

# Chihuahua Rescue, Two Years On

by Casey Walters, Founder & Managing Trustee, NZ Chihuahua Rescue Trust



In the two years since our previous article in *NZ Dog World* (May 2018) our rescue, New Zealand Chihuahua Rescue (NZCR) has grown rapidly. It was originally intended to be a small organisation to assist a few extra dogs per year, which has now blossomed into a wonderful registered charity with a team of volunteer Chihuahua lovers at its centre.

Two years on from that article, New Zealand Chihuahua Rescue have three passionate Trustees who work alongside a dedicated foster care team, all having extensive experience in the breed. We have a team of volunteers to assist with events, grants and fundraising, and an animal trainer/consultant to assist our dogs behaviourally.

New Zealand Chihuahua Rescue are proud to say that we have rehomed almost 70 Chihuahuas, Chihuahua-crosses and various other small breeds since our official formation as a Charitable Trust in October 2017. We believe that what sets us apart is our commitment to the dogs that enter our care and the fact our rescue has been specifically designed to assist the breed and the unique challenges toy breeds can present. Prior to each adoption, we ensure that our dogs are de-sexed, vaccinated up to date, micro-chipped and registered with both the local council and New Zealand Companion Animal Register. The dogs in our care also receive blood panels, a full dental and even orthopaedic surgeries (usually to address the patellas), where required. Of course, alongside all the love and support they need.

Although the dogs we take in may be small, we have a reputation for taking on large tasks. We are a rescue known for our commitment to the "little guys" who may have not been given a chance elsewhere. We take in special needs dogs,

senior dogs, the timid and the snappy... We are not afraid of the challenge, in fact, we expect it! One of our favourite cases was Rascal a Maltese cross with shortened ulna syndrome. Rascal came from another rescue and arrived sore, tired and very, very grumpy. Rascal had been let down by many humans in his life and his face (and teeth!) simply said it all. We had Rascal placed on adequate pain relief and promptly referred to surgical specialists VetSpecs. We then set about the mammoth task of raising a whopping \$12,000 for two surgeries on the limb. Rascal is now completely healed, free of pain and pain relief and adopted. We are happy to report he is living in Whangamata, enjoying beach walks and the company of his three other fur brothers and wonderful parents. It is dogs like Rascal that make all the stress,

time, and effort worth it in the end.

Whether you are a private family or person overwhelmed by the care of one dog, or many small dogs and need to rehome them; a breeder looking to re-home ex-breeding dogs; or an Animal Control officer needing a home for a stray dog, New Zealand Chihuahua Rescue are happy to (confidentially) assist with the rehabilitation, medical assistance and/or rehoming of any Chihuahuas and Chihuahua-crosses. We also assist various other toy breeds (when we have capacity to do so).

Please do feel free to contact us confidentially to discuss how we may work together.

Our website contains full information on adoption, fostering or assistance with rehoming a dog. 🐾

