



Bully Times

Newsletter of the Bull Terrier Club of Dallas

November 2010

November Meeting — Chili Cook-Off Set for Saturday, November 13th!

Dallas — Mark your calendar and break out your favorite chili recipe, the November Meeting and Third-Annual BTCD Chili Cooking competition is set for Saturday, November 13. The official meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and will be followed by chili tasting and other fun.

Here's what you need to know:

RSVP to 214-773-8901 or btcdallas@hotmail.com

- If you're entering the competition, we can accommodate some preparation on site, but you'll need to bring your own electric warmer and serving utensils.
- If chili's not your thing, corn bread is always in demand, as well as any other dessert.
- Winners will be determined by a simple voting process, prizes will be awarded.

Meeting content will include developing reports on our plans for the 2011 Specialty. We've finalized the Judges panel (thank you Chairperson Miriam Hopkins and committee) the Hotel contract is in place (thank you Rachael Bourque) and Show Chairman Joanne Taft is making final submissions for the Premium List, issued through the Texas Combined Specialty Association (thanks Joanne.) The Trophy list has been finalized (thank you Trophy Chairperson Glenna

Wright) and you'll have the chance to hear more about how to support that ongoing effort. Hospitality and Banquet plans are almost final (thank you Chairperson Babe Watts.)

This year is going to be a special time for us all with the BTCA Floating Specialty being held in conjunction with our own show (thank you BTCA!)

We'll also have reports from Members who attended Silverwood. Rescue activity of late has been fun and exciting, there are good dogs out there that need all our support. Hear about our new effort to partner with PETCO for rescue and the new online adoption application.

So, we've just passed the mid-way point in our Club Year signaling the time to kick off next year's membership drive. Members watch for the renewal form in the mail soon (thank you Treasurer May Ross.)

We'll also hear a recap of our 2010 Know Your Breeder, Responsible Dog Ownership Day, hosted by Plano Animal Services. We sure appreciate their ongoing vote of confidence

See Page 2 for more details

2010 Club Officers and Board Members

Officers:

Kevin Cox
Babe Watts
Joanne Taft
May Ross



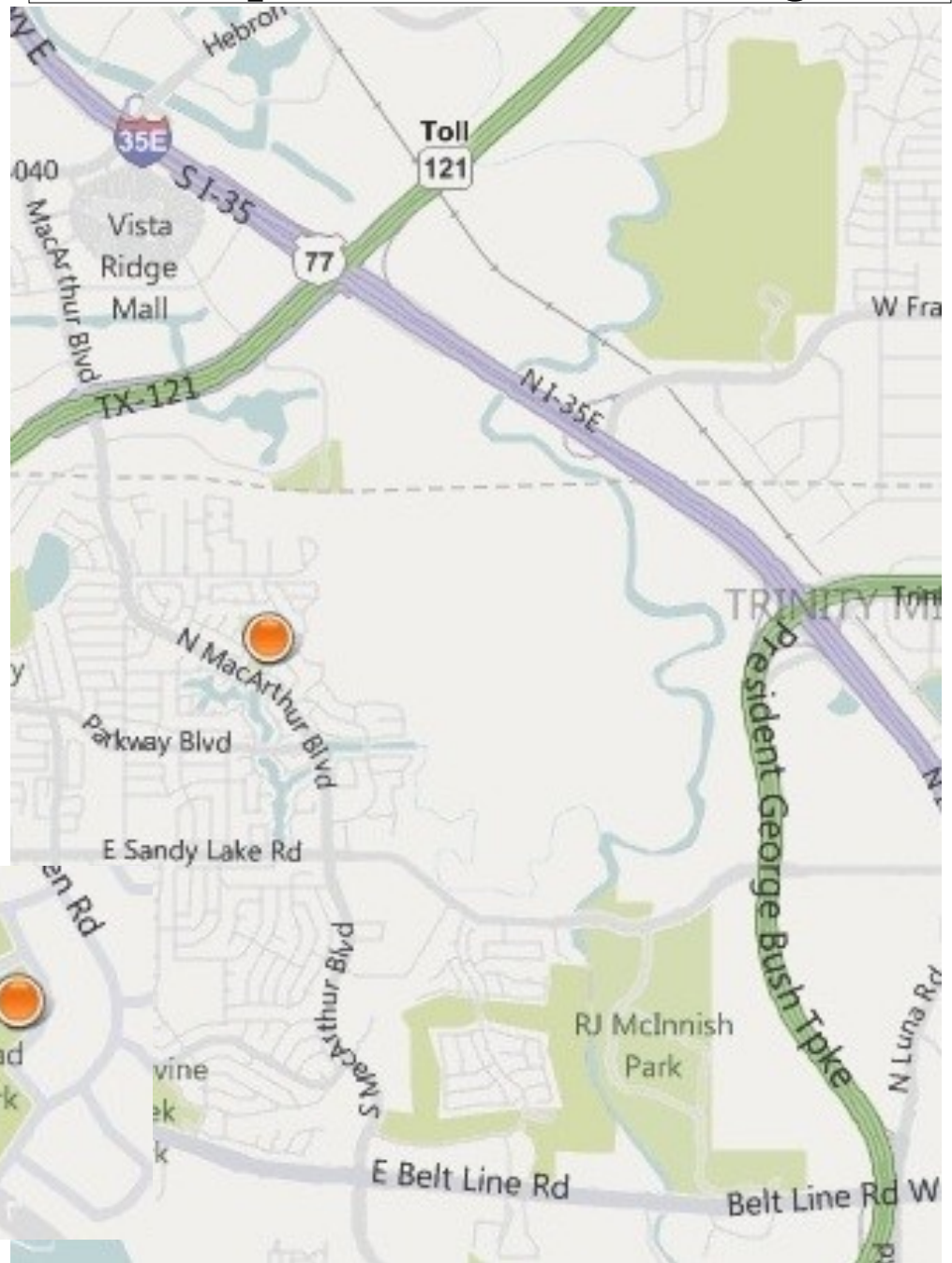
Board Members:

Brian Bourque
Miriam Hopkins
Glenna Wright

Stay current with the Bull
Terrier Club of Dallas at:
www.btcdallas.com

Location:
621 Andover Lane
Coppell, Texas 75019

Map to November Meeting



MacArthur Blvd. runs from South Irving well up into Lewisville. Using I-35 as your main thoroughfare, coming from the North, you can easily access MacArthur where it intersects State Highway 121, then go South. If you are coming from the South, you can exit Sandy Lake Road and then turn North on MacArthur.

Off MacArthur turn on to Allen Road (at Allen Road Park) which features a canal that appears on both sides of this intersection. Once on Allen Road, you'll take the immediate (left turn) onto Andover Lane, which soon veers to the right and then opens up into a wide circle. 621 is on left side half of the circle, the house in the middle. Park anywhere in the circle, approach the front door and look for the wooden fence entry on the left, entering the backyard. RSVP 214-773-8901

CODE BLACK: The Culture of Silence Threatening the Bull Terrier Breed Today

If our dogs could talk I am sure they'd have lots to say; how rare they like their steak; how often they like their bedding washed, and of course, explaining how much a better companion they'd be if the neighbor's dog wasn't such a yapping, pain in the rear. Who knows, maybe they would even apologize for all those hucklebutts! But most of all, I believe they'd speak up and end what we have come to regret as a Culture of Silence squelching the conversations we all need to having about the breed today.

As Bull Terrier enthusiasts, we've all encountered it at some point, whether in search of information about a dog we've owned, or attempting to help someone else do the same. Individuals and Volunteers alike, who support the BTCD's rescue program, agree we're at a point where our biggest concern isn't caring for the dogs, it's the lack of information on the dogs we are dealing with.

Each year the BTCD selects approximately 40 dogs for admittance into its rescue program and provides services to many others, across North Texas, North Louisiana, Oklahoma as well as into New Mexico and beyond. Our Volunteers have done outstanding work securing and caring for Bull Terriers, but we fall short time after time because we lack information on the dog's background.

But it's not for trying. You see in 2009 our research began to show patterns of dogs entering rescue. For example, in the City of Irving we have seen a pattern of black and white dogs come through the local shelter.

With so much physical evidence in our hands, the desire to trace these dogs back to their origins is becoming more critical to our overall mission. Here's why:

We are in somewhat of a crisis; demonstrated by the extreme variances we are seeing in quality of the dogs and more importantly, the lack of discerning information in the hands of the general Bull Terrier ownership and prospective owner population.

Time and time again we are forced into a support role as owners come to us in crisis. Besides the frustration of realizing they overpaid for the animal, they are in possession of a dog that is not suited to their family - too edgy and aggressive or sick with mounting vet bills.

As part of the BTCD's attempts to connect the dots between "found" dogs and their point of origin, we have built and maintain a database of breeders and owners. Currently we are regularly communicating with approximately 70 breeders across the region and hundreds of owners. With the Breeder community, in most cases the communication is one way. In a few instances we have established back-and-forth dialogue with breeders, but currently it's a very small minority who interact with the Club.

Documenting our work with these wayward dogs, linking dogs to owners and breeders, is one of the most important aspects of our Rescue operation, and we are making progress uniting the overall community.

However, the Culture of Silence, maintained by breeders and owners alike works against all owners and certainly against the future viability of the Breed itself.





Certainly we understand why many owners quickly “forget” the details of the day they purchased their dog. After seeing conditions at breeder sites, many owners have told us they took the animal home out of pity for its living conditions and willingly cut ties with its point of origin.

So you might be asking, what’s all the fuss, why is it so important to “Know Your Breeder?” Fair enough. Here are a few suggestions on why this knowledge is critical to the success and potential failure of our chosen breed:

If during the purchase process, you knew the breeder generates dogs with genetic flaws, like premature kidney failure, or deafness or blindness, would you still consider a dog from them?

If you knew a number of a breeder’s dogs have been surrendered to area rescue organizations, or ended up in shelters, due to unstable temperaments, aggression to humans and other animals, would you buy from that breeder?

If you purchased and still own a dog from a breeder you “don’t know” and you haven’t had to deal with illness due to genetic predispositions, or aggression due to unstable temperament, consider yourself part of a lucky group of owners. If you are part of the other group, that purchased a dog with little or no information about its pedigree, from a breeder that maintains the Code of Silence, and you surrendered your dog or had to have it euthanized due to various circumstances, we offer you our condolences.

The epidemic of poor quality Bull Terriers is reaching fever pitch across the Country, as rescue organizations see an ever-growing influx of sub-standard.

The photos surrounding this article represent a sampling of dogs our Rescue organization has encountered over the past three years. All of these dogs needed our help and we have done our best to assist them.

As you view these animals, please ask yourself what you can do to help link them and future animals to their points of origin. Please ask yourself, possibly as you begin the process to find a Bull Terrier, will I acquire a dog from a source point that could possibly not be motivated by anything other than money, someone who views their dogs as a cash register? Could I be supporting a breeder that knowingly breeds genetically flawed animals? Could I be supporting a breeder that is using their dog business as a front for an illegal drug operation. Has my breeder ever been convicted of theft or animal cruelty?

Recently a Volunteer in our program asked a very pointed question: Why does pedigree matter so much in the English Bull Terrier breed?

The natural traits of the breed; high energy, strength and the potentially out-of-control terrier factor, in the best of circumstances, can present many challenges for the typical owner. Combine those natural characteristics with a lack of proper socialization and training at a young age and the result can be a dog unsuited for the average home.

Say you combine the breed’s unique, natural traits with a genetic disposition toward unstable temperament, and you can end up with a very difficult dog to manage, even in the hands of a skilled owner.

And that's why as a prospective owner you have to look for a breeder





who strives for healthy animals, sound temperament and one who values proper socialization at a young age. Fall short on getting those things checked off the list and you can find yourself needing to re-home a dog you never expected would be such a headache. Not to mention losing your entire cash investment because you acquired a dog with no contract, no guarantees, nothing to safeguard your good faith.

As members of the Bull Terrier Club of Dallas, we are all committed to advancing and promoting the Breed and that sometimes includes a team effort to help owners solve problems with a dog they need to surrender. And of course animals we take directly from area shelters. Our organization will not step away from its responsibility to care for dogs in need, regardless of the fact that these animals are not bred or purchased by Club members or registered Volunteers. We help because of our dedication to the Breed and our commitment to its future viability.

As we continue to be diligent in our efforts to help dogs in need we all need to step up our efforts, in conjunction with the larger community, to tightening the network of owners to breeders so that we are rarely left to wonder about the points of origin for the dogs that end up at our doorstep. So that the Culture of Silence that's promoting so much harm to our breed is dismantled and destroyed.

KNOW YOUR BREEDER



Bull Terrier Club of Dallas
962 Meadow Oaks Dr.
Arlington, TX 76010

Paul and Miriam Hopkins are very proud of Izzy for her latest accomplishments!
AKC Champion
BTCA ROM Championship
AKC Grand Champion
Best of Opposite Sex to Colored Variety at the National Specialty
As well as many other wins throughout 2010
WAY TO GO IZZY!

