

Borzoï

The National Borzoï Rescue Foundation has been working tirelessly for Borzoï in need for two decades. While I was working on the Board of the Borzoï Club of America,

setting up the NBRF as an independent entity was crucial, and the group has done wonderful work with both large rescue efforts and helping the single Borzoï.

Recently I was contacted by person who needed a home for two Borzoï together, after a divorced couple left the U.S., leaving the dogs. The NBRF helped get these dogs a great home.

Please visit the group's website, nbf.org, for some the great fundraising items available for purchase to help support the rescue's efforts. There are also auctions that have offered some great sighthound items, and placing a bid can have far-reaching benefits.

I asked the group's director, Carol Backers, to share a few highlights about NBRF and some of its recent activities. Her comments follow.

The National Borzoï Rescue Foundation

The National Borzoï Rescue Foundation, Inc. was first started in December of 1994. As it was so close to the end of the year, we consider our founding year as 1995. The NBRF is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

In the 19 years we have been doing rescue, NBRF has helped over 700 Borzoï. The NBRF covers the entire U.S., with the exception of Northern California, which is covered by Borzoï Rescue of Northern California.

Jacqueline Gregory was the founder and is still the director. Our website address is nbf.org, and we have recently added a Facebook page as well, which has proven to be a wonderful tool for networking and keeping the Borzoï community informed of the goings-on with rescue, as well as finding good and loving homes for our Borzoï. Our Facebook page is at [facebook.com/nationalborzoirescuefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/nationalborzoirescuefoundation).

From 2010 to 2012, the nation's struggling economy played a big role in an increased need for rescue, in that most of the Borzoï rescued were from owners who had to surrender their Borzoï because of losing their jobs. In 2011 the NBRF rescued 74 Borzoï,

and in 2012 47 Borzoï were rescued.

Although 2013 was also a busy year for us, with 70 Borzoï rescued, to our knowledge none of the Borzoï surrendered that year were because of job loss—although of course it is sometimes hard to know the cause of Borzoï winding up in shelters.

What is distressing to the NBRF, as well as I am sure to other rescue groups, is the steadily increasing cost of veterinary care for our dogs. In many places in the U.S., the cost of spaying a Borzoï female can be \$600 or more. That does not include the cost of vaccinations, heartworm testing, or dental care, as well as a host of other medical conditions that need to be addressed before a dog can be placed into a new home. Further, with the high cost of gas, we have found it necessary to reimburse volunteers who transport our Borzoï to new homes or foster homes.

Yet to find good homes, the NBRF has not increased the adoption fee for our dogs, so it is rare that we break even on a dog. Usually it costs much more for the medical care than our adoption fees of \$300 for a Borzoï under 7 years old, and \$150 for a Borzoï 7 years or older.

Fortunately we have wonderful volunteers who help with fund-raising, which we are constantly doing. But it is always a struggle. —C.B.

Thank you, Carol.

—Jon Steele, jonauroal@gmail.com

Borzoï Club of America website: borzoiclubofamerica.org