

# TIBETAN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

## RESCUE PROGRAM

The following details the Tibetan Terrier Club of America (“TTCA”) club directed rescue program. The following outline of the major components of the plan is followed by a detailed explanation of each component.

### Rescue Program Outline

- I Statement of Purpose
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#### **I Statement of Purpose**

The Tibetan Terrier Club of America’s Rescue Program is established for the protection of the Tibetan Terrier. It is the goal of the program to place Tibetan Terriers in loving homes where they will be given a second chance for a happy life. It is the policy of this program not to place dogs that have a history of aggression towards people or are diagnosed with an incurable disease. All dogs placed, will be spayed/neutered.

#### **II. Organization & Responsibilities**

The Rescue Committee is an operating committee under the auspices of the Tibetan Terrier Club of America and shall be comprised of the following:

- . Chairperson
- . Network Coordinator
- . Board Member Liaison
- . Regional Coordinators

The country will be set up in 10 rescue regions based on estimates of TT population. If possible, each region will have a coordinator (approved by the board or appointed by the Rescue Chairperson) who will be responsible for coordinating rescue, working with individual Rescue volunteers, advising individuals on proper procedure, use of forms and in turn providing rescue statistics (copies of forms) to the National Network Coordinator. The Regional Coordinators should develop a documented file on club members interested in serving as Rescue volunteers,

potential adopters, veterinarians with special rescue fees etc. in their region. Refer to the attached map for an outline of regions. Regional boundaries will be reviewed annually based on rescue experience.

The Network Coordinator's responsibility is to work with the Regional Coordinators in areas of cross regional communication. This person should also be responsible for the ingathering, maintaining and reporting of all rescue efforts. This person is responsible for the cohesive management of all field rescue personnel. The Network Coordinator should provide the Rescue Chairperson with a monthly report on rescue efforts.

The Rescue Chairperson has overall responsibility for Club rescue and is directly responsible to the Board. In the event that a Regional Coordinator position is unfilled, the Network Coordinator or Chairperson will assume the responsibilities of that position. If the Network Coordinator position is unfilled, the Rescue Chairperson will assume the responsibilities of that position.

The TTCA Second Vice President will serve as the Board Member Liaison.

### **III. Additional Policies and Responsibilities**

- A. Unless otherwise specified, it is within the discretion of the Regional Coordinator, Network Coordinator and/or Rescue Chairperson to determine if an individual dog is eligible and should be accepted into the TTCA Rescue Program. The Rescue Program does not assume responsibility for dogs, their expenses, or their placement which are not accepted into the Rescue Program. The Rescue Program is not responsible for the actions of Club members, Rescue volunteers, etc. who accept a dog without first verifying that it is eligible for and obtaining approval to accept the dog into the Rescue Program.
- B. In keeping with the statement of purpose, no dog will be accepted into the Rescue Program that has a history of human aggression or has bitten a person. No dog will be placed that has a history of aggression towards people.

No dog will be accepted into the Rescue Program that has been judged to be a "dangerous dog" under the law (or has been given a similar designation) by a court of law or similar adjudicatory body.

If a TT, already in the Rescue Program, shows an unstable temperament that would, in the opinion of the Rescue Chairperson, render the dog unadoptable or constitute a liability if the dog is placed, it is within the discretion of the Rescue Chairperson to have the dog humanely euthanized.

In keeping with the statement of purpose, no dog will be accepted into the Rescue Program that has been diagnosed with an incurable terminal disease. No dog will be placed that has an incurable terminal disease. It is within the discretion of the Rescue Chairperson, or the Network Coordinator, to determine whether to accept into the Rescue Program a dog with a non-terminal disease.

If a TT, already in the Rescue Program, is determined by veterinary examination to have no chance for a reasonable quality of life due to a chronic, irreversible or painful condition, euthanasia may be considered as an alternative to adoptive placement. It is within the discretion of the Rescue Chairperson to determine whether euthanasia is appropriate after consulting with the veterinarian.

The Rescue Program is intended to serve the needs of purebred Tibetan Terriers. Tibetan Terrier mixes, other purebred dogs, or other mixed breed dogs will not be accepted in the

Rescue Program. Any exceptions to this rule may only be made with the express permission of the Rescue Chairperson.

The TTCA Guidelines for Responsible Breeders require that a breeder “[a]cknowledges he is responsible for any dog he has bred for its entire lifetime and makes written arrangements for its return to him at any time the purchaser no longer wishes to keep it.” When dealing with a potential rescue situation, efforts should be made to ascertain the breeder of a dog and that breeder should be contacted so that the breeder can assume responsibility for the dog. It is the responsibility of the Regional Coordinator to contact breeders in potential rescue situations.

If a breeder is unwilling or unable to assume responsibility for a dog of his/her breeding (or Rescue is unable to contact the breeder), the dog may be placed in the Rescue Program. In this instance, the breeder may be required to provide financial or other assistance to the Rescue Program. The Regional Coordinator will immediately inform the Rescue Chairperson of any situation in which a breeder is unwilling or unable to assume responsibility for a dog of his/her breeding.

If a breeder is unable to be contacted as outlined in section III(E) above, or is unwilling or unable to assume responsibility for a dog of his/her breeding, the Rescue Chairperson may, at his/her discretion, contact the owner of the dog’s sire at the time of breeding, the breeder of the dog’s dam, and/or other breeders/owners of ancestors found in the dog’s pedigree to determine if such a breeder/owner might assume responsibility for the dog.

Rescue volunteers are responsible for adhering to state and local laws and regulations that may apply to them. In the event that such laws/regulation conflict with the Rescue Program Outline, the Regional Coordinator and Rescue Chairperson should be promptly informed of any such laws/regulation affecting a particular Rescue situation.

Members who volunteer and assist the Rescue program should be recognized in the annual Club Yearbook, and/or Club Newsletter.

#### **IV. Liability & Record Keeping**

A. Insurance- Adequate liability coverage for all aspects of rescue is a pre-requisite for the establishment and continuation of this program.

B. Proprietary Forms

The following forms are to be used by all individual club members when involved in rescue. These forms should be used in all cases where applicable and completed as the circumstance warrants. Copies should be sent immediately to the acting Regional Coordinator who will maintain a regional file and provide copies of each rescue to the acting Network Coordinator. It is understood that every part of every form may not be completed depending on the circumstances. However, it is the responsibility of every person involved in rescue to obtain as much information as possible and document it in order to best protect the animal involved, potential adopter, the TTCA and the individual rescuer.

Each volunteer is responsible for making timely reports to the Regional Coordinator, Network coordinator and/or Rescue Chairperson.

Form I - Application for adoption – This form gathers information about perspective homes. This form is available online at <http://www.ttca-online.org/cgi-bin/rescue.pl> . Potential Adopters should be referred to this site to fill out

application for adoption.

- Form II – Lost Report Form- This form is used for strays.
- Form III – Release/Surrender Agreement- This form is used on any dog surrendered to a rescuer or picked up at a shelter.
- Form IV- Veterinarian’s Medical Records Release -This form outlines medical records available.
- Form V- Rescue Adoption Contract For A Sterilized Tibetan Terrier- This form is used when placing a dog in a new home.
- Form VI- Master Record- This form allows the Rescue Program to track the dog at a glance.

## V. Financial

- A. Costs - It is assumed that Rescue volunteers will bear many costs on their own as a service to the breed. Pre-approved, documented costs for necessary basic health care and shelter adoption fees will normally be reimbursed. All expenses and medical treatment should be pre-approved up to \$100.00 by the Regional Coordinator. Over \$100.00 should be pre-approved by either the Network Coordinator, or the Rescue Chairperson. In addition, other expenses may be approved on a case by case basis, at the discretion of the Network Coordinator, or the Rescue Chairperson, including: transportation costs, shipping costs, veterinary boarding fees, food or necessary supplements. It is not the policy of Rescue to reimburse Rescue volunteers for mileage expenses, nor for property, incidental or other damage by the rescue dog.

It is assumed that Rescue volunteers will house dogs free of charge as a service to the breed; charges for housing/boarding provided by club members will not be approved. No member shall profit or receive monetary gain from the rescue or rehoming of a TT, or from services provided to the Rescue Program. If specific items are purchased using Rescue funds for incidental use by the rescuer/rescue dog, these items will remain the property of the Rescue Program.

All receipts and invoices for reimbursable expenses must be submitted to the Rescue Chairperson, as soon as possible. Copies should also be sent to the Regional and Network Coordinators. It is the Rescue Chairperson's responsibility to review documented, approved expenses and to present them to the TTHWF or TTCA Treasurer (as applicable) for reimbursement or payment in a timely manner. It is within the discretion of the Rescue Chairperson to authorize the TTHWF or TTCA Treasurer (as applicable) to make direct payment to a third party, such as a veterinarian, for approved, documented expenses.

Any exceptions to the foregoing must be approved by the Rescue Chairperson.

- B. Auction/ Pet store Policy: Rescue Funds will generally not be used to purchase dogs at auction, from pet stores, or from other sources for rehoming through the Rescue Program.
- .C. Adoption Fees - Each rescuer should collect a minimum of \$50.00 to a maximum of \$500.00, at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator, payable to the TTHWF when

placing a rescue dog with an adoptive family. The actual amount to be collected will be determined by the Regional Coordinator and should be based on the area of the country, expenses incurred by Rescue, as well as the age and condition of the dog.

In cases where Rescue facilitates the adoption of a dog, but the placement is done through another entity, a donation of a minimum of \$25 from the adopter or entity should be requested whenever possible.

D. Fund Raising:

- . The TTCA has established a nonprofit foundation, the Tibetan Terrier Health and
- . Welfare Foundation, to provide financial support for the health and welfare of the Tibetan Terrier and to support the rescue activities of the TTCA. Members of the TTCA are urged to make donations to TTCA Rescue through the TTHWF.
- . Drop off fees- Each rescuer should attempt to collect a minimum of \$50 (payable to the TTHWF) as a drop off fee to help defer costs from a person surrendering an animal.

The above program is dedicated to the welfare and protection of Tibetan Terriers. The program as outlined should be adhered to as closely as conditions permit for the protection of all involved.