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A Challenging Year - But We Persist and Achieve!

by NBRF Director Ann Marie Wiseman

This year has had many challenges for all of us. Individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations have experienced difficulties no one ever expected due to Covid 19. Rescue work has always been challenging but never more so than this year. Donations have declined while expenses have risen exponentially. This year our International side has suffered the most. As flights decreased our options for international transport became extremely limited. Passenger flights have been almost non-existent therefore eliminating the cost-effective option to transport our dogs using a flight escort and leaving us with only one alternative of expensive cargo shipping. Cargo has always been expensive but this year the airlines doubled and tripled the cargo fees. I would like to make our International rescue efforts the beneficiary of our donation request this year and in particular ask for donations to pay the cargo transport fee for Nikolas who traveled from Beijing, China, to Seattle, Washington.

Nikolas was discovered tied to a truck at a meat market outside of Beijing China by the Candy Cane Rescue team while searching for Greyhounds to save. The rescue team contacted NBRF and we immediately said we would be responsible for him if they could get him. Nikolas was saved from the horrible fate of the meat market but still had challenges. Nikolas was very sick and we did not know if he would survive but after two months of hospital care Nikolas regained his strength and health. By the time Nikolas was healthy enough to travel the Covid 19 pandemic had started and travel came to a halt. Nicolas spent 11 months in a boarding facility near Beijing, China, with Candy Cane Rescue. This November 2020, we were finally able to book Nikolas on a cargo flight to the U.S. but at a staggering cost of over \$9,000. Candy Cane rescue has generously paid for Nikolas' boarding fees at their kennel since Nikolas arrived last year and his medical cost were split between NBRF and Candy Cane Rescue. (continued on page 12)

NBRF and **NBRF** International

by the Numbers...

The numbers below reflect the period spanning from January 1, 2020 through November 21, 2020.



The total number of Borzoi taken into rescue by NBRF is to date (11/21/2020) 20 dogs!

INCOME, includes but not limited to:

Donations: \$18,961.18 Amazon Smile: \$ 1,370.39 Fundraisers: \$ 729.09 Network for Good: \$ 2,704.68

EXPENSES, include but not limited to:

Veterinary: \$20,990.86 Insurance: \$1,383.00 Toll free Number: \$259.61 Rescue Supplies \$1,647.24

Tentative loss \$ 515.37



N.B.R.F. International

The total number of Borzoi taken into rescue by NBRF International is to date (11/21/2020) 10 dogs!

INCOME includes but not limited to:

Donations: \$ 4,635.28 Fundraisers: \$ 5.895.03

EXPENSES include but not limited to:

Veterinary: \$ 4,309.77 Shelter/Boarding: \$ 2,569.63 Transport, Fuel, Airline Fees:

\$16,582.65

Rescue Supplies \$ 1,180.52

Tentative loss \$14,112.26

Join our email list and stay updated on the latest NBRF news! Please send an email to newsnbrf@gmail.com to receive our periodic updates.

Our Volunteers...

Volunteers are the life force of our organization and the reason for our success. NBRF is grateful for the all the volunteers that have helped us through this difficult year with foster homes, home visits, airport pickups, transport and donations. Our Team Borzoi has done an amazing job again this year working diligently and tirelessly to make sure each rescue dogs needs are met and that they find the perfect forever home suited just for them.

The jobs are many the hours are long and I cannot imagine working with a more dedicated and professional team. Thank you Volunteers and Team Borzoi!

We are always looking to build our team. Please fill out a volunteer application on our website: rescueborzoi.org if you would like to join Team Borzoi and help us with our mission to save every Borzoi in need.

Ann Marie Wiseman



When you register for Amazon-Smile, you earn cash donations for NBRF with each purchase. After signing up with Amazon Smile, select "Account & Lists", at the top corner, go to "Your AmazonSmile" and pick your own charitable organization by entering National Borzoi Rescue Foundation... the list will display "National Borzoi Rescue Foundation Dix, IL." Select and you are done.

Love Given, Love Received: The Magic of the Borzoi

by Sue Bandsma



Merlin

The first time we saw a Borzoi was at a Greyhound gathering in Iowa. The owner told us it was a rescue and that breeders told her the dog was ugly. We thought it was a very unique animal. The next meeting with a Borzoi was in Wisconsin. This time we definitely became interested in adopting a Borzoi.

We contacted Carol Backers of NBRF in January 2005 and she picked out Spice, one of the Texas 22. Because Spice was being fostered by Billie Thibeaux in Texas we arranged to pick her up when we were in Abilene, Kansas, at a greyhound event. Spice was a work in progress but she tried her best every day.

Then we adopted Merlin from NBRF in 2012. We truly believe he was born to be a therapy dog. He knew how to work a room and loved visiting with the veterans at the VA Medical Center, Air National Guard Base, and Talons Out Honor Flight. He also was a member of the American Red Cross K9 Action Team and would visit with the clients at disaster shelters.

Dessa joined our family in November 2017 and is also a certified therapy dog. She is following in Merlin's pawprints and visiting at the VA Medical Center, Air National Guard Base, and Talons Out

Honor Flight. Our plan was to complete our training and become a handler/dog team for HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response this year but COVID-19 made us change our plans.

We have enjoyed camping and travelling to Kansas, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Minisota, Wisconsin, New York, Iowa, Missouri, with the hounds. Our Borzoi have always been the object of interest and curiosity wherever we go. We love to talk to people about the breed.

We love dogs and what they bring to our lives and what we can do for them. Fostering, transporting, as well as the adoptions have always been an enjoyable process and definitely brings additional meaning to life. We have also had the opportunity to meet so many amazing people because of the dogs and we are extremely grateful.

Escaping Horror: Reflecting on Nikolas' Story

by Anthony Vanderlinden

Are there any more gruesome words than a dog in a meat market or a Borzoi in a Chinese meat market? And yet, that is Nikolas' story. He was found in a Chinese meat market in mainland China by volunteers of the British group Candy Cane Rescue.

Candy Cane Rescue operates in China seeking Greyhounds and other (sight)hounds in order to save them from unspeakable fates. The horrors of Chinese meat markets are only the beginning for many sighthounds, the Candy Cane Rescue website lists some of the unimaginable ways dogs are abused and tortured to death. The stories reflect acts of cruelty and sadism. This is more than just a cultural difference, it is a fundamental lack of respect and compassion for nature and life.

Where Nikolas came from is a mystery, but he was saved in the nick of time. Candy Cane contacted NBRF and the ball started rolling to get him out of China. Initially Vicki Stone was to travel to Beijing and bring him back in February, but the pandemic was spreading and the wise decision was made to cancel her trip. This left Nikolas with no way out. His medical situation was also a concern: he was undernourished, weak, and diseased. Candy Cane Rescue helped with its established network of veterinary care and boarding, both uncommon in China a country where there are few resources for animal care. Nikolas stayed for about 11 months in the care of Plush Bears Shelter, one of the largest and best shelters in China. The Plush Bears website also goes into many of the barbaric situations they face, too graphic for me to include in this article. After months of trying, NBRF directors found a way out for Nikolas. He was to fly out as cargo, but no direct flight was possible so he went to Seoul, South Korea, then to Frankfurt, Germany, and finally to his new home in Seattle, Washington. This escape route came at a hefty price of \$9,000. After almost a year, he finally arrived and has been a surprise to all.

His adopted family reports how sweet and gentle he is, how fast he has adjusted, and that he is quite a goofy and sometimes clumsy puppy. He is estimated to be about two years old and loves small dogs. In fact his adopted family waited for a long time to find a Borzoi that would be safe among their pack of small dogs. Nikki, as he is affectionately called, is their fifth Borzoi and they have also rescued several Afghans through the years. They are very experienced with the breed and love Nikolas dearly. Nikolas traveled a long way but has finally found the affection he deserves. He is still healing from a wound but is expected to make a full recovery.



Nikolas as found in a Chinese meat market.



As a volunteer, I was not aware of Nikolas until a few weeks ago. I tip my hat to NBRF and its directors for their work and the decision to spend \$9,000 for the rescue of one dog. I know that most rescue organizations would never have considered such a bold and expensive move. It takes guts to ignore the bottom line and go all in and win at all cost.

It is noble and makes NBRF unique and worthy of our support. I love that NBRF has such an extensive network worldwide and works at getting dogs, like Nikolas, out of horrible places. Certainly we should all sound the alarm and raise awareness on what dogs face in China and other Asian countries.

A photo is worth a thousand words and you can see Nikki's happiness! Please donate to NBRF, so future dogs, like Nikolas, can be rescued! The alternative is just too gruesome to imagine.





A happy and goofy Nikki with his play buddies in his new forever home.



Ziva - The Borzoi Therapy Dog

by Bart Rowe

Sharon and I were fortunate enough to adopt a 14-month-old female Borzoi from National Borzoi Rescue Foundation in August 2016. The little cutie was about 28" inches at the shoulder. She is now five years old and beautiful mature lady at 32" at the shoulder.

It was very evident from the outset that Ziva LIKES people, particularly children. With proper introductions, she would approach anyone to be petted and respond with the 'lean'. Her favorite approach with children is to kiss their ears. - lots of giggles! This willingness to approach people started me thinking – what can we do to take advantage of this. I was talking with a friend who had a greyhound that just became a Therapy Dog. BINGO – I started the application process with Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Number one was to have a background check for me and a physical for Ziva. After those items were completed, we were assigned a Trainer/Observer who we met with on three occasions for two hour sessions at an assisted living facility. During these sessions, we observed to see how Ziva reacted to loud noises, sudden movements and medical equipment. We passed this part without any difficulties or issues. At this point I have to say – I do not believe you can train a dog to be a therapy dog – the dog has to like people, be calm, and not skittish.

My friend with the greyhound had just become a member of Paws 4 Passengers at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. I applied and was accepted – sort of. We had to perform 20 hours of supervised / observed visits at the airport. During this period there could be no barking, growling, lunging, or any other adverse behavior on Ziva's part. I was also observed to see if I was aware of any situation that might affect us and my knowledge of Airport/TSA procedures. After completing the observation period, I had to take an hour long test administered by the Transportation Security Administration. Upon passing this test, I was able to get my TSA ID card which allows Ziva and I access to the TSA prescreen area in order that we do not have to wait in line with passengers.

We act as Goodwill Ambassadors for the Airport. I need to know the layout out of the Airport. We are constantly asked where is baggage claim, an ATM machine, restaurants, bathrooms, etc. Most of our two hour shift is spent at the departing/arrival gates. We are always with two or three other teams.

It is so heartwarming to see people's faces light up when they see our teams. Our mission is to help people relax. We provide comfort for those who dislike flying, traveling due to family tragedy, and people who miss their dogs.

Each year, I take a two-hour security class put on by TSA agents. We are additional eyes and ears for the TSA. In the event of an airplane crash, the airport has a Family Resource Center, where families of passengers on the plane can go to get information. We have had simulations for these situations at the Airport and the City of Reno.



Ziva's official business card

Thankfully, no real catastrophes have occurred. Again, our presence is helping people in stressful situations. I call it a "Puppy Fix."

Ziva is always excited when she sees me getting her vest and leash. Providing canine therapy is rewarding for me personally and a great way to strength the bonding between Ziva and I.



Ziva (center) and fellow Goodwill Ambassadors

Life After NBRF

by Carol Backers

Retirement has truly been a life changing event for me as well as my husband and dogs. Yes, I'm still around, just not living with the daily stress or rewards of Rescue. I am learning I don't have to be attached to my phone or iPad 24/7 and when I travel, I don't need to take a briefcase with me filled with notebooks, several contact lists, and a computer. I can actually leave my phone in another room and it's not the end of the world if I miss a call and I don't have to check my email constantly "just in case" of an emergency!

I am finally getting the time to enjoy my dogs. I make suet for all of my birds and so enjoy watching the migratory patterns outside my northern Michigan home. I feed the wildlife and watch the baby raccoons grow and come up for snacks, the mother ground hog that left her babies in my flower garden for the day while she took a break, the deer and turkeys (so many deer and turkeys!), had a bear test the fencing and was met with my hero borzoi Yuri who defended his domain and was none the worse for wear, though his encounter with the porcupine didn't go as well for him or the porcupine!

I do still, from time to time, receive calls from our homes with dogs we placed either asking advice, a happy update or to let me know their precious Borzoi have gone to The Bridge. For that I am sincerely grateful. Please don't think because I am no longer director that you cannot reach out to me with your news, joys and sorrows. Regardless of what I am doing or where I am, I will always be here for every Borzoi and their people. We are all Family.

Life is Good with Borzoi in it!

Coming to America: The Story of Altai

My name is Altai and I am originally from Siberia. I was found roaming the streets near an abandoned factory in the historic city of Barnaul, near the Altai Mountains.

Humans approached me and I was supposedly rescued but was kept outside in wintertime in minus 40-degree weather. I do not know how, but some good folks more than 1,500 miles away learned about my situation and started negotiating to move me to Moscow. They succeeded and I traveled on the Trans-Siberian railway to Moscow. There I was well cared for and learned that I was in a half-way house. I also heard rumors for the first time about NBRF, living in America, and about Club Borzoi. This really piqued my interest as I had ambitions of becoming a star. You see I like to chant and perform and always dreamed of a singing career in America.

I think I won the NBRF lottery because after a few months, I was transported to the airport and loaded into a custom crate: what followed was a total of 17 very stressful hours without any bathroom breaks. I arrived disoriented and exhausted at Dulles International Airport near Washing-



ton D.C. There the two directors of Club Borzoi (really my new Mom and Dad) were frantically trying to get me through customs. It was super stressful for them as well as I was on one of the last flights out of Russia because of something called a pandemic, caused by the Pekinese and a virus.

I got to meet Mom and Dad and was somewhat concerned about my future. All my life I have been misunderstood: I am very tall (33+" at the shoulder), 116 lbs., black, and powerful. I also like to be vocal, I growl a lot and enjoy singing which some people find loud. Humans often find me intimidating.

From the airport we drove another four hours to Club Borzoi where I met the other members: Finland (Finn 2019 NBRF rescue) and Danya (our pack leader). We got along quickly. My human relations took a bit longer. I did not have the best experiences with people in the past and this related to frequent nightmares and bursts of aggressively biting my tail. I did not like for humans to touch me and made sure they understood this by giving a clear warning. Over time I started to realize that there was no physical punishment when I did something silly or wrong. Mom and Dad knew how to tell me without ever striking me. They went out of their way for me to find what they called "my inner Borzoi". I received daily puppy massages and soon forgot about my fear of being touched. Because of the Pekinese virus, we did not have the usual visits from the groomer so mom and dad tackled my Siberian winter coat. It took several attempts and finally I was left with a light sporty coat. Daily runs and exercise also made me lose 20 lbs. I now have this svelte body with shiny coat, even the hair on my tail has re-grown. It just looks stunning when I wag! I now enjoy doing obedience and agility, but my favorite is playing tug-of-war with Danya. Dad says that I am the strongest dog he has ever handled and I enjoy challenging him.

And than there is the food! At first I was a bit overwhelmed and possessive. Once I stole dad's slice of coconut cake right off the table, whipped cream and all. He was not happy and called me "coconut" for three weeks. It was so humiliating that I decided to abandon any ideas of a life of crime especially since Mom prepares three home-cooked meals a day! Fresh rice, honey-wheat bread, slow cooked meals with chicken and vegetables, and some salmon based kibble. You should see the sheen on my coat! It is blue pearlescent. I also learned to be patient and now await for my meal with full composure... as the junior I eat last and do not mind. Yes, "junior" indeed... for some reason people estimated me to be about five years old, Mom and Dad are now convinced that I am not even three years old yet.

They say that my prey drive is over the top; I was a working hound after all. When I arrived I upset the natural balance in the county. Squirrels flat out declared war on us Borzoi. Mom and Dad say they've never seen so many angry squirrels: some even charged us Kamikaze style. Luckily a peace agreement has been reached with Uncle Nutsy, the local clan leader, and things are back to normal. The deer here are huge and there are plenty of reptiles. I have gone through a squirrel phase, deer phase, and reptile phase, trying to catch all, especially lizards, and am still attempting to eat a toad. I am a bit of a slow learner when it comes to toads. I am much calmer now when I see wildlife and made huge progress by walking off leash for the first time! All club members here walk off leash and I long to do the same.

One of my favorite things is riding in the car. I love to go to big box stores and walk the aisles with Dad. People see me and scatter: I am the ultimate social distancing enforcer! Because of the pandemic all Club Borzoi travel has been canceled this year. I hear that there are two annual beach trips and I can not wait to experience the ocean ... maybe I will be able to catch a crab or two.

All in all, I traveled 7,412 miles to get to Club Borzoi and I enjoy every minute living here. Stay tuned as you will hear more about my singing career.

PS: Mom and Dad say that I need to thank NBRF for my new life!



Danya (left) and Altai on early morning squirrel watch

New Beginnings in California How Two Greyhound Fans Joined the NBRF Family

by Keith Sharward and David Daigh

Keith and Jennifer adopted Onyx in 2011, their first dog together. They had been cat people in Sacramento, plus rabbits and chinchillas. Keith wasn't fond of dogs until they met some retired racers. Being owned by one was inevitable. And not unlike what they say about Lay's potato chips, they couldn't have just one: Jazmine became part of their family in 2017.

David fell in love with his friends' greyhound and had to partake. Keith facilitated the home visit for the rescue, and David passed with flying colors. He welcomed Hershey weeks later. Sadly, cancer took Onyx and Hershey two days apart in June 2019. David was alone and the hole in Keith and Jennifer's home and hearts was wide. Jazmine's best friend, gone.

Six months prior, Keith met Dimitri, a Borzoi rescued from a shelter in Korea. Having arrived in San Francisco hours prior, he was bound for NBRF adopters Bart and Sharon in Reno, Nevada. Keith volunteers for numerous dog rescues as a transporter and was amazed at how calm this fluffy greyhound-like thing was despite the long flight from Seoul. Maybe someday...?

Someday arrived. In parting with their dear Onyx, Keith contacted NBRF who remembered him from Dimitri's transport months before. Upon learning of the young and rambunctious cats they had, NBRF recommended waiting for a puppy with low prey drive. Those don't come along too often, so they'd need to be patient.

But fate wasn't patient. Less than two weeks later, not one but two nine-month old littermate Borzoi puppies became available in Texas. Zoe, the female, passed a cat temperament test quite impressively, so it was a done deal -- Zoe would go home to be Jazmine's new best pal. Travel arrangements were made and the former owner met Keith and Jennifer halfway in Arizona, where they picked up not just Zoe but her littermate Coco as well!

But Coco wasn't intended to be part of Keith and Jennifer's pack -- he was coming home to David! Just two days before, Keith asked David if he'd like to have Zoe's brother, and it didn't take him long to decide to go for it!

Now 15 months have passed, and the bonds that have formed are nothing short of amazing. Jazmine and Zoe are best buddies, and Zoe absolutely adores visiting her brother Coco. Watching how they greet each other and play, it's obvious they share a very special love.

But David sensed there was something amiss: Coco didn't have a playmate. Seeing his glee with Zoe, with Jazmine cutting in with her own unique sassy style, punctuated Coco's incompleteness. Maybe there's a match for him...?

Enter Kallie, also from Korea. A former show dog, since abandoned and neglected, she was thought to have been eight years old. Being fostered in Southern California, and nursing a wound from a benign tumor removal on her shoulder, she had some healing to do. But she's a tough girl, and it wasn't long before the match was made -- Coco would have a new older sister! But it turns out she's not that much older, as that estimate of eight years of age was off by three years in her favor! Amazing what some dental work and grooming will do to a gal's appearance! In less than a week, Kallie and Coco have become great pals, and even had their first play date in Coco's yard with Zoe and Jazmine.

That saying about not being able to have just one? Proven true yet again.



Humans l to r: Jennifer and Keith Sharward, David Daigh Sighthounds l to r: Jazmine, Zoe, Kallie, Coco

My Love For Senior Dogs

by Sharon Haugen

I have been asked many times what are the rewards of adopting a senior dog and why do I keep doing it. I have adopted 7 senior dogs all over the age of 7 since 1996. The oldest one I adopted was 10 and the youngest was 7. Seniors are my passion and always will be. The reward is seeing them blossom in your care.

I have always thought that no pet should ever be unloved, tossed away as garbage, or be in a shelter, especially seniors. One of the rewards of adopting a senior is seeing them evolve into a pet that is no longer scared of a human touch. There are two in particular that wrapped around my heart immediately – Baker and Stevie Nicks.

Baker was 9 when he was picked up as a stray by animal control in Bakersfield, CA. A greyhound adoption group picked him up after a 10-day hold. I followed his story until he was up for adoption and then I asked if we could adopt him. His coat was yellow and covered with ticks and fleas. He had a broken jaw and a broken hock that had never been treated as well as an infected nasal cavity with a canine tooth jammed into the cavity. He came to us "shut down". Slowly as time went on in our home he started to come out of his shell. He ended up being a great greyhound ambassador for the breed by doing meet and greets and going in home visits to meet prospective greyhound homes. He needed ongoing chiro/acupuncture treatment for his back as his broken hock leg had left him flat footed on one leg that threw his gait completely off. He lived to the ripe age of 13 ½.

Stevie Nicks, a borzoi, came to us at the age of 9. She was timid and skinny and never would look you in the eye and avoided the human touch. We only had her for one year, but she blossomed into a loving dog that would look you in the eye, trick you into giving her dog treats, and would come for kisses on her head and a gentle pet. The highlight of her day would be going for a walk in the neighborhood with her pack.

Another 10-year-old dog that we adopted lived to be $14 \frac{1}{2}$. We thought we would be lucky to have her for a year but she surprised us by living longer than we expected and it was a great life for her.

There are challenges when you adopt a senior. Some folks say they will not adopt a senior because they want to have the dog live a long life with them. There are no guarantees of how long you will have a dog. We know that even young dogs die too soon due to an illness or accident. A challenge may be the medical care they will need on a regular basis. Another challenge is knowing you may not have them very long in such a case consider the quality of the life you are giving them. How ever long they are with us is never long enough, but will I adopt another senior and do it all over again knowing what I know now? Yes, in a heartbeat!

A Challening Year... (continued from page 1)

Nikolas arrived safely in the U.S. this November and is living a wonder life with his forever home in Washington state.

It takes a global village to rescue Borzoi internationally. The rescue of Nikolas and the other international dogs NBRF bring to the U.S. are possible because the love and dedication of many volunteers in Asia that work selflessly to save as many dogs as possible. These courageous people have traveled through dangerous areas, stormy weather, and flooded streets to rescue dogs. They have also seen the most horrific acts of animal abuse and torture that exist at the meat markets and breeding farms. We appreciate all they have done to help NBRF to honor our mission to help every Borzoi in need.

Many people ask: What lengths does NBRF go to save a Borzoi and the answer is: Whatever it takes. We are committed to save every Borzoi we discover in need of help and we rely on people like you that love this breed to help us. This year we are asking for donations to cover the cost for Nikolas' flight to the U.S. Our goal is to raise \$9,000. Please help, no amount is too small. Every penny is greatly appreciated and goes directly to the cost of rescue. We have no salaries or overhead, we are 100% volunteer.

With gratitude,
Ann Marie Wiseman

How You Can Help

Donations: As a 501c3 non-profit organization, you will benefit from tax deductible donations (depending on your filing). Each and every donation is important, no matter how small. You can donate once, or we can set you up for a recurring monthly donation. Donations can be done by the following convenient ways:

Credit card by phone: Please call NBRF Fundraising Coordinator Kate Watts at (207) 263-7836 and specify if you want to do a one-time or monthly donation

Credit card online: Go to our website (rescueborzoi.org) and click the "Donate" button on the homepage

Paypal: Through the "Donate" link on our website or by using Paypal and entering: NBRFdonations@gmail.com

Check: Please make your check out to "NBRF" and mail to Liz Duncan, NBRF Treasurer - PO Box 231 - Dix, IL 62830.

Your assistance is desperately needed!

Our Heartfelt Thanks to our Faithful Supporters!

Happy Holidays from Team Borzoi!



NBRF - P.O. Box 231 - Dix, IL 62830