



Bully Bark!

The Newsletter of the Bama Bully Rescue, Inc.

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Issue 1

GREETINGS

By Garland Clark, LVT, Event Coordinator

"No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little." ~ Edmund Burke

As I'm sitting here trying to think about what the topic of the introduction for this newsletter should be, I'm thinking about all the other stuff on my to-do list. Update Facebook account, check rescue e-mail, schedule shelter dog evaluation, etc. And that doesn't include all the things that keep sliding further down the list of things I'd like to do for Bama Bully like make a new anti-Breed Specific Legislation video, or catalog bully friendly status of apartment complexes and shelters in Alabama, or design new logos/slogans for T-shirts. Instead of getting overwhelmed, I am mentally breaking down each task into as many steps as possible. Cataloging the apartments can only be done one phone call at a time, just as this article can only be written one word at a time. And therein lays my answer.

We would not be able to do the work we do if it weren't for those people that step up to do "only a little". Those that are willing can donate just ten dollars one time. Or repost a plea for help so that we can cast a wider net. Or do a homecheck for an applicant because the rest of us are too far away. In the daily grind, we can overlook thanking everyone who played a little part in our rescue effort, but we'd like to remind you that without the support of each and every one of you we wouldn't have been able to do half the work we've done so far.

If you are toying with the idea of making the greater mistake because you feel you couldn't help much, I urge you to reconsider. Whether you have ten minutes a day, a month or a year, we have a tiny task for you. If you made one phone call a day for the year, we'd know the bully friendly status of over three hundred shelters in Alabama. If you took thirty minutes a month to design new T-shirt artwork, we'd have twelve more ways to raise money. If you gave one dollar a month, we'd have half a tank of gas to get to an event we don't normally attend to educate more people about the breeds that we love. Not every volunteer gets a matching T-shirt or their name in the newsletter or a to-do list as long as mine, but each one of us has the ability to help save a dog. Not one of us can do everything, but we can all do something.

If you would like to help, "only a little" please contact crystal@bamabully.org

If you'll tell us what you like (playing on the internet, messing around on Photoshop, talking on the phone, correcting papers...) and how much time you'd like to give, we promise to help you find a way to give back to the bully you love.

**Bama Bully
Rescue**

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Breed Specific Legislation: A Scarlet Letter

By Karen Thomasino

Breed Specific legislation (BSL) is legislation in which certain breeds of dogs are “banned or restricted based on their appearance because they are perceived as dangerous breeds or types of dogs” (stopbsl.com). These restrictions either ban certain breeds completely from a certain area or stipulate that certain restrictions such as muzzling in public, purchasing certain amounts of liability insurance, stating that a dog must be housed in a certain manner or that a dog must register as a dangerous breed. It is akin to putting a scarlet letter on a dog’s chest and declaring it a threat to the community and an embarrassment. BSL is an unfair and ineffective way of ensuring public safety.

BSL is quickly becoming a major issue for communities worldwide. It has proven to be ineffective and a waste of taxpayer funds. Areas with BSL have not generally shown a decrease in dog attacks, in fact in some areas the rate has increased, bites from other non-restricted breeds are prevalent. There is no real way to measure the effect of BSL in a lot of communities as dog bites are poorly reported and the people responsible for determining a banned breed often have little or no experience with the breeds. Dogs that “look” like banned breeds but are not are being euthanized and torn from their homes and families.

BSL dictates that a dog’s behavior is dictated by its appearance and that the treatment of a dog by its owner has no effect on the dog’s temperament. Any dog owner knows that this is certainly not the case. It’s the old nature vs. nurture argument. Families are being targeted for the breed of dog they own and the dogs are being blacklisted by their community. Abusive, irresponsible dog owners are not being punished and people continue to be bitten by non-restricted dogs. Responsible, caring dog owners are being driven away from owning these breeds due to the cost, hassle and stigma that comes with ownership of a so called “dangerous dog”.

Not long ago, our country was divided over race and how one looked was considered a predictor of how one would behave, live and contribute to society. Basically, certain people were told they were not important and were an embarrassment and a liability to their community. People stood up and took action, our society changed and realized that how one looks does not dictate how one behaves. Stereotyping is not tolerated among humans, why are we allowing it to be directed at dogs? We must speak for our canine companions, we must be their voice and stand up for them or we may just lose our right to love and care for our “dangerous dog”.

There are several things you can do to stop BSL. Many cities already have BSL laws in place and many more have it on their schedules for discussion. It is important to understand BSL and to know what it going on in your area regarding it. The website www.stopbsl.com is a great resource for all dog owners, it is helpful in keeping you up to date on where BSL is being considered. You can also write to city officials in purposed BSL areas, sign petitions and support organizations that fight this injustice.

Pay close attention to your community and make sure your dog does what they can to set a good example. Above all, love your dog, hug your dog, spend time with him/her, and make yourself a positive, responsible, educated dog owner. Do what you can to promote equality among our canine companions. No one should tell us what dog we can own, what breeds we can love and feel safe around, BSL does just that and that is why we should fight it.

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Each ID Tag purchased from this website link will mean a donation to BBR!
Click on the above image to check out some of the most unique Pet ID tags

The BBR Store

We all feel strongly about our bullies!

You can show that you are a responsible dog owner. Visit the Bama Bully Rescue to check out the different apparel that we offer!

Proceeds from each sale will go to the benefit of the BBR Bullies.

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



You can show your opposition to the formulation of laws that single out specific breeds for discriminatory treatment.

This is a light T-shirt great for summer wear! Check out this shirt and other great items at our Café Press Store.

Proceeds help us in our efforts to save sweet pit bulls like Tucker.

Go to <http://www.cafepress.com/bamabully.353014641>

YARD SALES

Bama Bully Rescue would like to extend it's sincere thanks to all those who support our yard sale efforts by donating, storing and coming by to shop! We'd like to take this opportunity to express our extreme gratitude to Dr. Andrew Rozsa, for his generous donation of high-priced items, and his continued support of our mission!

Watch our website for announcements regarding upcoming yard sales in June!!

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 these pieces of art or would like more info, please contact Melinda at dayleemojoarts@earthlink.net

At right is the custom made
Dog Lover Pendent for sale:



At left is the custom made
Doggy Girl Pendent for sale

BBR on FaceBook

Bama Bully isn't just on MySpace anymore! Now you can visit us on Facebook too. Just type Bama Bully into your Facebook search on the upper right hand corner and click to add us as your friend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bully Treats

By April Durden, BBR Volunteer

When it come to buying treats for your bully, you may have a hard time trying to find something that they can chew on for more that two minutes. Chew toys are important for Bullies because sometimes they need to release some extra energy and chewing helps. Chewing is also a great way to ease separation anxiety. Here are some suggestions for doggy chews that will last a little bit longer and help with cleaning your dog's teeth.

Rawhide bones are a great way to keep your dogs teeth and gums clean. They come in a large variety of shapes, sizes and flavors, from retriever rolls, to pressed bones, to the old fashion knotted bone, so there is something for every dog's preference.

Dental bones such as Jumbones, are a great alternative for rawhide. They provide the hard outside layer that a dog needs to clean it's teeth and a soft meaty center for a yummy treat.

Smoked natural treats such as beef knuckle bones, shin bones, and beef hooves are a great all natural treat for larger dogs. They are high on protein and all natural. They can keep your dog occupied for hours.

Kong Toys are one of best ways to keep your dog occupied. They are virtually indestructible and you can choose the flavor that goes inside. Dogs will love them because they provide a challenge to get their treat. They are affordable and reusable, so they make for a great money saving treat.

Raising a Child in a Dog-friendly Home

By Jessica Hudson, Founder and Co-Director

The United States leads the world when it comes to the pet dog population. With approximately sixty one million dogs living as pets, it can be safely assumed that interactions with dogs are a fairly common occurrence, whether you own one or not. Most of us have vivid memories of a childhood pet. I certainly remember a number of four-legged best friends who went to their graves knowing my deepest secrets. Dogs are known as man's best friend, but every child should have the privilege of knowing such devotion and unconditional love. All children should therefore understand that dogs are living, breathing, feeling creatures that should be respected, protected and cared for.

Dog bites are one of the top three reasons for emergency room visits. And most children are bitten by the family dog, a relative's dog or a dog the child knows. It is my belief that practically ALL dog bites inflicted on children are preventable. We hear and see stories in the newspapers and on TV about children being attacked or bitten by dogs. Usually these stories focus on the breed of dog (especially if it remotely resembles a pit bull) and less on what preventable factors were involved.

The news also tells us far too often of young people harming, sometimes torturing animals. News such as this is disheartening and disturbing not only because an innocent animal was abused, but because of the lack of empathy and concern of the humans. If children are not taught to respect living creatures, they will grow into adults who will respect nothing.

When a family with young children decides to adopt a dog there are several things that should be considered for both the safety of the pet and the child. The first important step is to dog proof your home. This includes secure fencing, keeping electrical cords, dangerous chemicals and items that could be choking hazards properly secured. Just as you make efforts to protect your pet in every other aspect, there should be effort to create a healthy, happy co-existence for your child and dog. Here are some general tips on maintaining the safety of both in your home:

- Start before you get a dog! Be realistic about the right dog for your family. Never buy or adopt a dog on whim and be prepared for both the pros and cons of responsible dog ownership.
- Children should know to never disturb or approach a dog that is sleeping, eating or chewing a toy or bone.
- Parents should NEVER leave a child alone with a dog. Even the sweetest, most docile of family dogs can react in defense of themselves if they feel necessary.
- Parents should teach their children that some foods are dangerous to dogs. Kids love to share their treats with a furry pal, but this can also teach your dog that it's okay to snatch food from a child's hand.
- Extra precautions should be taken with older pets. When eyes and ears start to fail and joints begin to ache, children should respect that senior pets require more care and less play.
- Never allow a child to disrespect the family dog or force the pet to do things he doesn't want to do.
- Never keep your dog on a tether unsupervised or for long periods of time. A dog that is kept chained or tied up is much more likely to bite. Most bites occur out of frustration or redirection. Teach your children to NEVER approach a dog that is kept in this manner.
- Involve your children in the training of your dog. Your child will learn dog body language, anticipation and create a bonding relationship. Your dog will also learn to obey even the smallest family member.
- Socialize your dog from the beginning. Get him used to being handled all over.
- Never allow a child to walk the family dog alone. Even a small dog can pull a child down if scared or excited.
- Seek help from a professional trainer before a behavioral issue gets out of hand! Don't wait until it's too late.

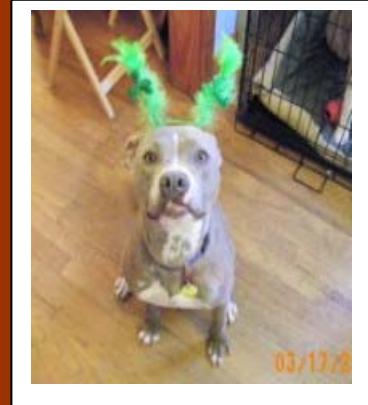
BBR April Volunteer Statistics

- Reviewed 13 Adoption Applications
- Approved 1 Adoption Applications
- Approved 1 Foster Application

Bully For You



This month, we are featuring Tucker. He is a 1-2 year old blue brindle male Pit Bull. He was picked up as a stray by an animal control officer and taken to a local shelter where he was scheduled to be euthanized because of his breed. But now he is safe.



Tucker has beautiful, expressive eyes that match his coat perfectly. He now lives in a foster home with 3 other dogs, 2 cats and a ferret, a guinea pig and a gerbil and he gets along well with all of them. He loves to run and play and loves his toys and to play tug of war. He is a mid energy level dog. He likes to run a few laps around the yard but always settles down on his own to chew on a stick or comes back when he is called. He is often playful inside but rarely rowdy. Tucker is a bit of a toy thief so he would not do well in a home with another dog that does not like to share toys.

Tucker can be a bit shy and fearful at first, especially with larger dogs but quickly warms up. He would do best in a home with someone that understands what he has been through and is willing and able work with him on increasing his confidence and learning that no one will ever treat him badly again.

Tucker had a rough start to life but has adjusted well to being spoiled in his new foster home. He is now up to 49.5 lbs and is getting more and more self confident. He is crate trained and loves his crate almost as much as he loves the couch. Baths aren't Tucker's favorite thing but he tolerates them well.

Tucker is up to date on shots, neutered and microchipped with 24 hour pet watch. You can adopt Tucker by going on line and filling out an adoption form. Go to <http://fs10.formsite.com/bamabullyrescue/form884759186/index.html>

RABIES VACINATION UPDATE

ALABAMA - Alabama Legislature OKs 3-year rabies vaccinations
Birmingham News 5/15/09

<http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/metro.ssf?/base/news/124237531679290.xml&coll=2>

Dogs and cats around Alabama could be howling a sigh of relief soon. The Alabama House of Representatives gave final approval Thursday to a proposed law that allows dog and cat rabies vaccinations once every three years. The bill goes to Gov. Bob Riley for his consideration to sign into law.

The bill passed both houses of the Alabama Legislature without a vote against it. "It's something everybody understands," Dixon said

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 241002, Montgomery, AL 36124

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

The Bully Bark! is the official internet newsletter of the
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Comments and suggestions are welcomed by the newsletter editor at
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