



State of the Rescue 2014 Financial Report

Financial Information : 01/01/2014 – 12/21/14

Income

Adoption Fees	\$7275.00
<u>Donations</u>	<u>\$2652.14</u>
Total Income	\$9927.14

Expenses*

Veterinary Expenses	\$8622.47
Operating Expenses	\$1127.26
Shelter Bailout Fees	\$ 180.00
<u>Accounting</u>	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
Total Expense	\$10,079.73

***Expenses are explained in detail in the message below.**

A Message from the President

When I started Protege Canine Rescue in January 2005, I had modest goals. I wanted to help dogs, but not be limited by the whims of a large, single-breed rescue organization. I wanted to run a rescue with a minimal amount of internal politics, to be responsive to the needs of the temporary caregivers, and to operate in a fiscally responsible way. My previous eight years working with a large national rescue

organization gave me a leg up, but certainly not a hand-out! Protege started with a donation of \$150.00 from my own bank account.

Now, nearly 10 years and 344 dogs later, and after lots of joy and tears, I'm happy to say that we maintain those three goals. Along the way, I learned some valuable lessons, like how to get 501(c)3 status with the federal government, how to deal with state welfare regulations and state inspections, and probably the most frustrating thing, how to say NO! No, we can't give you a dog for free. No we can't take another dog into the program. No, we can't adopt this dog to you, it's totally inappropriate for your home. Well, you get the picture. Sometimes you have to stand firm and not let emotions take over!

But, enough about running a rescue organization. Let's look at our expenses. This is some compelling stuff.

We'll start with the largest expense: Veterinary Services. We try to make smart decisions about what a dog needs for veterinary care. However, we do believe in thoroughly vetting each dog. We provide a base level of care, vaccinating for distemper, rabies, lyme; using monthly flea, tick, and heartworm preventives; testing and treating for fecal parasites; and testing for heartworm with the 4DEX test (which also picks up several tick-borne diseases). We pay for heartworm and flea/tick preventatives while the dogs are in our care. We spay or neuter all of our dogs before adopting them out. Beyond that, we take care of nasty teeth, ear infections, and hot spots; we x-ray limping dogs, treat for tick-borne disease, treat for heartworm and, well, just about any number of strange oddities that can come up when you deal with animals.

If it's going to have a long-lasting effect on the dog's health, if it is causing pain, or if we just don't know what's up, we feel it is our responsibility to make sure the issue is explored (and fixed if possible) before the dog is adopted. We also have the sad expense of euthanizing dogs, most often dogs who are aggressive or have untreatable (or affordably treatable) medical conditions. It is one of the truly regrettable things about running a rescue. However, at the end of the day, we know that it would be irresponsible to adopt out a dog that we know will bite in the future.

On to Operating Expenses. While not directly related to dog care, these include such things as office supplies, like stamps, envelopes, and file folders (though we did manage to get a donated 4-drawer file cabinet from an adopter – we try to save money where we can). You see, you have to keep records for the State. Speaking of the State, this includes the cost for our Animal Welfare License. Without that, we can't exist. We also occasionally have to groom dogs if they come into the program with severe matting or have skin problems, or if they've gotten into fall burrs and stickers. We provide each adopter with a copy of *Love Has No Age Limit: Welcoming an Adopted Dog Into Your Home*, by Patricia B. McConnell and Karen B. London. We save money on those by buying in bulk, so while it's a painful lump sum to pay, it's only a few dollars per dog. We think of it as a "User's Manual for the Newly Adopted Dog!" We pay for rescue ID tags in case a dog escapes while in our care. We also pay for our website hosting service, which enables us to advertise dogs available for adoption and to tell people about how we operate. So while these expenses don't directly help a dog, they help us operate and aid our adoptions.

Beyond that, you'll notice that we paid Shelter Bailout Fees for a few dogs, which usually is because of veterinary care the shelters incurred, and saves us money in the long run, as we avoid those veterinary costs for the dog ourselves.

And finally, Accounting Services to keep us square with the IRS and the State of Iowa.

You'll note something unusual in our expenses. **Not a single dime goes to any of our volunteers. Everyone in our organization is UNPAID!** Volunteers usually pay for food, treats, toys and often collars out of their own pockets. The exception would be if a dog requires a prescription dog food that is medically necessary. I certainly wish we could supplement our volunteers, as they go above and beyond. They open their hearts, homes, and their own pocketbooks to help our dogs. They invest time training, exercising, and socializing the dogs. They lose sleep, take risks, take time off work to drive to the vet or to help with dog transports, and rearrange their schedules to meet adopters. They call references, clean carpets, keep our files in order; they even stand outside at 3:00 a.m. on frigid February mornings, working on potty training! All this, because they love dogs, they love knowing they can do something small to make a difference.

So, if you can, please donate. It's tax deductible. We use the money wisely and you can know that your money will go to help the dogs. Not to pay a CEO, not to pay for a spiffy office and a PR firm. We really just care about the dogs, we want as much of our efforts to go towards making them as healthy and adoptable as possible.

If you have any questions about Protege Canine Rescue, please contact me. You can reach me by phone, email or mail. I would be happy to talk with you about our organization.

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