



roo roos & wiggle butts

march 2010 • vol. 19

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COLORADO / WYOMING VIZSLA RESCUE GROUP

:: from our president ::

Wow! this has been a first quarter for the books. We took 17 Vs into rescue and 8 of those have already been adopted. Of the 17, two were at death's door, one has pneumonia & Valley Fever, another has a kidney & bladder infection, and one has seizures. The one with seizures was an owner-surrender and the owner neglected to inform us of this dog's history of seizures and did not provide us with health records. I had to contact the dog's vet to find out this information.

Noah & Chewy were the two dogs that would have died if they had not found rescue. They both made a miraculous recovery under the charge of Polly and Dr. Hasch. They both have been adopted and are very happy dogs in their new homes. Chewy is the second Wirehair Vizsla we have had in rescue in less than a year.

We have completed 3 transports of multiple dogs to and from KS. The longest transport originated from Carlsbad, NM to Phillipsburg, KS via Colorado involving 6 volunteers.

We have added more volunteers to our growing organization and two have volunteered to be foster parents. WE STILL NEED FOSTER HELP so if you would like to volunteer or hear more about it, please contact me .

You should all be proud to be part of our rescue group. We save dogs that could have died if not for our group. Let's hope that the rescues slow down a bit and we place all our foster dogs.

Happy Spring everyone!

~ Rita



IN THIS ISSUE

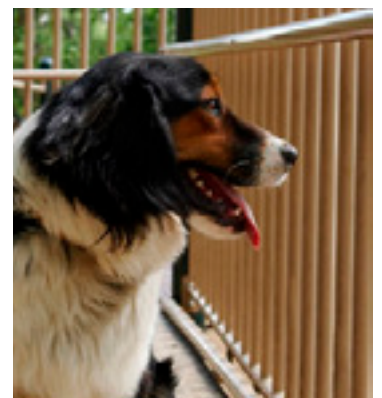
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Helping Homeless Pets

by Scott Gilchrist

In today's economy, it's not uncommon for someone to lose their job and subsequently lose their home. When a family becomes homeless, many communities offer emergency shelter where the family can stay until they can get back on their feet. Most shelters however, cannot accept animals. So what happens to the family pets? In many

Continued on page 2...



thank you

A SPECIAL THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO
DANI COMMENDADOR

by Karen Phillips

Dani Commendador has stepped down as co-editor of our quarterly newsletter. Her many talents, skills and creative ideas will be greatly missed. Dani's time and efforts over the past two years have been instrumental in creating the professional and informative newsletter we have today. She will continue to remain active as a volunteer on the western slope.

Dani has been active in Vizsla rescue for four years. In addition to her contributions with the newsletter, she has performed home visits, transportation and picked up new rescues from shelters on the western slope.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Dani and learned a great deal from her expertise and knowledge. On behalf of everyone at CWVRG, Inc. a sincere thank you for helping to make our newsletter such a success.

We are seeking a co-editor for the next newsletter. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rita Prindle at spunki_61981@yahoo.com or Karen Phillips at karenpinco@yahoo.com and we can answer any questions you may have about the position. The job responsibilities include:

- Researching and writing articles
- Proof reading for spelling, grammar and editing for space limitations
- Resizing photos and reformatting articles for layout
- Sending final articles to Kris for layout
- Newsletter distribution via email to volunteers and adopters

This newsletter is the result of a group effort and serves as a valuable resource for important updates, upcoming activities as well as educational articles. It is distributed to CWVRG volunteers, adopters, shelters, collaborative rescue agencies, veterinarians and grantors that we work with. We need to fill this position as soon as possible and we hope we have several interested people who want to get involved and express their creative talents. No experience is required!



Helping Homeless Pets

...Continued from the cover

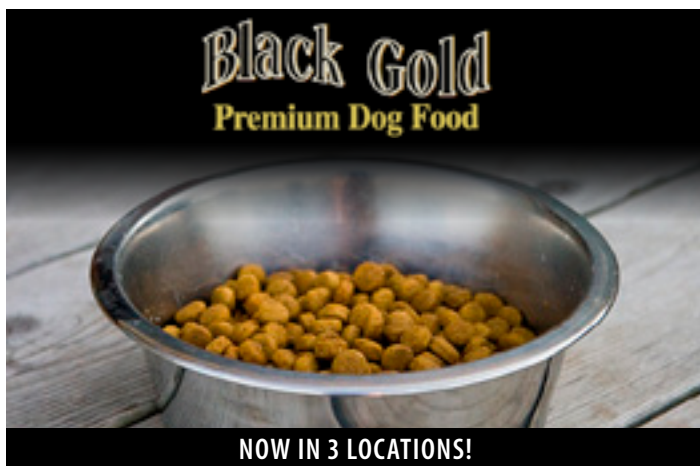
cases, they are often given away, turned over to a shelter or worse, abandoned. If a no-kill shelter is not available, the future survivability of the pet remains uncertain. An unfortunate side-effect of an unstable economy may result in the premature death of a pet through euthanasia. Thankfully, some communities are now offering a much better alternative.

Topeka, Kansas is one such place. The Pet Assistance Network of Topeka (PANT) is a nonprofit organization that helps the pets of homeless families. PANT temporarily places pets in kennels and other professional animal shelters and will pay the boarding services until the owners are able to permanently reclaim their pet.

Here's how it works. When a client arrives with a pet at a partnering agency, the client signs an agreement and receives a PANT voucher. The pet is then sheltered at a pre-determined kennel or veterinary clinic for a specified amount of time. Other needed services such as spay/neuter services and other medical care are also provided. The provider determines the pet's suitability for boarding and if accepted, the pet receives the services listed on the voucher billed at a pre-negotiated rate. The emergency shelter then pays the bill using PANT funds made available from the generous support of donors. When the client's financial situation improves, the family reclaims their pet from the service provider.

Help from PANT is available to people seeking the services of partnering agencies including homeless families and those escaping from domestic violence. If you know someone who needs help from PANT in the Topeka, Kansas area, contact the Topeka Rescue Mission or the YWCA Battered Women Task Force, or visit www.topekapant.org.

A family who suddenly finds themselves without a home is already suffering enough without facing the loss of their treasured family pet. PANT and similar groups help to provide these pets a safe place to stay during a very difficult time so they don't become homeless or face more dire circumstances. Pet Assistance Network (PAN) programs exist in other communities as well. If more communities had such a resource, perhaps there wouldn't be so many homeless or abandoned pets.



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

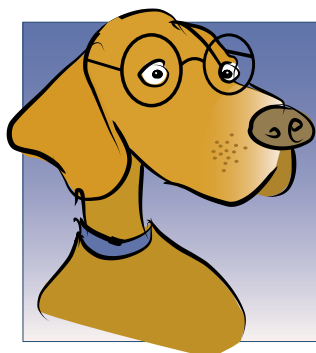
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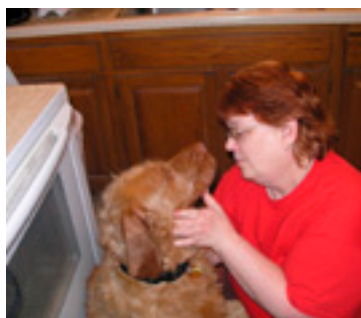
Did you know?

Over centuries of time, Hungary and the Czech Republic developed specialized hunting abilities in the Vizsla. As these two countries are remarkably similar to our Midwest with respect to terrain and climate, breeders were able to develop specific characteristics suitable to the environment in which they lived. The Northern Czech Republic bred

large Vizslas with a strong neck and forequarters weighing up to 75 lbs. They needed to be capable of retrieving large ten pound hares and geese and rugged enough to withstand cold water temperatures. In contrast, breeders in the plains regions of Hungary developed Vizslas that were smaller and faster weighing about 50 lbs.

TRAINING TIPS by polly

CRATE TRAINING YOUR DOG • by Polly Mahlman



Everyone has an opinion on crates. Which one is best, vinyl or wire? Is it cruel? Is it safe? How do you crate train a dog? What size is best? These are some of the questions that are commonly asked about crates.

Wire or vinyl is really up to you and the dog in question. Some rescues have spent their entire lives in wire, and don't do well in a wire crate. They need and feel more comfortable and secure in a vinyl crate. Some rescues have been poorly socialized and also need the privacy a vinyl crate can offer. I feel both have good uses. I use wire crates with dogs that have medical issues and require limited activity. They are able to view their surroundings and still feel like they are a part of everything. I generally cover one end of the crate so the dog has a warmer, cozier place to sleep or rest and has a "den-like" feeling where they can feel safe and secure.

Crating a dog is not cruel. It is better that the dog be crated for periods of time rather than be given up because of destructive chewing or requiring surgery as a result of swallowing something harmful. Dogs are descendants of wolves; both den dwellers and pack animals and a crate provides them the feeling of a comfy and safe den.

Feeding a dog in their crate is also a good way to control food aggression which can be a problem with rescues. We encounter at least one dog a year that was owner surrendered because of food aggression and fear their children may get harmed.

This is why it is so important that all rescues be fed and put in their crates when the foster/adoptive family is gone. The goal is to create a win-win situation for the family and the dog.

Some dogs are not familiar with crating and will initially howl and cry when left in a crate. To help your dog relax and become more comfortable, try some of these helpful training tips:

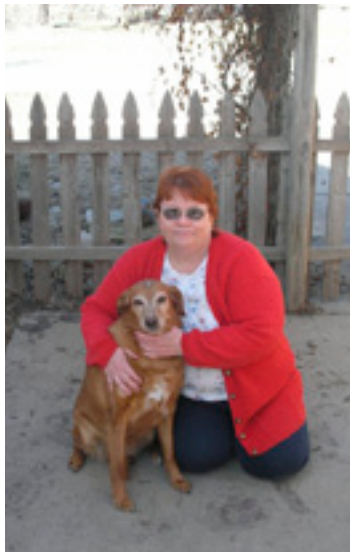
- Throw a party in the crate. If using vinyl, spread a small amount of peanut butter or cheese spread on the back wall. If using a wire crate, press small balls of food into the wire. Small amounts will ensure the dog doesn't get bored of the new taste. Try hiding dog cookies under the crate pad. For wire crates, I like to use cookies that are too big to fall through the wire so the dog has to nibble on a corner to get the cookie small enough to fall into the crate. Mix things up, keep changing what the hidden treats are and where. Kong toys that can be stuffed with small treats also add interest to a crate.

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Getting to Know a CWVRG Volunteer

INTRODUCING: POLLY MAHLMAN

Consultant, Adoption Committee



Residing in Phillipsburg, a rural town in northern Kansas, she leads a relatively quiet life with her husband Lee (if that's possible with her four dogs and several rescues at any given time.) Polly is known for taking in the rough, the tumbled, the sick and all too often, the near-death Vizslas that come into rescue. She diligently works her magic and determination on each of them until they are ready for adoption and their soon to be "forever home."

Polly and Rita initially crossed paths in 2002 in Hays, Kansas. Rita was trying to rescue a sheltered Vizsla at the time and looking for someone to help her in this region. She discovered Polly who was already well known through the shelter staff and soon became the Kansas liaison canvassing all the shelters in the state.

Polly's first experience with a Vizsla arrived in 2000. Having recently been disabled working as a prison guard; the Hays shelter gave her a six week old Vizsla/smooth coated collie mix that had bright red hair. Polly said "I named her Lucy. She was the most loving and rowdy pup I have ever owned. I adore her and training was pure joy. I looked forward to coming home and yelling "Lucy, I'm home and you have some explaining to do!" which she very often did. Every night, she still crowds me in bed and steals all the covers. Lucy is the reason I'm involved with Vizsla rescue."

A long time staunch advocate for animal rights, Polly has been rescuing animals since 1983. She worked for the Hays Humane Society and assisted in closing several puppy mills. Today, Polly is licensed as a rescue shelter in Phillipsburg and in the state of Kansas and also performs rescue work in Nebraska.

Polly is a member of the board of directors for CWVRG, Inc. and is the "Go-To" gal for re-training and re-socializing rescues with behavior issues.

"I have three Vizslas; Sophie is 9 years old and was a rescue, Bailey 5; and Diesel now 3." In addition to Lucy and the constant stream of new rescues, she enjoys having her hands full. When asked what she likes best about the breed, Polly replied "I really don't think there is anything I don't like about the breed. Sure, I complain about some of the things they do, but isn't that part of the fun of owning a Vizsla?"

Do you have a favorite rescue story that you can share with us? "There have been so many rescues that have come through my house and I love each one for the dog they were and the dog they became. Rocky and Adrienne come to mind for their complete devotion to each other. Wendy, the only hairless Vizsla I ever met and also the worst case of mange I ever hope to see. Levi, the dog that crawled on his belly through my front door and walked out that same door the best alpha male I have known."

"The very best examples of the breed temperament I have ever seen have all been rescues. The dogs left in fields to fend for themselves, left to die in shelters, beaten almost to death or dumped on back roads - all prove how noble this breed truly is, because no matter what, they learn to trust humans again. To forgive is truly a noble quality, and the Vizsla is a very forgiving breed. Everything I need to know in life I learned from my rescues. Each one brings a smile to my heart and a tear to my eye."

Polly and Lee enjoy spending their free time walking their dog's off-leash, sharing a picnic lunch and taking Diesel swimming at the lake. They share a passion for tropical fish and Polly enjoys gardening. "We are a good pair" Polly says, "I love to cook and Lee loves to eat." Polly has been integral to the success of Vizsla Rescue through her commitment and love of the breed. "The greatest success is seeing so many rescues find their forever homes." Polly closed with sharing her motto: "Remember: don't shop, adopt from a rescue or shelter."

3RD ANNUAL FUN-WALK & BARBECUE FUND RAISER

**Saturday May 15th
12:30 – 3:30 pm**

Mark your calendars!

Don't miss the fun! Please join us for the 3rd Annual Fun-Walk and Barbecue Lunch Fund Raiser on Saturday May 15th. Your overwhelming support of this event has ensured that we have enough funding each year to help every rescue that comes to us – no small feat! Come on out, relax, enjoy a barbecue lunch, have a beer and meet rescue volunteers, fellow adopters and lots and lots of Vizslas!

Bring your kids and your dogs; it's definitely a family affair! We will host a barbecue lunch under the big tent, hold drawings for door prizes followed by a leisurely fun-walk in the off-leash area of Cherry Creek State Park with lots of running and swimming for our four legged family members. The donation is \$30.00 per family and 100% of the proceeds go directly to helping Vizslas. CWVRG, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization your donation is tax deductible.

An email invitation will be coming shortly! I am looking forward to another successful event with your help and support.

For questions regarding the event, please contact Karen Phillips at 303-995-6677 or by email at karenpinco@yahoo.com.

I'm looking forward to making this year the best ever!

See you soon!

Training Tips by Polly: CRATE TRAINING

...Continued from page 3

- Initially, start with just a few minutes in the crate and gradually build up to longer periods of time. If you have trouble with them going in, throw a few cookies inside ahead of the dog. I have used pieces of hot dog stuck onto the wire with good success. You want just enough to catch their attention and interest to make them think.
- In dogs with strong character (aka: stubborn), they will find the treats, lick off the peanut butter and then begin to howl. That is when I grab the spray water bottle giving them a quick squirt followed by a firm NO command. If that doesn't work, I add 2 parts water and 1 part white vinegar. Spray the dog and again give a firm NO command. Use white vinegar only. It will not harm the dog but he may smell like a salad.
- The key is remaining firm and consistent. Do not give in. Don't let the dog out of the crate until he or she has settled down and is silent. When they do, be sure to give them lots of affection and praise and more treats. They will soon learn they are rewarded for going into their crates and settling down quickly as there are rewards on the other end.

It is worth the time and effort to crate train your dog. They are easier to house train because a dog won't soil their bed. Your favorite items are safer so both you and the dog are happier. Crate training facilitates the adoption process as feeding and sleeping routines remain consistent helping the dog to adjust better and faster in their new forever home.

As always if you have any questions feel free to give me a call or drop me an e-mail at polly@ruraltel.net.



Dollars & Cents

CWVRG, INC. FINANCIAL REPORT

1st Quarter 2010

CASH BALANCE: Guaranty Bank · Checking/Savings. \$15,494.00

REVENUE:

ADOPTIONS \$ 5,400.00
 PERSONAL \$1,284.00
 PAY PAL \$0.00
 FUND RAISERS. \$1,081.00
 GRANTS. \$164.00
TOTAL \$7,929.00

EXPENSES:

DIRECT SERVICES.-\$6,495.00
 GENERAL OPERATING . . .-\$2,027.00
TOTAL-\$8,522.00

people of cwvrg

Officers

Rita Prindle..... Founder / CEO
 Polly Mahlman VP
 Rick Prindle..... CFO
 Marianne Blackwell Secretary

Board of Directors:

Rita Prindle..... Chairman of the Board
 Angela Dazlich Director
 Alyssa McCluskey..... Director
 Jerry Moran Director
 Polly Mahlman 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..... Editor
 Teila & Scott Gilchrist Newsletter Staff
 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
 Sharon Kennedy Education Liaison/Breeder Referral
 Laura Adams Foster Liason
 Teila Gilchrist & Polly Mahlman
 Jerry Moran & Laura Adams 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.