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FALL 2016

THE BASSETTEER

A PUBLICATION OF BASSET HOUND RESCUE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



MENDING HOMELESS HOUND HEARTS

Not long ago, Otis was 1,000 miles away from Southern California just trying to survive. He and another hound had been dumped in a rural spot outside Corpus Christi, Texas. Without a family, a home or any kind of shelter, they were at the mercy of nature in an area with territorial coyotes and wild pigs known for their aggression.

An elderly couple living nearby left food out for them, which meant instead of looking out for one another, they were often competing for meals. And that supply would soon run out when the couple relocated to a retirement home. So it was no surprise that Otis (and his sometimes friend, Oscar) came to BHRSC by way of a recent Hound Haul in rough shape.

In addition to malnutrition and a BB shot embedded beneath his skin, Otis had heartworm disease. This mosquito-borne illness is very common in hounds we rescue from outside California where the occurrence of heartworm is high and preventative care is lacking.

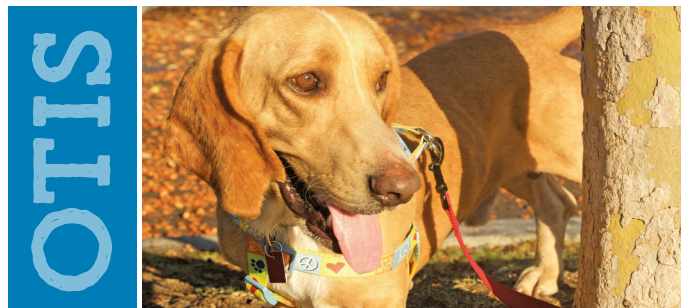
Heartworm is treatable and it's not contagious. However, it is exceptionally costly and time consuming to remedy. If left unchecked, it causes severe heart and lung damage and may lead to death, so it's important we start treatment as soon as we have a diagnosis.

The process begins with X-rays to assess the condition of the hound's heart and lungs, along with a dose of medication that interrupts the life cycle of the worms living and reproducing in his heart, lungs and blood vessels. Then we start a course of antibiotics that weakens the bugs in preparation for the worm-killing injections that will follow while the hound is under veterinary observation.

But quite possibly the most trying part of the treatment is the roughly six weeks the hound must live with restricted activity in a foster home. This means no running, jumping, playing, excitement or stress – no easy task for a happy

rescued hound! Even his potty breaks in a fenced yard must be taken on a leash. This is all to prevent a potential life-threatening blockage of disintegrating worms in his organs.

Then there is the cost. **We've worked with our partner veterinarians to cut the fees associated with heartworm treatment nearly in half, but the price tag is still just over \$500 per hound. We're on track to treat 15 heartworm-positive hounds this year, amounting to a more than \$7,500 expense for this treatment alone.**



At BHRSC, we consider this a worthy investment in lives saved. Lives of hounds like Otis, now showing us his lovable goofball side, who would otherwise face an uncertain future in overcrowded out-of-state shelters that are taking desperate measures to make space. Your support makes it possible for us to continue welcoming these hounds, along with whatever ailments they face, to a better life in Southern California.

Please make a donation today to help us mend more homeless hound hearts and fill them with love in forever homes! 🐾



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Healing Hounds. That is what we do. Whether they need emotional healing or physical – like our cover story hound, Otis – your support makes it possible for us to take in dogs who are abandoned, unloved and unwanted and change their lives.

When I first met Otis, one thing that struck me was how content he was in boarding. Not barking or stressed, or dreaming of a foster home with a couch like some hounds who are displaced. Otis was visibly relieved to have a safe, warm place to rest and two square meals per day, plus the loving care of our volunteers. Slowly his personality emerged, changing from a hound who had been forced to focus on mere survival, to a fun-loving and mischievous guy who constantly has our volunteers, who are lucky enough to interact with him, laughing.

We were able to save Otis from a life of danger, which left him competing for even the most basic of resources, and provide him life-saving heartworm treatment. It's under these circumstances, knowing he was finally safe, that his true personality has blossomed.

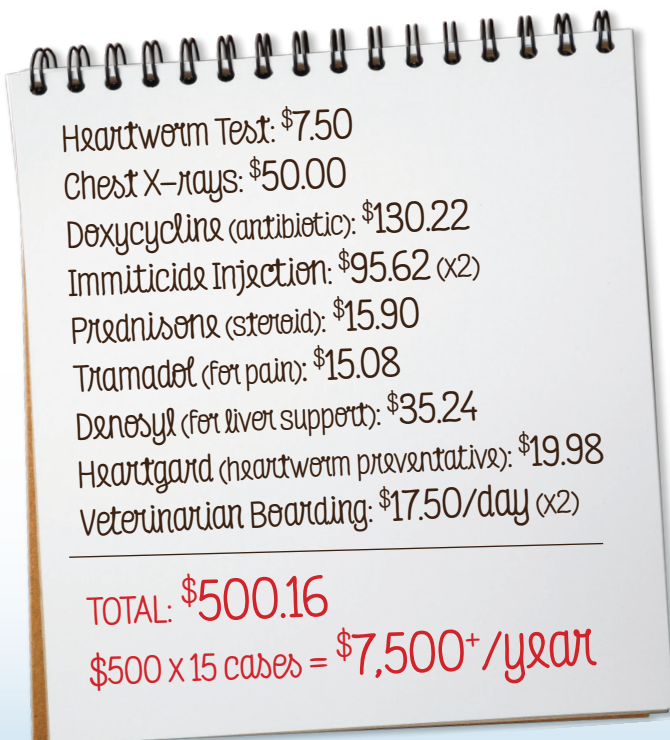
Hounds like Otis are why we do what we do. But the cost of rescuing these deserving hounds, especially those in need of special care, is high. Working with our compassionate partner veterinarians we are able to keep costs down, treating two heartworm positive hounds for the same price it would normally cost for just one, so we can help even more hounds like Otis.

The ability to change the lives of hounds like Otis (and Oscar), Pancakes, Jax and so many more each year is within our reach and so worth the effort. Your continued support paired with the loving care of BHRSC volunteers working together is all it takes to keep them safe and healthy, and most importantly make their dreams come true. 🐾

Thank you,

Melissa Ruthenbeck-Chiaramonte and the Hounds of BHRSC

HOW HEARTWORM TREATMENT COSTS ADD UP*

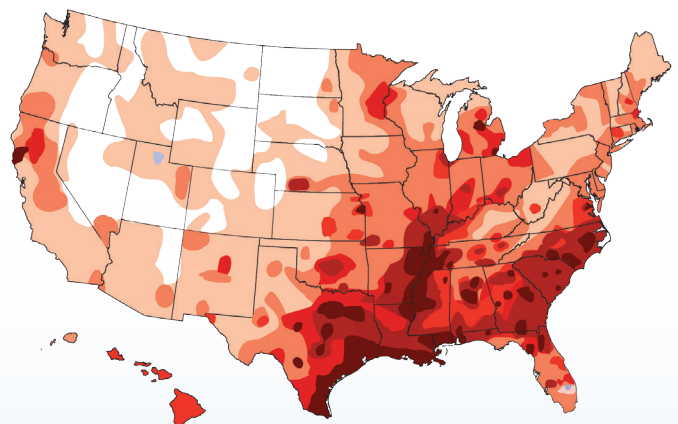


Heartworm Test: \$7.50
Chest X-rays: \$50.00
Doxycycline (antibiotic): \$130.22
Immiticide Injection: \$95.62 (x2)
Prednisone (steroid): \$15.90
Tramadol (for pain): \$15.08
Denesyl (for liver support): \$35.24
Heartgard (heartworm preventative): \$19.98
Veterinarian Boarding: \$17.50/day (x2)

TOTAL: \$500.16

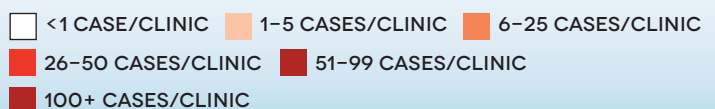
\$500 x 15 cases = \$7,500+ /year

This mosquito-borne illness is very common in hounds BHRSC rescues from outside California where the occurrence of heartworm is high and preventative care is lacking.



© American Heartworm Society, 2013

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CASES PER REPORTING CLINIC



*With BHRSC partner veterinarian discounts; total with another vet \$930+.

More than a third of the hounds BHRSC takes in are seniors, at least 8 years old. These dogs often come to us in need of special medical, social or behavioral attention. But they're worth the time and monetary investment we make in readying them for their forever homes. And our adopters agree! These mature hounds like Walter (formerly Flash, 9 years old) have so much love, patience and life to give in their remaining years. We hope you enjoy this heartwarming success story from one of our adopters, Abigail McCann.

THEY RESCUED EACH OTHER

TWO LIVES TRANSFORMED

A D O P T E R S P O T L I G H T



My husband and I adopted our sweet Basset Hound, Walter, in January. I never grew up around dogs like my husband did, but I have always liked them. A big reason we decided to adopt a dog is because I suffer from clinical depression. I thought that having a dog would help me be less isolated and make it easier to get out of bed in the mornings.

We did some research and Basset Hounds seemed like a perfect fit for our life in an apartment. And who can resist those ears! Living with Walter has brought so much more joy and fun than I ever anticipated. It is a world of difference, instead of coming home to a quiet apartment, coming home to a dog so excited to see you he trips on his own ears on the way to the door.

Walter has transformed my life for the better. He has been helpful in bringing routine to my life, but more than that he has brought a feeling of being needed. I have had such a powerful response to Walter, he is so innocent and wonderful and completely adoring. It is such a good feeling to be able to connect with an animal and feel loved in return. I never understood the people who talked about their dogs like

they were the best things since sliced bread, but now I am that person.

When we adopted Walter he was shy, skittish and stubborn. I tend to be quiet and reserved, especially around people I don't know, but the simple task of taking Walter on a daily walk has helped me become more outgoing and comfortable around strangers. People often remark on how beautiful Walter is, which makes me pause and talk to them.

I love taking Walter off the leash at a park near our apartment and watching him roam all over. I think back to the first few months we had him when he was too timid to leave my side on walks. I like to think that like Walter, I too have gained the confidence and freedom to explore anywhere I choose.

Besides marrying my husband, adopting a Basset Hound is one of the best decisions I've made in my life. Walter has made my life so much more full, and I love him for it. Thank you for making this possible BHRSC! 🐾

JOY OUTWEIGHS HEARTACHE

F O S T E R S P O T L I G H T

Many dog lovers may be reluctant to open their homes to fosters, knowing how hard it is to give them up when they find a permanent home. As a dedicated foster mom for BHRSC, Erin Barone has struggled with the bittersweet feeling of watching a hound that she has loved head out the door. Nevertheless, she maintains that the rewards of helping homeless hounds – who often come from abusive and traumatic situations – are far greater than the heartaches. We talked recently with Erin about why she decided to become a foster, and how she deals with letting them go.

How did you become a foster?

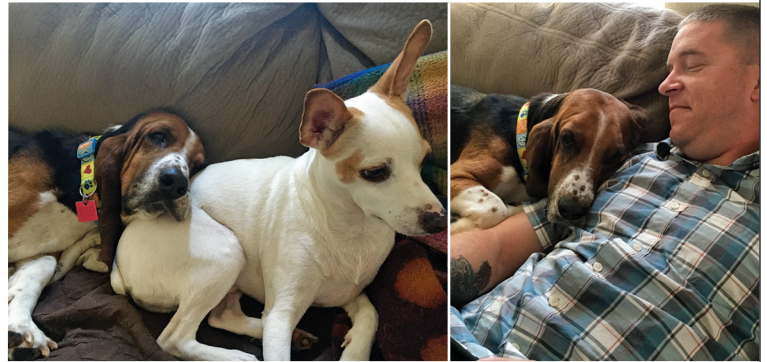
My husband and I had a Basset of our own when we moved to Southern California. We found BHRSC when a rescue we took in from a neighbor ended up needing a home that better suited his needs. After meeting with the wonderful BHRSC volunteers, we were hooked and fell in love with the organization.

What have you learned from the dogs you have fostered?

These dogs are incredibly resilient! Whether they need medical attention or come from abusive pasts, they still look at the world bright-eyed. They've shown my family that living in the moment and rising above it all can be done. They've shown us how to be grateful for the life we live.

How do you deal with getting close to the dogs, then letting them go to a new family?

There is no easy way to let a dog into your home and heart



without getting attached, as hard as you try they wear you down, and you end up with three dogs in your lap not being able to move. For me, talking with the adopters and listening to their stories about why they want to adopt helps ease my heartache. Usually there are several phone calls or emails before the meet-and-greet when I get a sense of what kind of home the dog will be going to. At the meet-and-greet, seeing the dog open up to their new family makes everything feel like it will be okay.

Why should people consider fostering?

The rewards far outweigh the heartache. For this breed in particular, there is nothing like watching them come out of their shell and become the goofy clowns we all know Bassets can be. It's not about what we give them; it's about what they give us. It's selfish really.

Visit www.bassethoundrescue.org/volunteer/foster to learn more about fostering. 🐾

GENEROUS BIDS BENEFIT HOUNDS IN NEED



Many thanks to everyone who joined us at Bids & Bites for Bassets in October! The funds raised make it possible for us to continue rescuing more than a hundred hounds each year, no matter where they're located or what ailments they face. Every donation makes a difference, and the more than \$16,000 raised through this event will help us go the extra mile to ensure each hound receives the special care they need to get on the road to recovery that leads to a forever home.

As we continue to take in hounds in need of rescue from dire situations in Southern California and beyond, events like this one are an important part of our annual funding framework. And they're fun, too! Those who attended Bids & Bites enjoyed food, drinks, friends, games and bidding on exciting auction items to benefit the hounds.

They also met Jax, whose video story you can watch on our website: [www.bassethoundrescue.org/news-events/meet-jax/] Enjoy, and thank you for your continued support! 🐾

BHRSC'S TOP PAWS DONORS

Offield Family Foundation

Dr. Robert Woods  Consulteron, Inc.  Marsha & Michael Connellan

Patricia Bigler & Marshall Ozawa  Walt & Vicki Reeves  Gloria & Robert Storovich

George Feltenstein  The Walt Disney Company Foundation  Anonymous Donor

Dr. Cari Cannon  Barbie & Gerry Nat  Michael & Lisa Arnell

Animal Hospital of Huntington Beach  Maddie's Fund

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

THE HOUNDS ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

Finding homes for hounds in need is a full-time job.

At BHRSC, that job requires the help of more than 50 people involved in day-to-day hound saving operations – all of them volunteers.

At least a hundred hounds each year have our dedicated volunteers to thank for their new lives and forever homes. But there are always more hounds to be rescued and there is much more work to be done.

We currently have an urgent need to fill several volunteer positions, with many other jobs open on an ongoing basis. The skills and responsibilities associated with these positions vary greatly, but they all have a huge impact on the lives of hounds we save.

And, chances are, you have the kind of expertise our rescue mission requires! **Many of our volunteer positions call for professional experience with things like event planning, writing, networking, organization and finance, with other nonprofit experience being a big plus.** Often, these tasks can be completed from home, even if you live outside of California. (Of course, we also have lots of hand-on jobs, like dog walkers, transporters and photographers.)

There's no better time than now to take a look at the opportunities on our website. Please consider applying today. Whether you have a few hours to give or several days a week to spare, we will gratefully accept any time you're able to donate.



It's incredible what we're able to accomplish with such a strong network of passionate and hardworking volunteers, and we hope you're moved to join the cause. The hounds are counting on you! 

BASSETHOUNDRESCUE.ORG/VOLUNTEER

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• HOMELESS HOUNDS •

SPONSORED BY BARK TO BASICS



PHILO

Hi everybody! My name is Philo, and I'm 7 years old. My name is Greek for "lover" and boy do I love life! I can promise an exuberant, happy attitude as we get to know each other. I even have plenty of friendliness to share with any other canine friends you might have. I'm such a happy boy, that when we go for walks, I like to sing my song to tell everyone that I am here and want to meet them! You can bet you'll get lots of attention with me around! I'm super confident that we will have a great life together! 🐾



OSCAR

Hi! I'm Oscar. I was found living in an abandoned field, trying to fend for myself. That's no life for any dog, so my friends in Texas picked me up and sent me to California in search of a better life. I think my perfect home would have an active family where I could play and explore, once I settle in and learn to trust everyone, of course. I also prefer the company of female dogs more than male dogs. I am currently being treated for heartworm, but soon I'll be right as rain and ready to play! 🐾



NATASHA

Hello, I'm Natasha, and I'm pleased to meet you! I've overcome a lot in my 5 years of life and I'm still overcoming ... I lived life on the streets of Mexico, beat cancer, and now I'm fighting against two tick diseases. I will need a patient, loving home to call my own. Once I trust you, I'll reward your love and patience with endless devotion. I don't really want to share my home with other dogs. I'm looking for a home where it will just be me and my human family. One thing you can do to help me feel comfortable is to take me on walks and help me chase lizards. That's my most favorite thing to do! And I've been told that I look pretty cute doing it, too! Hopefully we can look for lizards together soon! 🐾

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •



BLACK FRIDAY SALE!

November 25-28
bassethoundrescue.org/shop



VICTORIAN VALENTINE PARTY

10 am to 12 pm
7758 College Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602



GIVING TUESDAY

November 29-December 4
We're giving back - Name Your Own Adoption Fees (min. \$25)



20TH ANNIVERSARY SPRING GAMES

10 am to 3 pm
William R. Mason Regional Park
18712 University Drive
Irvine, CA 92612



BRUNCH WITH BASSETS

10 am to 12 pm, Huntington Beach
Central Park (near the dog park)

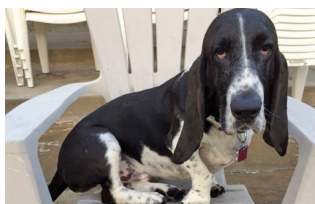
For more details on all events, visit www.bassethoundrescue.org/event-calendar

THE HOUNDS YOU'VE HELPED

W H E R E A R E T H E Y N O W ?



Remember all those special pleas for Bassets in desperate need of emergency medical care? They're just a handful of the many hounds who have been helped by generous donations from BHRSC supporters. We'd like to thank all of you who have responded to our emergency campaigns and those who provide sustaining support year-round, but perhaps the best "thanks" of all is knowing that these special hounds are happy and healthy in their forever homes. We hope you enjoy these updates on some of our most well known rescues.

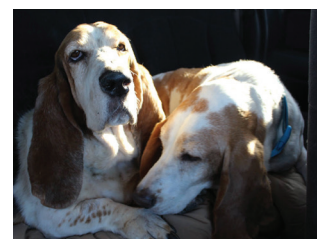


OREO | April 2015

Oreo landed in a shelter after being hit by a car, but he's been living it up with his adoptive family after receiving critical medical care and rehabilitation from BHRSC. He loves attention, and demands to be the first noticed in his dog pack of three canine siblings. His adopters report he is a "typical mischievous Basset," picking up toys and shoes and snagging anything on the counter. His favorite lounging spot is on the kitchen table, gazing out the window. 🐾

MURPHY (& ZOEY) | July 2015

Murphy shares his new home with his bonded Basset sister Zoey and two cats, Chuy and Miss Priss. This August he celebrated his one-year anniversary in his forever home. He made an amazing recovery from back surgery, and now loves his daily walks – after which he and Zoey take long naps together. Murphy also enjoys going to the dog park, where he has made many new friends. According to his adoptive mom, he has brought his new family so much joy that they couldn't imagine life without him. 🐾

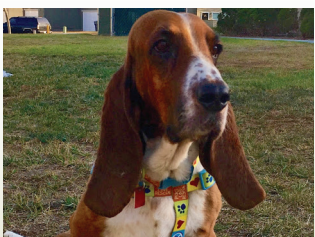


CHARLOTTE | December 2015

Charlotte was found wandering the streets of L.A., picked up and taken to a shelter. Fortunately, the shelter called BHRSC and we were able to arrange the spinal surgery she desperately needed. Now fully recovered, she likes walks and has even completed a couple of longer hikes. She loves getting attention, but she didn't seem to know how to play and would ignore toys. Recently, she gained a new sibling, four-month-old Matilda, who brought out Charlotte's playful side. Now they play together all the time, and Charlotte's even picked up toys on her own! 🐾

GUY BRUTUS | May 2016

One of the most heart wrenching cases in recent months was that of Guy Brutus, the elderly hound who had been dropped off for euthanasia at a shelter. He required extensive medical care, including back surgery and the removal of his eye due to uncontrolled glaucoma. His name is now just Guy, as his adoptive mom reports that he's definitely a "Guy" and not a "Brutus." He is adjusting well to his forever home, where he has two young boys and two Golden Retriever siblings to keep him company. He likes to take walks and he's up to about half a mile before he tires. He's even started doing a "happy dance" when they bring out the leash. 🐾



BUDDY | June 2016

After emergency spinal surgery a few months ago, Buddy is well on his way to recovery in his foster home. He is starting to go on short walks and regain stability in his legs. He's making friends with the other dogs, and he loves to sunbathe with the pack. His sweet, gentle personality is beginning to shine through, and he wants more than anything to spend time on someone's lap. Although he doesn't have a permanent home yet, his foster mom reports that he is a happy, silly hound sure to enrich the life of his future forever family. 🐾



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BHRSC sends the newsletter via bulk mail so we can spend more of our money on the hounds! Unfortunately, that means we don't get the newsletters back if they can't be delivered, so if you plan to move please email us your new address to askabasset@bassethoundrescue.org. And be sure to sign up for our monthly email newsletter on our website or Facebook page!

20TH ANNUAL SPRING GAMES



Saturday, June 10, 2017
10 am to 3 pm

William R. Mason Regional Park
18712 University Drive
Irvine, CA 92612

DELICIOUS FOOD • HUGE RAFFLE • BASSET SHOPS
HOUND CRAFTS BOOTH • CENTER RING COMPETITIONS

SAVE THE DATE

THE BASSETEER

• AT A GLANCE •

PG. 2
**LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

PG. 3
**ADOPTER
SPOTLIGHT**

PG. 4
**FOSTER
SPOTLIGHT**

PG. 5
**THE HOUNDS ARE
COUNTING ON YOU!**

PG. 6
**HOMELESS HOUNDS
& EVENTS CALENDAR**

PG. 7
**THE HOUNDS
YOU'VE HELPED**