



## Mac's Journey

*by Melanie Bock MacDonald*

Mac's story started with a phone call from the Belgian Sheepdog Rescue Trust...they had been notified about a male Belgian Sheepdog that needed to be moved immediately from its situation. I was asked to do an ID and a temperament evaluation in a town about 60 miles from our home where Mac was being kept in a basement along with a couple of other dogs. Mac most certainly was a Belgian Sheepdog and did need to be rescued as his last owner had died and the family was surrendering him so the house could be sold. BSDRT surrender paperwork was signed and Mac came home with us.

The following day Mac visited our local veterinarian for a health screening. As we knew the last time Mac was seen by a vet was six years prior, we were very nervous as to what we would find. The good news was Mac was heartworm negative! The not so good news was Mac was grossly overweight at 89 pounds, had severe dental disease, and had an untreated thyroid condition.

The next decision in Mac's journey was whether we would agree to be his foster family or would he go to a different home for fostering? Our family was comprised of a young



female Belgian Sheepdog and two indoor cats. After careful consideration, we agreed to foster Mac and provide the care to get him back to stable health. BSDRT was great about providing the structure of what you needed to do as a foster family and was available as counsel if any questions arose.

During the next month, the "foster period", Mac was back at the veterinary office several times as repeated blood work was done to stabilize his treatment for hypothyroidism and he had a full dental cleaning. For our part, we provided daily walks and visits to the dog park and fed him a controlled diet to help in weight loss. We worked on obedience although it was apparent Mac had had obedience training in his past.

Mac had been with us about five weeks when it was time for him to go up for adoption. BSDRT had done extensive research to try and find Mac's breeder and although Mac had been micro chipped, the microchip was never registered. The little bit we knew of Mac's history was that he had passed through four different households (one of which abused him) in his lifetime. We loved Mac dearly and could not face the thought of him having to go to yet another family...so yes, we became a "foster failure" and adopted Mac!

After Mac had been with us six months, his breeder happened to see a photo of him on the Rescue website and recognized him. We were put in contact and were stunned





to hear about Mac's beginnings. He had been the "pick male" of the litter and was AKC registered. Amazingly the wonderful temperament Mac displayed as a puppy was still evident in this 9 year old dog that had endured so much!

We just celebrated Mac's one year anniversary of being with our family. In that time, Mac has lost 24 pounds and reached his goal weight of 65 pounds! The hypothyroidism has stabilized and Mac's fur has grown back in glossy and shiny. We are so proud that we could be part of returning this wonderful dog to good health! We like to say we rescued him and he rescued us right back! Our reward has been unconditional love each and every day!



Make a Donation to Belgian Sheepdog Rescue Trust...



## Help Belgian Sheepdogs in need

Please send a check made out to  
"Belgian Sheepdog Rescue Trust"  
and mail to:

Rescue Trust Treasurer  
C/O Marion Heise  
200 River Street  
Avon, NY 14414-1112

Note: The Belgian Sheepdog Rescue Trust is a 501c3  
charitable organization. Donations to the Trust may be  
tax deductible, depending on the tax status of the donor.  
Please contact your tax advisor.

**The BSDRT has received the following donations in the  
months of March/April/May 2013:**

### **FOR RESCUE:**

Nancy Mueller

Robert Berry

Cynthia Plunkett, In memory of Belgian Sheepdog "Nettie" and  
Belgian Tervuren "Ellie"

Debra Eshelman, In Honor of GCH Char-ma's Minion of  
Heaven's 2nd Birthday

*Those donors who designate a portion of their eBay sales to the BSDRT!*

### **For Health Research**

Ramona Kraft & Penny King

Shelly Brosnan

***Everyone who supported the BSDRT Raffle and Silent Auction  
in Wisconsin!***

*Many thanks to everyone who took the time and effort to donate  
to the Rescue Trust to further the mission of improving the  
lives of Belgian Sheepdogs, either directly through the rescue  
organization or with a vision of the future through support of the  
health research initiatives. Your generosity is truly noteworthy.*

*Co-Chairs Sharon Roundy and Susan Spinhirne*

**The Belgian Sheepdog Rescue Trust** is an independent  
organization. Although the trust may sometimes work in  
unison with other organizations, it is a stand-alone operation  
made up of many rescue volunteers. The Belgian Sheepdog  
Rescue Trust is not related to any other rescue group that may  
be using Belgian Sheepdog in their organization's name. For  
more information, please contact BSDRT co-chairs Sharon  
Roundy or Susan Spinhirne or visit [www.bscarescue.com](http://www.bscarescue.com)