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IMO Ann Kruse......10
IHO/IMO......11-12

#### President's Column

by Diana Hightower

The first half of 2020 has certainly been a unique year for both humans and for our four legged friends! When the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders began to roll out in March of this year, CRT began to see a spike in adoptions and foster applications as people prepared for extended stays at home. We were thrilled that Americans looking for comfort during the lockdown opened their homes to new pets and foster animals. Our adoption numbers were up and we couldn't be happier to find so many forever homes for our rescues.

At the same time, social distancing regulations have made it more difficult for rescues to bring in new animals, vet them, and place them in foster homes or with permanent adopters. CRT operates in multiple states, and each state has its unique regulations. More than 30 states have **issued** restrictions that prohibit elective surgeries and procedures, including ones that take place in veterinary offices. That means that vaccinations and spay and neuter programs, as well as vet check-ups for non-life threatening cases, have been suspended in many states over the last few months. Many of these elective services were provided at a lower price for rescues than for the general public. CRT and other rescues are currently having to pay a higher cost to get new fosters checked by other veterinarians, if we are able to make appointments at all. But through it all, we continue to press on.

As the outbreak continues, CRT is going to **need** more help than ever. CRT recoups the cost of vet visits, care and feeding, and other expenses from collected adoption fees, donations and fundraisers. Often our



costs are higher than the adoption fee, as we take care of additional costs such as heartworm treatments, surgeries and dentals. CRT relies heavily on fall and spring fundraisers to raise money. We hope our loyal supporters will think of CRT this year with your end-of-year nonprofit donation. You make a huge difference to us, and allow us to say "yes" to more seniors and more medically challenged dogs. Remember to ask your employer about matching donations—many companies will match your contribution to a nonprofit.

Keeping you informed on all the Chihuahuas and volunteers we know and love!





## Saving Amari

On Friday, April 17th, CRT received an emergency call from the animal shelter in Garland, TX. A tiny four pound female Chihuahua was found on the street, critically injured. We were told she had a broken leg and needed immediate rescue. Little did we know how badly injured this girl was! We named her Amari, which means "miracle of God".

Shockingly, it seemed Amari's injuries were inflicted deliberately. Three veterinarians at three different clinics suspected Amari had been abused. Not only was her right front leg broken, the back left leg was broken as well. There were no visible signs of road rash or other injuries consistent with being hit by a car. How could someone have been so cruel and fail her so completely? In addition to her two broken legs, she was also extremely anemic, dehydrated, and covered in fleas and ticks.

Amari spent a few days in fully-monitored emergency care and was transported to the surgery center where orthopedic vets evaluated her broken legs and determined her quality of life. They believed that after a blood transfusion, Amari would be a great candidate for surgery to save BOTH legs, which was the news we have been praying for!

Through this all....the initial vet examination and stabilization as well as her time in the ER and surgery center, every person who was involved in Amari's care fell in love with her and said she was the sweetest girl, even though she was in pain. Despite the abuse she's suffered, Amari still very much loves and trusts people!

Amari's medical expense estimates well over \$10,000. We are happy to report that our CRT supporters nationwide have donated this money to cover her medical costs. Amari has made it through two major surgeries and is recovering nicely.

A huge thank you to YOU, our supporters, for supporting Amari and giving her the life of love she deserves.







# In Memory of Dan Spannraft by Liz Spannraft



Dan always loved dogs, even when he was little. It started with MinPins that his Dad got on the black market in Germany, where they were stationed. They had Chihuahuas that traveled with them when they got reposted and even traveled on an ocean liner with them.

The first Chihuahua as a married couple, was Barbie. We had MiniPins before her and the day Nicky died, Dan went and looked at Chihuahuas at Lamb'sPet Shop. He fell in love with Barbie and, after tracing her lineage, he found she was the product of a puppy mill.

This is how we became active with CRT. We started out volunteering to transport, and I think this was Dan's favorite job. He loved meeting new people and seeing different dogs who were going to foster or forever homes. Our late son, David, often went with him. Dan also volunteered on the Board of Directors, did home checks of prospective adoptees and went to the pet events locally to promote CRT. He always promoted adoption to people we would meet. He reminded them that for every breed of dog and pet, there was a rescue group

with animals needing homes.

Many of our adopted Chihuahuas have been special needs dogs with medical problems. Dan wanted to give the less likely to be adopted, like Trudy, a puppy mill breeder, a loving home.

Dan was a dedicated volunteer and enthusiast for many years, and helped grow CRT into the organization it is today. He started when CRT had limited means of communicating with its volunteers, and watched it grow into a viable and well-respected rescue group for Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes. CRT says well-done, good and faithful servant. We are better off for having known you!

## **Peanut the Adventurer** by Scott Frye & Heather McLay

In late November 2018, I was contacted via email by a county animal shelter in North Carolina, asking for rescue of a small senior male Chihuahua named Peanut. His owners had surrendered him to the shelter asking the shelter to euthanize him because he was old and they no longer wanted him.

I forwarded Peanut's photo and history to our rescue coordinator for intake consideration. Within minutes, I received the approval to pull Peanut from the shelter. I travelled to the shelter, loaded Peanut into my vehicle, and brought him home as a temporary foster until I could transfer him to his initial foster home. My wife and I fostered him for about 2 weeks and in that time, I learned what a special sweet spirit he was. He only wanted to



love and be loved. He craved our attention and wanted nothing other than to be physically close to us. Peanut had no teeth, due to rot and decay, and a lower jaw that was missing due to the same. He was properly vetted, neutered, microchipped and received a clean bill of health. [continued on page 4]





**Peanut** [continued from page 3] He attended several of our adoption meet-and-greets over the next few months and was always a crowd favorite, soaking up all the attention, but he never received an adoption application. Some of my fellow CRT volunteers commented that they couldn't understand why no one wanted to adopt such a special dog. I reassured them that it was because the special family hadn't found him yet. He eventually was transferred to another foster home in Richmond Virginia, sharing the home with another senior female Chihuahua.

In April 2019, an adoption application was submitted for Peanut and, after reading it, my instinct told me that this could be that special family. Here ends my chapter in Peanut's rescue journey but he will forever hold a special place in my heart. He is living proof of what it truly means to be committed to rescuing animals and the reason volunteers do what they do on a daily basis. Peanut's furever Mom Heather will share his story from here.

I'm not quite sure I can put into words how much joy this tiny five-pound pup has brought into our lives already. We

were so fortunate to have seen sweet Mr. Peanut on the CRT Facebook page back in April. My husband and I had talked for years about adopting a rescue Chihuahua at some point, so when we saw the story of how Peanut was dumped at a shelter to be put down, leaving him sad and confused, we knew he was "the one." We quickly applied to adopt him, and about a month later, we met his foster mom in Virginia Beach to bring him home with us. We instantly fell madly in love! After a few days at our house, and him always sleeping right in between my husband and I, Peanut was doing zoomies! My husband said, "I think he just realized that this is his forever home." Even our two cats, Belle and Noel, have started to love their new little brother.



This adorable senior man has never met a lap he didn't like, and he absolutely loves being around people. Thanks to his foster mom's instructions, we knew his favorite foods, which mostly have to be pate style and watered down, due to the fact that he has no teeth and no lower jaw. That adorable little quirk just makes him that much cuter, as his little tongue hangs out 24/7.

Snoozing and cuddling rank up there as Peanut's top things to do! We own and operate a skydiving business on the Outer Banks of NC and "The Nut" comes to the airport with us every day. He greets and snuggles our jumpers as they nervously watch the training video and fill out their paperwork. Everyone has said that he calms their nerves and is the perfect mascot for us! People take photos of him and with him all the time. He's like a little celebrity. Nut Nut joins us on every adventure (except skydiving!), regularly going to Lowe's, paddle boarding, boat rides, al



fresco dining, and more! We hope to give Peanut a very happy retirement for his golden years and show him that he is loved beyond words, just like he deserves. Thank you CRT and all the amazing volunteers, foster parents, and those who donate time and money to help save precious animals like Peanut! Follow Peanut on his new Instagram page: #peanutheseniorchi

#### Epilogue

Peanut is now a world class traveler having travelled to Switzerland and Mexico in first class, no less. He has also flown down to Florida in his own plane and travels locally in style in his very own Rolls Royce. To say this little guy hit the jack pot is an understatement. CRT thanks Heather and Sven for giving this little guy the best life ever!!



### Southeast Region Report by Carla Johnson



2020 started out strong with 6 adoptions, 9 foster-to-adopts and 12 new volunteers (8 of these were fosters), and everything looked like it was going to be on track. We even got in 2 meet-n-greets. Then COVID-19 happened and everything exploded. From March to the end of May, we received over 100 applications. Some were from people who were really looking to adopt but a lot were from people who realized that they were now going to be quarantined at home and they wanted a dog during this period. Our first question to these folks was what plans do you have for this dog, once you go back to work? Hats off to Ann Crismond who tirelessly processed each and every application, to Cathy Crane who, at the end of May, started to try and set up all of the home visits that had

been on hold for almost 3 months and to all of our volunteers who masked and gloved up, stayed 6' away from people and completed a whole lot of home visits in a short period of time. People got mad at us due to the wait time to complete home visits but most people settled down once we ex-

plained the back log of people from March, April and early May that were ahead of them for home visits. From Jan thru Jun CRT SE adopted out 29 dogs and welcomed 12 new volunteers. One thing that COVID-19 didn't do was slow down the amount of requests to take in dogs. We continue to need foster volunteers and especially people who can work with skittish dogs or dogs that are blind or deaf or have medical management issues. In order for the SE to continue to grow, we need more foster people.

Thanks to all of our loyal contributors who continue to support us as





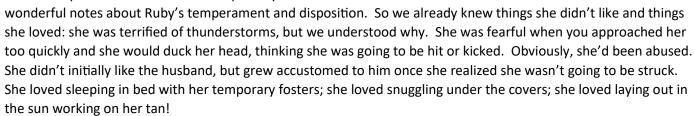
we take in the older dogs that no other rescue will take in. The ones that need more medical care than most. We could not do what we do without all of you!

# In Memory: A Tribute to Ruby

In June of this year, one of our long time fosters, Ruby, crossed the rainbow bridge. In her memory, we want to share her story.

In July of 2019, we were contacted by a Good Samaritan who asked if we would bring a Chihuahua into our program so the dog could be free from her abusive living condition. This sweet Chihuahua was owned by an alcoholic man and there were indications that he physically abused her. We know he left her outside in the freezing cold, and the Good Samaritan would bring the dog back to the owner. This happened over and over. The owner said he did not care if the dog was outside or not. The last time she tried to take Ruby back to the apartment, he said he did not want her anymore. This Good Samaritan immediately called CRT and we offered to help. A surrender form was signed, and our Chihuahua was off to a happier life.

We named her Ruby. She was a fine jewel and deserved to be recognized as one. Ruby arrived at her new foster mom's house on July 18th. The neighborhood family who rescued her and temporarily fostered her for CRT included



During her first vet trip for shots and an exam, we found out that Ruby was heartworm positive. That is when we realized that Ruby would be a long-term foster. We started her on the heart worm treatment and monthly heartworm prevention. Once her heart was healthy enough, she had a badly needed dental in which 4 teeth were ex-

tracted. She was already missing teeth, but she had 20 teeth left.

After months of treatment, she tested negative for heartworms and she was ready for adoption. Just as we were scheduling her glamour shot for the CRT website, she started showing signs that something was wrong. At first, she would stare at the wall or floor for several minutes at a time. Her foster mom wondered if this was possibly a sign of something bigger. Then a couple of weeks later, Ruby had a couple of seizures that her foster mom saw. It was frightening to say the least. Her body went completely rigid and her head tilted in a strange way. The seizures didn't last long and Ruby bounced back pretty quickly and was back to normal. She loved to lay in the sun on her back and wiggle. She'd wiggle for a full minute and was so happy. She stopped doing that, but still seemed ok.

A few days later, on April 27, her mom noticed Ruby was swaying and stumbling when she walked. And she fell down a couple of times. We immediately made a vet appointment. Our vet ran a full series of tests on her. [continued page 7]







# *In Memory: A Tribute to Ruby*

[continued from page 6] Blood work didn't indicate any disease, however there were indications that Ruby had a brain tumor, most likely caused by prior abuse. His recommendation was that we change her to "hospice status" and make her life as enjoyable as possible. He told us she did not have much longer to live.

It broke our hearts for Ruby. She was relatively young. Her foster Mom was not only her advocate, but her hero. She promised to fill Ruby's life with love, comfort and kindness until Ruby took her last breath. We began giving Ruby medicines to make her feel as good as possible. And we changed her routines so she could enjoy all the best things in life: time in the sun, cuddling time with her foster Mom, long naps, comforting times with her foster siblings, and all the treats she could eat. What a blessing it was that Ruby's Foster Mom was working from home these last few months. Ruby got to spend every moment of every day with her!

Poor, sweet Ruby didn't deserve any of the things she had been through, but she knew nothing but love and safety the last year of her life. And what a year it was. Today, her body could no longer fight the good fight, and she peacefully passed over the Rainbow Bridge as her foster Mom held her.

Despite our heart break, we believe Ruby is in a better place. We believe we made her journey awesome at the end. We believe she is running free and having fun in heaven. We believe she is playing and tumbling with the CRT Chihuahuas that have gone before her. And we believe she is sharing her favorite treats with all of them. When we ourselves pass over the bridge, she will be there to meet us and show us around. And we believe our calling is to rescue more Chihuahuas just like Ruby.

Please lift up her foster Mom, Vickie, with your prayers and good thoughts. Run free sweet Ruby. You will always hold a special place in our hearts. And we will rescue more dogs in your memory.

# Southwest Region Report by Tammy Cantrell

Our CRT DFW Region hit the ground running in 2020 with many requests to save Chihuahuas. Then in mid-March, COVID-19 hit and everyone went into lock-down mode. CRT had many events already planned in March and for the next several months. We immediately had to put those plans on hold, and we wondered how this would affect our rescue efforts. It could have been a disappointing time but surprisingly enough, our adoptions increased during this time. We had 13 adoptions in March and 25 additional adoptions from April through June. We attribute this to all families who were forced to stay home. This allowed them to focus on adopting the right pet for their family, since they had the time to train their new pet, and get them acclimated. We are so happy to report that we have had nothing but positive reports coming from our adopters. In addition, we were pleasantly surprised to have 7 new volunteers and fosters join us.

During the first half of this year, CRT has been asked to take multiple injury cases. To date, we have taken in five heartworm positive dogs, three dogs with luxating patellas, one dog with a tumor, four dogs with major dental problems and one pregnant dog. And there was our most severe injury case in years, Amari (featured in this newsletter). While we know our calling is to help these Chihuahuas in need, these situations drive our medical costs up very high. We do not recover these costs in our adoption fees. We are so grateful for our supporters who help us with fundraising through Facebook Birthday Fundraisers, Restaurant Fundraisers, and others. A special shout out to Wine to the Rescue, a local Dallas -based non-profit that has supported CRT by covering medical costs for some of our highest risk Chihuahuas. What a blessing they have been. We are looking forward to a great second half of the year. If you are interested in helping CRT through fostering, volunteering, or fundraising, please reach out to us at DFWCoordinator@chihuahua-rescue.com

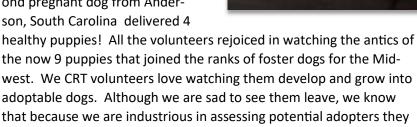


# Midwest Region Report by Brenda Boggs, Midwest Coordinator

In January of 2020, the Midwest Region collaborated with the Southeast Region to rescue 23 dogs from a breeder bust near Anderson, South Carolina. The Midwest Region took 17 of these dogs and the Southeast Region took the remaining 6. Two of the females the Midwest region took in were pregnant and Caroline was the first to deliver 5 puppies on January 29.



On February 25 Bindi, the second pregnant dog from Anderson, South Carolina delivered 4



March, 2020 was a sobering month as the COVID 19 virus struck our country and CRT placed a moratorium on home visits, a vital part of

our adoption application process to protect our volunteers and potential adopters. We still accepted applications and checked references as usual, and asked the applicants to be patient as we went into a holding pattern until it was determined to be safe for us to resume home visits.

will get loving homes.

In April, we began to see a slight rise in owner surrender of dogs due to the pandemic and people being out of work. We sadly watched owners surrender Chihuahuas to us because they were running out of resources to care for their dogs. We doubled our efforts to foster these dogs and the number of dogs our region was fostering continued to grow.

In May, we began cautiously conducting home visits. Our volunteers were required to wear gloves and masks and exercise safe social distancing, and CRT Midwest encouraged the home owners we visited to do the same. We worked at an accelerated pace to qualify applicants who had been on our waiting list.

June began with CRT Midwest taking in a severely obese male Chihuahua named JJ. JJ came to us weighing 32 pounds and barely able to walk. Tests revealed that JJ had Cushings Syndrome which causes the dog's body to overproduces cortisol and results in weight gain. At this date we are happy to report that special diet and exercise has resulted in JJ losing over 6 pounds. He still has a long way to go but JJ enjoys his daily exercise and is beginning to walk with pep in his step and a tail wag that he never had before.



CRT Midwest region is proud of the accomplishments we have achieved in the first six months of 2020 and are so grateful for all the support we have received from adopters, Facebook readers and donors who have helped us



achieve so much during the troubled times we have endured thus far and ask for continued support by our readers for the upcoming challenges we will face.

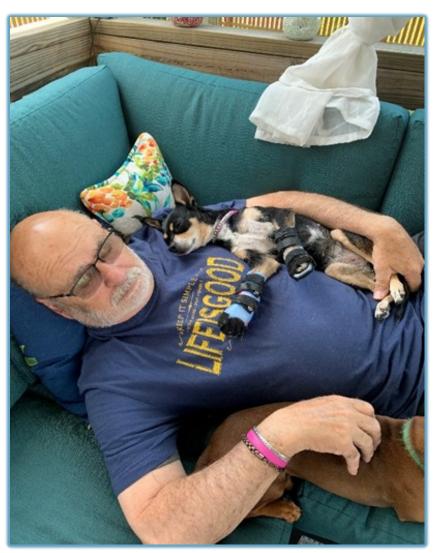
# Daisy Update! by Kelva Alexander

Daisy, formerly known as Dandy, is a permanent Chihuahua Rescue & Transport (CRT) foster residing in Virginia. She came to CRT with an auto immune disease that is attacking the ligaments in her joints. Her wrists are totally nonfunctioning and her back legs are headed the same way. She is not in any pain as she is on Gabapentin (\$52 per month) and Carprofen (\$32 per month) for inflammation. She has to have bloodwork (\$75) every four months to make sure the Carprofen is not affecting her liver.

In the picture on the right she is wearing braces provided to CRT. A huge thank you goes out to Bionic Pets in Virginia for giving a generous discount for the braces.







She adopted her foster dad immediately as her own and is jealous when there are others around him. Apparently in this picture she is sleeping and unaware Max is near. She loves and is loved by her foster family.

Daisy is approximately seven years old. She is smart, sassy, sweet, and loving. She is fascinated by the birds and the rabbits that inhabit her back yard. She tries her best to chase down the bunnies before they escape through the fence. She is so blessed to have been taken into the CRT program. She has a chance at a wonderful life for ever how long that may be.

# In Memory of Ann Kruse A Tribute to CRT Foster and Supporter, Ann Kruse

So there is our given family, our chosen family, and then there is the family that we are blessed with in ways that we can never express enough gratitude for.

Ann Kruse was that third kind of family to all of us at CRT. She was easily one of the most loving, fiercely loyal, generous, and true friends any organization could ask for. She embodied living by integrity and conviction. She is truly one of the greatest blessings we'll ever have.



Pictured: Ann Kruse with Skippy and Rider (both CRT alumni)

Ann was the definition of a patriot. She served this country for 40+ years as a programmer and self-proclaimed "computer geek", working on government contracts for E-Systems and Raytheon, doing things she still never talked about through the end. She bled red, white and blue. She put up a big flag pole in her front yard to fly the American flag. She sent regular care packages to our troops overseas. She ALWAYS supported the troops. She always wore a lapel pin for the military. Ann, thank you for helping foster that patriot spirit in our souls.

Ann was a tremendous supporter for CRT. It all started when she adopted from us. Her adopted dogs had the best home ever. Over the years she fostered, did additional volunteer work such as transporting, helped with fundraising, and was one of CRT's biggest cheerleaders. Ann was always there. She was the kind of selfless woman who would literally schedule her own breaks from chemo around the best times for helping with a large CRT event. Two years ago, she pushed out her chemo treatments for a week so she could help with our largest annual fundraiser, North Texas Giving Day! That was our Ann!

Ann spent the last 7+ years of her life battling stage 4 cancer. The smile she wore on her face never faded during the entire process. She would just show up and be there for everyone else, no matter the timing for her. That positive attitude and grace is something we hope to emulate. She always had her Chihuahuas and loved them so deeply. We have a feeling her love for her puppies was what kept her strong for so long. She loved those little Chihuahuas with all she had.

Ann, they don't make them like you anymore and we are not sure they ever will again. Thank you for being our supporter and friend for all these years. You have literally helped save thousands of Chihuahuas. Thank you for being someone we could always count on and turn to, no matter what. You were a confidant and support system that we will miss dearly. While you fought so hard over the last few months, even though there were many hospital visits, ER trips, and difficult times, we'll treasure our heart-to-heart talks we had in those quiet moments. We now start a new chapter in life, one without you, but you will always be remembered in our hearts and in ALL of the wonderful memories you helped to make so special. You always have, and always will mean the world to us. A special thank you for the generous donation you left to CRT in your will. What an amazing way to continue to leave a legacy and to continue to help us save Chihuahuas. We know you are shining down on us from above, and we hope to make you proud!

Much love and respect from all your friends at Chihuahua Rescue and Transport



### In Honor Of...

Ashley Speiglt In honor of Mom, Gwen, and her CRT Chis, Tippy and Gizmo

Kelly Pavelich In honor of Michelle Vaughn

Olly M. Meyer In honor of Gabby

Betty J. Carlisle In honor of Nate and Minnie

Ruth Matkins In honor of Sissy

The Forter Team In honor of Gidget

Clay Rives In honor of Sophie Gray

Gloria Gunther In honor of Tracy Register Saieed

Barry Lawson In honor of Rob's 40th Birthday!

Molly Glaser In honor of my sweet Sophie!

Amy Winters In honor of Astro, Lilly, Sybil, and Hazel

James McCue In honor of Danny R. Pugh

Cindy J. Morrow In honor of Kathy Ward and Popeye

Leslie Batta In honor of the Burns' Chis, Daisy and Joey

Forrest Wright In honor of Karen Lopez, Sky Kistler, and Nicole Rockower

Ameritas Coworkers In honor of Diane Busch and her many years of service to Ameritas upon her retirement

Maria Capozziello In honor of Tansy (Hurricane Harvey rescue) & Tracie (14.5 y.o., 3 legs & blind but still happy!)

Michael and Barbara Elwell In honor of Rob and Casey Allen

Richard and Stephanie Ramby In honor of Donna Phillips

Bonnie Harne and Angela Culp In honor of our 4 Chihuahuas and our ones that have passed on

Danielle (Painter) McDonald In honor of Dr. Jenny for her compassion and kindness in caring for Reese and his family



Rodger & Cherie Lacy In memory of Holly—Corinth, TX

Jennifer Kulick In memory of Ariel, Shery, and Cathay's angel

Ruth Matkins In memory of "Sissy" (Most loving little Chi EVER)

Di & Joe Ponzo In memory of Shorty

Lori Rumpf In memory of nephew, Jordan Rumpf

Victoria Purser In memory of my beloved Joon

Robert & Tessa DeVance In memory of Boulder

George & Linda Semenek In memory of Kodi and Mo-Mo

Michael & Dian Deimier In memory of Delilah Sokolowski

Maxine Carter In memory of Sheila Carter

Tamara Stankunas In memory of Spike and Chico

Colleen S. Dold In memory of Coco, Raisin and Kili
William & Carol Dykes In memory of Tina (2002—2018)

D.G. & D.L. Matteson In memory of Dan Spannraft

K.C. Payne In memory of Buddy and Max

Ed & Sylvia LeJeune In memory of Dan Spannraft



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## In Memory of...

Barry & Jean Mano In memory of Dan Spannraft

Terry & Carolee Walker In memory of Paulette Davies

Captain Brent S. James In memory of Andy Pandy

Gary J. Macdecy In memory of Maggie

Emily Frost In memory of Roxie, a CRT Alumni

Dana Rawls In memory of my friend Glen's rescue Chihuahua, Roz

Ruth Matkins In memory of Sissy

Wanda Hill In memory of my husband Raymond Hill, who lovingly cared for Spud, Rocky and

Peanut the last 20 years of his life on earth. He passed away June 2018







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