2015
The Year of the Volunteer
Letter from the President

We at NorCal Irish Setter Rescue want to wish all of our Rescue Families, friends and supporters a Happy New Year. We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed their time together with their Irish Setters.

This last year has seen the lowest number of rescued setters in any time period that I can remember. Hopefully, this is a sign that we are doing something right and I hope that this trend will continue. Because of the low number of dogs that have come into our care, we have been able to offer funds to other rescue groups and volunteers who were in dire need of help. Last spring Russ Gibson, who does rescue in Utah, had a young female setter that had been bitten by a rattlesnake and needed extensive veterinary care. We were able to make a donation that helped Russ cover all of her bills so she could be re-homed. We are always willing and able to help wherever a need arises, all through the generosity of those of you who love Irish Setters. Your support is so greatly appreciated.

I am going to make a different kind of appeal to you this year. What we see as a need going forward is for volunteers to help us in any way that you can. We need people who can check shelters, transport setters, help get dogs in for vet care and especially we need foster homes for temporary care. We are looking into finding a local kennel that can take a setter in, during an emergency situation, until we can get the dog into a foster home. However, foster homes are always our greatest need. We can also use help with the events we organize during the year; St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Dublin; Rescue Reunion Picnic in San Ramon; Rescue Parade in Pleasanton. We need help with set-up and take-down, organizing a raffle, and transporting items to the event. If you think there is something that you might be able to help with, please let myself or Debra know.

Finally, again Thank You All Very Much for all that you do. Enjoy your setters while you can as it seems like we just never have enough time with them. Have a wonderful 2015.

Paul Armbruster, President
2014 Rescues

“Roxie”  
13-year-old female from Pacifica, CA

Roxie’s owner developed a terminal illness and could no longer keep her so Roxie was surrendered to rescue. Roxie had some very serious issues with her spine and rear legs. She had difficulty getting up and moving around. It would be nearly impossible to find her a home, so the decision was made to transport her to Idaho to spend her last days with Paul and Sharen Armbruster. Paul’s former boss, Paul Praetzel, was making a trip from Petaluma to visit his daughter in Boise. He generously offered to transport Roxie to Idaho. Roxie was really sweet. Paul had hoped for more time with her, but after only four short months, her organs began to shut down one after the other. The decision was made to put her down. She seemed to have really enjoyed her short time with Paul and Sharen and they certainly enjoyed having her.

“Filson” (now “Murphy”)  
4½-year-old male from Ponderay, ID

Filson was found at the shelter in Idaho. He was the brother of “Danny”, who we rescued in 2012 and “Max”, who we rescued in 2013. Filson was fostered by Paul and Sharen Armbruster. He needed some dental work before he could be placed. Once he was ready, he was adopted by Tom and Sandy Smith, who live in Discovery Bay, CA. Sue Orlick, from Seattle, offered to transport Filson to California. The Smith’s met with Sue and “Murphy” is now loving his new home in the Delta.

“Brogan”  
4-year-old male from SF Bay Area

Brogan was adopted two years ago from SoCal Irish Setter Rescue where he was surrendered by his first family. Due to family health issues, Brogan’s adoptive family reluctantly decided that it would be best for Brogan to be re-homed. Rather than place him in foster care, they wanted to keep him until he was adopted and they wanted to be involved in selecting his new family. After several months Brogan’s search is finally over. He found a new home with a loving family in Southern California.

“Paddy”  
4½-year-old male from Springvale, CA

Paddy’s owner had contacted Rescue at least three times over the past two years to discuss surrendering him, but every time the owner changed her mind at the last minute. It was very frustrating because we knew the owner had a number of other dogs that were attacking Paddy and we wanted to help him. Finally, with the help of Kris Williams and our friends at NorCal Golden Retriever Rescue, we were able to get him. He needed a lot of vet care and was fostered with Sue Gorder, in Fresno, until he was ready for placement. He was adopted by Dean & Libby Machado, who have adopted several setters from us. Paddy is living the good life with the Machados in Castro Valley, CA.

“Cherry”  
Adult female from Battle Mountain, NV

Cherry is a small field setter from a shelter in Nevada. We first heard about her 2½ years ago, but we were unable to get her from the shelter. In March we finally got her from the shelter. Kris Williams, in Truckee, CA, volunteered to foster Cherry. Cherry had quite a number of health and behavioral issues: an injured left rear leg; three toes missing from her left foot; fence jumping; separation anxiety - plenty to keep Kris busy. While there were many people who expressed an interest in Cherry, once they understood what was required of a suitable home for her, no one seemed to be the right fit. Finally, in September, Kris and Paul decided that the best place for her might be with the Armbruster family. Paul and Sharen had lost “Eva”, “Yoda” and “Roxie” in a relatively short period of time and had only one setter, “Kaleigh”. Cherry is doing really well in her forever home. Her training is going well and Paul is planning to enter her in some field events and Hunt Tests in the spring. Paul hopes to get “Faith Farm the Cherry Bomb” some field and obedience titles.

“Missy”  
10-year-old female from Santa Rosa, CA

Missy is a setter mix who was found wandering near a creek in rural Santa Rosa. She was thin, covered with ticks, had a damaged right front leg (from an old injury), several cysts, and two large, draining masses on her neck and shoulder. Due to her estimated age and poor physical condition, the shelter considered her unadoptable and slated her for euthanasia. Because Missy was so sweet and gentle the shelter staff wanted her to have a second chance, so they contacted several Bay Area rescues in the hopes that someone would help her. Paul sent an email seeking help and a foster home for Missy. Sue and Howard Payne volunteered to get Missy from the shelter and foster her. Missy had surgery to remove three cysts and two malignant masses. After two weeks in foster care, the Paynes decided to make their home a permanent home for Missy. After she has fully recovered from her surgery, she will see a specialist to examine her damaged leg. Missy is enjoying her forever home in Newark, CA.
A Donation of YOUR TIME

For the past few years, so many of you have donated generously to our donation challenge. Your financial support of NorCal Irish Setter Rescue has been accepted with gratitude and deep appreciation. However, as Paul mentioned in his message, the number of Irish Setters that came into our rescue this year was our lowest yet. We are fortunate indeed that, at this time, we feel financially comfortable enough to turn our attention to shine a light on an area that has been a growing need these last few years.

We are looking to incorporate more volunteers to get a bit more involved with NorCal Irish Setter Rescue. Not only for direct help with rescuing dogs, but also to help with a few of our yearly events and to participate on the NorCal Irish Setter Rescue board.

There are five of us that meet on a monthly basis. Most of us have been serving as board members for 10, 15, 20+ years. None of us are getting younger and we would welcome anyone who would be interested in joining us to participate and share with us fresh ideas and thoughts on how we can continue to best serve as a rescue organization.

The five of us would also like to distribute some of the work that we shoulder for putting on the yearly events that we all enjoy. For example, if someone has a truck or vehicle that could haul the tables that we rent for the Rescue Picnic, that would be a huge help. We also need someone who could organize and do the “Meet and Greet” for our Rescue Parade in October.

We have been incredibly grateful for Sue Payne’s skill and dedication to our website. Sue has new responsibilities and would find it helpful to pass on the maintenance and updating of data on the website to another person. Any potential Webmasters out there? This is a “work from home” volunteer position that we rely on very much for posting available dogs for adoption and updating news for reference to members during events.

We intend to use the email communication system as a way to let all of you know ahead of time what kind of help we need as events are planned.

We have been so grateful to the responses that we have received when a plea has gone out for help to rescue a dog. Thank you for your continued support.

Our congratulations go out to those newest families who have welcomed a new redhead into their homes and their hearts. And our sincerest condolences and caring to the families who have lost a beloved redhead. Their memories will live in our hearts never to be forgotten.

Peace and Joy,
Debra Dove Masterson, Vice President

Time to Volunteer

Show your support of NorCal Irish Setter Rescue by giving some of your time. We could use your help. If you have an interest in any of the following activities, please let us know. Call, email or mail the form below.

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