

## **HOW THE RESCUE OPERATES FOR THE PYRENEAN MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

### **Objectives**

1. To take such actions that are in the best interests of Pyrenean Mountain Dogs in need of new homes.
2. To find new homes with suitable new owners as soon as practically possible.

### **Taking dogs in to Rescue.**

On being contacted by an owner seeking to have a dog found a new home the following questions are asked.

1. Have you contacted the breeder of the dog?
2. If so was the breeder able to help?
3. If not able to help did the breeder give reason for being unable to help?
4. Often we are told that the breeder is not known for a variety of reasons.
5. Occasionally the owner of the dog does not want the dog to go back to the breeder. In this instance the wishes of the owner are respected.

If we find that the only option available is to consider taking the dog into rescue we will ask several other questions, some of which I detail below.

1. Could you tell me why you can no longer keep the dog?
2. How old is the dog?
3. Has the dog been neutered?
4. Has the dog got any health problems?
5. Has the dog any behavioral problems?
6. Any other questions that seem relevant at the time.

If the owner still wants the dog to come to rescue they are informed that they will need to arrange to bring the dog to us and bring any relevant documentation such as vaccination cards etc.

When the dog is brought to us we ask the owner to complete a questionnaire about the dog and to complete the hand over form.

**Once the hand over document is completed and signed by the owner of the dog, the dog becomes the property of the club and after assessment of the dog we are free to take whatever steps are deemed necessary.**

At the AGM in 2016 it was decided that rescue dogs shall be neutered before they go to new homes unless advised by our vet that neutering would not be the right course of action.

When the dog has been assessed in kennels it is then neutered if required.

If we have a list of potential owners we will make contact and discuss the possibility of the dog being adopted by them. Often we find that they have either bought a puppy or taken on a different breed, or simply changed their minds. However, some are still keen to take on a rescue dog so the adoption process is started.

If we have nobody on our list we then have details of the dog posted on the club web site and in the Newsletter.

Interested parties are then able to contact us to discuss whether or not they may be suitable adoptees.

**Sometimes we are able to find suitable homes without the need for dogs to come in to Rescue. If we know of someone, usually an experienced PMD owner, who is looking to take on a new dog, we can put them in touch with the person seeking to find a new home for their dog. We leave them to make their own arrangements thus avoiding direct involvement by Rescue and subsequently no cost to the rescue fund.**

## **The adoption process.**

When a prospective adoptee makes contact with us we ask a number of questions in order to get a feel for their suitability or otherwise.

1. Have you had Pyrenean Mountain Dogs before?
2. If not we ask what breeds they have had in the past.
3. Have you any other dogs or other animals?
4. Have you children at home?
5. How long would the dog be left alone each day?
6. Where do you live and what size is your garden?
7. Any other questions that seem relevant at the time.

If they have not had the breed before they are subjected to a detailed explanation of how our breed is different from other breeds. They are also recommended to go to the club web site and research about the breed. They are also informed that they will need to have a visit from a club member to assess the suitability of their property.

Those who are experienced PMD owners are not visited unless we feel it to be necessary.

If they are considered to be suitable they are asked to visit the kennels and bring their other dog if they have one. At this point they are informed of the donation required.

On arrival at the kennels they are introduced to the dog and invited to take it for a walk in order to see how they get on with it. It is not unknown for a dog to be nervous around new people or to take a dislike to another dog.

Assuming that the bonding session goes well and that both the potential new owners and we are happy the dog can be taken home the same day. It would be unreasonable to ask someone to drive hundreds of miles, in most cases, to come back another day to collect the dog.

The adoption form is completed and the donation taken. Any relevant documents are handed to the new owner together with a small amount of food so that diet can be changed gradually. **We do not pass on KC registration documents unless asked to do so by the person handing the dog to rescue.**

**Lisa Holmes**

**[lisjoviapyreneans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lisjoviapyreneans@hotmail.co.uk)**