



Bully Bark!

The Newsletter of the Bama Bully Rescue, Inc.

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Greetings from Bama Bully Rescue!

By: Jessica Hudson, Co-Director

All of us here trust that all of our readers had a wonderful and safe holiday season and that each of you make a full recovery from all the dinners, goodies and parties! We especially hope all of our furry friends were blessed with lots of fun stuff from Santa.

This new year is particularly special for Bama Bully Rescue as we will celebrate our first full year of operations on January 15th, 2009!

Since beginning a new, and much needed, rescue group for our beloved bullies, we have been incredibly moved by the constant and incredible support from everyone. As anyone in rescue work knows, without support, this kind of work is impossible to do. We are here because of those folks who opt to adopt, spread the word about us, donate, support us emotionally, help us become better at rescue work and open their homes to foster a homeless dog.

We look forward to this next year and while we hope that few dogs (or even better none) will need our help, the sad truth is we will be as busy in 2009 as we were in '08. We can safely estimate that last year BBR received well over ONE THOUSAND pleas for help. That's over 100 emails and phone calls each and every month.

Either someone found a stray, rescued an abused or neglected dog or needed (or wanted) to relinquish their own dog to rescue. These statistics are insane and heartbreaking!! We did not and could not even come close to helping them all. The main reason we could not help most of these deserving dogs was a lack of foster homes. We simply have no where to house a dog while we list it for adoption.

The other reason we can't help them all is because people continue to breed litters of puppies for absolutely no good reason. Many owners are also not spaying or neutering their pets. Rescue groups and even shelters just can't keep up with the numbers being produced.

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**Bama Bully
Rescue**

**Bama Bully
Rescue, Inc**

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We can make a difference, however big or small and you can help. Please encourage others to be responsible for their pets and have them spayed and neutered. Educate people about the severe overpopulation problem and what really happens to most homeless bullies. Pit bulls and bully breeds stand a very slim chance of ever making it out of a shelter.

Always keep visible identification on your bully at all times! Never allow your dog to roam at will as the dangers are numerous. Properly socialize and train your puppy or dog. It is up to us to be examples for these breeds and to keep them safe.

2009 will be a fabulous year and we would appreciate your support in the year to come.

Bully for You!

Bama Bully Rescue is featuring another one of our adoptable dogs. For The first month of the year, our featured pup is Dixie. Do you have a place for Dixie in your heart and home?



Dixie is safe for now in a wonderful foster home, she is growing and learning and would love to have a home of her very own with her "forever" family. Would that family be yours? Apply online at: <http://www.bamabully.org/dogs.html>

Dixie, a sweet Pit bull mix, was brought in to the vet after being run over by a car. She sustained injuries to her lungs and required a blood transfusion. Her owner approved all of her care, but did not pay his bill and abandoned her at the Animal Hospital.

She is currently being fostered by an employee of the Animal Hospital. Dixie is 4-1/2 months old, and currently weighs 22.4 lbs. She is a beautiful Brindle color. She has 8 foster brothers and sisters, from a Yorkie up to a Shepherd mix, and she loves them all! She gets along well with other dogs, and did very well during her temperament test. She had no problems with her toys being taken away, and didn't make a fuss about the evaluator squeezing, pinching, and pulling.

Dixie likes to play but also likes to climb on your lap at the end of the day and snooze before bedtime. She is a cuddler. She will sit on command and is learning how to shake 'hands'.



Paws Up!

Congratulations to Cajun for earning his AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Therapy Dog International (TDI) certification on November 15th, 2008. Cajun is a Katrina rescued American Pit Bull Terrier owned by Jessica Hudson, a BBR volunteer. For more information about the AKC CGC and TDI visit www.akc.org/events/cgc and www.tdi-dog.org

Cajun - CGC, TDI, SD, TDit

Announcing the 2009 Bama Bully Rescue, Inc. Calendar

Get your 2009 Bama Bully Rescue calendar today! This calendar features pictures of some gorgeous Bullies, sure to make you smile 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.

The Bullies thank you!!

A Peek Behind the Scenes with a Rescue Volunteer

By Jessica Hudson, Co-Director

Bama Bully Rescue occasionally receives emails or speaks to people at events who ask what it takes to volunteer with us. Volunteering with an active rescue group, especially one which specializes in pit bulls and bully breeds does require a special type of personality. Becoming involved in rescue work with any breed and even mixes is often heart wrenching as you will become aware of an unsettling number of abuse and neglect cases and see firsthand how dogs suffer daily at the hands of people.

It takes a strong person to be able to deal with this productively. I would like to believe that most rescue groups are comprised of individuals such as those who volunteer for BBR. We work well together and act as a support group for each other to better emotionally deal with the difficulty of seeing our beloved dogs endure what many of them do.

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Any rescue volunteer must understand that due to the vast number of dogs and puppies who need help, we simply cannot save them all. And because the general public doesn't see how many pleas for help we get daily or the situations we must deal with, sometimes we also must endure getting not-so-nice emails. Some folks who don't want to be responsible for their own pet, blame us for requiring some accountability on their part before we can offer assistance. Dealing with those blows to our efforts, many times on a personal level, can be frustrating, infuriating and if we let it, can make us really wonder why we try in the first place. All of us have various skills and talents which are ideal for delegating the many tasks in rescue work. Some of us are great with technical computer stuff while others are better with communicating to the public. The workload can be really stressful at times. There are always emails to respond to, phone calls to make, dogs to evaluate. There are adoption and foster applications to screen, vet checks and home visits to arrange and perform. Some folks just need some advice or behavioral help.

BBR tries to attend as many events in the state as possible. Most people really don't think about what it takes to prepare for events. It's hard work! Many events require traveling for our volunteers and once there, we must set up the booth, run it all day, break it down and we usually feel like we've been run over by a truck at the end of it! It's great fun and we really enjoy spreading the word about our group, meeting new people and occasionally we get the best reward; seeing some of our past adopted dogs with their new families!

Some other things required to keep the rescue up and running are managing finances, recording statistics within the rescue, prepare and deliver the monthly e-newsletter. Record keeping, meetings, discussing issues (a constant thing), general correspondence, listing, updating and managing dog listings and creating educational materials are all necessary tasks. Maintaining BBR's website can be daunting and time consuming, as well and as a new group, we are starting completely from scratch and are working on ideas and designs for graphics for banners, merchandise and event & promotional materials. There are grants to research and apply for, Breed Specific Legislation laws and ordinances to stay updated on, and a constant flow of new activity and responsibilities. On the furry side of rescue, there are dogs which need to be fostered, taken to the vet, evaluated and photographed. BBR works with other rescue groups and shelters, as well.

It's a lot of work, compounded with the fact that all of us also have families, jobs, pets of our own and the added stress that comes with it! The more capable, skilled, energetic, amiable, qualified volunteers we have, the more productive we can be.

It can be overwhelming at times. Some of us have wanted to just walk away. But when we see what we accomplish, witness the dogs who have recovered from certain death and misery to become vibrant, full of personality and win a place on someone's couch and heart, we forge ahead, renewed. There will always be another needy dog who needs us and we will be here, overwhelmed or not.

Encourage others to spay and neuter their pets!

BBR November Volunteer Statistics

- > Reviewed 2 Adoption Applications
- > Approved 1 Adoption Application
- > Approved 0 Foster Applications
- > Approved 0 new Volunteer Applications
- > Received 100+ pleas for help
- > Received \$75.00 in Adoption fees
- > Received \$252.80 in Donations

Recent Events:

Pets in the Park was held at Medal of Honor Park on Nov 15th, 2008 in Mobile, AL. The event has grown each year and BBR was there with the Bully Booth and enthusiastic volunteers! We met many bully friendly folks, some lovely bullies and made some new friends. We even were surprised with a visit from Gretchen, one of our Motley Crue babies, though she's not a baby anymore at 70 pounds! Thanks so much Jennifer for bringing her to see us! Pets in the Park is a fun, annual event and we hope to see you next year!

Pet Fest in Bay Minette, AL was a big success especially considering this was the first year Bama Bully attended! Thanks to our phenomenal new volunteer, Jessie Anderson, for single-handedly setting up, manning and breaking down the BBR booth for TWO days straight! Jessie's Dad was a big help, too and we appreciate the support!

Animal Medical Center hosted free pet portraits with Santa spanning several dates from the end of Nov to Dec 13th at locations in Anniston, Oxford, Lincoln and Jacksonville, AL. A couple of our volunteers were able to offer their assistance and BBR received a portion of the donation proceeds! Thank you to all who had their pets pictures made and donated during the events!

Petapalooza, at Veteran's Park in Hoover, AL on Nov. 15, 2008 was a fun-filled day! This was the fifth time this event was held, and it seems to get better each year! BBR had a booth and met many wonderful owners, dogs, and other rescues as well. There were flyball demonstrations, a 5K run, and an agility course that we had a great time watching! We want to say "THANK YOU" to Academy Sports for allowing volunteers to run the concession stand and make some donation money, as well as Bumpus Middle School for the wonderful donations we received. We hope to attend Petapalooza again next year!

This year was the first annual Bark for a Park fundraising event, held at George Ward Park in Birmingham, AL on November 16th, 2008. The event was designed to get the word out and raise funds for Birmingham's first dog park at George Ward. Although Bama Bully rarely recommends taking your bully to a dog park, we went out to help support the community and had the opportunity to raise some funds for ourselves, meet responsible bully owners and educate bully owners about the "pit"falls of dog parks. We saw some faces we had met the day before at the Hoover event, and got to meet new owners too. There was great entertainment, including a frisbee dog show, and it showed how the community came together for their dogs. We hear they'll be hosting another event in February and we hope to be invited so we can support other dog lovers in their quest for a dog park

If you are aware of upcoming dog events in your area and would like to see Bama Bully Rescue there, contact us at mail@bamabully.org with details.

Santa Bully 2008!

What a great Christmas for our fosters this year! Thanks to generous donations from the people involved in Petapalooza and others throughout the year, BBR was able to ship out Christmas packages to the dogs in BBR's foster program. All of the dogs received packages with a letter from Santa Bully thanking them for being so good this year along with a nice variety of goodies! Each dog received a new food bowl, a frisbee, rawhides, a baggie full of treats, and a few other items whether it be a leash, collar, or toy!!

We were really excited to be able to surprise the foster homes and dogs for our first Christmas, and we hope to continue the Santa Bully Christmas tradition. For more information on donating items to BBR's dogs, please e-mail donate@bamabully.org. For more information on fostering, please visit our website at www.bamabully.org

BULLY FRIENDLY

In an effort to better serve bully owners in Alabama, we are trying to keep a current list of all the ways you can be discriminated against for being a bully lover. 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 Favorite Websites

This month, we would like to share a list of some of our favorite websites.

- www.realpitbull.com
- www.clickersolutions.com
- www.dogstardaily.com
- www.pbrc.net
- www.diamondsintheruff.com
- www.pitbullsontheweb.com
- www.ourpack.org

These websites are useful resources for Bully owners who are looking for information regarding:

- "Bully" -type breeds (general information)
- Training tips and advice
- Behavior information and articles

These websites are wonderful resources, and all of the training methods and information from these sites are most effective for Bully breeds.

We hope you enjoy!

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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