

# GOOD DEEDS

## Rescue Is About More Than Just Rehoming Dogs

As of this moment, there are currently no Bulldogs needing homes in Minnesota, but is likely to change soon. However, we have been busy even so. Doing rescue work is more than just rehoming dogs, educating the public is also an important part of rescue.

Rescue volunteers get calls on regular basis from people that need advice on what to do and where to go when their dog starts to have some behavioral issues. If these concerns are acted on quickly, many times professional assistance in the form of obedience training with animal behaviorists can turn situations around for many dogs. If people truly want to help their dogs, they usually will follow through and contact experts for professional advice. As a result, most of those dogs will not come into rescue. However, some people aren't willing to invest the time and money, or they just don't feel the dog is capable of making the transition from "problem child" to obedient dog and their dogs usually eventually end up in rescue. But for many dogs, the training will work and they are able to stay in their current homes; and that is always the preferred outcome.

Another aspect of education that rescue groups provide is distributing information to the general public about the Bulldog breed and information in the form of handouts about how to properly go about finding a puppy. Many people who contact rescue have purchased their dogs on the internet from what is obviously a puppy mill, but they never realized it until it was too late. Some of these Bulldogs have BCA members' dogs in their pedigrees, but somewhere along the way, offspring of these dogs ended up in the hands of the puppy millers. These types of sellers are not concerned about making sure the new owners have all the tools at their disposal to allow that dog to reach its potential. They only care about the money they receive.

When purchasing from a puppy mill, a person does not have good odds for a healthy, well adjusted dog. There are increased risks that a puppy from a mill can have serious health issues or be infected with a serious disease such as parvo. Not only that, a personal relationship with the breeder who can provide advice on the care of their puppy long up to adulthood, is also missing. If more people would realize that a good breeder is willing to help them along the way, even after the puppy leaves their home, they might be more careful where they buy a dog from and fewer dogs would end up in rescue. So, education is a big factor in steering people away from the puppy mills. Our rescue group wants to educate the public about the importance of doing their homework before buying a puppy in the hope that this will keep more dogs from needing rescue services in the future.

Love-a-Bull MN Bulldog Rescue recently participated in the Renaissance Festival's 2nd Annual Pet Fest in an effort to educate more people about spotting the differences between puppy mills and

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(continued from previous page)

reputable breeders. We had many handouts available on the subject, in addition to information about Bulldog rescue. These handouts do not direct people to specific breeders, but illustrate how to distinguish between puppy mills and reputable breeders. The handouts are intended for the general public and will apply for any breed. The more people who are educated about the correct way to purchase their next puppy, the better the success rate in keeping as many dogs as possible out of rescue.

Thanks to Marcia Tiegs, Karen Zimny, Melissa & Rachel Oldsberg, Sheryll & Frank Max and Dianne & Dana Huntington for braving the heat and helping out at the Love-a-Bull Rescue booth at the Renaissance Festival on August 16th and 17th. Love-a-Bull MN Bulldog Rescue will be doing another "Meet the Breed/Rescue Info" at Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet in Mahtomedi September, 13th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you are in the area and would like to stop in and say "Hi", (with or without your Bulldog), please feel free to do so.



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