



IRISH SETTER RESCUE AND REHOME

Part of The Irish Red Setter Rescue Charitable Trust

CC No. 10376633

Winter 25/26 Newsletter

Welcome to our very first newsletter. We're excited to share some stories about our rescue dogs and the dedicated people who make our rescue work possible. We're hoping to make this a regular thing, so look out for future editions on our website and Facebook page.

If you have any articles you'd like us to include, or an update about your rescue dog, please don't hesitate to contact us. We'd be happy to try to fit it in. We'd love to hear your thoughts on what you'd like to see or not see in future newsletters. Your feedback is important to us!

By the way, we'll be at **Crufts on Gundog day, Sunday, March 8th**, next to the Irish Setter Ring. It'd be lovely to meet you there! Don't forget about our famous **Matlock walk on Sunday May 3rd** – Save the Date. More details to follow.



Can you Help Us? We are looking for volunteers to join our small team.

We need people to help with various tasks such as driving, fostering dogs and administrative work, helping to write articles for our website for example. This could also include phone calls to ensure that everyone who contacts us receives timely and personalised responses.

We've never had more dogs needing our help now than in recent years. We would particularly appreciate volunteers who could assess our dogs but don't want to keep them themselves.

We are a small group, supported by dedicated Trustees. Even if you haven't done rescue work before, if you have some time and a good knowledge of Irish Setters across different ages we would love to hear from you. You can contact our secretary at admin@israndr.net. Please put volunteer in your email's title.

A Day in the Life of a Volunteer

It's been a difficult week. Rescue dogs don't know it's Christmas and our most recent lad arrived with a shopping list of problems that needed to be addressed gradually. He was distant and wary of everyone but, over the week, he's decided that I'm okay and follows me everywhere, keeping me in his sight. At times, I've lain awake worrying about him, wondering what was going on. Big nasty infections and dentals were taking their toll, step by step. Thankfully, our lovely vet is helping us again.

This morning he wouldn't eat again. He's 6kg underweight, perpetually cold and his Equafleece does nothing to disguise his bones. I took him to a secure field hoping he would stretch those weak legs. I didn't expect much, but you have to try. My own Irish setter was enjoying the big muddy puddle, while the scared rescue boy just stood shivering by my side.

I let him off the lead and it took a while for him to realise he was free. Looking at me one more time, he took tentative steps and then ran. He has no muscle in his legs and is severely underweight, so he slipped and fell, but he got up and tried again and again. He manages only 5 minutes before coming back. Baby steps.

This is why we do rescue work. People think we are the good ones, but they are wrong. It never fails to amaze me how brave these dogs are. The sleepless nights of worry are forgotten for now.

I go home, wash the mud off the boy, carefully bundle him up so he's warm enough and coax him to eat some.

Upstairs in the study, I'm joined by 3 Irish setters: 2 cuddled up on the daybed and one curled up under the radiator.

And then the phone rings. Another dog needs our help.

I realise that the young dog who has just learnt to trust me and walks in my shadow will soon move on, and another will take his place on my sofa.

Not every day is like this. This particular lad has been a worry more than most.

The days end with paperwork, catching up on emails, sorting my admin and a catch-up with the Rescue Liaison Trustee.

A phone call from a lady who has lost both of her Irish setters in a few months. I listened attentively as she shared stories about them and the immense hole they've left in her life. Unfortunately, we all know that feeling. While I can't bring her dogs back, I can give her my time and support willingly.

Feeling tired, I closed the iPad and looked over at my own dogs snoring peacefully. The rescue lad had fallen asleep with his head on my feet.

I have a list of articles to write for the yearbook, Facebook posts to make and website updates to do. But I don't have the time.



Janice Roberts-Oldham dog. "Betty"



Betty came into rescue with her best friend Nora due to the owner's sudden ill health. This dedicated lady had entrusted her dogs to someone else and unfortunately they hadn't been getting the care and attention they needed. Betty was an older girl in very poor condition. Back legs that could barely hold her weight, a mouth full of decay and a thinning coat.

Sometimes dogs need to go straight to the vet when we pick them up, and this was one of those cases. Luckily our wonderful vet Richard fitted her in as an emergency on a Sunday and provided some much needed pain relief so she could settle into her foster home before she went back to the vet for a full check up on the Monday. Over that weekend Betty only did 2 things, drink, and wee.

Monday soon came and we were worried that she might have Cushing disease. Our vet agreed and did the testing immediately. She also had the most dreadful tooth decay as did Nora. Betty was incredibly brave and had the loveliest nature and it was clear that she still had the will to live. We decided to try to help her despite how poorly she was. A gentle bath was urgently needed and Betty lay down in a full bath of warm water which she really enjoyed.

The next day the vet called with the confirmation that she did have Cushings Disease and she was started on Vetoryl. The transformation was almost immediate.

Betty continued to thrive and improve, and had her dental treatment to remove over 20 teeth. She was feeling much much better. The anaesthetic risk was not insignificant but her teeth were so bad we couldn't leave her in that much pain.



We rehomed Betty with Nora so they could stay together as we had promised their original owner. Betty sadly died in her sleep recently. Nora is still as cheeky as she ever was and we are very grateful to the lovely gentleman who gave them an amazing loving home where they could live out their days in comfort being spoilt. Betty was still enjoying 3 walks a day only days before she passed away.



Experience as a Fosterer

We've fostered Irish Setters for Irish Setter Rescue and Rehome 5 or 6 times now, when we were first asked if we could foster we didn't hesitate, having loved the breed and shared our life with them for 50 years. ISR&R is a well run charity and foster dogs don't stay very long, as they are checking out forever homes for each dog.

The first dog we had wouldn't have a door closed on him, this took a while to work out, eventually Dave slept in the living room beside him and a good night's sleep was had by all.



The second dog could do an amazing "hide" trick, we were so impressed and also sad that the person that trained him had to let him go. Always a tear in our eye when after a few weeks they went on to their permanent places. But absolutely assured that the very best home had been found for that particular dog.

We are told that they "decompress" with us? We're very pleased but not sure how it occurs, ours is a home with 2 Irish now and a rescue and a rescue English setter ex hunting dog from Italy. We've been fostering cats for 30 years (albeit the rescues are in cattery pens in the garden) and Mog who really thinks he's a dog and will play rough with

any dog and then curl up with them in the basket alongside it.

We are of course failed fosterers as our last one a young female stole the heart of our 5 year old Finn and they ran and played together, we couldn't bear to part them, he would have been inconsolable. She's mad as a hatter but we love her.

Fostering is so rewarding, knowing that we've helped one of these amazing dogs on their journey is a privilege and a joy

Many thanks to all at the rescue for their unstinting work to help these dogs



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