



The story of Osha- Rescue Griffon

By Michelle Parker Brien

Osha is a little black Griffon who was surrendered to the club just before Christmas 2015.

Osha was said to be 12 weeks of age when she arrived but she was very small for her age and had a dry sparse coat and very low body weight.

By the time we received Osha she had already experienced a lot of upheaval in her short life.

Osha's Background

Osha had been bought on impulse, by a young professional couple in Sydney and she had flown over to Sydney from New Zealand.

This couple did not research breeders but bought her after they had seen another person, 'H', walking a black Griffon in a Sydney park.

'H' told them that she had ordered another Griffon from the same breeder in NZ and had paid for it but was no longer able to keep it as her husband did not want another dog. She told the couple that they could buy her instead, which they did.

Osha was flown over to Australia, a very tiny puppy, as part of a consignment of dogs which included 4 Griffons and several Pugs. A man picked up the consignment at the airport and met the young couple there. He informed the couple that he bred Griffons.

He handed Osha over to them and they took her home.

Osha was not a big eater and the couple were very inexperienced with dogs so had difficulty getting her to eat although they bought high quality food and wanted to do the best for her.

They were concerned about her low body weight but did not know what to do.

They wanted to do the right thing so had her vaccinated. (We later found that she had received 3 C5 vaccinations within a 5 week period of time)

When Janet was taken to a vet it was discovered that she had a very large, long open fontanelle and the vet expressed concern about it

After 3 weeks she fell off the lounge and had a seizure. It is not known if she had a seizure and that made her fall off the lounge or the fall from the lounge triggered the seizure but the couple were alarmed and very distressed.

They took her to several vets who were concerned about the size of the open fontanelle and the seizure and euthanasia was discussed.

Osha comes to us

The couple were very stressed and decided they that did not have the skills to take care of a potentially ill puppy so they contacted our club and she was surrendered to our Rescue Officer and Secretary, Jannelle Tremenheere.

Jannelle immediately organised a complete veterinary check -up for her and she was examined by Dr Beth Tillman, who generously donated her time to the club.

She was underweight, with a dry patchy coat and dry flaky skin, most likely caused by incorrect or poor quality nutrition from birth.

However she was a happy little girl and ongoing observation by Jannelle and a full vet check indicated that Osha was otherwise healthy and showed no signs of a neurological condition such as hydrocephalus although the potential for further seizures was still a concern due to the very large size of the open fontanelle.



poor breeding and nutrition

Her exercise was slowly built up. As a very young pup she was playful and had to be restrained to prevent injury.

She was initially allowed to run on the grass for short periods at a time under close observation, at first alone and later with gentle older dogs.

Over time she began eating well and enjoying her food. Her coat thickened and became glossy and thick and she started to grow to look more like a Griffon of her age.

Over time Jannelle was able to hand strip out some of the dead dry coat and allow the new, healthy coat to grow through more thickly.

Osha became more energetic, zooming around the yard at top speed and showing excellent perception and agility as she zipped between

Dr Tillman advised us to build her up and improve her condition and to observe her for any signs of wobbles or lack of coordination that might indicate an ongoing neurological problem.

Dr Tillman was going to continue monthly observations of Osha.

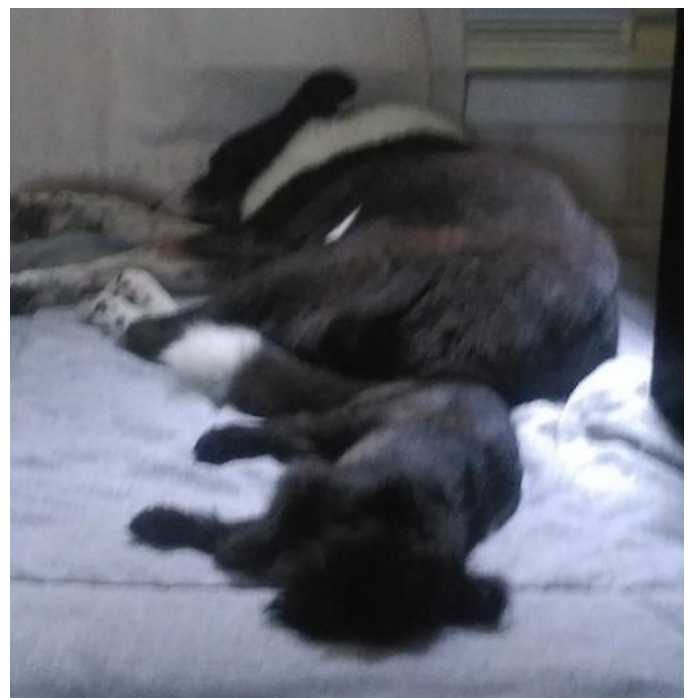
Osha Improves

So Jannelle started to build her up.

Terri and Grant Odell from Pets on the Park, supplied high quality food at a reduced price to the club, to tempt her to eat and Jannelle set up a routine of feeding her 5-6 times a day to build up her stomach capacity. It was thought that she had eaten so little for so long that her stomach could not take too much at any single meal.

At first she was kept in a pen in Jannelle's living room where she could see the family, human and canine and be closely observed as well. Jannelle was very careful not to put her in any situation that could lead to a seizure at this early stage of her recovery

Janet, as she was, after a lot of TLC to make up for



plants and trees.



Janet, curled up with Jannelle's big black and white dog, Saxon

As she became stronger she was allowed to play with some of Jannelle's older Griffon girls and then as she continued to improve she was able to play with some of the more active Griffons.

Dr Tillman continued to monitor her on a monthly basis and was pleased with the progress that she made.

During her time with Jannelle she showed no signs at all of any neurological condition and she behaved like a normal, active happy Griffon puppy. She loved to be outside

and running around in the garden.

The fontanelle was still open and Dr Tillman believed that if managed correctly she would be able to live a normal life despite this.

After 6 months of care the club started to look for a perfect home for Osha to continue the good work that Jannelle had started.

With experienced care Osha had become a cheeky, lively, happy little Griffon, full of energy, with excellent perception and coordination.

She had gained weight and was eating regularly. Her meals had been reduced to 2-3 a day and she now had a healthy coat and skin.

It was decided to leave her entire, at least until she was over 12 months of age so that the hormones could assist with her growth

Osha sharing the lounge with some of Jannelle's Griffons



Part 2 Osha- our Rescue Griffon has a happy ending.

Jannelle and her husband Adam, made her part of the family and she experienced free running on grass for the first time and as she grew stronger and less frail she was able to enjoy playing with other dogs, and she learned to live a normal, happy life.

The drive home was a bit scary but she had cuddles on her new Mums lap.



Finally the time came Dr Beth said that she was strong and healthy enough to be rehomed to the right family

Cuddles with new sister Ygrette in her new home

And Holly and Thomas came along...

So Osha, has a new family, a new Griffon sister called Ygrette and has started a whole new life.



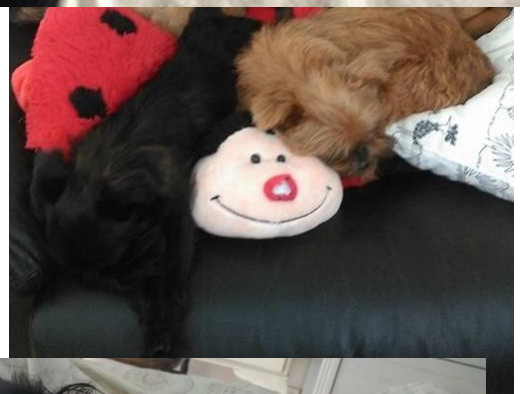
New sister Ygrette also cuddles in to tell her that the car drive is fun.

Osha and Ygrette making themselves very comfortable. Already best friends.

After 6 months on her new home Osha continued to make good progress.



She was positive
y glowing
in her
new
home
and it
was



lovely to see her at the club picnic, full of life and energy with a gleaming glossy healthy coat and a great joy of life.

She is now an inner city hipster and likes to dine out at various local pubs with her sister, Ygrette.

She had her first season at 11 months of age.

She was left entire due to the open fontanelle so that the hormones could help with her growth for as long as possible to try to get it to close. It is now



much smaller than it was so she is going very well and Thomas and Holly are doing a great job with her.

From a little dog who had seizures and was facing possible euthanasia, she has blossomed into a normal, bouncy, cheeky little girl with a long and happy life to look forward to.



She cannot correct the problems caused by poor and greedy breeding practices but she has shown the tremendous improvement dogs can make when given high quality care and lots of love

Post Script Osha has now been in her new home for over 12 months. She is loved and adored by her owners and her red Griffon sister.

She was desexed at 15 months of age and a liver condition was also discovered but it is mild and careful management will ensure that her life continues to be happy and healthy

The experience of Osha is a classic example of why

you should not buy a dog on impulse, in this way.

The breeder of Osha has refused to respond to any emails from the original purchasers. She has refused to acknowledge or accept responsibility for the health issues of the pup she bred and she has refused to refund their money- which was several thousand dollars. So now they have no pup and have lost a considerable sum of money. Osha is just lucky that her original owners realised their mistake and put her welfare first as other people may not have been as caring.

