

Beverly, Karen, and Cherry pour their hearts into their work with the Boykin Spaniel Rescue



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Saving the Spaniels

Spreading the word about Boykin Spaniel Rescue

Written by Leigh Ann Mitchell | Photography by Michelle Petrash

In South Carolina in 1997, it was noticed that there were a large number of stray Boykin Spaniels. A group of caring volunteers began working together to rescue, rehabilitate, and find loving forever homes for these neglected dogs. They founded the Boykin Spaniel Rescue (BSR). While the rescue organization stretches nationwide, there is now a regional location in the Houston area.

A Closer Look at Boykin Spaniels

A Boykin Spaniel is a medium-sized dog with a reddish-brown to dark chocolate coat. The fur itself may be wavy to curly in texture. Boykin Spaniels are known for their spirit, loyalty, intelligence, and unique personalities. Boykins are typically high energy dogs who need not only physical exercise, but mental exercise as well. "They need a 'job,'" explains Beverly Casey, a BSR volunteer. "If the owners do not give them a job, they will find one on their own and it usually isn't one the owner would want them to do."

These spaniels come into the care of this rescue organization through local shelters, puppy mills, veterinarian offices, and are even relinquished by their owners. "Some are turned in by owners who can no longer care for their Boykin because of medical conditions, changes in family dynamics, moves or relocations, or because they are not able to meet the needs or demands of the breed," Casey explains. "Some of the spaniels come to the rescue with severe medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, orthopedic issues, and even anxiety disorders." There are also cases where Boykin Spaniels are rescued from deplorable conditions.

Promoting the Rescue

Event participation is key in spreading the word about Boykin Spaniels and this rescue organization. The Boykin Spaniel Club of Texas holds several events statewide. The Houston-Metro area's volunteers are excited that awareness is spreading due to these events. "To know that a large community like Katy is being introduced to Boykin Spaniels is huge for us," Casey says. "The more people that become aware of the breed, the more in-need Boykins we can find out about and help, and we might even get a few volunteers."

The Adoption Process

Those who are interested in adopting or fostering a Boykin Spaniel are encouraged to visit the rescue's website and complete the adoption application. A one-time, non-refundable, \$25 application fee will be due. To be eligible, you must have submitted your adoption application prior to the dog's posted date noted on the website. All dogs spend two weeks with an approved BSR volunteer or foster. They are evaluated during this time. The foster gets to know the dog's personality and its emotional and physical needs.

Reference checks, home visits, and meet-and-greets are completed during the adoption process. The foster then chooses the forever home for the dog.

Success in Rescuing

Cammie, a permanent foster care Boykin, is 10 years old and came to the BSR when she was found in the middle of a busy highway. She was cleared of serious injuries and taken to a shelter where she stayed for another week before being released to a BSR volunteer. Her fur was matted and dirty, and her eyes and nose were crusted. She also went through several health infirmities and spent a month regaining her health with her foster. While she won't be adoptable due to other health concerns, she remains comfortable and happy in her foster home.

Full of energy and wit, Boykin Spaniels are a unique canine. Their energy and loyalty make them a true family dog. BSR has helped save, rehabilitate, and find forever homes for neglected, abandoned, or relinquished Boykin Spaniels for about 18 years. Volunteers help take in dogs of all ages and conditions to ensure that they receive a happy new chapter in their lives. **KM**



Adopt Today!

Current Boykin Spaniels
Awaiting Their Forever Homes

- 🐾 **SCOOTER** is a 7-year-old male who loves people and would make a great companion.
- 🐾 **ZEKE** is a 4-year-old male with a happy disposition and a playful personality.
- 🐾 **WILSON** is a 5-year-old male who is healthy, spunky, and ready for a family.

These dogs were available at the time of print. Visit boykinspanielrescue.org for spaniels that are currently available.