

Save a Springer Spaniel

Peter Pinnington of Dervaig, Mull, is a member of the Northern English Springer Spaniel Rescue and has been encouraging locals to help keep the charity running. In this month's Lorn Life Peter explains why.

There is a tremendous amount of work involved in the running of a spaniel rescue organisation and without a doubt the logistics of actually collecting and delivering the animal can be one of the most problematic areas to get working smoothly.

Fortunately, most rescue organisations have forums which are the meeting place for all the people who are involved in a particular organisation and in most cases those who are providing the transport.

Quite a few rescued Springers come with what people in the business call 'baggage' which means they have problems, usually associated with their previous home and is usually why they need to be rescued or re-homed. Finding the right home for a dog can be quite difficult and in the case of Springer Spaniels can be difficult things to get right, but, the more experienced rescue centres are usually better suited to finding the right home, mainly through their years of experience in the business.

Also, most of the rescue and re-homing teams have Spaniels themselves and are aware of what these lively, energetic and faithful dogs require.

In today's world the Veterinary Surgeon's bills are going to be one of the biggest expenditures in the re-homing cycle. Nowadays most animals are spayed and neutered so they don't inbreed and provide more potentially unwanted pets in the future.

Also, there are health and temperament benefits from having these small operations done. Often Springers will be recovered from a pound or an organisation that

cannot provide the re-homing service and because they have perhaps been recovered from the streets, they will come in with various infections and nutritional problems. Veterinary bills can be in the region of £150 per animal and when you couple this with the out of pocket expenses of the home visit, it adds up to quite a significant amount. Another aspect of this voluntary service is finding long and short term foster homes.

Fund raising is the cornerstone of the finances necessary to be able to run a rescue service and although most recipients that provide homes for our spaniels do make a donation, it does not always cover the actual costs involved.

Without this vital aspect of the process, no rescue centre would be able to continually accept stray and unwanted dogs. Sponsored walks, donations, and auctions all help to add the coffers of the rescue organisations. Members often donate their time and expertise to produce works of art whilst other produce wonderful web forum graphics.

Satisfaction, at the end of the day, is the main reason that most people involved in rescue do it. To see a poor ill-treated spaniel nursed back to health and then re-homed to a good forever home, and then to see it progress and regain its confidence must be one of the greatest pleasures in life.

If you are interested in providing either temporary fostering or a permanent home for a rescued spaniel please contact Peter Pinnington on 01688 400 337.

