

# PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation

## Letter from the President



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*The mission of the Health & Rescue Foundation is to promote the welfare of the breed by providing funding for research, education, and rescue.*

### That'll be the day!

When will a PBGV win Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show? Until now, your response might have been 'that'll be the day'. Then along came Soletrader Buddy Holly, who was beautifully handled by Janice Hayes. Buddy was bred by Gavin and Sara Robertson and is owned by Janice, Cathy Neill, and Lizzie Greenslade. Congratulations to all!



Buddy's win brought our beloved breed into the spotlight. Friends and family called and emailed. Buddy was on the national and local news. And queries arrived from people who saw Buddy and wanted a puppy. Of course, there aren't very many available puppies and, unfortunately, the number has been going down instead of up. In 2020, only 29 litters (with 129 puppies) were AKC registered. This number was not enough to fulfill the requests before Buddy stepped into the Westminster ring!

We are fortunate that most PBGVs in North America come from responsible breeders who conduct health tests and raise well socialized puppies. Our breed does not suffer the health and structural problems of more popular breeds that have breeders who care more about quantity than quality. But that could change and Buddy's win should lead us to redouble our breed preservation efforts. We need new PBGV breeders who will be mentored by experienced PBGV breeders. Check out the Breeders' Tool Chest developed by the PBGVCA Breed Preservation Committee: [<https://pbgv.org/tools/index.shtml>]

We also need to encourage existing PBGV breeders who are not PBGVCA members to join. The Breed Preservation Committee partnered with AKC to communicate with breeders who were not Club members and involve them more in the health of the breed. The names are not available, but AKC agreed to contact these individuals with an offer to join the club. In the course of that effort by the Committee, we discovered that only 30% of breeders who register PBGV litters with AKC are PBGVCA members. Joining would give them a community of like-minded people with whom to share their experiences.

**What does this have to do with the PBGV Foundation?** The Foundation stands ready to fund the education of new breeders. Please get in touch if you have an idea that needs funding, e.g., semen collection efforts. We will help all breeders by sponsoring a reproductive specialist at the 2024 National Specialty. Above all, we hope that we don't have to fund the rescue or re-homing of PBGVs obtained by novice owners who were dazzled by Buddy but who didn't realize the unique spirit of our beloved hounds.

Our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors. Thank you!

<https://pbgvhrf.org/donate>

*Laura*