



Get to the Point!

Spring 2009

Lisa Spakowski- IBR Founder and President

Illinois Birdog Rescue
PO Box 364
Wood Dale, IL 60191
A 501(c)3 not-for-profit
& licensed shelter by the
IL Dept. of Agriculture.

Celebrating our 700th Rescue!

2008 Stats:

Dogs & Puppies Rescued	80
Dogs treated for Heartworm Disease	7
Dogs treated for Lyme Disease	3
Dogs treated for Ehrlichia	2
Dogs treated for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	10
Mastectomy Surgery	2



MUTTS RULE!!! In early March of this year- IBR was contacted about a little frightened Pointer mix puppy that needed a rescue out of Murfreesboro, TN. IBR has always been fond of our mixed breed rescues so we jumped into action. A week later, little Tristan arrived in foster care after

many volunteers drove 100 mile increments to get him to safety. While Tristan looked like a healthy happy puppy he did test positive for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and was treated prior to adoption.

Now more than ever, IBR has been busy trying to help as many homeless

dogs and puppies as we can. With so many families struggling to make ends meet, the family pet is often the first thing to go in a crisis. Not only are dogs being abandoned on the side of the road- but many are being left in foreclosed vacant homes.

We are early into the 2nd quarter of 2009 and IBR has already taken in nearly 40 dogs and puppies as compared to 80 for all of last year. We are hopeful our foster home system will continue to grow and that our fundraising efforts will help us save many more.

If you want to help an abandoned pet, please consider being an IBR Foster family. For more information, please contact Lisa at 630-694-1359 or email at Lisa@luckypets.net.

Points of interest!

- * New Grant Awards
- * Grant Recipients
- * Buckeye Birdog Balooza
- * IBR Garage Sale
- * Adoption Events

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

In early 2005, IBR was starting to learn more about Tick Borne illnesses. Most of the dogs we bring into foster care are hunting dogs exposed to tick infested areas in the field in rural America. We started to test dogs that seemed to be symptomatic. Back then we were only familiar with

Lyme Disease and Ehrlichia since it was tested routinely with the IDEXX 4DX Snap test. With the award of the \$5000 PetSmart Grant in 2006, we were able to expand our screening to fund blood tests that not only tested for Lyme Disease and Ehrlichia but also for Rocky

Mountain Spotted Fever. Our knowledge base of this disease was limited but were told by many DVM's that dogs afflicted either become gravely ill and die, or fight it off. Those that fight it off may show evidence of an **exposure** titer. As we continued to test our incoming dogs, patterns

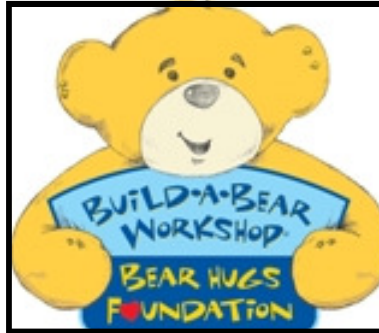
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Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation Grant

In early 2009, IBR was awarded a \$1,000 Grant from Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation to help with Emergency Vetting. Once we heard the award was coming, we immediately committed to GiGi- www.ibrgigi.blogspot.com- a senior

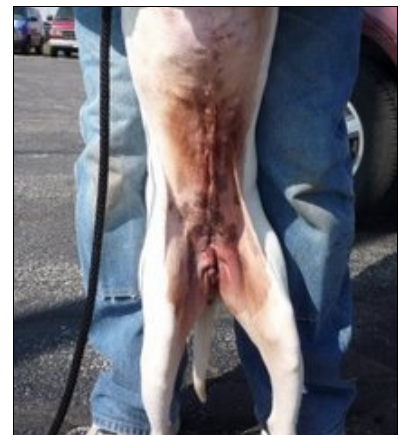


Pointer that had mammary cancer. GiGi was slated for euthanasia in an over-crowded shelter in Fairfield, IL. Once her Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever was under control, she had a major mastectomy. She suffered some post-surgical complications and had to stay at the clinic for 2 additional weeks. Her final vet bill came to over \$1,700. We are hoping our current fundraising efforts will help pay off her debt- but we are grateful to Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation for their generous grant.



The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation is committed to making life more bearable for children, families and pets in need of a helping paw. With the sale of each full-sized Bearemy's Kennel Pals® friend- a collection of Build-A-Bear Workshop® plush dogs— one dollar is donated to domestic pet programs including local animal shelter, stray pet rescue and rehabilitation organizations, and pet education programs around the country. These funds are available to qualified non-profit organizations in the United States and Canada through a quarterly grant process. Visit www.buildabear.com for more information.

GiGi before & after surgery.



Thanks to Dr. Purviance and the staff at Brookside Veterinary Hospital in Loves Park, IL for all you do to help our rescue dogs!

Greg Biffle Foundation Grant

In early February, IBR was awarded a \$1,500 Grant from the Greg Biffle Foundation for the vetting care of our rescue dogs.

The funds couldn't come at a better time as one after another the number of heartworm positive dogs coming into the rescue in the first quarter of 2009 was alarming. Heartworm disease is a highly preventable disease. A yearly test followed by monthly treatments during the mosquito season

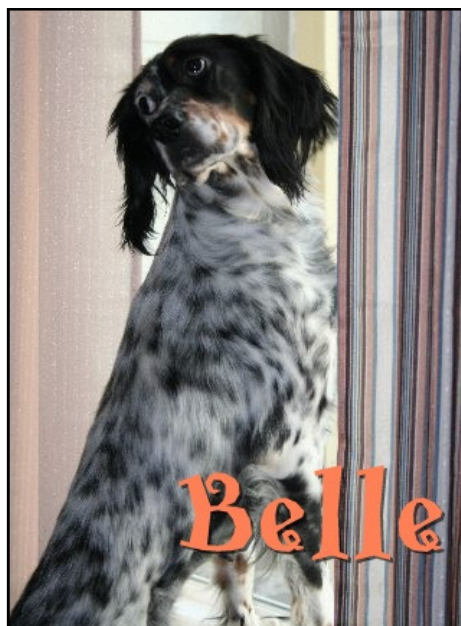
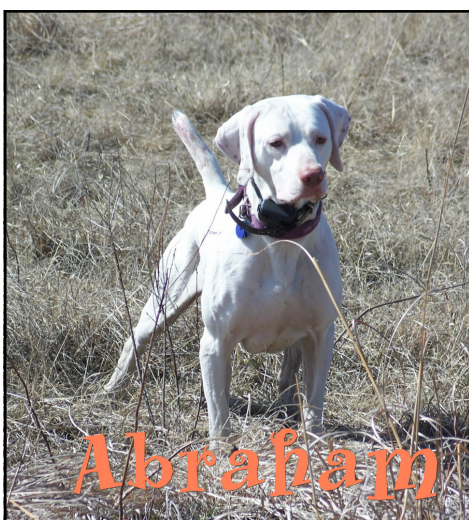
protects a dog from this devastating disease. Unfortunately many heartworm positive dogs are abandoned in shelters because of the cost associated with treatment. The average cost to treat one of our infected dogs can run from \$200 to \$500 depending on the age of the dog afflicted and the severity of the infestation. Most of these dogs are also testing positive for tick borne illnesses so extra care must be taken to make sure they are ready for treatment.

IBR has never turned its back on a heartworm diagnosis and thanks to the Animal Hospital of Gurnee, IL- is now affordable to treat.

IBR is blessed with caring foster homes who are committed to making sure these dogs are given extra TLC before and after treatment. The good news is that a heartworm diagnosis and treatment does not seem to affect the dog's chances for adoption. Four of our 8 afflicted dogs already have homes waiting.

Some of our Greg Biffle Foundation Grant Recipients

Here are a four dogs that have benefited from the Greg Biffle Foundation grant. Both Rugby and Abraham were treated and have already been adopted.



Cameron and Belle have been treated successfully and headed to their forever homes the end of April.

We are grateful to the Greg Biffle Foundation for this award and applaud their efforts to help make a difference in the life of a neglected or abused animal in need.



The Greg Biffle Foundation was founded in 2005 by Greg and Nicole Biffle to create awareness and serve as an advocate to improve the well-being of animals by engaging the power and passion of the motor sports industry. Financial support for the foundation comes from a variety of sources including individual contributions, NASCAR Pets calendars, and the sale of various racing and other sports memorabilia. Visit www.gregbifflefoundation.com for more information.

Buckeye Birddog Balooza!

Come out to the dog park with your favorite four legged friend!! Meet fellow dog lovers and find out how fun birddogs can be!! We will be having a silent auction, food, and activities, as well as information about our breeds and how you can learn about our foster care/adoption program. Dogs must bring proof of spay/neuter and vaccinations to attend. No children under 12, as the event will be held at an off-lead dog park.

Sponsored by the volunteers for IBR's satellite group- Ohio Birddog Rescue.

Please contact Susan England for more information at spaulsen1@hotmail.com



Date: Saturday, May 23, 2009
Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm
Location: www.barktildarkdogpark.com
Street: 1277 Hills Miller Road
City/Town: Delaware, OH



ohiobirddogrescue.org

Illinois Birddog Rescue
PO Box 364
Wood Dale, IL 60191

**Volunteers needed for adoption/
informational Events!!**

Contact: Anne Davis
Phone: 630-508-5831
E-mail: keeshadog@comcast.net

May 9th -- Orvis Dog Days --
Lombard , IL 11am to 3pm

**May 16th -- Du Page County Pet
Expo -- Wheaton, IL 11am to 3pm**

May 31st -- Angels With Tails --
Armitage/Chicago Noon to 4pm

**Donated items needed for the
IBR GARAGE SALE!!!**

When: May 8 & 9

**Where: 559 W. Gilbert Dr.
Wood Dale, IL 60191**

Contact: Lisa/630-694-1359

Lisa@luckypets.net

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER continued

started to emerge. Fear aggression seemed to be the most common issue we saw associated with RMSF, and upon further research we believe that this disease may cause brain damage. If left untreated, and if the dog is unable to clear the infection on its own, the damage may become irreversible.

The next issue found was many of the RMSF dogs had food allergy problems. Some had extreme issues with foods that contained too many ingredients. In the extreme cases, dogs would chew on their feet and all over their bodies. Some of these dogs would also develop chronic yeast infections on their skin— manifesting as a musky odor and a slimy coat. We think that the RMSF pathogen contributes to an impaired immune response, allowing yeast infections to get out of control. Working on that theory, many of the RMSF dogs also may develop Demodectic Mange, which is caused by mites. This infestation may become chronic as the dog's immune system is further challenged.

Another symptom of a RMSF infected dog is chronic arthritis and painful joints. This issue often gets worse in the summer months as the dog is being bit over and over by mosquitoes. The latest theory is that the onslaught of mosquito bites causes the dog's immune system to be under attack, and this allows the RMSF (which may be in remission) to come back as an active infection causing the dog to be feverish, achy and depressed. We have seen this in a few dogs already. With this in mind, we suspect that some of the conventional theories about recovery from RMSF may not be accurate .

In 2009, IBR decided to take an aggressive approach and test as many incoming rescue dogs as we could, so we could document this illness and the others that are carried by ticks. Our latest evidence shows that 85% of incoming dogs have been infected with a tick borne illness. Of the 15 positive dogs so far, 4 have been diagnosed with Lyme Disease, 2 with Ehrlichia and 11 have tested positive for Rocky

Mountain Spotted Fever (3 dogs had RMSF and either Lyme or Ehrlichia together). In consultation with our veterinarians, we are treating ALL dogs with evidence of being exposed. With our knowledge that these diseases can and do go into remission and can cause chronic illness if not treated, we feel that this is the most responsible approach.

As a rescue we are recommending that **ALL** IBR adopted dogs that have never had a tick panel done prior to adoption— have one done. This is an expensive test but worth it for the health and happiness of your adopted pet— especially if he or she is exhibiting any of the aforementioned symptoms.

Blood test codes are the following: **IDEXX 37161 or Antech SA330.** At this time, IBR has decided not to use the IDEXX 4DX Snap test for Heartworm/ Lyme/Ehrlichia as the Snap test has missed 2 heartworm positive rescue dogs and 2 dogs with Lyme and 1 with Ehrlichia in 2009.