

Snoopy the elderly Griffon 2013

The Country Griffon Bruxellois Club of NSW has a rescue scheme to rescue and rehome Griffon who are no longer wanted by their owners or to help with strays.

We also try to liaise with Pounds, Rescue Societies and the RSPCA.

We work in conjunction with other clubs in this. We also have a specific rescue fund and members can donate to this if they wish.

Rescue fund money is used exclusively to help support any dogs rescued by the club.

Fortunately Griffons are not generally bred by puppy farmers. Most Griffon breeders are caring and responsible so there are not many Griffons that require rescue.

However there have been several instances when a Griffon has come to our attention that is in need of Rescue. The latest case was last year.

Rescue Report

In December 2013 we were advised of an elderly Griffon called Snoopy who had been found as a stray. He was believed to be between 10 and 12 years and was at the RSPCA at Yagoona. He had hip problems and required pain relief which he responded well to.

The RSPCA requested help for him but due to his pain treatment they were very cautious about where he was placed and they did not want him to go to a home with other dogs. Our club offered to foster him and a number of our members indicated that they were willing to take him on a short term or long term basis. I had numerous phone conversations with them regarding this but the RSPCA said that they felt that he had a better chance of getting a home if he stayed with them.

One of our members, Jane Wistuba, was willing to take him to live with her permanently and she took her two Griffons into the RSPCA to meet him. He was shy with Jane's dogs and although she told the RSPCA staff that he would have a pen of his own in her lounge room so that he would have his own space the RSPCA decided that they preferred him to have a home without other dogs.



We tried to explain that it was not unusual for a Griffon to be a little overwhelmed at first when placed with new dogs or in a new situation.

We also tried to explain that Griffons do not cope well with kennel environments and need to be house dogs. We felt that when Snoopy was released from the overpowering conditions of the RSPCA kennels and into the peace and security of a new home some of his timid behaviour would stop or at least diminish.

We were concerned that the RSPCA was so unwilling to cooperate with us as we had a number of members who were very experienced with Griffons and who could have given him the care that he needed.

Because they were so unwilling to release him to our club he was forced to spend over 6 weeks in the RSPCA kennels, an environment not conducive to Griffons, instead of in the more relaxed surroundings of a home with a knowledgeable carer

In January Adam Farrugia phoned me to advise that they had found a suitable home for Snoopy with a couple who did not have any other dogs.

We were very pleased that Snoopy was finally rehomed into a loving environment but were disappointed that the RSPCA were so unwilling to work with our club

At the time I emphasized to Adam Farrugia that our club is always happy to help with any rescue or rehoming involving Griffons and I asked if they could inform us of any other Griffons that come into their care.

I would like to thank the many members who contacted me offering to help with Snoopy.

(by Michelle Parker Brien- From the The Phoenix- the newsletter of The Country Griffon Club of NSW)