

## **WELSH SPRINGER SPANIEL RESCUE GUIDELINES**

### **What constitutes a Rescue Animal?**

Welsh Springer Spaniels in the following situations:

1. Immediate peril
2. Strays
3. Relinquished to shelters
4. When breeders refuse to take the dog back or give strong support to the owner.

Any dog that cannot stay in its present home that the breeder does not take full responsibility for or any Welsh springer spaniel of unknown origin is considered a rescue dog.

### **Guidelines for the Rescue Committee**

1. To help placeable Welsh Springer Spaniels who are unwanted, abandoned or are victims of inhuman treatment or subject to an uncertain fate find good and loving homes;
2. To coordinate and assist the efforts of committee personnel and WSSCA members in the rescue of Welsh springer spaniels in their area;
3. To provide financial assistance with the rescue effort when the guidelines for rescue are met;
4. To educate potential adoptive owners about the Welsh Springer Spaniels and their special requirements to ensure an educated decision in adopting this breed;
5. To keep statistics on Welsh Springer Spaniels that get into the rescue system;
6. To educate animal control officers and shelter staff on how to identify a Welsh springer spaniel;
7. To encourage the policy that final responsibility for any Welsh Springer Spaniel that needs a home lies with the breeder(s), this responsibility is for the life of the dog, no matter what the circumstances.

### **Funding For Rescue**

Rescue money will be collected annually, with dues, on a voluntary basis. If needed, a special appeal for funds may also be a funding source. Money collected for rescue will be used toward the direct costs in rescuing dog and the reasonable reimbursement of medical fees and impoundment fees. Rescue is a volunteer function of the WSSCA. As the word "volunteer" implies, certain sacrifices should be expected.

Telephone and gasoline expenses should be donated by each volunteer member in the spirit of the rescue program. However, in the event that extensive travel or calls are necessary, the WSSCA will reimburse the member, if a request for reimbursement is made.

## **Reimbursement**

The WSSCA Guidelines must be followed in order to be eligible for reimbursement. Any major deviation must be presented and approved by the Rescue Committee prior to reimbursement;

1. Request for reimbursement will be sent to the Chairperson of the Rescue Committee, who will review and submit the approved reimbursement request to the treasurer.
2. All items for reimbursement must be documented, showing receipts for services. No money will be reimbursed without receipts or some type of clear documentation of expenses.
3. A maximum of **\$500.00** in expenditures will be reimbursed for each dog unless special circumstances have been approved by the Board of Directors and Treasurer.
4. Reimbursements will be paid for dogs that must be bought from Humane Societies or Shelters.

## **Welsh Springer Spaniel Identification**

All dogs must be properly identified as Welsh Springer Spaniels to the best of the Rescue Committee's knowledge. If a dog is found without positive breed identification (registration papers or known breeding) it is suggested that a team of three Welsh Springer spaniel owners/breeders evaluate the dog (either in person or by photographs), if possible, and when the time to be taken for this identification does not place the dog in danger of imminent euthanasia. If there is any question regarding the dog's heredity, the team should give the dog the benefit of the doubt. It is better to rescue a possible Welsh springer spaniel cross than to leave an untypey purebred Welsh springer spaniel behind.

Should a dog be determined not to be a purebred Welsh Springer Spaniel following removal from an animal shelter, rescue group or control center, the WSSCA Rescue Committee Chairperson will attempt to transfer the dog to an appropriate breed rescue group (i.e. Brittany Rescue, English Setter Rescue, English Springer Spaniel rescue, etc.). If the appropriate breed rescue group does not have room to take the dog in to their foster home program, a WSSCA member will be asked to foster the dog in the interim and the WSSCA Rescue Committee Chairperson will work with the appropriate breed rescue group to secure a forever home placement with someone seeking that breed. This will typically involve helping the appropriate breed rescue with photos, website information for posting and screening potential adopters.

Should a rescued dog be determined to be a mixed breed animal, the WSSCA Rescue Coordinator will attempt to seek foster care and adoptive placement with an all-breed rescue group in the area that the dog has been found and rescued in. If an all-breed rescue group is not immediately available at the time of the dog's rescue, WSSCA will continue to care for the dog until such time as it can be transferred to the care and control an appropriate all-breed rescue group.

## Medical

1. Dogs that become part of the rescue program should be spayed or neutered. However, each case must be evaluated on an individual basis. If the decision is made to spay/neuter, then it is to be done with money from the Rescue Fund and before the animal is adopted into a new home.

2. Inoculations for Rabies, DHLPP booster and Bordatella are required and will be paid from the Rescue Fund.

3. Heartworm testing and initial preventative medication will be paid from the Rescue Fund.

4. Routine worming that covers all types of internal parasites will be paid from the Rescue Fund. 5.

Major medical expenses must have prior approval by the Board of Directors and Treasurer for reimbursement. This includes treatment of heartworm positive dogs, radiographs, blood work and so forth.

6. When a dog is rescued and his/her vaccination status is questionable or unknown, WSSCA will reimburse all charges for up to fourteen consecutive days of veterinary care and boarding in order to reduce the risk to any dogs in the designated foster care home.

## Emotional/Treatment Status of Animal

The dog must be of stable temperament and without any serious chronic behavior problem. The dog must be considered adoptable and desirable as a family companion for even a novice pet owner. Any rehabilitation and/or needed training should be attainable by a novice owner. If the animal is in a foster home, that home should start the rehabilitation when possible as it is then possible to learn more about the depth of any problem and the corrective work that may be required. The dog MUST NOT have a history of biting, snapping or acting aggressively or being excessively fearful towards people. It should not be aggressive towards or with other dogs. **NO DOG SHALL BE PLACED THAT HAS A HISTORY OF BITING.** This dog should be humanely euthanized at Rescue's expense.

## Foster Care

The best situation for the rescue dog is to be placed in a loving foster home until a permanent home may be found. This way, the personality traits, house behavior and reaction to everyday situations of the dog may be observed and any problems noted. The animal should be observed and evaluated for a minimum of 2 weeks, giving the dog adequate time to adjust to new surroundings so that the true behavior and personality may be observed. If a dog must be boarded at a commercial kennel, the Rescue Fund will pay up to \$12.00 per day for a maximum of 2 weeks (14 days).

## Adoption Criteria

1. The prospective owners should be personally interviewed and a home visit conducted when possible. The interview should be an in-depth process designed to educate the

individual(s) on owning a Welsh springer spaniel, as well as to evaluate the lifestyle of the prospective owner(s) and plans for the dog. Past dog ownership history and personal views on companion dogs must be explored when evaluating a potential home.

2. It is recommended that the individual meet the dog and then wait to think about the decision for 24 to 48 hours before adopting the dog. This helps prevent emotional impulse adoptions. Prospective owners who are committed will make a second trip to acquire the dog.

3. An adoption questionnaire must be filled out. A written agreement **MUST** be signed by the prospective owner and witnessed. This agreement releases the WSSCA and person conducting the adoption from any liability; forbids the owner from transferring ownership without contacting the Rescue Committee; prohibits the sale or donation of the dog to a person or corporation for experimental research; specifies that the dog will live as a family pet with its emotional needs met and states that the person will provide humane care and treatment including regular care for the dog. The adoption agreement must also require the owner to license the dog yearly, follow local pet regulations and not allow the dog to roam freely.

4. A mandatory adoption donation of \$400.00 is to be collected at the time of adoption. The check should be made out to the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc. The purpose of the adoption fee is an indication of the new owner's commitment to the dog and to replenish the Rescue Fund for the next dog. An owner that cannot afford a reasonable adoption donation cannot afford to maintain a dog properly.

**The Rescue Committee's responsibility toward the new owner is to provide:**

1. Documentation of all medical care, including Rabies vaccination certificate.
2. General information about the dog's age, where found, history and so forth.
3. Guidelines for feeding and general care.
4. Any observed behaviors, rehabilitation guidelines, if needed, and a general statement about the adjustment period for re-homing.
5. Names and telephone numbers of local WSSCA and Rescue Committee members to contact with questions or concerns.
6. A copy of the signed agreement.
7. After adoption, quarterly follow-up calls and/or visits should be made to check on the progress of the dog for a period of one year. Thereafter, a yearly check is sufficient.

**Rescue of Puppy Mill Sales/Auction/Charity Raffle Dogs**

The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America will not, as an organization, endorse the purchase of any dogs offered through puppy mill sales, auctions and/or charity raffles as the funds spent in the rescue effort may be further used by the seller/auctioneer to continue those efforts that have been deemed not to be in the best interest of the dog(s).

**For more information, contact the WSSCA Rescue Committee Chairperson.**