

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

JULY 2008



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pepper Says...	2
Petco Chi Races!	3
The Doctor Is In...	4
Save-A-Chi	5
Love or Abuse?	5
CRT's "Rescue" Dog: Chong	6
Best Friends....	7
Beauty and the Beast: In the Yard	8
Have Dog, Will Travel, Part 1	9-10
How Can I Help?	10
"Home"	11
Travis	11
Squeakachu and The Cleveland 6	12
In Memory Of...Kimmee and Jose'	13-14
Donations and Financial Summary	15-16



A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

Well, it's summer of 2008, and the economy is troubled, to say the least. Gas prices are crazy, and everyone is experiencing a crunch, including CRT. Since we often take the "last resort" dogs, we expend more than we'd like to in order to meet the needs of these dogs to make them adoptable with a great quality of life. As a result, our treasury is feeling the strain.

Fundraising is something we've tossed around for our entire existence. There are many unique items available for sale through our website that might be of interest to you and would help us out greatly. We are linked to online shopping sites that give us a percentage of purchases made through [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com). Check that out, and designate Chihuahua Rescue and Transport as your charity. Anytime you go to the websites of Target, Amazon, Shoebuy, and many, many others, and make a purchase from their website, we get a bit of the proceeds.

When surfing the web, consider using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your search engine. We get a penny for each search you do so long as you designate Chihuahua Rescue and Transport (Pearland, TX) as your charity. Every little bit helps!

We've tried a number of fundraising strategies and currently, we don't really have the right person to lead us in our fundraising efforts. We're still looking for that person, so if you think you might like to discuss that opportunity further, please contact me at [Educationcoordinator@chihuahua-rescue.com](mailto:Educationcoordinator@chihuahua-rescue.com) and we'll talk about it.

You can still donate to CRT through Paypal on our web site or via direct deposit from your payroll. Some people have arranged to have a little bit of their pay deducted regularly and automatically from their paycheck and sent to us. Some companies even match employee donations in part. We urge you to please consider doing the same.

Remember, just about every penny we raise goes directly to the care of the dogs. We do have to spend a very small percentage on some government fees, postage and the newsletter, but most of the donations, typically over 90%, go toward Vet expenses. We've got several really neat articles in this issue. I hope you all enjoy the newsletter and your summer, and thank you for your continuing support of our efforts.

**LYNNIE BUNTEN, PRESIDENT**  
**CHIHUAHUA RESCUE AND TRANSPORT**

[www.chihuahua-rescue.org](http://www.chihuahua-rescue.org)

## PEPPER SAYS.....



Well, I finally got a chance to sit down at the computer to write my column! It's been very busy around here. We have a new little girl here named Sadie. She's about my age, ten years old, and sometimes she likes to sleep with me. She doesn't bite me or anything, so that's okay. She needed lots of vet work, and it's almost done, except she has about 14 mammary tumors all over her. We tested one and it's benign, and now my mom and the vet are figuring out what to do. She also has a grade five heart murmur, so I'm kind of thinking that they won't remove them. They're small, and they don't bother her. She's an awfully nice little girl, and could use some Best Friends.

We've adopted out lots of little dogs, but we need donations badly. The economy is hitting us just the way it is you, and vet costs are rising steadily. Please try to help us out -- if everyone helped just a little, we'd never have to

worry, because we have so many friends and supporters.

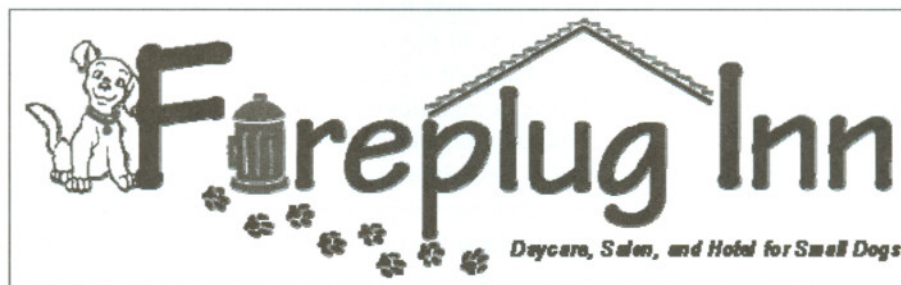
Many smaller rescues have closed around where I live, and I get scared because I remember when my mom came and got me out of that awful shelter. There were four others with me, and she could only take one, and it was me! I was a very lucky little girl. The others got rescued too, eventually, but many don't. Please help us be there for all the little Chis who lose their homes.

By the time you read this, our Midwest Chi Esta will be over, but the big one in the Dallas, TX, area is still coming. Be sure to check our website for information on it, because it's something you don't want to miss! Every Chi who is anybody in TX and surrounding areas will be there!

Please visit our website to view all our new (and some old) Chis for adoption, to see updates on current special needs dogs, and to donate to various programs (Save-A-Chi, and Best Friends). There's a lot of good information there, and some very happy success stories from our adopters.

Until next time,

Love, Pepper



<http://www.firepluginn.com>

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

[www.chihuahua-rescue.org](http://www.chihuahua-rescue.org)

# “PETCO CHIHUAHUA RACES”

BY SAUNDRA HENSEL



“On your mark...get set...GO!!” Thousands of Chihuahuas across the country spent a Saturday in late April/early May participating in the Petco Unleashed National Chihuahua Races. Petco has been an ongoing supporter of CRT and offers to provide us with a table and tent to promote our rescue at their events in whatever cities we can staff. This year, we were represented at the races in Dallas, Houston, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Chicago. It’s an amazing sight to see the dogs as they come racing out of the starting gate. OK, to be honest, only some of the dogs come racing out. Others meander, saunter, sit, run to the nearest human or just chase another dog. But that’s the charm of Chihuahuas! Each regional winner gets to fly with his or her owner to the finals in San Diego on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The finals are held at Petco Park during a

Padres game. Be on the lookout next year for the races in your city. It would be great to have a CRT dog win one of the regional races – and maybe even win the finals!

**Did you know? Chihuahua Rescue and Transport had 266 adoptions in 2007!**



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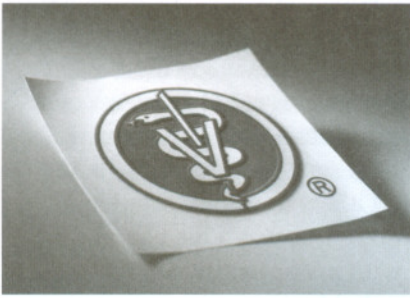
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## THE DOCTOR IS IN.....

JACKIE BUSCH, DVM



In a previous article, obesity in dogs was addressed in a general manner. The discussion focused on how to tell if your pet was overweight, and how to address a change in diet, as well as measuring food amounts.

Overweight dogs are more likely to develop health issues which include orthopedic disorders, diabetes, and respiratory and cardiac diseases, which result in a decreased quality of life and a shortened life span for your pet. Chihuahuas are prone to all of the above, and are a breed which may easily develop problems with weight control.

Orthopedic disorders, which include: luxating patellas and cruciate ligament tears are common sequelae to obesity. A luxating patella is a dislocation of what we consider the "knee cap." It occurs when the patella is displaced from the groove it normally moves within. Chihuahuas have a higher incidence of congenital luxating patellas. Treatment consists of weight-loss, not only to reduce strain on the knee joint, but to increase overall comfort to the animal, as strain in the knee may lead to changes in other parts of the body such as hips and long bones, often resulting in arthritis. Depending upon the severity of joint damage, some Chihuahuas may require surgical correction of the groove in the knee that keeps the patella in its proper place.

Cruciate ligament tears are the most common injury in dogs, usually occurring in large overweight dogs, but it can occur in Chihuahuas, as well. In the dog's knee, ligaments hold the joint together, and allow it to move properly. If these ligaments are torn, the knee is no longer stable. A tear in the ligament commonly occurs when an animal is playing and turns abruptly. He becomes suddenly three legged and lame. Overweight dogs are more likely to tear their ligaments. This is because the ligaments may be weakened due to the extra stress of carrying extra body mass and weight. They may be stretched or partially torn or completely torn. Overweight animals that have torn one cruciate ligament are more likely to tear the cruciate ligament in the other knee. Surgery is usually required to stabilize the knee and reduce the likelihood and severity of arthritis as the pet ages.

Diabetes is a disease in which the dog's body produces low levels of insulin. This is also known as insulin dependent diabetes. In most cases for dogs, damage to the insulin producing cells in the pancreas is the most common cause. We do know that obesity can be a major risk factor as canine diabetes mellitus resembles human type I diabetes mellitus (obesity is also a major risk factor in humans). Treating diabetes requires the time and financial commitments of administering insulin injections daily and frequent rechecks with your veterinarian. Complications of diabetes include: blindness and kidney failure, both of which affect the quality and quantity of life your pet can enjoy.

Respiratory and cardiac disorders can be impacted greatly by obesity. In Chihuahuas, tracheal (windpipe) collapse is not an uncommon respiratory disorder. It occurs when the cartilage in the trachea is weakened. During respiration, the trachea "falls in" on itself or collapses. This results in coughing and, in extreme cases, respiratory distress. This typically occurs in small breed dogs. However, potentially, any age of dog can be affected, but it most likely to occur in our middle-age to senior pets.

Obesity is the number one, correctable factor that may increase the likelihood of allowing us to observe the clinical signs of tracheal collapse. Cardiac disease is affected by obesity, as well. Obesity can result in decreased cardiac function and can affect cardiac rhythm; the heart has to work harder due to the extra weight of the animal.

Obesity can and will affect the quality of your pet's life and his physical comfort. It is the most correctable disease that can have the greatest impact on your pet's daily life. One recent study showed that obesity may shorten the life span of dogs. This study demonstrated that the group of dogs that were fed a restricted diet, as opposed to a free-choice diet, lived almost 2 years longer. Keeping your pet lean will result in a better quality of life, increased comfort, and a longer lifespan with your family member.

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*Jackie Busch, DVM has been in small animal practice for over 8 years and joined Westwood Hospital for Animals in Brownsburg, IN in 2001.*

## SAVE-A-CHI DONATIONS

Every dog that comes to CRT is examined by a veterinarian right off the bat. This is a special program to begin their vetting process: **Save-A-Chi!** For each \$50 contribution, we'll publish the names of the donors on our website and in the issue of the newsletter immediately after, along with the name of the Chihuahua who was given a headstart with their vetting process -- a checkup and vaccinations (or as Pokey used to say, "a stab right in the butt with a sharp needle!") Please help us to help these little guys. As we're sure you all know, vet costs are rising along with everything else, and while \$50 doesn't come close to covering what we spend on each dog (about \$300), it gives us a good start towards getting them ready for adoption. If you can help just one new rescue, please send your contribution (made out to CRT) to our Treasurer, Paula Hensel, 7500 N. Elmhurst Rd. # 488,

Des Plaines, IL 60018, or use the PayPal button on the page at <http://www.chihuahua-rescue.com/saveachi.htm>. We'll choose the very newest little rescue to receive your donation, and notify you of the dog's name and the region where it is being fostered. If you have questions about the program, please email [MidwestCoordinator@chihuahua-rescue.org](mailto:MidwestCoordinator@chihuahua-rescue.org)

JUDI COSSIN .....KODA  
 SHIRLEY FINDSEN .....PUDGE AND NIKKI  
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 SHANNON MANNING .....RICO, PENNY  
 GAIL SWENSON .....PACO  
 SHARON CAMPBELL.....SADIE

## LOVE OR ABUSE?

BY LAURA HASENSTAB

Here's Libby, who weighs 14 lbs. Two years ago she weighed 6.7 lbs. Her owner loved her very much, had her spayed, vaccinated regularly, on h/w preventative, and she was well cared for until her owner died.

Can we pass this off as "Awww...poor Libby! Well, we'll get that weight off," or is it something more serious? She has no genetic conditions that caused her to gain weight like this, and she's just six years old. She was overfed (treats) terribly. Her "food" came along with her -- cans of high-calorie dog food, and bags and bags of high-calorie dog treats. It's obvious why she weighs what she does.

Libby is relatively healthy now, on the surface, but what damage has been done by this weight gain? And how much will her life be shortened if she does not lose the weight? Is it "love" to do this to a dog? Does "love" mean giving the dog everything it wants, even if you know that it is bad for her? Some owners will argue that they "just can't help it" because their dog loves those special treats, or that people food. Would you do this to your child? You control the food; you control the portions and the frequency with which you feed. You hold your dog's life in your hands, and life is very precious. Don't abuse it!

Is Libby a "happy" dog? She can't run, and can hardly walk. She wheezes and pants, and spends most of her time lying down. The other Chis around her run and play in the yard, bark, chase each other, play with toys, leap on and off the sofa for attention and snuggling, and pile on top of each other in their dog beds, changing beds frequently. When someone comes to the door, they all race in that direction, hollering instructions: "OPEN THE DOOR! COME ON IN! WE'RE HERE AND WAITING FOR YOU!" They go outside in the yard, race down the steps, eat bugs, grass, and whatever else they can find, and in general, act like dogs. Libby watches. She can't do steps, she can't run, she can't walk enough to investigate the whole yard. She loves to be petted and of course, she loves to eat. What's her quality of life?

Some people mean well when they chain their dogs outside to a stake to "get some fresh air." Others mean well when they spank their dogs so that the dogs scream over housebreaking mistakes (they want to 'train' the dog well). Still others mean well when they don't obtain appropriate vet care because they don't want the dog to "suffer," or they just "forget" to keep the dog on heartworm preventative. And finally, there are those who mean well when they feed low-quality food, give high-fat, high-calorie treats and people food to their dogs.

Are there really differences among all the groups above? Can we excuse behavior that makes our dogs suffer because we "mean well?"

Think about it.

[www.chihuahua-rescue.org](http://www.chihuahua-rescue.org)



## CHONG: CRT'S RESCUE DOG!

BY JANICE ROBINSON

### WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE A RESCUE DOG

When Kerry Anderson of Detroit, Michigan told a friend how their family's adopted Chihuahua, Chong, had recently saved her husband, Rich Anderson's life, the friend asked how they had known to get a rescue dog trained to alert them to a heart attack. Kerry had to explain that no, Chong was not *that* kind of rescue dog... Chong himself was rescued and only happened to be in the right place at the right time to save Rich's life because of Chihuahua Rescue & Transport (CRT).



**Chong...rescuee turned rescuer !**

Chong's story starts in early December 2007, when the Midwest Coordinator for CRT, Laura Hasenstab of Cincinnati, Ohio, received an email from a man in Minneapolis who was desperate to find a place for his two Chihuahuas, Louie and Isabel. His wife had put the dogs in a kill shelter and they had just 2 days to live. He could not stand the thought of his beloved Chihuahuas being killed, and so he contacted CRT to see if they had room for 2 more foster dogs.

Hasenstab contacted CRT volunteers Rick and Janice Robinson of Marshall, Minnesota, to ask if they could take the dogs in as fosters. As always, the Robinsons said "YES!" and within 2 days, had traveled several hundred miles to pick up 2 sick and very scared Chihuahuas. After a week of vet care to clear up the fevers and diarrhea contracted in the shelter, Louie and Isabel, were put up on CRT's website as available for adoption. Like all CRT fosters, a picture and complete biography was posted to the website so that people looking for the perfect dog for them could easily find the dog they wanted.



**Chong keeps a close eye on his dad now**

In less than 2 months, Isabel was adopted by a wonderful family in Ohio, and Louie was adopted by the Andersons, Janelle Kowal, a volunteer with CRT in the metro-Detroit area, conducted the standard home visit for the Andersons and they passed with flying colors. Once Louie arrived at his new home in Michigan, his name was promptly changed to Chong because their own Chihuahua's name was Cheech, and as Kerry says, "How can you have a Cheech without a Chong?"

"On March 3, 2008, I was awakened at 2:30 in the morning by Chong jumping on our bed and running up to my husband, Rich," said Kerry. "Chong jumped on his chest and was trying to lick his face. He had never done this before in the middle of the night, and he hasn't done it since. I thought Chong had to go potty so I took him to the back door, but he refused to go outside. By the time he and I got back to the living room Rich had left the bedroom and was sitting on the couch holding his chest."

"He was sure it was heartburn but we decided to go to the hospital anyway, even though Rich had no history of heart trouble. Upon arriving at the hospital they told us he was having a massive heart attack right then and we were very very lucky to have gotten there when we did."

"What would have happened if Chong had not woken me up?", asks Kerry. "Did he sense something was wrong? Everyone we talked to believes that Chong did wake us up knowing his Daddy was in trouble."

Rich Anderson is fine now and with diet, exercise, and Chong keeping a close eye on him, will live his full life. The Andersons can't keep from smiling, though, that when they went to Chihuahua Rescue & Transport to adopt another Chihuahua, they thought they were rescuing Chong, not the other way around.



**Kerry and her boys....Cheech and Chong**

*The Andersons and their boys were interviewed by Fox News in Detroit... watch the video on our website !*

[www.chihuahua-rescue.org](http://www.chihuahua-rescue.org)

## BEST FRIENDS...



GUS-MIDWEST

Hi, I'm Gus! I'm 1.5 yo, and I weigh 5.8 lbs. I'm awfully cute, just too cute for words, and guess what happened to me? I broke my leg! My mom got my leg fixed when it happened, and she loved me a lot, but just couldn't keep me. We're working on house-breaking and I'm doing well, and as soon as this cast is off, I'm good to go! In my forever home, I'll need a fenced yard, because that's where I'm learning to do my

marking, not in your house! You'll need to either be home most of the time or have another small Chi to keep me company. I love to play, and I'm a very gentle little guy, and I just know I could make you happy. No large dogs and no children; as you can see, accidents happen and they happen easily. This is actually the second time this leg has been broken and enough is enough!



WALLY-DALLAS, TX

Wally is a fantastic little dog and very loveable. He came to us from an animal control facility where he had been picked up as a stray so his history is not

known. He weighs about 6 lbs. and he's about 8 years old. He needs to put on a little weight and the texture of his hair is improving. He's doing very well in housebreaking, but does slip up occasionally. I think he'll soon learn to do better in this area since he's such a smart little dog and a fast learner. Wally loves to play and gets along well with my two Chis. He loves blankets and will find the largest pile of them to burrow underneath. Wally will be a great asset to any family lucky enough to adopt him. He is neutered, micro-chipped, and current on vaccines. For more info on all our Chis: go to our website and select the dog's region.

<http://www.chihuahua-rescue.org/postit/bestfriends.htm>

Here are four dogs who need Best Friends.... AND 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.

Hello! I am Lady. I'm a very sweet, 1½-year-old, approx. 8 pound female. I was surrendered by my owner to animal control because I was "not allowed" where I lived. I was terrified & would have been euthanized if it wasn't for CRT. Thank you! Ever since my little paws hit the carpet at my foster home, I have been a very affectionate little ball of energy. I need to go to a home that has another dog for me to play with or a family with time to play with me. I get along well with other dogs, but I can be a little bossy. I love to play with my foster brother, Danny. Sometimes chase the cats, but hey, they deserve it. I love to run and play chase. I love chew toys & playing ball. I haven't had any accidents yet, and I am also very good while I am in a crate. What else could you ask for??? Don't you want to take me home?

LADY-OKLAHOMA



Hi, I'm Vivi. I'm a younger girl, but I have a bad heart, and although it doesn't limit my activity now, it could shorten my lifespan. Since I'm only three years old, I'd sure like to experience a home of my own, with someone who would love me and take care of me. I'm a fairly quiet little girl, I get along with other Chihuahuas, and I'm very loving. Is it possible that you'd have a small place in your home where I could fit in? I'd give you way more love than you ever imagined, and for the time we were together, I can guarantee that I'd be a very good girl. Please think about it: puppies aren't the only ones who need homes, and I'm here waiting for the right person. Vivi needs a fenced yard, no children, and lots of love. Do you have it to give her? Visit [www.chihuahua-rescue.org](http://www.chihuahua-rescue.org) for adoption applications by region. Thank you!

VIVI-MIDWEST



## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: IN THE YARD

BY KAREN HALES

Welcome to another season of fun in the sun! It's the time of year when we want to be outside, working in the yard, gardening, swimming and playing with our Chis. We add to our landscape to beautify, relax, enjoy, entertain and play. For some, our yards are our personal sanctuary. For others, it is where we entertain. For many, it's just where our dogs go poop. Whatever the intended purpose of your yard may be, there are hidden dangers for your beloved Chi. We must all understand dog behavior in order to identify and avoid the dangers that may exist out there for our pets.

\*I would first like to address swimming pools and ponds. In suburban America, it is more common for people to lose their dogs to drowning accidents than it is to lose them from being hit by a car. While they are beautiful to look at, leaving a pet unsupervised near a pool can have disastrous consequences. Do not assume that since your dog is afraid of water, he will not go near the pool. Or that because he's been taught where the steps are, that he will know how to get himself out if/when he should fall into the pool. You would never leave a toddler unattended in this area, nor should you a dog. Dogs chase things. Suppose a bird sitting on the edge of the pool taunts ChiChi, and she goes after it, trips, stumbles or jumps into the air in hot pursuit of the bird, and falls into the pool. She will likely be surprised and perhaps panicked, just like a toddler would be, and chances are good that she will not have the wits about her or the strength to get herself out of the pool on her own. Earlier this year, a Boxer was treated at the vet clinic where I work, after a mishap in the pool. His owners trusted he would not go into the pool when they were gone. However, when they returned home, they found him in the pool, injured. He had fallen in somehow, and had managed to hang onto the side with his front legs, but he had worn his back toes down to the bone attempting to get out of the pool. He came into the vet cold, bleeding and with his legs in spasms from the struggle. He is fine now, but probably won't need a nail trim anytime soon. The owners learned a valuable lesson that day. Do you think the dog did? Don't count on it. The same advice goes especially for senior, small breed or disabled dogs; they likely won't be so lucky. If you live on, or near a lake, take the same precautions and keep your dogs current on all vaccines including Lyme and Leptospirosis.

\*Insects and rodents have resurfaced, and so has the desire for many people to eliminate them. Many people opt to use chemicals to do so. I personally do not use any sort of insecticide, rodenticide or pesticide. Working at a vet clinic, we see a lot of accidental pesticide poisoning in companion animals, as well as bug bites (and occasionally snake bites). Generally speaking, most of the bites are easier to treat and manage than the cases where poisons designed to control pests are accidentally ingested by pets. If you must use something on your lawn or around your home, please don't assume that all products are "pet safe". Find out what the main ingredient or chemical is in a product, whether store bought or provided by a pest control service, and call your vet and/or poison control center and ask for their recommendation.

\*Plants, lawn ornaments, rocks and other yard items can also be dangerous to the curious or bored canine. Some dogs, for reasons unknown, will ingest rocks. Iris are beautiful flowers and basically harmless, unless their bulb is digested. Every part of the Oleander plant is deadly. The scent of some plants may entice dogs to chew on their leaves, but they can be just as toxic to dogs as antifreeze. Therefore, it is wise to review a list of toxic plants and flowers. This is easily referenced on the internet, or you can rely on the expertise of a good garden center or your arboretum, as well.

\*Backyard BBQ's: There is danger in table scraps and accidental food spills. Some people still think that all bones are good for dogs. A large dog can easily snatch a flaming steak from the grill and essentially become a fire-eater in the process. I've seen x-rays from a dog (obviously not a Chi) that ate an entire shish-kabob, including the skewer; that's the metal part that showed up on the x-ray! Your Chi will see all the "little" things that hit the ground, so be aware of what your pooch is doing and avoid a trip to the ER Vet because he has accidentally ingested an onion or other human food that can be toxic to dogs.

And last but not least, with weather and climate changes taking place all over the world, never assume that "it can't get *that* hot here". We are in a changing world and our weather may not be as predictable as it once was. If your dog doesn't have shade, fresh water daily, and the ability to come in out of the heat, the consequences can result in stroke, heat exhaustion, or even death. Dogs can become easily overheated during lots of activity in warm weather. And you should never leave a dog unattended in a car for any extended period of time, particularly in the summer. Even with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a car can skyrocket to a dangerous degree.

I know I am addressing responsible pet owners, so this should just serve as a friendly reminder in case you have a new dog this year and haven't heard these tips recently. This is also wonderfully useful and considerate information to share with friends and family, especially new pet owners. May your summer be pleasant and your Chihuahua spoiled rotten!!



## HAVE DOG, WILL TRAVEL

### LOCAL TRAVEL

BY JANELLE E. KOWAL

It's official: summer is upon us, with temperatures rising almost as quickly as the price of gasoline. But that hasn't hindered millions of Americans from hitting the roadways and interstates in pursuit of the traditional family vacation. This is a time for family reunions, camping, sightseeing and quenching our thirst for adventure and wanderlust with a refreshing glass of lemonade and the family car packed to the hilt with camping gear, luggage, coolers and maybe even a few kids. However, a family vacation is just what the name implies, and if your family includes members of the four-legged kind, bumpy roads may lay ahead. To prevent your family's vacation plans from becoming as messy as the clutter-laden interior of your car, there are a few things to know before *embarking* on a trip with your dog.

To incorporate paws into your cause this summer, or during any season, you should first consider the following things: the essential necessity of traveling with your pet, the length and distance of the trip, the final destination and the accommodations that await you there, and at all points in between, if applicable. First and foremost, you should think of your dog.

Before packing your pooch's suitcase, you should consider his age, health and temperament, or what really makes your dog happy and what may make him and the rest of your family miserable during a long trip. If for some reason your dog's health is compromised, you may want to reconsider traveling with him at all. However, if it is absolutely necessary or you just can't imagine traveling without a pawed passenger, be sure that he is in healthy status with your Veterinarian and bring an ample supply of any of his medications along with yours. It also never hurts to consult your Veterinarian prior to traveling with your dog, rather than phoning her frantically, mid-trip. Your Veterinarian may also have additional helpful information to make your travels memorable, rather than disastrous.

If your dog is in good health and already curious about what's in the picnic basket, you should know how he reacts to riding in the car or on the boat, etc. Whether by land, sea or air, before you set sail on a long journey, and a few hours can be a very long journey for a dog, you should have already got him acclimated to the transportation experience. That way, you can find out if he gets motion sickness or restless before you have invested time, money and hours of planning and driving into your road trip. Trust me, a few, quick runs to the mini-mart will be the perfect opportunity for him to prove that he likes to feel the fresh air for a kick, not because he is sick.

Once you have established that your dog enjoys traveling, it is time to insure that you will enjoy it, as well. One way is to minimize the amount of unplanned stops along the way. Many of us dread hearing those infamous words: "I've got to go to the bathroom". And if that isn't enough to flush a schedule right down the toilet, imagine having to surrender to that request twice as often.

A general rule of thumb for experienced canine chauffeurs is to avoid feeding and watering throughout the trip. If your destination isn't very far and there is an adequate amount of breeze or air conditioning to keep your dog cool while in his crate during summer trips, you can omit the first feeding and watering altogether. The concept is very simple: if nothing goes in, nothing should come out. Another advantage of limiting stops at rest areas is protecting him from an increased risk of becoming lost or injured and from exposure to parasites and diseases which may lurk in the feces of other dogs. Incidentally, it is wise and painless to have your dog micro chipped and be sure that he is wearing an identification tag on his collar at all times. Your dog should remain crated or restrained in an area free of airbags throughout the entire trip; dogs cannot read maps and don't care to play "I spy", so there is no reason to ever allow them to be loose in the car.

Having survived the trip thus far, with typically one or two nights between you and your vision of vacation bliss, it may be time to look for a place to retire for the evening. Your options are seemingly limitless and the twinkling, glowing neon signs of hotels and motels beckon for your arrival. That is, until you see the sign and realize there is a "no pets allowed or on premises" policy. Your options for lodging could be greatly reduced or eliminated completely. Therefore, it is imperative that you consult a travel agent or guide or website to locate hotels which won't be paw-prejudiced. If you are a member or fan of a particular hotel chain, browsing their website or calling their toll-free number should aid you in your lodging choices. And there are also very informative websites, such as [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com), which provides a comprehensive database of hotels across the country which are pet-friendly. This website also contains an abundance of other information and resources to help families with pets travel safely and happily, including: local, emergency Veteri-



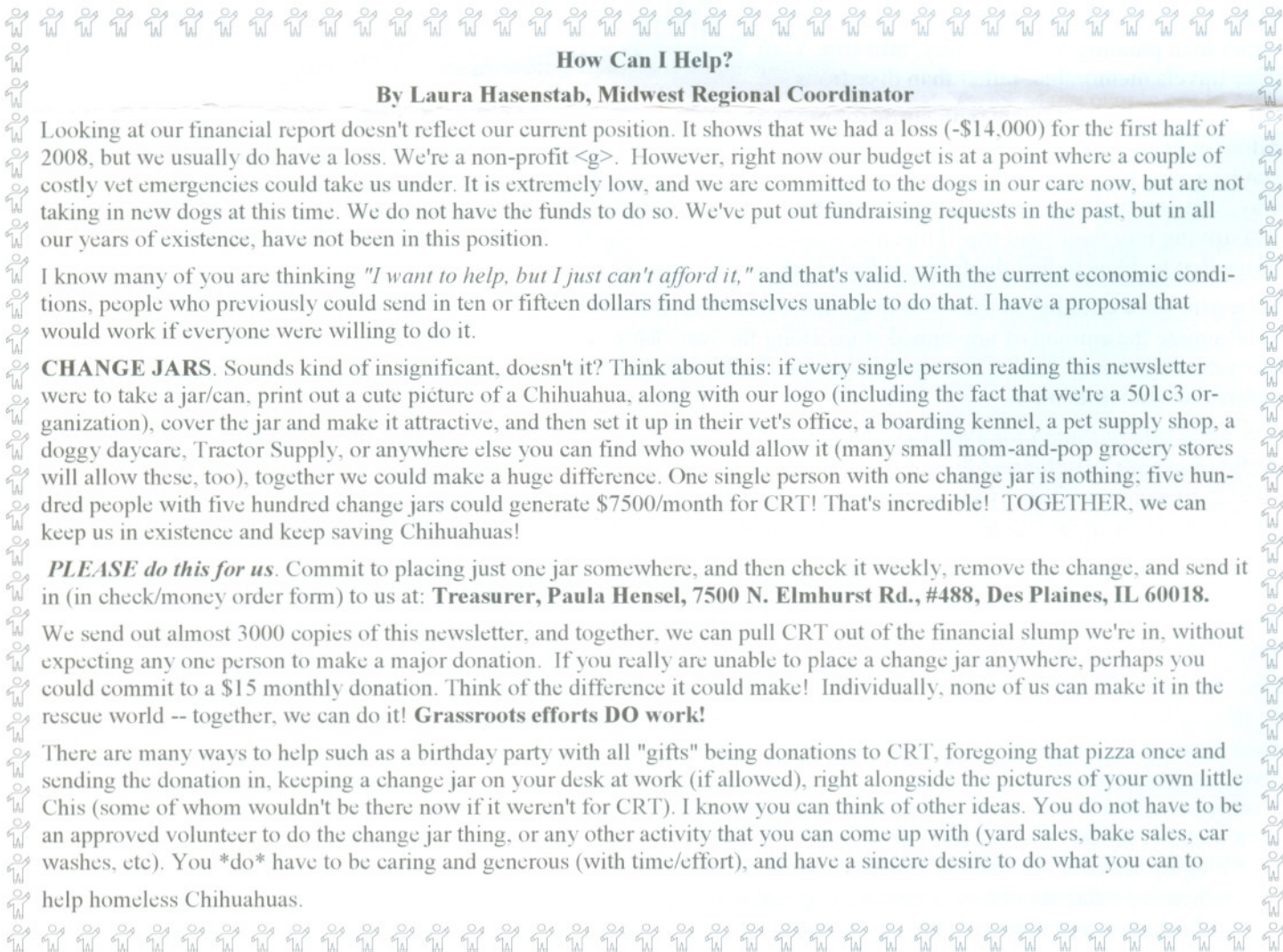
## LOCAL TRAVEL CONT'D

nary clinics, parks and recreation areas and campgrounds.

So, before you hit the open road, be sure to address any and all health concerns, behavioral issues or special accommodations your dog may need throughout the trip. Be conservative with food and water to avoid multiple stops and increased exposure at rest areas to potential hazards. And make certain that there are hotels or other lodging facilities, including campgrounds, which will accept your dog as a legitimate part of your family. There may be a fee at certain properties, so keep a pliant pocketbook. And it is always recommended to make prior reservations when possible; you never know how many other roaming Rovers may have checked-in before you. It is also a wise idea to consult local officials of the places you will be visiting, to inquire about any known parasites or epidemics unique to that area and dangerous for your pet. For example, ticks and other parasites indigenous only to certain regions of the country may pose a risk which you may not want to take if no methods of protection are available (i.e. sprays, pills, vaccines, etc.). Having a checklist ready for the entire trip could guarantee a victorious vacation without any whining Weimaraners, Chihuahuas with chips on their shoulders, melancholy Collies or put-out Pugs.

Being prepared will insure everyone's safety, sanity and satisfaction for your next outing with man's best friend. But remember, even best friends don't always share the same interests, so please be considerate to your faithful companion when traveling this summer and beyond.

**COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL WITH YOUR CHI...THE STORY OF CAROL STEINHAUS AND HER CHI BRANDI DURING THEIR SEMESTER IN EUROPE !**



### How Can I Help?

By Laura Hasenstab, Midwest Regional Coordinator

Looking at our financial report doesn't reflect our current position. It shows that we had a loss (-\$14,000) for the first half of 2008, but we usually do have a loss. We're a non-profit <g>. However, right now our budget is at a point where a couple of costly vet emergencies could take us under. It is extremely low, and we are committed to the dogs in our care now, but are not taking in new dogs at this time. We do not have the funds to do so. We've put out fundraising requests in the past, but in all our years of existence, have not been in this position.

I know many of you are thinking "I want to help, but I just can't afford it," and that's valid. With the current economic conditions, people who previously could send in ten or fifteen dollars find themselves unable to do that. I have a proposal that would work if everyone were willing to do it.

**CHANGE JARS.** Sounds kind of insignificant, doesn't it? Think about this: if every single person reading this newsletter were to take a jar/can, print out a cute picture of a Chihuahua, along with our logo (including the fact that we're a 501c3 organization), cover the jar and make it attractive, and then set it up in their vet's office, a boarding kennel, a pet supply shop, a doggy daycare, Tractor Supply, or anywhere else you can find who would allow it (many small mom-and-pop grocery stores will allow these, too), together we could make a huge difference. One single person with one change jar is nothing; five hundred people with five hundred change jars could generate \$7500/month for CRT! That's incredible! **TOGETHER**, we can keep us in existence and keep saving Chihuahuas!

**PLEASE do this for us.** Commit to placing just one jar somewhere, and then check it weekly, remove the change, and send it in (in check/money order form) to us at: **Treasurer, Paula Hensel, 7500 N. Elmhurst Rd., #488, Des Plaines, IL 60018.**

We send out almost 3000 copies of this newsletter, and together, we can pull CRT out of the financial slump we're in, without expecting any one person to make a major donation. If you really are unable to place a change jar anywhere, perhaps you could commit to a \$15 monthly donation. Think of the difference it could make! Individually, none of us can make it in the rescue world -- together, we can do it! **Grassroots efforts DO work!**

There are many ways to help such as a birthday party with all "gifts" being donations to CRT, foregoing that pizza once and sending the donation in, keeping a change jar on your desk at work (if allowed), right alongside the pictures of your own little Chis (some of whom wouldn't be there now if it weren't for CRT). I know you can think of other ideas. You do not have to be an approved volunteer to do the change jar thing, or any other activity that you can come up with (yard sales, bake sales, car washes, etc). You \*do\* have to be caring and generous (with time/effort), and have a sincere desire to do what you can to help homeless Chihuahuas.

## “HOME” AND TRAVIS

BY LYNNIE BUNTEN, CRT PRESIDENT

### *Home*

Our goal in rescue is to make sure every dog we deal with has an appropriate forever home. This goal explains why we are picky about our adoption requirements. We are not about quantity, but quality and ensuring the right fit. The foster volunteers' homes are key to achieving this goal. The job of the foster volunteer is to help evaluate each of our dogs. As the various characteristics of a dog appear, the foster and the regional coordinator work to design a program for each dog to help him or her become adoptable. If he isn't housetrained, the foster must train him to potty in the appropriate place. If she's shy, the foster needs to help the dog build confidence. Whatever it is that may prevent the dog from becoming successfully adopted is what we work to correct.

Some things are not completely correctable. For those cases, we have to be very forthright and make sure potential adopters truly understand and agree to continue to do the things the dog needs and work with him on any special needs he may have.

If a dog cannot be taught to walk on a leash safely, we should not even consider adoption into a household that has no fenced yard or alternatives to walking the dog. Many potential adopters do not understand this, but we must hold firm. If a dog is okay walking on a leash, then sometimes the fence requirement can be waived.

On the other hand, there are many more dogs out there than we can possibly take in. Another way to help them is to help coach the owners on things they can do to help make the dog a better family member. Unfortunately, some people wait

### *Travis*

My name is Travis now. I've been a CRT dog for a long time. I've been in lots of homes though. My life started out in the Midwest. For some reason, my original owners didn't want me any more. I remember, but can't figure out a way to tell my forever mom; she is typing this for me. The nice people at CRT rescued me and found me a good home with a nice young couple and we got along fine, for a while. They took me with them when they moved to the west to a place called Idaho. We had a good life until they had a human puppy. That thing came into my home, and it smelled funny, and got on the bed with mom and dad and me; that was MY bed! I just growled at the intruder to show him his place and whoa! Mom and Dad kicked me out.

I didn't understand what I did wrong, but I went back to CRT. This time, I went to a place in Colorado and lived there for a while with another woman. It took a while for me to get to trust her, but I finally decided she was probably okay. We were all getting along when suddenly, my friend Precious and I were taken to a nice man in Denver. We stayed with this nice man for a few days, but then he took us to this big place and handed us in our crates to a man who took us and put us in something they called an "airplane". I don't understand what that was, but when they took us out, things didn't look or smell the same as before; it was much hotter.



I growled at this newest lady who took me in my crate home with her. After all the disappointments I've had, I wasn't in a hurry to trust anyone. But, she didn't pay any attention to my growls. Wow! That was a surprise. Anyway, she gave me some good food and introduced me to some other dogs. The house is pretty nice, and it's all set up for us dogs. We have beds everywhere, but I picked out the nice wooden one by the back door. From here, I can look outside and watch everything! My new momma tells me she loves me and I'll be with her forever. I want to believe her, but other dogs come and go and I'm never sure I'm not going to have to leave her; that makes me nervous sometimes.

Oh, I forgot to tell you that she also changed my name. It used to be called Trevi, but she changed it to Travis. I think I like being called Travis. I like the way it sounds when she says it; it makes me feel like she loves me.

Sometimes I fight or argue with some of the other dogs and I get into trouble, but mom just fusses at me, and reminds me that I'm not the top dog; I'm going to be though. One of these days I'll be the most favored dog – at least I hope I will. It's hard to trust anyone and know that this will be my forever home. Sometimes I act out a bit and do things that are a little bit bad, just to make sure she still loves me.

Love, Travis Chihuahua.

## UPDATES: SQUEAKACHU AND THE CLEVELAND 6



### *Squeakachu....*

Hey out there! It's Squeak here, well, actually, \*Mr.\* Squeak to you, now that I'm becoming an adolescent. I went to my new home with a wonderful mom and dad, and some Chi brothers and sisters, and my mom and dad are here with me almost all the time. My mom takes me to an underwater treadmill for exercise, and I have a huge fenced yard with flowers and stuff in it to play in! I can run like the wind -- my front legs are getting stronger every day and I look just exactly like a normal dog, even though I'm a miracle dog! I run and run as much as my mom will let me and she says I look stronger and healthier every day. I have very long legs and she is after me constantly so that I don't get up on any-

thing and jump down. But soon I'll be able to do that too, I bet. I could now, but she doesn't want to risk me breaking a leg by landing wrong. I think she's just too careful....

I really want to thank all of you who wrote and contributed and prayed for me. I was on my way to the Rainbow Bridge when CRT took me, and now I have a whole new life ahead. It's all pretty exciting, but I know that a tough little guy like I am can handle it. Check out my picture, and my new legs!

Love, Mr. Squeak xoxo



### *The Cleveland 6....*

Just a year ago, we took in six dogs from a back yard breeder: Cinnamon, Betsy, Blue, Patti, Dalia, and Polera. Polera was the oldest, and over the course of the year, she lost her vision and developed severe dementia. We let her go at the point where she was having more bad days than good; sometimes that is the last best gift you can give a dog. Cinnamon, Betsy, and Patti all had bilateral patella surgery, and Cinnamon was adopted to Rich Stubler in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Betsy went to PA, and Patti was recently adopted by her foster mom, Debbie Dushane. Blue was adopted in Chicago, and Dalia, the last to get a good home, was adopted by her foster mom, Brenda Boggs. Each one of them is settled into a perfect home that meets their needs and with human parents who love them dearly. We couldn't have done it without the combined effort of our fosters and you, our donors. Every penny you donated went towards getting and keeping these dogs healthy, and is much appreciated. Thank you for coming through for these little guys once again!

Meet Blue and Patti!



And this is Dalia!

## In Loving Memory of.....

This past spring, CRT lost several, special canine family members. Two of them are celebrated in this issue of the newsletter. They belonged to CRT volunteers Rebecca Bailey and Janelle Kowal. Here are their stories:

### *Kimmee*

*Submitted By Rebecca Bailey*

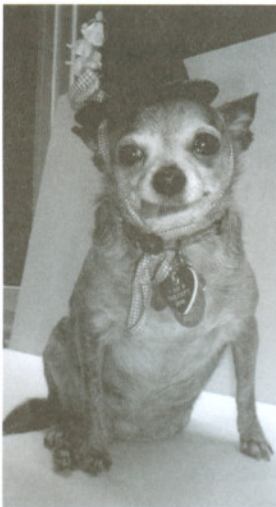
We are sad to have to tell you that our precious little Kimmee passed over to the Rainbow Bridge the third week in May of 2008. This little Angel came to CRT in February of 2004. She was loved by everyone who came in contact with her. She was a tiny little girl, but was so full of happiness and love. Due to her earlier life in a "puppy mill", her health was not so good when she came to us. She had heart disease, but thanks to all of her "best friends" that she found through CRT, she was able to receive good medical care, which extended her life for over four years. If she were able, she would thank every one of her **Best Friends** for their support, and as her foster, I want to thank all of you who inquired about her over the years. She was such a tiny dog to have had such a big following!



Kimmee's favorite things in life were to eat and go for daily walks, since these were things that were probably restricted to her in her life before being rescued. She loved to be held, and once you picked her up, you never wanted to put her down. She had the biggest, roundest, brown eyes, and she just looked up at you with such love. Rescue dogs seem to have that little extra something special....they have seen both sides of the street, and seem to be so full of love, and appreciation for everything that you do for them. We are so happy to have had the honor to love, and care for Kimmee in her final years. Rest in peace little angel.....you will never be forgotten.

### *Jose' Ole'*

*Submitted By Janelle E. Kowal*



Jose'Ole' was a brindle, gentleman Chihuahua with a heart of gold and a larger than life personality. He passed away painlessly on April 30, 2008 from congestive heart failure; he was 13.5 years old. Jose' was 5 pounds of pure joy, and stood as an ambassador for rescued dogs worldwide. He came to us as a senior, stealing our hearts after his grand entrance into the CRT Midwest "Chiesta" in August of 2005. Since that time, he served as a licensed Therapy Dog through Dr. Paws/TDI Inc. and brought smiles to many faces with his trademark, toothless grin and ever-present tongue which dangled from the side of his mouth. His grin reeked of mischief, and he was a character, but he was also the most tender, gentle little soul with an uncanny ability to brighten even the darkest of days.

He was loved and celebrated by his family, animal and human, and also by the patients he visited and friends he made along the way. He was a catalyst for us to campaign against puppy mills, and he helped us in advocating for rescued dogs, taking part in many fundraising events and publicity for animal rescue and welfare.

Jose' wrote articles for the CRT Newsletter and Dogue Magazine and a few other publications and he loved Limericks! He also had a Myspace page with over 300+ friends and fans from around the world, both people and their pets! He loved to eat and his last bite of food was a bite of my strawberry shortcake that he stole from me just hours before he passed away; his heart was just too big for his tiny body. Always a true gentleman, he waited for me to get home that day from the hospital after surgery so that we could have one last tender moment together before he crossed over to The Rainbow Bridge.

I will never forget this special little man and all of his quirky splendor. He would only make left turns and his famous excited "twirl" was only rivaled by his dangling tongue and toothless grimace. He would twirl and dance and he loved to be tickled. His little squishy body was starting to get covered in grey hairs and his chest was a soft layer of tiny curls; I

## IN LOVING MEMORY CONT.

called it his "chest perm". He won a hometown version of the "Ugliest Dog Contest" at a fundraiser in MI, (but we all know that is secretly the "cutest dog contest"). He wore many a tiny hat and liked his costumes and also won the costume contest at the "Chiesta" twice; in 2005, he was a "Harley man" and in 2007, he was Ronald Weasley of Harry Potter fame (his brother Chip was Harry Potter and his sister, Nachita, both CRT-rescued Chihuahuas, was Hermione.)

Jose' did not suffer and collapsed in his dad's arms at the Vet. I loved him with all my heart and soul and will never forget him or the impact he made on me and in this world. His work and his legacy will go on forever and he is dearly missed by all of his friends and family, especially those who previously fostered him.

I believe that Jose' and all of our beloved pets that have passed away are in good hands and good company at The Rainbow Bridge. Until we meet again, he will forever be loved, remembered and cherished as my little, brindle gentleman Chihuahua! To know him was truly to love him!

In addition, there is also a website dedicated to memorializing your beloved pets once they pass away. It can be found at: <http://rainbowsbridge.com>. There, you can create a Rainbow Residency page for your dearly departed for a small fee. You can visit your pet and encourage others to do so as well, to sign their guestbook, etc. You can leave special messages and gifts and design a lovely setting for the memory of your pet to rest at The Rainbow Bridge; you can even choose a special song to play each time anyone visits their page. I created one for Jose' and found that in doing so, it provided comfort and continues to help me throughout the grieving process every day.

In honor of Jose', Kimmee, and all those the CRT family has lost, I urge everyone to adopt a homeless animal from a rescue. At CRT, you can find virtually any size, shape, age, and color of Chihuahua, and I always advocate for adopting a senior dog!



### The Rainbow Bridge Poem

*Author Unknown*

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

*Farewell*



Nothing to wear to the Chiesta? Visit our very own Linda Jordan's website: <http://www.toysdoggydesigns.com!>





**Chihuahua Rescue & Transport**  
**c/o Paula Hensel, Treasurer**  
**7500 N. Elmhurst Rd. #488**  
**Des Plaines, IL 60018**

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**CRT FINANCIAL SUMMARY – JANUARY 1-JUNE 16, 2008**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Adoption Fees	\$ 20,936.49	Veterinary/Medical	\$ 55,772.75
Donations	\$ 25,229.14	Newsletter/Postage	\$ 4,112.79
Sales/Fundraising	\$ 1,423.52	Misc./Other	\$ 151.59
Interest on CD	\$ 273.18	Advertising	\$ 426.43
		Microchips/Registration	\$ 385.39
		Business Expenses	\$ 1,125.90
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$47,862.33</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$61,974.85</b>

**Net Loss: -\$14,112.52**

Please feel free to email our Treasurer at [Treasurer@Chihuahua-Rescue.com](mailto:Treasurer@Chihuahua-Rescue.com) with any questions regarding CRT's finances.

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

***Almost 300 CRT Chihuahuas found new homes in 2007!***

[www.chihuahua-rescue.org](http://www.chihuahua-rescue.org)