



Homes for dogs through Blue Moon Rescue

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Record Staff

BECKSTEAD RD — On February 5, Blue Moon Rescue is organizing a Valentine's pet photo session at 95 Erin Ave. Chesterville, to raise funds for rescue dogs.

Located in the Thompson subdivision, the photo session starts at 10 a.m. and runs to 3 p.m.

"We'll have a box draped with fabric. The décor is pink and we'll have hearts. We had a ball at Christmas," says Lorraine Marchand, the founder of Blue Moon Rescue, who organized pet pictures with Santa at Pet Valu in Winchester in December, 2010.

"At Christmas a couple dressed their two senior beagles in pajamas like prisoners wear. They were adorable with stripes on. Someone will do face painting for kids and the groomer will do face touch ups on the dogs," she adds.

Marchand hopes this session, one out of four a year, will raise money for the dogs' operations.

Marchand used to work at the Montreal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and is a professional dog trainer.

She has been rescuing homeless dogs since 1986 and founded Blue Moon Rescue in 2006. The organization has been accepted as a member of Helping Homeless Pets.

Although Blue Moon Rescue is not a registered charity, it is non-profit and the umbrella organization is a Canadian registered charity that issues tax receipts to affiliated organizations.

It operates with a code of ethics on how the dogs and the adopters should be treated.

Marchand found Tippy, a six-to-seven year old beagle on a free pet website.

"Not much good can happen to a beagle that is offered for free. Usually



Lorraine Marchand bad things happen to them, like hunters who take them and put them in kennels all year and let them out once a year," she says.

But now that Tippy is with Alan and Vicki Muir who are foster parents with Blue Moon, he has a much better chance of finding a good permanent home.

"Once I made a connection with Blue Moon, I knew they would be the one to work with, since I could tell that Lorraine has a true love for the dogs and is always working in their best interest," Vicki explains.

"Fostering gives me a chance to enjoy new/different dogs while making sure that they're safe and cared for while they wait for adoption," Muir adds

"Our own dog is a senior and we know he won't be around forever, so we're also enjoying fostering as a way to 'test drive' a possible new addition to our family."

About half the canines with Blue Moon are from SD&G. Others are from Montreal, Ottawa and sometimes the U.S. Marchand has also helped homeless dogs affected by the terrible flooding in Tennessee and Kentucky in 2010.

Many of the rescues are beagles or hounds.

"They need a lot of help. Locally, that is what people find disposable. We bred them to follow their noses, but people don't take the

trouble to contain them," she said.

The Muirs are also looking after Sammy, a cuddly Labrador Retriever mix.

"We don't know what happened to Sammy. Someone was really mean to this little dog. He has pellets all over inside and someone shot at him with a real gun, because he has a bullet in his ribs," Marchand says.

Marchand adds these are not going to cause the dog a problem, but he has hip displasia from a trauma that may be the result of being hit by a car or a baseball bat.

"They didn't take him to the vet," she says.

While Marchand does not operate a physical shelter, she has a network of screened volunteers who look after the dogs until they are adopted.

"At minimum, they teach them house manners, refresh their potty training and give them lots of love. If they can, they do a bit more training and then the dog is adopted by the permanent family."

Marchand describes her operation as very small. The year 2010 was the first time Blue Moon had volunteers and before then, it was a one-woman show.

Last year, Blue Moon received five dogs in need of medical help totalling an estimated \$8,000. A couple of dogs have already had surgery, but three need medical help worth about \$4,500.

Marchand is looking after another rescue, Lizzie, probably a Basenji mix, who needs surgery for hip displasia likely caused by trauma.

Sammy has already undergone the preliminary x-rays and consultation. Lizzie's hip displasia is not as noticeable, but without the surgery, she will not be able to walk by age four to five, Marchand says.

Tippy is a calm, slightly

independent beagle about six to seven years old and in need of dental work. But this can happen after his adoption, Marchand says.

"These dogs will go very easily, Sammy especially. He's just a little sweetheart. Lizzie is very active and needs a lot of running. Tippy is also a very good boy, just a little more independent," she said.

"When people adopt from Blue Moon Rescue, they know we'll tell them everything we know about the dog. We'll give good post adoption service, says Marchand.

That service can go as far as helping to pay for the surgery they need now.

"We'd like to get them to their new home. Then we do the surgery. That doesn't stop people from adopting them."

Right now, Blue Moon Rescue has between seven to eight adoptable dogs awaiting permanent families. To date, the organization has found homes for about 60 dogs, with the farthest adopters in Hamilton, Arnprior and in Maine.

All the rescue dogs have been vaccinated, have microchips and are neutered or spayed, unless they are too old for the procedure.

If there are any post adoption behavioural problems, Blue Moon assists with training.

For now, Blue Moon Rescue focuses its efforts on dogs, although a couple of cats on the website www.bluemoonrescue.petfinder.org were adopted by their foster families.

"If we had any more volunteers, we could branch out into other species. Right now we don't have enough volunteers even just for the dogs," Marchand states.

If anyone is interested in an adoption or helping in any way, they can contact Marchand at 613-984-1450 bluemoonrescue@gmail.com