

Cairns & Cousins Terrier Rescue

Monthly Newsletter

**DEDICATED TO RESCUING CAIRN TERRIERS AND
OTHER SMALL STATURE TERRIER COUSINS**

Terrier Talk

Welcome to the first Cairns & Cousins Terrier Rescue Newsletter of the new year. This month's issue will focus on adoptions and how one of our fosters is united with their forever home.

In general, the cairns and their cousins have safely landed in our rescue because there was no one there who wanted them or would give them a chance to love and be loved. The truth is that our favorite terriers have fallen out of favor and have been replaced by the other breeds. Add to that the current economy and astronomical veterinary expenses, and you have a recipe for the decline in dog ownership across the board. Our rescue list has grown these past six months to encompass many terriers and a few lovable imposters, all worthy of a forever home. Some are young, some not so young, but when it comes to love, none should be denied their happy ending. Our canine friends live only for today, regardless of how many todays are ahead of them. Read on to discover how our Adoption Management team helps make a foster dog's today, the best day.

To ensure that our dogs get the attention they deserve, 2026 will see our rescue visible on Petfinder (link coming), YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@CCTR-YouTube>), and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/cairnsandcousins/>) to augment our website (<https://ccterrierrescue.org>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CairnsandCousins>) presence.



Liz Romick

President, Cairns & Cousins Terrier Rescue



Adoption Management Team: Making Forever Homes Happen

By Lisa MacDonald

Behind every successful adoption is a dedicated group of volunteers working tirelessly to match each dog with the right family. Leading this effort for CCTR is Liz Romick, director of the Adoption Management Team, who oversees a talented team of Placement Specialists, Post-Adoption Specialists, and Contract Specialists.

While each role is essential to a successful placement, the Placement Specialists are often the most hands-on. They coordinate applications, serve as the liaison between the foster homes and applicants, they communicate directly with prospective adopters, helping them to clarify what they are looking for in a new family member, and provide feedback on the dogs currently in CCTR's foster care.

continued on page 2



The Team Behind Every Happy Tail

continued from page 1

Once a potential match has been identified, the Placement Specialist introduces the applicant to the foster home. If the foster home approves the match, the Placement Specialist then guides the applicant through the adoption process. They also follow up with the adoptive home once the dog arrives in his or her forever home to ensure all is well and to offer assistance if there are any questions or concerns.

The Post-Adoption Specialist becomes involved only if an issue arises that could derail the adoption. Each Post-Adoption Specialist has expertise in dog behavior and dog health. They are available to answer any questions or concerns from the adoptive home. Their ability to provide solutions can turn a potentially failed adoption into a successful forever home.

No adoption would be complete without a Contract Specialist. Each of these volunteers works diligently to provide a legal and complete document that protects both adopter and CCTR.

Running a national rescue comes with unique challenges, especially in adoption management. When asked about these struggles, Liz mentioned that post-COVID airline restrictions have made it harder to transport dogs across the country, limiting options for getting pups to their perfect homes. Adding to that challenge, many adopters are only focused on young female dogs and often overlook the stately older gentlemen currently in rescue. And while terriers are independent, spirited, and endlessly loyal, they aren't always the first breed people think of when beginning their adoption search.

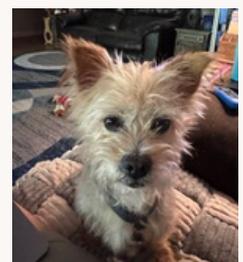
Liz wishes more adopters understood just how special these dogs truly are. As she put it: "What I wish more adopters knew is that with the terrier breeds, they are like fine wine that only gets better with age. Puppies and dogs under 3 are adorable, but the notion that a dog cannot change or learn because they aren't a puppy is nonsense."

Thanks to Liz and her team, countless Cairns and their cousins have found – and will continue to find – safety, stability, and love.

Heartworm Prevention Saves Lives

By Jane Campbell

Our four-footed family members give us so much love, many adventures and, unfortunately, sometimes heartbreaking challenges.



Danny Boy

One of those challenges, preventable with proactive care, is heartworm. Sandra Ladner, vice president of Cairns & Cousins Terrier Rescue and a longtime dedicated foster and volunteer, has met that challenge several times over the years. She is sharing her experience, research and advice in the hope she can help even one dog escape this life-threatening disease.

Sandra and her husband, Rick, have fostered four heartworm-positive dogs in the last 15 years. Two of those fosters were treated successfully for the disease, declared heartworm negative and found their forever homes. Unfortunately, one of their fosters came to them with advanced heartworm disease. Her heart and lungs were so full of the worms she could not breathe and, sadly, did not survive. The Ladners are currently fostering Danny Boy, who was stage 2 heartworm positive.

continued on page 3



Heartworm Disease Can Be Prevented

continued from page 2

Danny Boy, a 2 ½-year-old terrier mix, has been confined to his crate, only going out on a leash for potty breaks since beginning the treatments Sept. 17. Exercise must be restricted during the four-month treatment process. Danny Boy soon will be given a heartworm test to determine whether the worms have been eliminated. If the treatments have been successful, he will be able to run and play like any normal young dog. Sandra said he is a very social little guy and it will be fun to watch him bloom once he is declared well. Keep watching our adoptable dogs page for his premiere. His profile can be found at <https://ccterrierrescue.org/dog/danny-boy-c-1080-la/>.

Heartworm was once most prevalent in the south, but it is spreading north and dogs in most states are at risk. According to the American Heartworm Society, heartworm damage is caused by a parasitic worm that is passed to the dog through a mosquito bite. It takes six to seven months for the infective larvae to mature to the adult stage. Adult heartworms quickly begin to reproduce, releasing microscopic offspring that travel through the dog's bloodstream to its vital organs. They are called "heartworms" because the adults live in the heart, lungs, and surrounding blood vessels, causing extensive damage to those organs. If not detected early enough or if left untreated, they threaten the dog's life.

There are four stages of the disease, depending on how advanced the infection is and how much damage it has done to the heart, lungs and arteries, according to the American Heartworm Society.

- Stage 1 is the mildest. Most dogs don't show any signs, or they might have a light cough. It is often found during routine blood testing.
- Stage 2 is more noticeable. Dogs may develop a persistent cough, tire more easily, and have unusual lung sounds.
- Stage 3 is serious. At this stage, you may see weight loss, fatigue, a more severe cough, and difficulty breathing. X-rays usually show damage to the heart and lungs.
- Stage 4 is critical and life-threatening. The worms can block blood flow — which is called caval syndrome. It is extremely dangerous and without treatment, the outlook isn't good.

Heartworm treatment uses Immiticide, an FDA-approved drug that is specifically designed to kill adult heartworms in dogs. It is administered by injection and is typically used to treat dogs with Stage 1, 2, or 3 heartworm disease. The treatment protocol works by killing the adult heartworms in the heart and pulmonary arteries. As the worms die, they break into small pieces that can travel to the lungs and become lodged in small blood vessels. The American Heartworm Society explains that exercise restriction is critical at this stage as it allows the body to gradually break down and absorb the dead worms to avoid serious complications.

Fortunately, heartworm disease is preventable. Dogs that are 7 months old and older should be tested for heartworms before starting a prevention program. If you live in an area where heartworms are present, your veterinarian will recommend a heartworm prevention plan. These medications require a prescription from your vet. Most heartworm preventatives are given monthly, but there also are injectable options that provide protection for six months or up to a year. If you live in an area that is known to be heartworm active or if you travel with your dog, it is important to test annually for the disease and to use the heartworm preventative your veterinarian recommends.

The mission of the American Heartworm Society is to educate veterinarians and the public about heartworm disease. For more information on heartworm disease and its treatments, go to the American Heartworm Society's website at <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/>.

Five Pups Find Their Forever Homes

Cairns & Cousins Terrier Rescue is off to a great start in 2026!

Five of our foster dogs have found their forever homes. Myra, Rokit-Dog and Sweet Pea have been adopted, and Spud and Frankie will each move on to a new life with a loving family by the end of the month.

This is our mission and we're thrilled every time one of our fosters is chosen and no longer has to wait for a new home.



Myra



Sweet Pea



Rokit-Dog



Spud

So many ways to help!

We have launched our YouTube Channel with some CCTR Foster Dog Shorts that will make you laugh and maybe say "I want to adopt that dog!" Check it out here & see how many views our adorable foster dogs have gotten so far: <https://www.youtube.com/@CCTR-YouTube>

If you have YouTube or other social media expertise, please consider volunteering. We can always use help in this area and so many other ways: <https://ccterrierrescue.org/apply-to-volunteer/>

AND if you are a foster home or soon-to-be foster home, remember how potent a video (even a short one) can be in getting a foster dog adopted so get out your phone or camera and submit your videos to: media@ccterrierrescue.org



[Learn about becoming a foster parent with CCTR](#)

[See adoption requirements, steps, and application](#)

[Report a Terrier in Need](#)

Looking for a sweet treat for you or a loved one? CCTR is raising money with Sarris Candies again. Valentine and Easter specialities are offered (Easter will be available closer to the April date). But you don't need a holiday to get delicious candy and nuts - you can order and have it shipped immediately. Use this [special link](#) so 25% of your orders will be donated to CCTR.

www.ccterrierrescue.org

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