

**ROO ROOs &
September**



**WIGGLE BUTTS
2008, Volume 13**

From the President:

We are a family or village if you wish and we all need to work together on behalf of our beloved red dogs. I realized the economy sucks big time, but we will survive. And I am sure of that due to our good works on behalf of this wonderful breed. I am here for you whenever you need me. Let me know if you need help and I will do my best to help you in whatever way I can. I need all of you and if you haven't gotten tired of hearing it, I can't do this without you, **THE RESCUES NEED YOUR HELP**, and helping me helps a rescue.

We are in dire need of foster homes, the newsletter staff needs to hear about what you would like to see in the content or layout; transport help; someone who can take over the cartoon feature for the newsletter, and it would be nice if someone could come up to Fort Collins for a day and help me in my office. I have a file box full of filing that will not go away. We have 61 members (13 out of state, eight who actively help) and approximately 33 who participate. This is your group - please, we need your help.

I am pleased that the new adoption committee is a success and has taken a big load off my shoulders. A request was made for someone to make calls to people who wanted to rehome their Vizsla. I did get two responses and have assigned the duty to Leslie Mueller under the guidance of Polly. Thank you, Leslie.

Another successful annual reunion is under our belt. As usual Katie did a fantastic job organizing the event. The food was great and she did all the cooking herself. Everyone had a wonderful time and the weather was perfect.

We are not promoting Black Gold dog food any longer because the manufacturer does not want to supply to a small operation. Instead, we are looking for a good quality food that is reasonable to us. Diamond Lamb & Rice and Diamond Performance are two good quality foods that are not very expensive.

Hope this finds you all well, Rita

**Financial Statement – 3rd Quarter
2008**

CASH BALANCE	\$6,883.00
CD (rolled over)	\$2,079.00
CD (new)	\$1,000.00

REVENUE:	
ADOPTIONS	\$ 3,775.00
OWNER	
SURRENDER	\$ 100.00
FUND RAISER	\$ 1,098.00
PERSONAL	<u>\$ 1,789.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 6,772.00

EXPENSES:	
VETERINARIAN	-\$ 2,218.00
GENERAL	
OPERATING EXP	<u>-\$ 1,679.00</u>
TOTAL	-\$ 3,897.00

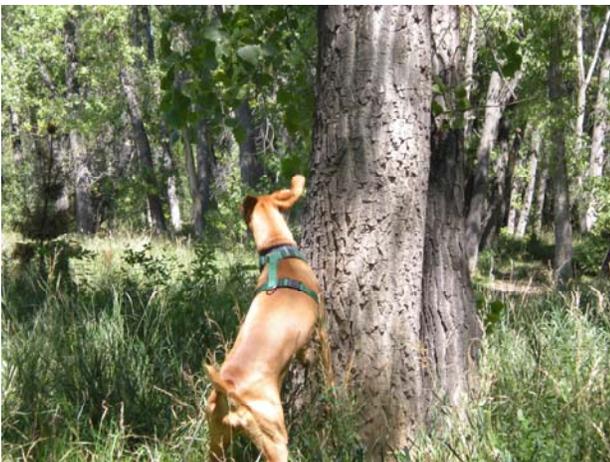
The Dog Days of Summer – CWVRG’s 6th Annual Reunion



Group Photo, Annual Reunion, 2008

The 6th Annual CWVRG Reunion was a big hit this year. Held at Chatfield Reservoir on a beautiful warm and sunny Saturday afternoon in September, over 50 people and as many Vizslas came out to enjoy the last days of summer, the fellowship, the park and of course the swimming ponds! A special thank you to **Katie O’Connell** for organizing this reunion; a memorable time was had by all.

It was great to see the out-pouring of support from our adopters both old and new as well as members. I never tire of watching the antics of 50 Vizslas at one time – organized bedlam! It is such a heartwarming experience to witness the pure joy of these beautiful animals once with troubled pasts, and now with all fears abandoned, reveling in life at every sniff and turn.



Am I barking up the wrong tree?

Each reunion represents another chapter in our book of success stories; each story has a different beginning, but all with the same ending - happiness. To realize these vibrant, healthy dogs are now free, happy, and well-loved (aka “spoiled” as my husband says) affirms that rescue works. Watching this reunion in progress is the result of a group of committed individuals with one common purpose – saving a Vizsla. This organization would not be here today if it wasn’t for the hard work, long hours and dedication of those members who generously give their time. The members however, are only one part of a much larger fold with like-minds and that is, the adopters. You continue to open your hearts and your homes to include these special dogs and count them as family. Many of these animals have special needs, requiring a very special and dedicated person to help them overcome their fears, to trust in humans and in life again. Without your kind hearted spirits and generosity, these dogs would never come to know and love their “forever home.” On behalf of CWVRG, a sincere and much celebrated thank you for your continued support and kindness. Our gratitude goes out to each and every one of you. We look forward to next year’s celebration!



Come on Dad, just a few more minutes before we go home.....pleeeeeezzzzzzz



Water, water everywhere...how 'bout a drink?



Volunteers, members and rescues hanging out together on a lazy afternoon.



I need to show this guy, Vizslas are better swimmers!



DID YOU KNOW...

The Vizsla has held a very high place in Hungarian royalty and sporting circles for centuries, and was not expected to sleep outside at the finish of its work day. The Vizsla always lived with the family and was as much a part of the family as their children. Hungarians say, "The Vizsla must live with the family if the family is to benefit (deserve) the loyalty and affection the Vizsla has to bestow."

Quotable Quote

"Dogs are not my whole life but they make my life whole" – *Roger Caras*

ABRN Annual Meeting

On September 27th I attended the All Breed Rescue Network (ABRN) Dinner at The White Fence Farm. During dinner, I enjoyed talking to the representatives from Weimereiner rescue, Cairn Terrier rescue, and the Denver Municipal Shelter. After dinner, instead of a speaker, each representative gave a report about his or her rescue operation. After hearing all the reports, I feel blessed to be involved with Vizsla rescue.

First, we have a network of wonderful volunteers so we have not had to turn any dogs away. Several of the groups said they have had to turn people away and direct them to shelters. Many groups are also not taking any dogs from out of state.

Second, we are dealing with a very resilient breed. Several groups reported that they have to put down a lot of dogs for behavior issues. Fortunately, we have very rarely had to resort to that. We have had many more instances of dogs, despite having been neglected or abused, becoming great pets.

All the rescue groups seemed to be facing the same issues that we are: more dogs – especially due to financial reasons, rising costs, and lack of foster homes. Some groups also reported a decline in adoption applications, but I don't believe we have seen that.

The woman in charge of their website also spoke. I think we should list some of our available dogs on their website. They have a "Jog Dog" designation that would be perfect for most of our dogs. We should continue to foster our relationship with ABRN. I found it very useful to hear about other rescue organizations and how willing they are to help each other.

Respectfully submitted, *Laura Adams*

Training Devices, Pro & Con

Sometimes the distinction between training and control is lost in the argument about methods. Using commands and hand gestures, with leashes or treats, to solicit desired behavior is training. Using choke or shock collars and similar devices is for control.

Control isn't necessarily a bad thing. Dogs naturally have and seek a social hierarchy in which one is the alpha (leader) and in any human-dog pair the human has to take that role. The alternative is property destruction, unsafe conditions for dogs and humans, human frustration and a maladjusted dog.



Choke collars can assist in gaining control. Dogs, like humans, are individuals. Some are naturally more assertive or slower to learn. For ones that don't respond to a regular collar, a metal choke collar can provide extra discouragement from pulling and leaping. The potential downside is that if used improperly they can be counter-productive and even dangerous. Constantly yanking on a dog's neck with such a collar can damage the trachea, pinch the skin, and create sores. In dominance situations, choke collars can encourage a tug of war between dog and human.

Choke collars fit only one way and when fitted should allow from one to three fingers gap between the neck and the collar - three for larger dogs, one for smaller. Generally a collar two inches longer than the neck circumference will do. Never use a choke collar on a puppy or smaller breed dog.

Prong or pinch collars are less dangerous than they appear, but their positive aspects are debatable. The good news is their limited diameter - they can only close down so far. However, any dog that makes the concept of a pinch collar attractive to you needs more than a quick fix consisting of choking and poking. That animal needs committed attention and behavior modification training.



The discussions about using a shock collar can become, well, electrifying. One side says they're a sure way to train a dog to give up bad, maybe even dangerous, behaviors, in a very short time. The flip side argues that they are cruel, needless and a lazy way to intimidate a dog into behaving. Like most issues, the truth probably lies somewhere in the middle. Since every dog and every situation is unique the decision to use a "control tool" to correct behavior isn't one-size-fits-all. Bad behavior certainly isn't unique to any one breed, but in rescue animals bad behavior is more common. They come to their bad habits in endless ways – neglect, cruelty, boredom; there are lots of ways to ruin a dog. Once a foster or adoptive family takes on the challenge of such a dog, they need to be ready for anything, and sometimes it's a long while before the behavior is corrected.

Shock collars are a 'training tool,' but are they safe and effective? Your dog has some outrageous habit - it doesn't like strangers, the ringing of a doorbell sends it into orbit? Or perhaps it keeps running away? It never seems to listen to you? So maybe a shock collar could be the answer? In theory, a shock collar works by giving negative reinforcement to a dog's behavior; then the dog will learn over time it should stop indulging in the bad behavior.

These collars can be very good for overly aggressive dogs that are not responding to traditional methods; for example, a mistreated but strong dog that won't listen to you. Sometimes, these collars can save the dog from otherwise being put to sleep or shuttled off to a shelter. The effect of a mild electric shock is just a small discouragement to the dog but enough to show that bad behavior is not tolerated. It is no worse than a quick "clip" from a dog's mother. They are not a magic bullet or cure. If they are not used correctly then they will be of no use to you. Make sure you get good training on how to use one and when to use a shock collar. Some trainers argue that dog training shock collars are antiquated and totally unnecessary.

They say that with a dog, you can always create a reward or punishment for any behavior and a dog will always learn. Some people say that any electric shock, no matter how small, is a form of torture and cruelty. If you decide to invest in a shock collar, test it on yourself! If you think it's OK for your dog, what do you think about being shocked yourself?

There's one incidence where shock collars can serve a very positive purpose, and that is snake training your dog. Hunting dogs that are out in fields can easily run across snakes. Their normal curiosity can cost them their lives if they don't have a healthy respect, or even fear of snakes. This can be instilled in a very short time by shocking the dog when they come in contact with a snake. Hopefully you'll find a non-poisonous variety to assist in this training effort.



Have you honestly given obedience training your best shot? Worked faithfully with the dog every day, and months later you're getting nowhere? Do YOU need more training on how to train a dog, especially one with 'issues?' Sought advice from the rescue group's trainers? If you can answer these questions with a heartfelt 'YES,' then maybe it's time to consider a training tool.

Sometimes quick fixes are tempting and useful...until they become substitutes for more beneficial (both to trainer and dog) long-term training. Taking the time to learn how to get your dog's attention and compliance without excessive reliance on control devices is preferred. The results are saner owners and happier dogs.

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