

Chihuahua &amp; Small Dog Rescue, Inc.

# Newsletter

## CSDR Celebrates Our 12th Birthday!

Loved. Nourished. Sheltered. Saved. These four words form the doghouse that surrounds the single, small dog in our logo.

And these same four words describe the mission of CSDR that began with our founding in 2005.

Over the last twelve years, we have rescued more than 1,600 Chihuahuas and other small breed dogs. We have grown to include more than 100 compassionate and committed volunteers, including those who temporarily foster our little ones until they are placed in permanent adoptive homes. We have held three major fundraising events, raised more than \$364,000.00 in private and corporate donations, and paid out more than \$718,000.00 in medical costs and other expenses.

Because the overall health of the dogs we rescue is of tantamount importance to us, we have, since our inception, covered each dog's routine vaccinations, spay/neuter procedures, microchipping, heartworm and parvo testing, and heartworm prevention, and most recently, dental work.

But no matter the illness or injury, whether patellar luxation or open-heart surgery, we ensure that our dogs receive the medical attention they require. Thankfully, we have the support of three superb veterinary hospitals and three excellent emergency veterinary hospitals to fulfill our every need.

Now, as we enter our 13<sup>th</sup> year, we do so with renewed dedication, vitality and purpose. And we ask all of you to join us – by funding, fostering or volunteering – as we set our sights on rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing more deserving dogs than ever before.

Won't you help us make lucky number 13 our best year yet?



### Inside this issue:

Bundle up this winter	2
Happiness is a Happy Tail	3
A Question with No Answer	3
October is a great month for animals	4
Halloween Safety Tips for Pets	4
Donate	5
Follow Us	5
Why Join CSDR	5



## Bundle up this winter By, Trupanion—Medical insurance for your pet.

Leave your dog's fur longer during the winter to keep them warm. If you have a puppy, kitten, or a shorthair-breed pet, consider purchasing a coat or sweater to cover their back and underside — fleece is a great option!

### Winter diet

In the cold winter, your pet will burn more calories to keep warm. If your pet exercises outdoors a lot, think about increasing their food intake by a little bit. You should be able to feel, but not see, your pet's ribs.

Tips from our Director of Veterinary Services, Denise Petryk, DVM: Depending on where you live, a change in season can result in a dramatically different exercise schedule and therefore a corresponding change in the number of calories your pet needs to consume. It takes more energy in cold weather to keep your body temperature regulated, so sometimes additional calories are necessary. For example, if you spend more time outside with your dog walking in the cooler weather, your pet may need more food. Similarly, if your dog spends some time in an outside run or kennel with falling temperatures, they may need more food. However, if

you and your pet are spending more time curled up by a warm fire and are only playing indoor games of fetch, they may require less food.

### Troublesome toxins

Keeping walkways walkable and driveways drivable in the winter often requires the use of salt or chemical de-icers which are poisonous to pets. Try to avoid contact with de-icers when with your pet, and wipe them down with a wet towel then completely dry them off after outside play to remove any chemicals they could've come in contact with. Remember, if you're putting antifreeze in your car, use a pet-friendly or propylene glycol option.

### Baby, it's cold outside

While many pets have fur to protect them from the cold, dogs and cats need plenty of time to acclimate to the colder weather.

Keep your pets indoors as much as possible, especially cats and small, sick, or short-haired dogs. Winter is a great time to look into indoor training or obedience classes, like agility and flyball, so your dog can get plenty of mental and physical exercise.

### Catnaps and cars

In the cold winter, outdoor cats in the area may find the engine block under the

warm hood of your car to be a great spot to snooze. Before you start your car in the morning, bang on your hood a little to wake up any sleeping cats.

### Car safety

Just like when it's hot out, don't leave your pet in your car when it's particularly cold out. Your car can act like a refrigerator as it holds in the cold. When in doubt, leave your pet at home when you know you'll have to leave them unattended in the car.

### Fitness and exercise

If it's not too cold out for you, your dog can get some aerobic exercise outside that will also keep them warm. Walking in wooded areas is a good way to protect them from chilly wind gusts. If it's too cold, entice them to exercise indoors with tug-of-war, fetch, or a playdate with another pet-friend.

### Winter skin solutions

Dogs get dry, flaky skin in the winter just like humans do. Use a humidifier and provide plenty of drinking water in your home — your pet's skin will thank you. Bathe your pet less frequently and make sure to completely dry them after baths. Brushing their coat stimulates blood circulation and can help improve the overall condition of their skin.

## Happiness is a Happy Tail

Hi! My name is Zag. My four siblings and I were only twelve days old when, along with our mother, Zoey, we entered the care of CSDR. No one knew who our father was, and being a 'lady', mom never said.

I soon discovered that being a puppy can be scary. At least for the first three months. I got three rounds of shots, I was de-wormed, and most importantly I was spayed and then micro-chipped. Woof about hard work!

Then it was time for me to find my fur-ever home. With my dad still a mystery, the rescue told potential adopters that they could only guess at my eventual size and weight based on how much mom weighed.

But it didn't seem to matter all that much because I was adopted into a wonderful home in February 2017, and my name was changed to Jessie. To tell you the truth, I

like my new name better. I'm now a year old and my family still loves me despite the fact that I grew and grew! My human mom says I'm oh so awesome and oh so cute, and I'd have to agree with her. Now these are her words, not mine:

"Jessie is a sweet and silly girl. She's my shadow, following me everywhere I go. She just loves to play with her best friend next door, and she's such a perfect member of our family."

I love my new family.

**Submit your pictures and story of the little one you adopted .**



Zag at 2 months old



Zag at 1 Year old



## A Question with No Answer

How often are we asked: What's this particular dog's background? What's his or her story?

Sadly, all too often. And sadly, much of the time we ourselves don't have the answers. The reason is that, for the most part, we work with shel-

ters. And all too often, the most they can say is "this dog was a stray or this dog was recovered from a hoarding situation or this dog was relinquished to us."

These are the times we wish the little ones in our care could speak. These are the

times we wish they could tell us what happened to them before they came to us. But sadly, they can't speak, and therefore, their stories remain theirs and theirs alone. The best we, as a rescue, can do is fill in the blanks with attention and affection, treatment and training, then provide

each untold story with a happily ever-after ending.

## October is a great month for animals.

It's National Service Dog Month, National Animal Safety and Protection Month, ASPCA's Adopt a Shelter Dog Month and there's even a shout-out to cats this month on National Cat Day, October 29. With all of these warm and fuzzy feelings circulating in the autumn air, it's a perfect time to take a good, hard look at your pet. How has he/she been acting lately?

Nipping. Scratching. Litter box issues. Leash pulling. Meowing at night. Urinating on the floor. Chewing shoes. Are these behaviors just part of being a "normal" dog or cat, or not?

Some common behavior issues are due to underlying medical problems. These illnesses are tough to recognize even for the most observant owners. For example, if your dog started nipping at the kids, it

may be a sign he's in pain. Your cat may stop jumping on your lap. Not because she's being unfriendly, but because she has arthritis and it hurts.

If these behaviors are left unchecked, it's a triple issue. The behavior may worsen, the underlying medical condition may progress (which puts your pet's health at risk), and most importantly, your pet's quality of life as part of your family is compromised.

Here's where your vet can help. They have the expertise when it comes to analyzing, identifying and resolving behavior issues with your pet. If you see a change in your pet's behavior it is time to talk with your vet.

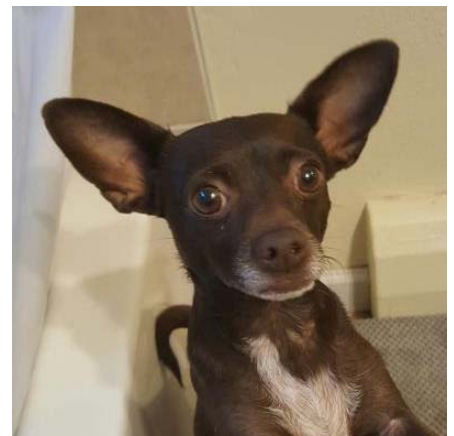


## Halloween Safety Tips for Pets

Halloween can be a festive and fun time for children and families. But for pets? Let's face it, it can be a downright nightmare. Forgo the stress and dangers this year by following these 10 easy tips.

1. Trick-or-treat candies are not for pets.
2. Don't leave pets out in the yard on Halloween.
3. Keep pets confined and away from the door.
4. Keep glow sticks away from pets.
5. Keep Halloween plants such as pumpkins and corn out of reach.
6. Don't keep lit pumpkins around pets.
7. Keep electric and battery-powered Halloween decorations out of reach.

8. Don't dress your pet in a costume unless you know they'll love it.
9. Try on pet costumes before the big night.
10. Collars and IDs, please!





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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.



## Why Join CSDR

The dogs we save may be small, but our hearts are large. The challenges they face may seem insurmountable, but once in our care, these challenges pale in the face of our compassion and commitment, devotion and determination. Because we believe every dog deserves a second chance at a first real life, every one of us is dedicated to making that happen.

We're now asking for your personal contribution to our cause. We're asking for YOUR compassion and commitment, devotion and determination by joining our dedicated team of volunteers. We're asking for your own unique voice and perspective, creativity and talent as you lend all four to our own unique organization.

The more volunteers we have, the more we can accomplish, the more projects we can undertake, the more educational programs we can provide, the more activities we can host, and the more funds we can raise.

The more volunteer foster homes we have, the more lives of Chihuahuas and other small breed dogs we can save.

No two volunteers are the same, but the experience of volunteering is. It can be one of the most satisfying and fulfilling experiences of your life.

Won't you consider adding your hands and hearts to ours?

