



**NEW ZEALAND  
CHIHUAHUA RESCUE  
CHARITABLE TRUST  
("NZCR")  
ADOPTION MANUAL**

# Hello

**Thank you for  
choosing to adopt  
one of our dogs!**

We greatly appreciate your support and commitment to helping dogs who otherwise may not be given the opportunity to live.

When you choose to adopt from us, you are taking in a dog who needs your love and care but also saving another – the one who will be able to take their place in foster care!

Where dogs are available to be flown, the costs will have been confirmed with you. Please deposit this to the above account.

After you have taken some time to bond and settle into normal life with your new fur baby, we would appreciate if you could take the time to email us a “review” of how we did in helping you find your new family member! A review only needs to be a short paragraph of 250 words max. that we can add to our website with a photo of your dog!

Please email us at: [contact@NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz](mailto:contact@NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz) with “review” in the subject line.

Also feel free to join our “closed” Facebook group for current and regular foster carers and adopters at: [www.facebook.com/groups/NZCRAadoptersandfosters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NZCRAadoptersandfosters)

Kind regards,



Casey Walters  
Managing Trustee of NZCR



Alex Coker  
Trustee of NZCR





Bonnie

**The adoption form that you signed in order to submit your application to the trust forms the basis of our agreement with you. However we also note the following information:**

- Should you feel that the dog you have adopted does not fit into your family or you wish to return them for another reason, please immediately contact the rescue. We do not offer “trials” as such as we need to ensure the Adopter is committed to the dog. But, of course, we need to ensure that the placement works for both parties – the dog and the adopter. The dog will always have a place with the Trust.
- In the event that you are no longer able to care for your new adopted dog at any time, please contact the trust immediately. Under no circumstances are you to advertise or re-home the dog privately. Once we receive a dog, we owe an obligation to them for the duration of their life. Accordingly, if you are unable to keep them, we will handle their re-adoption.
- NZCR reserve the right to uplift any dog should we become aware of any animal welfare issues.
- The Adopter is responsible for transferring any Council registration into their names.

If you do not agree with any of the above, please contact us immediately to discuss.





**Polar Bear**

### **Council Registration:**

Dogs will be transferred into your ownership once the adoption has been confirmed.

### **Microchipping:**

All dogs are microchipped and added to the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. We will change the details once the adoption is confirmed NZCR is to remain as a contact “person” on the microchip information for the dog. This way, in the event that the dog is picked up or surrendered to the Pound, NZCR can be contacted.

### **Foster to adopt:**

Where dogs have been adopted out requiring de-sexing or veterinary care (ie. in cases where foster carers choose to adopt their foster dog) the Trust will need to either organise the appointments directly, or if the Adopter would prefer to have their regular vets complete the work, the Trust is to receive written confirmation and invoice copies from the attending veterinarian.

If there are any vet books, pedigree papers or other information in possession of the Trust, this will be transferred to the Adopter. In the event that the dog is returned to the care of the Trust, the same should be given back into the possession of the Trust.

Following the day of adoption, the Adopter is responsible for providing all veterinary care for the dog and the basics of life.

While NZCR administer all necessary treatment to dogs in their care, keeping up to date on vaccinations is the responsibility of the owner. We have limited resources and as a result cannot fully vaccinate each dog. We recommend that you have your own Vet administer these once adopted.



## Once you have been approved for adoption

Prior to bringing home your adopted dog, we suggest ensuring you have the following:

### Items required:

- Food bowl and water bowl - It is not recommended that you share-feed new dogs.
- A crate – your dog will need a ‘safe’ place while he or she adjusts to their new home.
- Bed and Bedding
- Leash and collar or harness
- Dry Dog Food
- Dog Treats
- Dog Toys

For information on food enrichment ideas, please see our website – there is a PDF file located under the “foster” section.



## Dog proofing your house and garden

Once you ensure you have all the items required, the second step is to check that your home is fully fenced and any access points under the house have been blocked. You never know how a dog will react to a new environment so it is important that your home and garden are 100% secure. It may be beneficial to secure your front door with a child-gate, to prevent escapees!

Prior to the arrival of the dog, please remove any potentially unsafe items, or items that could be easily chewable, inside and outside of the home (such as: cords, remotes, ornaments, plant pots, inside plants etc). Cupboards may also need to be latched (such as those containing cleaning) and rubbish bins secured.

## Bringing your dog home

It is best not to overwhelm the dog with affection or too many new experiences at once, even though you may be excited to welcome them into your home. Some of our dogs have had very little interaction with humans (and/or other dogs) and too much stimulation at once can upset the dog. It is best not to introduce your dog to too many strangers within its first few weeks at your home. You need to establish a bond so that the dog learns to trust you and therefore rely on you when uncomfortable.

Dogs enjoy routine. It is important to establish a daily routine for the dogs in terms of feeding, toileting, walking and sleeping. Do not feel sorry for the dog once you hear of it's past and/or witness it's fearful behaviour. You are the pack leader and there to show the dog that they are safe but expected to behave in a respectful manner within your home.





**James**

### **Introducing your personal dog(s) to the adopted dog**

It is often a good idea to introduce current dogs to your new adopted dog on 'neutral territory' such as a park, where you can walk them side by side. Let our team know if this is your preference and we can meet you at a local park prior to taking the adopted dog home if you are located near one of our team members.

You should not leave the adopted dog alone with current dogs, under any circumstances, until you know the adopted dogs' personality. It is impossible to predict the outcome and how either dog may react in any given situation.

### **Introducing cats and other small animals to the adopted dog**

While we do try to ensure that our dogs 'quirks' are known prior to adoption, we cannot ensure that they are 100% cat-safe or small animal safe.

You will need to ensure that the introduction between the dog and other pet is completed safely and carefully for both. Be wary of the fact that a defensive cat may scratch and harm your dog, as well as the fact that your dog is capable of causing harm to your cat or other small animal.

We suggest that you do not allow the dog to directly meet the small animal or cat. It is better that you firstly allow the dog to view them from behind a gate, inside dog pen, or from their crate. You can also exchange bedding between a cat and dog (to help them get used to scents).

This can be a lengthy process. Once you are ready to introduce them face to face, the dog should be on a leash. Try to keep the interactions short and positive initially. Do not leave your new dog unsupervised with any cats or other small pets until you know them well enough to trust them.



## **Children and dogs**

We do not recommend you leave dogs unattended with a child or children. While we try to ensure that dogs placed in a family environment are suitable to be around children, it is impossible to know with certainty what level of tolerance each dog may have. Often, we do not have a comprehensive history of the dog and we ask you to remain cautious.

You must supervise all interactions and remind your children of the rules of being around dogs. These include: not touching a dog when he or she is eating, playing with a toy, or sleeping. Do not tease dogs, or take toys from them. Do not chase dogs, or scare dogs intentionally. Do not pat a dog without checking it is okay with the owner, or without adult supervision.

## **Toilet training**

It is important to note that while dogs may be toilet-trained in foster care, they may regress when placed in their new home. You need to remain patient and understand that it is a big transition for the dog. Revert to the basics below:

Toilet training is simple, but it requires persistence, routine and rewards.

In the morning, the dog should be let out of its crate and taken outside immediately. Once the dog has relieved itself, make a fuss and reward him or her with a treat. The same should be repeated each time the dog has a nap – take them straight outside.

If you see the dog sniffing, this can be an indication they are looking to relieve themselves. Pop them outside and wait. If successful, make a fuss and reward. Some dogs may also sit next to the door or let out a bark in an effort to get your attention.

You will begin to learn your dogs' toilet schedule – some can hold on for hours at a time, others need to go more frequently. Age is a huge factor as to how long your dog can hold on for.

The key to successful toilet training is routine. If the dog is not in the crate, on you for cuddles or completing training, he or she should be outside with the opportunity to toilet there.

If your dog begins to go inside, say in a firm, calm voice “no” and place them outside. If your dog has an accident inside please do not scold or punish them. This will only create fear and mistrust. Remove the dog from the area and clean up the accident using an enzymatic cleaner so that the scent is not left.





Cinnamon

### **Crate training**

While it is exciting, it can be very overwhelming to be placed into a new home environment. For this reason, we recommend implementing a crate as a “safe” place at least initially. Chihuahuas are den animals and appreciate being able to retreat somewhere cosy. They tend to love a small space which is why they often burrow down into blankets.

The crate also gives you the ability to have time without the dog or secure them if visitors are present or you need to go out and do not trust them alone in the house yet.

Not all dogs immediately feel comfortable with the idea of a crate. Try to associate the crate with positive things such as treats and pats. Leave the door open and create a cosy environment. When your dog hops in, reward him or her. Put toys inside and encourage the dog to go in. We also recommend you feed dogs inside their crate to help with the positive association and minimise the potential for fights between the new dog and other dogs.

It can take some time to train a fearful dog to love their crate, please be patient and do all you can to reinforce the idea that the crate is a ‘happy place’.

Please ask if you would like assistance with crate training. We have a Masterpet crate training guide available.



# CONTACT US

If you have an emergency please contact the below named NZCR team member:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

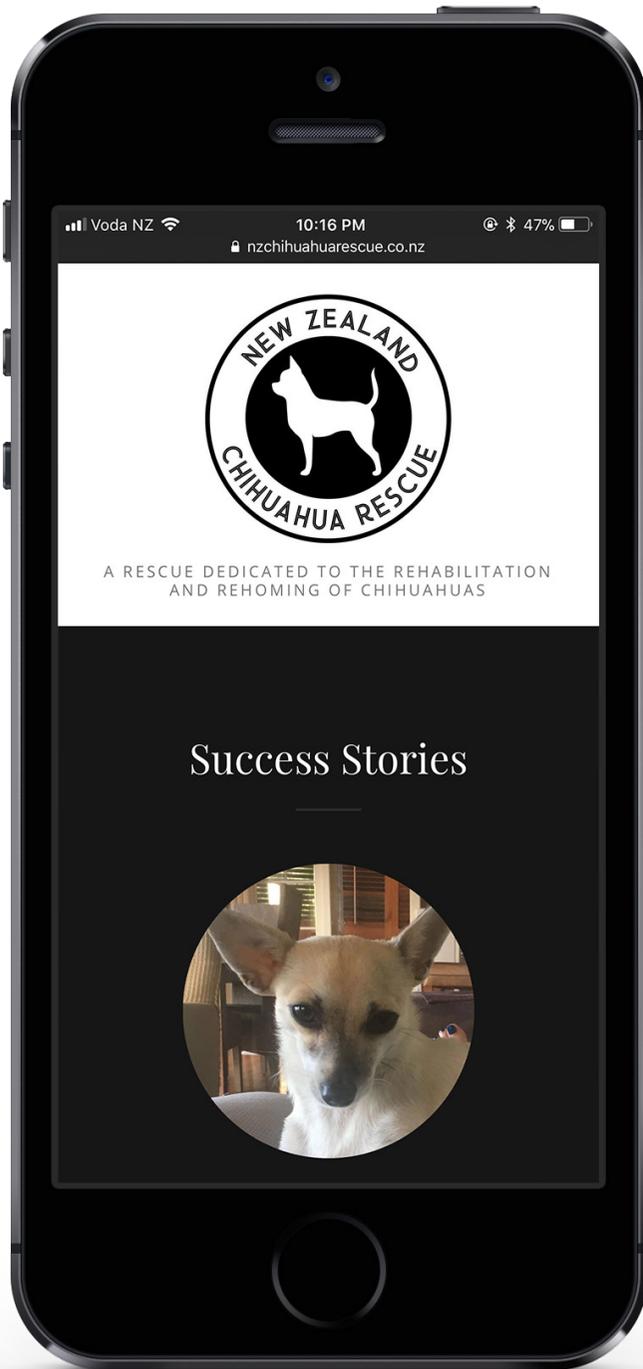
or we can be reached via email to” [contact@NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz](mailto:contact@NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz) with “attention:” and the name of the above team member in the subject box. Our email is consistently monitored.

**Website:** [www.NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz](http://www.NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz)

**Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/NZChihuahuaRescue](http://www.facebook.com/NZChihuahuaRescue)

**Facebook Discussion Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/NZChihuahuaRescue](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NZChihuahuaRescue)

**Group for Adopters & Fosterers:** [www.facebook.com/groups/NZCRAadoptersandfosters/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NZCRAadoptersandfosters/)



# SCHEDULE 1

Name of foster Adopter: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Desexed:            Yes / No

Micro-chipped:    Yes / No

Registered:        Yes / No

Other information:

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**If you have an emergency please contact the below named NZCR Team Member:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best contact number:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please contact the above member via email at [Contact@NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz](mailto:Contact@NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz) with "Attention:" and the name of the above team member in the subject box. Our email is consistently monitored.*

