

Cairns & Cousins Terrier Rescue Monthly Newsletter

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



Terrier Talk

As we begin our second year of operation, it's fitting to recognize and celebrate our hardworking volunteers. In this issue, we'll explore the ups and downs of our volunteers who interact mainly with those seeking to adopt a rescue terrier. While none of us here at CCTR ever receives any monetary compensation for what we do and have other commitments in our lives, we still take what we do, no matter how small, very seriously.

Some of us are retired, some of us work full time, some of us are caretakers for family members, and some are two of the three. Regardless of the responsibilities and stresses we face at home, we all value making life happier for the human and canine lives with whom we come into contact and is the reason we do what we do.

This issue will also highlight the reality of owning a Cairn Terrier and take a look at the true and not-so-true characteristics of the breed, which they share with the Scottish, Norwich, Norfolk, and West Highland White Terriers. And finally, we will update you on the June and July adoptions and the progress of our anniversary events still going on.

Read on and enjoy!



Liz Romick

President, Cairns & Cousins Terrier Rescue
Forever Starts Here
<https://ccterrierrescue.org>



Volunteers are the force behind rescue groups

By Jane Campbell

To rescue groups like Cairns & Cousins Terrier Rescue, volunteers are the backbone of the organization. The eyes that identify dogs in need, the homes that foster the dogs until they find their forever homes, the team members that interview, identify and select homes for the dogs, and many other activities are all essential for the work to get done and the lives to be saved.

Each nonprofit group has an ongoing need for committed and active volunteers and we are no different. The volunteer teams that help make CCTR successful include those who work behind the scenes to administer and manage and communicate. We also have a good-sized group of volunteers who are directly involved with the rescue and rehoming of our little care charges.

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Volunteers are needed for many tasks in rescue

Our Director of Volunteering, Sherry W., manages current volunteer applications and is instrumental in recruiting and organizing incoming volunteers. She shared that one of the hardest parts of the job is finding enough “boots on the ground” to perform such needed tasks as transporting dogs to foster homes, doing home safety checks with prospective adopters, and fostering dogs. Sherry emphasized the importance of filling out the CCTR volunteer form even if you had volunteered with Col. Potter Cairn Rescue Network previously. (<https://ccterrierrescue.org/apply-to-volunteer>)

Among the essential groups that help our dogs make the transition into rescue and through rescue to adoption are the Intakes team, Home Safety Checks team, the Reference Checks team and the Placement Team.

For the Intakes team, which brings the dogs into rescue, Julie G. explained that sometimes it is difficult to find a foster home with short notice, especially when there is urgency connected with placing a rescued dog. Often when a dog needs to be rescued or pulled from a shelter it means NOW and CCTR cannot answer that need if there is no foster home to take them. This can be a life-or-death situation in some cases.



Sandra L., who leads the Foster Homes team, reiterated that concern and emphasized just how important our foster homes are. (<https://ccterrierrescue.org/dog-foster>)

Frequently a foster home steps up to the plate, but the location of the foster home is a distance from where the dog is rescued. Our Director of Transports, Karen G., organizes a team of volunteers linking meeting places and moving a dog one stage at a time. The larger the pool of potential drivers we have in our database, the more likely it will be to get a dog to a much-needed foster home.

Reference Checks is another team that does a critical job in helping our pups find their forever homes. Denise H. heads that team and she explained that with nearly everyone having cell phones and spam calls being so prevalent, people often don't answer their calls. Messages are left and hopefully you get a return call. It is best if you can hear both what is said and what is not being said, ask follow-up questions and gauge the enthusiasm (or lack thereof) in their voice. The best applicants are the ones who will call you right back and are enthusiastic about adopting a dog even if the specific dog they showed interest in is no longer available, Denise said. Reference volunteers check with the applicant's veterinarian and contacts as listed, to confirm whether the applicant has been a responsible carer for their previous pets.

The Home Safety Checks team, led by Suzy K., faces challenges with many home visits being delayed because there are no volunteers in a given area to complete the visit. Fortunately, in these cases, a virtual visit, if possible, can be conducted. Sherry said one of the most emotional things she and other volunteers have experienced is when they go to a home and discover that the potential adopter has lost their heart dog. There is no replacing that specially loved dog, but knowing that CCTR will help them find another dog to share their hearts and their home with is heartwarming.

The Placement team, led by Liz R., is tasked with interacting with potential adopters after they have been approved to adopt a dog from CCTR. One of the more challenging situations they occasionally face is when a potential adopter has their heart set on a specific dog, and that dog is not a match for them. The Placement Specialist volunteers explain the process verbally and in writing and provide the applicant with information that is not on the CCTR website regarding other dogs that may be better suited to their home.

The Directors of the Foster Homes team, the Intakes team and the Transport team say one of the biggest challenges they face is finding enough people to volunteer. The challenges are real, the rewards are many and the satisfaction of being part of a team that does so much good for these little rescues is irreplaceable. Consider learning more about volunteering with CCTR. Ask some questions. Have a conversation about it with your family and friends. We are happy to help you connect with the right team and give you a chance to make a difference in even one small dog's life.



So, you think you want a Cairn Terrier?

By Mimi Manzler



Since you were a kid, you've wanted a dog like Toto in "The Wizard of Oz" and whenever you see the adorable West Highland White Terrier on Cesar's dog food you think – THIS is the dog for me! If so, read on to learn about some of the common misperceptions about Cairns and their cousin terriers.

"I want a hypoallergenic dog and I read that Cairns and Westies do not shed."

Fact: these dogs DO indeed shed. They have a double coat with a top layer that is coarse and thick and an underlayer that is soft and fine. The underlayer is responsible for most of the shedding and should be removed through brushing regularly, at least once a month. However, the main allergen is a protein found in dander and saliva, and no consistent scientific evidence shows that hypoallergenic breeds produce fewer allergens than other breeds. The best approach is to choose a low-allergen breed and combine it with allergy management practices (e.g., regular grooming, HEPA filters, limiting dog access to certain areas) if you have a family member with sensitivity to dogs.

"Aww, they're so cute; I bet they are amazing family dogs."

Well, they certainly CAN be. Cairns are very social dogs and do best with regular schedules that involve participation with their family members. But it needs to be with the "right" family – one that includes them in their daily activities and one with children who are thoughtful and respectful of their terrier siblings. They are less likely to appreciate groping and constant hugging and prefer simply to be with you and choose when and for how long they want physical attention. Terriers also are very vocal and are not shy about having their opinions broadcast to the entire neighborhood. While not typically nuisance barkers, be prepared for high-decibel levels of communication at mealtimes and when prey is spotted.

"I've heard they are so smart, so they MUST be easy to train."

Well, wait a minute. Yes, they are indeed highly intelligent – they might be smarter than you, but that does not mean they are easy to train. They are often fiercely independent and stubborn. So, if they "want" to learn, you may be in business, but know that the task will be ongoing and it will be work, both for your family and the dog. And it also will be very rewarding. I'm reminded of a film I saw several years ago. Laurie Anderson, a musician, poet, author and filmmaker (who is married to musician Lou Reed), created and directed the film, "The Heart of a Dog." The documentary is a tribute to her beloved rat terrier Lolabelle. In it, she says, "If you give a command to a terrier, they say: 'Is it going to be fun? Because if it's not going to be fun, I'm not interested!'" This easily encapsulates training a Cairn.

But regardless, they NEED training and thrive on learning and interacting with their humans. Truly, training is a necessity, not a luxury, and everyone will be that much happier for it.

And let's not forget that Cairns were originally bred to root out vermin from Scottish rock piles (cairns), so they have the instinct to seek out prey and small creatures. These earthdogs also have the desire to dig, so you may end up with some unappreciated assistance in your garden.

All of that said, Cairns and their terrier cousins are very endearing to their humans. They are fun, especially if it suits them. They are, indeed, adorable and make an incredible addition to one's household, particularly if one knows what to expect.



Toto: The Other Side of the Story

So, "The Wizard of Oz" is your favorite movie, you just LOVE Toto and have always wanted a dog just like him? A dog who's small, cute, lovable, and doesn't shed all over your couch? You've done your research and learned that Cairn Terriers are (take your pick):

- Good with Children
- Friendly
- Loving family dogs
- Adaptable to living in small apartments as well as large homes

Well, YES and NO. Probably NO ONE ever told you that Cairns will almost INVARIABLY:

- Chase squirrels, bunnies, bugs, bikes, anything that moves.
- Chase things that aren't moving, just to GET them moving so they'll have something to chase.
- Bark at cars, bikes, birds, trikes, trucks, the phone, fireworks, thunder, the doorbell, the doorbell on TV.
- Bark to hear themselves bark.
- Bark just to get your goat — or your attention.
- Dig up that mouse hole, your tulips, your roses, your lawn, under your fence, under your shed.
- Dig up your linoleum, your carpeting.
- Nip at people's feet if you haven't redirected their intense prey drive, nip at your hands too, if not trained properly.
- Try to control their universe and everything in it — INCLUDING YOU.
- They will succeed at this unless YOU intervene. And even then, they'll try again. And again. And again and again and again.
- Lunge at other dogs on leash.
- Bolt out any open door in the blink of an eye.
- LET ME REPEAT THAT: THEY WILL BOLT OUT ANY OPEN DOOR IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
- And won't return until they're good and ready. Sometimes not even then.
- Refuse to come — unless they want to.
- Refuse to sit — unless they want to.
- Refuse to stop barking — unless there's something in it for them ... like a fabulous treat.
- Refuse to do what you want at the PRECISE moment that it's most important that they do ... like when you're trying to show off how obedient and well-trained they are (which is, of course, a grand delusion on your part).



Nor, it seems, has anyone told you:

- A Cairn can never, ever, ever be trusted off-leash, EVER. Not even for a second. Regardless of how well-trained you have deluded yourself into believing he is.
- That all the dogs you've had before and have trained so well don't matter ... if they weren't Cairns.
- Because Cairns are different. Very different.
- That they're generally NOT the best breed for a home with small children. That one bears repeating: Cairns are generally NOT the best breed for a home with small children.
- That Cairns WILL shed a little (or a lot) if you don't groom them properly.
- That they are affectionate — on their terms, not yours.
- That they are stubborn and hardheaded, not to mention incredibly independent.
- That obedience training is a necessity, not a luxury. And that it's just the FIRST step in the process.
- That you should read the previous sentence again, and forget everything you think you know. If you haven't owned a Cairn, it doesn't apply.
- That they were bred to hunt and kill, and their intense prey drive can NEVER be trained out of them. Toto may not have KILLED those flying monkeys, but that's only because Toto KNEW they were fakes. Otherwise, they'd have been dead, not merely outwitted.

What they SHOULD have told you is:

- They're wonderful for THE RIGHT OWNER.
- They're loving — IF YOU LOVE THEM, TREAT THEM WELL, AND HAVE EARNED THEIR RESPECT.
- They're smart — PROBABLY SMARTER THAN YOU.
- They're sweet — WHEN THEY WANT TO BE.
- They're funny — VIRTUALLY ALL THE TIME, IF YOU ENJOY DEMENTED, DEVIOUS, DEVILISH HUMOR.
- They're good with GOOD, WELL-BEHAVED CHILDREN WHO HAVE GOOD, RESPONSIBLE PARENTS.
- They're strong, hearty, brave, relentless, devious, insightful, indomitable.
- They're energetic beyond description.
- They're intelligent beyond belief.
- They're the BEST dog you'll ever own.
- BUT ... they just may be the WORST dog you can imagine.

THAT PART IS ALL UP TO YOU! Oh, and by the way, Toto was actually a GIRL!



So many ways to help!

Our special Birthday Fundraiser for Cairns & Cousins is now on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CMTHmVRgx/>
If you aren't on Facebook, you can donate on our website:
<https://ccterrierrescue.org/donate/> by card/Paypal or by check (address on page). Please indicate it's a birthday gift and many thanks in advance!



CCTR is currently discounting the price on our Name a Cairn or Cousin for the whole month of July! This special promotion may not be available again so don't miss out. The link to the special promotion page will only be available until the end of July. <https://ccterrierrescue.org/name-cairn-cousin-promotion/>



We know you love seeing the Adopted Dogs each month so the whole month of July, we have been featuring adopted dog updates. Celebrate with our Dog Tails of Summer and read all about how our 2026 adopted dogs are doing and see pictures – all supplied by our amazing adoptive homes. To see all the Dog Tails in one place, check our website Events page daily: <https://ccterrierrescue.org/event-calendar/>

Our final Founders Celebration is our Year One - Happy Tails Auction. Over 70 auction items are listed (many dog-themed) and it is currently available for everyone to participate and bid! through July 26. Please bid and tell your friends and relatives as well: <https://cctr.rallyup.com/year-one/>



Click Here to Learn about becoming a foster parent with CCTR

Click Here to See adoption requirements, steps, and application

Click Here to Report a Terrier in Need



www.ccterrierrescue.org

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