



Basset Hound Rescue of Southern California
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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!

21ST ANNUAL

SPRING GAMES

SAVE THE DATE | SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018 | 10 AM TO 3 PM

WILLIAM R. MASON REGIONAL PARK • 18712 UNIVERSITY DRIVE • IRVINE, CA • 92612

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

THE BASSETTEER

• AT A GLANCE •

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"He was sweet from the time he came through the front door," she said. "And he loved my young grandchildren, so I knew he'd be perfect to work with kids."

Sabrina, a founding member and former president of BHRSC, had many years of experience as a partner to other therapy dogs, and she started training with Gumbo right away. A short time later he easily passed his Canine Good Citizen and BARK Therapy Dogs tests to officially become a reading dog.



WWW.BASSETHOUNDRESCUE.ORG

FALL 2017

THE BASSETTEER

A PUBLICATION OF BASSET HOUND RESCUE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

RESCUED HOUNDS PAY IT FORWARD

Gumbo was a good dog. He was friendly, obedient and undeniably sweet. His only Basset Hound shortcoming was a lack of drool. He had lived with the same human for as long as he could remember. But suddenly things were changing. The small porch where he used to enjoy brief sunbathing sessions had become his nearly permanent home since a new person with severe allergies joined their pack. He was confused, bored and lonely when he was surrendered to BHRSC.

Like the thousands of other hounds BHRSC has taken in during the past 20 years, Gumbo got a second chance – and he's really made the most of it. He was adopted as a companion for Ellie, a hound who was grieving the passing of her basset brother. But it was immediately obvious to adopter Sabrina Nicholls that Gumbo was destined for much more.



After BHRSC rehomed Gumbo, he made the most of his new life as a reading therapy dog with BARK (www.barkdogs.org).

Once a week Gumbo meets with a select group of third grade students at a local elementary school, where he serves as a "tutor" while children who need extra practice read to him. Of course, he also receives lots of pets, gives a few kisses and sometimes even sneaks in a nap (since he listens better with his eyes closed).

Gumbo trots undistracted to the library for every visit. Sabrina reports that he gives more kisses in one day at school than he does all week at home. He loves his "students." **Gumbo is happy, and he's paying his second chance forward by improving human lives.** Some students advance two grade levels in one semester reading to Gumbo. Their attitudes toward dogs often change for the better, too.

**YOU CAN HELP MORE HOUNDS LIKE GUMBO PAY
IT FORWARD BY MAKING A DONATION TODAY!
READ THE REST OF THE STORY ON PAGE 2 ...**

(continued from cover)

“At the end of the semester, some students say goodbye by lying on the floor and cuddling with Gumbo,” Sabrina said. “He always reciprocates. It’s very touching.”

Gumbo’s good deeds may have big implications for little kids, but every BHRSC adoption has the potential to change human lives. One of our dogs helped an adopter cope with clinical depression, another kept a homebound family member company, and yet another provided comfort after the passing of a pet sibling.

Many adopted hounds are also neighborhood ambassadors, greeting friends and spreading good will on their daily walks, encouraging their owners to get to know their neighbors.

But none of this would be possible without first the rescue of a homeless hound.

There are many more Basset Hounds in SoCal and beyond in need of a fresh start. Please make a donation today. Your support will help us continue to provide these hounds the sanctuary that will not only save their lives, but also give them the chance to touch the lives of so many others. 🐾



• LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT •

At BHRSC we are all about the hounds. Rightfully so. We spend our time, energy, tears and resources to help each goofy, drooly soul we can manage. Our sole focus is saving their lives, because they deserve it.

But sometimes we neglect to realize and talk about how these hounds go on to change the lives of their families, and those they touch around them. Each dog we rescue from a shelter, accept from a home that can no longer keep them, or provide a safe haven from the streets goes on to change countless lives.

These hounds inspire our supporters and mobilize our volunteers, cast love spells on fosters and adopters alike, and have our vets cooing all the while under the guise, “Who me, I’m just a hound, rub my belly.”

From the hound, like Gumbo, who motivates children to practice their reading, to those who lift our spirits, teach us

lessons of patience, or humbly provide unconditional love to their foster and adoptive family members, each hound we save changes lives.

You are an integral part of that life-saving, both hound and human. Without your support, these hounds would never know the lives they deserve, and in turn, would never have a chance to pay it forward in true hound fashion – with love, dedication and of course, slobbery kisses.

Thank you for allowing us to continue our legacy of changing lives for 20 years and counting.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ruthenbeck-Chiaramonte & the Hounds of BHRSC

HAPPY TAILS!



“Bonnie and Glyde wormed their way into our souls. They rescued us.”

“We can’t thank BHRSC enough. Bobby has made this a whole different house.”

“Linda totally completed our family. There is a new calmness in our household.”

“We are so excited to have Peanut! It’s like Christmas morning.”

GIVING TO GAIN LOVE AND GRATITUDE

VOLUNTEER / DONOR SPOTLIGHT

It’s been 17 years since Ron and Leah Murphy first heard about BHRSC from a friend. At that time the organization was very young, but the Murphys quickly fell in love with the mission. Within a couple of years they were some of the rescue’s most passionate supporters, generously donating both time and funds to the cause.

“Our experience has been great with BHRSC,” Leah said. “Volunteering has not only been fulfilling, but also eye-opening to the real need for this rescue and others. This experience has made us realize that money helps, but hands-on volunteering is just as important.”

The Murphys started volunteering as dog walkers, back when more homeless hounds were in boarding for longer periods of time. But as the BHRSC foster program has ramped up, there are fewer dogs in need of walking since most of them live with temporary families until they’re adopted. Big fans of bassetts, having welcomed several into their home over the years, the Murphys miss their time walking dogs, but they realize the hounds are much better off in foster homes.



“Volunteering has not only been fulfilling, but also eye-opening to the real need for this rescue and others.”



So in recent years they have shifted their focus to donating, fundraising and spreading the word about BHRSC. They’re eager to invite friends and family to events and tell anyone who will listen about the life-saving work they’ve witnessed during the past nearly two decades.

“We feel it’s the best rescue in our great state,” Leah said. “I personally have talked to Governor Jerry Brown about the great things this rescue is doing now and has done in the past.”

Aside from seeing the rescue grow exponentially while maintaining its original purpose, Ron said one of his fondest memories of being involved with BHRSC was bringing home their own rescued hounds. Most recently in 2013, they adopted Nina and Gizzy, a mother-daughter pair. Leah said “they mean the world to us and have made our life full of love and gratitude.”

It’s those kinds of warm feelings that have kept the Murphys engaged with the rescue all these years. They want everyone who works with BHRSC to know that no matter their contribution – whether time, money or passion, in amounts both large and small – it’s always deeply appreciated. And desperately needed to continue saving Basset Hound lives.

Visit www.bassethoundrescue.org/volunteer to learn more about how you can get involved. 🐾

A little over two years ago, BHRSC was in the fortunate position of having somewhat of a shortage of hounds in need in Southern California. We didn't think it would last, but when it did, we reached out to all the Basset Hound rescues in California and offered our assistance. They all reported they were in good shape, so we broadened our search. We found a rescue in the South that was faced with having to turn away young, healthy hounds in high-kill shelters (not to mention the senior hounds with imperfect health). So we partnered with them and haven't looked back.



HOUND HAUL : WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

To date, we've completed 12 Hound Hauls! Each of these operations is a logistical feat and testament to the commitment of our volunteers and partner veterinarians, and none of them could happen without the generous support of our donors. Our volunteer teams rendezvous with drivers from our partner rescues and transport up to 14 hounds to new lives in Southern California.

With experience, our Hound Hauls have become smooth operations, and we have now rescued hounds in need from the Southwest, Texas, Oklahoma, and even as far away as South Carolina – for a total of 184 hounds saved and rehomed!

SOPHIE

HOUND HAUL 4 | JANUARY 2016

Sweet Sophie was rescued from an Oklahoma shelter and in need of major liver surgery, which BHRSC provided when she arrived in SoCal. Sophie's adoptive family is madly in love with her and reports that she is the perfect hound and even has a fan club! When she goes for walks, the neighborhood kids hear the jingle of her tags and rush out to greet her. They love Sophie's velvet ears, and Sophie loves the kids (along with just about everyone else who crosses her path).

FLASH

HOUND HAUL 4 | JANUARY 2016

Flash now goes by Walter. Originally rescued from a shelter in Oklahoma, Walter was a very nervous boy when he first came to BHRSC. After moving in to a quiet location with his new parents, Walter is loosening up slowly. He is doing well and acts as a wonderful emotional support companion for his new family.

CHIEF

HOUND HAUL 6 | JUNE 2016

Chief came to SoCal from Utah with a positive heartworm test and a reputation as a soulful singer. BHRSC helped him beat heartworm, and he has been living happily for more than a year with his adoptive dad. Chief loves playtime and his doggie sister. He has mellowed out a bit, but still has lots of energy and

occasionally table surfs for snacks. Even though his dad likes to lovingly call him a troublemaker, he adds that Chief makes everyone laugh.



PANCAKES

HOUND HAUL 7 | JULY 2016

Pancakes was a pup of 18 months when she came to BHRSC, but her first year and a half of life had been rough. She roamed the streets as a stray before being rescued from a shelter in Texas and treated for heartworm when she arrived in California. After a year in their home, her new family is just as thrilled with Pancakes as ever. She amuses them every day with her antics, including her habit of "mooring" when she stretches out. She loves tummy rubs and is, her family reports, "the perfect dog for us."

KATIE AND RUBY

HOUND HAUL 8 | OCTOBER 2016

Originally surrendered by their owners in Texas, Katie and Ruby are picture perfect bassets and even came with papers

with long show dog names. After their arrival in SoCal, they were adopted by a family in Nevada and now go by Katie Mae and Ruby Lynn. Their parents call them angels and "the best decision we ever made." They have settled in wonderfully at their new home and even claim sleeping privileges on the bed with their mom and dad!

LADY BUG

HOUND HAUL 8 | OCTOBER 2016

Lady Bug was abandoned in rural Oklahoma, but a kind passerby came along to help her start her journey to SoCal. Thank goodness, too, since Lady Bug's sweet disposition (and corresponding lack of a killer instinct) made it questionable how long she would have made it out on her own. Still somewhat nervous when she was originally adopted, Lady Bug now has a new outlook on life. Instead of bolting out the door, she is now relaxed, comfortable, and secure in her new home while she keeps the whole family laughing.

LANCE

HOUND HAUL 9 | JANUARY 2017

Lance Basset needed a little help and an exercise program when he first arrived from Oklahoma. He has some arthritis in his shoulders, but his family has him on medication that allows him to play with his basset sister and go for walks. He has lost some of his extra pounds and goes for regular walks around the neighborhood. If he gets tired on a stroll, he has his very own wagon to ride in! He loves it and the neighborhood kids who see him roll by do, too! Lance is reported to be a bed hog, and has taken to stretching his vocal chords regularly.

PIPER

HOUND HAUL 11 | MAY 2017

Prior to coming to SoCal, Piper lived in an apartment where she was left alone in a crate all day. Her pleas to be let out were not appreciated by the neighbors, so her owner surrendered her to one of our partner rescues. Piper was quickly adopted from BHRSC, and her new family is extremely happy to have her!

She was very shy the first day in her new home, but that didn't last long. These days Piper plays with toys and loves to wrestle with her basset brother. The pair often competes in a good "howl-off!"

We want to thank our amazing volunteer teams, who put their lives on hold to carry out the logistical gymnastics that go into each Hound Haul, and our veterinary partners for the life-saving treatment they provide for BHRSC hounds in need. We also have immense gratitude for all of our generous supporters. These stories are just a few examples of the many, many hounds whose lives you have saved over the past 20 years! To learn more about sponsoring a Hound Haul please email president@bassethoundrescue.org. 🐾



• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

24
NOVEMBER
BLACK FRIDAY SALE!
November 24-27
BASSETHOUNDRESCUE.ORG/SHOP

28
NOVEMBER
GIVING TUESDAY
November 28-December 3
WE'RE GIVING BACK -
NAME YOUR OWN
ADOPTION FEES (MIN. \$25)

2
DECEMBER
**BRUNCH WITH BASSETS
HOLIDAY/ADOPTION
REUNION**
10 am to 12 pm
HUNTINGTON BEACH
CENTRAL PARK
(NEAR THE DOG PARK)

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

3
FEBRUARY
**VICTORIAN
VALENTINE PARTY**
10 am to 12 pm
7758 COLLEGE AVENUE
WHITTIER, CA 90602

24
MARCH
**EASTER BRUNCH
WITH BASSETS**
10 am to 12 pm
HUNTINGTON BEACH CENTRAL PARK
(NEAR THE DOG PARK)

19
MAY
**21ST ANNIVERSARY
SPRING GAMES**
10 am to 3 pm
WILLIAM R. MASON REGIONAL PARK
18712 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
IRVINE, CA 92612

• BHRSC VOLUNTEERS •

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melissa Ruthenbeck-Chiaramonte
President

Pam Schmidt, *Co Vice-President*
Jenny Walker, *Co Vice-President*

Dawn Keeney, *Treasurer*
Jill McLoughlin, *Secretary*

Basset Hound Rescue of Southern California operates with the daily support of an Executive and Associate Executive Committee comprised of more than 80 dedicated volunteers who help in all aspects of the organization, ranging from taking in hounds from shelters and owners, finding foster and forever homes, coordinating medical care, managing events, graphic and web design, social media and more.

BHRSC OPERATIONS: EXPLAINED

BHRSC isn't a typical rescue. From the staff and the facilities to the medical attention provided to the homeless hounds in our care, we do things differently. For 20 years, BHRSC has been honing its complex operations with the help of hundreds of dedicated and hardworking hound lovers in Southern California and beyond. But there are many details the public may not know about our operations. So we asked Vice President and Medical Liaison Jenny Walker to answer some common questions about how exactly BHRSC rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes more than 100 hounds each year.

How many paid staff members does BHRSC employ?

BHRSC is an all-volunteer organization. Everyone who volunteers donates time to the hounds. We have a volunteer board of directors, executive committee and associate executive committee, as well as a large network of transport volunteers and foster homes. Since no one takes a paycheck with BHRSC, all money raised goes directly to the rescue and care of the hounds.

Who provides the medical care for BHRSC hounds?

We maintain partnerships with several local veterinarians who provide discounted care to our hounds, including all the basics like spay and neuter services, dental care, vaccinations and microchips. They also attend to some of the most serious conditions our dogs face, like mass removal, surgery, heartworm treatment and much more.

How does BHRSC assess rescued hounds for adoptability?

Each hound gets a thorough wellness exam as well as a behavioral assessment. The wellness exam makes certain that a hound is physically healthy prior to adoption and the behavior assessment provides us with the information needed to make a good match with a forever family.

What is the BHRSC adoption process like?

Potential adopters apply online (www.basethoundrescue.org), and after our adoption team reviews an application we schedule a home visit. BHRSC has started to do virtual home visits that consist of a phone interview and other information gathering. Once that is completed and approved, applicants may then select hounds to meet and potentially adopt.

What sets BHRSC apart from other rescues?

The extensive medical care that BHRSC provides is exceptional. Of course, we are responsible with our funds and we use our resources wisely, but we don't turn away medically needy hounds and we're proud to be able to provide them the advanced, specialized care they deserve. 🐾

Does BHRSC have a shelter facility?

No, we do not have a brick and mortar facility where our available hounds reside. Instead, we rely on our network of foster homes to provide the temporary housing the hounds need as they await their forever homes. While they receive medical attention, hounds are housed at veterinary or long-term boarding facilities like a doggie day care. We have volunteer hound walkers who visit them while they are in boarding and take them out for daily walks or trips to the park until they go to foster homes.

Where do BHRSC hounds come from?

Hounds come to BHRSC from local shelters or owners who surrender them to us due to an inability to care for them. For the past two years, we also have partnered with rescues in other parts of the country, particularly the Midwest and the South, to transfer hounds to SoCal from areas where bassets and other dogs face uncertain fates in overcrowded shelters.



PAW BHRSC'S TOP PAWS DONORS PAW

Walt & Vicki Reeves 🐾 Consulteron, Inc. 🐾 Basset Hound Club of America Foundation
Michael & Marsha Connellan 🐾 Animal Hospital of Huntington Beach
Gloria Storovich 🐾 Patricia Bigler & Marshall Ozawa 🐾 Shirley Knopf
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Karen & Bryan Casier 🐾 The Walt Disney Company Foundation
John & Natalie Gordon 🐾 Stacey Swall & Alan Eddy

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS!



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Nutraceutical Therapy
Home Cooked Diets
CO2 Laser Surgery

Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 7am-6pm
Saturday: 7am-4pm
Sunday: 9am-2pm

