

*ROO ROOs &
December*



*WIGGLE BUTTS
2007*

President's Report:

We had another very busy year and it looks like that is going to become the norm. We took in 57 rescues by year's end, 49 were adopted.

I wanted to show my appreciation to all of you, so I decided to have a Volunteer/Member Appreciation Day and it was planned for June of last year. Many of you expressed a desire to have Polly come out and teach her training techniques to you so she was there. I am only sorry that more of you did not make it. We had catered food and a good time was had by all. I am hoping to make this an annual event.

In September we had our annual reunion. Every reunion gets better than the one before and this one was no exception. Seeing all the adopted Vizslas with their families and you wonderful CWVRG members just made my day.

I want to thank all of you who helped to put on this wonderful, successful reunion. A BIG thanks to **Katie** for pulling this off. She told me she cooked the pasta salad and made the pesto/cream cheese dip. What a wonderful spread. **Angela** baked a chocolate cake that looked yummy (I didn't get too much of a chance to eat - too busy schmoozing). She also donated some items for fund raising. **Kelli** made a wonderful rum cake and had specific instructions that it was off limits to children, since it was made with real rum. This was Kelli's first rescue reunion and she had a really good time. She is our first "show" person, besides me, and it was good to have her. **Roni** brought several items for our fund raiser sales and helped a lot 'til the end of the day. **Alyssa** was everywhere at once, helping people get situated, answering questions, welcoming guests, and helping set up everything.

A special thanks to my friend **Steven Hammer**. He called me after he heard about a Vizsla "gathering" and wanted to know more. I told him that it was our rescue reunion, and that he could come if he would help me out. since Rick had a car show that

weekend. He perked up and said he would come early. I put him to work collecting money for things we sold and donations.

More than 62 members & adopters were in attendance with their dogs. Some people had at least one or more dogs with them. It was great seeing all those red dogs having a blast. People were very generous and after expenses, we cleared almost \$370.00.

Again, thanks to all of you for a great reunion. For those who couldn't make it, you really missed a good time and hopefully you can make it next year. You show members are really missing a great event.



Annual Reunion, September 2007

VCA Rescue organization has had a change at the helm. The VCA WF has decided that since two rescue coordinators have become 501c3 non-profit they would be considered a Point of Contact and no longer rescue coordinators. This makes things easier for our group and I no longer consider us as affiliated with the VCA Rescue program. We will, of course, maintain communication with them and help wherever we can to rescue the Vizsla.



Cartoon by: Tracey Adams

2007 Rescue Statistics

Total for 2007 = 57

2007 Breakdown:

CO = 32

Strays = 4

KS = 25

PTS = 3

NE = 0

Transfers to other rescues = 2

NM = 0

Returns in 2007 = 3

UT/ID = 0

Purebreds = 51

Mixes = 6

Males = 27

Females = 30

Owner Surrender = 38

Shelters/Transfers = 15

TOTAL RESCUES SINCE DAY ONE:



237!

Rescue Reflections

Today, while waiting for my nieces and nephew outside the school and holding Diesel, my seven-week old Vizsla puppy, I noticed how perfect he is. He is happy, healthy and full of the true spirit of the breed. This made me think of all the rescues that have passed through my house these past years; the ones that we as a group have saved, and the ones we lost. I thought of the many excuses given to me as to why a person could no longer keep the once perfect puppy that they once held much the same way I was holding Diesel. I thought about the difference between the “breeders” of those dogs and Diesel’s origins. Diesel is co-owned so his breeder is there for him for life. The rescue’s owners might not even be able to find their dog’s breeder.

Diesel’s litter was planned for conformation, type and temperament. The rescued pup’s breeding was planned solely for the almighty dollar. Diesel has an impressive pedigree, the rescues most often have nothing, if anything only the sire and dam’s names. The rescue is disposable; no one cares what happens to them. They are dumped at the sides of roads, shelters, or at my front door with excuses. Some are dumped at Rita’s door by way of e-mail, but none are turned away, not even if medical costs will be high to save their lives. Believe me there have been way too many, because even one Vizsla in need is too many.

This brings me to Faith who was the pick of her litter, according to her “breeder.” She was perfect, born to a back yard breeder, who did not bother to check whether the prospective buyer was knowledgeable about the breed, or if it was the right home for the pup. He just put an ad in the local newspaper and first come first served.

Faith was handed over to the first person with the right amount of cash in his pocket. She went home with this unknown person – he was unknown to Faith and unknown to the breeder. This perfect *pick of the litter* puppy was sent home with a less-than perfect stranger. This young man was a perfect puppy’s worst nightmare. He beat her almost daily. If she didn’t behave the way he wanted, then a slap or a kick was sure to follow. She lived for two months in this hell, until the young man finally went too far. He broke the femur of her left hind leg. She was only 14 weeks old. His mother turned Faith over to rescue, CWVRG, Inc. after an SOS

call to Rita. Faith was taken to the closest volunteer and she had surgery to pin her leg the very next day! Faith was found to be terrified of men (I can’t imagine why), but worse yet she began to lose the feeling in her left foot and leg. After the pin was removed the leg deteriorated. Calcification of the bone in the area of the fracture was now causing a large lump and pinching the nerves and blood vessels of the leg. There was no other way to save her life; the leg had to be removed. She accepted this with true Vizsla spirit. When she came home from the hospital the day after surgery, she ran full speed up the stairs to my bedroom!

Now it was time to start looking for the perfect home for a still, in my opinion, perfect six-month old puppy. The perfect family found us. Teila and Scott were known to CWVRG, Inc; they had helped with transportation, and notification of Vs in shelters for several years. Teila contacted us because their V, Falco, had just recently crossed over the rainbow bridge, and they were interested in adopting a rescue. Faith was my first thought. She was not listed on our website, which is common when we have a dog that needs a special home, plus she was not yet released by the vet to go to a forever home. Faith wasn’t to be released until the 6th of October, but she had made unexpected progress and was released nine days early. Scott and Teila changed their plans around to come and get her on September 29th. They drove to my house to meet Faith and it was love at first sight!



Faith, Settling Into A New Life At Her Forever Home

The young man who abused Faith has a warrant for his arrest for felony animal abuse. It will follow him

for the rest of his life, but Faith has left that life behind her. Because she had the courage to put her *FAITH* in people who rescue Vizslas, to be their voice, to be there for them for the rest of their lives, who don't let perfect three-legged puppies go to a person that answered an ad in a newspaper, with the correct amount of money in his pocket, but instead believe that all Vizslas should be placed the same way as Diesel – with love of the breed, and true caring. **Polly**

**“He is your friend, your partner,
your defender, your dog.**

You are his life, his love, his leader.

**“He will be yours, faithful and true
to the last beat of his heart.**

**You owe it to him to be worthy of
such devotion.”**

Unknown

Animal Cruelty – Taking a Stance

After I finished reading the story of Bindi (aka Faith) and what brought her into rescue, my first reaction was one of sadness mixed with a healthy dose of anger (as reading any story of animal abuse often does). But there was something about Faith's story, and while I couldn't put my finger on it, it stayed with me for days afterward.

As her story unfolded and sadly included the amputation of her leg, I couldn't help but think about the loss of her innocence and the challenges that lie ahead for her. I knew at that point I had to get involved.

As I began thinking about animal cruelty, I realized I didn't know a lot about Colorado laws. My search led me to ask more questions about the current laws. Where do our legislators stand on the issue? What components are needed to have effective anti-cruelty laws? How do Colorado and Wyoming stack up against other states with respect to animal cruelty laws? Here's what I found:

Colorado statutes deem it a criminal offense when a person knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence mistreats or neglects an animal, fails to provide the animal with proper food, drink, or protection from the weather, or abandons the animal. It does not apply to livestock or farm animals when treatment is in accordance with accepted agricultural practices, research animals subject to adopted regulations, animals in rodeos, dogs used for legal hunting activities, or wildlife nuisances.

Aggravated cruelty to animals is defined as a person who recklessly or with criminal negligence, tortures, mutilates or kills an animal. It is considered a class 6 felony with up to 90 days of jail time or home detention with assessment for all costs of care.

So, what are the penalties if convicted of animal cruelty?

Cruelty to animals is considered a class 1 misdemeanor. The court may order an offender to complete an anger management program or mental health evaluation, paid for by the offender. There is a mandatory five hundred dollar minimum fine. If a person is convicted of a second or subsequent conviction for animal cruelty, there is a mandatory minimum fine of one thousand dollars and completion of an anger management treatment program.

What has been accomplished recently?

Last year, provisions were added to the current laws that allow euthanizing abused animals under certain circumstances without a court order, if deemed appropriate by a licensed veterinarian. It added sex with animals to the statute, crimes against animals that are used as coercion in a romantic relationship to "domestic violence" no contact with animals in a protective order and finally, genetic marker testing for violators.

Animal Cruelty Laws: Where Do Colorado and Wyoming Stand?

State	Colorado	Wyoming
Felony	Yes	Yes
Year Effective	2002	2003
Max Jail	6 years	2 years
Max Fine	\$500,000	\$5,000
Counseling Required	Yes	No

What we can do to further the effort against animal cruelty?

Education

Educate and encourage others to take care of the animals they have. Much of the time, it is people with their hearts in the right place, and simply a matter of not knowing all the facts.

Get Involved with Your Local and State Government

Writing a letter to your local city counsel and state legislator/senator doesn't take a lot of time. It will raise the awareness that something more needs to be done and it's a serious problem. Write your local prosecutor and encourage them to take a strong stance with animal cruelty. Pass on the information to friends and family that can also send letters, emails or make a phone call.

Good Samaritan Laws

A person acting in good faith, who reports a suspected incident of animal cruelty to a local law enforcement agency to the state bureau of animal protection, is immune from civil liability for reporting the incident.

What should a good felony anti-cruelty law have?

- Apply to all animals
- Apply to first time offenders
- Mandate large fines and lengthy prison time as penalties
- No exemptions
- Mandate counseling at offenders expense
- Prohibit abusers from possessing animals

Fortunately, Faith's story has a happy ending. She is now in her forever home with loving, caring people who will foster that Vizsla spirit that we all cherish. I encourage everyone to participate, even in a small way, to make the animal cruelty laws tougher in every state. We still have a lot of work to do to make a difference in the lives of our animals.

Vizsla Talk, An Open Forum

Happy New Year! We are pleased to introduce a new column that will be in each issue and we want to hear from you! This column is designed to be an open forum for your ideas, concerns and questions regarding your favorite four-legged friend. Whether it's a behavioral, dietary, health or social issue, we value your insights and experience and want to share that collective and often hard-won knowledge with all of you. We will also research professional approaches to issues and share new thoughts and ideas.



So, I can't chew on myself? No problem!

To launch the first column, we quickly honed in on a behavioral issue that is near and dear to our hearts and our homes; the primal need to seek, chew and destroy. My V is a "stealth chewer." Sixty pounds of muscle and mischief, he quietly and deviously selects his targets at random, sometimes just in the next room where five minutes previously, he was sleeping on the sofa looking innocent and angelic. He has a penchant for

washcloths, dishtowels, socks, slippers and most recently, a down quilt. Soon after realizing that he was “missing in action,” I went into my search and rescue mode to discover that my living room floor was covered in billowy clouds of down. Sitting quite happily in the midst of it was that trademark fluttering tail attached to a dog that was quite pleased with himself, as if to say, “Look what I did!”

Research says chewing can be due to lack of exercise or companionship, which can lead to boredom. Vizslas have a genuine need to run and play, and if given the opportunity to expend their energy in a more constructive way, the risk of chewing will be significantly reduced.

Vizslas have a strong genetic predisposition to chew, mouth and teethe, some more than others. Chewing is their way of playing and exploring. Sometimes there are behavioral reasons for chewing, and it can be the result of being lonely, bored or just because they really enjoy it.



Have you ever wondered how much stuffing is required to fill a pillow? Research results courtesy of Bella Scofield, 18 months. Rescued Feb. 2007, Fruita, CO

What you can do to avoid a chewing disaster:

Be aware of your dog’s temperament. If your dog is happier with something in his mouth, make sure that you have a good supply of durable chew toys on hand at all times.

Vizslas prefer being with humans, and require plenty of interactive time. Try spending more time with them, especially if your schedule has recently taken you away a lot more than usual. Doggy daycare is a wonderful way to socialize your dog

and keep him from being bored. Short two to three hour stints in a crate is another way to curb their appetite for your furniture or other off limits items. Crate training give the owners peace of mind and provides a spot for the dog that is his alone.

Lastly, it comes down to training. Watch them closely and you will soon begin to identify the signs of impending mischief and trouble. Take away inappropriate objects and say “NO”, then immediately replace it with one of their toys. They will begin to learn what is ok to chew and what isn’t. In most cases, it will mean modifying **your** behavior to establish boundaries that will continue to foster the unique relationship you have with your Vizsla.

You can email your questions or solutions to: Karen Phillips at karenpinco@yahoo.com or Dani Commendador at danic@gotsky.com

About The Newsletter Staff.....

Karen Phillips – I have been fortunate to have Vizslas fill my life for a little over five years, a relative newcomer in Vizsla terms admittedly, but learning every day how to stay one step ahead of them in every way!

I fell in love with the breed from the first moment I was licked to within an inch of my life on a walk in the park one afternoon. Greeted like a long lost friend, this aristocratic clown, dignified in bearing and yet so full of heart had me then and there. Unfamiliar with the breed, I asked the owner who informed me he had recently adopted “Hank.”

It took us over a year and a half before we found Scout, now 5 years old and just like the potato chip ad says; “Bet you can’t have just one,” became true for us. After two more years of searching, we brought home Cooper who is now 2 ½ years old.

Both so different in temperament and personalities and yet, so similar in their quest for attention and creature comforts, we can’t imagine our lives without them. Joining the Vizsla Rescue group, well, that is just icing on the cake.

Dani Commendador – My husband Mark Scofield and I became Vizsla fans when we started doing research on the breed after our beloved Chesapeake Retriever died in 2004. Then our neighbor showed up one day with his new Vizsla puppy, LeRoy. We were hooked!

We contacted Rita, and since there was no Rescue rep on the Western Slope, the head of the St. Bernard Rescue came and did our home visit. We'd had a Saint in the past so he leaned on us pretty hard to adopt one of his dogs (he brought one along for the home visit to tempt us), but we really wanted a V! Finally, we were able to drive to Denver and pick up Red. He went through a few name changes 'til one stuck, and now he's RedFred. Along with RedFred we became the CWVRG reps on the Western Slope and have done rescues, fostering, and building relationships with the shelters on this side of the hill. That's how we got our second Vizsla – Bella. She was an owner surrender, but RedFred liked her so much, we asked if we could keep her. Every day since has been a red dog rodeo! Bella is currently recovering from ACL surgery and that's been an added eye opener

on how determined a Vizsla can be to do what a Vizsla shouldn't do!

Did you know.....

The Vizsla is known to be one of the oldest documented hunting/sporting dogs in the world. Dating back as early as the 8th century, the Magyar tribes who were skilled cattle breeders and ascribed hunters in the Russia Steppes used the breed almost exclusively. Through the centuries, while crossbred with other breeds including hounds and pointers, the Vizsla still closely resembles the light colored wild dogs of the Russian Steppes in both color and quality of coat.



The Unicorn Is Killed and Brought to the Castle, ca. 1495–1505 South Netherlandish
This ancient tapestry shows a Vizsla as part of a hunting party. It's hanging in the Metropolitan Museum in New York City

Officers & Directors

Rita Prindle,	Executive Director / CEO
Rick Prindle,	Vice President / CFO
Marianne Blackwell	Secretary
Polly Mahlman,	Director
Alyssa McCluskey,	Director
Jerry Moran	Director
Angela Dazlich	Director

Other Staff

Dani Commendador & Karen Phillips	Newsletter Staff
Laura Adams	Foster Liason
Diana Gabriel	Shelter Liason
Polly Mahlman & Alyssa McCluskey	Assistants
Judy Hetkowski	Education Coordinator
Katie O'Connell.	Event Coordinator