



# Norfolk Boxer Rescue

## Spring 2008 Newsletter

Editor: Tony Serne

email: [tony.serne@virgin.net](mailto:tony.serne@virgin.net)

### Editorial

Well Christmas and the New Year celebrations seem an age away now but I hope that you all enjoyed yourselves especially those boxers who were spending their first Christmas with you and your family. I know that our George thoroughly enjoyed spending his first Christmas with Woogie (see article later in this issue) and our daughter's boxer George (see "two Georges and a Woogie in the last issue. Long walks are now called for to reduce waist sizes.

As nobody entered the competition in the last issue the prize will be converted to cash and donated to our funds.

Our Newsletter can only be as good as its contents so please let ME have your photo's (jpeg format) and stories of your rescue Boxer by email to the above address.

### Chairman's Remarks

Dogs are very tolerant, and always react positively to kindness and being looked after, which is why both rescuing Boxer dogs and re-homing them as well as being an owner of a "rescue Boxer dog" is so rewarding. It is sometimes very difficult to understand why some their people find it just too easy to abandon Boxer dogs. Clearly sometimes the circumstances make it inevitable as when someone dies, or becomes ill so they cannot look after their dog. However, the vast majority of dogs we re-home do not fall into this category, and in this "throw away" society some people seem to think that their dog is just another chattel

that can easily be disposed of, and at that point seek our help.

Naturally, we are only too pleased to be able to rescue a dog that is not loved and not wanted. As you know we try very hard to marry up the rescue dog to an appropriate owner, and often prospective "Rescue" owners do not understand why we take so much trouble to vet homes and ask about family circumstances and lifestyle. However, we are very anxious to avoid a second re-homing because the first does not work out. We cannot get it right on every occasion, but our failure rate is less than 5%. Hopefully you have a lovely "Rescue" Boxer and it is rewarding you with its loyalty and affection – and we have got it right!

Thank you to everyone who has homed a Boxer since the last newsletter. We are always here to listen to any problems you might have and to give you support if it is appropriate. Thank you too to all of our volunteers and to those who have donated money to keep the organization going. All of you have a good summer and we hope to see you all at the Fun Day and the Sponsored Walk.

With Best Wishes  
Peter Wrighton

### Secretary's Report

Since the beginning of the year things have really taken off with an unprecedented number of boxers coming on to our books. It appears to be a reflection of the current situation in the country

as we have never in the past had so many dogs needing to be re-homed due to emigration or downsizing of homes. Several owners have moved to rented accommodation and we know from past experience it is almost impossible to find a landlord these days who will allow dogs on the premises. Also, of course, the usual stories of being unable to manage a young boisterous dog after the arrival of a new baby. If the dog had been adequately trained from its earliest days, there should never be a need for this to happen as there is no other breed so compatible with young children. Add to this the standard reason for giving up a dog-husband/partner leaving home – then you can see why we are so busy at the moment.

At the end of this report I am listing the dogs which, at the time of going to press, urgently need a new home, but I would like to make special mention of little Daisy. She is a deaf white bitch of about a year old. She is not speyed and has been fighting with her sister! She is a real sweetie and would benefit from a home with a well-behaved male dog (preferably neutered!!) who will act as her ears. We believe she has already had a little training with hand signals but will need quite a lot more. If you feel you can help with any of these dogs, do please let me know.

Luckily, we still get a steady stream of people wanting a boxer. Not all are suitable, of course, but it is comforting to feel that the next time the phone rings a really super home is waiting. Do please make all your boxer-loving friends know where we are and how much we need them!

We continue to work closely with Home Counties Boxer Welfare. They have helped us place some boxers and we have placed some on their behalf, so this mutual co-operation is working well.

In conclusion I would like to thank all of you for giving good homes to our lovely boxers. We could not manage without you! I would also like to thank Annie, Nicky Lorraine and all the staff of Norstead Hall Kennels in North Walsham who have looked after our boxers so well for us, often at very short notice.

## **DOGS NEEDING HOMES**

**Daisy** – see above

**Butch and Spike** – A pair of bridle boys at present living in a pub. Owner is downsizing and cannot take them with him. He insists they are placed together!! Both are brindle and white and boisterous 5 year olds. Have never lived with children, but should be OK with older ones. Difficult to place two together, but maybe someone out there has the space and time to take them on. Do hope so.

**Cooper** – Gorgeous entire male, 2 years old, brindle and white with some behavioral problems. He has had 3 homes with American Service personnel and badly need socializing. Can be aggressive with strangers, but soon makes friends. Needs calm confident owner who will take him out and about to overcome his distrust of people but he will have to be muzzled initially as he has a habit of jumping up in a none too friendly manner on people he does not know.

**Lacy** – One year old white speyed bitch. Very lively. Used to living with another bitch but would benefit from individual attention. Needs to go to training school to learn some manners – but will make a lovely house pet eventually. Very pretty.

## **RE-HOMING NEWS**

Since the last newsletter the following Boxers have been re-homed:-

**Bessie** – Brindle/White bitch, 7 years old. She as fostered by Nancy Boardley who has subsequently decided to keep her. After initial health problems she is now doing very well. Not so keen on other dogs though.

**Brandy** – An 18 month old red and white bitch. Re-homed with Terry and Tony Serne. Gets on very well with her new boyfriend George and has settled in well.

**Oggie** renamed Diesel - Red and White male, 2 years old. Re-homed with Steve Manning and family. Doing very well indeed. A very well behaved dog

**Henry** - Red and White male, 3 years old. Placed with Ian Wood and family he has fitted in well with the family's other two Boxers.

**Riley** – Brindle/White male, 6 years old. Adopted by Carol Roberts and family

**Tia** – Brindle/White bitch, 18 months old. Placed with Colin Kemp and family, their male Boxer thinks Tia is great.

**Jessie** – Brindle/White bitch, 4 years old.

Placed with Julie May and has settled in well. Jessie has been giving a bit of trouble with other dogs out on walks, but Julie is confident she can cope and hopefully teach her better manners.

**Jessie** – Red/White bitch, 2 years old. Placed with Kizzy Blaydon in Clacton through the auspices of Home Counties Boxer Rescue. Jessie is doing fine.

**Diesel** – Red and White 2 year old male. Apparently a confirmed fighter. Has been placed with Nathan and Andrea Foster, so far no problems.

**Marley** - renamed Charley – Brindle/White, male 3 years old. Originally re-homed but the family found him to be unmanageable and aggressive so he was returned to us. He has now found a home with a couple who have had Boxers from us in the past. They are finding him to be a well mannered dog, but he does have issues with strangers and other dogs.

**Cody** – Young red male now very happily settled with Claire Kyle and family. A very nice dog indeed.

**Grace** – Three year old brindle bitch re-homed with Andrew Gutteridge and family. She has settled in well.

**Nelly** – An outstandingly beautiful young brindle bitch. Re-homed with Rosie and John Leaf in Suffolk

**Freddy** – Nine month old red pup. Lovely temperament and will be a very tall big dog when he has finished growing. Homed with Jan Tremayne in Lowestoft and doing fine.

**Sol** – Eight year old red male re-homed to Sue Fox (who else!). Inclined to bite, if physically manhandled. Not an attack but a sharp reminder he does not like being pushed about. A very handsome, well behaved in the home in every other way a nicely mannered dog. Gets on brilliantly with my old bitch Cassie. (see Stories and Photographs section. Ed)

## Treasurer's Report

As you can see from the cash flow summary (see last page), we have managed to acquire an increase of £1459.03 over last year's end of year total.

I truly believe we can only keep our heads above water, so to speak, due to the monthly bank donations. In the first half of the year we received notice of £770.00 from an admirer of the breed in her will. The Waveney Dog

Obedience also gave us a cheque for £400.00 and the Thorpness Show accrued £513.92.

We managed to obtain a profit of £553.30 for the Fun Day last year and £1221.00 for the sponsored walk, which was an excellent result.

On another note, the insurance for "Hugo" was quite high last year, namely £575.04, although the premium has been reduced for this year.

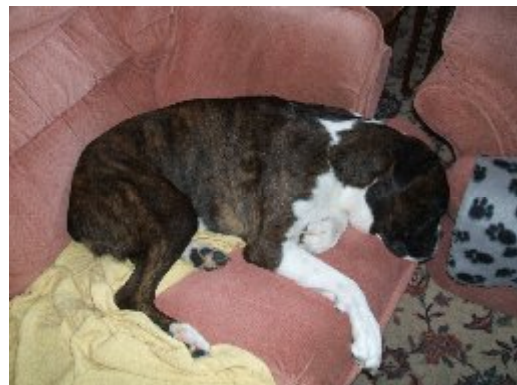
Fortunately, you will see that we manage to keep our funds fairly level from year to year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who support the cause for the "Boxer Dog" – we could not take in, give veterinary care or re-home them without your help.

Teresa  
Treasurer

## YOUR STORIES/PHOTOGRAPHS

### Woogie



"Woogie in one of her favorite positions"

Woogie was, because of her skin condition, on a great deal of serious medication and we had been made aware that whilst she would have a good quality of life it would be a short one. And sadly it was. She certainly touched the hearts of many that she came into contact with. Both Terry and I miss her greatly as does her friend and playmate our other Boxer "George".



“George in his favorite pose”

George came to us last year and quickly made friends with our Woogie and our daughter’s boxer George. He is a very friendly full dog and gets on well with all those he comes into contact with. He does not like walking on the lead and becomes very vocal towards approaching people and other animals. I think it is purely frustration at not being able to get to them. He is going to receive some training to get him out of this embarrassing behavior.

Tony and Terry Serne  
Ps George now has another girl friend called Brandy. Pics next issue

**E-mail from Audrey & Frank Balcombe**

“Dear Sue  
Many thanks for the most interesting Newsletter and lovely card and photo of Bonzo. I did enjoy reading the articles. It made me realize what a very good dog Tony Edwards found for us. Barney is absolutely wonderful in the house and looks after everything better than we do. We feel very sorry for any burglar – we are sure he would have a very bad time.  
He is now very friendly to all the ladies but we still have to be careful with men. Some he likes and some he doesn’t but this is improving. We still have a few problems with him out walking. We keep him on an extension lead because he is not good with other dogs and doesn’t like joggers running towards me but he doesn’t seem to mind this at all as long as he has a walk.  
We can’t believe he is 8 years old (March) – still behaves like a puppy. His tail never stops wagging and he follows me everywhere. We have a new camera which we are still getting used to and when we get a good photo I will send you one. (Please email one to me Ed.)

**Hello Everyone**

My name is Cassie and I think I am about 14 years old. I came here just about 4 years ago from the RSPCA and they told my Mum I was 10. I was in a bit of a state and didn’t trust anyone, but I have chilled out since then and have turned into a pussy cat! Just as well as Mum keeps bringing in these old boy dogs for me to knock into shape. First George, who I loved, then Bruno who I tolerated and now this great big red idiot called Sol who keeps treading on my best tail. He is very polite to me in all other ways, but I wish he would watch where he is putting his feet. He is the only one I am prepared to share my bed with – Mum says it’s because he is George Clooney with a leg at each corner. I know I am no oil painting myself, but I do have a lovely gentle nature and am prepared to take on all these old boys so long as she doesn’t try and bring another bitch in here. I’m not going to share Mum and my boys with any female, thank you.

Mum calls me Chemical Cassie because I have so many pills every day. I have developed epilepsy in the last year, and I am also atopic, but I see a nice man at the Vet’s who looks after me and makes sure I am OK. I live a good life for an old girl. I get plenty of love and attention and I am fed 3 times a day so I can have my pills in my food, so all in all this retirement home will do me OK. I am aiming at 16, so watch this space.

Cassie  
**She’s had her say – now it’s my turn**



My piccy for the Home Counties Boxer Welfare calendar 2009

Hello Everyone

My name is Sol and I have been in my new home in Norfolk since just before Christmas. I am settled in very well and am organizing things just to my liking. Before I moved here I was in kennels for a very long time because I am 8 years old and I am ashamed to say I do not always behave very well if anyone tries to push me or pull me about. I just don't like it. My new Mum thinks it's because at some time I have had a broken rib. She's found a funny piece of bone sticking out of my ribcage and although it does not hurt me now it must have done at some time. Also, because I was in kennels for so long, I have hang-ups about being locked in or out of the house. You don't catch me willingly coming in when told, or going out either, as I am so suspicious of doors, so Mum has had to devise a series of bribes which get me where she wants me! She usually gets her way in the end and she thinks when the summer comes and the doors can be left open all the time I will learn not to be so daft.

I have lots of love and cuddles and am allowed on the settee when we watch TV at night. It's sometimes a bit of a squash because I also live with a very elderly boxer girl called Cassie. I am quite fond of her, but she's not much fun because she can't run as fast as me she's nearly 14 so I forgive her and treat her with great respect. She tells me off if I tread on her tail though. I try not to do it but she leaves it lying around and if I forget she swears at me.

All in all I think this Norfolk place is OK. I have made lots of new friends (and a couple of enemies of the four-legged variety) and I know my Mum thinks I am the next best thing to George Clooney. Can't be bad!

**Hi**

This is just a short note to say thank you to Norfolk Boxer Rescue for letting us take Harvey. It's been a while since we had him but we've all been busy of late. He has settled in very well and has brought us, as a family very much joy. Bonnie our other boxer has adapted to his ways nicely (finally). They get on great and between them they are surely wrecking the house and costing us a fortune, Oh well, the price you pay for love.

Marcus, Sarah, Bonnie and Harvey

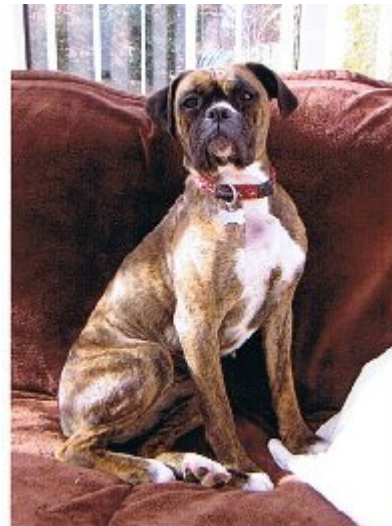
**Dear Sue**

Please find some photographs of 'Tia'. She has settled into her new home very well and we have not had any problems at all. I am quite fond of the photograph on her own which seemed to have come out much better than expected. We have 2 beds in the kitchen and 2 more upstairs but as you can see one seems to be enough on some occasions. The conservatory can get quite popular as well.

Best regards

Colin Kemp

Tia



I am gorgeous and don't I know it!

Tia & Tyson



Do you really need all that room dear?

## CHOCOLATE BEWARE

Higgins is spectacularly well now. He came out of the vets with a shining coat, a spring in his step and a cocky personality. Typical Higgins! He even looked quite well when he went in. But if he hadn't been admitted for urgent treatment, he would have died. My daughter happened to ring us up for a chat and mentioned that Higgins had excelled himself in the robbery stakes by devouring a particularly rich chocolate cake, made with 85% cocoa. Even the plate was undisturbed! I told her to ring the vet immediately. She told him the quantity of chocolate and the cocoa strength. The vet calculated that the toxic dose for Higgins' own weight had been well exceeded and commenced long-distance treatment. Attempts to make him sick failed so he was rushed to Fakenham and grisly procedures began. He spent the next 24 hours undergoing all sorts of treatments and was on a drip until the next afternoon. The vet was amazed that Higgins survived the toxicity (a first for him), but this is the frightening bit – Higgins survived because he is a Labrador, a breed noted for their strong digestive systems. If he had been a boxer, his chances would have been dramatically different.

Dog owners generally are well aware that chocolate is dangerous for dogs because of the theobromine content, but we can all cheerfully recount tales of boxes of chocolates disappearing from under the Christmas tree, stolen by our four-legged friends. However, since gourmet chocolates arrived and high-cocoa content praised for its health benefits to us, we need to be even more aware. If your beloved boxer does make a chocolate mistake, please think carefully about how much he has had and about the cocoa content (which is usually expressed as a percentage on the label). Then phone the vet immediately to check that you are safe – it's a very easy precaution to take and much better to be safe than sorry. Delay while you hope he is sick could be fatal as the drug will get into his system and treatment could be impossible.

Do carry on eating that delicious chocolate yourself but store it well out of reach of your clever dog and buy some special doggie chocolates for your very special friend. Higgins looks great after all the purging, colonic

irrigation and charcoal treatments, but he was very lucky indeed.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Fun Day and BBQ** – this year to be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at Frettenham Village Hall, Spixworth Road, Frettenham.

**Sponsored Walk** – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at Bunwell Village Hall full details and sponsor forms will be issued nearer the date.

## DO YOU KNOW THE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE OFFICERS OF NORFOLK BOXER RESCUE?

**Chairman:** Peter Wrighton  
Candlestick Cottage  
Barrows Hole Lane  
Little Dunham  
KINGS LYNN  
PE32 2DP  
01760 725406

**Secretary:** Sue Fox  
Cosy Corner  
35 Waterloo Road  
Hainford  
NORWICH  
NR10 3AX  
01603 890655

**Treasurer:** Teresa Barton  
Duelstone Farm  
Holt Road  
Cawston  
NORWICH  
NR10 4HP  
01603 872212

**Social Secretary;** Angie Taylor  
32 Carter Road  
Drayton  
NORWICH  
NR8 6DY  
01603 867233

**Editor Newsletter:** Tony Serne  
Drove Cottage  
133 Hall Street  
Briston  
MELTON CONSTABLE  
NR24 2LQ  
01263 862244

**Norfolk Boxer Rescue**  
**email:** [norfolkboxerrescue@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:norfolkboxerrescue@yahoo.co.uk)

This useful Article has been reproduced by kind permission of the author and Home Counties Boxer Welfare – NewsLink

## **Cruciate Ligament Injury**

**By Walker G Miller BVMS DBR MRCVS (Walkon Boxers)**

### **English & Scottish**

The cruciate ligaments are in the stifle or knee joint and there are two of them. They join the femur bone to the tibia bone, to form the knee joint, and one is called the cranial and the other the caudal ligament. It is the cranial ligament which ruptures most commonly. This is known as the professional footballer's injury such as happened to Michael Owen in the last World Cup. Sorry to use an English footballer as a guide but it does not seem to happen to Scottish players!! This injury is surprisingly common in dogs as well. The ligaments are small cords which join the bones together, effectively holding the knee together. There is of course, a joint capsule round the joint as well which is full of joint fluid and the meisci cartilages also.

### **Damage**

How do the ligaments get damaged? Well it is usually a very simple injury to the knee joint by a twisting injury. It is most commonly seen in athletic dogs i.e. the Boxer, who jump or turn suddenly while running. Some breeds of dogs seem to have weaker ligaments, Rottweilers, Bull Mastifs, or Retrievers, but the ligaments in all dogs get weaker with age and so tear more easily. Damage can also occur in obese dogs

due to excess strain on the joints. The sign of cruciate damage is usually sudden onset lameness in a hind leg as the ligament tears completely, but the ligament can also rip slightly leading to a slight lameness but this usually completely tears with more active exercise. Therefore, it is usually seen when the dog is running around and they pull up acutely lame hopping on one back leg. Dogs with cruciate damage stand in a very characteristic way with the back toes just touching the ground but not taking any weight on the affected leg. If the ligament only slightly tears the lameness will be intermittent at first. Dogs with straighter angles in the knee and hock joints are more prone to the injury due to abnormal forces through the joint on exercise.

#### **Sedate**

You Vet will probably suspect what is wrong with your dog from your description of the symptoms. They can confirm what is wrong by feeling the knee, which may also be swollen, and pulling on the ligaments to see if they are damaged. I find it is usually easier to sedate the dog to get a good examination of the joint. When this is done it is usually very easy to feel the damage because the two bones forming the knee joint now move back and forward very easily instead of not at all. I also at this time take an x-ray of the affected joint to see if there is any more damage to the joint or other signs of disease. I quite often x-ray the other knee joint to see how it compares and check there is no disease in it which may cause a similar problem.

#### **Rest**

Well, now the diagnosis has been made, what is the treatment and the prognosis? Just as in humans the damaged ligaments can be replaced by a man made tape or a piece of your own dogs tissue from just above the joint. This obviously requires an operation to the knee joint. In some very small dogs, if the damage is not too severe, the knee may recover if you rest your dogs for a few months. Even in those dogs who only have a partial tear in the ligament, surgery is the best option. These dogs may get better with rest but are prone to injuring the ligament again as soon as they are allowed to return to normal exercise. Needless to say in the Boxer this is usually the next day due to their active nature. Larger dogs, such as the Boxer, may benefit from a special operation called a Tibial Plateau Levelling. This involves cutting the tibia bone and changing the angle of it to reduce the stresses through the joint. I find this operation very successful in the Boxer as it does not seem to be as sore on them. Unfortunately this operation can only be performed at an orthopaedic specialist centre.

#### **Complete Rest**

The operation is usually straight forward and your dog quite often can go home the same day as the operation. Quite often after the operation the dog has to wear a support bandage on the joint to prevent it from bending it. This bandage should be checked by your vet every couple of days to make sure it is not rubbing on the leg. The bandage is usually removed at the same time that the stitches come out. The most important point about the whole operation is the

recovery period which consists of complete rest for 6-8 weeks after the surgery. If you had the same operation you would be on crutches for 2 months so remember we cannot do this to the dog and hence it needs cage rest and only taken out on a lead to carry out its needs. When exercise is started it is a very gradual build up on the lead only initially. When running off the lead is allowed try not to let the dog turn too quickly on the leg or jump up and down.

#### **Slow Return**

The operation is usually a great success in most dogs as long as the rest is carried out properly and a slow return to normal exercise is carried out. The dog can walk reasonably well on the leg after a few weeks, although it may take months before they are using the leg normally again. As your dog gets older it may develop some stiffness into the joint due to arthritis but with modern pain killers and joint supplements this can be overcome.

Produced and published by Tony Serne on behalf of Norfolk Boxer Rescue