



Volume 4, Winter 2013

The Barking Lot

The Official Newsletter of 2nd Chance Vizsla Rescue, Inc.

From your President:

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. My holidays were quiet as both my husband & I were sick with the flu. He got it first and then I got it. This issue of our newsletter is late because I was not feeling like doing anything.

One very exciting thing happened just before Christmas. I was contacted by Amanda Roche who is the Treasurer for the Hungarian Vizsla Society Rescue in the UK. She and her family were visiting relatives in the Denver area and she specifically wanted to meet me and compare notes on rescue stuff. Her husband was born in Colorado and attended CSU. I was so excited I could hardly contain myself. Amanda & her husband Tim drove up to my home and we all went to lunch in Fort Collins. The Hungarian Vizsla Society Rescue is like our Vizsla Club of America Rescue whereas the VCA Rescue covers all the United States, the HVS Rescue covers the whole UK, which is a very large area too. Amanda told me they got in over 100 Vs last year. We compared notes and we pretty much do the same thing as they do, except for spay/neuter. They don't spay/neuter puppies. They also do not tolerate puppy mills and I think they do a much better job controlling them than we do here in the states. This was quite an experience and not enough time to spend comparing notes. Amanda did promise to return in the near future and spend more time with me.



This year we took in 10 dogs, 2 in the last quarter, and adopted or transferred 9. The 10th dog should be adopted in the next week or so. We have a great organization, thanks to the efforts of all you volunteers and supporters. Things are looking real good for 2014, so keep up the good work. I am still looking for volunteers who are willing to become foster parents. It is so rewarding. - Rita

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[https://www.facebook.com/pages/2nd-Chance-Vizsla-Rescue-Inc/
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One Vizsla's Journey To Becoming A Search And Rescue Dog

By Laura Whitcomb

We all know that Vizslas are very versatile and very intelligent as a breed but did you know that they can make an excellent Search And Rescue dog? This had not occurred to me until about 6 weeks after being matched with my newest Vizsla, Ruger. In fact I was really unaware of Search And Rescue (SAR) groups in general, another bunch of unsung heroes in my opinion.

Here's how our story began. We had lost our very first Vizsla at the ripe old age of 17 and knew we wanted another dog to join our family and be a friend to our second Vizsla, Bridgette. I knew I wanted a puppy and so had reapplied with the rescue to adopt a second Vizsla from them. I had to wait a bit and finally a puppy was expertly matched to our family. This puppy was 13 week old Ruger who had been rescued with his brother Colt. Upon first meeting him I became a little unsure as this was our first male dog and he was a bit bigger than I had expected. Despite my apprehension Rita knew this was our dog and with her encouragement we took him home on that fateful spring day. We had no idea how he would change our lives!

We finished our paperwork, settled him in the back seat of our truck with Bridgette and off we went. Over the days that followed he rode in the truck a lot as we try to take our dogs most places we go. This allows them to be a well-rounded, socialized dog. This is when I started noticing something that I thought was really odd. He would constantly be moving his head up and down while huffing the air. At first I just thought I had a weird dog. A few weeks later I was watching K9 Cops on the television and they had a dog that was doing this very same behavior that Ruger was doing. That was my "aha" moment! I started thinking and talking with my husband; and somewhere along the way a couple months later we had strong thoughts of "I think Ruger has a very special talent (most bomb sniffing and police dogs have to be taught this behavior) and he is very driven to perform this talent, could he be a dog that searches for people after disasters?". With this recognition we were still not sure where to start or what to do next so another few months went by all the while we kept encouraging Ruger to continue air scenting which is the name for the behavior we didn't understand. By luck we encouraged all the right behaviors just going on my natural instinct, I really had no idea what I was doing.

I would do things like get up and look with him when he barked, saying "show me" or "let's look", this let him know I was understanding what he was communicating. I paid attention every time he communicated and to each behavior that went with that communication not knowing this was needed for us to become a SAR dog team. I even noted that he was tracking every non family member that came into our home, he had not been trained. I would later relate these incidents to the lead dog team trainer and I was just floored, he seemed to be training himself. This is when I finally realized that Ruger was, with every fiber of his being, telling us this is what he was born to do and begging us to give him this job.



We did some research and decided that we needed to reach out to our local Search And Rescue organization. It turns out that our local Search And Rescue group (SAR) has a dog team and I was put in touch with the lead trainer for the dog team. We quickly set up a meeting to have Ruger and myself evaluated to see if Ruger was truly a good candidate for the job, most dogs aren't. This evaluation happened to fall on a night where our local SAR group was holding an informational meeting for the community in order to recruit new members. This would come into play because you must first become a member of search and rescue and then you can join the special teams such as dog, mounted, swift water etc. I am proud to say that both my husband and I have now been members of our local SAR team for over a year. We are not only regular support level members with med tech-first responder training, but we are also responsible for our team adding a mounted unit, with our horses, on a trial basis and now have joined the dog team with Ruger. None of this would have happened without us having been matched with this very special, extremely talented pup, Ruger, and listening to the things he was telling us. Who knew what a life changing event this would be!

Our evaluation was a smashing success! Ruger is the perfect candidate to become a SAR dog. The evaluation consisted of a general temperament evaluation. A dog can't be shy or aggressive must be outgoing, good with other dogs, kids and excitable but under control and must have a very high drive to follow and catch something, they call it "prey drive". Another part of his evaluation was stamina, search dogs have to be able to work for many hours and over all types of terrain. We happen to live in the northern Colorado high country. Our searches tend to be in thick brush, trees, and in very steep terrain with lots of weather extremes. The final part of our evaluation was to do some "runaways". This is where the handler gets the dog very excited about a toy (for Ruger a rope tug toy) or treat of some sort (they can only have this as a reward during training or on a mission and no other time ever!) and then hands that toy or treat to the mock subject and that person runs with that object while the dog watches and they slip behind a big rock, tree or other obstacle. The handler, with the dog straining on the end of the leash, says to the dog "ready to work" and then while simultaneously unclipping the leash says "find (the person's name)" the dog then, ideally, runs straight to the mock subject where that person immediately rewards the dog with the toy or treat. You have followed your dog as he went to your subject and you then take over the very excited praise and toy play. After a few seconds of celebration you tell the dog "good job", we're done and take the toy away. This is repeated a few times and on our 3'rd time Ruger had done so well that an additional, further away, more complicated obstacle was added. He passed with flying colors.

When training a dog for SAR the training must be done by the handler or handlers. This is because only the handler will know what the dog's signals are when they are on a scent or have found something. You must know how your dog communicates in different situations and every dog is different. Your SAR dog must live with you in the house and go almost everywhere you go so that you can learn all of the ways he communicates different things to you and reward him for communicating. This also forges that partnership between the two of you. While Ruger, my husband (who will be a co-handler for Ruger) and I are at the beginning of our SAR dog training we expect to get Ruger certified in tracking in the spring of 2014.

Training a SAR dog is time consuming and continuous, also it is not a cheap endeavor but it is very gratifying for both the handler and the dog. A dog is never happier or more proud than when they have a job they succeed at and love. Whether they are to be a service type dog or a great family pet that carries its own water on a walk, give your dogs a job and allow them to shine! If we just listen, they tell us who they are and what they wish to do.

SENSITIVE DOGS!!

Monster in her family room

Author – Lynn Martin

Several days ago my husband, Rock came home and said a friend had given him a recliner. Swell. My small house is pretty packed as it is. I told him I did not think a recliner would fit in the family room which is part of the kitchen and, in reality, hub of the house. One not-so-large area holds kitchen, family room, dinette, TV. But he really wanted it & said it was soooo comfortable and good looking and I could tell he really wanted a "man chair". I told him to go ahead and bring it home. Hoping he would see it just would not fit.

I came in after work on Friday and immediately wondered what was wrong with Brook, our Vizsla. She looked "slinky", unsure, kind of like she had done something wrong and knew it. I went into the family room and there it was. A recliner. **A HUGE** recliner. In an effort to make it part of the furniture grouping facing the TV, Rock had placed it facing the TV but it went back well into the middle of the room. Way too big. Way too "in the way". I did not say much, just hoped he would realize it was not a good fit...

I quickly fed the dogs and left as I spent the evening with my little granddaughter while Katy and hubby went to a party. Came home, Rock was in bed, all was quiet, and I went to bed. No more thoughts of the chair and Brook's reaction.

This morning I was up first and noticed Brook being kind of timid. Not Brook. She would walk down the hall, past the couch (where she got a glimpse of the "**monster recliner**") and she would flinch, look away, and continue. But because it is located in the MIDDLE of the room, it is hard for her to ignore. Still, hoping she would calm down, Rock and I went out tire shopping. When we came home, he sat in the recliner, feet up, watching a football game.



Brook went nuts. She leaped to the back of the couch, down on the couch, and, when I went to settle her, nearly left into my arms. "Mommy, Mommy, that MONSTER is eating Rock!!" When he called her, she did jump from the couch to the monster recliner and sat on HIM not the chair, never relaxed, very tense, then jumped down. Came into the kitchen area and wrapped herself around my legs. I was trying to unload all that stuff from Costco, she would not leave my side. She would peer around the kitchen island, see the chair rocking, back up, go around to the other side of the island, see the same thing, go around and try again. Poor baby, she was just upset.

So we finally decided this monster recliner is invading her space. Her comfort zone. So it is going. I would stand there and say it just is too big, does not look good, therefore it has to go and he would argue it is SO comfortable. But let Brook be upset by its presence, and before I can even suggest it, it is gone.

Thank you, Brook.

Dr. Nicholas Dodman on Dog Behavior and New Training Techniques (Part One Of Three)

By Sophia Yin and Claudia Kawczynska, DVM (www.thebark.com)

The rules of dog training and care are changing, which means your role is changing. Leading animal behaviorist Dr. Nicholas Dodman discusses new training techniques and dog behavior with fellow veterinarian, Dr. Sophia Yin and Bark's Claudia Kawczynska.

Bark: What do you feel is the place for punishment or negative re-enforcement in treating behavioral problems?

Dodman: I think that the direct punishment-based techniques are outmoded, a thing of the past, and should be avoided. Nobel Prize winners Lorenz, Tinbergen and Von Frisch might have disagreed on some points, but the three of them were all in agreement that punishment teaches a dog nothing. All it does is to teach a dog how to avoid the punishment. Which is not the same as teaching the dog what to do. There is no learning, other than learning avoidance of certain actions.

There are some trainers, not all trainers, who just seem to know only one thing, and that is how to escalate punishment to reach the desired effect. So they start off with puppies the right way with food motivation. But as soon as the dog reaches a certain age, they go into a slip collar, then a metal choke collar, and if these aren't having the desired aversive effects, they escalate up to a prong collar; some even graduate higher, to electricity. What you have is a gradation of pain. And the pain is designed with the theory "you teach them to do something, and if they don't do it, you hurt them." Konrad Lorenz said that science and know-how aren't enough in dog training; patience is the vital stuff. I find that non-confrontational techniques are more appreciated by owners who often aren't of the disposition to want to hurt their animals to make them do anything.

To Be Continued



Volunteer Spotlight

LAURA WHITCOMB



Hello, my name is Laura Whitcomb. I became a volunteer in November of 2013. This came about because I had adopted 3 Vizsla's and am totally in love with them as a breed. I had written a couple of articles for a newsletter previously for the rescue and was asked if I would like to be an official volunteer to which I excitedly agreed!

I will be helping with the newsletter and continue to write articles to be published as well as checking shelters to see if there are any Vizslas needing to be rescued and may become a foster parent in the future.

Not having done this for long I am unsure of what will be the most heart wrenching or challenging but based on my adoptions of three very different Vs from three different backgrounds it is the challenge of overcoming the dog's past and helping them to heal from the trauma of their past. So far the most rewarding aspect of Rescue is knowing that a dog is perfectly matched to its people and that it now has the best life it could possibly have. There's no better reward than seeing a dog healthy and happy despite its previous circumstances.

So far the biggest surprise to me is that a dog can come from a really horrible situation and that dog moves on and wags its tale and loves us unconditionally. This has been referred to as "finding the Vizsla in the dog."

I live high in the Colorado mountains on 2 acres with my husband Bill, our 2 Vizsla's and our 2 horses (soon to be 3). My husband and I are members of the local Search And Rescue. We are the Search And Rescue's first mounted team and our youngest Vizsla is training to become part of the team. We have a strong commitment to our community and helping those in need and it just seemed like a natural extension to become an official volunteer and help Vizslas in need. I was introduced to this wonderful breed when I showed up at a shelter 20 or so years ago and saw a little red dog curled up in a kennel, with no information on its card. I inquired about this dog on nothing more than a gut feeling. Her name was Lucy and she was a Vizsla mix. This was the 2nd time she had been surrendered and they hadn't even had time to create a profile for her yet. I had them bring her to meet me and it was instant love, the rest is history as they say. She taught me about Vizslas as a breed and to this day I am thankful that fate brought us together. She was a wonderful dog and in my opinion all Vizsla. She lived to the ripe old age of 17. Toward Lucy's elder years we decided to adopt a 2nd V, Bridgette. Bridgette is about 7 or 8. While Bridgette came to us with "issues" she is still a great girl. She is very sweet, watches out for her pack, loves to snuggle and like all V's is very smart and easy to train. She loves nothing more than a great hike behind our horses with her pack on, proudly carrying her water. Shortly after Lucy passed we knew our family would not be complete without another V. We wanted a puppy this time and were shortly matched to our V, Ruger. He was 13 weeks old when we adopted him and is now a big 2 year old. Ruger is very loving, loves to cuddle, is very high energy, extremely curious, an appropriate amount of protective and is definitely a momma's boy and there isn't anything about life that he doesn't love. He also carries a very special gift, he was naturally air scenting at 13 weeks old and now is being trained to become a Search And Rescue dog, he hopes to become certified in tracking and join our team later this year. I could never pick one thing to be our favorite "thing" to do with our dogs. We love to be with them, take them almost everywhere we go, spend lots of time on horseback with our V's in tow and we also spend a lot of time educating every person who admires our dogs, about Vizslas as a breed. They are certainly a great representation of their breed!

Who's Who in 2CVR

Officers/Directors:

Founder/CEO/President - Rita Prindle

VP - Rick Prindle

Secretary - Cathy Lund

Treasurer - Kathy Kregel

Rita Prindle - Chairperson

Directors:

Denise Lashmett

Larry Smallwood

Judy Wagner C.P.A. - non voting

Carolyn Levy - Advisor - non voting

Financial Consultant -

Judy Wagner, CPA

Legal Counsel B

Newsletter Editor - Mary Ellen Keskimaki (temporary)

Kelly Renz - Junior Editor

Cartoonist - Tracey Adams

Fund Raiser Coordinator - Open

Grant Writer - Kristen Wrona,

Transport Coordinator - Open

Adoptor Follow Up - Donna Wolosin

Facebook Managers - Diana Berger & Katherine Giese

Adoption Team:

- Rita Prindle - Chairperson

- receive adoption apps, review & assign HV

Telephone Interviewers - Donna Wolosin, Dani Commendador, &

Denise Lashmett

-call approved adoptive family after positive HV prior to final adoption

must have information on fostered dogs in order to make a suggestion as to which dog will be a good match w/family

-e-mail Rita with telephone report for her decision whether adoption is ok or not

- Foster Liaison - Open

- work closely w/Chairman, assign rescues to foster homes, receive rescue profiles/success stories/pictures from foster families

2nd Chance Vizsla Rescue Financial Report 2013 Q-4

REVENUE

Contributions, Individual \$2,716.20

Adoption fees \$800.00

Surrender Fees \$50.00

TOTAL REVENUE: \$3566.20

EXPENSES

Veterinary Services \$1,241.42

Postage/Stamps \$96.91

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: \$1,413.33

NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR 3rd QTR: \$2,152.87



Tim, Amanda, Rita & Rick
December 2013