



roo roos & wiggle butts

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COLORADO / WYOMING VIZSLA RESCUE GROUP

:: from our president ::

In this issue I would like to talk about FOSTERING and the joy related to it. The definition of a foster is, "a person who saves a Vizsla from being euthanized." The foster is arguably the most critical rescue volunteer. A successful rescue operation progresses from the shelter/owner to the foster to the adopter. Clearly the foster is the critical link. Without fostering, we would not be able to put these unfortunate dogs into forever homes.

Generally speaking, being a foster parent is as rewarding as it is frustrating. We have taken dogs into rescue that have a lot of "baggage" and dogs that are really happy and are ready to be adopted. The most challenging dogs go to Polly for rehab, either medically or behaviorally. In fact, we recently received a dog that was severely abused and, of course, he went to Polly. This dog was so fearful that he dropped to the floor when introduced to new experiences. The traumatized Grady was flown to a foster home in Colorado and he is now ready for adoption. He is a very happy boy.

I have picked dogs up from shelters that are so happy to see me that they can hardly wait for me to load them into my van. These Vizslas did not pass their temperament tests in the shelter, most Vizslas don't. So the shelter contacts me. This is where the REWARD comes in—the dog is adopted by a loving family. We know we have done a good job and saved another Vizsla.

So why not try it. WE NEED FOSTER HOMES. Please contact me via telephone or e-mail and I will send you our Foster Policies. Just do it! SAVE A VIZSLA!

Our organization is dedicated to making sure that no Vizsla lingers or dies in a shelter or a home where it is not wanted. We have never let this happen in our history and it won't happen on my watch.

Sincerely,

~ Rita

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COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

Story about Hoarding: What it is and how it touches our Vizslas.

The Angus Flight

by Rita Pringle

CWVRG has taken to the skies! I am excited to share the news that CWVRG flew its first rescue Vizsla, Chester, to Polly in Phillipsburg, KS. Chester flew out of the little airport in Longmont directly to Phillipsburg for hip surgery with Dr Hasch.

Let me back up a bit. In February I received an e-mail from Pat offering his services as a pilot to transport rescues for our organization. At the time, I was not sure

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WANTED: Experienced Cartoonist!

Pay: not so good.
Warm & Fuzzy Feelings: outstanding!



The Angus Flight

Continued from the cover...

if we would ever have a need for his services. Boy was I wrong.

A week later I attended the Denver Dog Show Cluster and met Pat. I was impressed, especially when he said he would not charge us. Several weeks later we needed to transport Chester to Dr Hasch in Phillipsburg for hip surgery. I was trying to think who could drive him and Pat came to mind. He almost immediately said he was scheduling a trip to Joplin, MO and could take him if the time was right. Well the time was right on Friday, March 25th. Chester was delivered to Pat's wife in Denver and she transported him to Longmont for the flight. Chester had Pat's 2 Vizsla boys, Newt & Zeke, as flight companions.

Pat landed at the Phillipsburg airfield about 1 ½ hours later. Polly was there to meet him and when Pat opened the plane door, as Polly puts it, "a whole bunch of red dogs with ear muffs came jumping out" and they ran straight for her. Pat said to Polly, you must be Polly to which Polly replied, "red dogs don't lie". Then Pat brought out Chester, no worse for the flight. It seems as though Newt & Zeke helped calm him during the flight.

Pat even volunteered to pick up Chester when he was ready to return to Colorado, which he did the first week in April. Three cheers for Pat and a huge THANK YOU!



The Emaciated Dog

By Polly Mahlman

In our last newsletter I described the types of dogs we accept into rescue. This time I am going to drill down a bit deeper to discuss a specific type of salvageable dog that we take, and how we save these dogs. For background information, many vets and shelters utilize a chart that scores the "weight appearance" of a dog. The chart illustrates the dog from an overhead viewpoint. The weight ranking is from 1 to 10, with 1 being the thinnest, 5 the perfect body score, and 10 being excessively overweight. CWVRG has received dogs with high body scores; but, more often than not, the dogs have low scores. The emaciated dog has a body score of 1 or 2. Some vets will break that down into halves such as a 1½ body score.

The emaciated dog presents a special set of problems and must be handled with great care. First the animal needs to be examined by a veterinarian to make sure that the emaciated condition isn't due to a medical issue such as parasites or other illness. The vet will also determine if the dog is dehydrated in addition to being starved. Once these considerations have been addressed or ruled out as the cause of the emaciation, CWVRG quickly moves on to provide the care the dog requires.

It is important to fight the urge to allow the dog to eat all that he or she wants. In most cases the dog will be ravenous and the natural tendency is to over-feed the dog. This can cause a life threatening condition known as Refeeding Syndrome. Signs of Refeeding Syndrome are described as muscle weakness, muscle cramps, heart muscle damage, seizures, red blood cell rupture and respiratory failure. In most cases the dog has had to burn muscles and bone to live. They will regain their weight, but it takes time and patience to reach the desired outcome. In order to prevent the dog from gaining weight too rapidly, care must be taken to limit the amount of fat consumed. Otherwise they can become over-weight which puts too much stress on weakened bones and muscles. Table scraps, even a tiny piece, is a big "no-no".

The dog should be fed a good quality puppy food. We use dry with a bit of canned made into a gravy and poured over the dry food. The tricky part is figuring out what a normal male (or female, depending on the case) Vizsla would eat daily to maintain a healthy body weight. Four cups of food per day is a good place to start. The 4 cups should be broken down into 6 small meals for the emaciated dog. Leave the food for about 10 minutes then remove the dish, whether the food is consumed or not. If the dog eats 100 percent of the food, that is great. I feel it is important to keep track of how much food the dog consumes, the water they drink, and also any medications that the vet may have prescribed. We have a form available for this purpose and I use it frequently. It is also critical to keep a keen eye out for loose stools or vomiting. These symptoms should be reported to the vet in charge of the dog's care right away. Rita needs to know as well.

Salvageable dogs are a lot of work, but the rewards are great. With proper care and love they become beautiful, healthy pets. Check out the emaciated dogs on our website: Chewy, Jasmine, Wendy, Noah (see the related story about Noah), Shasta, and Kayden, just to name a few. It has been my pleasure and honor to see these dogs become healthy, well loved pets. These dogs have given me the "paycheck" of seeing the light of life return to their eyes. ***Fostering is very rewarding.***

A D O G N A M E D N O A H

by Cheryl Branson

Noah, a full-blooded Vizsla, has a happy life these days. He has a special adopted Vizsla sister to play tag with and chase around the back yard and of course to cuddle up with when the playing stops. He has a kind and loving new mom who dotes on him. Noah's life was not always like this. Noah is only about two year's old and no one knows what he went through in those first two precious years of his life. You see he was found abandoned, emaciated, and near death in New Mexico. Even in this awful condition, those who rescued him report that this special fellow was very loving and appreciative and showed a tremendous will to live. The Colorado Wyoming Vizsla Rescue Group (CWVRG) was notified about Noah. They sent a volunteer to New Mexico to transport him to Colorado. He was nursed back to health in a volunteer foster home. There he gained 19 pounds and he showed such strong survival instincts and such a winning personality, that he was ready for adoption long before the foster home thought possible.

No one knows how Noah found himself in such a dire predicament, wandering alone and lost through the deserts of New Mexico, fighting for survival against great odds, a precious red dog who just wanted to be loved and to return that love. Thanks to the CWVRG and the many concerned people who love the Vizsla breed, Noah now has the love and care he deserves.

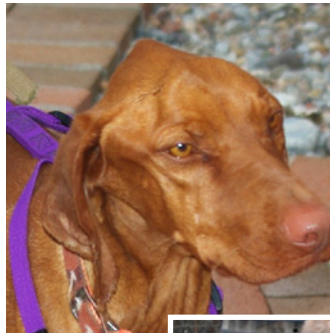
Without Rita Prindle and her husband Rick, this story would have likely had a different ending. Rita is the Founder and CEO of CWVRG. She works tirelessly to find foster, then permanent homes for many Vizslas that are abandoned or surrendered. Rita and Rick founded CWVRG in 2004 and with the help of their amazingly efficient volunteer network, have saved the lives of many Vizslas in need.

Noah was transported by CWVRG volunteers from New Mexico to Trinidad, Colorado. Long time Vizsla enthusiast Roy Sanford does volunteer work for Vizsla Rescue. When asked by Rita if he would help transport the dog, he did so willingly. Roy picked up Noah in Trinidad and brought this severely under-weight pup to his home in Elizabeth. Another CWVRG volunteer, Ray Branson, transported Noah on the next leg of his journey to Rita's home north of Fort Collins. Sanford told me that when he first saw Noah, tears came to his eyes. "Noah was in terrible condition, but Noah's loving

spirit was evident and I felt great tenderness for him. I offered Noah some liver from my hand which Noah accepted with grace and care despite his emaciated condition. It was obvious to me that Noah would make a wonderful companion if he survived. I opened the door to a crate that had a soft pad in the bottom, and Noah eagerly entered. Noah crouched on the pad with the tips of his paws just outside the door. Looking at his face, it almost seemed like he was saying, 'This is great, now let's get going!!'" Had there been more room at the Sanford household, Noah would surely have ended his journey there.

Valerie adopted Noah. Valerie has loved the Vizsla breed for many years and had four Vizslas in the past. She had two older Vizslas who died of cancer within weeks of each other. Soon afterward, she applied to adopt from Vizsla Rescue. Noah now lives in a cozy home where he has a special place on the couch, his own crate, and a place in bed. He has a big back yard where he can explore and play, but not have to fight for survival. Noah is thriving, but Valerie says it is obvious that he has amazing survival instincts still. He is very food driven. She says that she wonders how long he was on his own in New Mexico. When it snowed last March, she noticed that he was eating snow like a pro.

Noah right after he was rescued.



Noah with Valerie after he gained 18 pounds.

Noah's story touches my heart as it does many others. We all love our Vizslas so much and seeing one suffer is very difficult. As lovers of the Vizsla breed, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Rita and Rick Prindle and to all of the dedicated fosters, adopters, and volunteers who give so much to Rescue.

At this time, CWVRG's biggest need is additional foster homes. If you are not set up for fostering, there are other ways you can help. Donations are always welcome as there is never enough money to cover all the medical expenses. Also, blankets,

coats, crates, bowls and toys are always in need. And of course there are other ways to give by lending a helping hand, such as transporting dogs, fund raising, grant writing, and so forth. Regardless of your talents or time, please help our "red dogs" and get involved!

(Editor's Note: It is now over a year since Noah was adopted and Valerie reports "He loves his daily walks, is a huge love bug and an evening couch potato until bed time! He is so wonderful!")

S E C O N D H A N D V I Z S L A S

by Scott Gilchrist

For those of us who have a Vizsla as a member of our family, they are a valued treasure (not in a financial sense, but certainly through the strong emotional bonds that inevitably develop between these special dogs and their humans). After all, Vizslas are beautiful, regal looking dogs that are intelligent, sensitive, and very loving. So how is it that so many of these pets are cast aside every year? What would make someone give up their Vizsla?

The next page shows a sampling of some of the reasons why Vizslas were surrendered or otherwise abandoned before being rescued by CWVRG volunteers in the past two years.

Unable to handle: Some people either don't do their research before deciding to get a Vizsla, or are just unable to devote the time and attention that a Vizsla needs. Vizslas are energetic, active dogs that need exercise, structure, and caring discipline. When these basic needs are not met, the dog can become a handful. For instance, Mator was so energetic that when his owners didn't properly exercise



RAY & CHERY BRANSON

by Cheryl Branson

About a year after we got our first Vizsla puppy in 2006 we became members of CWVRG. We indicated that we could do transport and home visits. It wasn't too long afterward that we were asked to do a transport. A short time later, I conducted my first home visit.

Ray has done several transports and I have done several home visits, primarily in the Arvada and Golden area. Ray came home very impressed with a rescue that was from the Albuquerque area. This was a dog that had been found wandering in the desert. Ray met with a CWVRG volunteer from New Mexico in Trinidad and brought the dog to Fort Collins. He told about how the two of them shared a hamburger at McDonalds which of course won the sweet boy over. Happily this dog was quickly adopted and is now in his forever home.

One of my most memorable experiences related to home visits was a young lady who had recently lost her Vizsla of many years. Just days after the loss of her dog, she became aware of a dog in rescue that had been badly abused and injured. She felt strongly that she was meant to have this particular dog in spite of his health issues.

I recently interviewed a couple who are both runners. They had no experience with Vizslas, but they had done their research. They wanted a high energy dog, yet one that would settle down and do some cuddling in the evening. Some lucky Vizsla will be getting long runs every day and warm cuddles at night with this couple!

With regard to the home visits, I feel a strong responsibility to make a fair assessment. I have not had any bad experiences, but there have been a couple of families that I interviewed and had a strong sense that they might not be a good fit for a Vizsla. Uppermost in my mind is how happy the Vizsla would be in a particular home and is there anything that would put him or her in danger. I also watch closely for owner commitment. The last thing these dogs need is to be passed around a second time. I think the hardest question to answer truthfully when completing the home visit form is: "Would you leave your dog in this house or yard?" It is often difficult to answer "yes" because I am very protective of my dog.

When I have given someone a positive home visit report and later find out that they have brought a rescued Vizsla into their

lives, I feel very good about the role I played in this happy ending. I am excited for the family that has a wonderful new pet and for the Vizsla who is now in a safe and loving home.

One of the most surprising things for me has been what a well run organization CWVRG is and the utmost care that is given to assure that good placements are made. Also it is heartwarming to see how many Vizslas who have been through bad experiences still maintain their love of people.

Ray and I are both retired. I worked for Legislative Legal Services for 29 years and Ray was in charge of the Industrial Engine Division for Caterpillar. We are both Colorado natives and have lived in Arvada for 32 years. We have had a variety of breeds all of our married life and we both grew up with dogs. We enjoy hunting dogs a great deal. After his retirement Ray was on a hunting trip with friends and came home very excited about the prospect of getting a Vizsla because there was one on the hunting trip that he thought was beautiful and a good hunting dog. So we started our search for our Vizsla puppy. We decided to get a puppy from a reputable breeder in Salt Lake. We picked Clovis up in June of 2006. We had not had a puppy for thirty some years and this little fellow was absolutely a handful. With the help of some great trainers, we persevered. He led us into a whole new life of dog adventure. Ray decided that he wanted to learn to show him, so he took classes. It took them a year and a half, but Clovis earned his championship at the Arapahoe Kennel Club show with a 5 point major. We had so many friends there to cheer us on that it was a very special moment. Ray took Clovis on his first hunting trip when he was only 6 months old. This was the first of many. In addition Ray began serious hunt test training with Clovis. He only needs one more leg for his prestigious Senior Hunter title. While he is a great dog for hunting trips, he is also a wonderful pet. He is my walking companion every morning. My favorite time with him is probably cuddle time when I am sitting watching TV or trying to read. We can't get over how smart and aware he is. We have to do a lot of spelling. We are completely in love with the breed which is why we wanted to help any way we could with Vizsla rescue.

Second Hand Vizslas

Continued from page 3.

him, he would knock over the family's toddlers as he played. Peaches (a large female Vizsla) played too roughly with the family's Dachshund. Because the original owners couldn't handle them, these Vizslas were surrendered to CWVRG. Many of the dogs CWVRG rescues each year are less than 2

years old, when the juvenile Vizslas are their most active and energetic.

- Unwanted behaviors: If a Vizsla lacks structure, loving discipline, and adequate exercise, these oversights can manifest themselves in several ways. A bored Vizsla can become a destruc-

tive chewer. One woman contacted our group when her young Vizsla destroyed her leather couch when the dog was left alone in the house. Sage (a large male Vizsla) was turned over to CWVRG because he was gunshy. Hogan's family surrendered him

Dollars & Cents



**CWVRG, INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT**

**1ST QUARTER
2011**

CASH BALANCE: Guaranty Bank · Checking/Savings \$16,465.00

REVENUE:

ADOPTIONS \$3,275.00
PERSONAL \$38,554.00
PAY PAL \$0.00

FUND RAISERS \$374.00
GRANTS \$0.00
TOTAL \$7,503.00

EXPENSES:

DIRECT SERVICES -\$4,879.00
GENERAL OPERATING -\$1,797.00
TOTAL -\$6,676.00

Second Hand Vizslas

Continued from page 4.

when they had a baby and no longer had time to devote toward addressing his excited spotting. Ranger shared an outdoor kennel with another unaltered male dog, which inevitably led to fights. He also was very under-socialized and was initially very frightened of people, so his family decided they could no longer keep him. Digby ran loose on his family's farm and killed some chickens (not entirely unexpected behavior for a bird dog), so he too was surrendered to CWVRG.

- **Moving:** Both Oliver and Bella Donna were surrendered because their respective families moved and could not have a dog at their new residence.
- **Financial:** Many of the Vizslas rescued from shelters were found running at large. Although some lone Vizslas may have escaped from their homes, many of the Vizslas CWVRG has rescued instead seemed to have been litter mates dumped by breeders. For instance, the Christmas Girls (Holly, Joy, and Merry) were 9-month old pups found running together last December. Bonnie and Clyde (3.5-month old pups) were also found roaming the countryside together. Other Vizslas have been surrendered directly to CWVRG by breeders who can't sell their stock and can no longer afford to feed the growing pups. The Earp Brothers (Wyatt, Morgan, Virgil, and Newton), and the Reindeer Pups (Jingle, Kringle, Clarise, Chet, and Carol) all fell into this category.
- **Misc:** Ellie was the 3rd dog in a family that was going through a divorce. The other 2 dogs were evenly split up in the divorce, so Ellie was surrendered as the "odd man out". Lacy's family said they just got bored with her, so they turned her over to CWVRG to be rehomed. Hank's leg was broken when he was struck by a car. Although his family took him to the vet, they never came back for him.

Regardless of the reason why their previous owners chose to surrender or abandon their Vizslas, CWVRG volunteers stand poised to assist these dogs to find their forever home. When someone carelessly casts away one of these special dogs, CWVRG picks it up and searches for just the right home for it. In this way, the group recycles Vizslas, turning previously unwanted dogs into treasured pets.

people of cwvrg

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Rick Prindle CFO
Charlene Moran Secretary

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If you would like to contribute photos or stories to the newsletter, please email your submissions to kkregel@cowisp.net. Photos should be at least 300dpi for ease of manipulation, and preferably .jpg or .tif formats. Articles should be limited to one page. If you have a very special item, extra space can be accommodated. Please send photos and articles separately.

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We are now on Facebook! **Come be our Fan!** Visit: www.Facebook.com
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