ATRA 2007 Year End Report

2007 was quite a year. We ended the year rescuing 292 Airedales who passed through our hands and on to happy, new lives. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and volunteers, we have been able to help each and every one. Let me introduce you to some of them.

Diamond

The ATRA volunteer who picked Diamond up from her surrendering family noticed one eye was glazed over and bulging. Diamond then was taken to an ophthalmologist to have that eye evaluated. The first diagnosis was glaucoma. Upon further examination, the real culprit was found to be a tumor that had grown behind her eye. The good news was this tumor was contained and easily removable. To do this, Diamond's eye would have to be removed and a prosthetic would take its place to fill the socket. Her eyelid would be permanently sewn shut. Diamond will always seem as though she is giving you a knowing wink. Additional x-rays were done, to be assured that this cancer had not spread and this truly would be the very best option for Diamond. It was determined it definitely was the best course of action. ATRA has taken care of everything necessary to get Diamond on the road to recovery, with a bright future.

Tasha

Tasha came into rescue needing to have a tumor removed from her ear. Once recovered from that surgery, she still did not feel right. She began to lose weight and had blood in her stool. Cancer was ruled out and exploratory surgery was done. The findings? She had a 3-inch long piece of corn cob in her belly that had been there for a while. It didn't take her long to return to a bouncy Airedale after that. She is now in her forever home ruling the roost.

Max

Max was one of 10 puppies that came into rescue in Kansas. He was placed into a home where he managed to escape from his yard and get hit by a car. Attempts were made to save his leg, but it was not to be. The nerves were damaged and Max did not attempt to use it at all. ATRA finally had to have it removed to give him a more normal life.

Max now lives with a wonderful mom who is taking him through the training to be a therapy dog. Once he completes his training, he will get to visit the VA hospital and show some of the amputees that life can be great on only one leg – or three in his case.

Watson

Watson came into rescue with large patches of his hair missing. His skin was bleeding in places he had scratched. He was miserable. It was up to ATRA to try to help this poor boy. It didn't take long. One smart vet caught what all had missed – demodectic mange. As the treatment was started, everyone held their breath that it would finally provide Watson some relief. It did! It has taken months of treatment to cure Watson's problem, but he is now a much happier boy.

Banjo

Banjo was one of three dogs that came into ATRA's care that had apparently been hit by a car some time earlier and then healed without proper treatment. Banjo was in a great deal of pain when we first saw him and he needed to have surgery immediately to properly fix the damage. After six weeks of changing bandages and soaking his leg four times a day along with physical therapy, Banjo is once again a happy Airedale.

Tucker

Tucker was found running with a broken cable padlocked to his collar. He was the sweetest boy, but what we found was horrible. He had an inverted eyelid that needed to be corrected, but worst of all, all of his front teeth were missing and he had a cracked canine that needed to be removed. He had a lot of hair missing from his back and legs. It was determined that this was due to thyroid problems. Tucker was so grateful to ATRA for treating all of his woes.

Bentley

Bentley is part of another litter ATRA took in from a puppy mill situation that turned out to have a lot of orthopedic problems. He not only has hip dysplasia, but he has elbow dysplasia as well. He has already had surgery to correct his elbows, but is still facing surgery for his hips. Some of his four litter mates are also having problems.

These are only a few of the special dogs that ATRA was able to help in 2007 because of supporters like you…dogs whose futures were bleak.

Besides our dedication and commitment to homeless Airedales, ATRA has continued to move forward in other areas of rescue. Our new Web site has continued to grow and has received high reviews. We have expanded the site to include stories and information about many different aspects of Airedales and rescue. You can now read stories about our seniors written by the wonderful families who adopted them. There are also stories from our foster homes and stories about experiences of living with an Airedale who needed surgery, medical treatment or perhaps had behavior problems. A "Donate" button was put on the home page in a square dedicated to ways to donate to ATRA.

Volunteer meetings were held in three different areas of ATRA to talk with the volunteers about all aspects of rescue. Our Volunteer Guides were printed and distributed to volunteers to help explain the job of rescue. An on-line training program is being developed as a tool.

We started the Gold Star program to help promote the adoptions of our seniors or harder-to-place Airedales. We have moved Annette's Airelooms, our Airedale shop, to a higher level and orders have greatly increased.

In addition, we also accomplished the following:

- We installed a new, more flexible database.
- We began using FirstGiving as a fundraising tool
- We attended the Midwest Rescue Conference put on by Basset Rescue and came away with lots of ideas
- We participated in a Corvette raffle run by Basset rescue for additional revenue
- We started the Foster Committee to brainstorm and implement ideas to get new fosters and help our current ones
- We set up e-mail addresses through our Web site for volunteers, groups of volunteers and committees to make it more professional and easier to contact them.
- We did a special 8-page printing about fostering to hopefully attract new foster homes.
- We streamlined the form for microchips and improved microchip reporting
- We continued to support Goldie using special funds raised for her expenses
- We had a fantastic Fall fundraising season and raised more than in any other year.

We developed a data and software policy and all people with access to our database or the ability to update our Web site have signed the policy agreement.
We started a new coordinators e-mail list with googlegroups with less advertising and more powerful tools that can be used for rescue
We offered our help if needed for any Airedales affected by the California wildfires
We continued to hold e-bay auctions throughout the year for fundraising

In 2008 we are looking to start a senior fund to help adopters of our senior Airedales with some of the vet care associated with being a senior. We have plans to expand our database to include our dog census. The Airedale Gala will make its debut. Most importantly, we plan to continue providing very best care, treatment and love to all of the homeless Airedales who come our way so they can be happy in their new homes.

Sincerely,

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