



Irish Retriever Reunited

Hello all and welcome to the second edition of Irish Retriever Reunited. We hope you all enjoyed the last issue and remember you can have your news and updates featured for all to read.

In The News

Recently Adopted

Congratulations to the following dogs who have found their forever homes:-
Lola Jane, Ivan, Isaac, Fran, Mandy now Bonnie, Dawn, Bess, Sunny, Millie, Lulu, Echo, Zach & Burt, Frankie, Daisy, Spirit, Stevie, Brett, Digby, Edwin, Crystal, Carly, Bonnie & Becky, Belle, Snowie & Honey, Rudi, Holly, Dylan, Jimmy, Jessie, Esme, Eddie, Honey, Woody, Annie, Alphie, Honey, Zena and Ben and Jake

Sadly time was cruelly against Ben and Jake but they had the most wonderful ends to their lives.

In Memoriam

The following dogs have left us this year for Rainbow Bridge. Run free of pain angels

Goldie (Labrador) best friend and mentor to Kelly. Ali and family are devastated.

Ben (Golden Retriever) who was adored by Pam Forrest and family.

Ralphy (English Setter) greatly missed by Jan, Guy, Zach and Bertie

Lucy (Lurcher Cross) best friend to our female Codie, who like Marylea, is missing her terribly.

Jake (collie cross) best friend to Bonnie and much loved by Bob and family

Cody (Retriever cross) leaves behind a heartbroken Julia and Dave


Dixie (Labrador) remembered with much love by Jackie, Ron, Bridie and Gizmo

Freddie (Golden Retriever) beautiful boy taken before his time leaving a grieving Tina and Pete

Aran (Golden Retriever) passed over peacefully in the loving arms of Sandie

Barnaby (Golden Retriever) the house is so empty without him for Norma and Peter

Ben (Golden Retriever) still very much in the hearts of Lorna, Rachel and Zena

Thinking too of those left behind missing their dear friends 

Happy Endings

We knew we wanted a dog pretty soon after moving into the house, our first together! There was just a sense that there was something missing, something that would help make a house a home and ensure that we got back from work avoiding any pubs! In Ben we found that missing link and it's thanks to everyone at IRR that we found our "Big Fella"!

Pretty much immediately after registering with IRR we were sent the details of Ben (then called Denny as there were loads of Bens already on the books) and told a bit about his history.

We believe that he'd been a stray around Swansea before being adopted from the Welsh Retriever Rescue by a family who, after 3 years, unfortunately developed allergies to him. Hence this 7ish year old Goldie ended up in the caring hands of his foster family, Karen and Luke in Kent.

We have to admit that being welcomed into Karnes' home by three energetic Retrievers was a bit of shock, and it took a few moments to recognise who we'd come to meet! However, Karen had been doing some hard work with Ben since he'd arrived from Swansea three days before, and both she and Luke managed to settle everyone down and tell us a wee bit about Ben, his traits, his habits and his eccentricities! There was quite a list, but what came through more than anything was that here was a big, gentle giant who was looking for a retirement home where he would be free from worries and free to get as much fuss and attention as possible! All this was conveyed with Tanya constantly fussing Ben and Molly staring straight into my soul with huge, big brown eyes! There were moments when I considered that we could have two!!!

Fast forward three weeks. Home check done and arrangements made, we again descended upon Karen and Luke in Kent, but this time to take Ben back to Bournemouth! Anxieties were palpable in the car as we drove up! Would we be ready? Would Ben like us and cope with the drive south? Would we be deafened with his bark in the confines of the car?

There, again, to meet us at the door was the welcoming committee! Strangely it was only then that we remembered how big Ben actually was, particularly compared to the slender Kerry and Molly and started to wonder if the house in Bournemouth would be big enough. After all the work that Luke and Karen had put in the Ben and Molly, in some ways it felt wrong to separate Ben from his pals, but Karen reassured us that Ben would be more that happy chillen' out on his own and being the sole centre of attention.

Somehow you get lost in the excitement and energy of the day and only consider what a major thing it is for all concerned at a later date! On that Saturday, everyone seemed to take it their stride.

Ben coped brilliantly! On getting back to Bournemouth he checked out the new surroundings and

declared them his! All birds were barked at and most trees pee'ed at as he announced his presence! 10 months on and Ben's still having a ball! We've been through most of the stages of initial dog life: settling in, pandering to us, testing us and his boundaries and relaxing into our routine. We now have a happy, healthy, contented dog, 10kgs lighter than he was with loads of energy but yet very content to just sleep and enjoy his own space and time! Naturally he's the centre of attention when anyone comes round to the house, or if not, he very soon makes move to redress the balance! He's an affectionate fella who's most happy with people, less so with other dogs and not at all with cats! This makes for some interesting walks along the lanes around us, but we've learned to manage situations and are constantly trying to train and reassure Ben. We all attended Puppy Training classes in the summer but the training was mainly for us humans (Bens skills being fairly good after time with Karen) whilst Ben was there for the socialisation. The rosette is proudly displayed in the utility room!

We've been able to travel around to UK to enjoy a few cottage holidays together, taking advantage of long walks to tire everyone out, but by far the best thing we've been doing with Ben is the dog swimming. Ben's lucky enough to have a dedicated dog pool 40mins away where he is able to swim until his heart is content approx once a month! His natural instinct to swim comes through and he's a true water baby, shaking with excitement when we arrive and VERY reluctant to leave at the end of our session. Naturally, big charmer that he is, he's made himself a firm favourite with the instructors who find it hard to believe that dog like Ben was ever unwanted!

Our lives have benefited from the arrival of Ben. He makes us laugh, he causes excitement, he keeps us entertained but most of all, he exudes love that I hope he knows is reciprocated straight back at him a thousand times over! We owe a huge thank you to everyone at IRR for making this happen.

Craig and Tanya



Congratulations

To Shawnee for becoming a registered PAT (Pets As Therapy) Dog



Kerry for passing her Kennel Club Gold Good Citizen Award



Quinton for passing his Kennel Club Silver Good Citizen Award



The Cost of Rescue

How many of us actually consider how much it costs to rescue a dog? We don't stop to think how our dog got to be in IRR care or how much it cost to get there in the first place. We are glad our furry friend is now safe and our hearts melt when we see them, so we forget how many others have been involved in getting them there and how many other dogs need the same and more help.

Firstly dogs need to be released from pounds in Ireland at an approximate cost of £25. Sandie and Jackie are always on the lookout for dogs here.

Next comes kennelling in Ireland. Some dogs need to be held there till transport can be arranged.

Dogs also need to be checked by a vet in Ireland to see that they are fit and healthy to travel (average cost £25).

Transport from Dublin costs £60 - £95 then the extra petrol it takes for whoever meets the transporter to take dogs to foster homes mostly at their own expense.

If dogs need neutering this is usually £150 for girls and £100 for boys, sometimes much more, depending on where in the country they are operated on and the size of the dog.

Foster homes give a dog the care and attention they have been lacking, often house training and basic obedience sometimes much more is needed to sort out problems. All meals are provided by the fosterer too again at their own expense.

All homes offered have to be home checked to make sure they are right for the dog and the family. Stability for dog is of upmost importance. Volunteers do this **again at their own expense.**

Finally, we have the remedies that the dogs need. Flower remedies at £10 each and homeopathic remedies at least another £10 each. Some dogs have problems that need more than one remedy to rectify them.

Don't forget also the vet bills for the dogs that need extra attention or emergency ops. One dog had an eye removed, two dogs needed dental work doing and another had to have operations on both her ears, yet another had to go into intensive care and cost us £2000 and one poor soul was in such a poor state when found that she needed £1000 worth of veterinary treatment.

Pudsey had a hip replacement at a cost of £3000 and Jimmy needs on-going veterinary treatment as will Isabelle, who recently had a tumour removed, as they are in forever foster homes.

Many dogs come with absolutely nothing and for their own safety they are provided with a collar and lead. Then IRR provide their special green shamrock tag when they go to their forever home.

Most dogs that come into rescue are not "ready made". Many times, we shed tears and often endure sleepless nights deciding how best to help them but there is also the laughter they bring to us with their little ways. Absolutely NO PRICE can be put on the love these dogs give us in return and the love we give to them.

Health

Sarah Dyer Dip.CASI

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The Power of Probiotics!

Probiotics are relatively new in the world of human nutrition and are now becoming recognised in the field of canine nutrition. Research is lacking in this field but much anecdotal evidence is showing that good intestinal health is paramount to the health of our dogs and using probiotics can promote it and therefore help with a range of health problems usually related to the digestive system. Let's take a closer look.

What are Probiotics and why might we need to supplement?

Probiotics are the good bacteria normally found in the bowel. This good bacteria must be present for the digestion and synthesis of vitamin K and for many of the B vitamin group. Sometimes factors such as stress, prolonged use of anti-biotics, illness and surgery can upset the balance of this good bacteria and therefore the intestinal flora.

How do probiotics work?

There are many theories as to how probiotics work in the canine digestive system. No-one really knows. Some of these theories are listed below.

- They may produce inhibitory chemicals, whose purpose is to reduce the amount of harmful bacteria and perhaps the toxin production by this harmful bacteria.
- They may block harmful bacteria sticking to intestinal cells.
- They may compete for nutrients with the harmful bacteria.
- They may degrade toxin receptors present on intestinal cells.
- They may prevent the absorption of the toxins present in the digestive tract

When might probiotics be used?

Remember, only to use them under the supervision of your veterinary surgeon. Problems areas that probiotics might be useful for are:-

- On finishing a course of anti-biotics or other drugs. They can be given during a course of anti-biotics but ensure they are not given at the same time. A few hours gap is needed.
- If your dog has gastrointestinal disease.
- Probiotics may be useful for irritable bowel syndrome.
- If your dog has a medical condition, such as malabsorption.
- Can help dogs who have yeast infections (also known as Candida).
- May help dogs who are grass eaters.
- It can sometimes help dogs who are poop eaters.
- With viruses such as parvovirus, to help to restore the balance of bacteria in the gut.
- May also help with ulcerative colitis.

Sources

Probiotics can be present in live natural yoghurt. However, many yoghurt products do not contain live organisms or only contain very few. Another point to consider is that some dogs are lactose intolerant and are therefore unable to cope with eating yoghurt. It is a much safer bet to supplement with a brand that is guaranteed to contain live probiotics.

There are many different brands available on the market and these contain many different strains of probiotics, ensure you purchase a wide spectrum product. I personally recommend Higher Natures "Probio-Intensive". This product contains the more popular strains and is of a high quality. Most brands need to be kept in the refrigerator; Probio-Intensive does not, thus making life easier when travelling. Others good brands are Solgar and Viridian.

Dosage

Probiotics are measured in micro organisms. According to Shawn Messonnier D.V.M. the recommended dose is approximately 200 to 500 million micro organisms per day. Probio-Intensive contains approximately three billion micro organisms per capsule.

Safety

There are no known safety issues. Sometimes it might be apparent that there has been a small increase in digestive gas!

Note: The recommendations in this article are not an alternative for veterinary advice.

Contact Details for Companies Supplying Probiotics:

Viridian	http://www.viridian-nutrition.com/philosophy.asp	Tel: 01327 878050
Solgar	http://www.solgar.co.uk/	Tel: N/A
Higher Nature	http://www.highernature.co.uk/	Tel: 0870 066 4193

References:

Case et al. 2000. *Canine and Feline Nutrition (2nd ed.)*. Mosby

Hand et al. 2000 *Small Animal Clinical Nutrition (4th ed.)* Mark Morris Institute

Messonner D.V.M, Shawn. 2000, *The Natural Health Bible for Dogs and Cats*. Three Rivers Press

Swanson et.al. Fructooligosaccharides and Lactobacillus acidophilus modify gut microbial populations, total tract nutrient digestibilities and fecal protein catabolite concentrations in healthy adult dogs. *The Journal of Nutrition*. 2002 Dec;**132(12)**:3721-31.

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About Sarah

Sarah has lived with many different dogs from childhood. In 2002 her Rottweiler 'Bazy Boy' was suffering many different ailments. Conventional medicine could ease the pain and fix the bits that were broken but there was something missing. Sarah was already studying canine psychology part-time and decided to study canine nutrition. She graduated from The Companion Animal Studies Institute in 2006 and was awarded a Diploma in Canine Nutrition with distinction. Sarah is continuing her studies and is an assistant teacher at the Institute.

Sarah is also a probationer member of the National Federation of Spiritual Healers and is now studying full-time at the University of the West of England for a degree in Animal Behaviour and Welfare.

Whilst Sarah is a stickler for science and keeps up to date with all the latest developments, she also believes that science is not the be all and end all. Science may not have evolved to ask the right questions yet.

Sarah works as a consultant dog trainer/behaviourist and nutritionist in the North Wiltshire/South Gloucestershire area. She lives with her husband (John), Tambo the terrier and Tara and Tia who are both Rottweilers.

Sarah has very kindly offered to help with any health problems with our dogs. You can contact her direct or email helping_hound@hotmail.co.uk if you would like your problem shown to help others who may be afraid to ask.

Sarah will also be writing an article for us in each newsletter.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following dogs:

Bella 2nd April

Molly 8th April 4 years old (pictured below)

Muppet 1st April 7 years old



Gotcha Days

Shawnee 22nd May 1st gotcha day

To have your dogs birthday/ gotcha day featured here email
helping_hound@hotmail.co.uk

Coming Events

Reunion

Our Annual Reunion Dog Show is going to be held on Saturday 15th September 2007 at Bury View Farm & Camping Site, Corston Fields, Nr Bath BA2 9HD so please put this important date in your diary. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Check website www.irishretrieverrescue.com for more details.

Applications for entries for obedience and novelty classes and the free entry to the Parade of Rescue dogs can all be done online to save queuing on the day.

Photo Competition

Check your emails and our website for this exciting competition. We will be asking for your pics from 1st August to 1st September and judging will take place at reunion. There will be 20 classes available (something for every dog of all ages) and entries will be £1 per pic or 6 for £5.

Holiday Auction

The Holiday Auction for 2008 will take place at the Reunion. Sandie has again kindly offered to donate a week's accommodation in her lovely apartment which is a few miles out of Dublin. [Dog Friendly Holiday in Ireland](#)

The holiday is accommodation only so transport (by air or sea) would need to be arranged by the winner. Also, unfortunately, the holiday cannot take place during the peak season (June, July, and August). The cost would normally be 660 euros so there is a reserve price of 330 euros (£225).

Bids can be placed in advance for those unable to attend the Reunion by emailing irrcompentries@aol.com

For those able to come to The Reunion, please be well prepared to bid for this great holiday.

Sponsor a Dog

As some of you are the proud owners of sponsor dogs you will already know about the sponsor a dog scheme on the main website.

For everyone else, there are lots of handsome boys and pretty girls acting as sponsor's dogs to raise money for IRR.

For £10 a year the sponsorer receives a laminated certificate of their chosen dog, 4 updates, a birthday and Christmas card.

Visit the main site www.irishretrieverrescue.com or email sponsor-a-hound@hotmail.co.uk for more information. Shortly we hope to have some posters for you to download and place where you can ie.vets. Watch this space for more details.

To date sponsor dogs have raised £170 well done everyone 🐾

Jokes



If Dogs Wrote Letters to God

Dear God,

Why do humans smell the flowers but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God,

When we get to heaven can we sit on your couch? Or is it the same old story?

Dear God,

Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray and the rabbit but not ONE is named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We dogs love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

Dear God,

If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

Dear God,

We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields,

and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

Dear God,
More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

Dear God,
When we get to the Pearly Gates, do we have to shake hands to get in?

Dear God,
Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

Dear God,
Let me give you a list of just some of the things I'd like you to help me remember so I can be a good dog:
I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it.
I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc. just because I like the way they smell!
The sofa is not a face towel; neither are Mom And Dad's laps.
The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
My head does not belong in the refrigerator.
I will not bite the officer's hand when he reaches in for Mom's driver's license and registration.
I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.
I must shake the rainwater out of my fur before entering the house.
I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt across the carpet.
I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch when company is over.
The cat is not a squeaky toy; so when I play with him and he makes those noises I will remember it's not a good thing.

Dear God,
May I have my testicles back please?

A Dead Duck

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgery. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, Cuddles has passed away." The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I am sure. The duck is dead," he replied. "How can you be so sure," she protested. "I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room, and returned a few moments later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog and took it out, and returned a few moments later with a beautiful cat. The cat jumped up on the table and also sniffed delicately at the bird. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead

duck." Then the vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead?!!" The vet shrugged. "I'm sorry. If you'd taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan....."

Paws For Thought

"Remember a family is for life, not just for Christmas.
But loyalty only last as long as the biscuit tin is open"



And Finally

Everything that comes to us, comes to pass or, more accurately, for us to pass on.

Not just the money in our pocket, but wisdom, objects, ideas, even opportunities, all come to us, so that, at the right moment, we can pass them on. This is called flow.

Being in the flow means being aware that the river of life is flowing to us at every moment.

Being in the flow means accepting whatever comes and putting it to good use, before passing it on.

Going with the flow means allowing whatever comes to move on freely, without holding on in any way.

If we do not pass on, we are trying to block the flow, and that's when we feel pressure in our life. Pressure is always self-inflicted.

Every time you feel 'under pressure' look at what you need to release and to pass on to someone else. Once you do you can ...relax...again.

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. Please send in your news, updates, stories, birthdays/gotchas, pics, jokes, problems etc to us at helping_hound@hotmail.co.uk

