



Border Collie Bugle Call

The Newsletter of the Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue

Volume 10 Issue 1

A Message from the BRBCR Board of Directors

November 2021 marks BRBCR's 20th anniversary! We are very proud to have fostered and found wonderful homes for 1,475 dogs over the past two decades. We thank you for the support that has made this possible for us to do what we do best.

Initially, we struggled to make ends meet. At that time, our adoption fee was \$150.00, and while it has increased over the years, we have always worked to keep the adoption fee as low as we can. Thus, your support has always been the key for us to keep fostering and placing dogs.

BRBCR is dedicated not only to fostering and finding great homes for deserving Border Collies and giving them another chance at a good life. We also promote public awareness of the working breed and encourage owner involvement in dog sports and other dog-friendly activities.

We are always looking for more volunteer and foster homes. For volunteers who cannot foster, there are many other places to help, like telephoning, doing home visits, helping us transport dogs, etc. If you would like information about joining our very friendly volunteer force, please contact us by emailing brbcdogs@gmail.com.

*With Warm Regards and Happy Holidays
Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue Board of Directors*



Finding wonderful homes for homeless border collies
and border collie mixes

We are a Tax Exempt 501c3: CFC# 60377

Phone: 571-766-0980

www.brbc.org

Luke Finds a Family – with Kids!

Last April, our beloved border collie Dempsey died just short of his ninth birthday. We were heartbroken, but we knew immediately that we needed another border collie in our lives.



This time, however, we had two young children (18 months and 4) to consider. A puppy would not work; we needed an older dog who was smart, patient, and willing to learn to coexist with small humans. We called Sue Weis, and she, along with Sylvia King and Cathy Kinzie, found Luke for us.

We met Luke on Father's Day, his third birthday. It was love at first sight -- he was perfect. He was an absolute love, greeting us immediately and demanding pets. He already knew his name, dashing to our side when we called him. As a bonus, he was housebroken! When we let him run with boys in Cathy's backyard, he was not interested in herding them. Inside, he patiently accepted their pets. That afternoon, we realized not only that he would be our dog, but also how lucky we were to find him.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing, though. During his first three weeks in our home, we treated Luke the same way we treated Dempsey, leaving him free to explore our house with our children running about. Though we supervised him closely at first, after the third week, we thought that there was nothing to worry about. Then came Luke's first round of shots. While curled up recovering from his shots, our older boy (by now 5) sat next to Luke and tried to comfort him. Seemingly without warning, Luke nipped at Joseph, letting him know that he wanted space. We were alarmed, we thought that this was a reaction to his shots, and this was unlike Luke. Our 5-year old quickly forgave him and continued to shower him with affection.

About a week later, while the boys were playing a little rambunctiously in the living room, Luke decided he wanted to get in on the action. Running alongside them, he jumped up and nipped at our 5-year old. We then realized that Luke had spent the first three weeks adjusting to his new home, and now felt comfortable enough to express himself freely, whether to express his discomfort or his herding instincts.

We immediately called Cathy and developed a plan.

- We purchased a crate so he had somewhere to go when he felt uncomfortable around the boys.
- For our boys, at least the 5-year old, we showed them YouTube videos about how to act around dogs. We taught them that they cannot start running, and if they did, to freeze when they saw Luke coming. Now, when the boys are rambunctious, we separate Luke from them.
- So he knows that he's not being punished, we make this a special time for him, giving him a Kong with peanut butter.

Beyond this, we do a lot more to stimulate him and work off his extra energy. We give him his kibble in puzzle toys to occupy his mind, and have signed him up for training. As the weather has cooled, we've been able to take him on longer walks and bring him to an enclosed baseball field near our house where he can run freely. Fortunately, he is not interested in herding our boys while he runs.



It has been almost four months since we brought Luke home, and we continue to learn about him. Unlike Dempsey, Luke does not give an audible warning, such as a growl, before he expresses his discomfort with how the boys are behaving, although he will stand up and stare at them if concerned. We, along with the boys, are learning what behaviors will make Luke react, and can act with foresight. When the boys are playing less energetically, or doing something calm like watching a movie, we make it a point to have Luke in the room with them, giving him lots of pets and attention so he can get used to their rhythms and behaviors. Most importantly, the boys adore him, and

he the boys. Even though they are still learning how to live together, we couldn't imagine our lives without him. It has been worth all the effort and patience!

Are Your Kids and Dogs Safe?

Luke's family took the time to research how to understand and cope with Luke's behaviors and create a safe environment for both Luke and the kids. Here is a link to some information that may be useful to you and your young children as you learn how to "speak doggie" to keep everyone safe.



According to online magazine **The Family Dog**, a hard-to-believe 77% of dog bites come from a family or friend's dog. That means that these aren't crazy, stray, vicious dogs - they are OUR pet dogs! Contrary to popular belief, bites RARELY happen out of the blue — and your kids' actions can play a HUGE role in how safe they are around the dogs they love and live with. All too often, miscommunication is at the root of the issue. We expect dogs to read our likes and dislikes — but often have no idea how to read theirs.

To help parents and kids navigate the relationship with their pets, **The Family Dog** has provided a series of engaging videos and articles called "Are Your Kids and Dogs Safe?" at the following link:

<https://www.thefamilydog.com/stop-the-77>

Babu's Journey

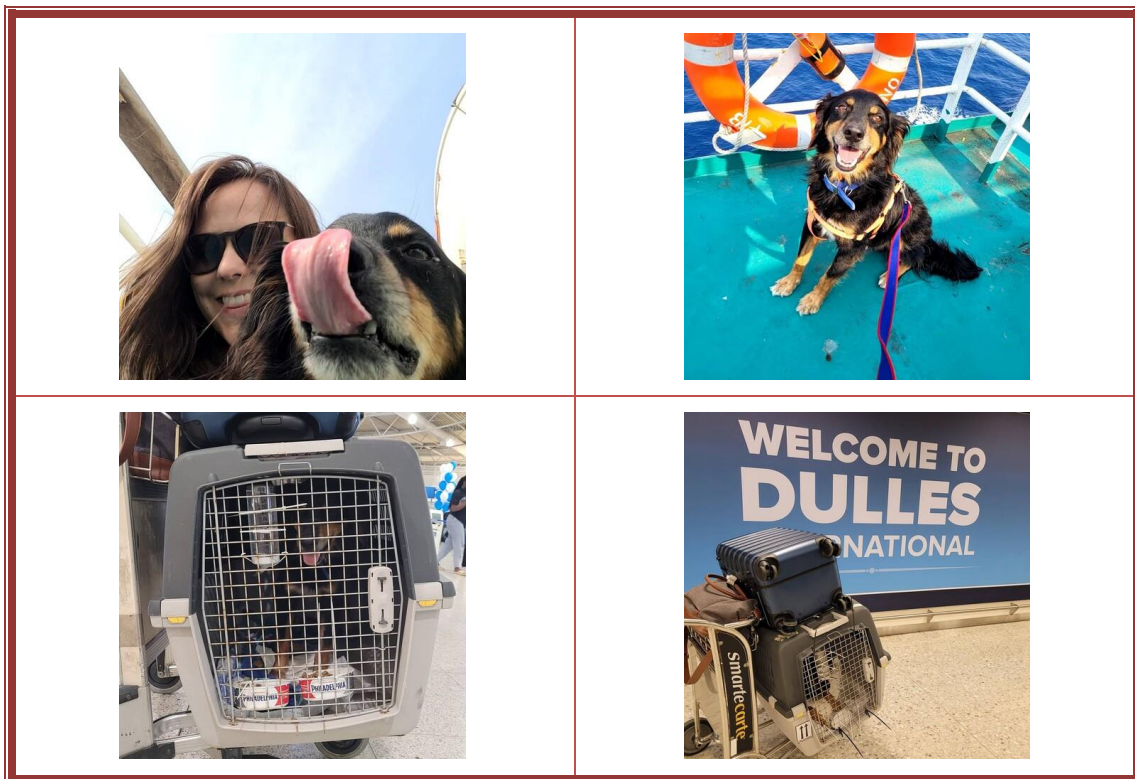
Babu was a resident in the Animal Welfare Karpathos, a volunteer-run non-profit on a small island in Greece. He was picked up as a stray, and eventually surrendered by his owner after she was later found. Although she did her best to care for him, she lacked the financial resources to give him a proper enclosure and often could not afford to feed him. He took to wandering and developed a reputation for killing the neighborhood chickens. When the neighbors threatened to shoot or poison him, she kept him safe the only way she felt she could - by keeping him tied up. He lived most of the first 10 years of his life tied to a tree with intermittent access to food and no veterinary care.

Animal Welfare Karpathos tried to find him a home on Karpathos or mainland Europe for about 7 months with no luck. His age and high energy level made him a hard placement for their organization. Most of the island's fosters (and most residents) are summer seasonal workers on the island, so he was also about to lose his foster placement as summer came to an end. They felt the best chance for Babu would be to get him to the U.S. where he was more likely to find a family.

BRBCR Volunteers Gary and Linda Gross' offered to foster Babu, making it possible for BRBCR to step in and help! BRBCR Volunteer Brittany Waranius was already in Greece volunteering at a veterinary clinic, and was able to be a travel escort for Babu when she returned to the U.S.

It was a long trip! Brittany and Babu travelled for 60 hours to the U.S. Their journey encompassed three car rides, a day long ferry, a pet taxi, two airplanes, and a stopover at an Airbnb to bring him to his new BRBCR foster home.

Babu landed safely at Dulles on Saturday and started his new life as a doggy immigrant.



Rachel begins a new life at 10!

A little over a year ago we got ten-year-old Rachel from the Winchester Animal Shelter. She was a cruelty case, in physically bad condition as well as mentally shut down. All her front teeth, including her canines, were worn down to the gum, apparently from her attempts to escape wherever she had been confined. When she arrived at her foster home she was so nervous that she wouldn't eat, drink or urinate for three days.

Her foster mom was scheduled to go on vacation and didn't want to leave her. So Rachel went on a road trip to Florida. It was wonderful to see her blossom as she met new people and saw new things. She was amazed by the beach and all the love she received from the

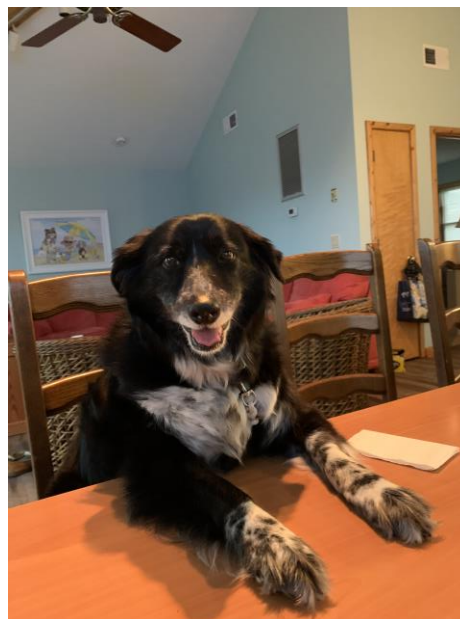


family members there.

When she returned home she began to play with the other dogs and continued to enjoy all the attention she was getting from new human friends. Much to her foster mom's surprise when she was introduced to sheep she went out around them nicely and brought them back. She then laid down, came when she was called and walked off the field. It was obviously something she had done many times before.



A few months went by and a friend mentioned that she knew someone who was looking for a dog. Rachel and the prospective adopters met for what turned out to be a match made in heaven! Rachel, the senior neglected dog, is now living in a wonderful home with a family that adores her. She has become a beautiful, vibrant lady who is totally enjoying her senior years!



Consider Adopting a Senior Dog

Rachel, at the age of 10, has started life over. BRBCR has successfully placed its share of older, more mature dogs in wonderful homes. If you are considering adopting a dog, but want a new family member with a little less energy than a puppy, but who still have a zest for life, please consider an older dog. Here are a few of our successful senior adoptions (and 1 foster).



Zoe – age 9



Keel (front) – age 14 and
new brother Buddy



Keel and his new sisters



Auto – age 7



Willum – age 7



Buddy Bear (in foster care) – age 10

Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue at the 2021 USBCHA National Sheepdog Finals

The United States Border Collie Handler's Association (USBCHA) National Sheepdog Finals were held at Belle Grove Plantation, Middletown, VA, from October 5-10. This year, with COVID restrictions lifted, spectators were welcomed and vendors invited to participate. BRBCR had a vendor booth on site from October 8-10.

Sheepdog competition takes place all week, from dawn to dusk, reducing the number of competitors from 150 to 17 on the final day. If you missed this year's event, the Finals should return to Virginia in 2024.

Here, Alasdair Macrae's Tweed pushes 20 sheep through the course during the final day of competition.



Photo Credit: Denny Gainer

The first sheepdog trials were held in the United Kingdom in the 1870's. They arose from the natural admiration of the great dogs working the flocks, and a natural desire to prove one's own dog against the fine dogs from neighboring farms. Early trials in the United States were mostly auxiliary events to agricultural fairs. Over the years, the trials became more organized and well attended.

How We Use Your Donations

We are upgrading our website this year. The old website had been limping along for about two years, in fact, in September we had to take it off-line. We hope, by the time you read this the new site will be up and running – we are very excited to put it on-line. On that site, there will be a link to our yearly tax return (2020 until next spring) for those who are interested.

As with previous years, we never cover the actual cost of care for our foster dogs from the adoption fees alone. This year the average cost per dog is \$423. Without support from you, we wouldn't make ends meet and could not continue to help dogs find wonderful, forever homes.

All of us at BRBCR appreciate your generosity.

Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue

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2021 - 2022 Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue

Yes! I want to donate to BRBCR and help homeless border collies and mixes.

Please go to BRBCR.org or see our Facebook page and Click on the Donate Button.

Or

Fill out this form and mail in your donation to the address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Your donation is tax deductible. Thank you!