

The official newsletter for
friends, volunteers, and
supporters

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*This newsletter is dedicated to
the memory of LeClair Bissell*



A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

Playing it Safe

This message is about keeping your animals safe. Do you have a safety barrier by your front door? I do. I always have at least one to five fosters in my home, several of which are elderly and pretty much permanent. When I go in and out, I don't want to risk escapes. I'm good, but occasionally a dog will slip past me. I've solved that with an exercise pen barrier inside the door. I come in the door and the dogs are all on the other side of the "fence" waiting to greet me. The fence consists of four panels of a play yard which can be used for kids or dogs. Since I have French doors, I needed a wider expanse, but you can create your own barrier.

If you have a screen door or storm door, that helps, but dogs can still get out. If you have a foyer and can use a baby gate to keep the dogs out of the hallway, you reduce the risk of escapes. It takes only a second for a dog to escape, but catching it is likely to take longer and the risks for the dog's survival out on the street are too large to leave to chance.

I step over my gating, but there are gates/fences on the market that allow you to walk through. Design something to protect your pet.

If you have other pets, you also need to be sure to minimize risks of harm if they fight, argue over dinner or just don't like each other from time to time. Never be afraid to separate your animals when you cannot supervise them.

SEE PREZ, PAGE 2

PEPPER SAYS...

Hi, it's me, Pepper! I thought and thought about what to write for this issue, and finally I decided to write about a great injustice that's being done here in Ohio. We dogs have a simple rule: if you can see the bottom of your food bowl when the food is in it, IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOOD!

Is that rocket science? How hard can it be? We just can't get our mom trained, no matter how hard we've tried. Now poor little Sadie is getting shorted on her food, and I'm afraid she'll get skinny, and we won't recognize her. She's a bit chunky now, but hey, she's 11 years old; she deserves a good meal! Anyway, I don't care how dumb you are, if you can see the bottom of the food bowl through the food, then you should be able to figure out that someone's dish doesn't have enough food in it!

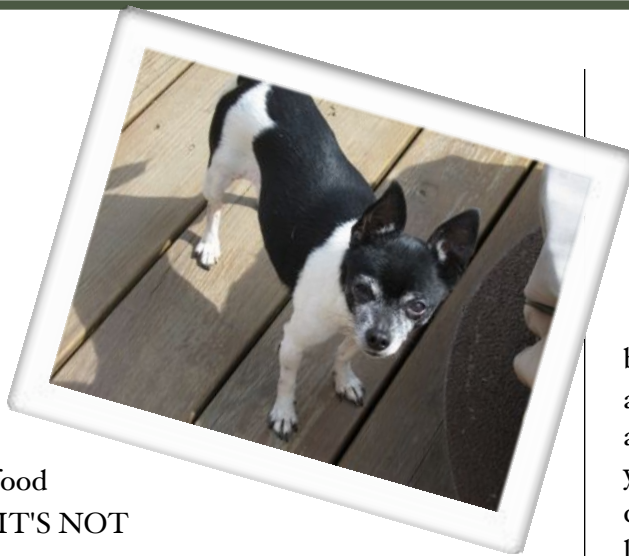
I just don't know what it takes. I lost a bunch of weight until now I weigh at the short end of 5 lbs, so I get lots and lots of food, but I'm still not gaining. I know a good thing when I see it, and when my mom goes to bed, I sneak off and do a little running to burn those calories so I can continue to get fed more. We older girls become sly as we age.

Anyway, that's how things are going here. Training problems at my mom's end of the leash, spring is coming, and she's running all over but when she's not home, we have to stay in the house, and we hate that. We want to be out on the deck, lounging in the sun while my mom reads. Maybe a few flat tires would ground her for a while....

Finally, I need some good thoughts for my friend, Mina. She has a baaaad heart murmur, and now she has a hernia, and some other things, and she's only 8 1/2 years old, not nearly old enough to have all these things wrong. She's my BFF, and I'm being nice to her and letting her have the best bed because I'm afraid she won't be around for a long time. Please send some good energy our way so that she keeps fighting.

I think I'll go and ARK! ARK! at the door to see if anyone lets me out. It sure does look nice out there....

Love,
Pepper



PREZ

Transport your pets safely by using a harness fastened to a seat belt or by putting them in a crate that is strapped in with the seat belt. Even safe drivers have accidents when other drivers aren't being attentive. Be sure your pet is protected. Never carry your Chihuahua in your lap in the car. It's not safe: if the airbag deploys, your dog could be killed.

Check your fence for holes that would allow a Chihuahua to escape. Look for places where a collar could catch or where there are loose pieces of fencing or wall. Make sure nothing can get in from the outside to harm your dog.

Please be careful about using the flexible lead type leashes. They are easy to let out, but only retract when the dog is coming closer to you. If your dog gets out too far, it can be hit by a car or someone could trip over the cord and hurt the dog by jerking it.

Check your home for possible dangers and create some sort of solution. It's better to be safe than sorry. (I apologize for the cliché)

*Lynn Buntin, president,
Chihuahua Rescue and Transport.*

Creating Harmony in the Home — Kids and Dogs

BY JACKIE BUSCH, DVM



Kids and dogs in the same household are an American tradition. But how can we make it a safe environment for both to thrive and live harmoniously? Statistically, dog bites involve children under the age of 5 and often occur in the face. The dog is the beloved family pet or very often belongs to a friend or relative. Many altercations occur as a direct result of a “perceived” provocation in the pet’s mind. It is instinctual. Dogs will react unless consistent training and socialization have provided a strong foundation. Generally, dogs will give some type of warning before an altercation. It may be subtle, such as walking away or a stiffening of the body, or a more obvious growl. Children may not understand what the dog is trying to communicate. It is essential adults teach children to respect the dog and to be quiet and well-behaved. Certain circumstances – running, rough housing and tug-of-war, can trigger a dog’s instinctual behavior.

In our household, we have children who range in age from infant to 6 years old, and we have dogs. From Day One we began teaching our children to respect the dogs by laying a foundation based on several principles.

- We never leave our dogs and children alone together. It is imperative that both our dogs and our children are protected from each other. We use a variety of methods, including exercise pens and baby gates.
- We handle our dogs a lot. They love to be touched and massaged. This has enabled our children to be able to pet them nicely and has reinforced a positive interaction. We implemented a “one finger pet” rule with our young children. This involves us helping our child to pet our dogs with only one finger to prevent grabbing and pulling of their haircoat. We reinforce the notion of being gentle and kind.
- When our dogs choose to be in their bed, their crate or their exercise pen, it is “off-limits” for our children to disturb them. We describe it as their “quiet time,” and we need to be respectful and allow them to remain undisturbed.
- Our children are not permitted to take toys from the dogs, play tug-of-war, engage in games of chase, or rough house around them. This prevents the dogs from getting excited and, perhaps, losing inhibition and allowing instincts to guide their behavior.

Dogs and children can achieve harmony in the home. It is essential both are treated with kindness and with respect under strict adult supervision, no exceptions. While concerned when we introduced our children to our pets, we have achieved a great balance between the two. Our children view our pets as members of our family, and I hope they continue to strengthen their bond with animals throughout their lives.

Jackie Busch has been in small animal practice for more than eight years, joining Westwood Hospital for Animals in Brownsburg, Ind., in 2001

DONATIONS

IN HONOR OF.....

George and Kristi Abbott

In honor of Stuart

Vicki Anderson

Sparky, Dake and Max

Kathy Berry

Boomer, Blue and Maddie

Aaron Binkley

Quincy and Jackson

Holly Boal

Howard and Shanna Boals

Athena Campbell

Christine Holleyman

Sharon Campbell

Christine Holleyman

Keely Carter

Lois West

Thomas Clarkson

Our Chihuabua Joli

Kristen Curlett

All the volunteers

Kevin Dehan and John Fico

Marcus

Melissa Filbeck and Daniel

Thom and Becky Hoffmann

Sandi Fulton

Martine Arnold

Mr. and Mrs. D. Furst

Joey, our newest rescue Chi

Margaret Hill

Denise Brown's birthday

Bill Jones

Toby and his best friend Tonto

Bob and Pat Keeler

*Art and Nancy Krupp
and Miss Kitty*

Natale Koepenick

Slick and Cheech

Piper LaNeige

Connie, my Chihuabua

Debbie Linfield

Cricket and Biffy

Molly Parsley

Honey

Mary Pitcairn

All dogs, especially Chi's

Jennifer Plodzien

Willy, Noel, Julio and Daisy

Ready Credit Corp.

Geraldine Newman

Carol and Jim Reid

Sebastian, CRT adopter

Patricia Robin

Pearl and Edgerr

Jan McFarland and Sadie

Laura Hasenstab

Robert Moen and John Salvesson

Ladybug

Nancy Schoener

BooBoo Schoener

**Tamara and Darius
Stankunas**

Chagall

Lesa Stevenson

Chewyawa

James and Jane Tanner

Charro and BeBe

Lynn Taylor

Shade

Mike and Barbara Vance

Danny and Ninja

Judy Wells

Chi's everywhere

Shirley Weyenberg

Tequila

Lynette Williams

Bandit

For more information on how you can make a tax-deductible donation to Chihuahua Rescue & Transport, see our web site at www.chihuahua-rescue.com/donation.htm

IN MEMORY OF.....

Debbie Bailey

Bill Carter

Connie Brite

Bebe

Michele Carley

Biscotte

Susan Clarke

Foxy, Rocky, Prince and Pilgrim

Phyllis Coglianese

Cocoa

Nan Davis

LeClair Bissell and Nancy Palmer

Nancy Davis

Chi-Chi

Marvin Donnelly

Judi Graves

Ernest and Linda Kurtz

*LeClair Bissell,
dear friend and respected colleague*

Carla Emerling

Gypsy

Don and Carol Flagg

Lucky

Jayne Frye

LeClair Bissell

Challis Gibbs

Lia Hensel

Marilyn Goldberg

Lady, loved by Marian Stainbrook

Shana Grand

Rio

Melissa Gribble

Joe St. Cyr

Mark Grupa

Koko, my childhood pal

Susan and Bill Hamilton

Roscoe and Peanut

Sue Hankard

Jake, Toby and Hope Howard

Bonnie Harne

Bubby Lynn Harne, our perfect angel

Michael and Kim Healy

Grizzly and Shy

Vicki Hendon

Monty Hendon

J.I. Hendrickson

Cindy Hendrickson

Jaime Hunt

Kaya

Sheree Hunt

Candy and Precious

Frank Jackson

LeClair Bissell

Estate of Russell Johnson

Russ Johnson and Maggie

Barbara King

*LeClair Bissell, Gigi, Maggie, Olivia
and Raggedy Annie*

Mack and Sammie Kurtz

Richard Kurtz

Carol Lange

Phoebe Sue

The Larrow Pups and their people

Emme Merriman

The Larrow Pups and their people

Our beloved Libby Black

Jeantz Martin

Baby Minni

**Carl Schwann
and Michael McConney**

Beau, a very special little Maltese

Susan Medver-Wilkes

Chico and Li'l Bit

Daniel Minninger

Zoe

LeeAnn Parlberg-Phillips

Theresa Hough

Mali Perl

Bunny

Geraldine Polson

Jockie

Nancy Rasari

Chipeta

Judy Reed

Mac and Bandit

Sharon Rickell

Pepper Lumpkin

Gail Riggs

Patch

Richard and Eleanor Riley

Daisy, Molly and Annie

Paula Snedeker

Trixie

Stan and Laura Springer

Russ Johnson

Janet Stanley

Bonnie Johnson

And Babe Makes Three

BY KERRY ANDERSON

My husbands' mother loved dogs. In the 10 years I knew her, she had two Chihuahuas. The first was blind and very loving and dependent. The second, Babe, was content to be wrapped in a blanket on my mother-in-law's lap. She asked my husband and me to take care of Babe if she were unable to care for her. We said yes, never thinking the day would actually come.

About five years ago, we adopted a 1-year-old male Chihuahua. We adopted another last year through Chihuahua Rescue & Transport so they could keep each other company while we are at work. We've been happy with both of them, but we had no intention of taking in a third dog.

Then my mother-in-law's health took a turn for the worse. She died in December 2008. While she was in the hospital, Babe refused to eat, staying buried under her blankets. After my mother-in-law died, we took Babe home with us. We didn't want another dog, but we had made a promise.

To our surprise, our lives became even better. The boys took to Babe like she was their long-lost sister. Babe came out of her shell and runs and jumps on her new brothers like she has known them all her life. Her little 5.5-pound appetite is insatiable. My husband and I don't need to watch TV at night because we have comedy, drama and more kisses and cuddles than we could ask for. We think of my mother-in-law often as we watch her little Chi evolve with our family.

When my mother lost her dog, we replaced him with another of the same breed and temperament. Why don't we do that for the pets whose humans pass away? Keep them with the family they have known. Let them play with the grandchildren they have grown up with.

We've had Babe for almost two months. She has a favorite blanket I refuse to wash. I believe she can still detect my mother-in-law's scent. Babe still sees family members she has known for many years. She's a happy little dog not because we took her in, but because she's with family.

I feel guilty it took a promise to my mother-in-law for us to take care of the most precious thing in the world to her. Babe is a member of our family and will continue to be so for many years. My mother-in-law could not have given us a better gift.

SAVE-A-CHI

Elinda.net

Betty

"Betty is brand new and a real sweetheart."

Daniel Hess

Tessie

Amber Johnson

Bandit

Carolyn King

Rosalee (she'll be up soon)

Carolyn is running a race in May for the many Chi's in need. She's going to set aside \$10 a mile, and it's a 10-mile race. Our love to you Carolyn, and stay healthy.

Kelly Nagy

Daisy

She'll be up soon so please keep checking!

Toni Pierce

Pasquale

"He's a sweet old boy!"

Gail and Dulcea Swenson

Ella

This is a second donation from the Swensons. They were the original owners of Rico, our little Mondy Boy who entertained everyone at the Midwest Chiesta. Thanks to Gail and Dulcea! A la estimada Coco Bolo Pantelones Robinson y con muchas gracias y feliz Navidad a su Mama y Papa, Janice & Rick, y su jauria de Chihuahuas, from Gail and Dulcea.

Willy, Noel, Julie and Daisy

In honor of Kizzie

Jennifer Plodzien sure raised her Chi's the right way!! Good dogs! (giving tummy rubs as I say this).

Ryan Woelful

Lacey and Copper in North Carolina

Ryan is sponsoring Lacey and Copper in honor of his 8th wedding anniversary to his wife Elisse!

Chi Rescue News From Around the Nation

Florida Volunteers Attend ART Walk

Volunteers in the St. Petersburg/Tampa Bay area are participating in ART Walk on the first Friday and third Saturday of each month in downtown Gulfport, where they sell handcrafted necklaces, collar cover-ups, belly bands and other fine items, including donated art.

CRT also took part in the Tailgate Pawty hosted by the Humane Society on Jan. 31. Several foster dogs were at the party. Giving people a chance to meet the dogs resulted in an increase in adoption applications and eventual adoptions.

Other events included "Get Rescued In Gulfport," a celebration of rescue dogs on Feb. 28, and the Bay Area Renaissance Fair on March 7th-8th, where volunteers sold medieval dog wear, banners and clothes. For information about upcoming events, send an e-mail to Megan Barrett at: bonoball@tampabay.rr.com.

Volunteers in the rest of Florida have been busy rescuing, rehabbing and adopting out chihuahuas! Because of the economic decline, we are receiving more requests from individuals to help find new homes for their dogs. We're proud our reputation and hard

work has resulted in animal shelters throughout Florida, as well as Alabama and Georgia, contacting us to ask for help. In the past months, we've taken in dogs from Tampa, Pensacola, Tallahassee, Orlando, and Ft. Myers shelters.

We have also been fortunate to add new foster homes. If you would like to be a foster family, contact the CRT coordinator in your area for more information.

—Kathy Crumpler
CRT Florida State Coordinator

Pet Expo in Chicago a big success for CRT

We attended the Chicagoland Family Pet Expo, where we sold dog coats, harness vests, blankets, lap quilts, furniture throws, pillow shams, purses, crate and furniture mats, and belly bands. Everything but the coats were made by our volunteers. We did very well and met thousands of terrific people.

The next weekend, we set up the same type of booth in Cincinnati, though on a smaller scale.

We met a lot of dog lovers and got our name out while selling the merchandise left from Chicago.

We have a small event planned for August, followed by

the Barktoberfest in Cincinnati in September. The date has yet to be announced.

Our adoptions have been slow but steady. We have quite a few dogs available, and we're taking fewer dogs because of the slowdown in adoptions and the lack of space in foster care. We're hoping adoptions pick up as summer begins.

—Laura Hasenstab,
CRT Midwest Regional
Coordinator

Southwest Events Keep Volunteers Busy

We are doing three adoption showings a month at PetSmart across the metroplex, which includes Garland, Euless and Dallas, as well as several other events throughout the spring and summer. The events have been successful and at the same time have given our foster dogs a chance to become more socialized.

We adopted out many dogs since January, but we continue to need more volunteers, especially to foster dogs. We are turning away dozens of dogs every week. Shelters here are bursting at the seams with wonderful little Chihuahuas picked up as strays or

See **Roundup**, Page 8

Roundup



MEMBERS IN THE SOUTHWEST RECENTLY STAFFED A TABLE AT SAKS DEPARTMENT STORE. FROM LEFT ARE: CHARLENE CULLEN, LYN HEROD, KAREN HALES, BEVERLY RHINEBERGER, CHRISTY MAPLES AND SUE HEMPFLING.

surrendered by their families. We want to save as many as we can while keeping our motto in mind: "quality not quantity."

"We are gearing up for Chiستا 2009! The 9th Annual DFW Chi-ستا will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009 at Bear Creek Park in Keller, Texas. Please check our website. We will be accepting new/unused items for our raffle. To donate, please send email to raffle@chihuahua-rescue.com.

If you are interested in holding a vendor booth at the Chiستا, please email vendors@chihuahua-rescue.com. For adoptions in this area, please email

SouthwestCoordinator@chihuahua-rescue.com. We have lots of new little ones looking for homes. We'd also love to add you to our list of volunteers.

*Robin Pitre
Southwest Coordinator*

Chihuahuas on waiting lists in N.C., S.C., Va.

I receive between three to eight requests a day from people trying to place their Chihuahuas. That doesn't include the requests from the animal shelters where people dump their dogs. I'm lucky to be able to work with several other reputable rescues that are

able to take dogs. Telling people we're full and have a waiting list is the worst part of my job as NC/SC Coordinator.

We have just recently signed up four new volunteers, and a couple more are in the screening process. Our adoptions are up right now as we have Scarlett, Tommy, Tootsie, Keilee, Oscar, Snow, Ollie and a couple of pups in the process of being adopted.

We teamed up with other rescues in the area to help dogs seized from a puppy mill in Goldsboro, N.C.

The mill housed about 300 dogs, including Chi's, Doxies, Shih Tzus, Lhasas, Poodles, Mini Pins, and Yorkies. We were given several pregnant females which have recently delivered, so now we have 11 puppies ranging in age from 4 weeks to nearly 5 months old. They should be showing up on the website shortly where we will begin the arduous process of screening applicants.

We are holding several adoption fairs across the state on a monthly basis and have had luck recruiting adopters and volunteers. We attended Bark in the Park at the end of April, where about 15,000 people attended this year.

*Carla Johnson
NC/SC Coordinator*

TRAINER TIME

Accidents? It's Back to Potty Training 101

Part 2

KRISTIN GIESEKER, *Animal Behavior and Training Specialist*



What you can do

- Supervision is crucial. Watch for signs of impending potty and get your dog outside where you can praise it for going.
- Monitor when and how much your dog eats and drinks. If you know the schedule for the intake, you are more likely to know the schedule of the output.
- Try to pinpoint stressors and reduce or desensitize your dog to them.
- Exercise is also very important. A good walk around the neighborhood alleviates boredom, stress, and pent-up energy, and gives your dog lots of new places to relieve itself. Make sure you bring bags to clean up after your canine.

What if your dog is already housebroken and is still going inside? Behavioral issues can greatly affect housebreaking.

The first step is to go back to Potty Training 101, and start from scratch with the supervision, the accompanied trips outside, praise for going in the right place, and confinement when you can't supervise. If you've done that consistently for at least two months and have seen no improvement, it's time to look at other issues.

If your dog has done well with housebreaking and suddenly begins treating your shag carpet like its favorite stretch of grass, it's best to start with a visit to the vet to rule out medical issues. Once you have been given a clean bill of health, take a look at the dog's environment. Have there been changes in your home, neighborhood or family? Strange smells, a new person or object, construction in your neighborhood, or the loss of a comforting item or companion can trigger a problem.

If your dog urinates when approached or reached for, you are dealing with submissive urination. The best thing you can do is: nothing. When you come home, don't greet your dog right away. Take it out to potty first, and after it has relieved itself, come down to its level, let it approach you and greet and pet it calmly. Instruct visitors to ignore it, and urge them not to make eye contact with the dog until calm. If the dog has an accident, squash your instincts to punish it and walk away. This lets the dog know the behavior is undesirable without causing it stress and triggering further urination.

Dogs that urinate or defecate on anything new, anything they see as valuable, or things they feel have been claimed by others (your bed, another dog's toy, etc.), usually do so because they do not see a clear leader in the home. Create structure and consistency; ask your dog to earn every resource you provide, and restrict its freedom in the house until you have the situation under control.

Don't give up on your pal. If you need extra help, contact a trainer. Sometimes we need a fresh pair of eyes to see the way around a problem, and we just can't see the forest for the pees. Or trees.

N.C. Puppy Mill Shut Down

BY CARLA JOHNSON

With helicopters overhead, Wayne County animal control officers, local sheriff's deputies and investigators from the Humane Society of the United States raided a puppy mill in Mount Olive in February that had been in business for more than 35 years and took custody of nearly 300 Shih Tzus, Lhasa Apsos, Dachshunds, Chihuahuas, Poodles, Pomeranians and Yorkshire Terriers.

Dog rescue groups in North Carolina were ready to do their part.

I received advance word of the Feb. 6 raid from a friend affiliated with United Animal Nations' emergency rescue service, and, on Feb. 7, several members of animal rescue groups, including our own, headed to Wayne County. I got a call that day asking whether we could help by taking some of the Chihuahuas and, of course, after checking with Lynnne Buntin, I couldn't refuse. After contacting Yorkie Haven Rescue, Doxie Haven Rescue, Miracles at Work Rescue and Fur Babies Rescue, we decided we could potentially bring 20 dogs to the Winston-Salem area.

At a hearing on Feb. 10, the owners relinquished ownership to Wayne County Animal Control Services, and our group headed to the fairgrounds in Goldsboro to help care for the dogs.

That afternoon, we loaded six Chihuahuas -- one mom and her pup, a longhair that was pregnant, a blue Chihuahua that appeared to be pregnant, and two crazy pups -- as well as a definitely pregnant poodle, a Maltipoo that was ready to deliver, a mother Dachshund and her pup, and two more Poodles and headed back to Winston-Salem.

During the next week, hundreds of e-mails came in from people who wanted to help foster the dogs, adopt a puppy or see the animals. One e-mail had the subject line, "Do you have this dog?" It came from a woman in the Goldsboro area who attached a newspaper picture of the longhaired Chi we had named Cindy. Cindy had given birth to two pups, one that died. When Cindy didn't show much interest in the surviving pup, we took it to the Maltipoo who had four babies of her own. The woman in Goldsboro responded immediately saying she and her husband wanted to adopt her. I sent an application, checked their references and met with them. Cindy, now named Chloe, has a wonderful new home, and her mom wants to volunteer with CRT.

The blue Chi, which wasn't pregnant, made such a big impression on friends of her foster family that they filled out an application to adopt her. Emily, now called LuLu, lives on Baden Lake with her new family, including a Boston Terrier, when they're not visiting their condo in Palm Springs, Calif.

Several of the dogs will be available for adoption soon. Others are recovering in foster homes.



KATHY MILANI/*The Humane Society of the United States*

The Dayton Eight



QUTE

Hi, we're Qute and Nova. We still aren't sure what happened, but here we are, with six of our BFF's. One minute we were going along like always, eating our dinners, getting loved on, and the next minute, our dad was gone! And he didn't come back, either. So four of us went to one CRT foster home and four of us went to another. And then the bad stuff started. Mac and Roz got very, very sick and had to go to the vet right away. They're the oldest, at 12 and 13. Roz is home and feeling better, but Mac stayed overnight to get fluids and lots of tests and things. We're all going to the vet in one more day, but they couldn't wait.

We need to be spayed and neutered, get all vaccinations, heartworm tests (we sure hope we pass!), and then several of us have mammary tumors, and one of us might have bladder stones, or a possible uti.

So we're standing up here to ask a favor of you: Could you please send some money to CRT for us? We know they're going to take care of us, and make us all feel better, but it's going to cost a whole lot, and the least we can do is try to raise some money. In this economy, no one is going to give jobs to little old guys and gals like us! You can go to our website(www.chihuahua-rescue.org) to use PayPal, or you can send a check to Chihuahua Rescue & Transport, Inc, P.O. Box 18419, Chicago, IL, 60618. Or, you could even drive a Brink's truck right up to my foster mom's house in Dayton and leave a big pile of money in her yard. We'd sure appreciate it.

All 8 of us got together and brainstormed ways we could help, and we came up with a perfect one. If money is short, we decided we just wouldn't get those vaccinations after all! We could save CRT big bucks that way. It sure looks like a win-win to us! And Nova and Mac, especially, said they'd skip that neutering business, if you don't mind. So we're doing our part, too.

Love, Qute and Nova



NOVA

Fireplug Inn
Daycare, Salon, and Hotel for Small Dogs

Thank You!

Fireplug Inn supports 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 and breakfast for your small dog, be sure to check them out!

<http://www.firepluginn.com>

An Old Dog, A New Life

BY BRENDA BOGGS

We all know senior citizens do better if they have interaction with the young. That seems to be true with dogs as well.

Two weeks ago, eight dogs of a breeder who passed away were surrendered to CRT in Dayton, Ohio, by the breeder's son. Among those dogs was a male named Mac who will be 13 in September. Mac has an unstable lower jaw that has receded from the loss of his lower teeth. The deformity prevents him from chewing correctly so his food must be puréed. Several days after his surrender to CRT, he became dehydrated from vomiting and diarrhea. He was taken to a 24 hour care center in Dayton, was hospitalized and given medication and fluids. The vet surmised the stress of being relocated was probably the reason for this senior citizen's illness. After his release, he returned to my foster home in Dayton for rest and time to stabilize.



One of the permanent residents of our home is Squeakachu, the Chihuahua featured in CRT's website a year ago when he was born with severe luxation of his front legs, a birth defect that left him unable to walk. CRT, through the generosity of many people who donated to help offset the cost of his surgery and therapy, was responsible for the correction of this birth defect. We adopted Squeak and are active in CRT's rescue activities. Squeak is now about one-and-a-half years old. Squeak had to have his right shoulder rebuilt in November after dislocating it and now has a permanent pin. He has recovered nicely but we watch his activities closely to prevent further injuries.

After Mac began eating and seemed to be on the road to recovery, he was allowed out in the backyard with our other Chihuahua's and much to our surprise Mac and Squeak were instantly drawn to each other. They began to follow each other around and soon began frolicking in the yard. At first, I panicked. What if Squeak hurt Mac or the frolicking hurt Squeak? But the more they played, the happier they both seemed.

Not to worry, once they tire themselves out they both get a drink near our outside fountain and then rest in the grass touching each other. When Mac tires enough that he needs a senior nap, Squeak keeps sentinel just outside the pen and snoozes as well.

Mac, the most senior of the surrendered "Dayton Eight," seems to be rejuvenated by the presence of the youngster who had the odds stacked against him in the beginning of his life. What a treat it is to see the sparkle in Mac's eye when he sees Squeak and begins barking to get out of his pen to play with his young friend. There might be a big difference in their ages and also in their backgrounds... but friendship is not measured by age or by similarities. It is measured by the compatibility of hearts.

Old dogs can be given new life. CRT volunteers give many senior Chi's just such a chance every day by taking them into their homes and providing an opportunity for the seniors to blossom in their "golden years".

Want to add some special moments to your life? Adopt an older Chihuahua from CRT. There is sweetness and appreciation for life these wise animals have that makes them an extremely special part of your family.

Staying Healthy

BY LYNNIE BUNTEN

Our Finances

Adoption Fees	\$13,475
Donations	\$9,841.60
Sales/Fundraising	\$3,241.87
Total income (Jan. 1 - May 31, 2009)	\$26,558.47
Vet/Medical	\$33,172.49
Newsletter/Postage	\$643.18
Microchips/ Registration	\$2,949.930
Business Expenses	\$1,264.100
Total expenses (Jan. 1-May 31, 2009)	\$38,029.70
Net income/(loss)	\$(11,471.23)



How do you know it's time to go to the vet? If you make a habit of watching some basic things, you can catch problems before they become too bad to treat. Dog owners should take note of several things to determine what is normal, so you'll know what isn't normal.

How much is the dog eating each day? Free feeding, especially with multiple pets, doesn't tell you how much each is eating. An alternative is to offer two or more smaller meals and separate the pets so you can determine what each one eats. You can also tell when the dog doesn't eat. One missed meal is not a tragedy, but two in a row bears watching, and more than 36 to 48 hours without eating can be a cause for concern. Not eating can mean a tummy upset that may or may not be accompanied with soft stool or diarrhea. Likewise, a constipated dog may refuse food. Another cause could be a problem with a tooth. Where there's tartar build up, the dog may experience some pain and tend to be a bit more picky about food.

How much is it drinking? Excessive drinking can be a sign of a variety of problems. If your pet is drinking too little, it runs the risk of becoming dehydrated.

Is its temperature higher or lower than usual? I pay attention to the body temperature of my dogs. Just as my mother used to do, I feel the dogs. A temperature that seems too high may merit using a thermometer to determine if a dog is running a fever (101 is in the normal range). But a temperature that seems too low can also indicate a problem and might bear watching or a trip to the vet if accompanied by other symptoms.

Is its poop different than usual? Keeping an eye on feces will tell you if the insides of the dog are working properly. There will be color differences based on the kind of food the dog eats. The stool should be firm but not too dry. Moving critters in the stools indicates parasites, and that requires medication and a trip to the vet. The little white parasites about the size of rice are probably tapeworm segments. You may also see white threadlike parasites in the stools, and these also require attention from the vet. If you see mucous, blood, or odd colors in the stool, you may want to check with a veterinarian. You can capture a sample in a jar and take it in for a lab check.

Unspayed females may end up with pyometra, an infection of the uterus where one or both sides fill with pus. If it bursts, a systemic infection can kill the dog. This particular condition can be tricky to notice. You need to be aware of changes in behavior such as less energy and indications the dog may not be feeling up to snuff. Sometimes it's accompanied by a low-grade fever, and occasionally the belly will be tight even if the dog hasn't eaten recently.

We don't want you to trot off to the vet at the drop of a hat, but by paying attention to what is normal — and what isn't — you can at least share your concerns with your vet in a phone call.

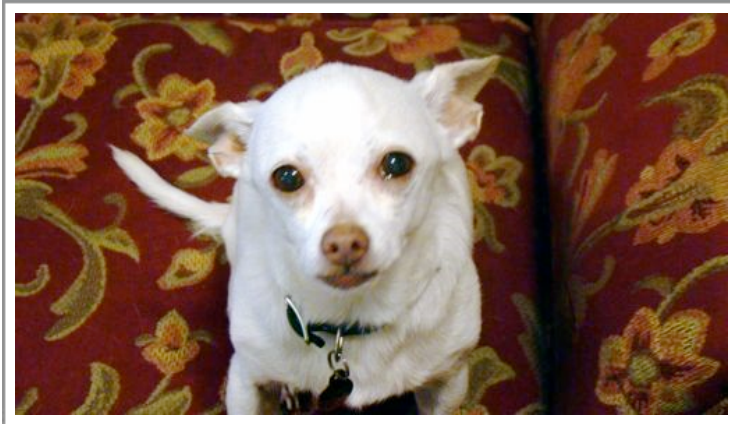
Some Buddy to Love

BY SAMANTHA
CONDON

I am a senior at North Davidson High School in Lexington, N.C., and for my senior project, I decided to help my mom, a volunteer with Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, foster a dog named Buddy.

Buddy, a snow-white, 7-year-old chi, came to my family as a weak, 6 pound dog with Addison's disease. This disease weakens his immune system and means he needs a daily pill and monthly visit to the vet for a shot. Despite this setback in his health, Buddy is a charismatic and hilarious dog, and he has gained weight and gotten healthier since he moved in with us.

Buddy's most unique quality is his voice. He is extremely talkative and does not shy away from voicing his opinion. Whether he loves something, hates it, or just wants you to know he's there, you can always count on Buddy to let you know what's up. He has a multitude of voices: the high-pitched whine when anyone walks out the door that says "Please don't leave;" the frantic yap accompanied by a fiercely wagging tail when someone walks in the door, as though he's saying: "I'm so glad you're back," and the subtle moan with a gently reminding paw that says please don't stop petting me" are a few of his most common voices.



He is also one of the smartest dogs I have ever known. He will often pretend to be mad by ignoring me and literally turning his back on me just so I will pick him up and give him attention. He also knows when he has done something wrong and will avoid facing it by keeping his eyes closed and pretending he is sleeping no matter how many times

you call his name.

This funny boy is extremely loyal and loves to cuddle on the couch. He misses us terribly when we leave and greets us enthusiastically when we get back, with a wagging tail and little running feet. He is also very compatible with other dogs, as we have three other dogs who have become friends with Buddy and will cuddle with him when he is cold.

Buddy has had a rough past in which he has been left at the vet almost dead and then placed in a foster home with a great lady, but still without the huge amounts of attention he deserved, since he shared her attention with many other dogs. Even coming through this, Buddy is able to love people like he was never abandoned.

I have learned a lot from this little guy; mainly, that no matter what the circumstances, be happy, make your voice heard, and love passionately. He is truly some Buddy to love!

Volunteers Reap Benefits at Tax Time

When you volunteer for a non-profit organization you also gain a tax deduction when the organization is recognized as a non-profit like CRT.

You can deduct out-of-pocket expenses, including travel expenses for events, as well as for animal transports. The IRS requires expenses be unreimbursed, directly connected with the services, and incurred because of the services performed and not as a personal living expense.

Vehicle-related expenses are one of the biggest deductions. The IRS allows you to track the specific expenses and save receipts or take a standard deduction for the mileage. This year, that allowance is 14 cents a mile. It may not seem like much, but it adds up. Discuss your volunteer work with your accountant. If you file your own return, obtain a copy of the IRS Publication 17 has a chapter devoted to this subject.

A Second Chance for Fred

BY DR. CARLENE MENDIETA

In October 2008, I received the CRT newsletter at my office and began reading. I stopped dead when I saw the gut-wrenching picture of Fred, staring out with two broken front limbs. The story that followed told of a 5 month Chi left at a kill shelter after his owners had allowed or caused him to break his left front leg twice and the right leg as well. CRT took little Fred before he could be euthanized. I wiped the tears from my eyes and went to see a patient, but each time I returned to my private office, I looked at that mournful picture and read the story over and over.

That evening I laid the newsletter in front of my husband. After a long silence, he turned to me and said, "We have to do something." We nixed Christmas gifts, our December anniversary and my January birthday to pay for Fred's surgery. I called CRT and learned that the surgery had already been completed, and although the veterinarian graciously agreed to a price reduction, the fee was a lot for CRT to absorb. I mailed the check. My husband and I knew this little one would need ongoing care, and because the outcome was still unknown, possibly more surgery. We began the application process for adoption and began talking with Fred's foster Mom, Lois West. We call her "Superwoman." Lois communicated with us daily. She walked the floor during many sleepless nights after Fred's surgeries. Yes, I did say surgeries. Unfortunately, the left leg with double fractures did not respond to the pins and plate and failed to grow new bone.

I spoke with the surgeon and we agreed Fred had been through more than any little dog deserved. He had been confined most of his young life and lacked muscle development because of inactivity. The surgeon would remove the failed pin/plate and make a determination as to whether or not the leg could be saved. If not, he assured me an amputation was an option.

On Dec. 26, Fred's left leg was amputated. Lois comforted him when the "phantom" leg pain woke him in the night. She cuddled and comforted night after night while caring for her own two medically compromised Chi's.



In mid-January, I boarded a flight to Dallas/Fort Worth to meet Lois and Fred. Lois invited me to spend the night at her home so I would be able to bond with Fred in familiar surroundings. The next morning, Fred and I headed home.

Fred was introduced to Rosey our beloved Chi, Matty our 60-pound mixed breed rescue, Thelma and Louise our tortoise shell cats (also rescued), Tilly, our dwarf rabbit and Petunia and Louie our Parrotlets.

Fred quickly settled into his new life and gained strength walking everyday. We look at Fred and are in awe of his incredible spirit and love of life. Through Fred we have learned to appreciate our lives and have found a marvelous friend in Lois.

