



# N.B.R.F

## National Borzoi Rescue Foundation, inc.

### ***Niko - The Little Engine That Could***

~ Lesley Ohmann

NBRF received a call from a veterinarian in the New England area. Their practice had a very sickly puppy that had been in their clinic for four weeks. The owner had surrendered the dog to them. We immediately began phoning volunteers in the area. One of many angels on earth, Melissa Cook, answered our cry for help. She was actually on vacation, dropped everything, went to the clinic, and picked up a teeny tiny, very sick Borzoi puppy. She met with the veterinarian, learned the medical regimen, fostered, and nurtured that little baby for four days of around the clock care until Edna Hanley of Team Borzoi could come to collect this listless little pup.



Edna and June Shienkaruk drove nine hours to transport that little guy back to Enda's home. Both ladies agreed, that puppy would best be described as a "bag of bones wrapped in cellophane."



At 13 weeks, he weighed 7 lbs. He was so small that a few on the NBRF team wondered if he actually was a purebred Borzoi. All four legs had been shaved for IV treatments. He had been in a clinic kennel non-stop for ONE THIRD of his life. He quite literally could not take two steps without falling over. His feet were flat. Every movement took exhaustive effort...

(continued on page 2)



Original art work by:

McVicar Wolf

#### Featured Stories:

*Niko - The Little Engine that Could*  
*Lady Moro*  
*Rue Rue*  
*The First*  
*Mishka*  
*Bringing Them Home*  
*Smile*

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## Niko...

(continued from page 1)

...and resulted in pure water diarrhea. He had no muscle tone. His will was waning: you could see it in his eyes. Thank goodness they reached out when they did. We're not convinced he would have lasted a week otherwise.

Edna is blessed to have an excellent sighthound vet. Her first order of business was to have him seen immediately so they could begin to address each issue in a long laundry list of ailments that had nearly taken this puppy's life. Slowly but surely with proper care, Borzoi know-how, and exemplary veterinarian expertise, this puppy began having more good days than bad days.

We were THRILLED!

What began as cautious optimism was transitioning to hope. Each day brought news we could celebrate. And then came videos of him roaming about the house, his first bark, little foot stomps. We were jubilant. Your messages, comments, and encouragement meant more than you could possibly know. Your kindness and empathy and outpouring of love for this puppy was discussed on more than one occasion by the NBRF Team. We received donations to support his medical costs from around the world! YOU rallied. WE rallied. Most importantly, HE rallied!

Frankly, it could have gone either way. We knew it and we were prepared for the worst;



or as prepared as one could be for tragedy. His was turning out to be a happy story. We had an NBRF Team meeting to pick a fitting name. This puppy was a fighter. The odds had not been in his favor, and he pushed through. It was clear he wanted to live. Getting him out of a hospital environment and into a home surrounded by humans, love, and Borzoi accelerated his recovery. When Edna suggested Niko, we all agreed. It was a perfect name for this itty bitty boy.

Niko means "Victory of the People" and there were a lot of people supporting his progress. It is also a special name to Edna. Her first Borzoi, who looked incredibly similar as a puppy, was named Nicky. Niko is a special name for both its meaning and its memories.

He still has a ways to go. Because of the amount and variety of antibiotics he was on to address his many issues; his gut is sterile. He has no good bacteria. Due to his compromised immune system, he has to be watched extremely closely. The most mundane thing, something we normally wouldn't bat an eye at, such as bird poop or dirt, if ingested could send him into a spiral.

He is on a strict diet of boiled chicken, Science Diet Biome, and pro-biotics. He eats 4-5 times per day. Diarrhea is still a daily thing and will be for some time. He has not yet caught up on his vaccinations. The estimate is it could take a minimum of two years to get his immune system back to normal -- if there IS a normal for him. Only time will tell on that front.

Niko is up to 30 lbs. He now acts like a typical puppy. He is acting like a typical puppy because he finally FEELS like a typical Borzoi puppy. He is active. He is ornery. He is a little piranha with puppy toes. He is learning very quickly. He can now sit. He has learned to wait rather than bolt through a door.



He is developing muscle tone and hare feet. His big brother Rudy is teaching him how to howl. Edna reports that he is a clever and cunning HANDFUL – and she wouldn't have it any other way!



## Lady Moro

~ Kristina Knowski

In January 2021, I was walking in the middle of an empty field looking for birds. My husband was there with me, scanning the horizon for any hawks or owls. It was cold, but nowhere near as cold as it should have been this time of the year in NW Indiana. While I was already a birder before the pandemic, both my husband and I were able to fully enjoy the pastime without having to worry about social distancing. We have an amazing array of birds where we live, but mostly the area is quiet. My concentration was interrupted by a rare phone call. It was an unknown caller, but I knew who it was. My heart started to race....

A month earlier, I was outside in the snow building a dog in the snow. It was a Borzoi, a dog I had dreamed of since I was a teenager and discovered the breed in a book. I thought it couldn't be a real breed, it was just too beautiful – fierce yet graceful. I was enamored but I couldn't even think of owning one as I was just about to go to college and still had pet birds to care for. Yet I dreamed. I thought maybe one day when I was older and had my own space I could pursue that dream.

That unknown number was that dream calling. However, I wasn't sure if the phone call was good or bad news. I had just recently started the adoption process with NBRF, but my confidence was low that I would be what they were looking for.



It seemed like everyone that owned Borzoi had either a whole pack of dogs or they had grown up with them so that they knew what to expect from such a rare breed. I had only seen one Borzoi in real life, and it was from a distance with little interaction. I had no idea what to expect so I started following NBRF religiously, and looked at Instagram accounts with Borzoi. While this was helpful, it only fueled the initial love I had for the breed and I decided that it was time to at least try to get a dog. My longtime pet cockatiel had passed away two years before, and I had mourned his death with no pets for that time. I needed something in my life to replace that emptiness and I knew I was ready to make the switch from bird to dog. So I began the adoption process with NBRF. I had fallen in love with their recent project of housing a group of young dogs from Boston, and had my eye on one of the girls. I tried to not get my hopes up, but failed and answered the phone.

I spoke with Vicki from NBRF for a short period of time and was told that my adoption form was accepted but there were still a few more steps to do before I would be considered for a Borzoi.

I looked at my husband and told him we needed to build a fence! Over the next few months, my husband helped me build a six-foot fence in our yard, add a pet addendum to our lease, and welcomed a representative from NBRF to scout our home and yard to make sure it fit all the requirements for the adoption process. In June, I drove to Illinois to meet with Liz Duncan and meet our new family member. We had been matched with a girl named Ruska who would do well in a home, without other dogs.

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844-NBRF-ZOI (844-627-3964)



*"You cannot share your life with a dog or a cat and not know perfectly well that animals have personalities and minds and feelings."*

- Jane Goodall -

## Rue Rue

~ Kate Watts

Kept mostly in a room by herself, Rue Rue was starved for affection. Her nails had grown long enough that they curled into her pads, vertebra issues were so painful that she had "accidents" when walking. Rue Rue was 13 years old when she became too inconvenient to care for and was surrendered to NBRF.

It is almost impossible to believe that such true indifference really exists. We cannot fix the past, dear girl, but NBRF will pick up the pieces and assure that you will live out the rest of your days in comfort and love. A special shout out to Ken Terry and family for welcoming this precious soul with open arms.

"Rue Rue has been a lot more active since arriving home and has taken a real shine to my son Daniel, following him everywhere. She is constantly coming up to us for loves and has already got our two young male borzoi in line."

With lots of affection, the proper pain medication and by slowly trimming back her nails, Rue Rue is now living the wonderful life she has deserved for so long.

NBRF is standing by. No Borzoi need languish in the conditions that Rue Rue endured. Such neglect of a gentle soul in the most vulnerable of times is unnecessary and inexcusable. 🐾

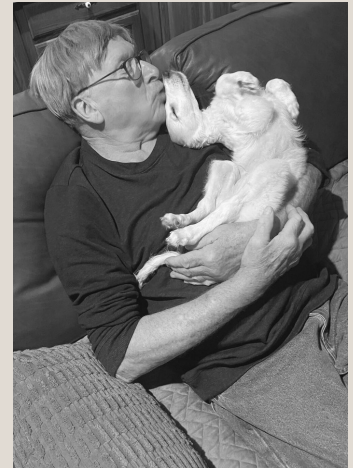


NBRF is here, always: to pick up the pieces, mend lives, provide safety and security, to ensure that every Borzoi under our care lives the life they've each longed for and deserved.

Our mission: to rescue, provide assistance, rehabilitation, medical care, foster care, transportation and proper placement for any Borzoi in a rescue situation.



Original artwork by:  
Kelly Kennedy Yokoyama



## I Promise

To never move and not take you with me  
To put you in a shelter and leave  
To turn you loose to fend for yourself

I will never let you starve  
I will never let you hurt

I will never desert you when you get old  
Nor will I leave you when you go blind  
If that time comes I will be there to hold  
you

I am not "until"  
I am forever



What life brings you is not under your control. The decisions you make are.

Welcoming a dog into your home is a lifetime commitment. Preparation for those "what ifs" is an inherent part of a family plan which should include knowing when to say "I need help."



## The First

~ Laura Barker

Founded in 1994, the National Borzoi Rescue Foundation continues as the only domestic and international rescue dedicated solely to Borzoi.

On the eve of NBRF's 30th anniversary, we take a look back at one very special adopter, Laura Barker, NBRF's first adopter and her continuing journey with rescue Borzoi.

"My first Borzoi was Erica who I adopted from a local shelter. She was outgoing and great with cats! I had no idea what a Borzoi was at that time, only that I thought she was unusual in appearance. She came home that day, joining our family of two cats. I learned so much about having a Borzoi during the years with Erica, who was about 10-12 years when she passed.

For several months I didn't have a Borzoi and I missed the love and companionship that they bring to a home. I always felt that it didn't matter if a dog was purebred, however I did come to LOVE the Borzoi temperament. At a dog show in Chicago I inquired where I could find one. People suggested breeders and the "rescue"? I didn't know who/what the rescue was, but was provided Carol Backer's name and number.

Shortly after the show, a gentleman reached out and said he had a Borzoi to be placed, but it was not a true rescue. Made no difference to me, as long as I could give this pup a loving home. I brought her home and named her Lassie - she was such an actress.



*Carol Backers - Laura Barker  
and Annie*

Shortly after adopting Lassie, I received a call from Carol Backers who was excited to share that she had a pup available for placement. She was the FIRST NBRF adoption! Annie had been kept in a crate most of her days and was not properly exercised. I explained to Carol that I had already adopted Lassie so perhaps someone else might be a good fit. Carol shared with me the benefits of having TWO Borzoi. Well, it didn't take much and we were coordinating the adoption of Annie.

Even though I had a Borzoi in the past, I found out quickly that I still had much to learn about the puppy stages of this breed. Carol was there for each question, patiently explaining to me what and how to handle each situation. A loving, happy, playful ball of energy was Annie. Lassie and Annie had many playful years together as I attempted to keep grass in the yard.

Rosie - When Carol asked if I might be interested, I just knew we had the loving home that she needed. She was young and energetic. My oldest daughter was about eight years old and I told her Rose was "her" dog. In the mornings before we left for work or school, Alex's responsibility was to "run" Rosie in the yard! It was wonderful to see them together building the bond that develops with quality time.

Katie - shortly after losing Annie, Katie was available for adoption. The loss of Annie was great, but I knew that I had enough love for another. If Katie needed a home, I could give that to her. She was not the type of Borzoi that would demand attention. She would wait patiently and when the time was appropriate, she would jump up on the couch next to me or spoon on the bed. She just enjoyed her "special" time and following me everywhere.

Luci - I performed a home inspection that was not a good fit and then adopted her myself. Luci was always such a Love Bug! On walks through the neighborhood, she would gravitate to people walking or doing yard work looking to be petted.



Buddy - It was with Buddy that the pack graduated from a two Borzoi family to three. We met when I transported, fostered and fell in love. He was a character that just made you smile when you looked at him; a happy boy that played hard. Sadly, Buddy passed suddenly at the age of two years from a heart issue.

Minnie - I had the pleasure to transport Minnie when I picked up another Borzoi, Jennie, for foster. Unfortunately Minnie's placement did not work out and a month later, I asked if I could foster/adopt her. Minnie's history is somewhat unknown, but you can tell from her behavior that there was abuse. She is fearful of everything and everyone. While wanting her to feel safe in her home, we do try to encourage her to go for car rides and short walks. She seems to feel safer in the dark and will spend more time at night in the yard. When she comes out of her room, she will quietly come and place her head on you when she wants attention.



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## By The Numbers

The accounting below reflects the period from  
January 1st, 2023 through October 31st, 2023



### N.B.R.F. Domestic

Total Borzoi taken into rescue 2023 - 25

INCOME, includes but not limited to:

Donations: \$37,005.71

Fundraisers: \$2,841.80

EXPENSES, includes but not limited to:

Veterinary: \$49,122.15

Insurance: \$520.00

Toll Free Number: \$269.85

Shelter Fees: \$552.09

**LOSS: \$10,616.58**



### N.B.R.F. International

Total Borzoi taken into rescue 2023 - 17

INCOME, includes but not limited to:

Donations: \$22,527.88

Fundraisers: \$3,098.07

EXPENSES, includes but not limited to:

Veterinary: \$15,798.79

Shelter/Boarding: \$3,805.53

Transport/Fuel/Airline Fees: \$38,422.84

Rescue Supplies: \$1,046.92

**LOSS: \$33,448.13**



### Beverly Taylor Trust

We want to thank Beverly Taylor and the Beverly Taylor Trust Fund Board for ensuring that Beverly's wishes to provide funds for Borzoi Only 501c3 rescues, continue.

NBRF received \$5,000 from the Trust in 2023.

We ask a LOT of our supporters. Volunteers are NBRF's boots on the ground doing the hands on physical tasks of rescue. NBRF donors supply the fuel that keeps this rescue vehicle running. The Borzoi community is not a large one and though our reach has grown, so has the financial burden. Veterinary costs have risen exponentially as have the costs of medicine and food. Domestic dental bills alone came in at over \$16,500 for 2023.

With the loss of Amazon Smile, significant cuts to the Beverly Taylor Trust disbursements, and Facebook's restructuring of fundraisers using PayPal, NBRF lost revenue and incurred more fees than ever. It is a situation no non-profit wants to face. We need recurring donations now more than ever. It is not too little to pledge \$10 a month. Imagine if just half of our 13K + Facebook followers did that? Credit card, PayPal, check... Let us know how we can make it easy for you to follow your heart and become a sustaining member of NBRF.

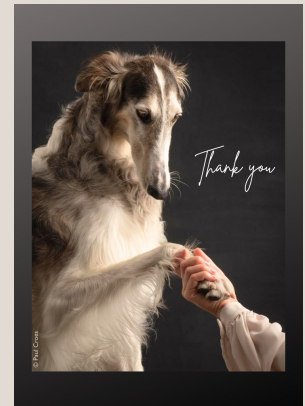
Each life we save, each life lived in health and happiness is a testament to the hard work and generosity of many. Borzoi are ambassadors of love, joy and beauty. Let's continue to give them the safety and security that allows them to share their gifts.

From the desk of the Director

***This year Team Borzoi has rescued and successfully forever homed 25 domestic and 17 International Borzoi.***

***Every successful rescue is 100% due to your financial support and the hard work of our dedicated team of volunteers. When a call for help goes out, there is always someone that steps up and says "Yes, I can".***

***We are grateful for each and every one of you. Many dogs lives have been saved, improved and enriched because of your care and devotion to Borzoi.***



***The National Borzoi Rescue Foundation relies on the generous donations of time, talent and monetary assistance. Your continued support allows us to respond to every call for help received.***

***In recent years the need has grown, our reach expanded and now we need to build a bigger team of volunteers to help us meet our commitment to assist every Borzoi in need.***

***We currently have openings for assistance with adoption placement, social media, foster homes, and transporters. If you have the desire and time to donate to our mission to help every Borzoi in need please considering joining our all volunteer team of very special people.***

***A volunteer application can be found on our website [rescueborzoi.org](https://rescueborzoi.org).***

~ Ann Marie Wiseman



844-NBRF-ZOI (844-627-3964)

## Mishka

~ Vicki Stone



Mishka was surrendered to NBRF along with his four brothers in April of 2022 at the tender age of 7 months. It was love at first sight for him and his foster to adopt Mom, Lea Neibarger, and they have walked many difficult paths together since.

Shortly after arriving at his forever home it became apparent that Mishka was suffering from recurrent ear infections. Using a variety of antibiotics and ear drops made no difference. A CT scan showed that he had a birth defect in his ear canal, and that in addition to causing him pain and being prone to infection, he was practically deaf.

Corrective surgery was performed and things were looking up; he not only felt better but he could hear! It was a joyful update when Mom Lea reported "I called him when he was around the side of the house and he came prancing around the corner, ears really high on his head. I almost cried." Unfortunately the news was not all good. The medicine fighting his ear infections had terrible side effects; weakness, lack of appetite, lethargy...



Mishka had also contracted Valley Fever; a respiratory infection that dogs get from a fairly common fungus that lives in the air and dust in the desert of Arizona. In healthy dogs, the immune system can isolate the effects and prevent them from spreading or causing symptoms. Mishka's immune defenses and reserves were compromised at best. Because of this the disease affected his whole body. Treatment for Valley Fever can last from six months to a year or more.

He will be tested again for Valley Fever in December. If it has cleared, then a plan can be made to address the ear infections that have returned to both ears. One possibility on the table is another expensive surgery that the specialty vet believes would fix the problem for good but will also render him deaf.

Living as a deaf dog may not be ideal but dogs adapt and it would be a better alternative to the endless cycle of drugs and pain that he currently is experiencing. Still, it will be a last resort.

To say that Mishka and his family's lives together has been a roller coaster is an understatement! Through the highs and lows, his people and NBRF have not given up on this sweet, gentle, young boy. To Mishka's family who time after time have had their hopes raised only to face another battle, we stand with you. We admire your perseverance and respect your dedication.

Dear Mishka, our handsome \$10,000 plus in veterinary expenses and medication Borzoi. We stand with you and will continue to do everything we can to give you the quality of life you deserve.

Some rescues need more, a lot more, and this is also NBRF's mission. This is not a no win situation. This is a young Borzoi with his whole life ahead of him. This is what the donations of our generous supporters do for those in need. It matters: to Mishka and to his loving family. 🐾

## Foster to Adopt



*Mishka is just one example of NBRF's Foster to Adopt program*

NBRF does not adopt out sick or injured dogs. When a Borzoi comes into rescue with pending needs provided for by NBRF such as ongoing medications, surgery to correct an injury, health complications, spay or neuter they are considered "Foster to Adopt."

These dogs are not available for adoption to anyone other than the foster but are still of a foster status until they receive a clean bill of health. It is at that point only that they are cleared for adoption.

Mishka's surgery and ongoing medications will continue to be covered by NBRF until he comes through the other side of Valley Fever and the ear issues that continue to affect his young life.

Expensive medical bills, lifelong supplements and/or medications are covered by NBRF for several dogs. Be it due to neglect or age, the Borzoi needing this level of care are deemed Permanent Fosters and NBRF will pay those necessary bills for the rest of that dog's life. We stand together!





## We're Bringing Them Home

*The crossroads of Domestic  
and International Rescue*

~ Lesley Ohmann

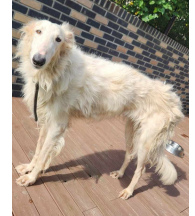


### Roxy, Intake Photos



Surrendered to NBRF in August 2023. Initial evaluation: significant matting, hair loss, and scabbing noted due to infestation of fleas, ticks, and mites

### Huxley Intake Photos



Roxy and Huxley were born and bred in the United States. They were shipped to Seoul, South Korea in 2018. It is impossible for us to know if there was proper vetting done prior to the sale and shipment of these two then healthy dogs. Nor can we know what exactly the circumstances were for their owner in South Korea that ultimately led to their surrender.

We try to learn all that we can to build their backstory because those details factor into elements of their physical, mental, and emotional rehabilitation. We learn of these stories and look at OUR OWN dogs and think how? Why? Who could let this happen? It is rarely possible to get a full accounting ...for a whole host of reasons. That said, what we DO know for sure is, the two dogs that were surrendered to NBRF in Seoul, South Korea a few weeks ago were in horrific physical condition.

We are going to show you graphic photos. This is not simply because we want to tug on your heart strings; or to compel you to loosen your purse strings. We choose to share these photos with you because their situation and condition were graphic. Unless you have personally experienced a similar situation, it is difficult to describe through words and the gravity can sometimes be lost in the details. You will, more than likely, have an emotional response. We did. We wish to present the facts to our readers in the most straightforward fashion; so when we ask for your help, you will know that it is needed, the specifics of how the donations are being spent, as well as WHY.

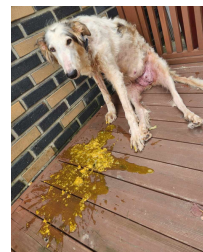
It is important to share where these two BEGAN so you can appreciate their progress and understand NBRF's continuing investment in their future wellness.

Their story is well-documented through photos since the point of their surrender to NBRF's care.



Huxley and Roxy at approximately one year of age in their home in South Korea. They arrived as healthy puppies in 2018.

But then... ↓



The following day, she took a turn for the worse. She could not keep food down and she became lethargic. Her condition became critical and so she was transferred to a larger hospital for treatment.



Roxy had bloody urine when NBRF took custody. Level three heartworm was confirmed but only after contact with the owner did it become known that she had given birth to eight dead puppies just two weeks before.



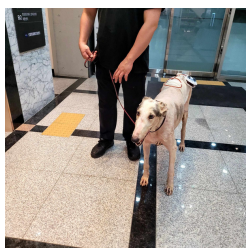
Inflammation increased, Her blood work was concerning. She was having a reaction to the mites. She ran a fever and was put on IV fluids and antibiotics. They shaved off all of her fur. She had hundreds of ticks all over her body.



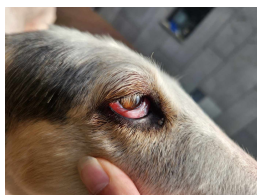
That afternoon, she vomited and all energy left her. Too weak to eat, they were feeding her with a syringe. She could stand, but barely. She had no strength.



Overnight, fever and inflammation increased. Emergency surgery to remove infection from her chest and abdomen was performed. The diagnosis was severe mastitis.



Following surgery, her strength began to return; well enough to go for a short walk around the clinic. With inflammation and fluids reduced, she was discharged from the hospital into the care of a nurse who managed her care.



Everything was going so well! ...until it wasn't. Roxy became very sick, developing bruising all over her body and was transported to a specialized hospital. Additional bruising appeared. She began running a fever: antibiotics and fluids were started again.



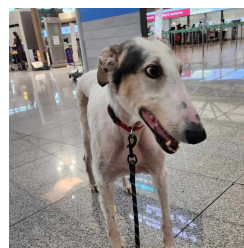
An ultrasound looked good though new blood spots continued to appear. The medical staff searched for answers. Labs showed only inflammation and anemia. They continued antibiotics and fluids, monitoring her progress. Finally she showed improvement and was released back into our care. It was thought that the bruising may have been due to a genetic blood disorder.



Following her release, Roxy and Huxley were together again and just being DOGS! Isn't it marvelous?



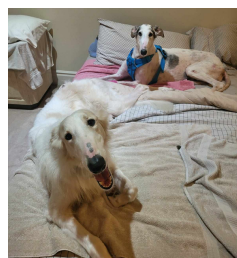
Huxley at the start of his journey to America. Huxley's costs for transport, boarding, and veterinary care came to \$2,730. Look at that smile! Such a happy boy. He arrived in the USA on October 7th.



Delayed slightly until we were confident we'd resolved her medical concerns, Roxy was finally bound for America. She arrived safely in the evening of October 17th.



Some very happy Borzoi "How do you do's." It is obvious they are excited to be back together again. This scene makes it all worth it!



Huxley, also heartworm positive, and Roxy are together in their new home in California. They are both undergoing treatment and will have every need met - physical, mental, medical, and emotional - for the rest of their days.

(continued on page 10)



## We're Bringing Them Home...

(continued from page 9)

Mrs. Oh has been helping breed rescue groups in Seoul, South Korea for many years. She has a special place in her heart for Borzoi. Her deep love and compassion for the breed causes her to always do a little extra when there is a Borzoi in need. Roxy and Huxley were no exception.

Roxy's condition required a lot of care and medical oversight. Mrs. Oh visited Roxy each and every day in the hospital to assist with her care. This included hand feeding her, getting her up and out for short walks and potty breaks, and compassionate reassurance by just being there. She sat with her late into the evenings, stroking her body when Roxy was at her weakest and most vulnerable.

When Roxy's medical costs escalated to nearly \$9,000 USD, Mrs. Oh negotiated a discount that brought the cost down to \$7,200. Knowing what a hardship these exorbitant costs are to NBRF, she also donated the cost (\$2,730) of boarding fees, food, and transport for Roxy to the USA.

Mrs. Oh is a special lady and NBRF is lucky to have her helping us with Borzoi rescue in South Korea.

Thank you for everything you do to help Borzoi in need!



*Mrs. Oh and Joseph*

*Minnie and Drake*

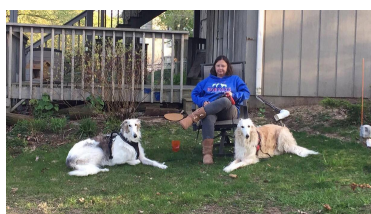


## The First...

(continued from page 5)

Drake – Our most recent addition was one of four placements from a Texas family. Drake was roughly 140 pounds upon arrival, having a difficult time getting up and down. Proudly as of today, he is down to 107 pounds (and yes, his walks have even contributed to my weight loss). I've never seen a Borzoi this large, as he is taller and bigger boned than any I've had before. Now that he is more mobile he tries to catch squirrels and chipmunks. He is a lover and cannot get enough attention.

There were more through the years; fosters, transports and even a couple that did not like cats but all are remembered and loved to this day.



Adopting from NBRF and being part of the rescue has taught me so much about the breed. Carol and the entire team has always been there to coach and support me over the years. What a difference in the lives of both Borzoi and their families that the rescue has made.

No words can express my gratitude for the Borzoi that have been brought to me and my family by NBRF.

The dedication of the people that coordinate the fundraising, transport, evaluation, medical treatment, foster placement and final adoption is amazing. Everyone gives of themselves to help Borzoi in need. I am proud to assist NBRF in any way I am able.



## From Ivan

May 29th, 2023 disaster struck our Ukraine partner, Ivan, when a drone strike damaged much of his family home. Thankfully, Ivan, Inna and the dogs all made it out safely.

The quick actions of firefighters saved the main structure and the rapid response of NBRF donors enabled Ivan to purchase supplies and tools to begin clean up and rebuilding. After a great deal of sweat equity Ivan had made enough progress on the dog's area to do what he does best; help Borzoi in need.



"I would like to say a heartfelt "Thank You!" to everyone who contributed to the fundraising and continues to support us during these challenging times. While we haven't been able to fully restore everything that was destroyed by the fire, with your help we have been able to rebuild much that was damaged.

I want to express gratitude and thanks once again to N.B.R.F. and everyone who contributed to the restoration. Thank you for everything you have done for us."

Peace,

~ Ivan Divilov





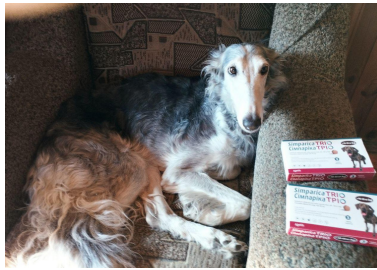
## Georg



Georg could not have made a journey of the magnitude required to bring him to the U.S. Finding a home within a safe distance for him to travel proved to be difficult and time consuming: Georg found himself in a shelter. Enter Ivan, who even in the midst of his other duties, found time to be with Georg; ensuring him that he was not forgotten. They are beautiful together and now with a renovated place to share with him, Georg has found his forever home with Ivan. 🐾



Original art work by:  
Svetlana Sorokina



## Ukraine 2023

~ Ann Marie Wiseman

In late February of 2022, the National Borzoi Rescue Foundation made a commitment to the Ukraine Borzoi in need. Not for one moment has our commitment wavered.

It is no small matter that NBRF's mission in Ukraine perseveres. Many people are still out of work or are working with diminished salaries due to continuing wartime conditions. Food and medicines are delivered, vet visits and treatment for those sick or injured continue. Our ability to come to the aid of those in the Borzoi community enduring this situation depends entirely on our supporters.

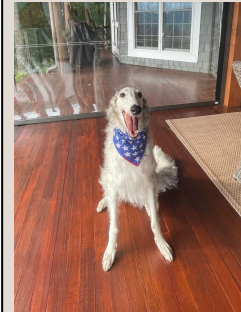
There are 30 Borzoi still in Ukraine receiving assistance from the NBRF-International Ukraine Fund that includes dog food, flea and tick preventative, as well as heartworm preventative, and one dog who is on heart medication. With our assistance Borzoi are able to stay with their families and not be displaced or abandoned but the amount needed to properly insure that the dogs are well fed and cared for is \$3,000 per month.

Please consider making a monthly or one time donation to make it possible for us to continue caring for these dogs. Gratitude to everyone that donates to ease the lives of these Borzoi and their families who are trying to give the best to their beloved dogs. 🐾

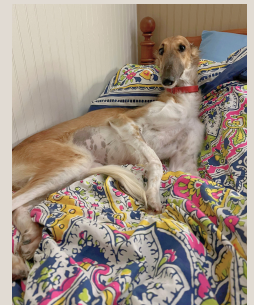


## From Ukraine with Love

With the appropriate quarantines met, NBRF was able to evacuate several Borzoi to the U.S. in 2023



Yari



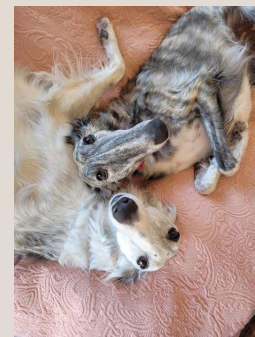
Zoya



Starsky  
and Hutch



Altair



Mausi and Naula

**Thank you for our  
new lives!**



## Smile!

~ Tamara Cantwell

### Peeee Ewww... What's That Smell!?

If your answer to this question is that it's your dog's breath.... And he hasn't eaten anything, well, unsavory... it might be time for a dental checkup! The first sign you may notice is bad breath but other signs include dropping food while eating, pain while chewing, not eating, red bleeding gums, tarter and plaque accumulation.

Medical expenses are NBRF's largest expense and dentals are a big contributor to that. Several of our amazing fosters are able to obtain discounts from their veterinarians for services provided but even with these discounts, dental expenses are over \$16,500 so far in 2023! Rescue Houdini's alone accounted for \$5,270.

How does this happen? Tarter starts to form within a few days on an uncleaned tooth surface. Tarter leaves rough spots on the tooth that allows plaque to form. Plaque forming around the teeth and gums can lead to a gum infection, aka gum disease, which can lead to an infection in the bone surrounding the tooth. If left unchecked, infection can lead to tooth loss, bacteria entering the bloodstream, damage to the heart, liver and kidneys and ultimately, death.



That sounds awful! What can we do about it? Your veterinarian is always a good place to start. The veterinarian will perform a thorough exam and will stage the condition of the teeth between 0 (pearly white) to 4 (uh oh!).

If a dental procedure is recommended, your veterinarian will perform a thorough pre-procedure examination including blood work, heart evaluation and general wellness to determine whether it is safe to complete a dental procedure under anesthesia. The exam may reveal risks that suggest pre-procedural treatments such as antibiotics or heart medications. Since a dental procedure will release some bacteria into the bloodstream, pre-screening is very important, especially in dogs with heart issues or other underlying risk factors.

Although non-anesthesia dentals may be available, the only way to completely remove tartar above and below the gum line is under general anesthesia, performed by your veterinarian. The vet will examine the entire oral cavity including the larynx, throat, cheeks, teeth, gums, etc. and is qualified to recognize, diagnose and treat anything encountered during the dental procedure.

OK, so now you have a "clean slate", what's next? Remember when Mom used to say "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"? As with humans, dogs also require care to keep tarter, plaque and gum disease at bay. The gold standard for dogs is brushing their teeth. Brushing your dog's teeth disrupts the formation of tarter and plaque and as long as the surfaces of the teeth are cleaned often, gums, teeth and the bones around the teeth will stay healthy and this in turn will reduce the severity of dental disease. 🐾

## Brushing tips to get you started:



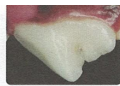
- Select a soft bristled toothbrush with a long handle so you can reach the molars (yep, that could be the soft bristled toothbrush that the dentist gave you and you never used!)
- One toothbrush per dog – no bacteria sharing!
- Add toothpaste formulated for dogs. They are palatable and come in meaty flavors that may encourage cooperation while you brush. They also improve brushing effectiveness with their abrasive and bacteria fighting ingredients.
- Avoid human toothpaste and avoid these ingredients as they can be toxic or harmful to your dog: fluoride, xylitol, sodium lauryl sulfate (and I personally would avoid citric acid due to our breed's predisposition to bloat).
- Dip the toothbrush in water often while brushing to rinse out the bacteria.
- Don't brush the whole mouth the first time. Do a little at a time and work up to the whole mouth, praise often!
- Brush in a circular motion, brushing plaque away from the gum line.
- Make it a goal to brush once a day.

Ok. So we're brushing teeth and everything looks great! WHOA, PARTNER! Your dog still needs periodic exams with your veterinarian and older dogs may still require some scaling but prevention may limit dentals and scalings in the future.

For further information visit The Veterinary Oral Health Council. Developed and managed by Veterinary Dental Professionals, the VOHC is a valuable resource for protocols and products that effectively reduce the severity of gum disease. Look for the VOHC Seal displayed on products that meet their criteria.

#### STAGE 0

The gum margin is flat and pink and creates a scalloped edge against the teeth.



#### STAGE 1

The gum (or gingiva) at the top of teeth is inflamed and swollen, and plaque covers the teeth. Professional cleaning and home care can reverse this condition.



#### STAGE 2

The tooth starts losing support from bone loss. Bad breath is usually noticeable. Professional treatment and home dental care can prevent this from worsening.



#### STAGE 3

Tooth support worsens through further bone loss. The pet's mouth is painful, and bad breath is noticeable. Professional examination and X-rays are needed. Advanced treatment in the form of extractions or bone grafts are likely needed.



#### STAGE 4

Tooth support loss has advanced and extraction is required.





## Benefits of Bone Broth

- **Joint Health:** Bone broth is loaded with nutrients such as glucosamine, chondroitin, and hyaluronic acid, which help to promote collagen growth.
- **Enhanced Gut Health:** The gelatin found in bone broth can help to soothe and heal the digestive tract, making it a useful food for dogs with digestive issues such as inflammatory bowel disease or pancreatitis. If your dog gets a tummy upset, feeding them bone broth can help to repair their stomach lining, keep them hydrated and promote a healthy gut.
- **Boosted Immune System:** The vitamins, minerals, and amino acids found in bone broth can help to support a healthy immune system in dogs.
- **Increased Hydration:** If your dog is prone to dehydration or even diarrhea, bone broth can be a good source of fluids. It's also a great option to offer when your dog is sick or recovering from surgery.
- **Improved coat and skin health:** Bone broth is a rich source of collagen, which is a protein that is essential for maintaining healthy skin and hair. It's also a good source of moisture, which can help to keep a dog's skin and coat hydrated, preventing dryness and flaking, whilst also soothing irritated and itchy skin.

*Chef Rudy*



# treat me!!

## bone broth



### Ingredients:

- 3 to 4 pounds of raw bones with meat and connective tissue attached.
- In a large pot, slow cooker, or Instant Pot add enough filtered water to cover the bones by 2 inches.
- Add 1 tablespoon of cider vinegar or lemon juice. If desired add 4 cups of chopped celery, carrots, pumpkin, green beans or other dog friendly vegetables.
- Let stand for 30 minutes before cooking to enhance the release of minerals.

### Instructions:

**Stovetop:** Bring to a boil, reduce heat to a bare simmer, cover with the lid slightly ajar, and cook for 24 hours (poultry bones) or 48 hours (beef or red meat bones).

**Slow cooker or Crockpot:** On low heat setting, cook for 24 hours (poultry) or 48 hours (beef, red meat).

**Oven:** Bring ingredients to a boil on the stove, then transfer to a large oven-safe ceramic or metal pot with lid, and bake, covered, at 150degreesF for 15 to 24 hours.

**Instant Pot:** Close lid and set to cook on low pressure for 4 hours (poultry) or 5 hours (beef, red meat). Let pressure release naturally.

*Bone  
Appetite!*

## satin balls



### Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 1/4 cups uncooked oats
- 1 1/3 cups Total cereal
- 5 tablespoons wheat germ
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup melted coconut oil
- 1 raw egg and shell

### Instructions:

1. Thoroughly mix all ingredients
2. Roll into ping pong sized balls
3. Freeze

If you make 24 balls, they will have about 100 calories each. See below for more nutrition information on satin balls.

Calories: 101kcal | Carbohydrates: 6g | Protein: 5g | Fat: 7g | Saturated Fat: 4g | Polyunsaturated Fat: 1g | Monounsaturated Fat: 2g | Trans Fat: 1g | Cholesterol: 20mg | Sodium: 31mg | Potassium: 136mg | Fiber: 1g | Sugar: 3g | Vitamin A: 65IU | Calcium: 15mg | Iron: 1mg

*Bone  
Appetite!*

Satin Balls are made for dogs to gain weight. High in calories and fat, they offer a large amount of protein and carbs.

If your dog has pancreatitis, do not feed your dog satin balls. It has too much fat and too many calories to be good for a dog with that health condition.





## Lady Moro...

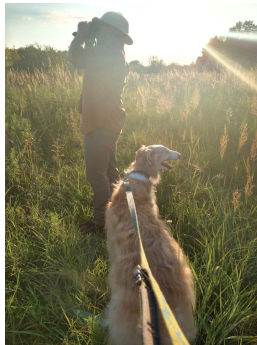
(continued from page 3)

Unfortunately, she had been diagnosed with Lyme disease but was asymptomatic. While I was extremely nervous, I was also ecstatic to finally meet the dog that I had worked so hard to add to our lives. We met Ruska in the parking lot of a gas station off the expressway and I was immediately in love. However, she and I were complete strangers and I realized I had a lot of work to do to get her to trust me. We weren't done yet! I was only fostering her until the adoption was finalized and we were sure of our bonding; basic obedience training would help with that.

While I had dogs growing up, I didn't have Borzoi. That summer I experienced their famously independent and stubborn attitude.

Ruska, who we renamed Lady Moro, was true to her breed. She was super smart which made training and pill-giving difficult for a first-time Borzoi owner. I had the task of giving her pills three times a day for her Lyme diagnosis and taking her to a basic obedience class weekly about 45 minutes away. She responded well to basic commands, but would get bored quickly and want to lay down halfway through training. Then, she caught on to my pill-delivery and started spitting them out. I had to get more creative and equally stubborn to get her to take her pills. Liz was there to help me, answering all of my questions anytime something came up so I wasn't alone. In the process of learning about Lady, she was learning about me, and we spent all of our time together.

By October, I was informed that she could stop her Lyme disease pills. Lady had also graduated her basic obedience class, and I was officially ready to adopt through NBRF. I finally had a Borzoi in my life and Lady was everything I had ever dreamed of! A few months later, my husband and I took a birding trip to Florida. I didn't want Lady to deal with the Florida heat while we were out all day so I boarded her at a nearby vet for a few days. After three days without her, (with phone calls to check up on her while we were gone) we came to pick her up from the vet.



When she was brought out to us, she bounded to me and fell to the floor, mouth trembling and quietly whimpering as she tried to get as close to me as possible. With tears in my eyes, I knew then we were bonded for life.

I can't imagine my life without her. We've adapted to living life with royalty and even my husband who has never had a dog before loves showering her with attention. She comes with me to work almost every day where she gets much attention from clients in between naps on her cot. She zooms around the backyard showing us her true grace and fierceness with the squirrels and we walk every day in the dunes area, frequently visiting the National and State Park near us. We are members of the Midwest Borzoi Club and she's an official B.A.R.K. Ranger for the Indiana Dunes National Park! She tolerates the birding adventures with my husband and I, but loves going on car rides and camping. She even has her own Instagram where I chronicle our everyday life and birding adventures @LadyBirdzoi! Lady has all the beds in the house and gets showered with attention every day by both my husband and I. She is clear from Lyme as of today, but we still check her blood regularly. Two years earlier, I made a snow Borzoi dreaming of having the real thing one day. While I am still not a big fan of winter in NW Indiana, I now get to experience the joy of watching a Borzoi dance in the snow.



## Is there something missing in this newsletter?




When we say we want every dollar to go to the dogs, we mean it! At roughly twenty cents per return envelope and 700 newsletter copies going out... well that adds up quick and feeds no one!

The advent of electronic payments has made supporting NBRF faster and easier than ever. Find a DONATE button located on most pages of our website: [rescueborzoi.org](http://rescueborzoi.org) or sign in to your personal PayPal account to use PayPal, credit or debit cards.

Of course NBRF still gratefully accepts checks mailed to: PO Box 231 - Dix, IL 62830

But we humbly ask for you to supply the envelope.

Thank you! 



Original art work by:  
Anastasia Stus



# just for fun

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NIKO  
PAWPRINT  
PUPPY  
RESCUE  
ROXY  
RUEUE  
SHED  
STARSKY  
SWIFT  
VOLUNTEER  
ZOOMIE



ADOPT, RESCUE, FOSTER, TRANSPORT, SPONSOR,  
DONATE, VOLUNTEER

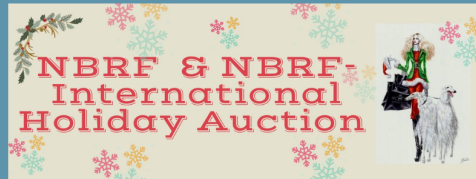
Domestic, International, Ukraine or  
Where it is Needed Most



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SOMETIMES THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN LIFE  
AND DEATH IS YOU

**SHOP BORZOI LIFE**



Apparel, Bags, Glasses, Notecards and Prints featuring  
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[rescueborzoi.org/borzoi-life](http://rescueborzoi.org/borzoi-life)

NBRF is a 501(c)(3) organization



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