

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

MARCH 2006

It's CRT's 10th Anniversary!

10 years

*Rescue me
Come on and take my heart
Take your love and conquer every part
'Cause I'm lonely
And I'm blue
I need you
And your love too
Come on and rescue me*

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This year is our 10th anniversary year! It's hard to believe we've been around that long. It seems like yesterday we did our first transports and adoptions. Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll find some of the stats for the year, numbers of adoptions, and a summary of the finances. It's pretty impressive, I think.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped out and I'd like to single out a few in particular for recognition at this time.

First, to all of the volunteers who foster and care for these creatures we love so much, I send my appreciation and want to give you all a great big "paws up" for all you do.

Next, to the fundraising committee and especially the chairman of that committee, Lynda Sheehan, goes a huge round of applause. These folks work all year to help raise money to fund the medical needs for our dogs. The adoption fees don't cover everything and these folks lend their creativity, sweat, and energy to the cause.

Another special bit of thanks goes to Tanya of Tanya's Art. You've seen her stuff and her posts and her website for years. She's contributed a great deal to the cause over all this time. I remember when I first saw her work I was impressed. I recently checked out her website and found that she's honed her talents and is getting even better. Thanks for sharing your talents and work for the benefit of the dogs.

As I write this, I'm keeping a close eye on the clock because I'm flying out of San Antonio to go to Florida in a few minutes. I'm going to the Chi-Esta and the drawing for the Paws On My Heart Quilt. I'm so excited to be able to go. I'm looking forward to seeing that quilt in person. I don't have the names at hand of each person who contributed their talents to the creation of that work of art, but I want them to know how much it is appreciated. A big thank you goes to Denise Barnett who pieced the donated squares together, and did the backing and quilting for it.

So, thank you to everyone who has helped make CRT the fine organization it is. We plan to continue the work and hope you all will continue to help the effort. The dogs all appreciate it.

Here's to the next 10 years!

LYNNIE BUNTEN, PRESIDENT

CHIHUAHUA RESCUE AND TRANSPORT

RESCUE ME

Did you recognize the bit of lyrics on the cover? Yep, it's Aretha Franklin's hit "Rescue Me". And I have to admit that I sing to my dogs. I sing original compositions about them and all of their nicknames, love songs, and yes, this one, too.

I haven't been a part of this caring organization for the entire 10 years, but when I found Frank's List in May 2000, I knew that I'd found a great group of people. My husband, Rick, and I had our first Chihuahua, a little puppy named CoCo Bolo Pantalones, and discovered that we didn't know much about Chihuahuas. I found Frank's List and began to ask lots of questions. I "met" Laura Hasenstab, the Midwest Coordinator for CRT on Frank's List, and of course the home page had a link to Chihuahua Rescue & Transport.

In June of 2001 we decided that CoCo needed a playmate and canine friend...we were already in the habit of checking out the dogs available for adoption on CRT's site just to see all the cute faces. We were incredibly hooked on chis. And so we applied, were approved, and 8 month old Dooley came into our lives and hearts in July 2001. He came from a kill shelter in Cleveland, Ohio, to live with us in Minnesota.

And so our life with 2 chis and 2 cats was happy and full.

And then came the phone call from Animal Control in May 2003 that a tiny black and white chi had been picked up from the local trailer park. Rick and I visited her every day at the local shelter, taking her toys and blankets, until the 5 day waiting period was up. During those 5 days I'd contacted Laura about this tiny girl we had already named Tipparoo Marie McGee (she had a white tip on her tail). I think Laura had been waiting for just the right moment to suggest that Rick and I become volunteers and foster parents for CRT! And so Tippy came home with us as our first foster dog.

Tippy had her very own song that I sang to her...it was sung to the tune of the Oscar Meyer weiner song. I made sure that when she was adopted in Fall 2003 that the lyrics went with her so her forever mom could sing to her. (Kelly, do you still sing that song to Tipparoo???) The same day/transport that Tippy left us for her forever home, we got Cricket Renee as our next foster. Her name was Nega when she came to us, but the night before we got her I had a dream in which she told me that her name was Cricket. The Renee is in honor of my sister, Renee. Uh, she wasn't impressed having a dog's middle name be her name. And Cricket Renee was the foster who never left. We adopted her.

And so our life with 3 chis and 2 cats was happy and full.

And then came more fosters in a steady stream...Homero, Whitaker, Dora, Julio, Small Frye, Honey, Cuddles, and Angel Marie. (kisses and hugs to all of you!) Rick and I usually have just one foster at a time, sometimes 2. Did you know that there are some longtime volunteers who have had over 100 fosters come through their lives & hearts while they were waiting for their forever homes??? I always explain to my fosters that they are staying with us to learn about love and regain their health while we wait for their forever family to find them. Cuddles and Angel Marie are our current fosters...the day that their pictures and biographies went up on the site I told them "Now your real mommy and daddy can find you!"

Ok, so I talk to my dogs and I sing to them.

I'll bet the rest of you do, too!

Janice Robinson
CRT Board
Newsletter Editor

Pepper says.....

Hi, my name is Pepper Hasenstab. I used to have a big sister named Pokey, but she had to go away and now my mom says she's living in a Sponge Bob lunch box, but I don't understand that. Anyway, it's a lot quieter here now except for the occasional "Whooooosh!" which my mom thinks is the ghost Pokey flying by. It might be -- she kept telling me she'd come back to haunt me if I didn't watch out.



I've been living here since last July, and I get to stay forever and ever. I'm a very good girl, too. I'm seven and a half years old, and my mom was very old and she died, so I went to a shelter and then I came here. I'm allergic to all sorts of things and I snort and hack and wheeze and cough and lick all over myself, but my mom is working on it. I feel better than I did before. In fact, I feel good enough that when I eat, I take each piece of food out of my dish, put it down on a pad, and hop around and bark at it for a while before I eat it. It takes me a long time to eat, but my mom lets me eat in the living room so Margo has to watch me through the babygate. She lies on her stomach and sticks her long skinny leg through and tries to grab my food dish, but I'm too quick for her.

I even feel good enough to bite the furry squirrel that lives in the toy box. It squeaks at me when I do it and then I get all excited and hop around more and shake it. We have a lot of fun in this house!

There's a great big party in Chicago, March 17 - 19, and I get to go! It's called the Pet Expo, and I'm going to be right there in the CRT booth, with my new London Fog jacket on that my mom's friend made me. I'll say hi to you if you stop by. My foster sister Margo is going too and my mom hopes someone likes her enough to adopt her. We *all* hope that.

Lots of people helped all us little Chis out through our Save-A-Chi program this winter. We have a special place in here to thank them, so make sure you look at it. It was Pokey's last wish, that all the new Chihuahuas in CRT get vaccinated right in the butt with a sharp needle, in her honor.

I think there's something wrong with that idea.

Anyway, I hope you come to Chicago so I can meet all of you, and I hope you also can find some room in your homes to add a Chi or two. We're getting crowded here, and lots of Chis need forever homes. There are more and more every day!

Spring is coming! I can't wait to lie out in the sun and get warm. It's a little chilly in this house 'cause my mom said if gas prices don't go down we were going to have to burn the furniture. I sure hope she doesn't mean our beds!

I'll talk with you all later; I have to go and get my beauty sleep now.

Love, Pepper

THE DOCTOR IS IN.....

Hello again Chihuahua lovers! This month we are going to cover some "old age" problems in our little friends. With all the advancements in veterinary medicine and preventative care, we are enjoying our pets for a longer period of time. Early detection of diseases and other problems crucial to keeping them healthy and happy.

As discussed in last months' newsletter, dental disease in Chihuahuas is the most common problem I have been faced with. The Chihuahua breed (and other toy breeds) can get severe periodontal disease (recession of gums, loose teeth, and tartar buildup so bad you cannot see the tooth). I will stress again the importance of preventative brushing daily, and regular visits to your veterinarian at least every 6-12 months for a dental exam. Dental disease is one of the leading causes of heart disease in animals. Neglecting the teeth can also cause other organ failure (kidney disease, liver disease) if dental care is not a priority.



Heart disease is common in older animals, and Chihuahuas are no exception. Many of the CRT dogs I see have a heart murmur or existing heart disease. Some of the clinical signs you might see with heart problems are a cough, exercise intolerance, and sometimes a "bloated" belly.

Remember, heartworm disease can also cause heart failure, and must be prevented. Your veterinarian can do a test for this disease, and if your dog is positive, the heartworm disease and secondary side effects can be treated. We do see however, heartworm disease causing lasting damage and congestive heart failure.

Your veterinarian can do numerous tests in the clinic to determine if your geriatric Chihuahua is healthy. Geriatric is considered over 7 years of age. We have a program that is called "GOSH" (an acronym for Golden Oldies Staying Healthy). It includes a full exam, blood panel, thyroid test, x-rays, urinalysis, stool sample, and a heartworm test. Many clinics have these programs available for your animals. It helps to determine if your pet has any early disease processes going on that may be treatable with medication or a diet change.



Remember our pets have the same organs we do, and can get the same health problems (diabetes, thyroid disease, kidney and heart disease). Again, early detection is the key. Your pet **MUST** visit your veterinarian for a well check visit every 6-12 months.

Thanks again for your time!

Dr. D'Anne

SAVE-A-CHI DONATIONS

In our Fall Issue, Pokey said her goodbyes and also asked us to consider donating to what she called the "Save-A-Chi Campaign".

As Pokey said, "Your \$50 contribution will provide a rescue with a vet check and some vaccinations -- enough to get a good start to a new life." And as Pepper said in her column this issue, it was Pokey's last wish that all the new chis get vaccinated right in the butt with a sharp needle!

Here's list of our first "Save-A-Chi" donors and the dog that they have helped into a happy & healthy life!

Check the website at [www. Chihuahua-Rescue.org](http://www.Chihuahua-Rescue.org) to see how you, too, can "Save-A-Chi" !

Susan Hamilton.....Cuddles

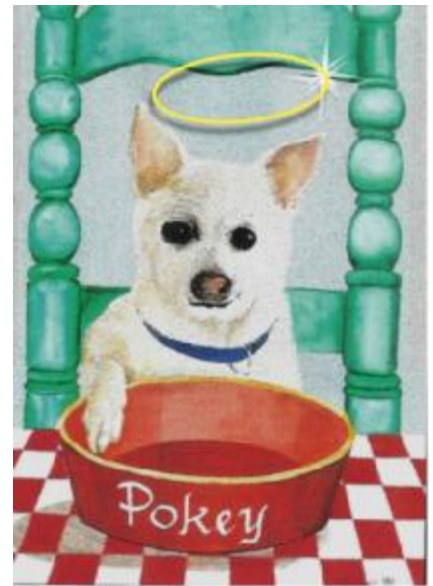
Courtney & JB Paul.....Hazel

Iris Paulick.....Jocko

Carolyn King.....Rusty

Jeffrey Craig.....Sugar

Stephanie Cerasano.....Mickey



A big thank-you from me to these
generous Chihuahua-loving folks!

-Pokey

WELL SAID!

If everyone in this country refused to buy a puppy for a period of ONE YEAR, every single puppy mill in the country would go out of existence. The entire problem would be solved. Isn't that easy? No exceptions, no "I just wanted to save this one from a pet store..." stuff. Nothing. No puppies for a year. That would be the end of the millers, back yard breeders, and all unethical breeding other than accidental by strays) because there would be NO MARKET. The good, ethical breeders could ride it out, because they don't breed to support themselves; they breed to better the breed and are responsible for the puppies they produce. They'd sit tight, maybe have a litter or two in order to get show pups, and that would be it.

Such a simple solution, but it will never happen. We want what we want and we want it NOW, and cheap.

-Laura Hasenstab in a recent email

THE FIRST DECADE....

Once upon a time, Frank Jackson started an internet list for Chihuahua fanciers. He found a way to have it hosted on a server in Poland although he was on the staff of a University in Georgia. The list grew and prospered and many folks shared their love and caring for the breed. Ten years ago, some members in south Texas discovered that several Chihuahuas were in great need. Their owner had developed Alzheimer's and she was forgetting to feed them, let them out and so on. Her friends went to the rescue to get treatment for her and help for the dogs. These dogs were discussed on Frank's Chihuahua-L and between us, we organized a way to get these dogs from their foster situation in South Texas and to various homes. We had spayed and neutered the dogs and had an adopter for two in Wyoming and one in New Mexico. On a Friday morning in December, I set out north from San Antonio with crates of dogs. I was met half way to Dallas by a volunteer who carried them on to Dallas to their overnight stop. On Saturday, the next volunteer headed west to Amarillo to meet Lorraine Lester from Albuquerque. Lorraine took them home with her for overnight and headed north on Sunday with the two longcoats. The old white sort of smooth-coat who became "Texana" stayed at her house. Another volunteer met her in Pueblo, Colorado and carried them north to meet the Wyoming adopter who was giving a home to the two longcoats. Texana lived with Lorraine a long time to a very ripe old age before going on to the Rainbow Bridge.

That was our first transport.

Scruffy came from the same batch of dogs. I had a Chihuahua friend in Nashville so I flew to visit my friend with Scruffy in tow and met another adopter who was on Chihuahua-L. She was from Kentucky and brought her whole family with her to pick up Scruffy. The last time I saw her, she was happily ensconced in a lap on her way to Bowling Green, KY.

That was our second transport.

All this was informal and developed out of a great need which we discovered was all over the country. Several of us continued to discuss and plan. We formed CRT and muddled along for several months. We needed money, so Frank and some others put together a Chihuahua calendar as the first fundraiser and netted about \$600. Frank didn't want to handle the money, so Leclair Bissell became our first treasurer. She originally had to use her own bank account, but soon managed to talk Bank of America into donating a free account. Next came the talk of incorporating. Everyone expected someone else to do it. Leclair finally did that by convincing her attorney friend, Linda Robison, JD to help out with that. Since Leclair spends half her time in Florida, that's where we are incorporated. Incorporation meant establishing a board and officers and such. She went on to apply for and get 501c3 status for us so that donations could possibly be tax deductible.

I've been on the board from the beginning. Leclair was also an original member. Several others have left us and two established similar organizations for Chihuahuas. Pat Weir started a Canadian version of CRT and Gracia Berry started Yankee Chihuahua Rescue and Adoption. We cooperate with both these groups and often refer back and forth. YCRAA takes care of New England and we do what we can for the rest of the country.

We established a way to screen volunteers, set up procedures, developed forms and finally put together a web site. Teresa Solomon of Georgia is an important part of helping out with the web site when it acts up. Robin Pitre is our webmaster and does a great job of that along with coordinating a good share of Texas and other areas, working and being the mom for two young children. I hope I'm not leaving anyone out.

Laura Hasenstab is our wonderful Midwest Coordinator and keeps us straight on grammar and reality. Jenny Kruger joined us as a volunteer and eventually became our Coordinator for Florida. Most of our board members coordinate a region, but not all do. Some of our coordinators are board members and others are not. Everyone is valued for their contributions. Dan Spannraft is one of our newer members of the board. He's our token male (just kidding, Dan). Dan works as a volunteer and helps us with many things.

Janice Robinson is our wonderful newsletter editor and board member. She's been terrific in putting it out and we all enjoy her work and nagging us to get our articles in.<g>

Leclair Bissel is a retired doctor and has elected to retire from treasurer duties. She's still with us and a valued member as Board member emeritus. Her successor is Gretchen Craver who is our current treasurer. She's the one who receives all your wonderful donations and then distributes the funds to reimburse our volunteers for the various veterinary expenses for the dogs.

Most of us have never met the others in person. Almost all our business is conducted via email or telephone conference call. I've served as a board member from the beginning. About three years ago, we had scheduled a board meeting via conference call to elect officers. I was visiting friends in New York City and attended the Westminster Dog Show. Our conference call was scheduled for the time I was to be up there, but that should have been no problem. However, a little blizzard was approaching so I changed my plans and took an earlier flight. Wouldn't you know that was the evening of the meeting! They took advantage of my absence and elected me President so that's how that happened.

So, that's ten years of CRT in a nutshell. We don't serve every area of the country. We can only do so much and we try to keep our standards high. We try to offer support in the form of advice and referral to people in those areas we can't serve right now. All that CRT is able to do is due to you, the volunteers, supporters, adopters and Best Friends.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make CRT what it is. We started as a group of good people wanting to do something to help Chihuahuas. We've gotten more formal, learned a lot along the way and have developed procedures that seem to work out for the dogs. I know I'll remember many other people after this goes to press. I apologize to anyone I've omitted.

LYNNIE BUNTEN, PRESIDENT
CHIHUAHUA RESCUE AND TRANSPORT

CRT CHAT

If you haven't joined the CRT Chat Group on Yahoo yet, you're missing out! We post pictures of our chis and then modestly accept the many "how adorable" "how cute" messages we receive. We discuss food issues, ideas for play-time and toys, ask for advice on behavior problems, and tell funny stories about our chis. Here's how you can 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*)
4. When you post for the first time, be sure to tell us a bit about yourself and of course, your chis!



work of art. The quilt is in a place of honor and we are not allowed to even THINK about getting on it.

So from our Mom and us, we say thanks to all of you who make up CRT and made the quilt; if it weren't for you, so many little ones would be lost. You will always have our hearts. Thank you!

Sydney Ann, Libby and Stella Swarengen
Janne Swarengen

AND THE WINNER IS....

Dearest Folks at Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Our Mom is a bit on the shy side, so we decided to let you know how so, so excited she was to learn she had won THE QUILT!! We are Sydney Ann (yorkie-chi mix), Libby (Maltese-chi mix) and Stella (toy poodle). All of us are rescues from various bad situations. Mom LOVES CRT—looks almost every day at the website to see if there are chi's she can help place or needs a best friend. She travels for a living, so being a foster Mom is pretty much out. Dad is a chi lover too, but has his limits, which right now is just us. So, we do other things to help CRT—be a best friend, give money, buy raffle tickets, buy snuggles, buy chi car magnets—you get the picture. CRT has been on our list of favorite groups to work with for about 4 years and we look forward to many more years of helping little chi's find forever homes.

Well, we tell you, when that quilt came—it was like major waterworks!! Tears and laughter looking at all those wonderful pieces that so many folks had stitched together. There is no doubt that each square tells a story of a special little chi—we cannot imagine how much work and emotion went into not only making the quilt but also seeing it come to life as a



DONATIONS

<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Sierra	Robert Epperson, Jr.
Jakey	Kris & Rich Williams
Ginger	Shirley Tincher
Tanya Delaney	Gloria Kogan
Peanut	Sue Hankard
Pokey	T. Frederick & A. Lewis
Pokey	Natale Koepenick
Salvado	Kathy White
Nicky Boy, Krissy, & Chico	Norma Priday
Sammie & Pokey Hasenstab	Norma Priday
Gladys	Bill & Kathleen McCook
Chi-Chi, Peanut-Man, & Cashew-Baby	The Peters Family
Morty Sideler	Margo Wilbanks
Keena	Nancy Larrow
F. J.	Lori Bailey
P, my little brown Chi	Samantha Elms
Tommy Cruz Calhoun	Sharon Calhoun
Mechina & Sylvester	Doris Cotton
Pokey	Christine Beard
Kira	Gretchen Johnson
Pepper & Sunshine	Barry & Julie Humphrey
Chulee Tidbit Saunier	Rhonda Saunier
Bette Scott	Jacquelin Chapman
Tina Schmidt	LeeAnn Mauger
Trixie	Kathy Fox
Poochie	Jo Ann Benti
Nikita Lauritzen	Paula Bollinger

<u>In Honor Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Bubby Lynn & Bambi	Bonnie Harne
Magik	David W. Bartley
Sierra	Robert Epperson Jr.
Jakey	Kris & Rich Williams
Carey Family	S.A.V.E. Club of Langham Creek HS

<u>In Honor Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Mollie	Lydia Mason
CoCo & Deuce	Sharon Gerbasi
Chip Shelton	Rebecca & Ivy Shelton
LeClair Bissell & Nancy Palmer	Kathy White & King Chewy
Nancy Krupp	Miss Kitty Sullivan
Señor Hary	Jo An Benti
Sophia & Luigi	Nadine Tamborello
Linda Powers, DVM	Robert Hanson
Bitsy	Laurie Jensen
Maggie	Brent & Catherine James
Spiff	Julie & Denny Bartlett
All CRT Rescuers & Foster Parents	Louisa Chandler
Stella Helen Musial	Joe & Marcia Musial
Sadie	Bud & Pat Miller
Sissy	George & Ruth Matkins, JR.
Chetier	Melissa Gribble
Joli	Thomas Clarkson & Anthony Baque
Bebe	Linda Moffet
Butterfly	Denny & Sharon Furst
Mugsey	Eleanora Mott
Trixie	Pam Huckle
Paco & Mikey	Allyn & Linda Wadleigh
Cheri Bergeron	First Ladies Civitan of Jackson
Señor Harry, Mama K., Poochie, Pumpkin & Sunny	Jo Ann Benti
Rita Rosita, Sparky & Twinkle my CRT Adoptees & foster Emma	Teresa Butler
Phebe	Nonya
All Chihuahuas	Judy Wells

MY HERO

So many foster dogs have such sad stories as to how they came into rescue, but they have happy endings. My Rita Rosita definitely has a tale to tell that ends with "and she lived happily ever after."

Rita Rosita is an older gal. She was found in a pet carrier abandoned in a city park in the midst of winter and with snow on the ground. Fortunately, someone happened to be in the park and saw the pet carrier. Imagine their surprise to find a dog inside! She was turned over to animal care and control, which is where she stayed until the stray hold was up. No one claimed her, so she was transferred to CRT.

Nothing is known about her past. The vet estimated her age to be 10 years, although she could be older. Little by little, Rita Rosita revealed her personality, likes, and dislikes. From some of her behaviors, I assumed she belonged to an elderly person who could no longer keep her. Rita Rosita definitely did not like children of any size at all, period, when she first arrived here. She would snarl, growl, and bark ferociously if she even heard children. So, my best guess is that the family member who took her in had children, Rita Rosita snapped at them, and they took the easy way out by disposing of her like yesterday's newspaper and abandoned her in the park.

Rita Rosita came to me to be my foster. She was a good traveler. When we arrived, I took her on the grand tour of her new temporary foster home. The moment I brought her in the house, she pranced all around the place, looking to the left and to the right, and promptly pronounced that it met with her approval and she was staying. This girl marched right into my home and heart. She knew

immediately that I was her forever mommy and she was home, but it took two weeks to convince me of that fact. Now she is mine.

When she first arrived, she knew all about that wonderful stuff called people food. She knew where the stove and dining room table were. She was very good at begging pitifully, whining, crying, and drooling until her little chest was soaking wet. Whenever the refrigerator door opened, Rita Rosita was right there trying to climb inside where all that food was. She discovered that begging and climbing into the refrigerator were unacceptable behaviors, however.

Well, Rita Rosita was not interested in that awful stuff called dry dog food - the canned stuff was not much better. But, she was not getting all that wonderful people food because mommy said "no"; so, she tried the dog food. Within three days, she had bloody diarrhea - her system was not accustomed to a proper diet and was rebelling. Rita Rosita went on a bland white rice and boiled ground beef diet to settle her stomach down, which took two weeks. Then, it took another four weeks to gradually wean her off the bland rice/beef diet and onto dog food. I am happy to say she eats the sensitive stomach formula dry dog food twice a day and enjoys it tremendously! No more stomach problems as long as she eats just that dog food. I have to be very diligent to keep crumbs off the floor because even a tiny amount will set off her stomach trouble again.

Rita Rosita's favorite hobbies are eating, sleeping, getting petted and back scratches, sleeping, eating, being in my lap, licking my ankles, giving kisses, interacting with the other Chis, going outside, and eating and sleeping. She does have spunk and personality. She has her little quirks - for example, she will only bark if the doorbell rings (normal) or when birds of any size fly overhead while she is in the yard (unusual, to be sure).

I have long admired Teresa Butler, a Midwest volunteer who I first met by email. Teresa does what she calls "doggie boot camp" for dogs who need extra attention and behavior help. The Midwest volunteers look to Teresa for advice and help because of her love for and knowledge of chis. Remember I said that some volunteers have had over 100 fosters pass through their homes & hearts? Well Teresa is right up there in numbers....."Sparky was my 163rd foster". Can you imagine having had that many fosters?! And remembering where he fit into the procession?!

Teresa is one of my personal heroes for all that she does for CRT....here she tells us about 2 of her fosters, Rita Rosita & Sparky, who became a permanent part of her life.

In the world of rescue an older girl, like Rita Rosita would be considered special needs and difficult to place. This girl is a hoot! She is well-behaved, affectionate, and very well housebroken. She may be an oldie and grizzled with lots of gray, but she is a goodie with lots of life left. She is enjoying sharing her life with me, her siblings (also adopted from CRT), and all the foster dogs that come and go. She would like to encourage anyone interested in adopting a rescued dog to consider the older ones because they make very good pets, too, and want a chance to "live happily ever after."

Sparky, however, had to take a longer route to become my own dog.

Sparky was my 163rd foster dog. He was the first one I ever had returned. But Sparky's adoption and subsequent return was a new experience for me

Sparky (formerly Sprocket) belonged to a woman who was deployed to Iraq. She could not find anyone to take him and so he came to CRT. Laura asked if I would take him, recognizing my "no boys" rule. I agreed to take him on.

He was mad at the world and hated everybody when he arrived here. He was not shy about letting everyone know, either. He immediately went into extreme intervention for three days. His other bad behaviors included marking in the house, crate possessiveness, food possessiveness, no one could not touch him while he slept, he snarled and snapped at other dogs, would not come when called, etc.

After a few months, he was ready to be adopted. I took him with me on a home visit. Everyone fell in love with him, including their older Cairn. The lady was approved and adopted Sparky while waiting for an opening at Dr. Butler's (no relation to me, more is the pity) for Sparky's knee surgery.

Her situation changed as a new project started at work. She was gone 60+ hours per week, leaving Sparky in the primary care of her elderly mother. Well, The Spark returned to his dictatorial and tyrannical ways. Much to my chagrin, Laura asked if I would take him back.

His attitude lasted all of five minutes when we got back home. I gave him The Lecture and reminded him of My Number One Rule. He has needed a few reminders, but otherwise has been a very good dog (even though he is a boy).

He had the knee surgery on his right knee and completed the recovery period.

And then a woman in Michigan was interested in adopting Sparky. We spent many hours e-mailing back and forth, discussing his needs, how to handle him, etc. Laura was involved in all this, too. The woman came to the conclusion that Spark was not a good match for her. She did adopt another chi from CRT who was better suited to her household and family.

The whole process of e-mailing back and forth with the lady in MI made me realize that Sparky (aka Sir Poops-a-lot or Sparky, the Atomic Pooperman) was already home.

He is gregarious, outgoing, affectionate, obedient, and loves all the girls at my house. He does not know a stranger, animal or human. His daily routine includes touching noses with each girl, then he will take a step forward and put his cheek against hers. At first, the girl dogs thought it was aggressive posturing. Once they realized he was being affectionate, they would initiate the process.

One time when Sparky had to spend the night at the vet clinic I found out how attached Rita Rosita and Twinkle are to Sparky. They did not want to eat their dinner and went to bed at 8:00 p.m., two hours early. They did not want to go outside Wednesday morning because they were looking for him. He was not there to hug and kiss them and say good morning. My girls were so glad to see him the next day and he them. Of course, Spark loves having a "harem."

Sparky is a success story. He certainly is not the dog that originally came to me.

Finding the real reason behind behavior problems is much like peeling an onion, layer by layer. As one behavior issue would be resolved, another would come up. Sparky's underlying problem was insecurity. Once that basic issue was addressed, his other problems faded away.

Best Friends...



Truman—Missouri

Truman is only 4 years old but he's had a sad little life so far. He spent two years in a puppy mill then was adopted by an older man who was his dad for two more years. Then the man died and his kids took Truman to be put to sleep. The vet intervened and contacted CRT. Truman is a scared little guy, but his foster mom is helping him to learn to love again and to feel safe. Those of us who have fostered and/or adopted puppy mill dogs are rewarded every day by their progress towards a normal happy & healthy life. There's a lot of love stored up in these dogs! Wouldn't you like it to be yours?

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BEST FRIENDS

Here are four dogs who need Best Friends...we showed four last issue and will show 4 more next issue. These are Chihuahuas who need a forever home. Right now they live with a foster mom or dad who takes very good care of them. Maybe you would love to adopt them but can't do it right now. If you'd like to help take care of them you can become their "Best Friend" by making a weekly donation of \$5 or more, a monthly donation of \$20 or more, or a one time donation of any amount. Even if you are planning to adopt one of them, there are so many more still waiting for that perfect home. When you become a Best Friend to a Chihuahua your name will appear next to their photo on the website.

If you would like to have a Best Friend, please email Sponsor@chihuahua-rescue.com



Heidi Lynn is 13 years old. When her owner had to go into a nursing home and could no longer care for her she was left alone in an apartment for a long time. She was very

thin, her nails were long, and her coat was matted and filthy. Heidi Lynn also had infected teeth.

Now that Heidi has been properly groomed and had 10 infected teeth pulled she feels like a new girl. She's gained weight and loves to go outside and run and play in the sun. Heidi is 6 pounds of sweetness and love just waiting for her forever family to find her.

Maisie is a very sweet 4 month old puppy who has already had some rough times. She was turned into the animal shelter because she has a severe case of puppy mange. The doctor has given her some yucky medicine to take. She hates it, but it is making her better. She looks very scary right now, almost like a rat but her foster mom is sure that very soon she will be a beautiful girl. She still has a lot of doctor visits before she is ready for her new home. She sure would like a Best Friend to help her out with her expenses. Could that be you?

Maisie—California



Danny is approximately two years old and weighs seven pounds. Danny was very thin when he came to CRT because he was starving to death. Now he gets plenty to eat, lots of love, and best of all TOYS! He loves to play with other dogs and loves his stuffed toys. Danny says that he doesn't want to be scared and hungry ever again.



Danny-Texas

It's hard to imagine that someone would dump a dog as small as a Chihuahua and leave them to starve or be killed by traffic or larger dogs, isn't it? But it happens all the time! Lucky for them, CRT is there for the starving, the sick, the weak, the abandoned.

Instant Herd

Those of us who do rescue work often end up with 3 or 4 chis of our own. I have 3 chis of my own, and often foster 2 more. When you have that many chis, they become "The Herd". Lots of us use that term for our big groups of fur and love.....here are some ready-made small herds for you to consider for adoption!! I'll let them introduce themselves



Dakota & Tinkerbelle—Texas

My name is Tinkerbelle I am black, 8 yrs old and weigh about 3 pounds. My brother's name is Dakota and he is chocolate with cream, also 8 yrs old and weighs 2.7 pounds. He's a little shy at first so I will tell you about us. We have had an awful experience as our owner died and the family didn't want us for some reason and took us to the shelter. Thank heavens CRT got us and because we have been together since we were puppies, will see that we get to stay together!! As you can see from the picture at left, my brother who is so sweet, is VERY dependant on me but that's OK," He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother".

We are always together and even sleep in the same crate and lay together touching each other. I love him so much and he loves me too! We are ready for a new home but it will have to be a very special one. As I said, there are 2 of us and don't even ask if you can adopt one without the other cuz it WON'T be done, we come as a package deal!!

Hi, folks! Lil' Bit and Carlo here!

Carlo: "If you can't tell by our names, Lil 'Bit is the guy on the right. He's really little and only weighs 3 pounds."

Lil' Bit: "And Carlo is the bigger guy on the left.....he weighs a whoppin' 5 ½ pounds! The important thing, though, is that we're best buddies and want to live together forever and forever."

Carlo: "We're both 3 years old and so we LOVE to play together."

Lil' Bit: "Foster mom says that we are hilarious to watch when we play. What does 'hilarious' mean anyway?"

Carlo: "I don't know.....maybe it's means we're extra cute????"

We sure would love to become your "instant herd" of chis!



Carlo & Lil' Bit—Texas



Hi, there! My name is Machita and I am the mother of this beautiful boy named Pacho. Isn't my son handsome? He's also charming and extremely well-mannered. I am 12 years old and Pacho is 11.....I was a very young first-time mother. We have been together our entire lives and so want to go to our forever family together. We love to snuggle with our human and each other.....wouldn't you love to have us as part of your family?

Machita & Pacho—Florida

Chihuahua Rescue & Transport, Inc.
Financial Summary
January - December 2005

Income	
Adoption Fees	\$ 65,304
Donations	\$ 64,511
Other fundraising	\$ 13,090
Total Income	\$ 142,905
Expenses	
Veterinary	\$ 112,711
Microchips + registration	\$ 2,852
Magnets/Magazines for resale	\$ 2,053
Printing/Copying	\$ 3,423
Postage	\$ 1,850
Licenses/Permits/Fees	\$ 913
Advertising/Website	\$ 648
Other	\$ 213
Total Expenses	\$ 124,663

For questions regarding CRT's financials, please email our treasurer, Gretchen Craver, at Treasurer@Chihuahua-Rescue.com

Chihuahua Rescue & Transport
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