

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

SPRING/SUMMER
MARCH 2005



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Paw Prints On My Heart

“Oh, I could never foster a dog, I’d get too attached to it.”

“How ever do you give them up?”

I get these comments all the time. And you know what? I do get attached to them and it is hard to give them up. But you know what else? It’s easy to do it in a way because when it’s the right home, I know it. The dog tells me so. The dog tells me, “Thanks for caring for me when I needed you and thanks for nursing me back to health in body and spirit.” And, most of all the dog tells me “thanks for finding my real and forever home and humans.”

“In exchange for all you did, I’m going to leave my pawprints for you so you’ll never forget me. I’m going to leave my pawprints on your heart.” And they have done just that. Every dog I’ve helped and every dog I’ve loved has left its pawprints where nobody else can see them, but I feel them every day and treasure each and every one.

Now you have an opportunity to see them, only they aren’t on my heart. These pawprints are on the hearts of every one of us, but you can see them because they are on a quilt. You might be able to own that quilt because it’s being created by our volunteers and is being raffled off. See page 6 for a full explanation of this project. Be sure to buy your raffle tickets. The money raised will help more little Chihuahuas leave more pawprints on all our hearts.

LYNNIE BUNTEN, PRESIDENT
CHIHUAHUA RESCUE AND TRANSPORT

SUMMER LOVE

There's been a bit too much of "Summer Love" around our house, thus this combined Spring/Summer issue. Instead of getting both Spring *and* Summer issues of the newsletter out, the focus at our house has been on being outside, whether it be gardening, playing with the chis in the backyard, or going for long walks with them. Winter is much too long here in Minnesota, and Spring and Summer much too short to be inside at a computer. So, I apologize for this combined issue. I hope you don't feel short-changed....there's plenty of good reading in this issue which has old dogs as its theme.

I did a home visit in December for a very nice gentleman who adopted 11-year-old Lucy from CRT last year. I love hearing from them about how happy and well-suited they are to each other. For another adoption story about an older dog, be sure to read about Janelle and Chip in this issue. When you're considering the adoption of any dog, don't overlook the "Oldies But Goodies".

I am fortunate in that my oldest chi is just 5 years old and the oldest foster that I've had is 6, so I haven't faced the health issues of older dogs, nor the impending death of an elderly dog. We are mourning the death last month of a former foster who was just 4 years old...his neurological problems became so severe that he had to be released to Rainbow Bridge. Although we are thankful that he had a happy and loving home for over 6 months after being rescued from an abusive, neglectful home, neither his forever mom nor I feel that he had enough happy years on this earth to make up for his earlier unhappy life. I do know that it hurts terribly when we lose a pet, no matter what their age. The Rainbow Bridge story is below....it's a popular resource when someone is grieving, but maybe there are some of you who aren't familiar with it.

So how did we get from "Summer Love" to talking about death and grief? If we love, then sooner or later we grieve. And, we don't stop loving the one who is gone. May the love you shared with your pet sustain you through the tough times after they're gone and may you take comfort in how happy you made their life, whether it was short or long.

Janice Robinson
CRT Board
Newsletter Editor

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

Rainbow Bridge

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind. They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown...

Hi Everybody, it's me, Pokey! I've been getting lots of letters lately from people who want to help their little Chis live longer, and I decided that we need some education here.

When I first came to live with my mom, I was about 8 years old and I weighed 12.7 lbs. (check out my picture below). I couldn't even walk! And when I tried to lie down, I had to just lie on my stomach, because if I turned on my side, I couldn't get up. Now I'm 15.5 years old and I weigh 6.8 lbs. Pretty cool, huh? Well, I lost a whole Chihuahua! Yep, there could be two of me right now.

If you doggies are getting fat, you need to tell your moms and dads to **HOLD THE TREATS!** Fat dogs die earlier and if you have bad knees, extra weight makes them hurt lots more. If your moms and dads love you, they'll want to keep you around a lot longer, and a healthy weight is how to do it. Your moms and dads aren't being kind to you when they keep feeding you -- if my mom fed me everything I wanted, I'd be right back up there in a month, I bet! I wasn't happy when I was so fat, either. All the boy Chis made fun of me and I couldn't play with anybody. And my family just dumped me in the local shelter, even though it was all their fault that I was so fat!

Now, I eat a little under 1/2 c. a day of Nutro Small Bites, and get two baby carrots for desert. Then I get a bedtime treat, too, but that's all. No people food, no junk. I'd take up jogging, but my mom is too lazy to go with me.

WHAT?? WELL, IT'S TRUE! I DON'T SEE YOU OUT THERE RUNNING FIVE MILES A DAY! OH, ALL RIGHT.

Sigh. Okay, sorry for the interruption. The other thing I'm supposed to talk about is getting old, but who's getting old? If you're edging up there in years, your moms and dads should keep your weight down. You'll feel much better and be healthier. We older ones know our manners, too. We don't race around barking at every noise, we're housebroken, and we like to watch television with our moms and dads, or read with them. Those of us who can, of course. A little Chi named Pepper just came to live with us, and she's 7 years old. She knows how to behave! She doesn't try to aggravate everybody like that awful little Daisy and Margo do, and she doesn't steal everyone's beds and pretend like they're hers. She also doesn't slam into me and knock me over like those young upstarts do. And I'm not even going to mention peeing on the floor! You'd think we lived in a barn here....

NO! I'M NOT FINISHED! I MOST CERTAINLY AM NOT! I HAVE LOTS OF IMPORTANT THINGS TO SAY.....

I guess I'll be saying them from my crate. Later, folks.

Love, Pokey



EXTREME MAKEOVER—CHIHUAHUA EDITION

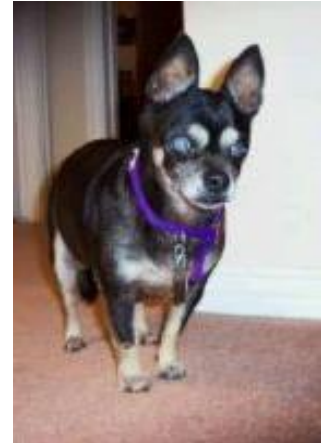
Pokey “Before” at left



“After” at right

DOG OF THE MONTH

Poor April was found abandoned, alone in a cardboard box, in front of a local hospital. Whoever found her turned her over to Animal Services. And while any story such as this is sad, April's is especially so. You see, April is about 10-13 years old and is totally blind. She looks as though she was well loved at one point as she was spayed and obviously well-fed. Whatever happened to so dramatically change her circumstances, we'll never know. She was so pitiful and depressed in her Animal Control cage, lying on cold bare concrete, so confused, just blindly staring at the wall, not responding to anyone or anything. You could just imagine and feel her pain at having been discarded like a piece of trash.



April Mae

April deserves a second chance at love and security for her remaining years. She is an adorable chunky monkey coming in at 11 lbs. but it doesn't detract from her cuteness. (She is trying to lose a few pounds to get back her girlish figure). She is also a pretty healthy girl all things considered. However, she does require an inexpensive medication once per day for a grade 2 heart murmur. She readily takes it in a little cheese ball. She loves her crate and will go in all by herself and fuss and fix her blankies just so. We are working on housetraining. April has learned to ask to go out and then ask to come right back in, in anticipation of a treat, so you have to be careful she's not faking. She is a delightful little girl with lots of character. Do you have room in your heart for April? Due to her blindness, April cannot be placed with small children. She should have a fenced yard for her protection, and not go to a home with stairs where she could fall and hurt herself. April is available for adoption in the Dallas area. Check our website for adoption instructions.



Shyla....one sad girl.

This poor girl is Shyla. She came into rescue as a stray and 1 1/2 weeks later gave birth to 3 puppies. Sadly, 2 of the puppies died immediately, and the 3rd puppy died at 1 week of age. Shyla is doing as well as can be expected. Shyla had enlarged teats, a huge caesarean scar, and crudely notched ears; all are signs of a puppy mill dog who has been overbred. We have many dogs who, like Shyla, need help paying medical expenses that go beyond a simple spay/neuter and routine vaccinations. Please visit our website to see if there is a dog for whom you might want to be their Best Friend...you can pay for part or even all of their medical needs.

By bringing your attention to just one of our rescued chis who has medical bills larger than most, we do not intend to become a maudlin or overly emotional publication. We do want you to be educated on what happens to puppy mill dogs who are no longer "good producers" and thus are dumped to fend for themselves. If still a stray, Shyla would have died trying to deliver the puppies. An emergency caesarean did save her, but not her puppies. Shyla will never have to go through such a nightmare again. Please think of dogs like Shyla when that unexpected check arrives in the mail, or you find cash in the pocket of last year's coat.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

This article is by a good friend, Janelle, a CRT Volunteer in the Midwest Region. Although we've never met "in person", only by email, I admire Janelle's love for all animals and her dedication to rescue. She has always written about the "Chipster" with such love that I asked her to tell us about adopting an older dog.....

When I come home after work, typically exhausted and often in desperate need of a good laugh and a soft couch, I am greeted with a special gift. Sometimes hilarious, but always heartwarming, I walk in the door to find two, shiny eyes like brown marbles gazing up at me, a tail wagging wildly and a prance worthy of applause. As if it were the first time I have ever walked through the front door, my Chihuahua, Chip, celebrates my arrival with the sparkling eyes and fervor of a puppy. But Chip is not a puppy. In fact, Chip is considered a senior dog at the ripe old age of fifteen.

When we speak of the "golden years" in reference to humans, I think of Chip celebrating the "silver years", because of the telltale silvery and white whiskers, which grace the faces of those senior dogs we love best. And while many people may regard the distinctive look and slower pace as weathered and weary, it is often a huge misconception worthy of revisiting. Granted, Chip doesn't play too many games of fetch these days, but he still has a spring in his step, a gleam in his eye and a unique, distinguished character unrivaled by any puppy or younger dog I have ever met.

valued by any puppy or younger dog I have ever met.

When perusing the CRT website for a new forever companion of the Mexican persuasion, many people seem to be attracted to the cute, often awkward expressions and the unrelenting energy levels synonymous with puppies. Still others are seeking compatibility with the younger Chihuahuas because of the perception that they will be easier to adapt to new situations, easier to train and more enjoyment all around because of the perceived longevity and vitality which many people feel senior dogs are lacking. Nothing could be more of a misconception. And unfortunately, it is that idea which prevents people from enjoying a senior dog's many exclusive attributes and deprives the mature dogs from fully enjoying their golden, err, silver years in a forever home of their own.

There are also many positive, yet unconsidered things about adopting a senior dog versus a puppy or younger, seemingly spry Chihuahua. It is important to remember that older dogs typically come with the wisdom and manners that puppies have yet to learn. And if training a headstrong, high-strung puppy is not your forte, you may find yourself, and your belongings very disenchanted with your decision to bring a puppy into your life. While Chip has had the occasional accident, all dogs are prone to carpet soiling, regardless of age. And for all those senior dogs with health conditions, both preexisting and those conditions that may present themselves after adoption as a normal part of the aging process, there are an almost equal number of younger dogs with health issues that are equal or greater in severity than some elderly dog ailments. For example, Chip has cataracts and prior to adopting him, he required surgery to correct luxating patellas. Therefore, he does not take any medication on a regular basis, but needs a bit of assistance with steps, couches and has the occasional gripe of stiff joints. With puppies, and some younger dogs, they may have health problems that could be undiagnosed until later in life and you must accept the responsibility and heartache at that time of caring for a sick dog. When choosing to adopt an older dog, it is likely that you could be blessed with a new relationship with a dog that is not only deserving of a second chance at a wonderful life, but you would also be aware of the dog's health and demeanor prior to opening your heart and your home to him.

I advocate the adoption of older dogs because of the amazing experiences I have had watching an elderly dog live life to its fullest, regardless of his age. Chip can be very serious and he is fond of his naptime, but he is not lackadaisical and his sweetness is only compounded by his age and his unique grimace due to having no teeth. He is a perfect harmony between slightly fragile, yet not frail. He is sturdy, yet not tough. And in Chip's case, he literally seems to become younger with each day of nurturing, love and enrichment. He plays well with his younger counterparts and it is extremely touching to know that I took a chance on an animal that was so deserving of a second chance and will spend the rest of his days in times of contentment, peace, play and reliving the occasional puppy moment, but with the wisdom and grace of an old gentleman.

INSTANT GRATIFICATION

- ◆ **Have you ever wished that you could write in to the newsletter and ask questions about behavior problems or health concerns and get an immediate answer?**
- ◆ **Have you ever wished that you could send in pictures of your chi, the most adorable dog in the world, and hear back from people who agree that, yes, your chi is pretty darn cute?**
- ◆ **Have you ever wished that you could hear from Pokey more than just 4 times per year?**

Well, your wishes can now come true! We're happy to announce that CRT has started a chat group on Yahoo just for those of us who believe in rescue and adoption. This group is for supporters of Chihuahua Rescue & Transport (CRT) and those who would like to learn more about living with some of the greatest little dogs in the world. If you are a backyard breeder, puppy miller or broker, or breed indiscriminately, this is not the chat group for you. Advertising of dogs for sale is not allowed in this group, and neither is flaming. Articles from past newsletter will be in the Files section, and everyone is welcome to post pictures to their own Photo Album.

We at Chihuahua Rescue & Transport hope that this chat group will help to better educate all of us by sharing our experiences, knowledge, and questions. Follow the steps below to join us!

1. Go to www.yahoo.com
2. Click on Sign In
3.
 - a. If you already have a Yahoo email account, sign in with your ID and Password
 - b. If you don't have an email account with Yahoo, then follow the instructions in the section that says "Don't have a Yahoo ID? Signing up is easy" (*When you sign up you can choose to get individual emails as they are posted to the chat group, get a "digest" of posts once per day, or read the posts on the website. With a busy chat group, I prefer to read the posts on the website, but the choice is yours.....you can always change your preferences*)

| <u>In Memory Of</u> | <u>Donor</u> | <u>In Honor Of</u> | <u>Donor</u> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| P.T. McFee | Reba McFee | Slick & Cheech | Natale/Jason Koepenick |
| Cosette Adamchek | Chris/Cindy Adamchek | Shade & Topsy | Lynn Taylor |
| Yum Yum | Barbara Beebe | Little Mr. Buck | Paul Giordano |
| Camelia Jane & Cocoa Bear | Barbara Tischer | All Chihuahuas | Robert Hanson |
| Shasta & Bill | Lynda M. Hendrick | Buddy | Gay Gastell/Greg Bink |
| Lolita, our little girl | Marie/Robert Pesce | Spiff | Julie/Denny Bartlett |
| Bandita | Carol Dykes | Jackson (Jiffy Pop) | Robin R. Jones |
| Cocoa | Chas. Miller | Chewy Wawa | Lesa Stevenson |
| ChiChi & Mischa | Dr. Marilyn Goldberg | Nancy Stier & her 3 chis | Elizabeth Stier |
| Sheba | Jean Bauer | Chipper Lilly | John Parker |
| Nellie Braswell | Shelly Pasik | Sadie Chihuahua | Pat/Bud Miller |
| Mandy & Sophie | Lucy Seward | Missy Hayden | Darcy Hayden |
| Bambi | Linda/Mark Robertson | Matthew Charles & Smokey Rae | Marion L. Mergo |
| Peppi & Jackie | Herminia Rodriguez | Lilly Monroe & Chico Hodge | Ruth V. Uecker |
| Paxil, West Coast, Anya, & Willow | Veronica Noechel | Bubby Lynne & Bambi Harne | Bonnie Harne |
| Tina | P. R. Johnston | Ch. Charbo's Sweet Thumbelina | Michele Giroux |
| Mr. Big | Mr. & Mrs. Denny Furst | Lori Watson | Marian Jurries |
| Pugsley & Lucy | Mary/Douglas McCullough | Carole Kriste | Lorraine Robinson |
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| Cricket | Heather Henson | Pepita | Carol/George Michaels |
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| Pepper Humphrey | Julie/Barry Humphrey | Pumpkin, Paco, & Sandy | Robert/Irene Epperson |
| Cisco | Betty A. Hanacek | Laurel Townley | Barbara Johnson |
| Sugar Collins | Janice Collins | All Chihuahuas! | Rosetta Kromer |
| Sugar Collins | Robin Pitre | Mia & Maddie Solano | Lorraine Solano |
| Frances' Annie | Susan Lester | | |
| Doyle E. Smith, father & Pat the Chihuahua | Teresa Solomon | | |
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| Happy | Elizabeth Davie | | |
| Chalupa Rosie | Kimberly Spletzer | | |
| Trixie | Kathy S. Fox | | |
| Sierra | Robert/Irene Epperson | | |
| Mary P. Novak | Edward W. Novak | | |
| Laura's Molly | Ellen Detmering | | |

You may make a donation by using the enclosed envelope or by going to our website www.chihuahua-rescue.org

We genuinely appreciate every cent that is donated to us whether it is a result of a check or purchases from the website. There are a lot of Chihuahuas who are safe, warm, & happy tonight because of your generosity. Thank you from the Board and all those Chihuahuas!

CRT's 2004 FINANCES IN A NUTSHELL:

| <u>Income</u> | | <u>Expenses</u> | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Donations | \$37,325 | Veterinary/medical | \$97,270 | |
| Adoption Fees | \$52,496 | Office/Postage/Printing | \$ 2,678 | |
| Sales/Fundraising | \$10,372 | Website | \$ 95 | |
| | | Licenses/Permits | \$ 191 | |
| Total | \$100,193 | Refund Adoption Fees | \$ 400 | Thanks to you, over 355 |
| | | Best Friend Purchases | \$ 218 | Chihuahuas found their |
| | | Total | \$100,852 | forever homes last year. |
| | | net loss (\$ 659) | | |

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