



# CSDR NEWS

CHIHUAHUA & SMALL DOG RESCUE, INC



## Rosa's Happy Ending

By Rick Sewick

Our story begins with our family, my fiancé, Michelle, her daughter Molly, myself and your older, long haired chihuahua, Maggie. As the years have gone by, Maggie has quieted down and become quite content to just chill most of the time. Although I was aware of the fact that quieter behavior is normal for a dog of this age, it wasn't until I started working at home in May 2008 that I took note of how Maggie spent her days.

Maggie's lounging around had become listless in nature. Her usual interest in passers-by and street activities had gone. The most active she seemed to get would be circling the

table at dinner time, just waiting for that crumb to fall. Maggie simply appeared to be lonely and depressed, sleeping away most of her days.

Thinking that perhaps getting a companion for Maggie may help her mood, I worked out the pros and cons of getting another dog. I immediately knew that bringing a puppy into the house would be disruptive as it went through the long training period. Furthermore, I suspected that a puppy's energy would probably not engage Maggie as much as it would alienate her. I thought an older dog may be good company for Maggie, and we discussed the idea of adopting an older dog

as part of the family.

I began my search for an older dog to adopt online. After checking out a couple of sites, I came across Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue. While reading through the stories of all the dogs that were available for adoption, I read the story of Lacey and Honey. Their story just pulled at me to consider adopting the two of them as a pair so as not to separate them. We talked about it at home for a few days, read more adoptee's stories and eventually filled out the application to adopt Honey & Lacey.

A few days after submitting the application, we

received a call from Sue who came to do our home visit and assist us with selecting the right dog for our family. Although Honey & Lacey were the perfect temperament for our family, we decided that perhaps there would be other issues that would prevent them from being the perfect fit.

We went back to the adoption site to view some more stories and better assess who might be a good fit. As luck would have it, CSDR had two different events coming up that we would be CONT. ON PAGE 3

## Enjoy Spring Safely

By Jeanne Stroh

Now that I've seen my first robin and first blooming daffodil, I know that spring is here and it's time to start thinking about gardening, always with my dogs in mind. A good first step at this early stage of spring is to inspect the back yard,

looking for gaps in the fences and picking up any trash that may have blown in. I also look for broken branches and twigs, especially those that have thorns.

Naturally, insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers are dangerous for

pets. Snail and slug baits can be extremely toxic, even fatal. Spring is a good time to check that these items are stored safely and out of reach of pets. Some people change their coolant in their cars in spring. Be sure to clean up any spills and store

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### Enjoy Spring Safely Cont.

anti-freeze safely as it is very toxic to cats and dogs. The sweet smell and taste attract animals to it.

Later in spring, mulching to preserve moisture is a common task in our dry climate. There have been reports of dogs dying after eating large amounts of cocoa mulch. "Most mulches are safe, but cocoa bean mulch is made from the hulls of cocoa beans and when fresh has a rich, chocolate aroma. Ingestion of large amounts of fresh mulch can result in chocolate toxicity." (PetPlace.com, <https://store.petplace.com/dogs/lawn-garden-hazards-in-dogs/page1.aspx>) Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine, which are toxic in large amounts. I like to use shredded cedar mulch, which isn't nearly as interesting to chew on and not toxic like cocoa mulch. Some of the new rubber based mulches might be attractive to dogs that like to chew. These probably won't hurt dogs unless they swallow enough to block their intestines.

In springtime, Easter comes with several hazards for dogs. All candy can be

problematic, but chocolate is particularly dangerous. Decorations can be hazardous if chewed and swallowed, especially the ever popular plastic grass to line Easter baskets. This can block the intestines of a dog if swallowed.

My dogs like to roll in the dead grass in the spring, so I check them frequently and carefully for burrs, plant seeds, and thorns. I run my hands over their entire bodies searching for stickers and then check between the toes and pads on each foot. Ears and eyes also need to be checked, however this needs to be done gently. Removing stickers before they work their way into the skin avoids infections and pain for the little guys.

Many garden plants can be dangerous for dogs, and in fact, I have found several plants in my yard listed as hazardous. I don't panic and rip out the plants but try to use common sense when deciding what plants can stay. For example, daffodil bulbs are toxic, but very, very few Chihuahuas will dig 6-8 inches to get at them. I do, however, check lists of hazardous plants before adding new plants to the garden. ■



1. If I like it, it's MINE.
2. If it's in my mouth, it's MINE.
3. If I can take it from you, it's MINE.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's MINE.
5. If it's MINE, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I'm chewing something up, all the pieces are MINE.
7. If it just looks like mine, it's MINE.
8. If I saw it first, it's MINE.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes MINE.
10. If it's broken, it's yours.

Author Unknown

## From Our Readers

Starting with this newsletter, we will have a section featuring comments and pictures from our readers. If you have a picture of your little one you would like to see in the newsletter or a comment on one of our stories, please email us at [csdrnews@yahoo.com](mailto:csdrnews@yahoo.com)

### Separation Anxiety

I just read your article on separation anxiety and thought you would get a kick out of my remedy. I take my sweetie to work with me every day. I'm lucky enough that my office job/boss is totally okay with it. Now he greets the mail person, UPS/FedEx drivers and our clients. They get such a kick out of Teddy. When he isn't greeting people, Teddy spends his days napping and begging for snacks, he LOVES it.

Thanks so much

Prudence S.



## Rosa's Happy Ending Cont.

able to attend. Both events would give us the opportunity to get acquainted with several available dogs. We met a few dogs in Colorado Springs, but did not get a good feel of a match.

We had read Rosa's story and arranged to meet her in Denver. On September 14<sup>th</sup> we made the trip to Denver to meet Rosa and her foster mom, Jamie. When we arrived, we saw Rosa sitting in her foster mom's carrying pouch.

Rosa looked very calm, with her paws folded over one another in a very lady-like fashion. After conversing for some time with Jamie and holding Rosa, we decided that this was going to be the right fit for us and went ahead with the adoption. It was an emotional parting for Rosa and Jamie, and we appreciated how hard it was for a foster parent to part with their adoptee after working so long to acclimate the dogs to a normal home life. With a few tears shed by all involved, we departed Denver with Rosa.

Rosa was very quiet that first week, spending most of her day in bed with her ears down. We recognized that this time was a difficult transition for her and coaxed her out as much as we could, letting her adjust in her own way. Rosa immediately loved our back yard, as often as we could we let her out to enjoy the sunshine. After several days, Rosa began to wonder out of her bed more and more. She seemed to trust Michelle most of all and would brighten up every time she walked into the room. Soon Rosa's tail started wagging, and Michelle could coax her to go outside just by calling her. Rosa now gets totally silly every time Michelle walks into a room, lying on her back, tail wagging, belly exposed and paws posed at her face, just begging for a belly rub. I often refer to her as Michelle's shadow these days!

Rosa is still a bit tentative with the rest of us. I have been working with her to make her more comfortable with me petting her and picking her up. Our relationship is coming along marvelously. Although I cannot pick her up at all, I have finally figured out that all I need to do is pick up Maggie and Rosa will follow along.

Maggie has perked up quite a bit with Rosa around, the girls are constant companions. They both run to the window barking at whoever is passing by. Usually Maggie will start barking at the first sign of anything stirring outside, and Rosa, not even knowing what Maggie is barking at, will chime in as she runs to the window to see what Maggie is so excited about. When Michelle is away, just the sound of the garage door opening announces her return and the girls are barking at the door greeting their mom. I think we have found a good companion for Maggie, have added to our family, and have rescued a dog. If you are considering adding to your family, adopting a rescued dog will provide satisfaction that you have helped out an animal in need. ■

Put a string of lights around your heart!

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## Welcome to CSDR!!

Pattie Sexton  
Jackie McCormick  
Kris Kirkpatrick  
Katie Applehans  
Jess Catalano  
Ann Tuffan  
Melissa Hewitt  
Gloris Molnar

## Upcoming Meet & Greet's

Come visit with some of our little ones that are available for adoption. Our foster parents will be available to answer questions and we will accept applications for adoption. This is a day when you can meet several of our little ones at the same time. We look forward to seeing you there.



Mamacita is one of our many dogs looking for a forever home. You can read more about her and see others available by going to the Furry Friends page on our website.

April 11, 2009

PetCo  
4515 Continental Heights  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
9:00am - 3:00pm

April 18, 2009

PetCo  
450 E. 120th Ave, Unit A2  
Northglenn, CO 80233  
9:00am - 3:30pm

April 25, 2009

PetCo  
4515 Continental Heights  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
9:00am - 3:00pm

May 9, 2009

PetCo  
4515 Continental Heights  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
9:00am - 3:00pm

May 16, 2009

PetCo  
450 E. 120th Ave, Unit A2  
Northglenn, CO 80233  
9:00am - 3:30pm

PetCo  
17132 W. Colfax  
Golden, CO  
10:00am - 4:00pm

May 23, 2009

PetCo  
4515 Continental Heights  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
9:00am - 3:00pm

## I Found My Forever Home!

The following little ones were adopted during the months of January & February.

- ♥ Black Jack
- ♥ Honey
- ♥ Molly
- ♥ Patch
- ♥ Harley
- ♥ Buffy Jack
- ♥ Midge
- ♥ Oliver
- ♥ Penelope
- ♥ Buster Brown
- ♥ Ricky
- ♥ Otis
- ♥ Teddy Bear
- ♥ Lucy
- ♥ Molly II
- ♥ Abby
- ♥ Olivia



## Resources

Comprehensive list of dangerous garden plants, see <http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/hazards.htm>.

Foods that are toxic to dogs: <http://www.entirelypets.com/dogfoodhazard.html>.

Holiday hazards: [http://petcare.suite101.com/article.cfm/holiday\\_hazards\\_for\\_cats\\_and\\_dogs](http://petcare.suite101.com/article.cfm/holiday_hazards_for_cats_and_dogs).

Summer hazards: <http://www.petplace.com/dogs/summer-hazards-in-dogs/page1.aspx>.

Easter hazards: <http://www.petplace.com/dogs/easter-hazards-in-dogs/page1.aspx>.

Comprehensive list of hazards: [http://www.phoenixvalleydogtraining.com/hazards/dog\\_hazards.html](http://www.phoenixvalleydogtraining.com/hazards/dog_hazards.html).