



THE BOXER BEAT

Monthly Newsletter of Boxer Rescue LA
Mar. 2005 -Volume 2 Issue 3 - Editor: Sarah Anderson
17514 Ventura Blvd, Suite 201 Encino, CA 91316-3837
Copyright © 2005 Boxer Rescue Fund Inc. Los Angeles

FEATURED VOLUNTEER: BRLA'S BOXER WHISPERER



Joe Ramirez

Every organization has at least one volunteer that gives their all, every day, regardless of recognition or rewards. Boxer Rescue Los Angeles is lucky; we have DOZENS of these selfless individuals.

Meet Joe Ramirez, also known as the Boxer Whisperer. Seven years ago, Joe adopted KOA, now Megan, from Boxer Rescue Los Angeles. As with many of our volunteers, that one visit changed his life. "I started doing all sorts of chores; walking, cleaning, grooming, transporting dogs. Then I moved on to adoptions, home checks, follow-ups, and appointments. I have fostered over 25 dogs to date and more. Presently I am working with dogs with special needs providing them exercise, training, and socialization."

As well as fostering Boxer Rescue's pack, Joe has a pack of his own at home. "Presently I own 2 cats, Cocoa & Bugsey - both rescued and 3 dogs, all Boxers. Max since he was a puppy now 9, Megan from BRLA at 1.5 yrs. now 8 and Prancer given up at 2 yrs. old now 4 1/2."

As some of you may or may not know, Boxer Rescue LA saves EVERY boxer – young, old, healthy, sick, friendly and ... not so friendly. The back of our kennel is dedicated to these "re-hab" dogs. They are dogs that aren't easy placements.

They are dogs that have bitten other dogs, attacked people, and killed cats. These are Joe's dogs. As one of the leading members of the rehabilitation team, Joe makes a point to work with these dogs every week. He gives them obedience, manners, socialization, and makes it possible for them to find forever homes. These "vicious" dogs were once someone's pet. They were loved and cared for. They were part of a family. "My heart aches for every dog that is turned into the kennel by his own master, essentially dumped from their human pack for all kinds of silly reasons, none of them justified. They sense they are losing their home, and shake with fear and bewilderment. They bite



Joe working with several of BRLA's "re-hab" dogs - These are dogs with severe human and dog aggression, but in Joe's capable hands, they're good as gold.

because they are scared. They shed their fur from stress, and often experience colitis and diarrhea." It is these dogs that sit in the back of the kennel and wait for someone to love them again.

Joe says he couldn't pick a "favorite" dog to get adopted. "It is extremely difficult for me to think of just one dog without heartache. I won't mention any names because I may forget one of them and I don't want to hurt any dog's feelings! I would love to see every long time resident find a home because I believe every dog should have one!"

When it comes to helping, BRLA was Joe's obvious choice. "BRLA is a no-kill, non profit organization with the sole mission of saving every boxer in need. Although I love all animals, boxers have always been my passion. I find it very rewarding helping dogs finding their forever home. My involvement with Boxer Rescue has certainly increased my awareness of pet overpopulation and the importance of neutering all dogs and cats. I see a clear picture of the real benefit behind obedience training and early socialization vs. the result of lack of it! I feel that my priorities in life have been redefined, treasuring all living souls rather than material possessions."

"In my opinion there are two kinds of adoptions; the convenient one, which is someone looking for the perfect dog, and the true rescue, where a person wants to offer a needy dog a second chance to life. I prefer the second one!"

Help Joe succeed in his rehabilitation efforts. Don't take the "convenient" adoption. If you are an experienced boxer owner, willing to give a dog a second chance at life, please contact us, and Joe, and ask out our rehabilitation dogs.

RIMADYL WARNING

As Reported by: KNBC-TV



It may be the best-selling prescription for dogs ever. It's called Rimadyl. And if you have a dog, there's a good chance your pet will be taking it some day. But hundreds of dog owners say to

be sure to educate yourself first. They warn that for some dogs, the side effects of Rimadyl are deadly.

Today, Jezebel is a happy, healthy dog.

But Janice Nollar, of Redlands, Calif., said her black lab was nearly killed by the very medicine meant to keep her alive.

"She trusted us," Nollar said. "And we thought we were doing the right thing for her."

Nollar said the culprit was Rimadyl, made by Pfizer.

Millions of dogs with arthritis and other painful conditions take the drug -- with excellent results.

But a small percentage of dog owners said the effects are devastating.

"She was vomiting, really lethargic, wouldn't get out of bed, wouldn't eat anything," Nollar said. She suspected a bad drug reaction.

I was just surfing the Internet," Nollar said. "I found the side effects and I was floored."

Meanwhile, Jezebel lingered near death for eight days.

Nollar gave the vet a list of Jezebel's side effects. He looked into it and called Pfizer, and came to the conclusion that the medication was probably causing the dog's liver to stop functioning.

Nollar is one of hundreds who joined a class-action suit against Pfizer -- claiming Rimadyl had killed or harmed their pets. The case was settled out of court last year.

The Food and Drug Administration said the drug was behind 39 percent of all adverse drug reactions reported for dogs in 1998.

More than 3,600 cases were reported, and according to the FDA, 13 percent involved the death of the dog.

Pfizer was also ordered by the FDA to change the Rimadyl insert - warning of side effects that "in rare situations could result in death."

Pfizer told Team 4 Reports that it is doing "everything possible to educate consumers."

Los Angeles veterinary surgeon Alan Schulman said Rimadyl is keeping many dogs alive, and is well worth the risk.

"The benefits, if used intelligently, really far outweigh the potential disadvantages if the animals are monitored and diagnosed appropriately," Schulman said.

But those who say they've experienced the other side of Rimadyl remain unconvinced.

Pfizer said dogs should always be tested for pre-existing liver conditions before taking Rimadyl, and should be taken off the drug immediately if side effects such as vomiting or loss of appetite are observed.

LEGAL HELP NEEDED:

If you know of any lawyers, either pro-bono or willing to help out, Boxer Rescue LA desperately needs legal guidance.

If you're willing and able to donate just a few hours a month, please contact Ursula at ursulas@earthlink.net or (818) 986-4347

LOJACK FOR YOUR DOG?:

A company called Pets Mobility has now announced a mobile phone for dogs... Which leads us to wonder: Does EVERYONE need a cell phone these days?

The technology, called Petscell, works in much the same way as a conventional mobile phone. The owner dials their pooch's number and after one ring, it automatically connects to the phone on the dog's collar, allowing the dog to hear its master's voice, transmitted out of a speaker built into the collar-piece.

The patent pending PetsMobility PetsCell will be compatible with existing cellular and satellite GPS technology. It will allow pet owners to talk to their pets as well as allowing owners to request assistance should they require help. In addition, and perhaps more valuable, pet owners will have a piece of mind that if their pet is lost and someone finds their pet wandering the streets, with a simple press of a button, the auto dial will call the owners home alerting the owner to retrieve their pet. This all leaves just one small question: Exactly what are we supposed to say to the pet once we call? "Can you hear me now?" or "Wassup dog?" <http://www.petsmobility.com/index3.html>

The PetsCell™ Collarset

The first Cell Phone designed for your pet. You can now call your pet anytime. The phone even has its own number! The collarset auto answers using (INP) to only recognize the numbers you enter, filtering out other callers. One touch "call owner" button alerts you if your loved pet is found.

Features

- Speaker
- Call Owner button
- Ring Indicator
- Condenser Mic
- Water proof case
- Collar clip
- LCD Display (Signal / Battery)
- Incoming Number Protection (INP)



NOMINATION FOR: VET OF THE YEAR!

Okay, so it isn't exactly the "Academy Awards" but Dr. Pavlik of San Gabriel Valley Emergency Pet Clinic (626-579-4550, 3254 Santa Anita Ave, El Monte, CA 91733) has my vote for the vet of year.

On Feb 5, a couple brought their female boxer, Ginger, to Dr. Pavlik. At 10 years old, Ginger was pregnant, and predictably, having trouble with

giving birth. After straining and trying on her own, Dr. Pavlik, assisted her in birthing one puppy. The puppy did not survive.

After the birth, Ginger was diagnosed with pyometria, a life threatening, but treatable condition that caused her uterus to become inflamed and infected.

Rather than treating their 10 year old pet, Ginger's owners requested that Ginger be put down. Abhorred, Dr Pavlik refused. He persuaded the owners to sign Ginger over to him, then spayed and treated her. Ginger was under his care at the clinic for two weeks, recovering from her condition and her horrific experience. When she was healthy and happy, he contacted Boxer Rescue LA to find her a loving home.



When BRLA came to pick up Ginger, it was clear that Ginger knew that Dr. Pavlik saved her life – she adored him. When it was time to get in the car and go to find a new home, just looked at the doctor with her big

brown boxer eyes, asking him if it was okay. She now waits for her forever home. Can you adopt Ginger and give her back some of the love she has so selfishly given?

PLEASE DONATE ITEMS TO HELP OUR DOGS.

It's time for the annual BRLA rummage sale. We are collecting items to help raise money for Boxer Rescue LA. Please clean out your closets and tell your friends and family.

Items can be dropped off the morning of the sale, or can be dropped off on the weekends from 12-6 at the kennel in Sun Valley-11127 Fleetwood St.

Items can also be dropped off ahead of time by contacting Dana at 310-418- 9651

LETTER TO THE EDITOR —

My name is Fran. I come to read your newsletters monthly because they are so informative and well written. Thank you for the great job you do. Although I do not own a dog at this time I pass on your helpful information to co-workers and friends with pets.

I got caught up today with January and February and have a question about the January newsletter addressing all the gratitude for 2004. I was disappointed not to see my daughter's good friends name there anywhere. I know she did a lot for Boxer Rescue and still does, when her Boxer died last year she lived at their place there in Sun Valley.

My daughter's friend's name is Leilani. She always emailed everyone, telling us all the good things she was doing that she did the following:

- Taz's Medical Memory fund raised \$1800 dollars for Boxer Rescue medical bills in October.
- She donated over \$1000 in items for the silent Auction because I gave to that as well.
- She medically fostered her new Boxer girl in the beginning and paid \$650 in medical bills for her treatment.
- She donated \$500 worth of fleece blankets for winter at her expense. She said she was up nights worrying about the dogs being cold.
- She worked hours during the week cleaning cages and feeding dogs.
- My daughter went with her and her walking team every Sunday at least 8 people at all times.
- Now I hear she has started an Animal Rescue fund in her dog Taz's name and is sponsoring Boxer Rescue for the whole year of 2005 with her organizations fund -raisers.

<http://www.tazzyfund.com/>

So I guess my question would be how much does someone have to do for this organization to receive a thank you along with all of the others that give so selflessly? I don't know anyone there so maybe what this gal (Leilani) did does not compare, but I know it's more than I could ever do. I am only connected to Boxer Rescue because of this gal Leilani and my daughter. I don't even own a dog because I do not have the funds to care for an animal at it's best.

I wanted to voice my disappointment and maybe if it was an oversight this would serve as a reminder

so not to happen to some generous person in the future, I know they all do what they do from their hearts, but I can't imagine how someone would give so much and see their name excluded from a group thank you. Knowing Leilani if she has seen it she would not give it a second thought because she does it for those Boxers and no one else. Please let the appropriate people know my concern, and thank them for all they do.

With great respect,
Francesca Logan

Editor's Note:

It is with deepest apologies that Leilani Laca's name was left off our January list of Boxer Angels. It is difficult to name everyone, with the almost 100 volunteers that give so selflessly every day to help these wonderful dogs. Even so, the oversight was inexcusable and I take full responsibility. I speak for Boxer Rescue Los Angeles when I say that we treasure all of our volunteers, and we want each and every one of them to know they are appreciated. Thank you, Fran, for bringing this error to our attention. And thank you Leilani, for all the work you do. Please visit www.tazzyfund.com support Leilani and all of the wonderful work she does!

BUY A RING, HELP A BOXER!



This gorgeous white gold setting set frames an unusual design. The Antique Dealer it was purchased from said the center stone is a vvs1 and close to a half of a carat. The wedding Band has four diamonds and a Leaf Pattern design.

All proceeds go to our gem of a dog Brady, who needs hernia surgery. We're trying to raise \$1,600 so we can help this gentle boxer boy have a comfortable happy life.

If you aren't into diamonds but would like to contribute, let us know that your donation is for Brady's surgery. Every dollar helps.

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&category=52566&item=4975061696&rd=1&ssPageName=WDVW>

GENEROUS DONATION GIVES COMFORT TO SENIORS, AND YOU CAN OWN ONE TOO!



The day Boxer Rescue LA received e-mail from AnimalComforts™ was a great day for our boxers, especially our seniors and medical boxers. Martin Chapman, the owner of AnimalComforts™ (<http://animalcomforts.com>) and LetSleepingDogsLie™ <http://InTheLapOfLuxury.com> also happens to be a HUGE boxer lover and fan. When his San Diego based company that makes high-end dog/pet beds had some surplus inventory, he immediately thought of donating them to Boxer Rescue.

Thanks to the generosity of Martin and AnimalComforts™ we were able to provide these wonderful, soft and beautiful bed to all our kenneled seniors – helping their aching joints and giving them somewhere to relax and unwind.

As an added bonus, we are also able to provide the very same beds to you for a \$100 tax-deductible donation. The beds are large enough to accommodate 2 boxers, as you can see from the picture. They would make a great gift, but the biggest gift of all is knowing that by getting a bed, not only are you giving your dogs a taste of luxury, but your tax deductible donation will help a homeless boxer find his own bed in his own home.

For more information, or to order a bed, please e-mail ursulas@earthlink.net. Remember, quantities are limited, but if we run out, you can always order from <http://animalcomforts.com>, and thank them for their generous support of Boxer Rescue LA.

BOXER QUESTION CORNER:

Why don't you have puppies up for adoption?:

I have a 5-month-old puppy. My puppy is chewing, peeing in the house, jumping and digging. I was told that I should get him a companion to get him to stop these behaviors. I am looking for a one to two month old female puppy. Could you please contact us as soon as you get one? Thank you!

M.P.

Boxer Rescue:

First, you should NEVER get a puppy younger than 2 months (8 weeks) old. There is a critical development stage for dogs that occurs between 4 and 7 weeks. This stage teaches the puppy how to play, how hard he can bite, and how to accept discipline. If you have acquired a puppy younger than 7 weeks, the dog can grow up to become aggressive and dangerous.

Second, you should NEVER raise two puppies at the same time. Two puppies that are the same age or close to the same age will bond closer to each other and ignore you all together! To give you an idea, I am a professional trainer and would NEVER bring two new dogs into my house at one time. If you have a puppy already, I would advise getting an older dog, 1 to 3 years old, to help train the puppy in how to act; not another puppy so you'll have 2 dogs jumping, 2 dogs digging, 2 dogs to housebreak, etc.

Lastly, because we're a rescue, we very rarely get in puppies. Little puppies are cute and sweet and so adorable! Then they turn 9, 10, or 11 months old. Now they look like big dogs, not puppies, but they're still exhibiting puppy behaviors (chewing, digging, jumping up) - they're not cute anymore, and they owners don't want to take the time to train them. – that's when the dogs get given up. So our youngest dogs are around 10 months to a year.

I would urge you to seriously reconsider adding a second puppy to your household. Get your first puppy obedience trained, get through all the chewing stages and behavioral issues, and then consider adding another dog to your family.

For more information, please visit our website www.boxer-rescue-la.com and click on "Ask The Trainer"

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

BOXER ANGELS: FINDING A HOME FOR GINA



GREAT NEWS!
Paige Cunningham, who contacted BRLA after reading Gina's bio, has been meeting for walks to get Gina and Louie (her Boxer/Bull

Mastiff mix who she adopted from BRLA years ago) acquainted. We've made good progress and Paige will continue to work with them over the next two weeks, which she has taken off work. On Saturday, we will move Gina to her new home. Paige is an incredible lady and hasn't lost any interest in Gina regardless of her health issues and the fact that getting the dogs to get along has, and will, take work. Paige is a saint and I thank you SO, SO much for the referral to her. As it turns out, Gina has Cushing's disease and a thyroid issue, both of which will require meds for the rest of her life. But now on the road to recovery, she's livelier than ever and ready for her new home! I'd like to thank everyone at BRLA for helping me to find this special girl the home that she deserves.

SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENTS:

Congratulations to the January Boxers that found new homes:

Angel by Ray Grace
Arthur by Rebecca Harris
Bishop* by Lindsay McNutt
Blitz* by Stephen Morrow
Bo* by Janelle Briggs
Boxer by Kelley Wrabel
Boxer*/Dewey by Dan Shannon Karen Konecny
Bruno by Jason Whitton
Byson by Steve & Donna Strull
Chance* by Sally Cormier
Conrad by Megan Brown
Dickens by Scott Maryn Roppatte
Ginger by Jeff Hill
Giovanni by Gary & Patricia Lyons
Gus by Otto & Nicole Ellerbrock
Helena* by Maria Elena & Julio Ortega
Hilga by Becki Trujillo

Holly by Julie Gorman
India by Said Khorramshahgal
Jessica by Marlene Cummins
Layla/Sugar by Rebecca Smith
Levi by David Mallon Andy Lima
Lu by Mike Berdrow
Lucifer/Franklin by Troy Kuhn
Midge by Mindy Blackwell
Mocha by Amy Loveland
Ozzie by Valerie Santone
Pink by Willian Thraen
Rose by Wendy Hoffman
Sadie Lady by Rachel Grech
Sage* by Marilyn Glassman
Saturn/Doja by Rebecca & Nick Marciniak
Scout/Petey by James & Christine Mooney
Shadow by Joseph Hernandez
Shamus by Jena Flick
Spice/Lily by Taro Barag
Toddy by Anthony Simpson
Trevor* by Rodney & Rhonda Gardner
Trudy by Jonathan Varnig
Utah* by Justin Baumann
Yoki by Elisabeth & Farhouch Berdjis
Yosemite Sam by Stew & Peggy Wolf
Zeus by Harlan McCormack

.Also a special thanks to:

Bay Area Boxer Rescue

(<http://www.boxer-rescue.org/>)

for finding loving homes for:

Bugsy, Domino, Dubois, Hoss, Ranger, and Spatz

Boxers Without Borders

(www.boxerrescue-la2ca.com)

for finding a loving Canadian home for:

Lola.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 19th

BRLA Annual Spring Rummage Sale

8-4PM at Lincoln Middle School

1501 California Ave. Santa Monica, CA

Come find some great deal while supporting Boxer Rescue Los Angeles. This year's rummage sale looks to be the best ever. Everything from furniture, to electronics to boxer collectables will be available. All purchases are tax-deductible! See you there!

If you know of a dog-friendly event in your area, or an event that you'd like to have us attend, contact Sarah@Boxer-Rescue-LA.com