

Recycled Love Tails

"No more homeless animals"

May 2008— Issue 3

We hope this news will educate, inspire and amuse you. This will be an every-once-in-a-while newsletter that keeps our Friends up to date with the latest Recycled Love happenings. 2008 finds us busier than ever. Recycled Love continues to pour love out on throw-away animals. We need more foster parents and our vet bills and expenses continue to run between \$5000 and \$10,000 per month. Stay tuned for our next fundraiser!

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1. Tail of the Month

Chi Chi's Story

One of the many names that best described Chi-Chi Rodriguez when he came into Recycled Love's rescue was "Brat!" Lori, his foster mom, saw the little 1 year old Chihuahua-Jack Russell Terrier mix as terrified with a lot of issues including emotional, behavioral, physical and social.



With so many areas to attack where do you begin? The top priority was physical health. Chi-Chi was treated for kennel cough, a skin rash, malnutrition, hair loss, and diarrhea. Poop was everywhere! Chi-Chi was not housebroken and wouldn't be for some time. A crate was used to help fix the problems of housebreaking and destructive behaviors.

There were a few adoption inquiries on Chi-Chi. However, once prospective parents heard about his "issues" those people disappeared. Lori tried to make Chi-Chi feel less afraid but it clearly was going to be a long slow process. Emotionally Chi-Chi was a mess. He barked at every dog, and some people, and if they got too close he screamed like a little girl. Two months after entering Recycled Love it was clear to Lori that Chi-Chi might never be suitable for adoption. Although she never had any intention of keeping Chi-Chi, Lori, who had fostered several dogs previously, came to realize that he was incapable of a successful adoption. Even with his many indiscretions she had become fond of this little boy and signed the adoption paperwork to keep him for life.

Lori continued her efforts to make Chi-Chi a successful member of society but success

was elusive. After about six months Lori decided he might be ready for a formal obedience class since he stopped barking at people and some dogs. At the end of the 8 week class Chi-Chi still could not do a "stay" and the instructor said it was likely he never would.

Life went on for Lori and Chi-Chi. Several months went by and Lori signed Chi-Chi up for a flyball (www.flyball.org) class. Everyone at flyball class was very nice and patient. As a team, Lori and Chi-Chi worked really hard. She thought the training process would build Chi-Chi's confidence and help with all those nasty little "issues" of his. Six months after they began training Chi-Chi ran in his first flyball tournament and earned his first title, Flyball Dog (FD). Lori cried with pride. Who knew that little brat would ever be a competitive athlete? As of this writing Chi-Chi has gone on to receive several first place team ribbons and the personal title of Flyball Dog Champion - Gold (FDCh-G.)

Flyball had now successfully been achieved; Lori was convinced Chi-Chi could do more. Lori found a Baltimore-based volunteer organization called Karma Dogs (www.karmadogs.org). Karma Dogs are therapy dogs that work with children in literacy, empathy building, and rehabilitation programs. Lori scheduled Chi-Chi to be evaluated. Lori was prepared to take additional obedience classes over several years to get him to therapy dog level. To Lori's surprise and delight Chi-Chi was an angel and passed the evaluation the first time through. He probably knew working with children was at stake and he did not want to blow his chance. Chi-Chi loves children.



Giving back is now Chi-Chi's mantra. In addition to volunteering for Karma Dogs he (with Lori's help) is fostering a Recycled Love dog that looks a lot like Chi-Chi without the "issues" named Piper. Although Piper is highly adoptable and looking for his new family Chi-Chi is teaching him how to fit in and be a member of the pack. Thankfully Chi-Chi is not showing him how to be a terror and destructive.

It's been 2 1/2 years since Chi-Chi and Lori first met. There has been a lot of destruction, frustration, joy, and love during that time. Chi-Chi is at a healthy athletic 14 1/2 pounds now and he still has a personality that is larger than life. Lori and Chi-Chi were lucky enough to have the support and friendship from very patient friends (and their rescue dogs) in the park they visit every day to get through the rough patches. As everyone who is involved with rescue knows: it takes a village to raise a rescue dog.

2. Thanks to CoreSource

CoreSource is one of the nation's largest employee benefit third party administrators. The CoreSource Baltimore office spent one month in 2007 raising funds for Recycled Love. They became aware of Recycled Love through their claims director, Lynn Holthaus, who adopted Bella (formerly Penny) in August 2005. Bella had been abandoned and tied to a pole in the inner city when she was picked up by Baltimore City Animal Control. She was to be euthanized since she was deemed "timid" and a "fear biter." Bella was fostered by Lori (Chi Chi's Mom from above!). Bella is now doing well as a member of the Holthaus

family. She even won the blue ribbon for "Mystery Mutt" at Recycled Love's Charm City Dog Show in 2006!

Upon learning about the organization and everything that Recycled Love has done for Baltimore's homeless pet population, Lynn suggested Recycled Love as a charity for the CoreSource Baltimore Office. They were able to raise \$505. A big WOOF and MEOW and thanks to our kind friends at CoreSource. Please consider "adopting" Recycled Love as your company's charity! Also, remember that Recycled Love is eligible for matching donations from your workplace. We've already gratefully received these matching funds from T. Rowe Price.

3. Dog Fighting

In April 2007, the Bad Newz Kennels dog fighting investigation began with a search of property owned by Atlanta Falcons Quarterback Michael Vick in Surry County Virginia. More than fifty pit bulls were seized and many showed signs of physical abuse and emotional abuse. This was the beginning of one of the biggest court cases to shed light on the blood sport of dog fighting. Only those of us in rescue and shelter staff have seen first-hand the horrific conditions these dogs endure on a daily basis until their death.

One year later, these dogs lives have changed dramatically. Recycled Love is proud to have become a part of this landmark decision case involving dogs seized from a dog fighting operation. In September 2007, a team of certified animal behavior experts and others assembled by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) conducted individualized behavioral testing of all of the 49 remaining forfeited animals.

Recycled Love worked very closely with court appointed Guardian/Special Master Rebecca Huss. She would make the final recommendations regarding the disposition of the dogs. These dogs were evaluated numerous times by the top experts in the country: Tim Racer of Bay Area Doglovers Responsible About Pit Bulls (BAD RAP), ASPCA behaviorists/veterinarians and Best Friends in Utah.

Huss recommended three dogs be placed with Recycled Love. Their journey has, and continues to be, a long one in terms of healing. Their physical scars are still visible but have healed; it is their emotional scars that touch at our hearts. They are doing exceptionally well in their foster homes and are with experienced dog handlers, who understand the meaning of patience, exercise and unconditional love.

We, at Recycled Love, will continue to fight for all animals involved in this deadly, vicious act. Please help us by reporting any suspicious activity and write to city officials demanding these people be arrested and prosecuted. We see these three dogs as the **"voices for all of the pit bulls that are being fought every day in this City."**
Please let your voices be heard.

We would like to introduce you to Sweet Pea. She is one of "our dogs," and she is living a very different life than a year ago, and we are delighted we have been able to provide this to her.



Special thanks to **Karen Reese** and **Catalina Stirling**. Karen has led Recycled Love's efforts with this project. She has helped raise awareness of dog fighting within our community and works tirelessly to advocate for the prevention of animal cruelty. Catalina has provided extensive training to rehabilitate these dogs.

4. Pet Pointers

Now that Spring is here flea season is upon us. Make sure to take care of your pets, including indoor cats. Speaking of indoor cats, please please please make sure ALL pets have identification tags. You never know when Fluffy or Rover might slip outside.

Yes! I want to support Recycled Love Rescue.

Please send your donation to Recycled Love Rescue, 215 Lanasa Lane, Baltimore, MD 21230. Or use paypal on our website www.recycledlove.org (go to the merchandise page).

All donations are tax deductible. Recycled Love is a 501(C) (3) non-profit funded entirely by donations and run completely by hard working, dedicated volunteers. Thank you!