

## STECS Scottie Rescue (Scottish Terrier Emergency Care Scheme)



STECS Scottie Rescue was founded in 1976 and is the only UK registered charity that specialises in rescuing and caring for Scottish Terriers in need. The charity is run 100% by unpaid volunteers.

Scotties were originally bred in the Highlands of Scotland to hunt small game and work apart from their owners. They are therefore very independent dogs and can be notoriously difficult to train. Despite looking “cute” they often have a very feisty temperament. In addition they are also high maintenance and require regular trimming because they do not shed their coat. They therefore require an understanding and dedicated owner.

Due to their distinctive profile the Scottish Terrier image is used on all types of merchandise ranging from greeting cards, biscuit tins, jewellery, hand bags to whisky. However their popularity as a breed probably peaked in the 1930s and 1940s and they now rank a very long way behind the most popular breeds. In recent years they have consistently failed to register in the top 20 most popular UK breeds.

Notwithstanding, somewhere in the UK, on average each week between one or two Scotties need rescuing. This is usually due to their owner passing away or becoming too ill to care for them. Other reasons include marital breakups, a new baby in the household or the rescue of an ex puppy farm dog.

The charity has a long waiting list of potential owners who love and understand the breed. STECS Scottie Rescue go to great lengths to ensure that the right dog is placed in the right home. This is not necessarily true of all rescue organisations. All dogs are found a new home and there is a core of dedicated supporters who will take in the old dogs (the “Golden Oldies”). In addition it is written into the charity’s Governing Document that they will treat any other breed of dog that lives in the same household as a Scottie equally. They therefore always make every attempt possible to re-home pairs of dogs together.

Due to the circumstances in which they are handed over to the charity the Scotties often arrive in a very neglected state. STECS Scottie Rescue ensures that any old or poorly dogs receive only the very best veterinary care. Indeed, the charity will provide life time veterinary care for elderly dogs they rescue, and dogs which come into their care with an existing medical condition. This differentiates STECS Scottie Rescue from most other animal rescue organisations.