



roo roos & wiggle butts

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COLORADO / WYOMING VIZSLA RESCUE GROUP

:: from our president ::

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. I know the rescues in CWVRG foster homes did. Our numbers for 2009 are down from 2008 and hopefully they will continue to decline without sacrificing those dogs that need us. Currently we have nine dogs in foster care and a few of them have adoptions pending. In the past three weeks we have adopted out many of our fosters. Our Adoption Team is really getting into the swing of things and working very well together.

We had quite a few very young pups this year, more than any other year. Good news is they are all adopted! Of course puppies go fast and that is why we don't put them up on our website; we would be inundated with applications. The main reason we get these pups is financial, breeders can't sell them.

Our organization has been doing very well in spite of the state of the economy. We have added several new volunteers who jumped right into helping out. This is not to say that we don't need help, we do, especially FOSTER HOMES.

Our Board of Directors voted on honoring Dr. Hasch of Crossroads Veterinary Clinic for all the help he has given to our rescued Vs. We decided to give him a gift basket and Angela volunteered to get it together. It was transported to Kansas by one of our volunteers who was picking up four dogs to bring back to Colorado for adoption. Dr. Hasch performs the majority of the vet work done for rescues. In fact, if we know one of our dogs requires extensive medical care, the dog is transported to Dr. Hasch. Our costs through him are almost 50% less than our Colorado vets.

Polly presented the gift basket to Dr. Hasch on Monday. He was totally surprised and thoroughly enjoyed the contents as you can see by the pictures.

If you are an adopter and would like to get more involved as a volunteer, please contact me at spunki_61981@yahoo.com.

~ Rita



Dr. Hasch

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Exploring Dog Behavior

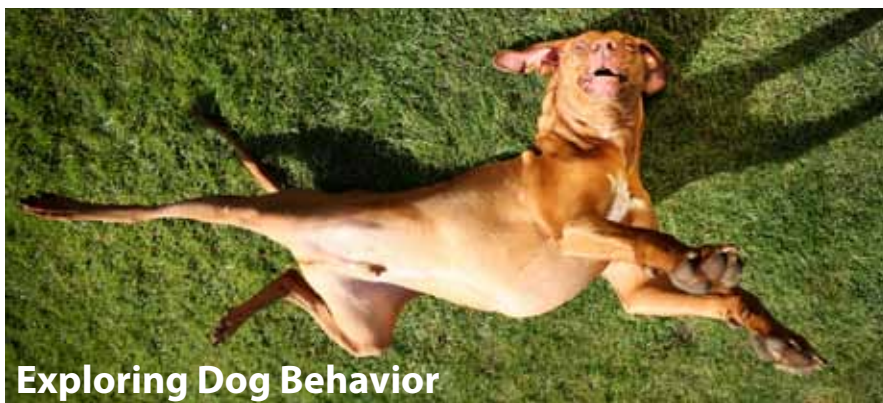
WHY DO THEY DO THAT?

by Karen Phillips

Do you have a dog that will seek out anything particularly foul and rancid and then proceed to roll in it with all the reverie and joy he can muster? (This is clearly evident by the expression of complete bliss on his face as he makes sure he doesn't leave any trace of it on the ground and its all on him in record setting time).

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Exploring Dog Behavior

...Continued from the cover

Having one Vizsla that lives for smelling of anything dead or rotten and another who strolls on by with barely a sniff in that vicinity, I found my need to understand this peculiar and quite frankly, disgusting behavior growing with each shampoo bath.

Clean and fresh smelling once again (albeit temporarily) and feeling quite relieved to have eliminated the olfactory assault to my senses, I discovered that the dog shampoo may be the primary underlying reason he actively seeks to roll in the raunchy - to remove that nice clean smell!

It turns out that many dogs dislike their odor after a shampoo and want nothing more than to find something much more acceptable and conversational in the dog world such as garbage, feces or dead carcasses and create a new, more presentable perfume.

It also turns out that rolling in the unthinkable is an instinctual behavior harkening back to their ancestral roots. Their disguised scent allowed them to hunt and stalk their prey more easily. It is also believed that wild dogs in the pre-domestication era would roll in rotten things to let their pack mates know where they had been and what they encountered in their outings – their unique way of sharing their adventures!

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Because this is a very natural and normal behavior for dogs, you shouldn't punish the behavior but take steps to discourage it whenever possible. Try using an unscented dog shampoo and bathe your dog in plain warm water when possible. If your dog has taken to rolling in his own feces, immediately clean up after him. When out for a walk, keep him on a short leash to prevent him from getting near anything offensive. You can also try equating an unpleasant experience with this action such as squirting him with a water bottle or using a citronella spray as soon as he starts rolling in it. Another option is to make a loud and sudden noise to interrupt their behavior. The key is to be consistent. Your dog will soon associate the rolling with an unpleasant experience and the behavior will dissipate allowing you to spend less time in the bathtub while breathing a little easier.



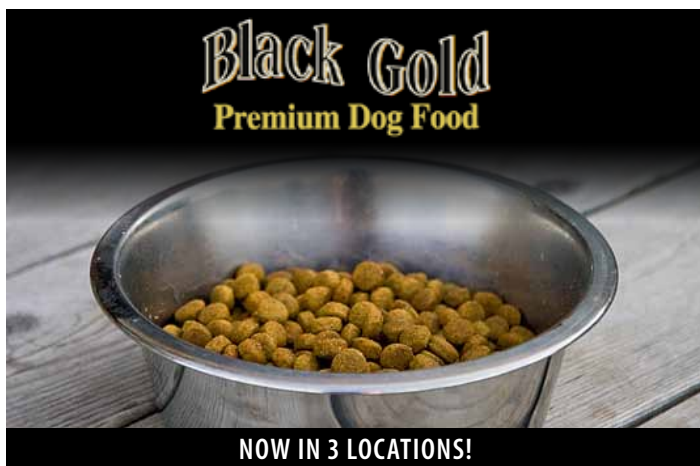
Adoption Satisfaction Survey: NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE

Your Feedback is Important to Us!

CWVRG is committed to improving our adoption process as well as our ongoing communication with everyone who has adopted a Vizsla. Through the generous donation of time and expertise from Lori and Pete Stofko, we are pleased to announce that we now have an **Adoption Satisfaction Survey** that is available on line. Our primary goal is to collect valuable information from our adopters concerning the process and use the feedback to improve our efficiency and effectiveness as a rescue organization.

We need your input! If you have adopted a Vizsla from us, please take a few minutes to complete the survey. It is easy to fill out, electronic and offers a place to submit additional comments regarding your experiences with the adoption process. Your participation is anonymous and all feedback is welcomed and valued. The data will be compiled automatically through a computer generated system and reviewed on a quarterly basis. We look forward to sharing the feedback and announcing our new and improved adoption processes based on your input!

We are excited about this opportunity to hear from you and to ensure our adoption processes are meeting your needs and expectations. To take the survey, please go to www.dencosurvey.com/vizsla. Your participation is important and we thank you for your ongoing support!



We now have Black Gold Dog Food Available in Three Locations:

The dog food is 50 pounds for \$32.00 and \$5.00 of each bag sold goes to Vizsla Rescue. Please feel free to contact Jerry, Karen or Alyssa if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

Jerry Moran, Fort Collins

970-493-1188 • jerrym220@yahoo.com

Karen Phillips, Centennial

303-995-6677 • karenpinco@yahoo.com

Alyssa McCluskey, Broomfield

303-410-6976 • mccluskeyalyssa@hotmail.com



Did you know?

The Wirehaired Vizsla is a completely separate breed from its more commonly seen smooth/short coated cousin. This breed was developed in the 1930s by Vasas Jozsef, owner of the Csabai Vizsla Kennel and Gresznanik Lazslo, who owned the De Selle German

Wirehaired Pointer Kennel. Their goal was to produce a dog that had a more substantial frame, heavier coat while retaining the red color of the Vizsla. It was felt these attributes are better suited for working in cold weather and retrieving in icy water.

TRAINING TIPS by polly

JUMPING ON PEOPLE • by Polly Mahlman

This is common in Vizslas and in some dogs a very hard habit to break. I know I didn't think I would ever get my Bailey trained to not jump on people, especially me! The problem with some dogs, including Bailey, is that they get corrected for jumping on your front so they jump up on your back. When your dog jumps on your front, give a firm NO, bring your knee up to block him, cross your arms and turn your back.

Another method is to gently press your finger into the area above the chest bone and the neck. It will choke the dog slightly, but will not cause injury. Give a firm NO and Off or Down. Put the dog into a sit and then give attention and praise.

For the front jumper you can also hook your finger in the dog's collar which will prevent the dog from being able to jump.

A fourth option is to take the palm of your hand and gently push down on the top of the dog's muzzle. This pushes the head down and where the head goes the body follows. Always remember a firm command of NO Off, and when he sits at your feet give praise and affection.



The back jumper is a different problem. With this behavior you have to be quick, step backwards and bring your foot up to block or knock the dog off. Remember the firm NO OFF command, then turn to face the dog; put him in a sit/stay and give praise and affection. These methods will only work if you are consistent, firm in your commands and give lots of praise when the dog behaves correctly.

Remember also that Vs are really children in dogs suits, so there are going to be special people who visit that no matter how well behaved your dog is, he will jump on them. The best thing is to have the dog in a sit/stay before the people get into the house. Make sure that the dog is under control before you even open the door. When your guest enters ask them not to look at the dog or say anything until you say it is OK. Remember that affection is a reward. I have seen half starved

Vs walk away from food to get love and attention. Be firm and consistent in all your commands, give lots of praise, attention, and a good snuggle. Following these exercises even my Bailey learned to behave. If you have questions about any behavior feel free to contact me.

CWVRG, INC. RESCUE STATISTICS :: 2009

Breakdown as follows:

Dogs taken in:	62
CO:	27
KS:	26
NE:	6
NM:	1
WY:	2
Purebreds:	58
Mixes:	4
Males:	32
Females:	30
Owner Surrender:	40
Shelters:	22



"A dog is the only thing on this earth that loves you more than he loves himself."

Getting to Know a CWVRG Volunteer

INTRODUCING: ALYSSA MCCLUSKEY

Volunteer, Board Of Directors



Alyssa has been an active volunteer of CWVRG, Inc. since 2001 and the "Go to Gal" whenever a rescue need arises. Having fostered countless rescues over the years, she is now focusing more time facilitating adoption application processes and arranging home visits for prospective adopters. Alyssa is married with two small children and works part-time as an independent consultant in international water resources/climate change and also teaches at the University of Colorado. In her free time, she enjoys "volunteering for rescue, dog training, being outdoors and spending time with the whole family".

Her first Vizsla encounter occurred in the late 1990's while working at a research institute in Austria with her husband. "A colleague would bring his Vizsla puppy to work everyday and we fell in love with the breed."

Returning to the U.S. in 2001, Alyssa began looking for a Vizsla breeder and initially met Rita through the internet Vizsla forum, Vizsla Talk. They subsequently met in person later that year in Boulder at the Vizsla Reunion where Rita had a foster in tow named Lazer.

The following year, Alyssa "felt that all too familiar tug" to grow her family with another Vizsla. "My husband wanted to wait, so we decided to foster rescues for a while. We fostered seven rescues before we adopted, not easy!"

We asked Alyssa to share some of her favorite antics about her two Vizslas; Hailey, nine, and Amber their 8th foster whom they later adopted at the age of 6 1/2. She is now the grand dame at the age of thirteen! "Hailey, our first baby is still a puppy at heart; she loves to retrieve balls (although it can only be "her" ball). She loves to snuggle under the covers, no matter how warm it is. She prays gratefully every night that her parents were bird hunters – she LOVES to hunt birds. She's very sensitive and a wonderful companion. Amber is simply my shadow. We have a bond through our souls. Although we've only had her for half her life, it doesn't seem like it one bit. She has come a very long way from the day we picked her up at Boulder Humane Society. Some may remember how we would have to carry her on our walks at the Vizsla gatherings and she can usually be found in the back of the car at the annual reunions. She's not much for crowds, but loves someone to come over and give her attention. She is getting older and dealing with many geriatric issues but still loves to get out and walk and smell the roses. Her favorite things are eating and snuggling. She is a favorite among the neighborhood kids; always wanting to be pet and loved."

When asked what she likes best about the breed, she said "I love that we can take them hiking and camping and then snuggle under the covers. I love that they really are part of the family. I also love watching them at sunset or sunrise (the reflection off their coat – so pretty), running through the fields, tails in the air, trying to catch a scent; poetry in motion!"

When asked if she had a favorite foster story she could share, she replied "Gosh, there are so many; and each one is so special. I have learned a lot about life from rescue and

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Getting to Know: ALYSSA MCCLUSKEY

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Dublin, Wally, Hailey, Amber, and Mackenzie

fostering; from those families that make the heart wrenching decision to give up their dog when it truly is best for the dog; to those horrible cases of neglect and abuse which lead to aiding some in their journey over the Rainbow Bridge – we will never forget and continue to fight for them; to the volunteers that give so much to help each individual soul; to watching a foster transform before your eyes as you provide love, security, and the basic necessities; to meeting the wonderful adopting families that open their hearts and homes to our precious fosters; to the day when you watch them leave with their new family – so bittersweet; to the day you meet again at a reunion and you are re-energized to do it all again!

Dollars & Cents



CWVRG, INC. FINANCIAL REPORT

4th Quarter 2009

CASH BALANCE: Guaranty Bank • Checking/Savings. \$16,511.00

REVENUE:

ADOPTIONS \$ 3,660.00
 PERSONAL \$ 1,885.00
 PAY PAL \$266.00
 FUND RAISERS. \$ 997.00
 GRANTS. \$ 657.00
TOTAL \$7,465.00

EXPENSES:

VETERINARIAN-\$6,248.00
 GENERAL OPERATING . . -\$1,613.00
TOTAL-\$7,861.00

people of cwvrg

Officers

Rita Prindle..... President & CEO
 Polly Mahlman VP
 Rick Prindle..... CFO
 Marianne Blackwell Secretary

Board of Directors:

Rita Prindle..... Chairman of the Board
 Jerry Moran Director
 Alyssa McCluskey..... Director
 Angela Dazlich Director
 Karen Phillips..... Director
 Judy Wagner, C.P.A. Director, Non-voting

Committee Volunteer Positions:

Katie Lloyd (OConnell) Event Coordinator
 Education Coordinator
 Donna Wolosin Adoption Follow-up
 Judy Wagner, C.P.A. Financial Consultant
 Marianne Blackwell Legal Counsel
 Laura Adams Foster Liaison

Newsletter Staff :

Karen Phillips..... Editors
 Blayne Rawsky Web Master
 Kris Miller, attagirlsdesign.com Design & Layout
 Diana Gilbert & Beth Mac Donald Co-Shelter Liasons
 Karen Phillips..... Fund Raiser/Grant Coordinator

Adoption Committee:

Rita Prindle..... Chairman
 Polly Mahlman Consultant
 Alyssa McCluskey..... Coordinator
 Laura Adams Foster Liason
 Teila Gilchrist & Polly Mahlman Telephone Interviewers

If you would like to contribute photos or stories to the newsletter, please email your submissions to karenpinco@yahoo.com. Photos should be at least 300dpi for ease of manipulation, and preferably .jpg or .tif formats. Articles should be limited to one page. If you have a very special item, extra space can be accommodated. Please send photos and articles separately.