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Chihuahua

Rescue & Transport

chihuahua-rescue.org



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

President's Corner

By Diana Hightower

As always, the number of Chihuahuas we can save is directly tied to resources – funding and foster homes are our two most urgent ongoing needs. Your financial support allows us to provide both standard and lifesaving care for our dogs. When you open your home to foster a dog, you are directly saving his/her life.

As we move toward 2020 we hope to make an even bigger impact in the lives of homeless Chihuahuas. We can only accomplish this with your help. Please consider an end of year donation or even a recurring donation for 2020. And please reach out to us at the following link if you would like to join our amazing team of volunteers:

<http://www.chihuahua-rescue.com/volunteer-application/>

In 2020 we begin a new decade of saving Chihuahuas, nation-wide. In 2021, we will celebrate 25 years of saving Chihuahuas. We appreciate your support and partnership. Let's continue to save lives, together! 🐶

Peach's Spa Day

By Kelva Alexander

Hello, Everypawdy!

Today was spa day for me. I got a mani and a pedi, a shampoo and blow dry, and my little pink ears were checked out. I think every pup should have a spa day every once in a while. It not only feels good, it's good for you.

My delicate pink skin gets checked over for any irritations. The oatmeal conditioner my foster mom uses helps keep my skin and fur soft. If I had teeth, those would get brushed and checked over too. Nail trimming is most essential. Not only can I walk better, but having my nails trimmed on a regular basis can keep arthritis from developing.

When CRT takes in new rescues, each one gets a spa day and a vet checkup. If something isn't right, it's fixed, no matter the cost. I was lucky that when I arrived in their care from Hurricane Harvey, I had my very first spa day and a visit to the vet. They had me spayed and my mammary tumors were removed.

I think all pups deserve a spa day too! Won't you please donate, volunteer, or adopt? When you visit our website, tell them Peaches sent you!



How do I look?

Rescuing in The Eye of Hurricane Florence

By Glenda Pryor, Scott Frye, and Carla Johnson

On September 29, 2018, six CRT volunteers gathered at a small church parking lot in Burgaw, NC. We used the church as a staging area in preparation for dispersing donated dog and cat food (from other rescues groups that wanted to help) as well as fresh water to the dogs and cats abandoned during Hurricane Florence. Details concerning these dog's and cat's locations were very vague.



We decided to divide up the donations and water and travel the area in a 3-vehicle caravan. Most of the affected area had only recently been opened up by authorities, due to receding floodwaters. The areas we traveled into had not yet been visited by FEMA. The neighborhoods were abandoned with evident flood damage everywhere. Homes revealed just how high the water had risen with waterlines almost roof high. I have not personally been in a war zone, but I can say that the entire area had a surreal and almost eerie presence to it. We drove mile after mile with no signs of life.

Early on we were not able to locate abandoned or stray animals so we changed our plan of action and began stopping at homes with families on site to ask if they were in need of dog and cat food as well as fresh water. The owners were beginning the long recovery stage of pulling their furniture and belongings out of their homes and piling them at the roadside. We found families at about one out of 10 homes.



Electric service had not been restored and many people were living in tents in their yards. This strategy worked well and we were able to disperse the dog and cat food to those in need. We stopped at one home, and after exiting our vehicle, heard the distinctive sound of small dogs barking. At that home we had the pleasure of meeting a family living in their front yard in a tent with two Chihuahuas. They were extremely happy to have the donated food. At the end of the day the leftover food was donated to the local animal shelter.

The following weekend the entire process was repeated by another group of CRT volunteers. As before, other rescue groups came through with food donations and one group raised \$500.00 overnight which we spent at the local Walmart. This CRT group went back to some of the same areas and this time they encountered a man who was living in his truck so that he could protect what was left of his house and belongings. He lived at the end of a gravel road back in the woods. When the group first pulled back to his home, he wasn't home.

As they were turning around and getting ready to leave, a big truck pulled down the gravel road and blocked the road. Both vehicles sat there for a few minutes looking at each other and then the CRT group figured out that this was probably the owner and he thought we were looters who were there to take his belongings. One of the CRT volunteers told the others that she would handle this and jumped out of the van. As she approached the truck, a man emerged with his hand behind his back. He asked if we were looting and she said in a very sweet southern voice "No honey, we're just a bunch of crazy woman out here handing out dog and cat food and your neighbors told us that you had a beagle." At this, the man smiled and took his hand out from behind his back and invited us to meet his beagle. He graciously accepted several bags of dog food from us and we were on our way.

The group also branched out to the community of North East which suffered flooding to the entire community. Roads were washed away so food was left at the fire station because it was set up as the staging area for all residents to pick up food and supplies.

(continued on page 9)



A Chiweenie & Her Five Puppies

By Brenda Boggs, CRT Midwest Coordinator



On October 7, 2017 I picked up Jessa and her five female Chihuahua-Dachshund puppies from Vandalia, Ohio. They had just traveled from Houston, Texas, after Hurricane Harvey. In my two decades of fostering I had never fostered a momma and puppies. Jessa was quite young herself, around 1 ½ years old and the puppies were only three days old.

Jessa was quite frightened that first night. She climbed out of the x-pen area I had set up for them and came trembling to find me. I held her a bit, returned her to the pen and spent the rest of the night on the sofa nearby to calm a frightened new momma and ensure that she took care of her babies.

Puppies guzzling mama's milk woke me the next morning. When they were finished Jessa let me know she needed to be taken outside. After her quick potty break, she ran to me for a cuddle and we heard a puppy "yip" for the first time. Such a sweet sound!

I kept daily weight records to make sure the pups were thriving. The smallest, Nori, weighed 7.8 ounces and the largest, Maisie, weighed 15.4 ounces. No two of them looked alike.

Seven days later I awoke to a very vocal puppy. From that point on she was known as Gabby, the one who loves to gab.

By October 12th Jessa was leaving their "nest" a bit more as the puppies were nursing constantly and Jessa was beginning to look rather gaunt.

I decided to try supplementing the pups with some pureed puppy food. All but Gabby nibbled the food from the tip of my finger and within a few days they were lapping the puree from a flat plate, Pebbles, the second smallest, found it easier to stand in the middle of the plate to get her share.

October 17th began with the puppies attempting to play but mostly they tumbled over each other and attempted some yips and growls. They had all doubled their weight except for Nori, the runt, she weighed in at a tiny 12 ounces this morning.

October 19th was nail trim day and all the puppies began to develop upper teeth. It is amazing how quickly they grow.

Two weeks after their arrival, Nori had doubled her weight. The puppies rough-housing seemed to stress out their mother, Jessa. She rolled herself into a ball with her blanket to escape their antics. Looking back, it is hard to grasp how small and defenseless they were when the first arrived.



November 1st I separated four of the five puppies from Jessa to wean them. Since Nori was so small, she needed more time with her momma. Within two days we needed to put Pebbles back with her momma and sister because Jessa wasn't enjoying nursing only one puppy at a time. That pairing worked well and we were glad to have found a solution for Nori's sake.



All too soon it was time for the puppies to go to their potential adopters and fosters until they were old enough to be spayed. My home was so quiet after 12 weeks of puppy-love and I wondered where the time had flown. The experience of caring for Jessa and her delightful pups was one of the highlights of my many years with CRT and I felt blessed to have been able to care for them.

Lucky for me, only three days after Jessa's puppies left I was asked to rescue a Chihuahua and her three, two-week old puppies. Was I excited about that call? You betcha! 

Behavior Challenges

By Karen Hughes Hales

Rescuing Dogs is like a box of chocolates...You never know what you're gonna get!

Rescues can get behind in their efforts to save as many animals as possible when a dog becomes more work than they expected. No one can really tell—from a picture, the shelter, a finder of a lost dog, an owner surrender—exactly what kind of dog you'll meet. There are so many stories tugging at the heartstrings, it can be daunting. After deciding which dogs to help, there are more factors to consider; a) what will the medical expenses be? b) who will foster? c) how adoptable is this rescue? d) are there any behavioral issues? You can research the basic medical needs, you can ensure a foster commitment before accepting the rescue, and based on age, looks, etc., you can be reasonably sure how adoptable they are. But the behavior of that rescue is *never* predictable. Here's how I've managed this variable...

The Chihuahua breed often has a preconceived difficult behavior associated with them. Chihuahuas are very small, and thus, easy to breed at home. Too many puppies have not gotten proper socialization. Being introduced to new people, new surroundings, new noises, and new smells are crucial in the first 16 weeks of maturation. It's easy to cuddle them and never let their feet touch the ground. It's even easier to think them biting your shoe is cute, until suddenly it just isn't cute anymore. Trying to redirect and retrain an adult dog can be very difficult, but not impossible.

When Chihuahua Rescue & Transport takes in a dog, we are always prepared to assess and handle their medical needs. We do struggle with the number of dogs that are simply not socialized properly.

Several of the most anxious dogs remain in foster care for the rest of their lives. They are the hidden members of our family. But, I want their story told too! As a foster mom, I get attached to these foster dogs. These are the dogs that we hope with time and direction will find their perfect family. Many times we have great success! But not always.

I currently have two foster dogs at my house that will never leave. Duchess and Emily. Their story is a very familiar one that began four years ago. We were contacted by family members whose mother had passed away leaving behind about 20 small dogs.

There was no way that we could help with all of them. I offered take some long-haired females. There were seven. They were coming from northern Oklahoma and arrived, after a five-hour drive, very late at night. None of the dogs had been in a carrier before that day—much less in a car. We learned they had lived outside their whole lives. Their late owner was a backyard breeder, which is a person without training who simply doesn't spay or neuter the dogs in their care. The pups were filthy. They were terrified. What had we gotten into?

In time, five of the seven were adopted. Duchess and Emily, however, never bonded with anyone but me. This is the case with many of our dogs. They are raised and loved by women and either the woman was single or the husband had nothing to do with the dog, therefore, they are only able to bond with one woman. Eventually, it transfers from one woman to another but it takes time and patience. I am still the only one these two girls completely trust.

Although Emily and Duchess are beginning to allow a few female

visitors pet them, no one should try to pick them up or pull them close. They will bolt to get away from you. When it's time to trim their nails, I have to throw a towel over them and place a muzzle on them.

Afterwards, I'm left to clean up the mess they made in the process. Recently I have been able to pick up Emily while standing but I am limited in what else I can do without a flight-or-fight response. They love to sleep in the bed with me. Duchess will paw at me all day to pet her and Emily loves to get in my face and give me kisses. In the first year that I had them, I did try taking them to adoption events, but the risk of them getting loose or fear-biting was just too great.

The cost of utilizing a trainer is something that rescues don't often have in their budget. We reach out to our followers to at least establish some help with annual upkeep expenses such as vaccinations and heartworm prevention. Most of the dogs, like Emily and Duchess, still need a lot of work even with a trainer. Their needs exceed that of your typical obedience trainer. These girls could use a Certified Behaviorist. Even then, their progress would most likely be limited without the proper adopter or the continued recommendations of a behaviorist. So they just become a part of a system that can only afford to house them, much like our prison system. If these dogs were strays they would not live happy lives. CRT ensures these dogs are as happy as possible.

Please help by giving a small monthly donation to offset some of the costs associated with these dogs. We love and care for them just as much. 

CRT Southeast Regional Report

By Carla Johnson, Southeast Coordinator

CRT Southeast has been really busy in 2018 and 2019. In 2018, we handed out animal supplies to people who were flooded out by hurricanes Florence and Michael, adopted out 35 puppies that were born into CRT SE, held our first ever big fundraiser (we raised over \$10k) and we held our 1st every volunteer banquet that was attended by 40 volunteers and their invited guests.

Our volunteers attended 21 adoption events, and we increased our adoption locations by adding New Bern and Garner, NC. We assisted with several puppy mill busts and hoarding cases, and ended up rescuing 150 dogs from these cases. We adopted out 122 dogs and grew our volunteer base to 150 people.

With all this happening at CRT SE, there was no way I could keep track of everything! When I asked for help, our volunteers stepped up, and now we have an application

checker, coordinators for home visits, volunteers, transportation, microchip registration. Our SE region volunteers ROCK!

Did I mention that towards the end of 2018, we had two hurricanes hit our region? Our wonderful volunteers rose to the challenge and overnight raised \$2250.00 to help out our own volunteers who had sustained damage from the storms.

This year, we teamed up with the Midwest region and went to Houston to bring back 63 dogs into the SE and Midwest regions. By the end of November, we adopted out 115 dogs with several more in the works. We have attended 28 events and we increased our adoption locations by one (Aunt Kerry's Pet Shop in Wilmington) where we will hold our 1st ever pictures with Santa fundraiser. Our major fundraiser this year was the

Golf Tournament hosted by the owners of Olde Pointe Golf Club in Hampstead, NC where we raised \$8k!

Our volunteers continued to grow and this year finds us at 170 volunteers. This year we have taken in 142 dogs with several of the dogs giving birth (14 pups born in the last couple months).

If you've been thinking about fostering, **NOW** is the time to join our wonderful volunteers and save some Chihuahuas! CRT provides all of the medical needs, you just provide the food, harness, leash, love, and some basic training. **YOU CAN DO THIS!** 



CRT Southwest Regional Report

By Tammy Cantrell, Southwest Coordinator

The Southwest Region has so much to celebrate as we wrap up 2018 and 2019. Our region helped over 126 Chihuahuas in 2018 and over 100 Chihuahuas in 2019 find their forever homes. Over the past two years, we have rescued Chihuahuas of all ages – from seniors to adults to puppies to pregnant moms. In fact, we had a 300 percent increase in requests to help with Pregnant moms and puppies.

In addition, we took on numerous medical cases. These cases included hit by car situations, heart worm positive cases (ten cases), upper respiratory cases, liver system challenges and more. Unfortunately a few sweet Chihuahuas were not able to overcome their medical issues and passed over the Rainbow Bridge. Each time this happens, our hearts shatter. But you can be assured that these Chihuahuas spent their days with us surrounded by love and the best medical care possible. The ups and downs of rescue can be a roller coaster – but we are here to help them all.

In 2019 we added many new volunteers and foster families – because of them we were able to help even more dogs this year. We have an amazing Facebook coordinator who has grown our DFW Area Facebook page to over 11,200 followers. Many new adoptions have come from these efforts.

We have an amazing foster Dad who takes professional pictures of our dogs. These pictures show off their personalities and have attracted many new adopters. We certainly couldn't

have processed all of the applications that came in this year without our application processor who turns applications around in record time. We have one volunteer who keeps all of our dog's microchip information updated and others who send thank you cards to donors. We have a monthly event coordinator. Our volunteer transporters are ready to get a dog or dogs from point A to point B, making our dogs available to people outside the areas where they are being fostered. We also have amazing foster families who have saved life after life. A salute to all of you and the legacy you are building.

Over the past two years, our volunteers spent countless hours introducing our Chihuahuas to the public. We held over 50 meet-and-greets at Hollywood Feed and Pet Supplies Plus. We also attended additional events throughout the Dallas area. If you have a favorite event you would like us to attend in 2020, please reach out to us.

We held special fund raising events, including our participation in North Texas Giving Day. Our team has logged many hours and miles transporting dogs from kill shelters throughout North Texas safely into our CRT program.

If you've been thinking about fostering, take that leap and become a foster for one of the many Chihuahuas that need help. CRT will pay for all vet costs and you just pay for food and any treats that you may want to give them. Your role as a foster is to make the dog part of your family, potty train the dog and teach them to walk on a leash. *Unfortunately* we have to turn away numerous dogs due to lack of foster homes. We would welcome your participation in 2020.

A big thank you to all of our donors as we couldn't do what we do with the Chihuahuas without your monetary support! We are looking forward to a great 2020. The best is yet to come!



CRT Midwest Region Report

By Brenda Burns-Boggs, Midwest Coordinator

In the year of 2018, the Midwest Region found homes for 33 fur babies; in 2019 we more than doubled that number! This increase was made possible by the overwhelming support from dedicated volunteers and those who contributed to our worthwhile cause.

Geographically, the Midwest covers Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and parts of Missouri. Our volunteers often drive quite a few hours to connect with one another for transports and to assist in community events. Another challenge for our region is that the cost of medical care for our Chihuahuas is higher than in other regions.

A goal was set for 2019 to focus on fundraising in order to offset the greater vetting costs in our region. The campaigns we conducted were very successful in both increasing awareness of our mission and in contributing toward the costs associated with caring for our foster Chihuahuas.

Early in 2019, the Midwest and SE Regions rescued a large number of dogs from a shelter in Texas. Many of the females from that rescue effort were pregnant and, as a result, we were blessed with 39 puppies that were

cared for and placed in homes on a Foster-To-Adopt (FTA) basis. The FTA program allows the potential family to interact with the puppies once they are safely weaned from their mothers. It allows the potential owner to be involved with the puppy's training and care while being guided by CRT until the puppy is old enough to be spayed or neutered. The family gets to enjoy the puppy stage, which is so fun and allows for a bonding experience with the future "forever" owners.

The third quarter of 2019 was a flurry of activity as CRT arranged for the vaccinations and altering of the 39 puppies. I am happy to report that all 39 puppies have forever homes as of the end of October.

We would like to send out a BIG thank you to all the volunteers and donors who helped with our success in 2018 and 2019. We could not have accomplished all that we did without the support and the kindness of everyone who volunteered and contributed, financially. Since we are a non-profit Rescue Group we are dependent on contributors who recognize the value of our rescue efforts and support us with generous contributions. THANK YOU! 

Fostering & Friends

By Roxanne Schwartz



One of the greatest gifts fostering has to offer is friendship. Not only do our dogs connect and develop a bond with our fosters, we humans gain quite a bit from the experience.

Each of us has a different reason for fostering, but one of the main reasons for staying in the group is the people you meet. At foster events, we work together as a team to set up properly and secure our dogs. We want to educate the public about the euthanasia rate of Chihuahuas, the importance of spay/neuter, vaccinations, and the ills of puppy mills.

As one can imagine, these long days would be challenging without the spirit and fun our volunteers bring to the events. There is always laughter, poop jokes (lots of puppy accidents), snacks and time to catch up with each other. Since several of us have been volunteers together for many years, we have celebrated births of grandchildren, weddings, business successes and other happy occasions. Not only are we there for each other in happy times, we support each other in the challenging times as well.

If you enjoy being around others with a passion for Chihuahuas, please consider fostering. Please visit our website for more details on fostering. 7

Hurricane Florence

(continued from page 2)

On the second day, the group concentrated on the Wilmington and Porters Neck area. Entire neighborhoods were devastated by record flooding. Here they met a young family with a baby, a young child and a Yorkie. The wife reported that the night before the hurricane hit, her husband had asked her to follow him up to a parking lot on College Road (approximately 1 mile from their home) so that he could leave one of their vehicles up there, just in case it flooded (the husband informed us that they were never told that their home was in a flood zone). The wife told us that she told the husband that he was crazy but that they did it anyway.

That night, the hurricane hit and the husband woke her up in the middle of the night and told her that they needed to get out of their house. She sleepily replied again that he was crazy and he told her to go and look out the front door. She did and she found that the water level was already taking over the first step to their porch. By the time they got the kids and the dog ready to leave and walked out the front door and down the steps, carrying the kids and the dog, she reported that the water was thigh high, and they had to trudge through the water and the howling wind up to their car. She informed us that she would never doubt her husband again.



Hurricane Florence was a tragic event on many levels with many animals and humans in great need of help. It is such a rewarding experience to be able to stop by and help someone in need and take the time to listen to their story. I can proudly say that my fellow SE CRT volunteers went above and beyond to make a positive difference in a tragic situation. 



Donations in Honor of...

Sarah Wildman	In honor of Brenda & Wayne Boggs and all their Chihuahuas
The Chaissons	In honor of Tux and his new adopted family
Bruce Lee	In honor of Kai Squire for the DFW CRT Group
Kristen Onasch	In honor of the wedding of Adina Petro & Lenny Ferre (with love to Tucky & Coco).
Jennifer Vincent	In honor of our Sweet Pea
Melissa L. Trippe	In honor of Chewy pet products supplier (and our CRT rescue, Penny, of course)
Elizabeth Turner	In honor of Judy Yoffa's wedding
Vickie Byrd	In honor of Judy Yoffa
Michelle LaCost	In honor and memory of my baby Nike :)
Amy Winters	In honor of Astro, Lilly, Sybil, and Hazel
The Forter Team	In honor of Gidget
Sheridan A. Maki	In honor of Bogey, Samson, and Hazelnut
Christian Upschulte	In honor of Mike and Jake Muldoon
Nancy Lee Myers	In honor of Chase
Gail Woicekowski	In honor of Chi Chi
Maria Capozziello	In honor of Roz and Tracie (an honorary Chi)
Amy Karnehm	In honor of Chris Mesker, the Grand Master Chi Momma
Nancy Harmon	In honor of Riker
Nathaniel & Nicole Mucha	In honor of Hanna & Harper (Cotton & Chloe)
Birdie & John & Deb Zihlman	In honor of Karen Hales and Birdie's Angels at SW Airlines

The Team: Sharon, Greg, Eric, Clarissa, Beth, Hande, Jennifer, Jessica, Kate, Lillian, Ari and Daniel: In honor of Kevin Hanks, Peany, Millie and in loving memory of Miss Patsy.

 **Donations in Honor of...**

Carolyn & Marty Betts
Richard & Stephanie Ramby
Martha Miller-Varisco
Chelsea Lynn
Beignet and Limoges
Mark Clark
Joshua Williams
Melinda R. Hales
Stewart Calhoun
Pat Keeler
Dale and Robin Harne
Thomas and Jolynn Burke
Katherine Miller
Maurine Atkinson
Natasha Lutz
Angela Harrison
Linda Geremina
Amy Karnehm

Jon Woodrum

Stephanie Rizzolo
Maria Capozziello
Gregory and Shannon Mann

In honor of Shannon and Brandon Foreman
In honor of Donna Phillips
In honor of Nancy Stier
In honor of Thom and Carol Lange of Cary, IL
In honor of Mitzi and Cheyenne
In honor of Keely Joseph
In honor of Mollie
In honor of James and Deanna Brown
In honor of Barb Calhoun
In honor of Art and Nancy Krupp
In honor of Emily Kimmen
In honor of Sparky
In honor of Susan Leeper, who is a devoted Chihuahua Rescuer
In honor of U-CD Guichon's Bazl CGC, CD, RE
In honor of my sister, Ana, who is a chihuahua lover and supporter
In honor of Pat Sims, who so selflessly gives of her heart, time, & treasures to CRT
In honor of Cathy Crane, Happy's and Teensy's foster mom
In honor of Candi, my sweet little girl and foster fail who could not have come into my life at a better time!
In honor of my loving sister Joan Mitchell who gives so much for these wonderful loving Chihuahuas!
In honor of my sister Jessica Rizzolo, a proud Chi owner and rescue supporter
In honor of Tansy - Harvey Rescue & Tracie - 15 y.o., 3 legs, blind, still happy!)
In honor of Abbie, our Chihuahua



 **Donations in Memory of ...**

Nicholas & Pam Hood
Ashley Antar
Phyllis Coglianese
Roxanne Root
Debra Rackear
Judith E. Hittman
Gary Macdecy
Sandra Simpkins
William E. Jones, Jr.
Robert & Tessa DeVance
Janet Juzkiw
Judy Clark and Ken Ewing
Target Gift Registry Team
Ahuva Battams

Piotr Gnatowski

Sarah Lindenau
Rachel Visnovske
Maria Capozziello
Debra Ludovissy
Maurine Atkinson
Melody L. Ensore
Joan W. Mitchell

In memory of Bridgett
In loving memory of Rocki Powers
In memory of Amber and Haley
In memory of my mom, Virginia
In loving memory of Chaya
In memory of Fiona
In memory of Robbie
In memory of Max Johnson
In memory of William E. Jones, Sr.
In memory of Dolly and Oscar
In memory of Mildred Jordan
In memory of Cosmo, long-time & much loved companion of Linda & Kyle Taylor
In honor and memory of Chico, who will be greatly missed by Keith and Taco
In memory of Scott, the most beloved, spoiled, sweet boy there ever was. Forever in your dad's heart
In loving memory of Linda Polonsky, whose amazing daughter is a champion for Chihuahuas
In memory of Ricky, owned and loved by Jarret Christensen and Steven Nissan
In memory of Lynda Perry and Wawa Perry
In memory of Tina, Bella, Tootsie, Angel, and Rozzie
In memory of my fur kid Nikki who passed away last May
In memory of my best friend, Guichon's Bazl
In memory of Mavi, Yoder, and Myrtle
In memory of Peaches, loving CRT foster of Kelva and Joe Alexander



In Memory of Peaches (with her foster dad, Joe Alexander)

 *Donations in Memory of...*

Ken & Nancy Schoener	In memory of Boo Boo and Mo
Tina Birchard	In memory of my Chalupa
Angel & Debra Rackear	In memory of Chaya
Jennifer Dearden	In memory of Bianca
Kim Ortiz	In memory of Lexi
Joan Mitchell	In memory of Max Johnson
Alivia Joseph	In memory of Sargento
Kacey Teer	In memory of Little
Jeff & Valerie Ricci	In memory of Chigger
Robert & Carol Berger	In memory of Mr. Bud
Justin Lynch	In memory of Pinky
Debra Gussin	In memory of sweet Mija
Kristy Gardner	In memory of my sweet girl, Mimi
Cathy Crane	In memory of Max
Marie Raynor	In memory of Harvey
Rebecca Robinson	In memory of Jett
Don D. Papesh	In memory of Mr. Darrell Cox
Stephanie Fredricks	In memory of my Chihuahua B
Nathan & Erlene DeWitt	In memory of Sadie
Ray & Andrea	In memory of Amie Yirka
Fredrick Buzzell	In memory of Dorothy Luz
Richard & Diana Hightower	In memory of Gigi and Bella
Gary Macdecy	In memory of Mickey & Arnie
Walter & Donna Mager	In memory of Penny and Diva
Jeffrey & Shelley Jones	In memory of Quincy Jones
Sharon Gruenhagen	In memory of my sweet Petunia
Elisabeth Luther	In memory of Ella
Kim Ortiz	In memory of Lexie
Maxine Carter	In memory of Ann Gray Kruze
Dan & Liz Spanraft	In memory of Dan Spanraft, ESQ
Oliver & Colleen Dold	In memory of Raisin, Coco & Cricket
Sylvia Almaguer	In memory of Sox, Rocco & Stretch
Kathleen LaSelle	In memory of Siera Bailey (Sisi) Rhodes
Bonnie K. Harne	In memory of Bubby, Bambi & Gracie Allen
Terry L. Widing	In memory of Tammy. She will be in my heart forever.
Debra Ludovissy	In memory of my fur kid Nikki
Danielle McDonald	In loving memory of Ozzy, who was the first to show us the enduring and unconditional love and immeasurable joy Chihuahuas can bring into our lives

In memory of Grace Pooley Lisk

Imogene Schlee, Elizabeth Schlee, Neil & Helen Turner, Robert & Deloris Schlee, Brian & Lori Delola, Amy Schlee

In memory of Hannah

Rene Blazel, Cheryl Ergott, Betty Salsgiver, Nina Hawk, Elsa Grable, Jo Dale, Ron Laws

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A Tribute to Chigger

By Valerie Ricci

It was about five years ago that a little three pound senior Chihuahua caught our eye. His name was Chigger, appropriately named because that is about how big he was! We saw him on the CRT Facebook page and honestly fell in love with him at first sight. We filled out an application, quickly completed the process, and Chigger joined our family. Chigger immediately fit in and was so happy to have his own home.

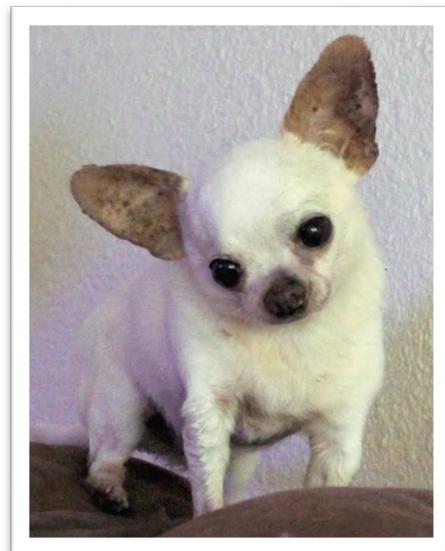
This guy, although physically challenged, let nothing stand in his way of living. His days were quite busy. He explored the yard and made sure to "protect" it. He napped with his doggie brothers and sister. He liked to visit his "friend" in the mirror and often looked behind the mirror to try to find that friend (not realizing it was his own reflection!). I can't say he was the most affectionate dog. Because of his physical challenges, it was hard for him to give kisses. But when he did, they were so special. He always loved companionship. Walking was sometimes difficult for Chigger but that did not stop him from following us around the house to be close to us.

Chigger was my constant companion. He comforted me when my daughter went away to college. He was my solace when my Daddy died. We had a dog bed in every room because we could always count on him to join us. We slept together every night. We took him for rides in our convertible. He sat outside with us for happy hour. Chigger may have been a senior, but he lived the last several years with gusto.

As Chigger's health began to decline, his love continued to shine. And then it was time to cross the Rainbow Bridge. We miss him dearly but he is running pain free and running like the wind.

We want to thank all the volunteers at CRT for rescuing seniors like Chigger. CRT changes the lives of many, many dogs...and those dogs forever change the lives of the new owners as they join their family. So many senior dogs just long for a place to spend the twilight of their lives. Too many senior dogs are "re-homed" and many others are found trying to survive on the streets. The tireless work of the CRT volunteers is saving the lives of these little ones. As you make your end-of-the-year charitable donations, please remember CRT in your giving plans. Let's work together to give an opportunity to more seniors to find their forever home.

We will always miss our Chigger. But we are forever grateful to CRT for sharing this jewel of a dog with our family. He has left an imprint on our hearts that will last forever. 🐶



Please “Like” Us on Facebook

Social Media has become a powerful tool for CRT. Each of our CRT regions has a facebook page. We are able to market our dogs through these pages. We have seen our adoptions dramatically rise as our social presence becomes stronger. Help us by “liking” our regional pages then “sharing” our posts. Let’s save some dogs together!

Follow Each Region on Facebook:

Southwest: www.facebook.com/CuteChihuahuas

Midwest: www.facebook.com/ChihuahuaRescueAndTransportIncMidwestRegion

Southeast: www.facebook.com/CRTSoutheasternRegion/



Follow us on Instagram: @ChiRescue

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