

ROSCOE'S STORY

Written By: Dani Startt who is lovingly owned by Roscoe! 9/05/06



I got a phone call in mid August of 2006 from my former place of work. Someone was trying to reach me about a dog breeder named Patti McCarty. I was taken aback by this as it had been years since I'd thought much about Patti. I was immediately intrigued that someone connected with her had found me. I took the message and placed a call to Connecticut. The lady on the other end of the line, Lisa, had a story to tell me. It brought back not only the memories, but the emotions of my ordeal with Patti. After talking to her, I hung up and hopped online. I was amazed at the information I found about Patti and the number of people who have had issues with her. Lisa had lit a fire beneath me and I felt ready for action, again.

It began like this. . . We were newlyweds looking for a puppy. We'd decided on a Miniature Dachshund, the kind of dog I'd grown-up with. We saw an ad in the paper for a female silver dapple that sounded just lovely. The pup was at Keystone Kennel in Canton. We called and made an appointment. On August 18, 2002, we ventured out to Canton to meet this little girl pup. We arrived at a fairly large piece of property with a driveway on the left side of the lot leading to a brick house with an out-building behind it. There were mostly dachshunds in these dog runs, but there were also several miniature pinchers.

We entered the out-building where we met the owners of Keystone Kennel, Ian and Patti McCarty. It was apparent that Patti was really the one who ran the kennel as Ian seemed to be helping her out. There were several puppy pens to our left and a row of stacked dog crates on our right. These crates housed the new moms. Patti showed us the little girl from the ad. We sat down and played with her, but we didn't really seem to get a good feel for her personality. All the while there was the one little puppy making quite a racket. He was standing on his hind legs, leaning up against the puppy pen and chewing on the kennel wire, groaning and whining. He was trying with all his might to make eye contact with my husband. Finally my husband turns and sees him. He says to me "What about this little guy?"

Now here was this long haired red puppy with a chocolate nose and jade green eyes. He was really cute. He took him out of the pen. It was all over from that moment. This little puppy had chosen my husband.

Before I knew it I was writing a check for \$300.00. Patti had a small desk in the out-building. She gave me a packet of paperwork for the pup including the information on his parents and their AKC numbers. My husband toured the kennel with Ian. He asked to see the pup's parents. The sire, Ayers Little Bit of Magic was not owned by them, so he was not there. Ian did bring a dog for us to see whom he said was Ayers Amber. (Now we did see a lot of dogs that day but seem to recollect that the dog we were told was our pup's dam was a smooth red. Later when we checked the internet we saw her pictured there as a long haired red dilute. The internet dog looked exactly like our puppy. We figured we must have remembered incorrectly or perhaps Ian had innocently shown us the wrong dog, as he didn't seem to be as knowledgeable as Patti.)

Patti's packet included a spay/neuter agreement and a guarantee that the pup would be AKC and/or CKC registered. She told me at this point that she did not have his AKC papers yet, but that she would send it to us in several weeks. We were pleased with our pup and ready to take him home. As we were leaving, I asked her if I could use her restroom. She said that usually she'd let me into the house but that her newborn was asleep at the moment and she'd prefer I not go in.

We took our pup and our papers and left. We stopped at the nearest gas station. As we left there with fresh sodas and a furry little bundle in my lap, we came up with the perfect name, Roscoe. Not long thereafter we decided that when we got his AKC application, we'd submit his full name as Baron Roscoe Von Diggerpaws. This proved to be a good name as he, like other doxies, truly loves to dig. We also found that he liked to hunt and track. We became excited about the idea of entering him in an Earthdog Trial. For this we needed his AKC number. Little did I know this would become one of the most frustrating and exhausting things that I'd ever have to deal with.

I called Patti in late October or early November and left a voicemail asking about Roscoe's AKC registration papers. Patti did not call back. I called again in mid-November and left a second message. Patti called the next day and apologized for being behind in her paperwork but promised she was working on it. Seeing as how she had a new baby, I didn't press her. On December 5th 2002, I e-mailed her. I sent her some pictures of Roscoe for her website and asked her about the paperwork. On December 18th I e-mailed her again and reminded her that I was still waiting on the paperwork. She wrote back the same day and said she was sorry for the delay. She said AKC gives breeders six months before they consider the paperwork late and charge a late fee. She said she was busy as it was the end of the year. I sent her some more pictures at the beginning of January. She thanked me and told me she was working on the papers and she'd keep me posted. On February 19th, I e-mailed her again and asked this time if there was some way I could help or someone I could call at AKC. On March 4th Patti e-mailed me and told me she had sent in a bunch of paperwork to AKC. She said she now owed late fees for some of the litters. She apologized and said this was all her fault. She said her baby had died of SIDS in December and that she'd had trouble "picking-up the pieces." She said she would fulfill her obligations and I would get my papers. She thanked me for my patience and asked for more time. I was devastated for her. What a loss! I backed off for a while.

On April 18th I e-mailed again to check on the status of the papers. I told her we wanted to enter Roscoe in an Earthdog trial and we wanted to know if she could estimate how long it would be before the papers came. On April 22nd, annoyed with being ignored again, I e-mailed Patti again. I told her if we didn't receive his papers or at least proof that she had mailed them within 30 days I would contact a lawyer. I told her that owning a dog for eight months and not having papers was really frustrating. I told her we had been recommending her to people who were impressed with Roscoe but that we could no longer do that, not even at the Atlanta Dachshund Club show we attended. On April 23rd Patti she wrote back and told me to be careful what I said as "slander is a serious crime." She reiterated about her family emergency that took priority over her paperwork and told me again how she has sent Roscoe's paperwork in with many other litters and that all she owed was a late fee. She said she didn't know she owed them until January 20th, when they sent her a letter stating so. She said I should call AKC myself. She said she would mail the fee on Friday the 25th and it would take AKC 2-3 weeks to acknowledge receipt of the papers and 3 or more weeks to process them. I wrote her back and told her I had said nothing to constitute slander. We just wanted the paperwork, that's all. Using her estimates, I told her if she sent the fee in on April 25th and AKC acknowledged by May 16th, and AKC processed by June 6th then I assumed I'd have my papers by June 15th. I told her if I didn't hear from her by then I'd check back.

I called AKC myself. She had in fact submitted Roscoe's litter along with several others back in January like she said. AKC told me that they had opened her envelope, and entered the litters starting with the top of the stack. She had paid the registration fees and the late fees for several litters but she did not have enough money to cover all of the litters that she had submitted. Roscoe's litter was on the bottom of the stack and therefore was not registered. This seemed like a ridiculous process. Nevertheless I offered to pay the fees for Roscoe and was told that I could not as it must come from the breeder.

On June 16th, I e-mailed Patti and asked about the paperwork. I got no reply. On June 18th, I e-mailed again and asked about the paperwork. Again, I got no reply. On June 19th, I e-mailed again and asked about the paperwork. I asked her to let me know if she got my messages. On June 20th, I'd had it! I e-mailed her again and told her that if I didn't get some response by Monday at 4:00PM I'd be sending her a certified letter. I told her I felt we had been more than patient and more than reasonable.

On June 25th, I send her a certified letter. I gave her until August 8th to get us our paperwork or else I would file a civil suit. I had also filed complaints with the BBB and the GA Consumer Protection Bureau. In early July I called the GA Dept of Agriculture who license breeders and filed a complaint against Patti. I spoke with Ray DeLuca. He told me there was another complaint filed against Patti for same thing and he would be placing a stop movement order on her so that she could not sell or transport any dogs until the other party and I got our papers. On August 18th, after still getting no response from Patti, I filed a civil suit with the Cherokee County Magistrate. I asked for \$416.00, \$300 for the cost of the dog, \$56.00 for the court costs, \$10.00 for the online filing fee, and \$50.00 for the lost wages I'd need to pay a sub to lead my class while I attend court.

With her income source cut-off, Patti agreed to meet me at a McDonald's near my work on August 27th, 2003. She gave me my paperwork, paid me \$68.50 for my court filing fees, and agreed not to counter sue or file and new charges against us. She also watched me call GDA on my phone at the meeting and request the stop order be dropped. I agreed to drop the lawsuit.

I haven't heard from her since. Roscoe is a fabulous dog- the best pet we have ever had. He's a part of our family. Though he would never meet confirmation because his ears are too short and his back line too high, he is well-bred with respect to his typical dachshund personality. He's an accomplished sportsman as well as a loyal and dear friend. Lucky for me, and in my particular case, I cannot say that Patti sold me an unhealthy dog. However, her business practices are highly unacceptable. My full communications with Patti can be viewed in the Georgia Department of Agriculture reports located here on the [Keystone Kennel Reports](#) page.

I hope that someone out there can learn from my experience. If papers are important to you, never purchase a dog without them in hand!