

## RESCUE CONSIDERATIONS *BY Kathy Rocha*

In regards to the article mentioning rescue written to the editor on October, 2007, I am going to make some comments. There was an article written regarding rescue organizations. In the article there was a suggestion to change the name from Rescue, and I have to say, I have often wished the same thing. According to those of us that are licensed in the State of Missouri to rescue, this is how we are classified with the State. Rescue is the name that prospective parents know us as and they can find us on the internet by the organizational name which in most cases includes the word "rescue." We don't have to use the word rescue in our organizations' name but it is easier for the public to find us to adopt. I personally like the word "re-home," and have thought about how I could use that and be found at the same time. Also, in the article, there was the message given regarding the plea for help and money by Rescue groups. I also do not like the way a lot of organizations present the rescued animals. As I stated in previous writings in the Spotlight, this is why I will not work with too many Rescues. I believe that the pictures and the savage use of wording are incredible. Instead of working together, some groups are making a huge separation between the breeder and Rescue. I believe that throughout the years this has kept everyone at odds with each other. I believe when the breeder gives Rescue the retired breeding dog, then the breeder is entrusting us with their dog. I take this very seriously. If there are questions with the breeder regarding the dog that was given to Rescue, the breeder should talk to the Rescue and ask to see vet bills, pictures of the dog, perhaps the picture of the dog with the new adopter. I don't see an issue with giving any of that information out to the breeder if they want to know. The breeder could even have the Rescue give to them, updates on their dogs and perhaps the breeder would like to know the health status or any issues that the vet may have had with that particular dog. If the breeder has any questions regarding a particular Rescue, ask about them. In the State of Missouri a proper Rescue needs to be licensed by the State. Call the State of Missouri and inquire about the reputation of that Rescue. This option is open to the breeder or anyone to make sure they are properly licensed. I believe the breeder should ask the Rescue for references from other breeders. Ask Southwest Auction, Bob Hughes or people that have been connected with the Rescue. I also believe that breeders should work with Rescues that have been investigated and checked out, for there are Rescues that call themselves Rescue but collect dogs. Please check them out. Some of us in Rescue truly care and love the dog, ANY AGE. My biggest issue is the Rescues that take only puppies and call themselves a Rescue. What Rescues real purpose should be is to take a dog that needs a home or needs to be retired, if dealing with the professional breeder. Real Rescue takes a dog of any age. I am very much against the people that call themselves Rescue and only take puppies. What happens to the retired dog or a dog that is over 5 years old? This is the biggest issue I have with Rescue. The breeder cares enough for the dog to want that dog to have a home on a sofa and to be properly taken care of. The rescue should be respectful enough to live up to this. I would definitely question a Rescue that only wants puppies. Breeders need to understand that some of us that do the proper vet care and work with the dogs, do need younger dogs and puppies sometimes to help take care of the older dogs. There are dogs that come into our Rescues that will live here for a very long time and require a lot of medical care which all of us need when we get older, human or animal. Puppies are needed at times; however a Rescue that only takes puppies really raises a question in my mind. Red flags should be waved when this occurs. The word "pupymill" I find very disgusting and to date I have not found that word in the dictionary as an actual word. There are good and bad breeders, there are definitely good and bad Rescues. But it seems that when the general public knows of a breeder that isn't the best they classify them all as being pupymills. The SAME goes with Rescues. When the public has had a bad experience with a Rescue then they classify all Rescues as bad. This is another issue that weighs heavily on my mind. I am so against the negativity against both groups of people. Rescue and breeders should be able to be respectable to each other. Every breeder I work with is extremely nice to me and I try to keep them all informed on the dogs that have been given to me. I know a few Rescues that are the same. The Rescues that I work with try to keep the breeder informed on any health issues or information on the dog, I think it is wonderful for the breeder to see their dog once they are all groomed and go home. It should make both parties so happy to see this for it is all "about the dog." That is the bottom line. There is a lot to be said on the above issues. The real issue is the welfare of the dog. In essence, if there are doubts in the breeders mind on the Rescue, check them out. I can tell the breeders, I would. There are excellent Rescues working to save many dogs, but there are some that are not reputable. Please check them out for all of us need to put the dog first! Thank you Bob Hughes for this magazine that keeps people so informed and filled with articles of excellent information.

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