

Newton County Rescue Dogs Medical Warnings for Potential Adopters 3-25-09

Because of the deplorable conditions in which these animals were living, they face numerous health and behavior issues, some of which may last throughout their lifetimes.

- Many of these dogs have **severe dental disease** and will require daily owner care, regular veterinary visits and possibly a special diet.
- These dogs are **not housetrained**. Owners must understand that housetraining will require much patience and some of the dogs may never become fully housetrained.
- The dogs also have varying degrees of **patellar luxation** (kneecap dislocation) which may progress in severity now that they will be more active and no longer living in cages. If knee problems develop, long term medication and expensive surgery may be required.
- Some of the dogs may eventually show signs of **congenital liver problems** which will require multiple tests by a veterinarian to confirm. Dogs with this problem may need special diet, medication, or, in extreme cases, surgery.
- Some of the dogs have **congenital deformity of the nostrils** that may result in noisy breathing and can contribute to health issues such as difficulty breathing and heat stroke. In severe cases surgery may be necessary to enlarge the opening to the nasal passages.
- A large number of these dogs have **chronic ear and skin disease** that will require ongoing veterinary care and may, at best, be controlled rather than cured. In some instances extensive surgery may be necessary to address scarring and narrowing within the ear canal.
- A high percentage of the dogs have damage to the surface of the eye due to **entropion (eyelid deformity)**. Even with surgical correction of this defect it often requires lifelong daily treatment with eye drops and ointments to address the **chronic corneal pigmentation and scarring**.

- Some of these dogs have **heart murmurs** that require regular veterinary monitoring. A number of these individuals may eventually develop heart failure and require daily medication.
- Because of prior poor nutrition, these dogs have an **increased risk of fractures**.
- Because they have lived their entire lives in small cages with little or no human interaction, many of these dogs are **very fearful and shy**. Again, a patient, understanding adopter will be required.