



# roo roos & wiggle butts

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COLORADO / WYOMING VIZSLA RESCUE GROUP

## :: from our president ::

Wow, 2nd quarter has just flown by. We did get a brief respite on incoming dogs, but they are knocking at the door again. As of June 30th we have taken in 38 dogs including a litter of seven nine-week old pups. Last year at this time we had 37, so not much different.

It is almost Rescue Reunion time already. Please reserve September 18th on your calendar. You will be

receiving an e-mail invitation very soon.

Finally, I want to thank every one of our volunteers for helping to rescue Vizslas in need. We would not be able to do it without your help. You should be proud of the very important role you play in our Vizsla rescue organization.

Enjoy your summer and see you at our 8th Annual Reunion!

~ Rita

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for the 8th Annual Reunion on September 18. You will be receiving an e-vite soon with the details. Don't get left out of this fun event!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jerry and Charlene Moran for hitting 50 years of marital bliss on July 1! Way to go to Rick and Rita Prindle as they reached the 30 year mark on June 19. Is there something about Vizsla rescue that builds strong marriages?

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## COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

next issue highlight blurb [HERE](#).

## Horrors of Hoarding

Overview by Scott Gilchrist

According to the Mayo Clinic, hoarding is "the excessive collection of items, along with the inability to discard them." This is typically more than just someone who is an eccentric collector or pack-rat. Compulsive hoarding syndrome can take over someone's life to the point that they live in cramped condi-

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## Horrors of Hoarding

*Continued from the cover...*

tions in a home filled to capacity with useless junk, with only narrow pathways winding through stacks of clutter. In some cases, compulsive hoarding can also lead people to collect animals, keeping dozens or hundreds of pets in unsanitary conditions.

In Topeka, Kansas, a multi-agency hoarding task force has been formed that includes mental health resources, Code Enforcement Officials, and Animal Control Officers. Animal hoarders often collect pets that can be confined inside where they can be concealed more easily from the public. Because of the large number of animals they tend to collect, these pets often don't receive the proper care. If the hoarder seeks medical attention for their pets, they risk discovery by veterinarians, who may be the first to notice signs of animal hoarding when an individual seeks help for a steady stream of injured or sick pets.

The reasons for hoarding could be sentimental attachment to items with an emotional significance, the superstitious belief that discarding an item is bad luck, or they may fear discarding something that may one day be needed or valuable. Animal hoarders may feel that they are the only people who can be trusted to care for their pets.

If you notice someone who exhibits hoarding symptoms, urge them to talk with a doctor or mental health provider as soon as possible. You can also check with your local or county government to see if there is an agency that specifically offers help with hoarding problems. Other local authorities may also need to be contacted, such as law enforcement, the fire department, public health, or animal welfare agencies, especially when health or safety is at stake.

As I typed this article seated at my computer desk covered with stacks of folders and catalogs and surrounded by wrestling Vizslas, I remembered that our basement stairs are lined with grocery bags full of canned dog food. The parallels between our household and the symptoms listed above are disconcerting enough that I think I'll cut this article short so my wife and I can start our spring cleaning early this year. After all, there's a fine line between a slightly messy household shared with rescued Vizslas and pathological hoarding. There's also a distinction between rescuing dogs, and going overboard and hoarding them.

## Vizslas Hoarding Case

*by Polly Mahan*



The nightmare of hoarding became very real to me recently when I got personally involved with a Vizsla hoarding situation.

The hoarders I encountered surrendered Vizslas to us on and off for at least 4 years. They never used correct names, only aliases. Nor were we ever given the option of coming to the kennel to pick up the dogs. Each time that we had dogs surrendered to us the hoarders had another flimsy reason for why they had so many Vizslas. CWVRG, Inc. eventually called the State when one of the hoarders appeared with even more Vizslas. Now the excuses were getting very fishy and, by their own admission, they were in trouble with the State. The

CWVRG call was made at 8:00 AM and the inspectors were at the location by 1:00 PM that same day. The Vizslas in question were in CWVRG custody within a few days. No charges were filed but a court order was issued that these hoarders could not own any more dogs, altered or unaltered, for 5 years.

How did they get the dogs in the first place? First, these are seemingly very nice, friendly people who really do care about dogs, but their vision is skewed. They don't see their dogs as being poorly cared for or underweight, they see happy dogs that they have saved.

Several of the dogs came from "FREE TO A GOOD HOME" ads in the paper. It wasn't just Vizslas, but Golden Retrievers as well. They took dogs from shelters that didn't neuter prior to adoption. Or dogs were taken from

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backyards or kennels while owners were not at home. Some of the dogs came from Craig's list, plus from newspapers and shelters in neighboring states. After the hoarders acquired dogs, they were housed in dirty chicken



wire runs, males and females together. When the puppies started coming, a few would be sold to help pay for the growing food bill and the rest kept. The whole time the hoarders were telling themselves that they were "rescuing" these dogs from cruel people. In their minds the State was picking on them. After all, they were saving these dogs from certain death. In reality they put the dogs in a far

more horrendous situation than their original locations.

Finally I want to stress that we are not the judge of these hoarders, nor should we show them pity. We need to remember that they and millions of other hoarders deserve our compassion.



We were only able to secure the dogs we did all these years because we showed these people compassion and a true love of the breed. It's all about the dogs, which is why the "Kansas Crew" crawls into dark, dirty holes and pulls out Vizslas. The dogs thank us and that is what we care about.



## S T A R   R U N N E R S

Last year a revealing article in Runner's World investigated which breed of dog makes the best running companion. Not surprisingly, the answer was a resounding, "It depends." Different types of running conditions favor different breeds, but only one breed scored among the top five in half of the eight running categories and that was the red wiggle-butt, more formally known as the Vizsla!

Much of the actual research came from Liz Devitt and professional dog trainer JT Clough who co-wrote a book about training dogs for running companions. They placed the Vizsla in the top five for the following categories:

- Long Steady Runs (More than 10 Miles)
- Going Fast (7-Minute Miles or Faster)
- Running in the Heat
- Running on Trials with Obstacles

You've got the right dog, so go buy the right shoes and hit the trail running!





## SUE SMALLWOOD

Sue Smallwood first became involved with the CWVRG, Inc. when she saw an article in her local newspaper. Afterward she read several compelling stories on the rescue website and with a strong love for Vizslas already in place, she decided to offer assistance to CWVRG.

Sue primarily provides fostering for in-between dogs, but she also does some transporting, home visits and picks up dogs at the local shelter when needed. In other words, she digs into the rescue effort and "gets her hands dirty!" The first dog she and her husband fostered was Lola of KANSAS EIGHT rescue fame. She was terrified and wanted desperately to escape. At the same time, she wanted to fight all of Sue's dogs. She had to kennel Lola to calm her down. She was with Sue's family for quite a long time because she needed so much socialization. For example Sue would take her into the bathroom to get her used to the sounds of the toilet, hairdryer, spraying water, etc. She also had to learn how to share a water bowl with the rest of the pack. She was adopted to be the sister to

a rescue Weimaraner. A year later Sue saw Lola at the Vizsla Rescue Reunion and she was amazingly mellow. Sue was very gratified to see how well adjusted Lola was with her forever family.

According to Sue, the most gut wrenching aspect of working with CWVRG is learning about the horrid conditions and treatment of the rescues. The flip side is the gratitude she feels when she learns of a good adoption, knowing that the dog will have a great life and it was CWVRG that got them there!

Sue has been involved with Vizslas since her parents acquired Lance to hunt Chukar in Nevada. She got her own first red dog in 1979 when she and her family returned from military duty in Germany. Currently their canine family includes: 8 year old Vizsla Chance, a Vizsla mix named Molly B who is 14, a Welsh Corgi named Devon who is 1 ½ and their newest Vizsla family member, Ben, who is such a mellow sweetheart that he greets every new foster with joy and a kiss. Their favorite family outing with the fuzzy kids is a romp in spacious Palmer Park!

## RESCUE PARADE

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Finally, a chance to show off your best red buddy! The Vizsla Club of America 2011 National Show is being held in Denver this year. You have an opportunity to showcase any and all of your rescued Vizslas in the official RESCUE PARADE.

It will be held on September 20 at the conclusion of a full day of activities including the national Obedience and Rally trials, Sweepstakes, and the Parade of Titleholders. Best guess puts the Rescue Parade starting around 4 or 5 PM. The event is being held at the Crown Plaza Convention Center, 15500 E 40th Avenue, Denver 80239. (It's near DIA.)

No entry fee will be charged and no DNA number is required. Entries close on August 31. Entry forms are available on the VCA website or go directly to: [http://vcaweb.org/download/2011\\_Specialty\\_Sweepstakes\\_Premium.pdf](http://vcaweb.org/download/2011_Specialty_Sweepstakes_Premium.pdf). Make sure you download one, fill it out and mail it to: Kathy Kregel, 3112 Taliesin Way, Fort Collins, CO 80524 or email it to [kkregel@cowisp.net](mailto:kkregel@cowisp.net).

We look forward to seeing as many Rescues as possible flooding the convention center!!!



## Sam's Story

by Jody

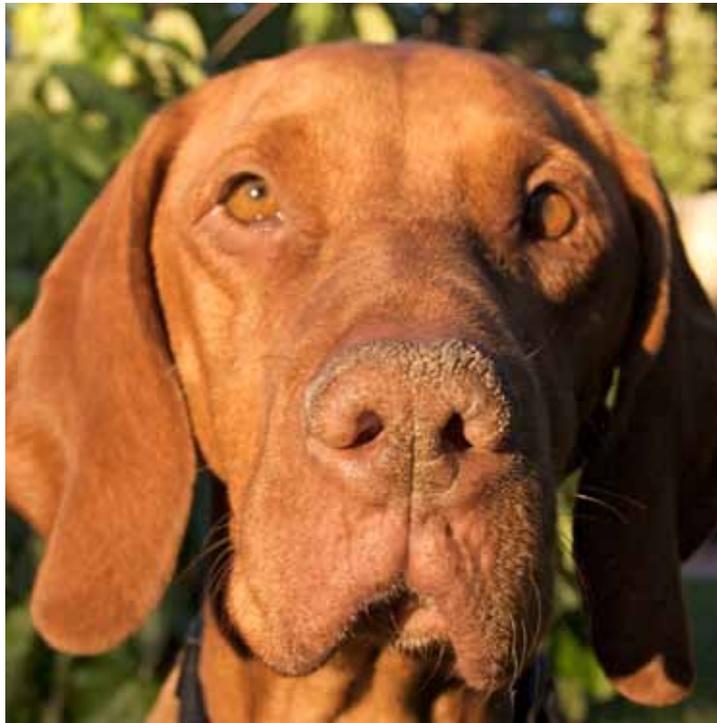


This November it will be three years since we adopted Sam. Looking back, we have come a long, long way. Many times we have jokingly said, "Boy, it is lucky we adopted Sam because any one else may have given him back."

When we first adopted Sam he didn't know how great it was to have his chest rubbed or his nose kissed. He was very reluctant to let us do either. He was very territorial of his bed and ours. He was a biter, a barker and fearful of being left alone. His first visit to the vet was insane. He had a major panic attack, even though the vet had given me medication to calm him down prior to his visit. The vet was not able to examine him and suggested that the next time I would need to give him a tranquilizer shot before bringing him in. We never were able to get Sam to the vet. Instead we took him to Petco because he had no fear of retail stores. Petco had a traveling vet who came in one night a week to give shots. Beforehand we prepared Sam with a long run and I got there early to stand in line while my son took Sam on a pleasant stroll around the store until it was his turn. To my absolute amazement, Sam wasn't afraid in this situation and the vet easily gave him all his shots, an oral medication and was able to do a small exam without him realizing it was a vet experience. If his health changes I will have to pre medicate him with a tranquilizer shot that the vet has provided.

Through all of our trials, we learned to love and trust one another. Earning his trust was a combination of many things, one of them just being time, plus lots and lots of exercise. We also had to antici-

pate how he would respond in certain situations. If he was on a bed and you told him to get off, he would growl. If you tried to pull him off the bed, he would bite you--hard. We learned to establish who was boss by using a very firm voice telling him "off". At times we found it necessary to put a leash on him, give him the "off" command, and physically remove him using the leash. He learned that once his leash was on, he had to follow the rules. Fortunately he never challenged us putting the leash on. I also made sure he understood that if he was on the bed and I wanted to get on, he had to get off until I invited him to join me. He now generally waits to be invited. If he forgets, I just tell him "off" and he understands to hop down and wait. I also would sit



on the bed with him and give him lots of love so he knew I was not there to threaten him. In addition he had to learn that if we wanted to sit on his bed while he was on it, he had to be okay with that too.

Life is so different with Sam now. When I am watching TV, Sam situates himself so he can make eye contact with me. When I catch his eye, I can see such pure love. In fact, eye contact causes im-

mediate tail thumping. These days he seems to be constantly saying "thank you." He is content just having a family member around who he can follow from room to room. When going up the stairs I can put my hand down and always find him right beside me. He still has issues, probably due to being taken out of a home he lived in for eight years, but he is a wonderful part of our family. He now sighs with contentment when I kiss his head and tell him I love him and he eagerly rolls over on command to get a belly rub. He is our keeper!



## Ready to Rally?

by Kathy Kregel

This article is the first in a series that will explore a wide variety of performance activities available to you and your rescued Vizsla. There is arguably no



faster path to bonding with your dog than to engage in upbeat, reward-laden training. It's a surefire way for your Vizsla to learn that YOU are where the fun starts! Also, on those super cold or extremely hot days, you can exercise your Vizsla's brain which can be every bit as fatiguing as a run in the field. As you know, a tired Vizsla is a good Vizsla!

All performance training should be positive. Learning takes place fast and sure when a dog is rewarded for correct behaviors, rather than punished for wrong actions. With reward based learning a strong bond of trust will grow between you and your dog. Depending on a dog's history, it can happen quickly or, in the tougher cases, it can take some time. Your patience as a trainer is the key to success. Rewards can range from food treats (cut tiny) to toys to lavish praise. Find out which your dog likes best and apply liberally.

Rally is a relatively new dog sport offered by the American Kennel Club and a handful of other organizations. According to the AKC, "the main objective of Rally is to produce dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs..." This series of performance articles started with Rally because it is fun, energizing, and relatively easy to learn for both you

and your dog. It doesn't require extensive equipment or a large space in which to practice either.

Rally includes 10 to 20 stations (depending on the level—novice, advanced or excellent) that tell you what exercise you must perform with your dog. This exercise can be as simple as a right or left turn or as challenging as taking three steps backward with your dog backing up at your side. There are 360 degree turns to the right and to the left or weaving through a series of pylons with your dog at your side. The exercises vary quite a bit in difficulty as you move up through the levels.

In case you are starting to think "this sounds too much like obedience," rest assured that there is a huge difference—mainly, you can jabber to your dog the entire way around the course to keep them happy and enthusiastic. Judges are not looking for precision either, rather a natural flow at your own speed. Standing ringside, you can hear some handlers explaining each of the exercises to their dogs in a humorous manner and waving their arms this way and that. Taken out of context, this sounds pretty goofy, but in reality the handler and teammate are making a great connection in the ring and the dogs eat it up!

To see a complete description of the exercises at



each level, go to the AKC website (AKC.org), click on "Events" and follow to "Rally". You can actually download each of the exercises on 8" x 10" sheets and build your own practice Rally courses. Most sizable communities offer Rally classes too. Taking a class is the easiest way to proceed when you are just

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# Dollars & Cents



**CWVRG, INC.  
FINANCIAL REPORT**

**1ST QUARTER  
2011**

**CASH BALANCE: Guaranty Bank · Checking/Savings . . . . . \$20,113.00**

**REVENUE:**

ADOPTIONS . . . . . \$7,975.00  
PERSONAL . . . . . \$1,811.00  
PAY PAL . . . . . \$0.00

FUND RAISERS . . . . . \$423.00  
GRANTS . . . . . \$0.00  
**TOTAL . . . . . \$10,159.00**

**EXPENSES:**

DIRECT SERVICES . . . . . -\$5,552.00  
GENERAL OPERATING . . . . . -\$413.00  
**TOTAL . . . . . -\$5,965.00**

## people of cwvrg

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Polly Mahlman ..... VP  
Rick Prindle ..... CFO  
Charlene Moran ..... Secretary

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Teila & Scott Gilchrist ..... Newsletter Staff  
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Teila Gilchrist & Polly Mahlman  
Jerry Moran & Donna Wolosin ..... Telephone Interviewers

*If you would like to contribute photos or stories to the newsletter, please email your submissions to kkgregel@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.*

## Ready to Rally?

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beginning. You'll be amazed at how upbeat the classes are, providing a good time for both you and your wiggly red companion.

If you want to compete in AKC events you certainly can, even if your dog is not currently registered. Check it out on their website. A benefit to taking your training one step further by competing is the number of wonderful fellow dog enthusiasts you will meet. Rally is a sport where participants tend to compete more against themselves than each other. It offers a very supportive atmosphere. However, you might just want to use Rally as a fun private time with your dog in the garage, basement, or back yard. It's all good!

The quickest way to teach your dog the individual stations (or exercises) is with a generous supply of tasty treats or fun toys, which ever works better for your dog. Regardless, if you keep training happy and supply rewards liberally, you'll have a dog that can't WAIT to practice.

As a side benefit, Rally lays terrific groundwork should you wish to eventually compete in obedience or agility. A solid training foundation built through Rally will make future competition in any sport easier and more likely to be successful.

*Happy trails and tails to you!*

(Editor's note: please feel free to email me with any questions you might have about Rally — kkgregel@cowisp.net.

**NEW! Find Us on facebook**

We are now on Facebook! **Come be our Fan!** Visit: [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com)  
We are listed as **Colorado Wyoming Vizsla Rescue Group** (CWVRG, Inc.).