



Tzu News

President's Message

Hello and welcome to the inaugural issue of *Tzu News*, the newsletter for Crossroads Shih Tzu Rescue!

Crossroads Shih Tzu Rescue is a fledgling rescue group, created and based upon the desire to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome Shih Tzu and Shih Tzu mixes who find themselves in less than desirable situations.

Our focus is rescuing those who needs us most: those in animal shelters facing certain euthanasia due to health or behavior issues, breeder dogs that have been released from puppy mills (see page 2 for a FAQ about puppy mills) and backyard breeder situations, and other dogs who find themselves in dire straits.

The purpose of this newsletter is to connect with those who are interested in the rescue

work that we will be doing, provide an ongoing accounting to those who support our efforts as to what is happening with our rescue, provide information about the dogs that we will be offering for adoption, and educate those who read it about the Shih Tzu breed as well as the many issues that confront rescues, rescuers and animal lovers every day.

Crossroads Shih Tzu Rescue is incorporated in Illinois and is in the process of filing for 501(c)3 nonprofit status, which should be completed and awarded before the end of 2008. As a result, donations made to CSTR this year are tax deductible retroactively up to 17 months prior to the status award.

We are dependent upon the generous donations of our supporters, and we understand that these are difficult

economic times for everyone. We also have seen, though, that as a result of these difficult economic times, more and more dogs are winding up in shelters as families are forced from their homes due to foreclosure and other financial situations. Shelters are full to bursting, and there are many, many dogs that need to get into rescue and have a second chance at life. We hope to make a difference in the lives of as many of those dogs as we possibly can, but we cannot do it without your help.

We hope that you will donate today and help us begin this very important work. The dogs are counting on us, but in order to be able to help them, we need you.

Leann Lund
President

Who is Crossroads Shih Tzu Rescue?

Leann Lund, CSTR President and Treasurer, has been "officially" involved in animal rescue since 2001. In 2003, the Tallahassee, FL, all-breed rescue she had been fostering for folded, and so, with her rescued Shih Tzu, Alex, by her side, she began Gulf Coast Shih Tzu Rescue. Over the course of 3 years (prior to moving home to Illinois in 2006), Leann and her two dedicated foster homes were responsible for the

successful rehabilitation and rehoming of over 80 Shih Tzu, Shih Tzu mixes and other small breed dogs. Since returning to Illinois, Leann has fostered and placed a number of dogs through area rescues and looks forward to bringing her intensity and commitment to the rescue work of CSTR. Leann lives in a suburb of Chicago with the Tzu Crew, Alex, Polo, Tobey, Adam and Davie.

Julie Holt, CSTR Vice President, has been a volunteer with a Shih Tzu rescue group for the last year and a half. Julie is always one of the first volunteers to take dogs in need. She sees the need and takes a foster. She works very hard, making sure that the dogs are placed in their "perfect forever home". She will even take fosters that are deemed "unadoptable" by other people's standards and turn

Inside this issue:

Puppy Mill FAQ	2-3
Tzu Corner	4
Dear God, What is "Time"?	4
Historic Animal Adoption Contract Appellate Case	5
Views From the Trenches	5
How Can YOU Help?	6
Contact Information	6

Did you know?

- According to the ASPCA, approximately 12 million animals enter shelters every year
- 60% of dogs and 70% of cats that enter those shelters wind up euthanized
- According to the Humane Society of the US, 9.6 million unwanted animals are euthanized in US shelters every year
- That is over 26,300 animals every day

Who is Crossroads Shih Tzu Rescue? cont.

them into pets that some feel they never could have been.

Julie works diligently to make sure that her foster dogs get the best nutrition possible. She spends countless hours researching nutrition for her dogs to alleviate as well as prevent nutritional deficits.

Julie manages all of this while at the same time working full time and doing military duty in the Air Force Reserves. She adopted one dog and has since become an expert in Shih Tzu rescue, rehabilitation, and re-homing.

Vickie Fountain, CSTR Secretary, lives in central Illinois with her two Shih Tzu, Emo and Bear, as well as five cats, Sasi, Misha, Rascal, Lucky, and Nightmare. Rescue is a family affair in her home as

her two daughters, Sierra and Skyler, are also involved. Vickie has been involved in fostering all breed dogs and cats as well as volunteering in local animal shelters since 2001, although she has always had a love for animals. Vickie says, "My parents started me in rescue at an early age without realizing it. We lived in Henry, which is located on the Illinois River. Every year when the flooding started, my family would rescue duck eggs from the abandoned nests. My parents, Steve and Cindy Hunt, had an incubator set up in the basement where my brother Rusty and I would diligently keep watch over the eggs until they hatched. Once the ducklings were old enough, they were released back into nature. That was the start of it all!"

Gina Taddeo, CSTR Foster and Volunteer, lives in north-west Indiana with her rescued Shih Tzu/Shih Tzu mixes, Bruce, Hobby and Romeo, and two cats, Crystal and Mr. P. Gina has been "unofficially" for as long as she could walk and talk, regularly bringing home "anything that looked lost". Gina says, "My first love in rescue is to get the dogs that are losing their families through no fault of their own, or dogs in shelters that were strays, or turned in by their owners. I feel that they are in such shock over losing their families. They need lots of patience and TLC. I love to make them see that there is always another family out there to love them. And they do come around. "



Leann's Oklahoma puppy mill survivor, Adam

A HUGE and very special thanks to Jill Van Heel for her patience and hard work on CSTR's logo. Tzu kisses and heartfelt thanks to you, Jill!



Florida puppy mill survivor, Ben

Puppy Mill FAQ

Q. What is a puppy mill?

A. The term "puppy mill" refers to a large-scale commercial dog breeding facility. At such facilities, the goal is to make a profit by producing and selling large quantities of marketable puppies. Thus, the breeding dogs live out their entire lives in small cages.

They are bred repeatedly. In order to keep costs down, these dogs receive only minimal veterinary care (that which will enable them to continue to reproduce) and are never taken out of their cages for walks or play time. At the worst facilities, the dogs live in outdoor cages and are susceptible to extreme heat and cold. CCHS

considers these conditions to be inhumane.

Q. The clerk at the store told me that the store gets its puppies from reputable breeders, not puppy mills. Is this true?

A. No. It is not possible for a pet store to maintain a steady inventory of a variety of breeds without relying on commercial breeding facilities. In addition, no reputable breeder would ever sell his/her litters to a retail pet store.

Q. The clerk told me that the breeders were licensed and inspected by the USDA. Doesn't this mean that the breeding facility is o.k.?

A. No. The law requires

anyone who has 6 or more fertile female dogs at one time to be licensed by the USDA. However, the USDA is also responsible for regulation and oversight of the country's food supply and is thus responsible for inspecting all facilities that produce beef, pork, poultry, and agriculture products. The USDA is under-funded and understaffed throughout the United States. Unfortunately, commercial dog breeding facilities are not a priority for the USDA and often times, even when inspections occur, enforcement efforts are inadequate. In addition, the minimum requirements for animal care required under the USDA do not provide for an



Puppy Mill FAQ, cont.

acceptable quality of life for a dog.

Q. But the clerk at the store told me all the puppies are registered with the American Kennel Club and come with pedigrees. Doesn't that mean anything?

A. Not necessarily. AKC registration is often a marketing tool used by pet shops. The truth is, the AKC registers any purebred puppy whose parents were registered. AKC registration relies on the honor system, and is simply a matter of the breeder filling out the proper forms and paying the fees. It is not a "seal of quality." In the case of knowledgeable breeders who are devoted to the welfare of their beloved breed, the system works. But **AKC registration does not insure health, quality, or even adherence to breed standards.** Moreover, an "official" AKC pedigree is just a print out from their database of the previous registrations of the puppy's parents, grandparents, etc.

Q. What is a "broker" such as Hunte Corp.?

A. A broker (a.k.a. a Class B Dealer) is a middle man who **buys puppies from commercial breeding facilities and then sells them to pet stores.** In addition to moving puppies across the country (usually in a truck), the broker has a kennel facility where puppies are housed after purchase and held before shipment to a destination store. The living conditions at these facilities have been found to be no better than at puppy mills. Inevitably, brokers end up with a number of dogs that are not purchased by retail stores. These dogs might be

sold at auction to another dealer or end up at a research facility. Brokers frequently promise that they are obtaining dogs from only the best responsible breeders. However, in reality, they are obtaining their dogs from large scale commercial breeding facilities. **Remember, no reputable breeder would ever sell their dogs to a broker.**

Q. What does a reputable breeder do that is so special?

A. A reputable breeder (1) will only breed dogs of excellent genetic stock and will not breed dogs that have congenital defects, (2) will only breed a female dog once per year (and only a few times in her life), thus ensuring that she has adequate nutritional stores to support her litters, (3) provides essential socialization of young pups to human contact, (4) provides excellent veterinary care for both the breeding dogs and puppies; (5) carefully screens individuals seeking to purchase their pups; (6) requires puppy buyers to sign a contract promising to return the dog to the breeder if for any reason the buyer can no longer care for the dog; (7) maintains contact and provides assistance to buyers of their puppies; and (8) requires that the dogs be spayed or neutered unless they are satisfied that the buyer is knowledgeable of responsible breeding practices.

Note: If you have decided to obtain a puppy from a breeder, CCHS strongly urges you to ask questions and fully investigate the background of the puppy you are interested in. A reputable breeder will welcome your questions and in turn seek assurances from you that you will provide a good

home for the puppy. For a list of questions you might consider asking a breeder, go to http://www.stoppupmills.org/puppy_buying_tips.html.

Q. Won't a puppy from a reputable breeder be more expensive than a pet-store puppy?

A. Not necessarily. In most cases, you can find a responsible breeder of any purebred dog who charges less than puppy store prices. Furthermore, responsible breeders often have "pet quality" puppies (as opposed to "show quality") and older dogs that have been returned for reasons that have nothing to do with the dog. In addition, (1) you will be certain of your new dog's health, socialization, and genetic background; and (2) your breeder will maintain an interest in your dog's well being for life.

Q. Don't the dogs in the pet store need to be "saved"?

A. Unfortunately, there are more dogs in the United States than there are homes for them. **Buying a pet store puppy will not help save dogs' lives – it will add to the profits of commercial breeders and brokers.** And thanks to the profits from your purchase, the puppy you buy today will be replaced by another puppy tomorrow. If you want to save a dog who is homeless and at risk, please consider adopting a dog from a shelter or breed rescue group.

Information courtesy of Champaign County Humane Society, Urbana, IL



It is estimated that over 500,000 dogs are bred in puppy mills every year.

There are more than 6,000 licensed commercial kennels in the US (and untold numbers of unlicensed.)

- Best Friends Animal



Before and after pictures of Georgia puppy mill survivor, Katie



Tzu Corner

CSTR is excited to introduce you to **Tzu Corner**, a regular article that we hope to include in each issue of the newsletter to educate our readers and adopters about the Shih Tzu breed, nutrition, grooming and other issues important to those of us who love this wonderful breed. If you have questions or an "issue" that you would be interested in seeing discussed in Tzu Corner, feel free to email CSTR with your question(s) or idea(s) at CSTR.board@gmail.com. In today's newsletter, we're including a brief history of the Shih Tzu breed.

The exact origins of the Shih

Tzu breed are rather difficult to nail down, but records dating back to at least 1000 BC indicate the presence of short, square, "under the table" dogs in China. It is pretty universally accepted that the breed originated in Tibet and was closely tied to the Buddhist religion. Called "lion dogs", the modern breed's development is largely owed to the Chinese Dowager Empress T'zu Hsi, who bred and raised Pugs, Pekingese and Shih Tzu in her world-renowned kennel. Despite her attempts to keep the three breeds separate, the actual breeding was carried out by palace eunuchs who secretly

crossed the breeds and bred for smaller size and particular markings and characteristics.

Shih Tzu came to the United States via returning military personnel in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and US breeding of the dogs began as the breed gained popularity. The Shih Tzu breed was recognized formally by the American Kennel Club in 1969 and has gained in popularity since then. In 2007, the Shih Tzu was ranked 9th on the AKC's list of the 10 Most Popular Breeds.

Did you know?

- The name "Shih Tzu" is both singular AND plural.
- The name "Shih Tzu" means "lion."
- The Shih Tzu is often called "the chrysanthemum-faced dog" because of the haphazard, round-face way their hair grows in the front.
- Unlike many breeds, Shih Tzu coats can be found in almost every color and pattern.

In *American Shih Tzu Magazine*, James Mumford described the "recipe" used to develop the Shih Tzu breed as -

"A dash of lion, several teaspoons of rabbit, a couple of ounces of domestic cat, one part court jester, a dash of ballerina, a pinch of old man (Chinese), a bit of beggar, a tablespoon of monkey, one part baby seal, a dash of teddy bear and the rest dogs of Tibetan and Chinese origin."



Dear God, What is "Time"?

I hear the sadness in the voices of workers here. They say my "Time is up", that they have to make room for yet another dog.

My "Time" is up. I don't know what that means, God. I only know that my new friends are so sad, and the more I wag my tail--- the harder I try to make them feel better--- the sadder they become.

I know I have heard that word "Time" before, but I don't understand. When I was younger, my people would say "Time to play!" They would throw the ball, and I would run fast. Sometimes I brought it back to them, but other times we'd end up chasing each other having fun.

I remember "Time to eat". My people would put down a bowl of food, and I would enjoy dinner, wagging my tail in joy. There was also "Time for your walk". My boy would put my leash on, and we would go walking together, visiting the neighborhood and enjoying each other's company. When I was younger I thought "Time" meant fun. Or maybe Love?

I don't understand. "Time" must mean something else, but how can it change, God? Before I came here, I heard my people say, "No time to feed you now, boy. Later, when I get home." Sometimes my family would forget, and there was no food in my bowl. Does "Time" mean when my belly hurts?

My people said there was no time for walks. I tried to hold it all day long-- but God, I just couldn't anymore. When I finally had to go, it made my family very angry. Does "Time" means anger? Or maybe Loneliness?

My family said they didn't have "Time". They didn't have time to play, or time to take me to the vet, or time to go for walks. They didn't have "Time", so they brought me here.

Maybe I was right... They said they didn't have time, and if "Time" means Love, how did they lose it? Did I do something wrong?

God, I think my new friends are sending me to you. Do you have "Time"? May I sit on the couch?

Am I a good Dog, God? Is it "Time"?

Author: Joan C. Fremo, published on: July 29, 2001



Historic Animal Adoption Contract Appellate Case

2nd and 11th Judicial District Appellate Term Overturns Dismissed Animal Adoption Contract Case

Pro Se plaintiff unanimously wins overturn of dismissed animal adoption contract law suit

QUEENS, NY (July 7, 2008)- As many animal adopters do, Nancy Kelcho of Staten Island adopted a full breed Chow Chow from a Queens based rescue group, the Companion Animal Network, and violated the adoption agreement by having the dog killed at New York City’s Animal Care & Control Staten Island center just two years later because she was “moving.”

Although she had agreed to the contract’s terms which stated that the dog at all times remained the rescue group’s property and that she had to give a 90 day notice prior to returning the dog, Ms. Kelcho, after being reminded of the 90 day period, secretly had her dog killed rather than keep her

contractual commitment.

Companion Animal Network’s founder sued, representing himself pro se, for the \$1,500 liquidation clause contained in the adoption agreement. Ms. Kelcho, for the first time in court, brought up a defense that her dog of two years suddenly started attacking her and her family, though she admitted there were no bites, not even torn clothes, nor presenting any other family members as witnesses. Notwithstanding the irrefutable lack of evidence that Ms. Kelcho had fabricated the “dog attack” pretext to get out of her 90 day notice agreement, the small claims judge ruled in her favor, taking notice that since the dog was a Chow Chow it is known to be a high bite risk breed.

Many small claims judges do not decide animal cases on the merits of each case but decide based upon their own personal opinions. Many animal adopters, knowing full well that animal adoption

contracts, even those from major organizations, are unenforceable for monetary penalties, violate their contracts with impunity. The appeal was taken to the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

The Companion Animal Network, over the past 25 years, has developed a legally enforceable adoption agreement, and has sued every single violator of its adoption agreement. Of four such cases, every single one has been won and collected, teaching those animal adopters that they must abide by adoption contracts as they do other contracts.

However, this was the first case which had to be appealed as the other three cases had been won at the small claims level. This is likely the first ever animal adoption contract dismissal overturned by an Appellate Court in New York State.

Top 10 Reasons Owners Give for Relinquishing Their Dogs:

- Moving
- Landlord issues
- Cost of pet maintenance
- No time for pet
- Inadequate facilities
- Too many pets in home
- Pet illness(es)
- Personal problems
- Biting
- No homes for littermates

From AssociatedContent.com

Very special thanks to Heather Herbert for her hard work and creativity in designing CSTR’s logo and web site.

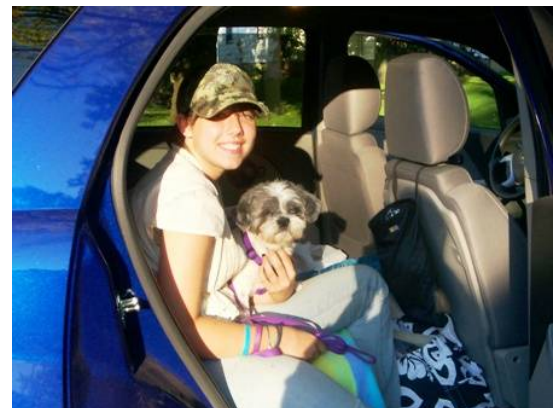
Thank you, Heather!



Views From the Trenches



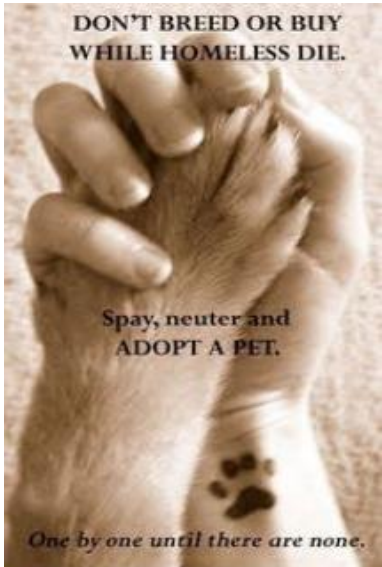
Dinnertime in a rescue foster home is serious business, requiring organization, patience, and a bit of choreography!



Transport is also an important part of rescuing as we move dogs from shelters, puppy mills and other situations to rescue.

How Can YOU Help?

- **Make a donation!** CSTR is in the process of filing for 501(c)3 federal nonprofit status, and so all donations are tax deductible retroactively for 17 months prior to the status award. So your donations are tax deductible! We're working on getting a PayPal account set up, but in the meantime, checks may be mailed to CSTR, PO Box 152, New Lenox, IL 60451.
- **Shop!** CSTR has joined the iGive network! By doing your online shopping through the iGive portal, www.iGive.com, after indicating CSTR as "your cause", a percentage of your money spent will be donated to CSTR. With the holidays coming (scary but true!), it's a great way to get your shopping done and help CSTR at the same time!
- **Become a CSTR foster parent.** Fostering a rescued dog is an immensely rewarding experience as you watch a rescued dog blossom under your care.
- **Become a CSTR volunteer.** CSTR understands that not everyone is able to participate as a foster parent. We have plenty of opportunities, however, for you to help in this very important work. CSTR needs volunteers for just about every aspect of the rescue's operations. **Currently, the most pressing need is for help with fundraising.** Other needs include transportation of dogs coming into the rescue, assistance with adoption events and various other tasks that are important in keeping the rescue running in order to help the dogs that so desperately need us.
- **Non-Monetary Donations.** There is always a need for Petco and PETSMART gift cards, nylon collars size 8-14", nylon harnesses size 10-14", nylon leashes, Frontline Plus, Advantage, Heartgard, Capstar, old towels and blankets, pet carriers, Petzyme, etc.
- **Help spread the word about CSTR.** Forward or print this newsletter and help us get the word out about CSTR.



iGive.com[®]
Change online shopping for good.

A special and profound thanks to everyone who has helped Crossroads Shih Tzu Rescue get off the ground and to those of you who believe in what we are doing enough to make a donation.

Thank you!

In the next Tzu News:

- President's Message
- CSTR Dogs Available for Adoption
- Tzu Corner: Choosing the Right Dog Food
- Upcoming Events
- More Views and Notes From the Trenches

Upcoming Events

Online

Tastefully Simple

Party!

Like good things to eat? Want to help CSTR save needy Shih Tzu? **Details coming soon** on how you can help CSTR raise much-needed funds by shopping for good things to eat!



The Tzu Crew asks you to help us help those who have no voice. Help us help needy Shih Tzu by making a donation today!

CROSSROADS SHIH TZU RESCUE

PO Box 152
New Lenox, IL 60451

CSTR.board@gmail.com

One by one..
Until there are none.

Crossroadsrescue.org coming soon!