

The Official Newsletter for friends,
volunteers, and supporters of
Chihuahua Rescue & Transport

SEPTEMBER 2007



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WHAT DOES A RESCUE GROUP NEED MOST OF ALL?

Usually, the first thing that comes to mind is “money”. Actually, what a successful rescue group needs most is people, but the right kind of people. Chihuahua Rescue and Transport does have lots of good, dedicated, knowledgeable people. The problem is, we don't have enough, nor are they all in the right places.

We operate as a network of foster homes with coordinators supervising several to many foster homes in areas which consist of one state or several. We are limited in the number of Chihuahuas we can take, not just by money, but by foster home space.

One to two dogs at a time is the optimum ratio of dogs to foster home. Too many means we are not able to appropriately teach the dogs things they need to know in order to be successful pets. It's harder to houstrain if there are too many animals. A foster person needs to be able to find time to take the animal to the vet, play with it, observe it in a variety of situations and have time to do a little bit of basic training on home manners.

We have learned over the years that there are some extremely important factors to being a successful foster. A foster volunteer needs to be in a stable living situation, maintaining their own household, self-supporting, and over the age of 21. We don't take people living at home with their parents or in roommate situations because those are not permanent, stable homes. We have foster dogs who have been with their foster volunteers for several years now -- we need people who are willing to make that kind of commitment.

A first time dog owner is probably not ready to foster. Chihuahuas are manipulative little guys anyway. Rescued dogs almost always come with some baggage and need someone who can give them the training they need.

Fostering brings added value to one's life. You start out with this timid or fearful little guy who is confused about who you are and what's happened to his family and why he is here. You build his health, his confidence and his trust. You teach him how to make his needs known. You introduce him to different types of people in a safe environment and teach him about other dogs or pets perhaps. You might even get to teach him how to play. Perhaps he'll teach you how to play. You become attached to him, but you know that you need to find him a forever home so you can do this all over again.

Sending the dog on his way to his new life is a bit of a heart pang, but it's more than worth it when you imagine the dog living the good life with his new mom and dad.

You may shed a tear or two, but in your heart, you'll have the greatest feeling because YOU DID IT! You made a huge difference in this dog's life.

And now, it's time to start with another one.

LYNNIE BUNTEN, PRESIDENT
CHIHUAHUA RESCUE AND TRANSPORT

www.chihuahua-rescue.org

PEPPER SAYS.....



Hey, Hi! I'm Blue and that fawn colored Chi is my daughter, Patti Cakes. We call her Patti, for short. Pepper asked me to do a guest column in the newsletter this time, and I jumped at the chance! If there's anything I like to do, it's give my opinion on things!

Anyway, Patti and I are two of the Cleveland 6, and if you go to our website, you can read our story. We're in the same foster home, and I'm glad Patti is with me so that I can keep an eye on her. She's a hot little number, but since she gained so much weight she hasn't been too active. I was fairly studly myself back in the day, but that's gone now. Literally.

This CRT stuff isn't half bad, you know? I'm losing weight and soon I'll be down to a svelte 4 lbs or so. For a guy of ten, I'm pretty active and healthy, and right now I'm loving life. We get to go outside, lie in the grass, explore, and in general, do all the things we couldn't do when we lived in one smelly room and never got out of there. And we even have the possibility of finding new forever homes! I'm ready now, I can tell you -- if there's anything I like, it's adventure. There's not a mean bone in my body, and I'm very sociable and friendly.

And the most exciting thing just happened to me. I got a new home! A very nice mom and dad saw my picture on the website and decided they had a little space in their lives for a lively older gentleman like me. But I have a surprise for them -- I take up a *big* space -- why, in a week or two, they'll never understand how they got along without me. Patti would like a new home too, but it doesn't have to be with me. Just the other day she was saying to me, "You know, Blue, if someone wanted me to come and live with them, I'd go in a minute! I'm not so sure I'd like to be all by myself, but if they had another little Chi there to be my friend, I'd be the happiest girl in the world!" And I think she would. Even if she is my daughter, I have to tell you that Patti is a sweet, friendly girl who likes people and other Chis and would love to come and live with you for ever.

The other thing I wanted to say is that Patti and I got to go to a Chi-Esta! It was the Midwest Region Chi-Esta, and we had a great time! We didn't know what to expect, because we've never been to anything like that before, but there were about 70 Chihuahuas there and lots of people, too! I loved meeting everyone and tried my hardest to get some of whatever they were eating, but that foster mom followed me all over and I wasn't successful a single time. I swear, though, given half a chance I'd have climbed right up someone's leg to get their lunch!

And guess who I saw there? One of my best friends, Dalia! Her foster mom is the one who hosted the Chi-Esta, and Dalia had on a beautiful new dress that had "Adopt Me" embroidered on it! I didn't know she was so gorgeous -- she certainly has recovered well from surgery for bladder stones, two hernias, a mammary tumor, spaying, and dental surgery! She's losing weight too, and will give Patti a run for the money by the time she's finished. I need to tell you something about Dalia. She's a very smart little girl. That sleepy expression on her face is a fooler -- she knows what's going on and can get whatever she wants. She learns quickly, and is already in charge in her foster home. She's a force to be reckoned with when she wants something!



There were raffle drawings for lots of great stuff -- a beautiful quilted wall hanging, and many other things. They were raffling off so much I was afraid I'd be next, but that didn't happen, luckily.

Please read our whole newsletter -- we have lots of special things in this issue. There are beautiful little coats for sale to benefit us (Cleveland 6) and good information on caring for your own Chi families.

I can hear the soft grass calling me, along with Patti, who seems to have found something interesting over by the big tree. I'll have to go and check this out, and then finish packing my little bag and saying goodbye to Patti. She got her knees fixed this week, you know, and she'll be ready to go in seven weeks. She's excited already -- planning what kind of new home she'll get and who will love her. Could it be you?



Here she is, telling a transporter just what she thinks about driving around in a hot car and listening to elevator music. She has a mind of her own, that girl.

BFF,

Blue

NOTHING FITS ON THAT DOG

BY JERI HARRISON



Huey was a 3 lb. munchkin that I fostered last summer.....and he was a peculiar little package:

- * squinty eye
- * protruding tongue
- * exposed penis
- * splayed feet
- * luxating patella, and
- * a snorting schnoz

So when a friend first saw Hooey (as he's affectionately known), he said 'nothing fits on that dog!'

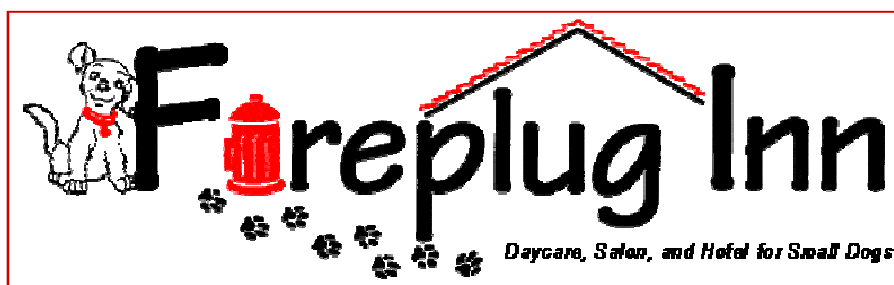
What a character! Hooey raced around the house, came to a sliding stop to look at you, then peeled off again. He was a sleepyhead in the mornings and had to be deposited, limp, on the grass. He could be cradled in your palms and smothered with kisses. But aside from a fetching personality, Hooey had a pink penis that didn't retract - even after surgery. Who would have thought that one mustahem....apply Vaseline when it's dry and irritated?? I never imagined having to moisturize a Chihuahua penis!

I adored the little guy, but Hooey was a foster.....and I had never kept a foster....and I had four other dogs....so the thought of having FIVE dogs was a leap into the abyss (although 2 Chis equals 1 dog).

But the decisive factor was my brother, who said: if he gives you pleasure, keep him. (God bless a good brother.) Huey was a sanctioned keeper.

A year later, my embarrassingly large family of 5 dogs has, sadly, diminished to 3. Vaseline duty proved to be less onerous in practice than in theory.....Hooey and I often converse in snorts, translated as: 'I'm with ya, buddy'..... My brother said he's "always happy" to receive pictures of Hooey.....And time stops when I look into those bottomless black eyes. I'm grateful for the chain of people who brought Hooey to me - from the angel who bailed him out of the pound before a euthanasia tragedy to Robin in Central Distributing.

While nothing fits on this dog, he sure fit into my heart.



<http://www.firepluginn.com>

THANK YOU to Fireplug Inn for their continuing support of CRT by collecting donations and providing free boarding for our foster dogs. If you live in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and are looking for doggy daycare or bed & breakfast for your small dog, be sure to check them out!

www.chihuahua-rescue.org

THE DOCTOR IS IN.....

JACKIE BUSCH, DVM



Weight control is not just a significant health concern for people but is affecting our pet population as well. As Americans tend to lead more sedentary lifestyles, it is reflected in their pet's lifestyle. High fat foods and decreased exercise easily lead to increased weight. Overweight dogs are more prone to develop health problems which may include joint problems, diabetes, heart and lung issues as well as adverse effects on other organs. These dogs are more prone to injury and are more of an anesthetic risk if surgery is indicated. A decreased lifespan and a decreased quality of life are the most important reasons to aid your pet in weight loss.

How can you tell if your dog is overweight? Using a scale is an obvious measure of obesity, but you may also evaluate your pet by evaluating their waist and the amount of fat on their ribcage. I like to see if they still possess a "waist" or a "tuck" meaning that when viewed from above, the pet's shape tapers in after the ribcage, and when viewed from the side, the pet's shape "tucks" up behind the rib cage, rather than making a straight line. The second area I evaluate is how easily I can feel their ribs. I take my fingers and run them gently over the ribcage. If I am able to feel their ribs easily without "seeing" them, the pet is at a good lean weight. Once you and your veterinarian determine a good lean weight for your pet, you can use a scale to monitor your success in reaching and maintaining the goal weight. Because day to day changes will not be appreciated, I recommend assessing the feel of the ribs once monthly, usually the same day you give the monthly heartworm and flea preventative.

Prior to beginning a weight loss program, I advise a visit to your veterinarian. Your veterinarian will be able to assess your pet's condition and your endeavor to help your pet lose a few pounds. Breed characteristics will be taken into consideration as well as a complete physical examination to rule out underlying medical issues that may be contributing to the weight gain. A low thyroid level is just one example of a medical cause of obesity that is easily corrected with medication. Your veterinarian may prescribe a weight loss diet if significant weight loss is indicated.

Often, once an examination has been performed, an over the counter diet food may be recommended. The most important aspect of losing weight is portion control and exercise. Use a measuring cup to evaluate the amount of food you are feeding your pet-this is often the biggest mistake I have encountered. A small cup with no objective way to measure is not acceptable. I advise clients to "double" the pet's current exercise regime. If the pet has been leading a sedentary lifestyle, start slowly. Small walks (twice daily) is a perfect low impact activity for your pet. Schedule active play sessions. If in doubt, ask your veterinarian how to begin the exercise regime.

Discussing weight loss with not only your family but also visitors to your home is an integral step to success. It's hard to refuse your pet when begging for a small treat. Try lower calorie options such as green beans or half a treat instead of a whole treat. If multiple people are giving treats, have one person make a daily treat bag with lower fat/calorie treats and advise everyone that they must feed only out of that bag for the day. Measure your pet's food with a measuring cup as well as eliminating "free" feeding. Most importantly, increase the amount of exercise.

Small changes can make a big difference in your pet's weight and overall health. Measure your pet's food with a measuring cup as well as eliminating "free" feeding. Most importantly, increase the amount of exercise, and change the amount or nutritional content of treats. It has taken a while for your friend to gain the weight...don't be discouraged if weight loss is slow. The reward is a much healthier and a much longer life for your special friend.

SAVE-A-CHI DONATIONS

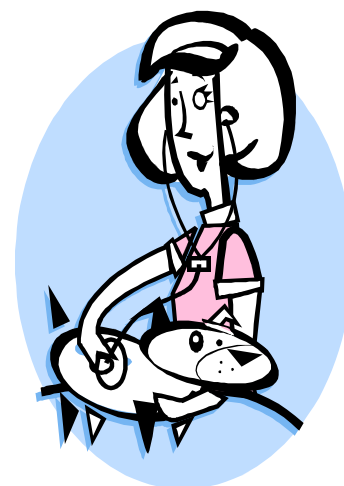
Every dog that comes to CRT is examined by a veterinarian right off the bat. This is a special program to begin their vetting process: **Save-A-Chi!** For each \$50 contribution, we'll publish the names of the donors on our website and in the issue of the newsletter immediately after, along with the name of the Chihuahua who was given a headstart with their vetting process -- a checkup and vaccinations (or as Pokey said, a stab right in the butt with a sharp needle!)

Please help us to help these little guys. As we're sure you all know, vet costs are rising along with everything else, and while \$50 doesn't come close to covering what we spend on each dog (about \$250), it gives us a good start towards getting them ready for adoption.

If you can help just one new rescue, please send your contribution (made out to CRT) to our treasurer at 3414 Pemberton Dr., Pearland, TX, 77584-9483, or use the PayPal button on the page at <http://www.chihuahua-rescue.com/saveachi.htm>. We'll choose the very newest little rescue to receive your donation, and notify you of the dog's name and the region where it is being fostered. If you have questions about the program, please email MidwestCoordinator@chihuahua-rescue.com

Thank you for helping us to help these deserving little dogs.

SUSAN & BILL HAMILTON	.....	GODIVA
PATRICIA COBB	.....	HOOTIE
SAMANTHA MURRAY	.....	ODIE
MARION MERGO	.....	KIERRA
ZUZETTE PAYAN CULLINAN	.....	HOOTIE
DANIEL HESS	.....	MINNIE
MICHAEL DUVAL	.....	COWBOY
MARY ANN BENNETT	.....	HANNAH
JANICE & RICK ROBINSON	.....	MARIE
BETH MONTGOMERY	.....	LILY
SUZETTE ROBERTS	.....	MAXIE
PATRICIA MICHIELLI	.....	FLORA
ALAN SMITH	.....	TOBY
OLIVIA GUERRA	.....	INARA
SHANNON MANNING	.....	PENNY
ELIZABETH CHATHAM	.....	GIZZY
ELIZABETH CHATHAM	.....	DAISY
ELIZABETH CHATHAM	.....	PENNY
ELIZABETH CHATHAM	.....	ROSITA
VICTORIA BELTRAN	.....	MARGARET
SHELLEY CASTNER	.....	MAGGIE
CYNTHIA R DEVINNEY	.....	TY
AARON SANDERS	.....	BLUE
CYNTHIA KNETTEL	.....	NEILA
TERI LAUGHLIN	.....	POLARA
CAROLYN KING	.....	PATTI CAKES
SARAH FRANKENFIELD	.....	MILES
CAROL DAY	.....	FANCY



CHIHUAHUA RESCUE AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

BY LYNNIE BUNTEN

I've been involved in animal rescue all my life. A few years ago, I got into it in a big way when I, and several other folks, began the journey that became Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc. Along the way I've met many dogs, many people and learned many things. I'd like to share some of those with all you Chihuahua lovers today and perhaps from time to time in the future.

Today I want to talk about rescue and foster homes. One of the major components of animal rescue is the availability of good foster homes. A foster home is more than just a holding place for a pet in need. A foster home needs to be many things to the foster animal. He or she needs to commit time, love, care, training, evaluation, joy and tears to the dog in question. Then the foster home needs to send this dog on its way to a new home...that's the hard part.

Here's what I see as qualifications for a Chihuahua foster:

Breed Knowledge — the foster parent needs to understand the breed, be aware of the various behavioral characteristics common to it as well as the medical problems commonly associated with Chihuahuas.

Training Skills — the foster parent needs to know how to help the dog overcome its fear and lack of trust. He or she needs to be able to schedule the dog's life so that it can be house trained and leash trained. The foster should also have some skills in basic obedience training so the dog will come when called, sit and stay on command.

Nursing and Medical Care — the foster parent needs to make sure that each dog in his or her care receives immunizations, spaying/neutering, heartworm preventative and is delivered to the adopter as a healthy animal. A foster home should have a good relationship with a vet who is knowledgeable about the breed and willing to help rescue in some way.

Home Evaluation Skills — the foster home should be able to visit a potential home, interact with the members of the family and make a decision as to the appropriateness of this home for a particular dog. People skills are also important to communicate what it is that the dog needs and to be sure the family is willing and able to provide it.

Fortitude and Patience — the foster home needs to have the fortitude to carry out the training the dog may need and have the patience to wait out the time it may take to house train the animal.

People Skills and Communication Ability — the foster home needs to be able to communicate what the dog will need from the new owner and to be a support during the transition period for the dog's new adoption.

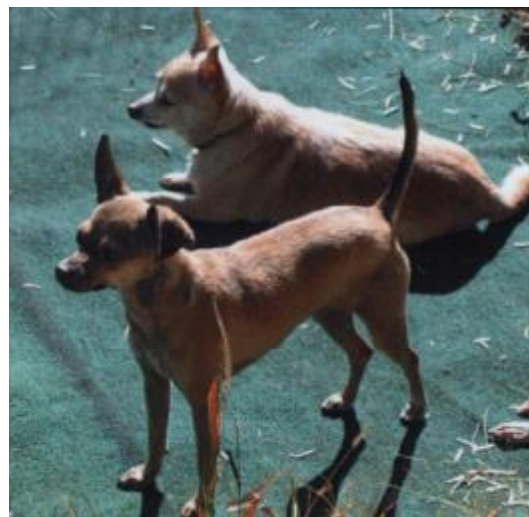
All in all, a foster home needs to be able to prepare a dog to be a good pet. Something happened to the dog to cause it to lose a home. The foster home needs to help the dog overcome all those experiences and learn to be a healthy, happy family member.

If you think you might have these skills or be able, with help, to develop them, perhaps you'd like to be a foster home. Remember, you will get attached to the dog and it will be hard to give it up to a new owner, but the reward is in the knowledge that you helped that one dog, learned from the experience and are now better prepared for the next one. There's not much better than seeing the dog settle in its new home and say to you, "Thanks for the help, see ya".



ABOVE: CASSIE AND MISTY

BELOW: MIMI AND TEDDY



Lynnien Bunten has over 25 years experience with Chihuahuas. She has even more as a rescuer since her mother used to bring home critters all the time to be rehabilitated and returned to the wild. Lynnien is President and a founder of Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc., Rescue Chair for Chihuahua Club of America and Texas Chihuahua Club and Co-chair of Rescue for Responsible Pet Owners Alliance.

Lynnien has just found forever homes for five CRT dogs this summer. Fidler, Paris, Nicki, and Cassie went to the homes they chose in July and August and Cassie's daughter Mimi has chosen a home too, now. Teddy and Travis have welcomed (begrudgingly) Sofia into their home. Sofia is 12 years old, terribly obese, but as sweet as anyone could want. Lynnien is a show breeder, but has in her contract that any dog from her house can come back at any time. Sofia came back after 11 years when her mom had to move in with her daughter in a cold part of the country. Sofia doesn't like cold so she's settling into Lynnien's warm bed with Teddy and Travis.

TOMMY'S STORY

BY LAUREL TOWNLEY

Tommy's life began after his "family" was robbed and the police were called. The police searched the house and found a lone Chihuahua left in the attic. They contacted the local ACO who coaxed the frightened and emaciated boy down, and when the family was asked how the Chihuahua got locked up in the attic, they claimed they had never seen the dog before. The soft-hearted ACO didn't think the shelter might be the right spot for such a severely neglected boy so he called his friend and Chihuahua lover, who happened to be a volunteer at the local shelter, and she took him home.



That's when CRT was contacted, and I did the trip down I81, something my van does almost on automatic pilot, to meet up with Karen, Tommy's temporary foster mom. We met in a parking lot and Tommy wasn't so sure he was ready to leave the safety of this kind woman, but I promised both him and her that I would take good care of him, so we loaded him in a crate and headed back to central New York.

Once home and able to get a good look at the little man, I was unsure of what the problem was with his eyes. It looked to me like a possible ulceration but I didn't know, as I had never really seen cataracts before. After a thorough exam from our wonderful vet, Dr. Ann, it was determined that indeed he had cataracts and his vision was limited at best.

Despite this impairment, Tommy managed to maneuver around almost without hesitation. He grew strong, his coat filled in, his terrible nails were trimmed to a manageable length, he learned to play with a couple of select dogs in his foster home, and all seemed to be fine — except for his vision.

That issue appeared to be going downhill fast. I realized how bad it was one day when he was romping in the yard and smacked square on into the clothes line pole. Tommy is somewhat of a youngster, thought to be around 7 years old, so losing eyesight at such an early age seemed so unfair, especially for a boy who had already endured more than his fair share of hardship. So...we had him looked at by an ophthalmologist vet and he pronounced a functioning retina back behind those curtains (cataracts) that Tommy was trying to see through. New York state has some mighty high vet bills, so we hoped for a few donations to offset the LARGE expense of eye surgery.

That's where Tommy's angel came flying in. She was listed as one of Tommy's Best Friends but I told her she was Tommy's angel because her generous donation made it possible to sign up Sir Tom right away and get his surgery scheduled for early May. He had his cataracts removed and lens implants in both eyes and is now a seeing dog! He is so much happier and it has changed his life in so many ways. He has a friend at his foster home, and now with vision he skips around behind his buddy, bonding in a new way. His potty habits have greatly improved since he is not so afraid of being outside and he is aiming at the telephone pole and trees and bushes, along with his foster brothers. Tommy's curiosity is heightened and although still not trusting of all humans, he puts his feet up on folks as he checks them out and truly appears to be relishing his ability to see and explore.

Tommy went into surgery as a very blind boy and came out a seeing Chihuahua, who was once near the end, tossed in an attic and left for dead. Kindness came from all corners, including the ACO who put him in the caring hands of a Chihuahua lover, CRT who was willing to bring this little guy into their program with all his issues, his Best Friend, and his angel who was willing to fund a substantial portion of his surgery bill.

A family of his very own will complete this happy ending!

BEST FRIENDS...

THE CLEVELAND 6

Instead of the usual list of 4 dogs needing Best Friends, this issue we're going to put the spotlight on the ragtag (but becoming more beautiful by the day) bunch known affectionately at CRT as The Cleveland 6 (or C6 for short). And yes, that's Cleveland, Ohio.

Their story...

The "Cleveland 6" (Dalia, Blue, Patti Cakes, Cinnamon, Betsy, and Polara) were rescued from a home where they were kept in one room and bred over and over. When our vets finally were able to assess them and recommend treatment, it appeared that they had never been vetted. All of them have luxating patellas, and Cinnamon and Betsy have their repairs scheduled next week. The other four are grossly overweight and will be assessed when they have reached their normal body weight. All are now spayed, have had dentals, and several had hernia repairs. Dalia was the worst, with bladder stones, a mammary tumor, two different types of hernias, and of course, her spay. The females had adhesions from past c-sections and because of their age (10 yrs old), Dalia, Blue, and Polara lost many teeth. Blue had a retained testicle and all had blood work done before surgery. All dogs had to be fully vaccinated and heartworm tested, and all were microchipped. None were housebroken because they were confined in a room and given no training. They were filthy and smelled of urine and feces, and the first thing that happened was a good bath for all of them.

Our vet bills are currently at \$4000 and the two bilateral patella surgeries (meaning both knees on two dogs) will be another \$3400. If you can help with vet bills for these very deserving dogs, we would appreciate it, along with checking out our **"Coats Off Our Backs"** fundraiser. We received an extremely generous donation of 1000 coats from Yvette at Wagdolls, and are using them as a fundraiser for this group of dogs.

These dogs come on the heels of another group that came from a breeder who badly neglected her dogs for years and then closed down, surrendering six who needed major dental work, spays, and full vetting. They, too, are ten years plus, and dentals were a major expense. Homer, Gomez, Bubbles, & Diane (all 4 adopted), and Greta (not yet on site) were part of that group.

If you can help, please send a check for the Cleveland 6. Use PayPal on our site to make a donation, or shop at our **Coats Off Our Backs** sale.

Please help us reach our goal of \$7400!



COAT-OFF-MY-BACK

FUNDRAISER

Why do we call this the "Coat-Off-My-Back" selection?

Hi, I'm Martini and I am available for adoption in the Midwest Region. I would gladly offer the Coat Off My Back so that another needy Chihuahua can get quality medical care and have the kind of love I have received in my foster home. I came to CRT with two grade-4 luxating patellas (really-really bad painful kneecaps) - and full of raging male hormones. CRT paid to have both of my knees fixed as well as to get me altered. When I came to CRT to be fostered, I was very aggressive from the pain. I have been with my foster family for over a year now, and my favorite thing is to be held and loved - oh, yeah, I really love treats and to be told I am a good boy. My wishes are to 1. find a good permanent home and 2. to help raise money so another Chihuahua can get the help they need. Even if you don't want to purchase a coat - any donation would be wonderful! Thank you.



LEFT: DON JUAN THE
FIRST NIGHT IN HIS
FOSTER HOME

RIGHT: DON JUAN IN
DECEMBER 2007



Don Juan here. I was found near a dumpster, almost starved to death. CRT and their vets estimate I was about 14 years old when I was found. They took me in, had me neutered and placed me in a kind and caring foster home. Unfortunately, my foster mom found several lumps on my side and belly - and the vet did some tests and found out they were cancer. CRT paid to have the cancer surgically removed. WOW - all that care for a little old guy who was found near a dumpster. To make a long story short, the cancer came back, and I will spend the rest of my days at my foster home: warm sun filled deck with rugs to sleep on, shade to lie in, two meals a day, fresh water, treats, my soft red blanket to snuggle in and I finally got them trained how to properly scratch my back at just the right places... I would gladly give the Coat Off My Back so another poor stray or needy Chihuahua could receive the care and love I have received since I was rescued by CRT. Won't you help?

These are actual stories of Chihuahuas who have been rescued. There are so many others out there who need help, and unfortunately veterinary care costs a lot of money - even when many of the vets volunteer their services for free or for a discounted price. Your purchases and donations make huge differences in these lives.

See next page for details on how you can order really cute little doggie coats



COAT-OFF-MY-BACK ... CONT'D

BELOW ARE JUST A FEW SAMPLES OF THE MANY BEAUTIFUL LITTLE DOGGIE COATS FOR SALE ON CRT'S WEB SITE AT

<http://www.chihuahua-rescue.com/postit/coatoffmyback.htm>

Once on the web site, click on the name below any coat to see what sizes are available as well as fabric content and cleaning & care instructions. You'll also find a sizing chart to help you find the perfect fit for your little fur-model. If you want to order and pay with PayPal, there are buttons for adding as many coats as you want to your PayPal shopping cart! If you prefer to pay via check or money order, there's also an order form on the web site. **Please note:** not all coats have all sizes available, so be sure to click on the link for each coat you're interested in to make sure the size you need is available. These coats were generously donated, so once a size is gone, there's no back-ordering!



SHAGGY (BLUE)



NIPPON POSIES



WAG ME HOODIE (GREEN)

AND WHAT WOULD A FUNDRAISING SALE BE WITHOUT PICTURES OF HAPPY CUSTOMERS?

Below we have (left to right) Avalon in CC LABEL, Thor in LITE BRITE BLUE, and dainty Abigail in fetching COTTON CANDY. These three good-looking fur-models are the bodaciously spoiled members of the Hess household in Florida. (Last count, I think they each have at least 5 coats..)



ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE NORTH/SOUTH CAROLINA

Several CRT volunteers and their foster/personal Chis from the NC/SC part of Chihuahua Rescue and Transport participated in a St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 17th in downtown Charlotte, North Carolina. Those of us who went weren't really sure what to expect except that this parade would be the kick off advertisement for *Bark in the Park*, which happened on April 28th. Everyone was given a green t-shirt to put on and some rescuers chose to let their dogs wear the shirt. Dogs and people were decked out in St. Patrick's Day outfits, the winds were blowing like crazy, which made the temperature seem like freezing as the parade finally got started around 11:00 am. The animal rescue groups were somewhere in the middle of folks that participated in this parade of over 100 entries. The Chis were wrapped in blankets or put inside our coats until the start of the parade and seemed to enjoy the closeness and all of the attention. Mr. Wiggles, our crippled Chi, was the star of the parade as he rode down the parade route in his wagon-throne and peeked out from under his blanket at all of the commotion. He even managed to keep his cool, when one of the Great Danes ran up to the wagon and stuck his head under the blanket to greet Mr. Wiggles. The Chis did us proud and pranced their way down the 12-block parade route to the cheers of several thousand, who braved the cold and lined the parade route. Needless to say, they were very quiet on the ride back to Winston-Salem and slept very well that night.



COWBOY NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Cowboy was rescued from a Dallas area shelter earlier this year after his owners abandoned him. If that wasn't bad enough, he also has a heart murmur (not uncommon in dogs with chronic infections) and is on inexpensive medication for that. But the worst thing that poor Cowboy has been enduring is chronic ear infections very deep in both of his ears. Multiple medications (antibiotics and steroids) were tried first with no success, then in early May, the vertical canals were surgically removed from both ears and found to be lined with nodules and pus all the way down. The recovery period after the initial surgery was painful, and he had to endure daily cleanings, also quite painful, so he was on pain medication for quite a while. By July his right ear had healed beautifully, but his left ear continued to cause problems so a surgical specialist recommended placing a stent in the ear. This was done in early August—Cowboy's third surgery—with the stent stapled into place to keep the ear canal open and draining. Cowboy has had to stay at the vet clinic for most

of the time since his first surgery in May due to the ongoing problems with his left ear. His expenses up to this point have been close to \$1,000. His **Best Friends** Sandy House; Denise, Bandit & Tinkerbelle Brown; and Dr J Michael Lunsford have helped immensely with these expenses.

In the past couple of weeks it has become obvious that the stent is not working, and CRT's vet has recommended ear canal ablation (total removal of the ear canal) which will also require additional repair to the inner ear at the same time. This surgery will need to be done at the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center, will take several hours to complete, and will cost close to \$2,000. We're attempting to get this done as soon as possible, since the faster Cowboy's ear is fixed, the sooner he'll be able to start looking for that special forever home. He's a loving, precious little guy, even after all he's been through. And he's a gorgeous long-hair to boot! His **Special Best Friends**, Cindy & Alex Tayem, have already donated \$1,000 toward this final surgery and have offered **an additional dollar for dollar match to the other donations we receive, up to \$500**. Will you help us raise the rest of the funds needed? For information on how to donate, visit our web site (see URL below) and make sure to note that the donation is for Cowboy's surgery.

<http://www.chihuahua-rescue.com/donation.htm>

BACKYARDS ARE FOR POOPY, NOT FOR SNOOPY: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN “OUTSIDE DOG”

BY JANELLE E. KOWAL

It's hard, I know, but imagine that winter is officially upon us here in the northern part of the country, and for most of us, we are reflecting upon this past holiday season and winding down from the festivities, food, shopping and general chaos that can accompany the holidays. As we bundle up in our winter wear and heavy coats, perhaps trekking through snow or scraping ice from our windshields, it is important to feel gratitude for our warmth and comfort and remember the dogs that may be suffering this time of year due to neglect, abuse or the dated and inhumane practice of leaving dogs outdoors; a practice that is especially cruel during times of extreme temperatures and conditions, such as winter.

Today in America, many people still believe that dogs are not only accustomed to and capable of surviving outdoors, but many also believe that dogs belong outdoors, separating man from beast, or regarding dogs as property. However, in recent years, the consensus amongst humane animal caregivers, Veterinarians and their colleagues and the average dog owner is that dogs are not to be regarded as property and that their basic needs cannot be properly met living outdoors, exposed to all of nature's elements, year round. In fact, many breeds, such as the Chihuahua and other smaller dogs or dogs with fine coats, are often casualties of harsh weather and an outdoor existence. Not only do they not thrive as the creatures they were intended to be, but often they succumb to a variety of ailments and conditions as a result of exposure to cold, wind, rain, snow, ice and even heat. Dogs, especially toy breeds, simply cannot tolerate weather extremes and exposure, not to mention the lack of socialization and human interaction that dogs need and lack as a result of being left outdoors with other property such as lawn furniture and cars.

Many states have laws in place that dictate that so long as a dog owner provides three basic necessities for their dog's survival: food, water and ample shelter, there is no intervention that can be done on their behalf. With these laws and ordinances in place, millions of dogs risk spending their entire lives outdoors, deprived of anything pleasurable and simply allowed to exist, and many cannot even achieve that goal. And the opinions about what constitutes shelter differ greatly amongst many people. Some people who subscribe to the outdoor dog philosophy provide dog houses such as igloos are other legitimate housing made for temporary shelter for dogs. While others may construct makeshift, shoddy shelter made from a variety of scrap materials or otherwise unsuitable items. Often, they provide nothing at all. It is not uncommon to see dogs cowering under eaves or squeezing themselves under cars or lawn furniture in an effort to protect themselves from the elements. And if they are not consistently provided with adequate food and water, their chances of surviving this kind of life decrease tenfold and they are certain to succumb to a painful and arduous death.

There are many programs emerging in an effort to help these dogs who have been subjected to a lifetime of solitude and struggle as outside dogs. The truth is, there really is no such thing as an outside dog, but until the laws are revised on the subject, many things can be done to assist in the plight of the “outside dog”. You can purchase a shelter or dog house for a dog in need, or offer to take the dog for a walk. If the owner is receptive to the idea, it would be the highlight of an otherwise dull existence and would benefit their mental and physical health. It is also important to be vigilant and if you see an outside dog, make sure that the owner is at least providing the three basic elements as required by most local law enforcement: food, water and adequate shelter. If not, report the situation to the local authorities and humane society immediately, especially if you notice the dog is in declining health or in pain. And never disregard a dog that is chained and has no range of motion or access to such basic provisions, if they exist. Dogs can die of starvation, dehydration, disease, parasites, hypothermia, frostbite, animal attacks, asphyxiation by a collar or chain, heat stroke and more while “living” as outside dogs.

Please be vigilant and never subject a Chihuahua or other small breed to the elements. They are strictly to be kept indoors, regardless of the shelter someone may be providing.

This winter, and all year long, I urge you to keep your dogs indoors where they belong and maintain a watchful eye on any dogs who may be suffering as a result of living outdoors. And if you can educate your neighbors, friends, coworkers and community, you may change the minds of many and save the lives of many more. Please also refer to this link for more information: http://www.iwclubofamerica.org/outside_dogs.htm
It links to the article, “Outside Dogs”, written by Dr. Dennis Fetko, PhD.

SUBMISSIVE URINATION:

WHY DOES MY DOG PIDDLE WHEN I REACH FOR IT?

BY KATIE GREER

In order to successfully work through the solution to submissive urination one must first well understand the meaning of urine in a canine pack. Urine is a very important commodity used for marking territory and identifying oneself to others, particularly by the leaders or alpha dogs of the pack. We've all seen the macho dog that lifts his leg and leaves a sampling of its urine on every item it walks by. The dog is "marking" the item with its scent so that all others who pass by shall know who was there and that this dog owns the area. The flip side of this behavior is submissive urination.

Submissive urination is the very subordinate dog and most puppies way of saying: "You are great! You're in charge, I bow to you!". The subordinate dog or puppy will avert its gaze, because to look into the leader's eyes signals a challenge and subsequent fight for the territory or the right to lead the pack. The subordinate dog may also release a drop or a puddle of urine right then and there and most certainly won't have any left to go marking the leader's territory with. If the subordinate dog is feeling particularly threatened they will go so far as to roll over on its back exposing its belly to the leader.

The owner of such a dog will avoid all things that suggest aggression to the dog. It will take a great deal of patience and focus on the way dogs view the world in order to eliminate this behavior. The older the dog, or longer it has had submissive behaviors reinforced by the humans around it, the longer it will take to convince the dog it does not need to act this way.

Ignoring all instances of submissive urination is the first step. Anger or any sign of aggression signals to the submissive dog that it didn't submit well and therefore must submit more, usually resulting in more urine.

If this is a regular behavior upon arrival at home do not meet or greet the dog. Avoid all eye contact which serves to signal a challenge in the dog's viewpoint. Ignore the dog and engage in other household activities until the initial excitement of having returned home passes.

Food sharing is a behavior rarely practiced by the dominate canine, this can work to your advantage in this type of situation. Place very exciting food treats, (meats) near your favorite chair and other places in your home you spend a lot of time, including near your dog's crate or bed. Periodically when the dog is exhibiting confidence and is calm, offer it a treat. Avoid eye contact in the beginning. Be careful with praise, you don't want an ill-timed praise to actually reward the fearful behavior. It needs to be clear which is preferred.

Avoid grabbing the dog when you are in a hurry, this can severely set your training back for quite some time. Use all the special food treats you've placed around your house to lure the dog to you. Alpha's never chase down their subordinates unless they mean to fight. You absolutely do not want to give your dog this impression.

Speak softly and lure the dog to you when you call it. It's best to squat down to greet a submissive dog rather than bending over from the waist, avoiding eye contact. When dogs want to drive home the message they are the leader they will stand over the top of the dog. You don't want to resemble this dog in the eyes of your submissive companion.

In the beginning petting the dog needs to be avoided. When you do pet the dog it is best to scratch or pet the dog's chest or its side. Avoid going over the top of the dog's head, neck, or back. Again, this resembles the dominate leader dog the submissive dog so wishes to avoid.

Avoid picking up or petting a dog that has prostrated itself on the ground. Walk to another place in the room and squat down encouraging the dog to put its front paws up on your leg. The dog should receive no reward (petting or food) from you if it is not in a position you wish it to be. The fastest relief from submissive urination is to remain patient, ignore behaviors you don't like and reward well those behaviors you do like.

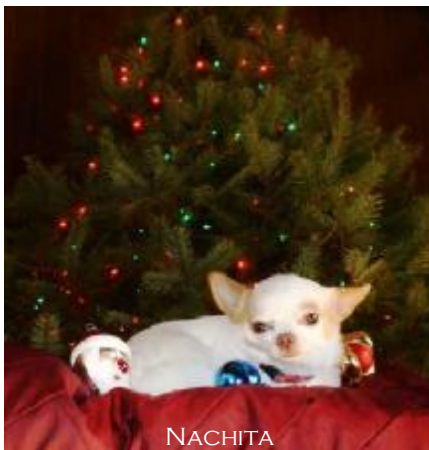
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<http://AgilityAbility.com>

THREE'S COMPANY: HOW ADOPTING A THIRD CHIHUAHUA HAS ENHANCED OUR LIVES

BY JANELLE E. KOWAL

Many people who volunteer for CRT may already know the story of how it came to be that we acquired our third Chihuahua, José. I say acquired because we did not make a calculated decision to adopt a third Chihuahua in the summer of 2005. In fact, we weren't even considering the possibility when we set out for the annual CRT Midwest get-together, also known as the Chiesta. However, when we arrived that afternoon with Chip and Nachita in tow, we quickly became smitten with the little, brindle dynamo that is José'. He broke into the Chiesta, held our hearts hostage for the entire day and we all came home as a new party of five. The rest is history as they say, but it is a noteworthy story because adopting José' has not only proven to be a wonderful experience for us, but it has also completely enhanced the lives of Nachita and Chip, and made room for another Chihuahua in need in the process.



Nachita, a younger female, was my first Chihuahua, followed by Chip who is a senior male. The contrast in personalities between the two of them allowed for a non-competitive, nurturing environment for each, and they adapted to each other's company very well. Nachita is every bit a female Chihuahua; saucy, yet gentle, dainty, affectionate and predisposed to pampering. She loves nestling and snuggling, and at times, a little healthy wrestling. She can be a bit Napoleonic over meals and disputes over laps, but her scuffles with her siblings are quick, painless and easily remedied by a shower of kisses and a little affirmation that she came first. Chip, on the other hand, prefers peace and quiet. He does appreciate his solitude, but loves to snuggle. Because Chip is older, he sleeps often and prefers life in the slow lane, perhaps even on the shoulder. He is sweet, non-confrontational and somewhat more dependent on us for his needs, but he can still hold his ground at the food bowl with the best of them. Chip and Nachita often nap together. And although only a paw or a rump may barely be touching, they feel contented to snooze together and exchange the occasional "Eskimo kiss".

José' is a dog that rarely needs any introduction. His appearance commands laughter; he has a brindle coat, stocky gait and tongue that permanently hangs from his mouth to one side. His tongue dangles from his lips and points to the only direction he is seemingly mentally or physically capable of turning. He will twirl completely in a circle when excited or to avoid making a counter-clockwise turn. His demeanor is sweet, saucy and reeks of mischief. He is a tad older than Nachita, yet six years younger than his brother, and his antics and personality run the gamut of a typical dog's stages in life. At times calm and collected, at others, trying to incite a riot at the food dish or under the covers, José' has become an influential and entertaining addition to our family.

Because none of our Chihuahuas have extremes in any of their temperaments, the balance of power and hierarchy is maintained with basic obedience and the equal disbursement of affection and care to meet their individual needs. Together, they work very well as a team; the conflicts are rare, and serious or dangerous problems are nonexistent. Knowing that each dog has his or her own needs and idiosyncrasies allows us to provide an environment where three can flourish just as easily as two. It is not uncommon for dogs to express an initial reluctance to the introduction of a new dog. Nachita exhibited some dominance posturing and behavior, but that was brief, and a normal response to set the boundaries or rules of the pack. It is behavior that is natural and vital to all pack animals, such as dogs and wolves. It may be hard to imagine our Chihuahuas running as a pack in the wild with a foot of snow underfoot and eyeing a wild hare for dinner. However, that is their origins, and their behavior, albeit watered down by domestication, is similar and natural. Therefore, it may be wise to incorporate some physical boundaries of your own when introducing a new Chihuahua to your brood. Separating the dogs initially will prevent serious conflicts over territory and will aid the dogs in becoming familiar with their new surroundings or their new friends. The experience and transition may be challenging for the additional dog as well, so providing him with his own space first could prove to make everyone more comfortable.



By adopting a third Chihuahua, we have literally enhanced our lives and the lives of our other Chihuahuas, Nachita and Chip. By deciding to welcome José' into our home, we have achieved a very healthy balance amongst our dogs and made it possible for our gracious and remarkable fosters to bring another Chihuahua into their homes, perhaps sparing them from abuse, neglect or worse. The addition of José' has not only made our lives fuller, but is has also provided Nachita with a rambunctious, play partner when Chip is not interested or not able. And Chip has found real camaraderie with the addition of a male Chihuahua who also enjoys afternoon naps and independence. Together, they exhibit 15 pounds of harmony, companionship when we are away and proof that with guidance, three can definitely be company, rather than a crowd. Consider adopting another Chihuahua this year.

WE NEED FOREVER HOMES!



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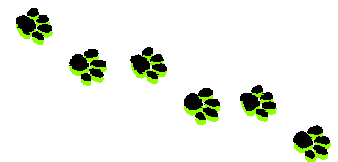
LILLY
FL PANHANDLE



MICKIE
NORTH CAROLINA



CHICO
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DFW CHI-ESTA 2007

Last year our volunteers, friends and supporters (and even a few total strangers) helped us raise \$4,000 and had a heckuvalot of fun doing it. We're shooting for \$5,000 this year! That'll pay for a lot of vet bills! For more information, including the day's schedule, participating vendors & sponsors, visit our web site at

<http://www.chihuahua-rescue.com/postit/txregion2007Chiesta.htm>



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Do you have an old (but functional**) cell phone lying around the house? Would you like to help CRT earn money with that phone??

Holli, one of our fabulous volunteers, has learned about a program that "buys" cell phones from non-profit organizations (among others). Your phone could be worth anywhere from \$5 - \$200 for CRT!

Send your old cell phone to Holli and she'll take care of getting them sent in and the money received for them sent to CRT.

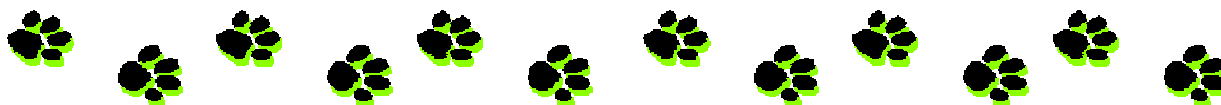


Mail to:

Holli Howard
c/o Fireplug Inn
1607 Hart Ct Suite 100
Southlake TX 76092

**** What does "functional" mean?**

Each cell phone must be fully functional. That means it must power on, LCD displays work and not broken or bleeding, keypad works, scroll bars works, no broken antenna, no water damage, no loose or broken flip, display light comes on, and does not have a cracked body. A red dot that has "bled" beneath your battery on your phone is an indication that it has come in contact with moisture or water.



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Janne Swearingen	Jack Patterson, my Dad
Robin Lange	June Lange, Ginger's former mom
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Denise Fischer, Don, Devin & Dixon Bray	"Gigi" Hydock
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Susan Lester	all animals who never got a "fair shake" in life
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Terry Elliott	Max Sanders-Pfeiffer
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June Du Gan	my beautiful Chihuahua, Bonzai (Bonny)
Melissa Gribble	Nancy Palmer
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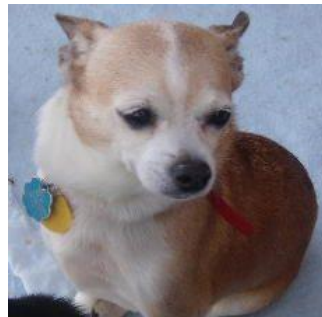
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Paula Keehfus	all who rescue Chihuahuas
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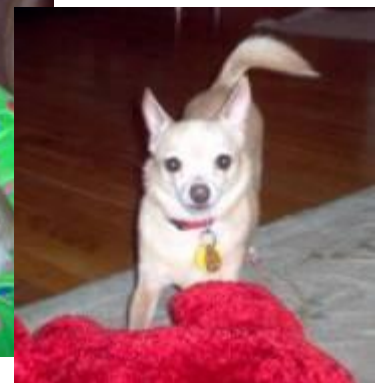
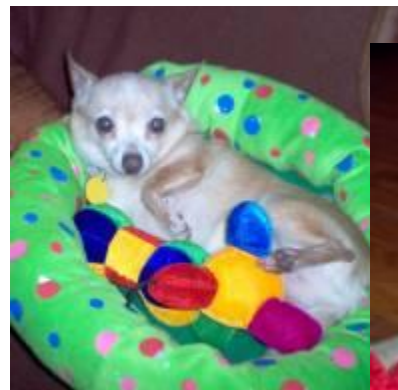
MORE CRT FOSTERS NEEDING FOREVER HOMES!



ROSITA (ROSIE)
MIDWEST



HONEY (LEFT) AND ROSE (RIGHT)
MIDWEST



RILEY
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CRT FINANCIAL SUMMARY – JANUARY - AUGUST 2006

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Adoption Fees	\$ 25,543	Veterinary/medical	\$ 75,290
Donations	\$ 31,532	Printing/postage/supplies	\$ 1,858
Sales/fundraising	\$ 4,207	Microchips/registration	\$ 1,823
Interest	\$ 269	Advertising/web site	\$ 576
		Chicago PetExpo booth fee	\$ 280
		Bank/PayPal fees	\$ 338
		Licenses/permits	\$ 311
Total Income	\$ 61,551	Total Expenses	\$ 80,476

Net Loss: -\$18,295

Please feel free to email our Treasurer at Treasurer@Chihuahua-Rescue.com with any questions regarding CRT's finances.

Chihuahua Rescue & Transport, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit, tax-exempt, public charity. Our federal EIN is 65-1018866.

130+ CRT Chihuahuas have found new homes through August 2006!

**Chihuahua Rescue & Transport
3414 Pemberton Drive
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