



## **Otterhound Club of America, Inc.**

### **Rescue Policy**

*Adopted September 2, 2020*

The Otterhound Club of America, Inc. as the parent club for the breed has responsibility for Otterhounds in North America, including homeless Otterhounds, those found in shelters or those whose owners and breeders are no longer able to care for them. Otterhound Rescue is open to all dogs identified as purebred Otterhounds or those who the Club knows for certain are offspring of one purebred Otterhound parent if they are homeless, abandoned or no longer can be cared for by an owner.

To qualify for this program, an Otterhound must be officially turned over to the OHCA for placement. This program is not designed as a placement service for inferior or older breeding stock for members or breeders and is reserved for the purpose of rescue and placement only.

1. Obtain proper identification of dog as an Otterhound by qualified persons and/or by photographs sent to Rescue chairpersons. Every effort must be made to ensure positive identification. In cases where an Otterhound is in a shelter, OHCA will ascertain that the dog is eligible for OHCA Rescue either via photos on e-mail or the in-person identification by an OHCA member or other qualified person asked to see the dog face-to-face. If the dog fits the above stipulations, the rescue co-chairs will arrange for adoption and/or fostering by a member of the OHCA until a successful placement can be made.
2. The breeder of record, both bitch and stud owner (if known), will be contacted and encouraged to participate in the rescue and placement of the dog or dogs involved.
3. In order to be available for placement through OHCA Rescue's program, an Otterhound must possess a stable temperament and be in good health. These factors will be determined by the Rescue volunteer participating in the placement and by a veterinarian in the area. The OHCA will be responsible for medical treatment, shots, spay/neuter, and shelter reimbursements, if any. The medical condition of each dog will be taken into consideration with regard to expense involved. In the event the medical expense outweighs feasibility, the dog will be euthanized at the expense of OHCA. In every case each rescue will be handled according to its best interest for the future. Medical care is to be provided by veterinarians who will donate services or offer discount rates whenever possible.

4. The Rescue Committee will consist of two co-chairs and volunteers consisting of willing OHCA members. The national coordinators will keep all applications for adoptions and notify Breeder Referral and the OHCA Board of any dogs available through Rescue.
5. Donations to OHCA Rescue, fees for Rescue, etc., will be handled through the OHCA treasury. The OHCA Treasurer will keep separate records of incoming monies and outgoing expenses for Rescue and dispense accordingly.
6. Adoption fees for an Otterhound through OHCA Rescue Fund are \$500 for an Otterhound under age 5, \$300 for an Otterhound age 5 or 6, \$200 for an Otterhound aged 7 - 8. The fee for an Otterhound over age 8 is at the discretion of the co-Chairs. The adoption fee will go to help defray the expenses. A placement fee of \$50.00 may be requested from the current owner of Otterhound released to OHCA Rescue.
7. OHCA will reimburse anyone asked to drive to identify a potential rescue up to a limit of \$75 for mileage and reimburse anyone asked to transport a rescue according to the current IRS rate for business travel. The co-Chairs may spend up to \$250 per rescue without Board approval. The OHCA will be asked to approve any amount over \$250.
8. Upon adoption, if registration papers are available, and the dog has been spayed or neutered, the papers will be transferred to the new owners.
9. Any educational material available concerning Otterhounds and their care will be made available to the new owners. Each adoptee will receive free of charge a one-year membership in the OHCA.
10. Complete records are to be kept on each dog in the program, as well as information on breeders, owner, and follow-up.