



Bully Bark!

The Newsletter of the Bama Bully Rescue, Inc.

Volume 5

February 2009

Issue 1

Greetings from Bama Bully Rescue!

By: Jessica Hudson, Co-Director

It's official! Bama Bully Rescue has passed the one year mark and celebrated its first anniversary on January 15th, 2009. Cake and ice cream, balloons and confetti weren't part of the celebration however, instead we were busy doing what we always do, all the things it takes to help out the dogs that need us most.

We really scored last month and welcomed two new volunteers who will no doubt be an asset to our organization. Welcome Holly and Karen! We are so thrilled to be in your company and we look forward to working with you in our mission. BBR is growing and we've been very lucky to have one fantastic group of people as our volunteer team!

This time of year is usually slow as far as events go so if you know of any dog events in your area, let us know and we'll do our best to attend. Spring is very active and we will be out in force in various cities and towns across Alabama. Be sure to look for event announcements and we'd love for our supporters to stop by the Bully Booth and say hi!

As we are still fresh in a new year, please spread the word about BBR and especially about the dogs which really need homes. We never have a shortage of adoptables and new dogs are always coming our way. But we have several needy bullies which have continuously been overlooked. A few have been in foster homes for years now and while they are fine where they are, they deserve loving, forever homes.

Recently one of our volunteers was visiting a shelter in her area and stumbled across three boxer siblings which needed some help. All three were underweight, they had internal parasites and showing some signs of an eye condition. Because of lack of funding, the shelter was unable to provide vaccinations and proper treatment. We had to get those kids out of there and we did! The three stooges have been moved into a volunteer's home to get healthy and learn some manners. They have names and a clean bill of health and have been altered. They've really raked in the adoption applications and adoptions are pending as I type. Hopefully they will all be in homes once this newsletter reaches your email.

If you are wondering how you can help, consider purchasing vaccinations for needy shelters.

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**Bama Bully
Rescue**

**Bama Bully
Rescue, Inc**

Staff

Director:

Melinda
Thompson

Co-Director:

Jessica Hudson

Treasurer:

Crystal Wingard

Secretary:

Beth Green

Event Coordinator:

Garland Clark

Volunteers

Jessica Anderson
Holly Ayers
April Durden
Alexis Houston
Rick Stokes
Karen Thomasino

Foster Homes

Nicole Aly
Linda Askey
Deanna Byers
Frances Dauster,
CPDT
Christy Smith

Newsletter Editor:

Rick Stokes

(Continued from above)

Many city and county funded facilities are in dire need of basic supplies. Many puppies will lose their lives simply because they aren't able to be vaccinated against diseases. Many vaccines are available through pet supply catalogs, feed stores and online. It's a real shame that these babies could have died just because they couldn't get the necessary medical care to protect them.

So we don't end on a sad note, we'd like to announce that Maggie Grace, the mom of the Motley Crew puppies (all twelve of them) was recently adopted into a home. Unfortunately, Maggie's past has made it incredibly difficult (if not impossible) for her to form new relationships with people that she doesn't know and trust. With great sadness, Maggie's adopter returned her after really trying to make it work. But the story does have a happy ending and Maggie has a permanent home with her original rescuer, Sherri Creighton and her husband, cats and other two dogs. Finally, a safe and sound home for a very deserving girl! Congratulations, Maggie!

Why I Joined BBR!

By: Karen Thomasino

There are numerous reasons as to why I decided to join BBR, most are so emotional that I find them hard to articulate in writing. I have always been the type of person who would lay my life down for an animal, I have always related to them better than I related to people. I have helped in animal rescue before but with college, marriage, graduating and starting my professional career, I found it hard to find the time.

Then I remembered, no one has the time, you make time for the things you are passionate about. As a bully owner I have experienced the discrimination that these dogs face. It hurts when someone looks at my dog in a hateful way or backs away because they think he may be mean because he is a pit bull. The lack of truthful information in the public about bully breeds is appalling.

I have a 3 year old pit bull named Bones. I am truly lucky to have him as my best friend. He is always there for me and always has a "smile" on his face! When I hear or see the horrible cases of abuse and neglect, I always think "if that was my dog".....

Bones will never know the awful things people do to his fellow bullies, he will never be heartbroken when someone will not pet him out of fear and pure stupidity. He will move on to the next waiting admirer. He will not ever hear when people say "you can't live here, play here or visit here because your a pit bull". For that I am thankful, I just wish I did not have to experience it because it absolutely breaks my heart.

I wish that the discrimination and violence did not exist, never existed. But sadly it does and that is why I joined BBR. I hope to help reverse all that negativity and educate as many people as I can about the wonderful qualities of this joyful, strong and resilient breed. I hope to help all the bullies I can and for those I cannot, I pray that they find the love they crave and the peace they deserve.

My big boy Bones has brought me so much joy and love, he is the perfect example of the true nature of the breed. I realize not all bullies have it as good as him and it is because of him that I do this, he has been an inspiration.

Melinda Dalke Art

Melinda Dalke is a Naive Style Artist who is a founding member of Art Helping Animals. A portion of the sale of the featured artwork you see presented here will go to the benefit of BBR! If you are interested in purchasing this piece of art or would like more info, please contact Melinda at dayleemojoarts@earthlink.net



"Bully Angel in Flight"

Size-9 x 12 inches

Medium-Varnished Acrylic on Stretched Canv

A whimsical painting of an American Pit Bull Terrier angel flying through a midnight sky.

EVENTS

With the cold weather season upon us, there are currently no scheduled events that the BBR volunteers and Bullies will be attending. However, the warm weather will be upon us before we know it, and it will be time again for BBR to host its annual yard sale fundraiser!

Our goal this year is to have more than one sale, but in order to do that we will need your help! While we do have items for the sales, we will need more donated items in order to continue raising funds. If you are interested in donating items for our annual sales, please contact us at donate@bamabully.org.

We will be scheduling a date for our first yard sale soon, and will publish it on our website and newsletter as soon as we have one confirmed. Remember, all items donated to our rescue are considered a tax deductible donation!

The BBR Store

Bama Bully Rescue officially has its own store with apparel for those who are loving dog owners - especially those of Pit Bulls! The store has just opened up and only has a few designs, but make sure you check it often because we have plenty of new designs on the way! Proceeds from each sale will go to the benefit of the BBR Bullies.

You can visit the store by visiting: <http://www.cafepress.com/bamabully>

Make sure to tell a friend!

This month's featured product is the No BSL! Junior Hoodie.



Let the world know that you don't and won't stand for discrimination.

<http://www.cafepress.com/bamabully.353014619>

Announcing the 2009 Bama Bully Rescue, Inc. Calendar

Have you gotten your 2009 Bama Bully Rescue calendar yet? Some gorgeous Bullies are featured on this calendar. We are sure that you will enjoy the Bully pictured in each month!

The cost of the 2009 Bama Bully Rescue calendar is \$17.99 and the proceeds will go to benefit the dogs of Bama Bully Rescue who are looking for their forever homes.

Please visit <http://www.cafepress.com/bamabully> to get your calendar today.

BBR November Volunteer Statistics

- > Reviewed 11 Adoption Applications
- > Approved 1 Adoption Application
- > Approved 0 Foster Applications

Bully for You!

Every month, we like to feature one of our great adoptable dog. Gracie is our featured pup for February. You can go online to adopt Gracie by first filling out an adoption application at

<http://fs10.formsite.com/bamabullyrescue/form884759186/index.html>



“ I love my blankie!”



“I am waiting patiently for dinner!”

Meet young little Gracie!

Gracie is an adorable red/brindle girl with natural ears and tail. She was saved from euthanasia and is safe and sound in a BBR foster home, but she is looking for her forever home!

Gracie is a smart little puppy, sure to be a fast learner. She already responds to her name and walks well on a leash. She is also showing great signs of a quick potty training, as she knows not to potty until she is taken outside on the grass. Gracie is being socialized around lots of strangers, other dogs, and even cats.

Just like any puppy, she loves treats and toys. She is crate trained and sleeps quietly in her crate. Sometimes it takes her a few minutes to calm down and she will whine, but usually sleeps quietly all night. She loves attention and is so much fun!

Gracie is ready for her new home. She is up to date on her vaccines and spayed

BULLY FRIENDLY

Bama Bully Rescue is keeping a current list of all the ways discrimination can be directed against Bully Owners . We are compiling a list of apartment complexes, neighborhoods, homeowner's insurance companies, and cities that have either completely banned bullies and bully mixes or have placed restrictions on their ownership (such as higher liability insurance coverage, requiring that you post "Dangerous Dogs" signs, or public muzzling, etc).

If you know of anyone who should be on our list, please e-mail the information to garland@bamabully.org. Thanks for helping be our bullies watchdogs!

Bama Bully Rescue, Inc. Finances for 2008

By Crystal Wingard, BBR Treasurer

With 2008 being the first year for BBR, we knew that there would be some challenges. One of those challenges that we knew that we would have to be overcome was funding. "How can we get the funds we need for these dogs while being a brand new group?" We are just SO THANKFUL for everyone who read our mission, believed in us, and supported us. With that, we wanted to include a brief summary including some statistics on how our money was received and spent.

The majority of our funding was received through our Adoption Fees from completed adoptions, actually 50% of our funds were received through these fees. The only thing about the majority of our funding coming through the fees is that we have already spent funds on those dogs. Luckily, 32% of our funds came through general donations from the caring public to take care of these dogs!!

With this being our first year, there were a bit of fees that we had to pay for and that is where 13% of our spending went. Of course the biggest thing our spending went towards was the dogs! 69% of our spending to be exact went to vet and foster care of the dogs in our program. Another larger portion of our spending, 13% to be exact went to pay for event fees. BBR attends events throughout the year to promote our group, educate the public about Pit Bulls, and provide information to dog owners' on questions they may have. Events were also the source of 9% of our funding!

So again, we would like to thank you for the support we have received and look forward to a great 2009!

Please spay and neuter your pets!

Mobile considers pit bull exile

By Amy Brown, Lagniappe staff

Like most house cats, Peppy enjoyed napping in the sun, which is exactly what he was doing when a neighbor's pit bull broke into the screened porch and gave Peppy a rude awakening. Peppy's owner returned home to the scene of a gruesome murder: Peppy, dead on the floor of the screened porch, and his killer, the pit bull, still at the scene, standing over the cat's mangled remains.

Kathy Brown, mother of Peppy's owner, who prefers to remain anonymous, claims the offending dog's owner is negligent and does nothing to keep his pit bulls from roaming the streets despite having had multiple complaints filed against him.

Brown's greatest concern, as was presented to the Mobile City Council, is had the dog's timing been different, her 3-month-old and 3-year-old grandchildren could have been the subjects of the mauling.

Mobile City Council is taking Brown's concerns seriously, and breed specific legislation (BSL) regarding pit bulls may soon be in the works.

Council President Reggie Copeland explained he has already taken interest in this topic.

He noted two pits living next door to St. Pius X Catholic School on Sage Avenue. Copeland recognizes the potential for danger and is focusing on situations where pits could possibly maul small children to death.

Presently, city attorney Jim Rossler is reviewing Brown's complaints and examining other cities' approaches regarding BSL. Undoubtedly he will discover that Orange Beach has a vicious animal ordinance in place, although, as Copeland firmly explained, **Mobile is targeting pit bulls exclusively.**

Orange Beach's ordinance classifies a vicious animal as one who attacks without provocation, is bred for fighting purposes or has been trained to attack. Animals classified as vicious by the city are required to be confined and leashed at all times, and owners of vicious animals are required to notify the public with a posting at the entrance to the animal's enclosure.

Orange Beach's codes also stipulate that if a vicious animal owner does not comply with the constraining specifications, the city reserves the right to apprehend the animal. If the owner does not modify the animal's enclosure to comply with the city's code within 30 days of apprehension, Orange Beach reserves the right to dispose of the animal as seen fit by the animal control officer.

Irondale, Ala. has similar regulations, although, Irondale's legislation is specific to pit bulls.

This legislation, which has the potential to be adopted in Mobile, includes registering pit bulls or any mix that includes pit bull. Those who were both (Continued on next page)

(Continued from above) both residents and pit bull owners in Irondale before this legislation was drafted in 1997 enjoy a grandfather clause that asked them to register their dog and abide by specific regulations. Those who moved to Irondale after the legislation was passed aren't allowed to own pit bulls at all.

The legislation says registered dogs must be muzzled and kept on a 4-foot leash controlled by the owner when in public. At home, the dog's kennel must be embedded into the ground at least two feet. When indoors, a screen or glass enclosure is not deemed sufficient for containing the animal.

In addition to the already strict legislation, owners of pit bulls must show proof of \$50,000 worth of liability insurance, which includes death, bodily injury or property damage that may come as a result of the dog's actions.

The city also requires pet owners have identification photographs accompanying the animal's registration and must report any new developments that occur with the pit bull, such as birth or death. If the dog gives birth, puppies must be removed from the city within six weeks of birth. Failure to comply can result in imprisonment up to 30 days and fines ranging from \$200 to \$500.

Capt. David Harris of the Irondale Police Department said thanks to BSL, pit bull related problems have decreased significantly.

Harris says they will get two to three calls a month reporting pit bull sightings. The pit's owner is then mailed a copy of the ordinance, which gives them two weeks to find another home for the dog, or the city will dispose of the dog. As of January 2008, Irondale employs a part-time animal enforcement officer who patrols neighborhoods looking for loose dogs and pits.

While cities like Irondale and dog attack victims like Brown see BSL as fitting for notoriously dangerous dogs, others, like pit bull owner and breeder J.P. Wimmer, disagree.

The owner of Bama Blue Kennels, Wimmer feels animal owners are the ones responsible for an animal's behavior. Wimmer explains that when a dog of any breed attacks a person or an animal, it is the result of a genetic malfunction in the owner, not the dog. Having worked with pit bulls on a close level, Wimmer guarantees pit bulls are not inherently inclined to attack.

BSL isn't the solution for Mobile; accountability for pet owners is what this city needs, claims Wimmer, who also proposed that owners who have more than six dogs should be required to have a kennel license.

Wimmer's own dogs are kept in kennels along with cameras and privacy fencing.

While it hasn't been statistically confirmed, Wimmer says Dalmatians bit more people last year than pit bulls.

Wimmer calls targeting pit bulls specifically "dog racism." (continued on next page)

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"If these dogs were humans, and it was 1943, they'd be Jews," Wimmer said .

The owner/breeder is also convinced pit bulls are persecuted because of their popularity, and predicts Shar-Peis, Chinese fighting dogs characterized by exceptionally wrinkly bodies, will be the next vicious dog deemed problematic.

While Wimmer's argument may appear biased, it seems other reputable sources agree with his opinion that BSL isn't the best solution for the dog-violence issue.

The Humane Society Web site points out BSL generally doesn't solve any problems and dog attacks are generally a reflection of individual dog owners. These claims are supported with data supplied by scientific researchers who study genetic and aggressive tendencies in dogs.

Research explains that all animals have natural tendencies towards aggression and it can be manipulated according to the animal's upbringing.

Copeland guarantees any legislation that may come as a result of the investigations currently underway and the rest of the process will be a very public process involving the Public Safety Committee, pit bull owners and all concerned citizens.

For those who may not be able to present their cases personally, Brown set up an e-mail, pitbulltruth@yahoo.com, to serve as an open forum on pit bull related issues.

<http://www.lagniappemobile.com/article/1902>

BSL ALERT! MOBILE, AL

Please send your **POLITE AND RESPECTFUL** opposition to breed specific legislation to the Mobile city officials listed below:

Mayor Sam Jones, mayor@cityofmobile.org

Mobile City Council

P.O. Box 1827

Mobile, AL. 36633-1827

Phone: (251) 208-7441

Fax: (251) 208-7482

City Council Members

reggie.copeland@cityofmobile.org , richardson@cityofmobile.org , carrollw@cityofmobile.org,

clinton.johnson@cityofmobile.org , john.williams@cityofmobile.org,

connie.hudson@cityofmobile.org , gregoryg@cityofmobile.org

Meeting minutes and agenda can be found at:

http://www.cityofmobile.org/cityofficials/council_meetings/

Bully Approved

This month BBR would like to share some of our newest favorite things for our bully friends:

www.trendyhounds.com The place for exceptional martingale collars and leashes! Very affordable, extremely well made and gorgeous! Be sure to mention Bama Bully Rescue at check out.

www.collarmania.com Amazing, custom made collars! Tons of designs available and very durable.

www.Petoria.com Check out the Egge! It's the neatest thing for any dog which loves to play and then destroy their toys. This will present a bit of a challenge for even the most destructive dogs.

www.fetchingtags.com Unique, cool customizable tags!

www.rawdogleather.com Gorgeous, custom leather collars and leashes.

www.ellaslead.com Great leashes, very versatile!

Bama Bully Rescue, Inc

Our Mission:

Bama Bully Rescue, Inc. is a non-profit, 501c3 organization located in Alabama that works with shelters and the public in finding homes for Pit Bulls that have been abandoned, abused, neglected, or fallen victim to other situations in their lives.

Rescue:

Our group exists to rescue unwanted bullies and power breeds in shelters, found as strays or who must be relinquished by their owners, through no fault of their own.

Re-Home:

Adoptable dogs will be placed for adoption into carefully screened, loving homes. All dogs adopted with a BBR contract will be thoroughly evaluated for behavioral issues. All dogs will be up to date on vaccines and spay or neutered before placement.

Educate & Support:

Bama Bully Rescue strives to educate the public about the true nature of bully breeds. We encourage responsible dog ownership, proper care, socialization and training. We are available at any time to lend advice and support regarding any aspect of responsible dog ownership.

Would you like to donate? Donations are tax-deductible and are extremely appreciated. Visit our website at www.BamaBully.org to donate online or send your check to Bama Bully Rescue, Inc., PO Box 189, Alabaster, AL 35007

Check out iGive at <http://www.igive.com/welcome/> and Goodsearch at <http://www.goodsearch.com/> to support your favorite Charity...BBR!

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bbr.newsletter@yahoo.com.

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