



Changing lives...one Havanese at a time.

Changing Lives

People who know Rick McCue describe him as "humble," "compassionate," and "patient." In the four years that Rick has been a volunteer for HRI, he has proven that these descriptors fit his personality well. Transporting, fostering and rescuing dogs are activities that most volunteers perform, but Rick goes above and beyond what is normally expected. HRI dogs aren't the only beneficiaries of his kindness, Rick is ready to step up for any dog in need. For example, in 2015, Woody, a two-year-old Havanese was lost behind a rest stop just off a busy interstate highway. When Rick learned of Woody's plight, he was determined to rescue the dog if at all possible.

Woody was terrified. He refused to be captured even though many people had tried to lure him with his favorite treats. After a while, a lot of people gave up on Woody, but not Rick. For days Rick would wait for Woody to show up. Being patient finally paid off. After a month of coaxing, luring and waiting for Woody, Rick was able to capture him. After fostering Woody, Rick and his wife, Elaine, adopted him.

People had said that saving Woody would take a miracle. Rick provided that miracle with patience, perseverance and time. Woody is safe.

Another instance of Rick's willingness to go beyond what is expected occurred in 2016. Several Havanese needed to be transported to their

new foster homes, but the weather was bad. Rick loaded up his van and carefully took to the road to get the dogs where they needed to be. While traveling, Rick comforted the dogs and did all he could to learn their personalities so that the new fosters could be given some more information about the dogs. Stopping to let the dogs have frequent breaks and sleeping with them at night, Rick made the trip as comfortable and stress-free for the dogs as possible.

Rick does not ask for recognition or accolades for the work he does. He simply loves the rescues and wants to help them out of the goodness of his heart. Woody would say that Rick is also capable of providing miracles.



Woody shortly after rescue.



Rick McCue and his wife, Elaine, who keeps him in line.

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Advantages of Senior Dog Adoption

Senior dogs (defined by HRI as eight years or older) are often overlooked in shelters and rescue organizations. This is sad, because senior dogs need homes just as badly as younger dogs – and they have so much to offer! They are most likely house trained, understand basic commands, and those fostered by HRI have undergone evaluation for their personalities and behavioral or medical issues. While considered “senior” by HRI, an eight-year-old Havanese may have another eight, or more, years to live and much more love to give. The calm presence of a senior dog comforts many people, especially those wanting to move through life at a slower pace.

There is a common misperception that senior dogs are “problem dogs,” but many are surrendered to rescues and shelters due to no fault of their own. Another common misperception is that senior dogs cannot be trained. With proper positive reinforcement any dog, at any age, can learn “new tricks.” And senior dogs tend to have longer attention spans than easily distracted puppies.

Senior dogs provide great companionship and are generally less demanding for time, attention, and exercise. They have usually gotten puppy exuberance out of their system and provide a calmer, more mellow demeanor. Senior dogs can become instant companions and are generally happy to simply accompany their “person,” whatever the activity – walking around the neighborhood, sitting on the sofa, or an activity in between. Senior dogs are ideal family members for all types of families, particularly those comprised of human senior citizens. A recent study in the UK by Biomed Central Public Health showed that senior citizens who walked a dog regularly were able to meet internationally

recognized exercise goals, just by walking their dog! And dogs are a great way to meet your neighbors – they are a great excuse to begin a conversation – and build community.

And yes, the amount of years left in a senior dog’s life is less than for a puppy, but when you adopt a senior, you adopt him or her with the mindset of quality of years, versus quantity. And somehow, older dogs seem to know you gave them a home when no one else would, and they show that gratitude by being eager-to-please, loyal, loving companions. Generally, a bond forms very quickly between senior dogs and the person who saved their life by adopting them.

HRI recently ran an “adopt a senior dog” promotion, and of the 21 senior dogs available, eight were adopted by their foster home (that’s another trait of senior dogs – they worm their way into your heart and you realize that you can’t live without them!), but only five were adopted by people who did not foster them. That left eight still in foster care, including a couple of bonded pairs. Why not provide a senior dog, or dogs, a wonderful, loving life by providing it the perfect “retirement” home – yours? HRI has several senior dogs available right now – please consider adopting one!



As of production, these seniors are still available for adoption.

Please consider giving them a place to call home.

Letters From Home

Dear HRI,

I just wanted to give you an update about Chica and how she has settled into her new surroundings. First and foremost she is an absolutely wonderful companion. She loves to play, run around the house, go for walks, bark at anything or anyone who walks by and has a voracious appetite, but most of all, she loves to be loved. My 8-year-old son adores her and she, him.

After a bit of a rocky start (after she peed and pooped in the house a few times in the first week, Chica has taken well to telling me now when she needs to go outside. We have done a few obedience classes, but she is so intelligent and aware of her surroundings that I think she is teaching me at times. I still have a learning curve in so far as her diet but I think I can conquer this over time.

I cannot say enough great things about Chica's foster mom, Melissa. Everything she said about her was right; everything she did for her was done with love, kindness and concern. HRI is amazing!

But most of all I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Joan Ambrose. She introduced me to the Havanese and she was right; they are wonderful. I cannot go anywhere with Chica where someone doesn't want to pet her or ask what

breed she is, but there is universal agreement that she is a beautiful dog both inside and out.

Thank you,
Anthony Crotti



Anthony's eight year old son and Chica

Chance came to live with our family in March 2017 as a rescue dog from Havanese Rescue Inc. He arrived with his little emotional suitcase full of worries. He did not like to walk on tile floors. He did not even like walking on the grass too much. He buried his face under my arm because he was afraid. Little did he know that we were afraid, too. We loved him from the moment we saw him but we were afraid he could never love us as much as that.

Chance is a good-looking seven-year-old fellow. He arrived completely shaved down but now sports a black wavy coat with some white markings which make him appear to be wearing a tuxedo. He has big soulful eyes with movie star potential. He seemed to prefer the quiet life before we decided to go on a vacation and take our four-legged family members.

Chance has a sister, a little black Havanese rescue named Roxie, also from HRI. At nine years old, she is still a fun-loving girl. She is a seasoned traveler. Sassy, smart and ready to

blitz at a moment's notice. She welcomed Chance slowly. No sharing bones and no sharing blankets were house rules. Chance agreed because he is a laid-back kind of guy. A good-looking man is hard to resist, and now Roxie shares everything with her dapper housemate.

Chance had been with us for four months when we decided to take a vacation to the North Carolina mountains. We packed our suitcases and then we packed all the dog gear. There was much more dog gear than people stuff - three kinds of food, treats, beds, blankets, toys, crate and so on. Our daughter said: "Kids always have more stuff." She was right.

Chance and Roxie ride buckled in cushy elevated dog seats. Bob and I just ride. We often take Chance and Roxie out to lunch with us because Sarasota is a very dog-friendly town. They know the phrase "Do you want to go?" means an outing. Chance perks up and raises his beautiful eyes. When we said that phrase this time, little did Chance know that he was going on a big adventure.

Our first stop was Savannah, GA. Chance had ridden quietly in his car seat. He seems to like being a traveling man. We were a little nervous about potty habits since Chance was not house trained when he came to live with us. We were worried that a new room with old dog smells might be confusing and tempting. Chance walked in and started sniffing the floor. I held my breath. Victory! No accidents from our suave gentleman.

All four of us had breakfast outdoors in an enclosed courtyard. Chance was happy to be the ambassador to all the children who walked by with their families. What happened to our shy, little guy? Here comes the new Chance!

Mountain living agrees with Chance. Once we arrived at our place, Chance settled right in. He was startled by deer running across our driveway but was

Letters From Home (cont.)

ready to take off after them. We kept Chance on a leash because we did not want him or Roxie to be a little bear snack.

Because the yards here are steep, they are not mowed often. Chance loves to bound through grass that is as high as his ears. Is this the same dog who did not want to walk on the grass when he first arrived at our home? He skips and jumps and plays until he is tired. It is so easy to fall in love with this sight.

Chance has also discovered wonderful new smells and wildflowers. He puts his nose to the ground like a hound. He startles when a bug flies away. His world is growing as he is growing emotionally. Chance the Explorer, a sight I never thought I would see.

We are near Burnsville, NC. It is a very small town built around a town square. Families bring their blankets and their children and enjoy it. Chance thought he was the Mayor of Burnsville as he walked around the square. He greeted folks and kissed the kids. What happened to burying his head under my arm? My heart is full when I see our little family member finding his personality again.

As I write this, we are on a big porch looking at big mountain views. Chance and Roxie are beside us. Chance cocks his head as something flies by. Mostly he just rests patiently enjoying the slowness and tranquility as we do. He has become one of us. Our vacation has been good. It seems he has, too. We relish



his happy moments because they are ours as well. We want the rest of his life to be happy.

Gail Pruette

Adoption Corner - Izzy in Washington State



If you are looking for a dog that just adores you, five-year-old Izzy is your guy! He loves being next to you, sitting on your lap or being held. He has a lot of love to give, and he gives it freely.

Although small in stature, he weighs a mere 8.5 pounds, he has a big personality and likes to be the center

of attention. Therefore, he is not too fond of children, especially younger ones, and most other animals.

Izzy has no health issues other than a collapsing trachea, which causes no problems as long as his leash is attached to a harness and not his collar. This is important to remember since going on walks is one of his favorite activities.

Being house trained and crate trained and able to entertain himself by playing vigorously with his toys, Izzy is well prepared to join his forever home. He will do best as the only pet in the household, so he won't have to compete for attention or toys.

Izzy is looking forward to lavish all the love he has to give on his forever family.



Update From The President

I'd like to personally welcome each of you to the 2017 HCA National Specialty Show and our Havanese Rescue events. HRI continues to grow and adapt, remaining motivated and open to new ideas. HRI is working together to meet the challenges that change lives.... one Havanese at a time.

Let me give you a brief update on where we are today. 54 new dogs have come into HRI since January 1st of 2017. (This number does not include the dogs that were in our care pre-2017) Since the start of 2017, HRI has spent \$36,613.53 on direct care for our 54 dogs.

Dog care and vetting had an average dollar cost of \$747 per dog. This is an increase of \$200 per dog since 2016. All of this is made possible due to all of your generous support, both hands on as our fosters, and in many other needed roles. Your financial support helps us everyday to continue with our mission of rescuing haves in need. We have been able to help many dogs due to all of you.

During this week at Nationals, we will have:

Our two beautiful quilts, "The Secret Lives of Havis or Havis Just Want to Have Fun" and "Celebration" will be on display throughout the week. Please help our dogs by donating to the quilt project. Our drawing will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at the close of the show. Fingers crossed that you are one of the two lucky winners. Remember the more tickets you have, the more chances you have to win.

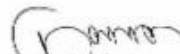
Our Hav to Hav It Store will be open through out the week and we will be featuring some newly designed shirts and a special glitzy paws wine glasses which will be perfect for use at the end of the show days. Our little toys will once again be sold at our store.

On Tuesday, September 19th, our very own dog behaviorist, Gail Czarnecki will be hosting the Trick Dog Seminar. Come and learn about this new AKC certification and make plans to have your dog tested for this title. Special gifts for all dogs tested during this week.

Our rescue parade will be held the afternoon of Thursday September 21st. Please join us as we cheer on our former fosters and their owners. Each rescue dog will be awarded a ribbon and a treat bag.

Our HRI Blue Ridge Mountain Spirit Rescue Dinner will take place on Thursday, September 21st. We have a special group of folks that have been working for many months to make the evening special for everyone. A beautiful ceramic mug has been custom made for each of our guests. Check out the mugs donated by Peter Deneen of Deneen Pottery at <http://deneenpottery.com>. In addition we have beautiful baskets full of items that will go to our lucky winners plus select items for a live auction and many other items to give away. Come and learn more about our rescue while supporting our dogs at our event.

I'd like to thank each of you for supporting the rescue events. Those of you involved in rescue, are truly our greatest assets today and tomorrow, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support and leadership. Throughout the show, I ask you to help us with our events. Whether you are "signed up" to help, or show up, please lend a hand, I look forward to working with you and networking. My thanks goes out to all of you.







Donna Batoloni
President
Havanese Rescue Inc



Blaze's before and after pictures

**Some happy Havanese of HRI share their stories.
They also have a question...**

	<p>Ollie and Jax grabbed our hearts as soon as we met them. At only 8 and 12 months old, the boys were in trouble when their owner became very ill, requiring in-home care. The two young Havanese brothers were too much for the caregiver. HRI was here to provide house training, gentle teaching of manners and a safe place for the darling duo to play and enjoy life until their new family was found.</p>
	<p>Cleo had 18 months to perfect her charming personality. She came to HRI when her family said they were moving to an apartment that didn't allow dogs. Once in foster care, we learned that she had Legg Calve Perthes. With surgery and at-home rehab provided by her foster mom, Cleo made a full recovery and is happily adopted.</p>
	<p>After 12 years in their family, brothers Webster and Sherlock were homeless after their owners were admitted to assisted living with Alzheimer's support. The facility said the boys had to go. HRI accepted the brothers who have each settled into their new families. Webster has retired in style in Mexico!</p>
	<p>A senior couple, missing their Maltese who'd recently died, purchased Joshua from a pet store. They soon realized they weren't up to raising a rambunctious puppy. HRI found a foster-to-adopt foster home for Joshua where he thrived. We're happy to say Joshua is forever home!</p>

The question from our Havanese in rescue is, "Who would you leave behind?" Without volunteers, we can't bring dogs into foster care. Ollie, Jax, Cleo, Webster, Sherlock and Joshua, among 54 others so far in 2017 could be turned away. Please join us today in changing lives, one Havanese at a time. Stop by the HRI booth or go to www.havanese rescue.com for information on how YOU can help! We have a free gift for new volunteers who sign up at the specialty!

CONTACT INFORMATION LINKS

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