Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc.

# **Newsletter**

#### Dear Friends:

Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue turns 13 next month!

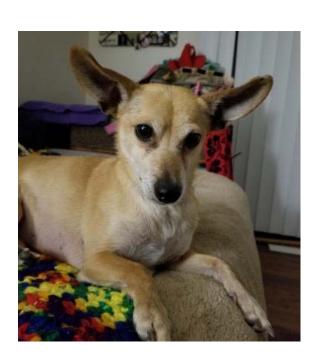
While we seldom "blow our own horn", there are times when we must. And this is one of them. Potential adopters have been critical of our lengthy adoption process, stressing they could go to the Humane Society and adopt a dog that same day. They certainly could. But do they KNOW the dog they're taking home with them? Is the dog healthy or sick? Socialized or unsocialized? What is the return rate for the Humane Society or, for that matter, some of the other area rescues?

CSDR doesn't focus on the number of dogs we adopt out each year. We focus instead on each dog entering our care. We work tirelessly to ensure they receive the best medical attention, socialization and training and then we work tirelessly to place them in the most compatible adoptive homes.

Potential adopters are carefully screened, their backgrounds and references scrupulously checked. We ask their veterinarians if they're taking good care of their current pets and search for any record of animal abuse in their past. When applicable, we ask their landlords how many dogs are allowed in each unit. All of this takes time. And since CSDR is run solely by volunteers with full time jobs, our own time is limited. But because of the time we take to ensure each match we make is a fur-ever one, our return rate is a mere 0.5%. With a return rate this low, we must be doing something right! Wouldn't you agree?

Warm regards, Sue Fisher President





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2nd Annual Fundraiser — Bow Wow Luau!



### **Come Meet Phoenix**

Meet Phoenix at the Bow Wow Luau!

Followers of the fabulous Phoenix on Face Book and Instagram will be able to meet our doggy phenomenon in pawson on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

With tickets selling quickly, we urge you to purchase YOURS now! Phoenix, sporting a colorful Hawaiian shirt, will welcome you warmly from his wheelchair, and we couldn't think of a more fitting "spokes dog" for the lifesaving work we do than this frisky and feisty little survivor.

Please remember that all of the proceeds from this once-in-a-lifetime event go directly towards the loving care of dogs like Phoenix.

Click here to purchase tickets. 50% of ticket price is tax deductible





## Dog Ears Can Be a Real Trouble Spot

By Jennifer Ayalon

For such a proportionately small area of your dog's body, ears can present a number of problems that can not only make your dog uncomfortable, but can actually threaten your friend's general health, especially if there is a bacterial infection present. Although any breed of dog can suffer from ear problems, dogs with floppy ears will be more likely to develop problems simply because less air will reach inside. Dogs that are in the water a good deal, such as retrievers, will also be more prone to ear difficulties.

As with most things, prevention is probably the best approach to take with your dog's ear health. Your dog's ears should be cleaned every week with a mild cleaning solution and cotton balls. Not only will this help to prevent the buildup of wax, which can cause itching, but will also help you spot problems when they are iust beginning. Always check your dog's ears after he or she has been outside - not only could your dog have picked up a tick or two (we have taken ticks out of our dogs' ears many times), but plant parts, especially seeds that are designed to be transported by animals, could have found their way into the ear canal. When your dog is experiencing troubles with his ears. they will quickly make you aware that something is wrong. If you notice your dog shaking or tilting his head, scratching at his ears, or running the side of his head along the floor, these are clear indications that something annoying is going on in the ears. Very often, a bad odor will emanate from the ears as well. Dogs with ear problems will feel not only itching, but also pain, so a visit to the veterinarian is definitely called for to get an exact diagnosis of the cause. Wax buildup is the easiest of the ear problems to solve, and often a thorough cleaning will solve it. A liquid cleaner is put into the ears, which are then massaged. Allow your dog to shake his head to clear out the excess liquid, then use a cotton ball or gauze pad to finish cleaning.

Ear mites can cause intense itching in your dog's ears and you can detect them by the presence of their dark red crumbs of scat. They are sucking your dog's blood and what you see is generally their feces. Your veterinarian will prescribe an acaricide (substance that kills mites) to wipe out the population. Often, only one or two applications will be needed.

Bacterial infections will produce a nasty smell as well as pain and itching. There may be pus present. These infections, if untreated, can spread from the middle to the inner ear, causing chronic, difficult-to-treat problems. Antibiotic ointments will have to be used to kill the bacteria, and be sure to follow through with the entire round of prescribed treatment.

Yeast infections are very common and yeast loves to grow in damp, warm conditions – exactly what may be found in your dog's ears. The intense itching caused by yeast can make life a misery for your dog, and not only will you be able to see an overgrowth of yeast in the ears, but there will be a sour, 'yeasty' smell. Prescription medication from your vet will take care of this.

Allergies, usually to food, can also result in itchy ears. In addition to keeping the ears clean, your vet will probably prescribe an antihistamine to calm things down. Severe cases that do not respond to basic treatment may require the use of prednisone to help the immune system.

Ear infections of any kind are not minor health issues, and if untreated can lead to some serious problems for your dog, and large veterinary bills for you.

Should the infection progress from the outer to the middle and inner ear, you will be facing a case of otitis which can contribute not only to deafness, but to paralysis of the facial muscles. Both bacterial and yeast infections can cause such extreme swelling that the ear passages will actually be closed off. Surgery will then

be needed to open them up again. Mastoiditis is an infection that festers in the middle ear then spreads to the mastoid bone. If left untreated, the infection in the bone can go to the brain, causing meningitis and perhaps the death of your companion.

It pays to keep an eye on your dog's ears, and take care of any problems that arise quickly. Not only will your dog be much more comfortable once the infection has been attended to, but it will also save you time and money that will be expended for more involved treatment.



#### Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc.



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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?

https://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.













# Volunteer with Us

As a volunteer-based organization, Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue is always in need of the time and talents of more car-ng and committed volunteers. If you're passionate about animals and eager to add your voice to ours, won't you consider joining us in one of the following capacities:

Administrative Work From Home

Adoption Follow Up

Adoption Meet & Greets

Committee Member

Dog Trainer

Education & Outreach

Events & Fundraising

Foster Parent

Grooming

Home Visits

Newsletter

Photography

Social Media

Tabling/Agency Fairs

**Transportation** 

Website Support

Visit our website to see <u>more information</u> on volunteering and while you are there you can submit an online <u>volunteer</u> or <u>foster parent</u> application.

