



November 2009

Dear Friends of the Animals:

Carly, an outgoing Boston terrier mix, was picked up by animal control after she was spotted wandering alone with a severely injured leg. TCRAS personnel gave her pain medications to keep her comfortable and set about figuring a way to pay for surgery to repair her elbow, which stuck out at an angle and caused severe pain. Despite all she'd gone through, the young dog, estimated to be about 9 months old, was friendly and peppy, and won over everyone she met.

The community stepped up after the shelter director made a public plea for donations, and also located a veterinarian, Dr. Mark Colvin of Bijou Animal Hospital, who offered to do the surgery at a significantly reduced rate. Carly sailed through the surgery, and the next morning was active and happy. Unfortunately, it was not possible to repair the leg. Once the surgical procedure began, it became clear that a section of her leg adjacent to the broken elbow was malformed, possibly from an earlier injury, possibly from a birth defect. The veterinarian determined that merely repairing the leg would not create a sufficiently strong bond to hold up over time. A repair would probably create significant pain and was also likely to break again, necessitating additional surgery. So in consultation with the shelter director, the decision was made to amputate.

Carly seems to have no memory of the now-gone leg, or any need for it. She has no trouble walking, running or going up and down stairs, and pretty much anything she pleases! She now serves as the "vet-van dog" calling on all the animal patients of Dr. Lisa Berg, the mobile veterinarian serving Teller County.

The amazing generosity of the community -- more than \$3,000 was donated and her discounted surgery was about \$600 (repairing the leg, if that had been possible, would have been much more expensive)-- means that TCRAS now has an emergency medical reserve fund to help other animals that come in with dire medical conditions. We've recently had two dogs with diabetes--treatable but expensive, a dog with a broken leg, and several dogs with such bad teeth they all had to be pulled to facilitate the ability to eat and regain weight and strength. All those animals have now gone to new homes, but small shelters rarely have the resources to contend with such expensive medical treatments, and TCRAS is no exception.

Animals like Carly are the reason TCRAS exists. We take stray dogs, and the pets people no longer want or can care for, as well as injured cats and dogs, and we provide them with love and care until the right person walks in to adopt them. Sometimes that takes longer than others, but as a no-kill shelter, we give them as much time as it takes to find the best home.

Your donations, by mail, telephone or online, to TCRAS help us accomplish this important work. Please consider a holiday gift for the animals this year! Donating a gift in the name of a family member or friend is a wonderful way to *double* the gift by honoring someone and helping the animals.

TCRAS is growing - but so is the demand. More animals than ever passed through our doors in the last 12 months. We need your continued support to provide the physical and emotional care for the animals. Please remember the animal shelter as you plan your holiday gift shopping this year.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Mahatma Gandhi

Thank you for having a heart for the cats and dogs of TCRAS! Your tax-deductible financial contribution makes a world of difference to the shelter animals!

Kind regards,

Kellie J Case
Board President/Treasurer

TCRAS Board Members: Pam Brady, Kellie J Case, Dr. Kevin Conrad, Sue Hearon,
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