



# N.B.R.F

**National Borzoi Rescue Foundation, inc.**

## The Lucky 13

~ Kate Watts

Mid May, 2024: NBRF took possession of 13 Borzoi - seven puppies and six adults - from the NorthEast of U.S. The logistics of a rescue that size were daunting! Your NBRF placement team worked non stop to make sure each Borzoi had a place to land: contacting our network of approved homes, screening new homes, scheduling transport and lining up vet visits.

Team Borzoi went into action the moment their needs were known. Edna, Liz, and June went above and beyond to make sure they had homes to go to and got there in a timely, safe manner!



Transport from the NorthEast to the mid West and beyond took unforeseen turns requiring quick thinking, exhausting hours on the road and vehicles full of confused hounds in need of a good cleaning.

These dogs were kept in a small yard, approximately 20' x 30'. Some were chained in the middle of the yard.



There were piles and piles of feces. Along with those piles of feces were piles and piles of worms.

The dogs were underweight and under muscled. ALL dogs required medical evaluations, to include HW/4DX testing, DHLPP and rabies vaccinations. Several of the adults tested positive for Lyme and/or Anaplasmosis and required further testing and/or ongoing medications. As with all NBRF dogs spay or neuters have been performed or scheduled when age appropriate.



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- Razor's Request

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## The Lucky 13

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**Present Day:** Sharing the love and joy of Borzoi around the country, the Lucky 13 are all living the wonderful lives we promised them. They are resilient, noble souls, moving beyond severe neglect and isolation, healing both physically and emotionally.

**Prima:** Mom to 11 of the 13. Her calm demeanor and gentle "asks" for kindness are just a fraction of the beauty that is Prima. She is poetry in motion, grateful for everything and will make you happy to give her your all. This loving, soft soul is living a pampered life for the first time in her life.



**Monty:** A laid back cuddler, he is capable of looking into your soul. Soft and kind, this special guy has "Therapy Dog" in his future and resides with a family that includes his Mom, Prima.



**Nikolai:** This large, lovable lap dog won the hearts of his foster family in record time, going from foster to forever in less than four hours! Nikolai enjoys running, playing, lounging and singing to sirens.





## The Lucky 13

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**Sasha:** She's a Daddy's girl, a lover who presents her head on your lap for attention. Clowning around with her pack-mate Ruthie, she is learning the ways of Borzoi and together they patrol their domain as a team.



**Calla:** This smart, beautiful, sweet, affectionate girl is a master at spreading joy! It was fate and an angel named Lily who brought Calla to her forever family, bridging the before and after of true love in the hearts of her people.



**Bunny:** A wild child with a big personality, Bunny is a long distance traveler whose reputation for fun and affection preceded her trip home forever. The little sister of two brothers, her specialties include rough and tumble chase games, sing alongs and lounging.





## Ruslan - The Heart of a Lion

~ Clif Hall and Carla Hanson

Ruslan came under NBRF's care in early August. He was frail, suffering from a lengthy list of conditions.

Grossly emaciated, HeartWorm positive, infested with fleas, hookworms and whipworms, with skin badly burned by urine and feces. His sternum was black with infection. Both ears were infected to the point of him scratching them until they bled. His hind end was covered in dried feces and feces were caked in between his paws.

Ruslan was just two - three years old and in what should have been the prime of his life. He weighed in at just 57 pounds. The photos were heartbreaking and some have had to look away.

But he was resilient and his desire to live and love more powerful than his condition.

Ruslan is an inspiration and has much to teach us of his remarkable attitude. He left the past behind, recognizing the love and care he was to receive from then on. He embraced his rescue and arrived at his new home (called Borzoi Bluff) in very good spirits! He immediately bonded with his new brother, Temya, and sister, Sophia - both previous NBRF rescues from Texas.

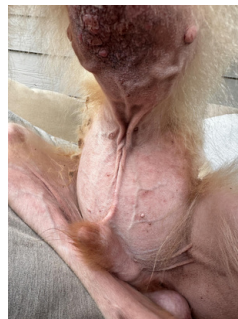
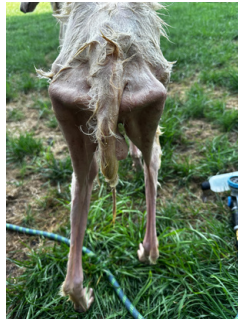
In the time spent with his new family, Ruslan has gained over 20 pounds, and made remarkable progress in his fight against malnutrition, heartworms and intestinal worms. His coat is coming in thick and lush; he holds himself like a proud Borzoi!

He loves to go on car rides and at least two walks a day to stimulate his mind and body. And he will follow his Mom to the ends of the earth!

"Ruslan" means "lion" in Russian, and he embodies that strong name with his newfound strength and natural Borzoi, stubborn determination!



*We are the hands that catch them when they fall.*



**Ruslan's continuing road to recovery**





**N.B.R.F.**

National Borzoi Rescue Foundation, inc.

Specializing in  
“Happily Ever  
Afters” since 1994

Founded in 1994, the National Borzoi Rescue Foundation continues as the only domestic and international rescue dedicated solely to Borzoi.

Many things have changed through the years with one constant: our mission to provide assistance with rehabilitation, medical care and proper placement of any Borzoi in a rescue situation.

NBRF was saving lives before the internet was widely available. Email was in its infancy. There were no smartphones, no tablets, no google. Ten years before facebook existed people dedicated to Borzoi in need were on the front lines of rescue.

Technology has increased our reach exponentially and today NBRF has a strong presence across the United States and Internationally. From Asian meat markets, dog farms in South Korea, Russia, Europe and most recently Ukraine, thousands of Borzoi from the US and abroad have made their way to safety and security through a network of devoted individuals that come together as one powerful force.

As we recognize this milestone of 30 years of dedication, we gratefully acknowledge the past and present supporters that make our mission possible. Every link in this chain is vital: forever families, fosters, transporters, donors, and many many more.

Every Borzoi deserves dignity and respect, to be surrounded by love no matter where they are. NBRF remains committed to the rescue of any pure bred Borzoi in a rescue situation.

It is our promise and our passion to do everything possible to not let any borzoi in need fall through the cracks.



*“We are blessed with a breed that truly stands out from all others - sighthound or otherwise. Borzoi are amazing! To think of even one unwanted Borzoi in a situation of abuse or neglect ending up in a shelter is unbearable.*

*I am very proud of how NBRF has grown. We are now International and have rescued Borzoi from South Korea, China, Japan, Greece and Russia. We have contacts all over the U.S. and the world and we continue to expand.”*

*~ Carol Backers  
founding director*



**Our mission is to  
rescue. Our dream is  
that one day we  
won't have to.**



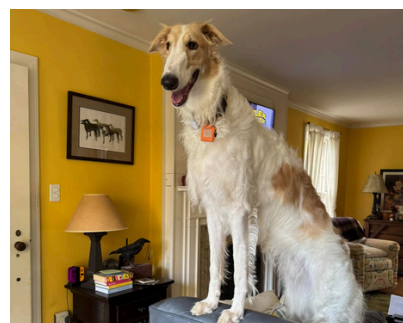


## The Lucky 13

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**Murray:**

The definition of a renaissance dog, this boy has it all including a whole host of "code names." Murray suffered a severe injury to his shoulder shortly after rescue that required several months of rehabilitation and the complete attention of his forever family to heal. With that behind him now this happy, sweet boy enjoys zoomies, couch climbing and play with his pack-mates while still finding time for snuggles with his humans.



**Luka:**

An affectionate, sensitive boy who loves to sing when the wind chimes catch a breeze! Intelligent and communicative Luka picked up on living the good life quickly. With five cushy beds to choose from and with an entourage that joins him on walks, this boy is giddy with comfort.



**Zelda:**

Super rambunctious is the word on the street regarding this sweetheart of a girl. Another wild child who has added long distance travel and avid shopping to her resume. Zelda keeps her big brother pack-mate in line and wins the hearts of all she meets.





844-NBRF-ZOI (844-627-3964)

## The Lucky 13

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### Zephyr:

Total puppy! Supersized puppy! "The Zep" has two Silken Windhounds, his person and the guy who drives him around to love. He is a happy soul who knows how to find comfort. You would never know that he was not kept inside... ever. The slipper thing doesn't count... Innocent until proven guilty.



### Svetlana:

Play, play, play!! Older sister, Kendra, says that she does it only to antagonize her but puppies will be puppies and she is just that! Svetlana is a super smart girl who also loves to go for walks and fast learned the leash. Sit and Fetch are more specialties but the best pasttime is cuddling with her family while watching TV.



### Katrina:

The hostess with the mostest! Katrina's family home was the landing spot for many of the Lucky 13 on the way to their forevers. After the sibling farewell party, she happily settled in with her Saluki pack-mate. Together they are a striking sighthound brace who love to do zoomies, cuddles and car rides.






## The Lucky 13

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**Nadia:** The oldest of the Lucky 13, Nadia spent her first seven years with little to no socialization or human interaction. With the love and security of her forever family she has begun the slow process of coming out of her shell while learning the joys of exploring her new world, toys and the comforts of the couch.



To the rescue community, new and established, who heard the call, made known their willingness to help, filled out applications and stood at the ready to open their hearts and homes to these pups in need! Thank you! Together we are saving lives, one Borzoi at a time. 



### My Rescue Dog

My need was great,  
the big empty there  
no dog in the house for years.

my own place, finally  
and whistle said, "no,  
outside i'd rather stay."

through friend, we visit  
fostering home  
the great silver, wavy head.

From ex-pen, past friend,  
past mom... she moves  
straight to me.

two week-end visits  
and quickly evident  
her great heart bonded to mine

now two-plus years  
the perfect borzoi  
my heart, my baby, my friend

down in texas  
watching the racing borzoi  
head lifts, spirit soars

a glint in her eye,  
a prance in her gait  
tells mom she's lure-coursed before

in her glory at borzoi nationals,  
the companions parade  
and it must be evident to all.

she's not just a borzoi  
but the best of the best  
god made her just for me.

her job she did well  
she moved right in  
and surely she rescued me.

Stasya's mom  
summer '05





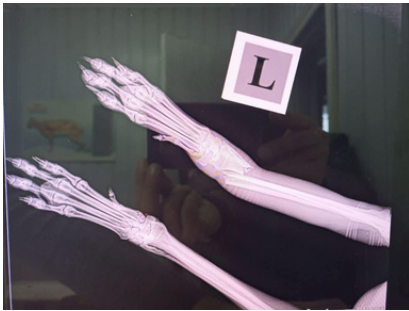


## Maksym

~ Kate Watts

Maksym was found lost and alone on the streets of Ukraine after being hit by a car. His left, front leg was broken, his skull was dented and he was blind. It is unknown how long he had been surviving on his own. His stomach was full of half digested bones and bad food. His former human was found but he did not want him. "He is of no use to me anymore, if he comes back here I will shoot him." It is the brutal truth of where this young boy came from.

A local rescue group - at their expense - took him through surgery and post op to repair his leg far enough to ensure that he was stable enough to travel. His quarantine and NBRF's presence in his life began in Poland.



Maksym was welcomed to the U.S. in early March 2024 and the full extent of his medical condition became apparent. Poor quality of food and neglect had resulted in serious dental disease. The repaired leg was bowed and very thick.



*The broken bone was infected with MRSA (a staph bacteria resistant to antibiotics) and developed an abscess. A retracted tendon required physical therapy.*



There is an indent on the top of Maksym's head where his skull was caved in. It has healed in place.



*Maksym is completely blind in one eye and can see only the difference between light and dark in the other but no clear images.*

Why does NBRF - International take on this responsibility? Why does Maksym matter? Because we value his life as we value all of their lives. We value their joy, their love, their smiles, their leans. We are the better for having known and loved each of them; they complete our lives.

In spite of his injuries and difficulties Maksym is a happy, loving boy that constantly wags his tail and smiles, YES he is a smiler! He has the attitude of a champion, embracing life and his second chance with joy. He is an inspiration and the reason NBRF exists.

After having been through a particularly rough beginning this sweet three year old boy deserves his Happily Ever After.

Flash forward to the present...



Maksym continues to delight and inspire everyone he meets. His ability to navigate new environments as a blind dog is story worthy; his forward, reverse and turn sensors spot on. It is astonishing how smart and adaptable he is.

Independent, confident and trusting, Maksym is quick to make new friends both canine and human.



*He's a snuggler! A hands on loving soul who wants nothing more than to establish a connection. He fills hearts with joy - it is his super power and his purpose.*

Maksym underwent an additional surgery in late November to scrape the residual infection from his previously broken leg bone. As of this writing, he is officially cleared of the infection. He has been discharged and given the green light to resume normal activity!





## The Greyhound/Borzoï Conversation

Through the years NBRF has welcomed several families who expanded their hearts to include rescue Borzoï in addition to their greyhounds. Now with only two race tracks remaining and few racing Greyhounds being bred, there are not enough to go around. Are Borzoï a viable option for those looking for another sighthound rescue?

### Stuart

~ Lynette & Chris Hammond

#### *Some similarities:*

They are both unique and spectacular breeds fairly unknown to the majority. They create interest and questions. This gives us, their caretakers the opportunity to educate. For me, this is an opportunity on the Grey side of things to explain the difference between rescue and retirement. On the Borzoï side, to create awareness of hounds in need of a better life and a mission to make this world a kinder, gentler, better place.

They both possess an old soul mellowness and wisdom which I find irresistible. It seems very important that they communicate with us. Important that we understand them as well and that we are receptive to their feelings and thoughts in turn. It's very symbiotic. Once they trust in us, they seem to devote their lives to this shared bond. Our connection.

Both breeds have the ability to reach straight into my soul and speak to my heart without uttering a word. It's in their eyes. It's in the lean. It's in their quiet peace. Like they pass us a key and we choose to unlock and open this wide to them in return. There's no going back for either party. We need them as much as they need us.

Both seem to have known and loved you for decades even if you've only known one another a few weeks or been blessed by their love for an unfair short amount of time. Once they come home, there's no going back. Even fosters never forget, nor do we forget them when they go forever home. They take a piece of us to stay with them always. They make us better humans.



Both possess a magic that is inexplicable. They will share this gift, making you laugh with their silliness when you're blue or just not expecting it. They are very sensitive to our emotions making sure you know you're surrounded by their love when you're in pain or distress. In turn they only ask for unconditional love and kindness and will pull you in when they need some affection. A paw, a lean, a whine, a kiss. See me!

Both are living breathing art. Tall and long, athletic and regal. Some of the oldest and most fascinating and beautiful dogs on our planet.

They are intelligent and elegant, glorious and ridiculous. Magnificent creatures indeed.


#### *Some differences:*

My Greyhounds have all been ex racers. Professionally trained working dogs. It takes them awhile to decompress and adjust to life as a pet. They flinch when humans come at them for cuddles and hugs too quickly. They are gentle and sweet but a bit more aloof than the Borzoï. The Borzoï seem to have a built in love feature that is always turned on. Where the Greys need some time and distance to warm up to you, Borzoï unselfishly ask for your touch, attention and connection in order to thrive. They give you much love and want it back.

Borzoï are quite a bit larger and certainly better dressed. They all know they are stunningly beautiful. Both are the epitome of aristocratic grandeur, gliding about as if they hover above the ground. The Greyhounds are a bit more standoffish, uninterested in anyone other than their people. Borzoï are sociable and will allow a kindly stranger a moment of time. Their size is intimidating to some yet their faces have a sweet and gentle manner people like to approach. People stand back and ask about Greys, they approach Borzoï.

Fur coats, clogged vacuums and lint rollers! One sports something a Russian supermodel might wear on the runway, the other a favorite threadbare heirloom Persian rug.

The Borzoï are a bit more energetic and whimsical. The Greyhounds reserved, benefitting from being drawn out of their shells by their fuzzier counterparts. It's good for both breeds. The Greyhounds give off the "take it down a notch man" vibe when the Borzoï is doing house zoomies that are enough to unnerve even them. However, when turned out together the Borzoï want to play and the Greyhounds only want to RACE.

With time and careful introductions they have all learned to embrace each others speed and grace and "way". They are alchemy together and this is the strongest pack we have ever had, 1 Borzoï and 2 Greyhounds. 

continued...





the conversation continued...

## Luka and Nigel

~ Paige and Frederick Huertin

We adopted our first Greyhound, Ethan, in 2001. He was a beautiful, friendly boy who loved attention. Over the years, we've had seven Greyhounds, usually in groups of three, all brindles, but with lots of different personalities.

Last year, we lost our two Greyhounds Leo and Padma to bone cancer, leaving our boy Rory as a pack of one. As we all moved through our grief, Fred and I realized we needed to adopt sooner rather than later. Twelve year old Rory was alone for the first time in his life, and he needed a companion.

Fred has always wanted to adopt a Borzoi, so we contacted the National Borzoi Rescue Foundation, and joined Facebook groups centered on life with Borzoi. We discovered that, despite their elegant appearance, they were goofy, and smart, and quirky... in other words, perfect for us!

Luka came bursting into our lives in October 2023. I don't think I understood how big he would be until I met him in person, and he gave me my first paws on the shoulders hug! He has a very sweet and playful energy about him, and I think Rory was a bit overwhelmed by his new friend.

Despite his angelic appearance, Luka loves to creep up on his brothers and pounce on them, and he is an expert counter surfing thief in the kitchen!

Our plan was to adopt one Borzoi but, like potato chips and Greyhounds, you can't have just one! When we started the adoption process, there was some uncertainty about Luka coming to us. In the meantime, I went to NBRF's website and immediately fell in love with a fellow named Pavel. (He looked so much like my beloved Leo that he stole my heart at first sight.)

We agreed to adopt Pavel, and then found out Luka was available. We gave it some thought, and decided to adopt them both!



Pavel, now named Nigel, came to us from Russia via Poland. From what we have heard, our boy had a tough and traumatic time in his first year and a half of life. He arrived after a long flight and a drive from Chicago to Atlanta. He was so skinny, with a dry coat and a rat tail.

But even after everything he had been through, he was one of the sweetest dogs we have ever had. It didn't take him long to fit in, jumping onto my lap and demanding belly rubs. He hops, skips and jumps through life now, and his heart is filled with love and joy.

Adopting Luka and Nigel at the same time ended up being a great decision for us. As I mentioned earlier, Rory the Greyhound is an old man, and he was a little overwhelmed by the invasion of Russians. He, like most of the Greyhounds we have had, was not used to dog wrestling. Our Greyhounds played by chasing each other, so when Luka wanted to jump on him Rory was not thrilled. Nigel's energy was a great match for Luka (they are both around two years old), and they play together non stop! They love wrestling, playing a game we call bitey face, and tug of war with toys.

We were also amazed at how quickly the Borzoi boys adapted to their new lives. Our Greyhounds have always taken time to get adjusted, sometimes a few weeks to a couple of months. They are also in general more reserved, and often described as "cat like" and shy.

Nigel and Luka are definitely not reserved or shy! They made themselves at home almost immediately, and love people!

Luka greets everyone he meets with a smile and a jump (we are working on that), and Nigel is always right behind him. Their enthusiasm and good nature always puts a smile on people's faces.

One surprise about life with Borzoi is the howling! We were amazed the first time they broke into song. Our Greyhounds did something called rooing, but the Borzoi chorus was truly spectacular! Rory even joined in a few times. We call it singing the "Borzoi Blues"! In addition to singing, they also love to "talk". Luka in particular will let us know when he wants attention or treats.

And then there's the HAIR. So much hair! Greyhounds are short haired dogs, and they do shed, but nothing on the scale of Borzoi! There is definitely more maintenance, brushing, baths, etc, but it is a small price to pay for life with these gorgeous beasts!

Nigel and Luka are also much more prey driven than most of our Greyhounds, especially Nigel. His focus and intensity when he sees something of interest is amazing, and it's almost impossible to pull him away or distract him. Our Greyhounds love to chase things, but the Borzoi actually hunt!

When we were first considering Borzoi, I think we both thought since they were sighthounds, they would be like Greyhounds with more hair. It turns out they have their own unique personalities. It has been a wonderful journey for all of us getting to know The Russians.

They have brought so much love, joy and laughter to our lives. They have even inspired Rory to be more active, and occasionally chase them around the yard! We look forward to many more years of fun with our boys!





## Bonded - Stories of Borzoi Love

They come from many walks of life; as siblings, or parent and pup, together since birth. Others have made journeys from across the country, even across the world to find their stories of love, together in their forever homes.



### Mr Bingley and Brighton

~ Kathy Snow



There are few among us who have not felt the pain of losing someone close. Sadly, Mr Bingley (formerly Rufus from Russia) was slow to come back after losing his forever home pack-mate just as he was beginning to feel secure for the first time in his life.

After Altair died, Bingley got more fearful. He didn't want to eat or play and only slowly came out of it. It was a sad time for us both. But then the stars aligned and together we set off on a road trip to pick up a new addition to our family. Early on Bingley was not sure what was going on and feared he might be left somewhere. And then they met: Mr Bingley and our beautiful new girl, Brighton. They were meant to be!

We stayed at a friend's house along the way home for an extra day of rest. After being outside separately, Bingley greeted her with his tail wagging like crazy and then her tail wagged like crazy and they ran to each other and touched noses. Bingley was so glad she came back! And she was so glad to be back! They snuggled on the hotel bed. And I knew - they had bonded!

He is much happier now and more secure with Brighton as a part of our family. They are still overjoyed to see each other and very close. Together we are family, safe and secure. We have much more to learn about each other but for now, we move forward with the promise that you will never again be abandoned, sweet girl or abused, my dear boy.

We are Happily Ever After.

After a few months of grieving when our last Borzoi passed, we wanted to open our lives again with Zoi-ness.

Teddy then Sofia arrived in Oct of 2023. Their reunion was ethereal. They have a connection that spans continents and oceans. Teddy is a gloriously sparkly boy and Sofia is a bonny little doll. If one is out of the other's sight, they let us know they're not happy campers! When they're together, their perceived 'ambivalence' is one carved from the contentment of proximity.

Their days are filled with activities of independence and togetherness but come the evening, they're as tight knit as a collar and tie. They have bonded through trauma and injury but show resilience that is sublime.

When Sofia recently fractured her ulna (historic injury), Teddy was there, by her side, slowing his gallop to a trot to be beside her whilst she wore that cast like it was a gold Cartier bracelet... such elegance...such a lady.

Sofia plays her part in tempering Teddy, to show him to slow down and to take in the moments, to be still and savour safety. Teddy is soothed from his panting.

It's a connection most beings would dream of and one that comes from the innocence of a dog's heart. Oh we Humans... how lucky we are to have such souls to walk beside us.

### Teddy and Sofia

~ CG





## Georgi and Gemma

~ Michelle Repass

Georgi's story begins in Russia when his owner had to leave him behind. Georgi travelled from Russia to Poland, then on to North Carolina where he was fostered with a beautiful girl named Gemma. Gemma came from her own circumstances that were less than ideal. In a very short time Georgi and Gemma had formed an inseparable bond. It was beautiful to watch them fall in love! They were so connected that the decision was made to offer them for adoption as a pair.

Gemma & Georgi are polar opposites. He's a gregarious and rambunctious young man while Gemma is very reserved and selective about who she trusts. She is unmistakably the boss. The one constant they have is each other.

They play and sleep together and drink from the same bowl. It's not uncommon for them to lay back to back while he talks and coos to her. It's a very special experience to share space with a bonded pair and there is no doubt that adopting them together was the best thing for them and for their grateful human.

Here's to Gemma and Georgi's Happily Ever After!



## Lexi~Rose and Enzo Furrari

~ Kate Watts



For 11 months of her first year with us, Lexi was an only child. Shy and thoughtful, she was an innocent soul who preferred to take things at her own pace. Then along came Enzo...

Enzo was a social butterfly who had not experienced much of life. At two and a half years he was ready to jump in the deep end of everything to make up for lost time RIGHT NOW!

Their complete opposite approach to life might have seemed like an unlikely mix but they bonded immediately, complimenting each other's styles, drawing confidence from being together.

Through the years their bond grew stronger. Never far from one another each learned a great deal from the other; Enzo, self control and patience, Lexi the joys of spontaneity and socialization.

As Enzo aged and rested more when out on our walks, Lexi dutifully stood by his side, waiting without complaint. At home she would look in on him as he slept. After more than nine years with us Enzo left this realm just before Christmas 2024. The separation has been a difficult adjustment for us all.

They enriched each other's lives as completely as they enriched ours. Their love for each other was obvious: together they were greater than the sum of their parts and we know how fortunate we were to have been a part of that magic.





## Niko - The Little Engine That DID!

~ Edna Hanley

NBRF first met Niko as a frail, sick baby of just 13 weeks. He had spent the four weeks prior in the hospital fighting for his life. The collective support of the entire Borzoi community and a stellar family at home was needed to give him his chance. Niko did not merely survive but continues to thrive; proving that he really is "The Little Engine That Could"!

Niko celebrated his first birthday this past August and just recently we had the chance to do a little "Sit - Down" with he and his brother, Rudy.

NBRF: Hi Niko, it's great to see you! How are you feeling?

*Niko: Iz all grown up!!*

NBRF: You certainly are! How much do you weigh now?

*Niko: 71 poundz!! That's like 500 poundz in dog weight! Iz a BIG boy!*

NBRF: Well I'm not sure if it works like that but you HAVE grown quite a bit!

*Rudy: (Rolls eyes and chuffs)..*

NBRF: Hello Rudy, we're so glad that you could join us!

*Rudy: Let me tell you about "all grown up". Niko's gained weight for sure but mental maturity? That's a different story. He's an ankle biter! A bonafide pull my leg when I'm sleeping Pain in the... I can't take my eyes off of him!*

*Niko: Awwwww Rudy, you know you lovez me! Besides, Iz all grown up now!*

*Rudy: (Shakes head)... Like I said - no brain power. What. So. Ever.*



NBRF: Now that you're all grown up, Niko, can you tell us about some of your favorite things to do?

*Niko: I lovez to rough and tumble wiffs my big brother Rudy! And I really lovez hanging in the kitchen with the Mom!! In fact, Iz the official taste tester!*

*Rudy: Ummmm Niko, I am Chef Rudy, the OG kitchen manager!*

*Niko: But Rudy, youz are my big brother and protector and lovez to give me everything.*

*Rudy: Little Brother you just assume everything is already yours.*

NBRF: What other things do you like do, Niko?

*Niko: I collect stickz, and chase BUNNYZ, and play hidez and seek with Rudy!! Iz is very good at Hidez and Seek.*

NBRF: That's a full schedule. Do you ever take any time off?

*Niko: Sometimez Iz getz puppy syndrom and sleepz.*

*Rudy: Thankfully yes he does!! It's the only rest I get.*

*Niko: Awww shuckz Rudy, you knowz about punching me wiffs your schnoozzle until I getz up is because you lovez me.*

*Rudy: That I do, kiddo. Now let's go play!*

NBRF: Calling after them as they gallop away... Thanks boys!!





## Rocky's Purpose

~ Tamara Cantwell

Rocky joined our family in May, 2021. Originally, this article was going to be about how blessed we are to have this funny, vibrant, athletic, loving, goofy fella in our lives. While every word of that is true... his softer side spoke to me when writing this story.

My Dad is solely responsible for my love of Dogs. Dad loved every single dog that ever crossed his path. We always had a family dog when I was growing up. We were a Navy family that moved often, including overseas, and our family dog always went with us. It was the one constant in our lives of travel and relocation.

About 2 years ago, Dad lost his beloved German Shepherd, Lily, to a hemangiosarcoma of the heart. It was an unexpected shock and Dad was absolutely devastated.



*Thank you Dad for my love of dogs.*

*Thank you Rocky, my beautiful White Tornado, for your soft, sweet, playful self... and for giving Dad that sparkle in his eye again.*

*Thank you NBRF for entrusting this sweet soul to our family.*



Dad is struggling with Alzheimer's disease so Mom and Dad came to live with us in July, 2023. Alzheimer's is a horrible disease that robs him of his joy, even an irresistible dog snuggle was becoming a distant memory to him.

We had 4 borzoi at the time and also had my brother's sweet ole guy, Bender. Dad just didn't seem to respond to any of the dogs - until he met Rocky.

Rocky pushed his way right into the middle of everyone and immediately greeted Dad with an "aren't I cute?" Borzoi lean. That was it. Dad was hooked. I hadn't seen that sparkle in Dad's eye since he lost Lily.

Dad and Rocky have become best friends and if Dad is sitting... Rocky's head is in his lap and Dad wouldn't have it any other way. 🐾



## Our Promise

From the moment a Borzoi comes under the care of NBRF everything becomes about what is best for that dog.

Every Borzoi is medically and emotionally evaluated and given appropriate care including: treatment for ongoing medical conditions and injuries, vaccinations, heartworm/4 DX testing, dentals, spay and neuter.

Proper vetting is not just a physical/wellness exercise, it is the process of thoroughly investigating the emotional needs of each particular dog before making a forever home decision.

NBRF does not look for dogs for people. We look for the right people for our dogs.

In every situation the dog comes first and we stand by every NBRF rescue under our care for the rest of their lives.

It's a Happily Ever After Thing.





## Razor's Request

~ Robin Gentile

We had the perfect pack! Our 10 year old retired racing greyhound Junior, our almost 10 year old Borzoi Razor, and our newly adopted 4 year old sweetheart Monty, from NBRF's "Lucky 13". All the dogs were getting along great. Though Razor was much older, she had a lot of energy. She and Monty were starting to have fun playing together.

At 7:00 on a Saturday morning, my husband Darwin went downstairs and noticed Razor was lethargic and would not get up from her bed to eat. We found my purse on the floor with the contents dumped out. I knew I had a few sticks of sugarless gum in my purse. Knowing the dangers of xylitol, Darwin loaded Razor into the car and headed to the emergency vet. I happened to notice my canister of asthma medicine, an Albuterol inhaler, on the floor. I said, "Here. Take this, too. Just in case."

Darwin called from the emergency vet with news that Razor's blood pressure was extremely low, and her heartbeat was racing and irregular. The vet was very concerned about the puncture in my Albuterol inhaler. The vet also needed to know what flavor the gum was. Luckily, there is a small amount of xylitol in fruit flavored Trident and since all the dogs weighed around 70 pounds, no matter which dog had consumed the 6 pieces of gum, it would not harm them.

Due to puncturing the canister of Albuterol, Razor was a very sick girl and would have to stay at the vet on IV fluids and other meds to try to stabilize her condition. The vet was hopeful that she would be stable enough to come home the next afternoon.

On Saturday evening, we called to check on Razor and received a hopeful report: She was slowly improving. Her blood pressure was normal, and her blood work looked better. Her heartbeat was still irregular, but she was responding to the beta blocker.

On Sunday morning the vet called to ask if we could bring some of her food in and try to get her to eat. They felt that if she was eating and drinking, they could get her off the IVs. We could then bring her home and give her medication orally. When I tried to feed her, poor Razor showed no interest in her food.

I could hear her tummy rumble, and I was concerned about her lack of energy and the pain I saw in her eyes.

By Sunday afternoon, the vet's tone had changed, and she said they were "managing" her condition. Razor's platelet count had bottomed out and they suspected internal bleeding and possible organ failure. We were advised to consider how much more money we might want to invest in trying to save her. Our tab was now approaching \$4,000. Was this the vet's way of saying that, at this point, there probably was no treatment that could save her?

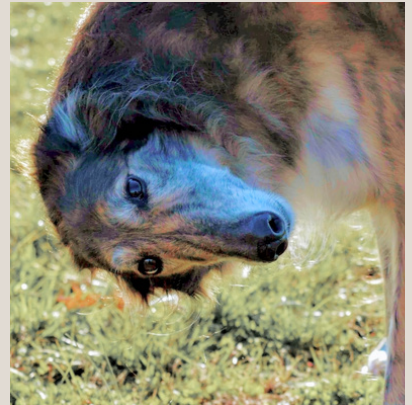
Darwin and I met our two adult children in the parking lot, and we went in to see Razor. I knew the situation was dire when they escorted us into the ICU. Earlier in the day, they had brought her into a treatment room. Now they were letting us back into the "staff only" area. Poor Razor could hardly lift her head to greet us. We knew it was time to say goodbye and let her go, not because of the expenses but because no matter how much money we spent, she was dying, was in pain and could not be saved. We stroked her beautiful brindle fur, and I sang to her as she fell asleep and crossed the rainbow bridge.

### *The official cause of death: Acute Albuterol Poisoning.*

I never dreamed that my life-saving rescue inhaler would poison my dog. An inhaler holds 100 doses of albuterol. The vet explained that because the canister is pressurized, when punctured, all 100 doses rush directly into the dog's mouth and are immediately inhaled.

There are so many people who rely on rescue inhalers. We cannot lock them away; they must be accessible. I always carry mine in my purse. I have, however, gotten a new purse. It has an inside zipper pocket, and an outer zipper. The Albuterol is double zipped! I also keep my purse on the other side of the gate, where the dogs can't reach it.

It is too late to save Razor from her terrible fate, but I am determined to tell Razor's story. If it saves one dog's life, then Razor will not have died in vain. If Razor could yet speak, her request would be:



## To All The Dogs...

To all the dogs we've had in our lives, we say we loved them, but the truth is, they loved us in ways we'll never be able to repay.

They gave us more than we could ever ask for—comfort when we didn't even know we needed it, loyalty when we felt lost, and a kind of companionship that went deeper than words.

We say we loved them, but they were the ones who showed us what love really looks like.

It was in their eyes every time we walked through the door, in the way they stayed close during the hardest days, in the moments when they just knew we needed them. They saw us at our worst and still looked at us like we were the best thing in their world.

To all the dogs we've had, we want them to know how much they shaped us, how they were more than just pets—they were family, they were soulmates in their own way.

We loved them, but they loved us better, with a kind of pure, unwavering love that we'll carry with us for the rest of our lives.

~ R.M. Drake



**PLEASE KEEP YOUR ALBUTEROL INHALER OUT OF REACH!** 







# Ukraine

~ Natalie

Hello,

I am infinitely grateful to all NBRF supporters who sacrifice for my Borzoi and save us for more than two years.

Our lives are in God's hands. There are no guarantees of survival. In our city of Kharkov there are many guided aerial bombs every day. Where they will fall and what area they are aimed at is unknown in advance.

A message simply comes on a mobile phone and a loud siren sounds in the streets. The Borzoi already hear this piercing sound and run to hide in the house.

People simply do not go outside or hide in the cellar under the house. We are "saved" only by the fact that we live in a small private house and the bombs are aimed at tall multi-story buildings, hospitals, schools and supermarkets.

Our Ukrainian military does not have the ability to shoot down these guided bombs. They are trying to shoot them down, but there is no special equipment to cover the skies of Kharkov and all of Ukraine from bomb strikes. We are all very afraid!

The Borzoi have become very timid. They sense danger in advance and hide under the sofas. They may not go out for a whole day if a siren sounds. They do not go out even if they are hungry and thirsty. They hear and feel the terrible loud explosions of shells because the ground vibrates.

We do not go out for walks with the Borzoi because you can step on a shell that is scattered by special explosive bombs. Children are also forbidden to pick up any objects or toys from the ground, they explode in their hands.

Little food is brought to Kharkov and rarely, because it is a frontline city. Both people and animals survive as best they can.

We are very afraid that Kharkov will become occupied by the enemy and we will be killed or the survivors will be sent to Siberia.

We are waiting for the end of this terrible war. Every day dozens of civilians are killed and hundreds wounded, many of whom later die or become disabled. Every day the same thing. High-rise buildings are collapsing like paper houses from the strikes. It is scary to watch the local news and listen to details from our neighbors. It is scary to listen to the sounds of flying shells and be glad that it did not hit you and then immediately understand that someone died at that moment.

The borzoi are completely helpless, they are completely dependent on us, on their owners. If we panic, then this anxiety is transmitted to them instantly. And we are all already crazy and cannot live without sedatives.

I am infinitely grateful to National Borzoi Rescue Foundation and Americans and friends that help us survive with food and medication for our dogs.

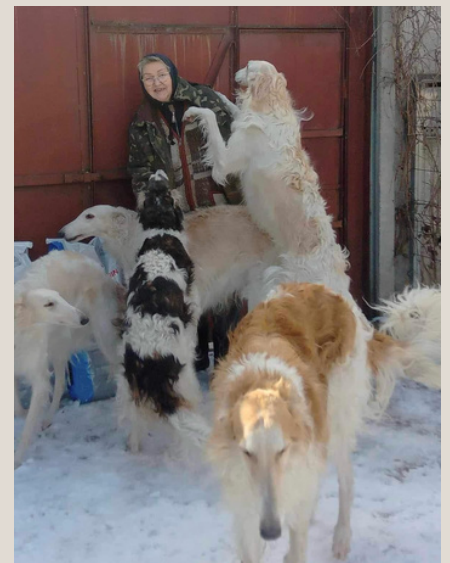
You have been saving us for more than two years and if it were not for your help we probably would have completely lost heart.

You are true friends! We dream of becoming the 51st state of the USA! America is strength, power, justice, democracy that allows a person to show his abilities in life!

**We love and appreciate you, we want to be with you.**

**Natalie**

Through the generosity of NBRF supporters and help from our friends at The Flying Dog Foundation Borzoi in Ukraine continue to receive food and preventative medicines, enabling them to remain with their families.





# treat me!!



## fish breath

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup cooked, mashed sweet potato
- 2 1/4 cups oat flour
- 1 tin sardines packed in oil, drained
- 1 large egg
- 2 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 teaspoons olive oil (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Combine potato, drained sardines, egg and peanut butter in a food processor. Pulse 10 - 12 times until mixture forms a thick paste - there will be some lumps
2. Add 2 cups of the oat flour and pulse until the mixture comes together, an additional 10 - 12 times. It will look dry but hold together when pressed
3. Sprinkle remaining oat flour on work surface and roll dough to 1/4" thickness. Cut into treats using a pizza wheel or cookie cutter
4. Bake 350 degrees on parchment lined cookie sheet 30 - 40 mins or until cookies are dry and lightly browned on the bottom.
5. Turn off oven, brush with olive oil if desired and let treats dry in oven for 1 hour

Yield 45 - 50 treats

*Bone  
Appetite!*

## pumpkin peanut butter pupcakes



### Instructions:

1. Line 8 muffin cups with paper liners
2. Whisk flour and baking soda in a mixing bowl.
3. In a separate bowl, beat peanut butter and oil with an electric mixer. Add pumpkin puree, honey, and egg. Beat until smooth.
4. Stir in flour mixture until just combined (batter will be fairly thick).
5. Divide batter into 8 prepared muffin cups
6. Bake at 350 degrees for 22-25 minutes until knife inserted in the center comes out clean.
7. Allow pupcakes to cool completely before frosting.
8. To make frosting, beat cream and peanut butter until smooth. Top each pupcake with a generous mound of frosting and decorate with dog cookies.

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 cup pumpkin puree (not pie filling)
- 3 Tablespoons honey
- 1 large egg
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup peanut butter 1 tsp
- favorite small dog cookies

*Bone  
Appetite!*



### By The Numbers

The accounting below reflects the period from January 1st, 2024 through December 31st, 2024



#### N.B.R.F. Domestic

Total Borzoi taken into rescue 2024 - 43

#### INCOME, includes but not limited to:

Donations: \$68,869.67  
Fundraisers: \$9,147.80

#### EXPENSES, includes but not limited to:

Veterinary: \$47,380.74  
Insurance: \$1,508.95  
Toll Free Number: \$282.92  
Rescue Supplies \$4,125.51  
**GAIN: \$24,719.35**



#### N.B.R.F. International

Total Borzoi taken into rescue 2024 - 8

#### INCOME, includes but not limited to:

Donations: \$15,551.76  
Fundraisers: \$9,006.18

#### EXPENSES, includes but not limited to:

Veterinary: \$17,937.36  
Shelter/Boarding: \$2,483.27  
Transport/Fuel/Airline Fees: \$23,943.99  
Rescue Supplies: \$692.59  
Insurance: \$1,508.97  
**LOSS: \$22,008.24**



#### Beverly Taylor Trust

We want to thank Beverly Taylor and the Beverly Taylor Trust Fund Board for ensuring that Beverly's wishes to provide funds for Borzoi Only 501c3 rescues, continue.

NBRF received \$20,000 from the Trust in 2024

The National Borzoi Rescue Foundation relies on the generous donations of time, talent and monetary assistance. Your continued support allows us to respond to every call for help received. Regretfully in recent years the need has grown. Our reach has expanded and now we need to build a bigger team of volunteers to help us meet our commitment to assist every Borzoi in need.

We currently have openings for assistance with adoption placement, social media, foster homes, and transporters. If you have the desire and time to donate to our mission to help every Borzoi in need please considering joining our all volunteer team of very special people.

Each life saved, each life lived in health and happiness is a testament to the hard work and generosity of many. There is no part of the sequence more important than the other. No step in the process can be omitted and still allow us to accomplish the mission.



*This year Team Borzoi has rescued and successfully forever homed 43 domestic and 8 International Borzoi.*

*Every successful rescue is 100% due to your financial support and the hard work of our dedicated team of volunteers. When a call for help goes out, there is always someone that steps up and says "Yes, I can".*

*We are grateful for each and every one of you. Many dogs lives have been saved, improved and enriched because of your care and devotion to Borzoi.*

~ Ann Marie Wiseman  
NBRF director





844-NBRF-ZOI (844-627-3964)

ADOPT, RESCUE, FOSTER, TRANSPORT, SPONSOR,  
DONATE, VOLUNTEER



Click on any photo below for more information on how you can help  
NBRF Borzoi in need

FOSTER HOPE  
FOSTER LOVE  
FOSTER BORZOI

FOSTER FAMILIES ARE THE FIRST STEP IN FOREVER

BE THE BRIDGE BETWEEN HOMELESS AND HOME




NBRF & NBRF-  
International  
Holiday Auction




**WELCOME TO OUR BORZOI LIFE SHOP!**

RESCUE WITHOUT BORDERS

We are limited only by the funds we need to continue our mission




Facebook Fundraisers Benefit Borzoi in Need

Create yours today!




NBRF is a 501(c)(3) organization



estate planning, wills and trusts - talk to your lawyer about adding NBRF



**Donations are tax deductible!**

