

From the Bluebonnet Boxer Club Inc., of Cypress, Texas.

Question: When is a Boxer Club more than a Boxer Club? **Answer:** When it is a *member rescue Club*

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(Noms des plumes have been used)

Here is how it happened. Flora, one of our own, well stricken in years, mentally acute, albeit acerbic on occasion, had been in an extended care facility for two years due to physical disabilities. Our Boxers were her love; some of us would take our dogs to visit her and it was a source of pleasure for all.

Overall, her relationships with her attendants were good but she had accumulated some of the dreaded incident reports. Complaints had been made to a family member, Amanda, by a staff head. Perhaps due to this, she was surreptitiously given Haloperidol (a tranquilizer); one year previously, this drug had given her hallucinations and delusions. She made several telephone calls and seemed untypically, exalted and verbose.

Three days later a Club member took a Boxer to visit Flora. En route to the room, she was told that our friend had become uncontrollable and had been transferred to a psychiatric institution. Rather defensively, it was said that Amanda had accompanied her. We found out later that Flora had been confined to a locked ward. She, and we, were told by the nursing staff that, if Flora did not sign papers for self committal, the physician in charge, an MD, who confined his practice to psychiatry, was empowered to commit her to this place. This is one of the provisos of the greatly misused Baker act (originally designed to permit deprogramming of brain washed youths).

A family meeting was to be held the next day, to examine alternatives. Fortunately, by that time, we'd been able to bring an attorney at law, who is also a member of the Bluebonnet Boxer Club, to Flora's defense. This representative, whom our friend had engaged as counsel, was refused access to the meeting room; in fact, the projected conference was abruptly canceled. Flora had been labeled delusional by an MD, who'd not previously met her, before she'd shaken off the Haloperidol and she was termed combative, when she rejected those pills. Whew! Yes, it's true.

Later Flora executed a durable power of attorney, naming people who might act for her should she become incapacitated. Copies were duly given to all interested parties. In the meantime, Amanda had applied to the courts for Flora's guardianship and a judge had had an attorney named to protect her (our friend's) interests. In Amanda's petition Flora (an old,bedfast person) was characterized as a danger to herself and others!

When the court-appointed attorney had assayed the situation, she was able to withdraw, since our friend was well served by her own selected counselor. The physician withdrew his antagonistic approach and Flora was transferred to a rehabilitation center. We hope that she may be able to go to her own home.

Our Boxers have scoped out the new quarters and found them good.

