

Havanese Rescue Inc

February 2010



Foster to Adopt

Ever bought a car without a test drive? No way! Hey, you might not like the seats, or how it handles in traffic or, heaven forbid, the mirror inside the sun visor doesn't have an adjustable light.

Seems silly, doesn't it? Who would buy a car without a test drive? Adopting a puppy is a similar experience at the end of the day. They look cuddly during the research phase, the breeders are wonderful during the entire process, and each one looks like a perfect fit for your family.

There's nothing worse than finding out, weeks or even months later, that the cute woofsta that

President's Letter

Dear (Contact First Name),

Welcome to the HRI February Newsletter which is dedicated to fostering. What better month than February to talk about those wonderful people who open their hearts and let a little dog in so HRI can mend its heart - or is the little dog mending ours? One of the best feelings in the world is helping a Havanese who needs you.

Foster families meet their new dog and get to know each other. Every dog is different, and we love hearing the stories that our foster families share, whether it is a dog that is experiencing new things (stairs, hardwood floors, grass) or a dog that has learned something new - today Fluffy asked to go out whenever she needed to potty! We are so very proud of our dogs, and while we are not all Cesar Millan, we all try to make sure that the dog that leaves our house is a better dog than the one that came in. Some dogs require more work than others, and some do come to us with more serious medical or behavioral issues. HRI does its very best to place each dog with the foster family that is best equipped to handle that dog's issues.

The number of dogs we are contacted about has continued to increase dramatically. We would love to have you consider being a foster home for HRI. In return, you will receive unconditional love from a dog that needs a helping hand, and you will have the gift of knowing that the dog has found a home that is just perfect. Even though every dog takes a piece of your heart, you find your heart is bottomless and you can take another foster dog. Look into your dogs' eyes, tell them that the foster won't be there forever, and soon the foster dog will find a

looked like such a great addition to your family is just not working out. It really breaks your heart. At Havanese Rescue we understand the difficulty of making a commitment to adopt a new member into your family.

In order to help both you and us, we offer the "Foster to Adopt" program. We need loving homes for dogs that have been rescued for a multitude of reasons- too many to list here. Even a temporary home is better than the fate many of our Havanese dogs must endure.

Think of fostering one of our dogs as the perfect "test drive." We won't ask you to commit, we only ask that you help us out on a temporary basis, until a permanent owner can be found. If it turns out that during your fostering experience you have found the perfect match, then we have a triple win. The foster dog is safe, you've found a wonderful addition to your family, and Havanese Rescue can then help the next needy pup.

Should the foster dog not be a good fit for your family, no worries. It's still a positive experience: you've performed an outstanding service and saved the life of one of our gentlest creatures.

home as wonderful as your home. Please consider fostering, it would be a wonderful Valentine's Day resolution.

I'd also like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all of HRI's foster families who have made a difference in the lives of hundreds of rescued Havanese.

Jen, foster mom to Snoopy, Mae Mae, Molly, Cookie, Bertie, Freddy and George

Letter From Home

Hi Ya-All!

I'm Rockie from Rockford, but now I live in Florida. My new mom went to Illinois in September to attend a surprise birthday party for her father. While she was there she made arrangements to pick me up and bring me back for fostering. Well, the surprise was on her because once she saw me and I batted my big brown eyes at her, I melted her heart. It also helped that I immediately attached myself to her and gave her plenty of kisses. And I'm pretty darn cute!!!



My mom has fostered four other Havs and a few stayed with her during doggie transports. She flies around a lot and thankfully my trip with her was a one-way because I wasn't leaving. Besides, my Hav brother, Boomer, and I are the best of buds. We have so much fun doing the RLH through the house and backyard, playing with toys and going for walks. And can you believe it? We have the same birthday of May 11th! Boomer was born in 2005 and I was born in 2007. That was an omen for my mom!! And my big brother, Bailey, likes to snuggle up with me at night when we go to bed. I must say I'm a pretty lucky dog, even though some say pretty spoiled. Oh, did I tell you about the lizards down here to chase?? Yes, this is definitely my "Furever Home!!"

Love to all and lots of puppy kisses
Rockie

Changing Lives -- Mary Ellen Vickery

So go ahead, sign up and take a Havanese for a "test drive." It's a short ride you will never regret.

HavToHavit General Store



The IQube will not only keep

pets occupied and eliminate boredom, it also develops a dog's intelligence and puzzle-solving skills. Just place the soft plush balls inside the plush cube for dogs to remove over and over again. Durable and long lasting.

Size - Large - 6.25" square and the 4 balls are 3" in diameter.



Daisy and Libby playing with their new IQube.

Buddy, Clyde and Hunter love theirs too! See them in action [here](#)

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Newsletter Staff



What do Tucker, Teddy, Abby, Max, Michael, Joey, Gabby, Winston, Ozzie, Spike and Poochie have in common? For one, they all are HRI dogs who had serious health and/or behavioral problems to overcome when they first came into rescue. What is more important is the fact that Mary Ellen Vickery was their foster mom and rescue angel.

Fostering and rehabilitating a dog with medical or behavioral challenges is a huge commitment, and Mary Ellen has made this commitment not once but eleven times! After she quit showing and breeding Havanese, she wanted to make a difference by fostering dogs that may not have gotten another chance without her help. She just had no idea that there would be so many!

What is the secret to her success in rehabilitating problem dogs? Understanding that each dog is different and responds positively to different techniques is essential, according to Mary Ellen. What works for an anxious dog, may not work for a dominant dog.

Take Tucker, for example, a bossy dog whose rebellious behavior toward strangers was too much to handle for two prior foster homes. He went berserk whenever someone came to the door, and his scrappiness gave everyone trying to groom him problems. As Mary Ellen points out, it is crucial not to be afraid of a dominant dog. She does not believe in punishment but rather in correction followed by positive reinforcement which, for Tucker, included forced lie-downs and doing tricks for treats. After several months of consistent behavior modification, he was ready for adoption. He now lives happily with his forever family.



Ozzie, on the other hand, was a sweet and loving, but very sick boy when he came into rescue eight months ago. He was nearly bald and had sores all over his body. He could not wear a collar or even be petted because he was in such pain, and he was quite malodorous because of fungal infections.

With the help of a veterinary dermatologist who diagnosed an autoimmune disease, Mary Ellen devised a specific treatment plan for Ozzie, consisting of daily oil baths, a special diet, fish oil supplements and medication.

Editor - Beth Franks
Copywriters - Gisela Peters,
Angela Bradford, Mike Brooks
Graphics - Michelle Burke
Production - , Diana Brooks
Proofreaders - Gisela Peters,
Michelle Burke

Today, Ozzie is a happy (and good-smelling!) dog. He sports a gorgeous full coat, and only needs a daily dose of oral medication and an occasional bath with medicated shampoo. Seeing the difference she makes in the lives of these poor dogs brings great joy to Mary Ellen. She feels fortunate being able to do what she loves: living with and taking care of dogs. Her in-home small dog boarding business allows her to live her dream. Maybe it is the ideal setting, a home in the country with a fenced 1.5 acres play area and the opportunity to live in a pack (with her own two retired champion Havs and seven to eight boarding dogs), that contributes significantly to Mary Ellen's success in rehabilitating dogs that need lots of extra care. Thank you, Mary Ellen, for opening your loving home to these challenging Havanese. You truly give them their last chance for a new start in life.

