

Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc.**Newsletter****From our President**

Dear Friends:

It seems like only yesterday that I adopted two Chihuahuas from an out-of-state rescue group and decided, on the drive home, that I could do better.

But it was twelve years ago!

The two little ones were filthy, with nails curled into their pads, and both required medical attention. I simply couldn't fathom how a rescue group that charged an adoption fee hadn't even attended to the most minor of these dogs' needs.

And so I founded Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, insisting that we COULD do better – and we DO!

Our original team of two volunteers in 2005 has grown to more than 100 in 2017. We may have rescued only seventeen little ones in 2005, but we've saved more than 1,600 lives since then,

We're very proud of our extremely low return rate of only ½ of 1 percent. Keenly aware of how hard people work for their money, we make the most of our tax-deductible donations, keeping the rate of our yearly overhead expenses at between 6 and 9 percent.

We're especially proud of having earned a Platinum Level with GuideStar because of our transparency and commitment to spending our donations wisely.

We're particularly proud of our volunteers for being as dedicated and devoted as they are, and for believing so passionately in what we do. Despite the fact that they all work elsewhere full time, and don't get paid for their work with us, they're always available whenever and wherever needed.

Our tradition has been to build on the previous year's successes and we've grown better because of it. Now, as we enter our thirteenth year, that tradition will continue as WE continue to provide the little ones we rescue with the best possible medical care and the best possible foster homes. And to ensure that we continue to DO better, we've added an animal behaviorist and several highly skilled trainers to our existing team

of volunteers.

I'm profoundly grateful for the ongoing commitment and generous support of our donors, board members, partners and volunteers. Your loyalty, devotion and belief in us are deeply appreciated, and I thank you for all that you do for Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue.

Warm regards,

Sue Fisher, President

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Please Remember Us on Colorado Gives Day!



Safety in Homes With Dogs and Children

By Jennifer Ayalon



While most dogs show a positive attraction towards children, a good relationship between them requires work. Many of the children bitten by dogs are bitten by family pets, and while it's easy to blame the animal, it's primarily the fault of the adults who haven't provided the leadership and guidance the dogs and children require.

Small children, in their innocence, don't realize they may be abusing the dog when they pull on its ears or poke their finger into its eyes. Babies have a grasping instinct that could cause them to inadvertently pinch the dog. Some breeds, including French and English Bulldogs and English Mastiffs, will tolerate just about any "punishment" from a child, but many breeds won't.

Responsible adults must teach their children the proper way to behave towards a dog, and even babies can be taught through positive reinforcement never to pull at or pinch a dog. Small dogs are often looked upon as toys by children too young to understand that a dog is a living entity. Striking one is totally unacceptable behavior and must never be tolerated. Due to the potential for harm on both sides, babies, toddlers and children younger than 7 or 8 should never be left alone with a dog even for a few minutes.

Not only must children learn the proper way to behave around dogs, but dogs must also learn that even the small-

est baby is above them in "rank." Dogs believing they are "superior" to any human in the home are more likely to bite than those viewing humans as superior. Use positive reinforcement as much as possible when accustoming your own dog to its proper household status, but "time out" periods in a crate or a correction with a sharp word may also be needed. Dogs receiving obedience training are less likely to cause problems than those without training.

To avoid problems when bringing a new baby home, make your dog a part of the preparations beforehand. Dogs are just as likely as an older child to become jealous when a baby arrives if they feel deprived of the attention they've previously received. Once the baby is born, have the father bring home a blanket or article of clothing the baby has worn to accustom your dog to the baby's scent. Keep your dog close by while you feed, bathe and change the baby, but once again, never leave them alone together.

Children will often make a beeline to a dog outside. But a strange dog is an unknown quantity, and children must be taught to never approach one they don't know. They must also be taught to first ask the owner's permission to pet any dog they see.

They must learn that a growl means "NO" in "dog language" and to never approach a growling dog. And if a dog

rushes at them, to never run: this turns them into "prey." Teach them to stand perfectly still, lower their eyes, then slowly back away.

In short, with time, patience and consistency, training both your dogs and your children will reduce the likelihood of any conflict between them.



The Best Way to Show Thanks to your Pet.

All pets come with “special care” instructions: daily food, forever love, and yearly checkups. You may have the first two covered, but what about the last one?

Yearly checkups by your vet are equally important! They’re essential to your furry friends’ happiness and wellbeing, and the best way to keep them healthier longer.

During these exams, your pet is checked from tongue and teeth to toes and tail – as well as all the parts in between. An annual, in-depth checkup not only assesses your pet’s current health status, but also helps prevent future problems, such as obesity, periodontal disease and diabetes. It also gives your vet the opportunity to discuss the various ways to keep your pet in the best possible shape and to answer any and all of your own questions.

Yes, all pets come with “special care” instructions: daily food (but not from the Thanksgiving dinner table); forever love (you do that best!), and yearly checkups (to ensure your pet’s ongoing health).

Call your vet now to book an appointment for your pet’s yearly checkup. Your pet will thank you too!



Thanksgiving Safety Tips for Pets

Thanksgiving is a special holiday that brings together family and friends, but it can also pose some health hazards for pets. Not only must holiday food be kept away from them, but traveling pet owners must either transport them safely or place them in safe accommodations beforehand.

Please follow these tips to keep your own pets healthy and safe this Thanksgiving.

1. Keep the feast on the table -- not under it.
2. No pie or other desserts for your pet.
3. Yeast dough can cause your pet problems.
4. Store the trash where your pet can't

find it.

5. Some decorative plants are poisonous to pets.

Travel Precautions

1. Your pet needs a health certificate from your vet if you’re crossing state lines or international borders, whether by air or by car.
2. Never leave your pet alone in a vehicle -- even for a short time -- regardless of the weather.
3. Pack for your pet as well as for yourself.
4. If you’re considering boarding your pet while you travel, ask your vet how to

best protect your pet from canine flu and other contagious diseases, and ensure all vaccines are up to date.





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The friendship and love each pet finds with a family is remarkable. If you have cherished a pet, then you know all about the chemistry of love: that magical bond unique to each pet and pet owner. Won't you please help the dogs we rescue ultimately experience that same magical bond by making a tax-deductible contribution towards their medical care today?

<http://chihuahua-smalldogrescue.org/how-you-can-help/>

Helping Dogs and People Find Their Perfect Match

Follow us, like us and please share us with
your family and friends.



Become a Foster Parent

Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue would like to ask you to please open your home to a Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue asks that you open your home to a small dog in need so that we may save more lives than ever before. Not everyone is ready for a lifetime commitment of having their own dog, but as a foster parent your commitment is both temporary and vital because you are the bridge between these dogs' pasts and their futures. A loving place of refuge until they find their fur-ever homes.

"Can I crash on your couch for awhile?" they ask.

Nothing is more fulfilling than fostering a little one and knowing you're saving not just one life, but two.

Won't you please join the other families who foster by filling out an application at:

<http://chihuahua-smalldogrescue.org/foster-parent-application>

