvier, Bouvier Befriender, agency, or individual, a copy will be kept by the League member involved in the transaction, and the original will be kept in the American Bouvier Rescue League file maintained by the League Director.
- B. The Release form is used for removing a Bouvier from an individual owner. It must be signed by the individual and witnessed by an ABRL member.
- C. The Release form is also used for removing a Bouvier from an agency (shelters, pounds, humane societies, etc.) and must be signed by a Corporate Officer or other person in charge at the agency and witnessed by an ABRL member.
- D. The adoption Contract and Release Agreement must be signed by both the Friend of the Bouvier and an ABRL member.

X RALPH GOLDMAN RESCUE FUND

- A. The money for the American Bouvier Rescue League is kept in the checking account of the ABdFC in a fund called the Ralph Goldman Rescue Fund. This fund is separate from the Trophy Fund and the General Fund. Money may not be transferred between funds without Board approval. Money received by the ABRL must be in the form of a check, money order, etc. made payable to the ABdFC or the ABRL and in U.S. currency only. Cash may not be sent through the mail. All money and the purpose for which it was received shall be sent to the Assistant Director, Finance, for deposit.

XI DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

- A. The disbursement of funds is under the control of the Director up to the amount in the Ralph Goldman Rescue Fund. Beyond that, expenditures must be approved by the Board of Governors. The Director shall maintain the \$500 advance received from the Ralph Goldman Rescue Fund in the ABdFC Treasury. Day-to-day expenses and minor bills shall be paid by the Director from the advance.
- B. All bills and receipts for rescue shall be submitted to the Director for approval and payment. The Director will pay or reimburse members for approved bills for which advance money is available. Approved bills for which advance money is not available will be sent to the Assistant Director, Finance, for payment. The Director will make and retain a copy of these bills and receipts for ABRL records and will forward the originals to the Assistant Director, Finance. The Assistant Director, Finance, will pay all unpaid bills and will reimburse the Director for the amounts the Director has paid up to the amount in the Ralph Goldman Rescue Fund.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE DIRECTOR CAN GRANT EXCEPTIONS TO ALL RULES, AND THAT CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT AMONG LEAGUE MEMBERS IS MOST IMPORTANT!

XII FUND RAISING

- A. The American Bouvier Rescue League will hold at least one fund-raising event each year at the ABdFC National Specialty.
- B. ABRL members are encouraged to hold fund-raising events if they wish. This can be a lot of fun, and there is a great deal of room for creativity. The following suggestions have proven successful for other rescue groups: T-shirts, bumper stickers, booths (at dog shows and shopping centers), tattoo clinics, items for sale on a year-around basis, raffles.

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