



THE BOXER BEAT

Monthly Newsletter of Boxer Rescue LA
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**HOW TO MAKE A HAPPY AND SAFE
HOLIDAY SEASON FOR ALL!**

We encourage everyone to follow these tips to help ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday season.



THE TREE

A typical Christmas tree is bursting with dangers for your pet. Keep light strands high enough on the tree to prevent burns if they contact your pet's skin. Dangling electrical cords can be a tempting – and dangerous-- toy. Avoid decorating with glass ornaments that can be knocked down and broken, resulting in cut feet or mouths. Never decorate with “edible” ornaments-- they may contain toxic paints or varnishes.

Keep the water stand covered. Pine-sap mixed with water makes a poisonous drink for your pet. Keep in mind, too, that the smell of a live tree, or an artificial one, may cause your pet to urine-mark it. Therefore, it will be helpful to bring the tree into an isolated indoor room for a day or so, so that it smells more like “home.” Consider purchasing a portable exercise pen to enclose the tree and protect your pets from mishaps. It may not “look the best” but it could save a life – and a trip to the emergency veterinary clinic.

LIGHTS

If you have indoor holiday lights, be sure that they don't hang so low that your pet could become entangled in them. Remember to also unplug the lights when you're not home to supervise your pets.

ORNAMENTS

Pick up ornament hooks and ornaments that may have fallen on the floor. If a pet picks these up, it could injure the insides of its mouth, and even more damage could be done if your pet ingests it! Ornaments are very shiny and often attractive to your pets. Keep your pets away from them. If there is an accident, here is a method to aid your pet:

What to do if your dog eats glass ornaments or lights:

BEFORE the holiday go to a pharmacy and buy a box of cotton balls. Be sure that you get COTTON balls...not the cosmetic puffs that are made from man-made fibers. Also, buy a quart of half-and-half coffee cream and put it in the freezer. Defrost the half-and-half and pour some in a bowl. Dip cotton balls into the cream and feed them to your dog.

Dogs under 10 lbs should eat 2 balls which you have first torn into smaller pieces. Dogs 10-50 lbs should eat 3-5 balls and larger dogs should eat 5-7. You may feed larger dogs an entire cotton ball at once. Dogs seem to really like these strange treats and eat them readily.

As the cotton works its way through the digestive tract it will find all the glass pieces and wrap itself around them. Even the teeniest shards of glass will be caught and wrapped in the cotton fibers and protect the intestines from damage. Your dog's stools will be really weird for a few days and you will have to be careful to check for fresh blood or a tar-like appearance to the stool. If either of the latter symptoms appear you should take your dog to the vet immediately.

HECTIC SCHEDULES

As you're shopping, visiting friends and relatives, and preparing for visitors to your home, be sure to

keep your pet's exercise and feeding schedule regulated. Remember the importance of daily walks for your dog and playtime for your cat, cleaning the litter box, as well as grooming your pet.

WRAPPINGS

Be wary of tinsel, string, and thin ribbon around the house. If your pet ingests them, it could experience serious internal injuries, or worse.

HOLIDAY PLANTS

Poinsettias, mistletoe, holly, and Christmas roses can all be toxic. The best advice with holiday plants is to keep them away from curious mouths.

HOLIDAY FOODS

Candy: Keep holiday treats and candies out of your pet's reach. Consider what you've placed out on your coffee table and how accessible it is to your dog or cat. Additionally, remember gifts under your tree that may be food items. People food, especially in excess, could make your pet quite sick. Chocolate, in fact, can be fatal to dogs!

Turkey Bones: Never give your pet cooked bones. Cooked Turkey and Chicken bones are especially dangerous!

Holiday doggie feasts: No matter how good they have been this year, fatty foods can spell danger for your pets. Holiday binges can cause problems ranging from simple indigestion or a touch of diarrhea to potentially life-threatening pancreatitis (see November '04 Issue of "Boxer Beat".)

Also remember: never share alcohol with your pets.

A WINTER WARNING

Antifreeze: At Christmas and all winter long, remember antifreeze is a danger for your pet. Even in very small amounts, ethylene glycol, the most common ingredient in antifreeze, can cause crystals to form in an animal's kidney, ultimately leading to kidney failure and death! Pets should always be kept away from driveways, garages, and any place that antifreeze may have spilled. It is also important to make sure your car isn't leaking antifreeze. Rapid treatment is the key to successful treatment for antifreeze toxicity. If you see your pet ingesting antifreeze or think she may have, please call the clinic immediately!

Rock Salt: Ice and the rock salt used to melt it off of sidewalks can be irritating to your dog's feet. Check their feet frequently—especially after

walks. Rinse off any salt or ice and dry thoroughly. Dog boots can help protect sensitive feet

A FORGOTT N OG'S CHRISTMAS

T'was the night before Christmas and all through
the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds

No thought of the dog anywhere in their heads

And ma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,

Knew he was cold but didn't care about that.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Was he free of his chain? Was he into the trash?

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow

Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,

But Santa Claus - and his eyes full of tears.

He unchained the dog once so lively and quick,

Last years Christmas present, now thin and sick.

More rapid than eagles he called the dog's name.

And the dog ran to him, despite all his pain.

"Now DASHER! Now DANCER!

Now PRANCER and VIXEN!!

On COMET! On CUPID!

On DONER and BLITZEN!!

To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!

Find this dog a home where he's loved by all"

I knew there would be no gifts this year

For Santa Claus had made one thing quite clear ...

The gift of a dog is not just for a season.

We had gotten the pup for all the wrong reasons.

In our haste to think of the kids a gift

There was one important thing that we missed.

A dog should be family and cared for the same.

You don't give a gift then put it on a chain.

And I heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight,

"You weren't given a gift! You were given a life!"

~ Author Unknown ~

**REMEMBER: A DOG IS FOR LIFE -
NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!**

SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS:

Congratulations to the November Boxers that found new homes:

Apollo by Kimberly Reeves
Bake* by John Perez
Brett by Keith & Pam Horgan
Brooklyn by Erika Urbani
Brownie by Raymond & Shannon Russel
Brutus by Jose G Danganan Jr
Buddy by Ann Lourenco
Callie by Ron Saradpon
Capone by Frank Perriello
Chata by Helen Allen
Cotton by Diane Fair
Daisy Duke by Fred Ataniya
Danny by Stephanie Bowden Eddie Frescas
Dodger by Robert & Candy Barr
Fabio by Megan Brophy
Gordon by Sarah Lopez
Hannah by Judy Campbell-Broom
Hemmi by Jane Langdon
Jack by Shauna Kruse
Jester by Brian & Phyllis Hallowell
Kelani by Johnny Fricioni
Kelly by Sydney Levine
Kita by Barbara & Jerry Williams
Klondike by Tom McNamara
Louie by Mike & Kristen Coblentz
Love Bug by Diane Connell
Marble by Brandon Bower
Meadow by Info yet to be procured
Mia by Vinam Le
Morgan* by Jim & Linda Filkins
Opal by Sheila Ellis
Pepper by Stuart Wolf
Pippi by Jassibeth Oro
Ralph by Pablo Cora
Rocko by Josh & Sheila Bellomy
Romeo by Raul Gomez
Sage* by Alex & Joyce Baghdassarian
Sarah* by Alex & Joyce Baghdassarian
Shadow by Kimberly Hirano
Sherry by Jason & Deena Kernan
Stella* by Patricia Shipley
Suzanne by Anne Holliday
Trigger by Seth Thomas
Venus* by David Pfaff
Yogi* by Maya Tsuchida Seth Soloway
Zoe by Judy & Dave Mortens

Also a special thanks to:

Bay Area Boxer Rescue
(<http://www.boxer-rescue.org/>)

for finding loving homes for:

Mango, Sugar, Jack Black, Scooter, Rudy, Hunter, Blue, Lucy, Addison, Foxy Brown, Cardnell, Ginger, and Roxy

SILENT AUCTION RAISES MUCH NEEDED FUNDS!

By Diana Fair

On Saturday November 20th, BRLA held its first Annual Silent Auction and Fundraiser. Boxer lovers, bargain hunters, partiers and music fans came from all over Southern California to take part in the fun. Delzano's by the Sea in Redondo Beach provided the Food with a View in their ocean front banquet room. Chef Rafael Solórzano slaved all day over a hot stove to make sure the food was worthy of our heart-driven cause.



BRLA founder Ursula with performer Derek Sholl.

Over 170 Auction Items were up for the highest bid, all donated by wonderfully generous supporters of Boxer Rescue. The auction items ranged from Getaways to Chicago, Cabo San Lucas and

Idaho, to spa services, artwork, gift baskets, and Hollywood and Sports memorabilia. Gift Certificates for popular restaurants and retail stores were won, just in time for the holidays. Boxer art and sculpture were big hits, along with the beautiful jewelry and artesian crafts.

Attendees were treated to music by Country Western performer Derek Sholl; who is currently opening for Jay Leno in Las Vegas. When guests weren't dancing or bidding madly for the auction items, they enjoyed just hanging out with a cocktail and good conversation, admittedly and often about the terrific work by everyone at Boxer Rescue.

Thanks to all the generous hearts and wallets, Boxer Rescue LA raised over \$18,000 at this event. We thank everyone-so much- that attended, donated, worked on the event, and especially the ones that kept the kennels and adoptions going while we gathered the goods and put them up for auction.

SIL NT AUCTION SPONSORS:

Thank you to all that made out silent auction a success – donors, participant and especially all the hardworking BRLA volunteers!

A Pawfect World
Academy of Karate & Judo
Action Sports & Awards
Amy Keller
Andrea's Personal Touch
Artistic Press
Barbara Polland
Bert Champagne
Brian Anderson
Bruce McPherson
Bud Boyce
Cabo San Lucas Country Club
Canine College of California
Casablanca Salon & Day Spa
Casey Copa
Center Theatre Group
Charles Coda
Chas Dowell
CheesecakeCity.com
Chestnut Grill - Chicago
Chris Nitz
Dana Ranslem
David Shanahan
David Weiss Designs
Deb Axler
Deborah Reed
Delmonico's Lobster House
Devy Holtman
Diana Fair
Dolce, Enoteca e Ristorante
Dr. David Horowitz
Dr. Harry Knott
Ellen Hatfield
Four Oaks Restaurant
Frontier Airlines
Gary Reeves
Geffen Playhouse
George & Sherry Taylorson
Gold's Gym Hawthorne
Gold's Gym Redondo Beach
Gondola Getaway

Hampton Inn & Suites
Harmony Yoga
Harry & David
Haze
Hotel Oceana
House of Blues Hotel – Chicago
Hyatt Newporter Hotel
Hyatt Regency Newport Beach
Jennifer Kriske
Jennifer Tabbush
Jinenkan Martial Arts
Joanne & Greg Sydow
John D. Cooper
John Schillaci
Joulian Winery
Judith Lee Beaudoin
Julie A Arts
Julie Pynes
K2
Katherine Combs
Kim Gould
Kim Warsaw-Rothman
Laguna Playhouse
Langdon Photography/Jessica
Langdon
Leilani Laca
Lindsey
Lobster Gram
Lorin Backe Photography
Lowe's
Margie Hill
Marina Beach Hair Salon/
Janet Tellos
Marina Beach Hair Salon/
Lauren Tracey
Mark Horowitz
Martina Mcgaugh CMT
Matrix Tex Mex Playa
McCormick & Schmicks
Restaurant

Mickey & Lori McLay
Mike Bell
Mike Boustead/The Coast Playhouse
Monika Milanovic Lozo
Nadia & Daniel Irvin
Neutrogena
Pet's Central
Petco Santa Monica
Pet's Central
Pixie & Puddles
Raging Waters
Renaissance Hotel – Chicago
Revolution Hair & Tanning Studio
Richard Walker's Restaurant - Chicago
Rock N Fish
Ronald & Kathy Carlson
Sarah Anderson
Sarah Pilgrim
Saving Faces Skin Care
Savoy Label Group US
Sharon R. Gilbert
Sherri Sanders
Shutters on the Beach
Simi Hills Golf Course
Skin Delight & Hairtitz of Burbank
Sonki Fitness
Southern Bay Flowers
Spa Sciences
Stephanie Young
Suzan Woodruff
Sweet Pea Art Works
The Little Dog that Laughed
Toni Faragelli
Vicky's Hair Salon & Spa
Waldon/Borders Books
Walt's Wharf
Wayne & Claudia Gordon



Don't Forget Us!

While you're doing your holiday shopping, remember that the dogs in the Boxer Rescue Kennel would love a Greenie or a soft blanket, but most of all, some love and attention. If you can't donate an item, please donate your time spend a day petting and walking these wonderful dogs.

THE BOXER CAMPERS TO THE RESCUE!

By Jourdan Conrad

Everyone wants the “perfect dog”: Beautiful coat, gorgeous markings, ideal build, and most of all, amazing disposition. But, what most people forget is that dogs are not meant to be “perfect”. They each have their own individual personality and charm that make them special, just like their human counterparts. The problem is, when they have been so severely neglected and mistreated, their spirit begins to fade. Many rescue dogs have never had the chance to become the dog that they were meant to be: The longer they are deprived of individual attention and care and the monotonous kennel life (day after day, month after month, year after year), the more their spirit diminishes. When the average person comes to adopt their “perfect dog,” these are the dogs that consistently get passed over, time and time again...

The Camping Team to the rescue! A group of dedicated volunteers decided to give some of these “un-perfect” dogs a chance to shine. They loaded up their cars with dogs and crates heading to a mountain cabin in central California. Not only did



they give the dogs a chance to escape the kennel, where many have spent years of their lives waiting for a home, but, for a weekend, they got a chance to experience life the way a dog was meant to – a warm home, long walks, fresh air, and most importantly, a loving leader. The dogs chosen to participate in the program would have been euthanized if not for the no-kill Boxer Rescue organization.

At first, the dogs were very anxious and excited – not quite sure what to make of their new surroundings. Many of the dogs felt unsure and nervous, especially after spending months and even years behind bars at the kennel. But, after the first night, the dogs began to feel content and happy. The energy level changed from anxious and unsure, to comfortable and cheerful.

The volunteers took long hikes through the mountains where pine trees, mountains, and clean air prevailed. The dogs thought they had died and gone to doggie heaven. They romped, sniffed, hopped, played, and soaked up the cool winter sunshine – forgetting their painful past and relishing in the moment of pure, simple content. In the evening they were no longer rescue dogs; they became pets.



Some of the volunteers were actually frightened by some of these “problem” dogs at the beginning, but by the end of the weekend were interacting with them as if they were their own.

The Camping Team volunteers learned an important lesson: Don’t judge a dog based on his or her behavior in a stressed environment; there is much more to a dog than meets the eye. Even a short weekend can cause personalities to mature and immerge – not just the volunteers’, but the dogs’ as well.

When you decide to open your home to a rescue dog, remember that the dog that may not seem so perfect at first, may be perfect for you... check out their personalities from the descriptions below.



Featured “Camp” Dogs:

K.O. – “Most Well Behaved”

This dog lives up to his name – Knock Out. He is an absolutely gorgeous guy who will knock you out with his calm and stately demeanor, amazing loyalty, and perfect manners. We think K.O. came from a loving home since he is so well adjusted and behaved. His only issue is that he has some aggression toward certain men. We suspect that somewhere down the line,

either by a friend of the family or a construction worker at the home he was mistreated by a man. If you were to be the lucky new owner of K.O., you would have to slowly acclimate him to male strangers so that he eventually understood they would not hurt him.

Lennon – “The Team Leader”

You will be amazed by how well trained and obedient this dog is. Not to mention his perfect fawn Boxer physique. He will sit and stare straight up into your eyes waiting for his next instruction (or a yummy treat!). He can be serious – but, when he is finally relaxed, your heart is warmed by his playfulness and longing for your attention. Lennon



needs an experienced, calm, assertive leader who will gently guide him to be more relaxed and at ease. Lennon’s new owner will have to ensure that he has a relaxed environment in which to feel safe and calm. They will have to make sure that no strangers approach him during the first few months in his new home. Then, slowly, they can begin to introduce him to new people so that he begins to feel comfortable.

Sachi - “The Camp Clown”

Sachi should be on the cover of *Boxer Vogue*. He is a playful, goofy, ball of fun and energy. On the

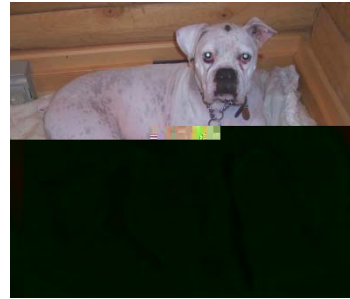


hikes, Sachi would run ahead, then turn around and wait for everyone to get near, then pounce, hop, and bounce on ahead for a new game. He would do wonderfully in a home with another dog. Not only is Sachi playful, but he is very

clever, too. When he got tired after a long hike through the mountains, he would pull a blanket down from the couch; make a nest on the floor, and go to sleep. Sachi’s new owner would never have a dull moment with this fun-loving guy! Sachi is the kind of dog that needs very slow introductions to new people. He also needs a firm, experienced leader to guide him. He is very obedient and benefits from structure and routine.

Lucas – “The Best Snuggler”

We call this guy Max Factor because the black markings around his eyes look like eyeliner. He is a big, beautiful white Boxer who has a lot of



energy and bonds very quickly to people. Lucas loves and appreciates any soft surface, including his blanket. He also loves to cuddle with people too.

Lucas has wonderful leash manners, is well trained, and wants to please. Shoulder rubs and long walks are two of his favorite things. Lucas is very playful, and can sometimes get too excited during play time, so his new owner will have to teach him how to calm down and play gently. Lucas can get overwhelmed in excitable situations. He needs a quiet adult home and would be best as an only dog.

Bosco – “The Social Butterfly”

Every few hours, he would have to make the rounds and greet everyone in the cabin and give them kisses, including the other dogs. Bosco is an easy going, absolute sweetheart who walked off-leash and got along with everybody. When one of



the volunteers made milkshakes for everyone and accidentally spilled the pitcher, Bosco was right there helping to clean it up off the floor! (He probably had a full

milkshake himself!)

Bosco is getting up there in years, and it is a shame to have such a wonderful dog spending his golden years stuck in a kennel.

Bosco would do

wonderfully in an adult home with another dog.

His new owners will have to make sure that Bosco has plenty of beds and pillows on the floor, since he should not be allowed on the bed or the furniture. He can get a little grumpy if you try to move him off the furniture, so better to keep him off of it entirely. Bosco also can get grumpy



around kids, so a quiet, peaceful, adult home would be best.

OX RESCUE STION CORNER:

Introducing a New Dog:

Thank you in advance for any advice you might be willing to give. I am having trouble with introducing a new dog to our current dog, Sienna, a 2 year old boxer. She had a serious bout with kennel cough when we got her home and lost half of her body weight. She is very healthy now. Last week we decided to go down to the local shelter and see if we could find a friend for her. There was a small boxer with a long tail and under bite; he stuck his head thru the gate and licked my hand. We brought Sienna to meet him the next day. Both had tails wagging (well, one tail and one nub!)

When we brought Rocco home from being neutered, we were nervous that he would harm his incision site and stitches. We babied him and tried to keep Sienna away.

Now they are fighting and it seems to get worse in the evening. They get along till probably 5pm - then the aggression starts.

What do we do when we leave all night? Is it fair to lock the new dog in the garage all night? At bedtime we have been putting him in the garage. On top of it, he's sneezing and coughing and of course now so is she. (We went to the vet today, and they're both on antibiotics and cough meds) I'm terrified that Sienna will get deathly ill like when we first got her.

Is it true that you can "ruin" your dog by trying and failing to introduce a new dog? If for some reason it doesn't work out with Rocco, will Sienna be forever changed and not love us like she does now? I can't see thru my tears of frustration, I have such a soft heart for animals, and have fallen for Rocco this week and can't imagine this not working out.

Robbyn P.

Boxer Rescue:

There's a lot going on here, so let me try my best to explain everything.

If you haven't already, go to www.boxer-rescue-la.com and read the two articles "Pack Leadership" and "Two or More Dogs".

Dogs are NOT people - they are a different species. They don't think like people. There is no such thing "that you can "ruin" your dog by trying and failing to introduce a new dog".

You don't need to worry that "Sienna will be forever changed and not love us like she does now" because that just doesn't happen. Dogs are not human; they share VERY FEW human emotions. Dogs cannot be spiteful, guilty, or petty. It is not in their nature.

Sienna is spoiled and, up to now, Rocco has been spoiled too. Start doing all the pack leadership exercises. Let your dogs know that they DO NOT control your pack.

Do not take Rocco and Sienna to the same obedience class: From my experience, two dogs in the same household going through the same class learn less. Take Sienna through first and practice the commands with both dogs together at home.

Your dogs aren't getting enough exercise: You have two young boxers. They need two hours of exercise *with their humans* everyday. When you get home from work, take them for a LONG jog.

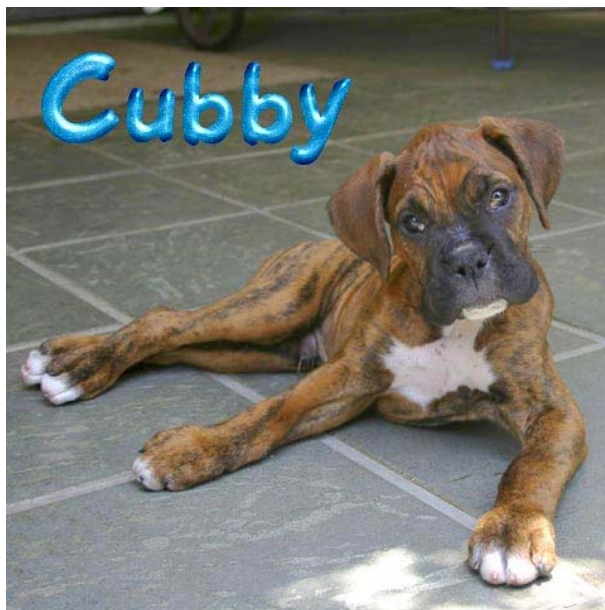
There is a fine line between fighting and play! When boxers play they make all sorts of terrible noises. They rear up on their hind legs and snap at each other. They bite each other's feet, legs, ears and throats. They growl, bark; snap their teeth and it is ALL PLAY! If your dogs are TRULY fighting, there will be blood. If there is no blood, let them work it out. If there **is** blood, STAY CALM! Dogs take cues from their owners. If you get upset, the behavior will escalate! Most play behavior starts around 5pm because the heat of the day has past- it cooler to play!

Get Rocco a crate! If your dogs are truly fighting and not just playing, restricting Rocco in a crate will help show him that Sienna is more dominant and help him understand his place in the pack. It will also give you peace of mind when you go off to work in the beginning. Feed him in his crate. Not only will it make the crate more enjoyable, it will keep Sienna out of his food dish while they're learning their pack order.

Their sickness is called "Kennel Cough" and is the equivalent of the doggie cold: Don't get worried and baby them. They'll be fine! I know Sienna was very sick before, but keep in mind that she was sick, undernourished, in a new unfamiliar pack and had gone from the streets to the shelter to your home in a matter of weeks. Stress makes dogs recover more slowly and get sicker easier. Now she is healthy, well fed and well adjusted.

If you have a question for "Question Corner", please e-mail newsletter@boxer-rescue-la.com

LP CU Y:
COM A OX R
ANG L!



Cubby was purchased from a backyard breeder by a young couple. They were inexperienced with dogs and thought his failure to thrive was the result of being left alone most of the time (they worked long hours). After a few weeks, they brought him to Boxer Rescue Los Angeles.

Cubby was placed in a foster home and it became clear within a few days that he was a very sick little puppy. Tests confirmed that he had a portosystemic shunt. The symptoms include episodes of blindness and seizures. A combination of diet and medication has alleviated the worst of the symptoms, but it's only a temporary measure. It isn't a cure

Cubby needs an operation, possibly two, or he will not live more than a year.

We are trying to get the funds together (about \$800) for tests to see if Cubby can benefit from surgery.



We are proud to offer our *Angel Tags* to our supporters! Donate any amount over \$50 to help Cubby's

treatment and receive a custom-designed identification card, featuring Cubby's photo. Its a new fashion apparel... hey who needs a string of

pearls when you can wear an Angel Tag? What a great way to show your support! Angel Tags also make wonderful gifts any animal lover. To get your angel tag, send a check with the name of the dog you'd like to help to:

BRLA
17514 Ventura Blvd
Suite #201
Encino, CA 91316-5914
Allow 4 – 6 weeks for tag delivery.

CURR NT OX R ANG LS:



Kolby Bates has sponsored the tumor removals for both Jake and Jazz (\$1,000)



Dorothy Metros donated \$1000 to help with the kennel's grooming station: plumbing and new faucet. We are ready to bathe now!



Wayne and Claudia Gordon for organizing the Silent Auction



Yvonne Weisbarth from Germany donated \$400 towards medical bills

OX R SCU ISH LIST!

Boxer Rescue is in need of the following items.

- Wire Crates size 36x24x28 or larger
- Nutra Nuggets Lamb & Rice (Costco)
- 21"-22" choke chains
- Leashes
- Nylabones
- Towels
- Blankets
- Laundry soap
- Bleach
- Window cleaner
- Disinfectant
- Spray bottles
- Paper towels
- Xerox paper
- Natural treats
- Any service like printing, etc.

For more info, contact Joni

jcproline@comcast.net

Winter White Sale



*Spirits that Soar
Hearts that Adore*



Fawn and Brindle Boxers also available

Boxer Rescue Los Angeles

www.boxer-rescue-la.com

(213) 532-6541 (voice mail only)

Non-profit organization for the welfare and care of homeless boxers