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HCA Horizons

"Highlights For Havanese Fanciers"



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The new logo was introduced at the Nationals by the President of the HCA, Jim Sivers. It was commissioned and created by noted artist, Chet Jezierski. The black and white rendering is a unique and one-of-a-kind logo that will serve to identify the club for years to come.

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Subscribe to the Havanese Hotline <http://www.havanese.org/documents/subscribe.htm> the official publication of the Havanese Club of America for more in depth news of local clubs, rescue stories, rally articles and other handy tips.

September is *Responsible Dog Ownership Month*

This September, hundreds of AKC affiliated clubs and other dog organizations will be celebrating AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day all across the country. You can join the fun by attending an event in your area! To find one, search here <http://www.akc.org/clubs/rdod/events/>

This event reminds us that raising a happy and healthy pet is more than just playtime and pampering.

AKC RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER PET PROMISE

As a dog owner, I do solemnly swear:

- * I will never overlook my responsibilities for this living being and recognize that my dog's welfare is totally dependent on me.
- * I will always provide fresh water and quality food for my dog.
- * I will socialize my dog via exposure to new people, places and other dogs.

* I will take pride in my dog's appearance with regular grooming.

* I will recognize the necessity of basic training by teaching my dog to reliably sit, stay and come when called.

* I will take my dog to the vet regularly and keep all vaccinations current.

* I will pick-up and properly dispose of my dog's waste.

* I will make sure my dog is regarded as an AKC Canine Good Citizen® by being aware of my responsibilities to my neighbors and to the community.

* I will ensure that the proper amount of exercise and mental stimulation appropriate for my dog's age, breed and energy level is provided.

* I will ensure that my dog has some form of identification (which may include collar tags, tattoo or microchip ID.)

* I will adhere to local leash laws.

October is Rescue Month

by Bonnie Gerht Davis

Asked to write an article about Havanese rescue, I found myself thinking about where to begin. Then it occurred to me, the best place to acquaint oneself with Havanese Rescue Inc is on their web site, www.havanese-rescue.com where there is a wealth of information about the organization. Just look at what you can find:

- a list of the dogs in foster care, available for adoption, special needs, and those who've sadly crossed over the Bridge;
- a direct link to a dedicated group of volunteers across the United States who monitor our assistance help site 24/7 and deal with questions submitted that relate to the Havanese breed;
- a place to adopt or surrender a Havanese;
- a place that puts out alerts for missing Havanese and assists those searching;
- a searchable database of links to assist you in learning more about a particular topic that relates to dogs and their care;
- a place to sign up for our newsletter or shop for Havanese related items
- **and it is a special place just for you to volunteer your time, your funding, your skills or your home for the needy Havanese relinquished by owners, found in shelters, or rescued from mills.**

HRI includes volunteers and their families willing to provide their time, transportation, home, attention, care and the medical or



behavioral treatment necessary to ready a Havanese for his adoption into a forever home. We also focus attention on educating the public regarding puppy mills, pet stores versus responsible breeders, and responsible dog ownership which includes a spay/neuter policy and humane care. HRI is a very pro-active group and we work diligently to evaluate, rehabilitate and re-home the dogs that come to us. We are the advocates for our dogs, with our focus on the health, welfare and happiness of all the dogs we serve.

Rescue needs are growing as our breed becomes more popular and we see our contact numbers increasing at alarming rates. The poor economy has affected the owners' ability to absorb pet and/or veterinarian costs and they find themselves in the heart wrenching position of needing to surrender their beloved animal. Those who purchased "pure-bred" dogs from pet stores, perhaps on impulse, find themselves unable

to cope with or care for these dogs with health and/or behavioral issues.

That's a brief overview of HRI. Here are some personal observations. I'm an HRI volunteer - the State Contact for Pennsylvania, working on various committees and have had the wonderful opportunity to foster two dogs and transport many. I love what this organization accomplishes and the dedicated group of people who see that good things happen. These volunteers, along with all the Havanese encountered, have enriched my life, and expanded my knowledge and skills. But the biggest payback of all is the love and pride I feel when I see the tremendous changes in our Havanese as they overcome obstacles to become the happy dogs they deserve to be. The feedback from their new families once an adoption takes place is heartwarming. Our team works together so we never lose sight of the goal - a happy, content animal with no sadness or fear present in his or her expression.

There are many ways to volunteer for Rescue. Think about it. Give us a helping hand, an open heart and perhaps a road-trip or two transporting our Havanese. Log on to our website and complete a volunteer application today! Fostered by me and adopted by a wonderful family, Charlie Girl says, "Thanks for giving me the good life" and I hope to see you on www.havanese-rescue.com real soon!



Jolie and Diamond bask in the last rays of Summer. Owned and loved by Debbie Graves

Jolie and Diamond bask in the last rays of Summer. Owned and loved by Debbie Graves.



Deedee really does not want to rejoin her hufamily and leave the starfish

Photo taken and submitted by Krista Hayward

Adopt A Dog Month



The American Humane Association's Adopt-A-Dog Month® was established to be celebrated every October. The tradition promotes dog adoptions and provides an opportunity to spread the word about responsible pet care.

There is a misconception that many dogs in rescue are "damaged" in some way. In most cases this is not true. Dogs come to rescue for a variety of reasons; divorce, job loss, children added to the family, etc. Behavior problems are only one

reason and are often resolved in foster care before the dog is offered for adoption.

The Havanese Club of America joins Havanese Rescue Inc celebrating and promoting October as Rescue Month. By adopting a Havanese this October, or at any time of year, people provide them much-needed, stable, loving homes. Improve your life with a dog's companionship, and support these voiceless creatures.



Emmy loves camping with the family!
Photo taken and submitted by Gloria Dittmann



It is hard to leave friends ...
Photo taken and submitted by Krista Hayward

Havanese Roundtable



Question:

Are there some special tips that would help us make flying easier with our Havanese?

Answer:

Flying with your Havanese can be a fun journey by following some simple tips. Make sure your pup gets some exercise before entering the airport. Many airports allow you to walk your pet on a leash before boarding, and this can help by keeping him active till the last minute. Speak to your vet about a light traveling aid if the flight is going to be a long one; on short flights this is probably not necessary. **DO CHECK AIRLINE REGULATIONS HOWEVER, SINCE THEY FORBID ANY TRANQUILIZERS, ETC PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Also, while usually not required, it is a good idea to have your pet microchipped and have a copy of the microchip number in your purse or carry-on if for some reason your puppy gets away from you.

Make sure your traveling bag is a safe and sturdy one by checking that the brand you get is compliant with airport regulations and that it has clear identification on it. Be sure to make a reservation for the dog when you make your own. This cannot wait until you get to the airport as most flights allow only two dogs to fly in the cabin. Most airports do not require a medical release before flying in cabin but do check that also.

Once at the airport, allow the pup to relieve himself by finding a patch of grass if possible before entering. Bring wee wee pads with you so if you need to place one in an airport bathroom on the floor you are prepared. Have the pup on a lead and allow him some time to do his thing. This is especially important if you have to change planes. Bring a water bottle and small dish or a hamster type water bottle so your pup has access to fresh water.

Most pups will settle right down when you settle into your seat and place the pup in his traveling bag under the seat in front of you. By staying calm and relaxed you will not alarm the pup. Before the actual flight, it is recommended that you get the pup used to the travel bag by taking him out on short trips so he he has acclimated to the bag.

Bring some natural chewies your pup is familiar with and that you can start the pup out with. Once in the air the sounds and vibrations should lull your pup to sleep. Follow your flight attendant's rules on flying with a pet because you never know when someone around you might be allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. Relax and enjoy your trip and your Havanese should be able to do the same. Happy Landings.

Claudia DeVita

Old Dogs

Lu Wyland

Old dogs have a grace that I think some people miss. Those that do see it often get sad, watching their dogs age, walking further down the road, knowing that it's only a matter of time before their dog rounds the bend and moves out of our sight.

I'm in a peculiar place. I see my aging Lowchen, both eyes now blind and her cognitive abilities fading quickly. This week she stumbled as she walked up the ramp in the kitchen that leads to our outdoor kennel attached to our house. I was there when it happened. She fell only onto the kitchen floor, but had she been a few steps further up the ramp, she would have fallen into the stairwell where I'm sure she would have been hurt. I have to make plans now about how to keep her safe when I'm not here to supervise her.

So I watch Tansy age and I feel sadness that I know we have much less time left together than we've shared so far, but I feel incredibly fortunate too. I get to watch my old dog get older. I didn't get to do that with Mira or with Cali, having lost both of them at far too young an age.

I feel like Tansy has lived well with us. She got cheated the first half decade or so of her life, but she's soaked up the good life with my daughter and I. Tansy took great pleasure looking down "her" alley at the end of the sidewalk. She was my little grey sentinel for many many years. Now she sits and listens since she's unable to see. It's still her favorite spot in the yard.

She took joy in learning to walk in and out of the raspberry bushes. Blind in one eye when she came home, that due to an injury in the puppy mill where her eye was ripped open by

the wood and wire caging, Tansy had no depth perception and it affected her movement. She'd had so little time in the world without wire around her, she didn't know how to maneuver. But she figured it out. In and out of the raspberry bushes, then looking to me as if to say, "LOOK! I did it!" Her tail wagged like a pompom in her self delight. She learned too how to jump onto furniture, sleep on the bed and appreciate ear rubs and chest scratches.

It took Tansy three years to learn how to respond to the command, "sit." Now it's in her brain just like her house training is. Tell Tansy, "Sit!" and she plants her arthritic hips on the ground, her nose pointing upward for the treat she assumes will follow. That's the other thing she learned -- treats follow her. They were there before she learned to sit; they'll be there if she forgets again.

I know I'll loose Tansy one day, probably yet this year. She gets lost in my bedroom and can't find her way out some mornings. She walks up to the fence in our yard and can't figure out how to walk away, turning and bumping into it or her sisters or brother around her repeatedly like one of those wind up toys that change direction every time they run into an obstacle.

With her unsure footing on the ramp and her refusal to do stairs since she went completely blind, I often carry Tansy outside and often carry her inside again as well. It takes more time, but that's something that's a gift. We give it to each other. Carrying her reminds me of it. How lucky can one be to have a dog long enough in life that they need to be carried sometimes?

I didn't get to watch Cali or Mira's coats

change color with age. I didn't watch their eyes grow cloudy or their ability to chew kibble wane as more teeth were lost to age. They left without spending even a decade on this earth, Mira only half a decade. And so I look at Tansy's aging, and unlike the people who weep that their dogs grow old....I am grateful for the opportunity for this passage. And for the old dogs that come to rescue, I wonder what ever has possessed their humans that they pass these gifts along to someone else, sometimes not even looking back. They've gone mad, or maybe never had their sanity.

If you have an old dog or a growing older dog, I hope you're able to rejoice in the time you've got, watching him wake up a little more slowly than he used to or seeing her step in the yard or living room grow a little more uncertain. That slower pace, the body that's softer and less muscular, the hearing or sight that isn't what it once was, are a gift we don't all get to share. Sometimes we lose the opportunity without any choice in the matter. For those who throw it away, I am both sorry and astonished.

I breathe in the smell of Tansy's dear old head and listen to her sigh as I rub her chest. We are closer now than we probably were in the past. She's the last of my original pack that led my friends to refer to evening meals at our house as a "three dog night." I've promised not to keep her longer than she is comfortable and happy. I gauge her life in part now by her willingness to eat. She still enjoys her treats and gets more soft food than kibble these days, partly because she forgets what she's doing often times if something takes a long time to chew. Bon Appetit', Tansy.....bon appetit!



Henri relaxes with his Princesses - All own the family who are also the photographers

Henrie Cartier Bresson is pictured on the left relaxing with his poodle friends. Photo taken and submitted by George & Vicki Schober

"Q.T." is enjoying the great weather in this picture on the right. Photo taken and submitted by Arlene Etzig.

