



Liberté pour Chiens - Lee Heath

Lee Well, Liberty pour Chiens started about 2 years ago, err, a group of British dog walkers, err, wanted to help SPAs to get dogs out to the British community. Erm, we work with the SPA at Brehand and we do a monthly advert in the Central Brittany Journal. If someone is interested in a dog we will meet them with the dog or take them to the SPA and we would normally suggest that they foster a dog for a month as a trial period and if they're happy then go on to adoption. So we're always very happy to meet people who are prepared to foster dogs or adopt dogs indeed because, err, if they foster at least that is a preparation for adoption. So we form a bridge, really, between the SPA at Brehand and the British community in Brittany.

Elaine Is there a big problem here with dogs being abandoned?

Lee Yes. There is a big problem and sadly some dogs are being abandoned by British people returning to England. Errm, whereas if you feel that you cannot rehome a dog or cannot look after it any more the best thing to do is to go to the Mairie and explain that, ahm , certainly if you find a dog, take it to the Mairie and they should then get the chienier?? service to take it to the fullier?? And then on to an SPA. If you have a dog and you're returning to England, you can ring Liberty, I mean we cannot take dogs, we have no facilities for taking dogs, and the dog would not normally be able to go straight into the SPA. But sometimes we have been the middleman I should say erm, where someone has wanted to rehome a dog and we know of someone looking for that particular type of dog we can act as a facilitator.

Elaine When they are rehomed, are they chipped and vaccinated?

Lee Ah, normally dogs in the SPA are chipped and vacci, erm, and tattooed, or tattooed. The SPA will do the first vaccination but then normally the new owner will do the second. But every case is different, really.

Elaine What can ac.... people actually do to help?

- Lee Well, emm, we have a membership, which is ten euros a year and members are kept informed of any events that we do. When they fill in an application form they're asked to tick anything that they would like to do for us: transport a dog, take a dog to the vet, help at events like today, emm, so they can indicate whether they are interested in helping at all. If anyone is interested that doesn't want to be a member, that's fine, because Liberty are we are very keen to network with everyone across Brittany who is interested in animal welfare, helping dogs into into homes.
- Elaine So what do you think is the way forward for Liberty pour Chiens?
- Lee Oh gosh, we've got lots of plans. We'd like to be an information service, we also, um, encourage people to do puppy training, and training for any dog that's rescued and we have um contacts for that as well because it's a good idea to have your dog under control. And we'd just like to extend our network of people em and be as in inclusive as possible.
- Elaine That's excellent?? Do you have a contact, err, number...
- Lee We do have a Facebook page, Liberty pour Chiens on Facebook where we try to put the latest news and the latest dogs that have come into the SPA. Erm the SPA at Brehand also have a Facebook page which is is developing erm we also have the advert in the Central Brittany Journal every month which has erm a phone number.

