

# Little Lives Matter

founding a rescue and rehoming charity for the smallest of all dogs

by Casey Walters, Managing Trustee and Founder of NZCR

New Zealand Chihuahua Rescue (NZCR), is a recently established registered Charitable Trust based in Christchurch that operates throughout New Zealand. The Trust was formed in late 2017 when a need for a "little dog" rescue arose in order to resolve the fallout from an animal hoarding situation. Our rescue currently comprises of two Trustees and our wonderful foster carers.

Our Trustees and foster carers, love and adore Chihuahuas. A couple of us also enjoying showing Chihuahuas in our spare time. As Trustees we are passionate about our breed and ensuring that these proud, "saucy" little dogs find their way into forever homes.

We are not afraid of a challenge and receive in all kinds of dogs. We pride ourselves on remaining non-judgemental and discreet for those concerned about their privacy.

We are happy to assist private owners with finding new homes for their dogs and those feeling overwhelmed with the amount of Chihuahuas they have. We also offer private assistance to Breeders who wish to re-home their ex-breeding dogs or senior dogs, into happy retirement homes. We even take in those dogs who appear absolutely feral initially and work with them to rehabilitate and prepare them for their new forever home, together with receiving in strays and Pound dogs. No situation is too hopeless. We do not euthanize any dogs surrendered to our Trust for behavioural issues – in fact, we expect them!

Our process is that one of our team members assess incoming dogs for their quirks and they are placed with a knowledgeable foster carer while they receive any necessary medical treatments (including de-sexing). Our carers then set about shaping them into stable, well-adjusted, social pets. Our carers report back as to their progress and who they recommend would be the best fit in terms of Adopters. We then advertise the dog and set about the process of vetting applicants. It's our view that the dogs should get matched to the people who would best suit their individual needs – hence why our application form is long!

Often, people forget that Chihuahuas can live till around 20 years old. You may have seen the story about my little 15 year old rescue "Pippin" in the April issue. Pippin is a perfect example of how a rescue dog can be completely transformed and I continue to regard her as my personal catalyst for my passion in founding a rescue. Pippin is a constant reminder of how resilient and loving these little dogs can be. Pippin has cemented my commitment to helping those of our breed who most require it.

NZCR have rescued, re-homed or adopted 19 Chihuahuas crosses since Oct 2017. We are regularly inundated with surrender requests (two this past weekend and two more during this week) NZCR rely upon donations, fundraising and sponsorship to achieve our aims. Please see our website, should you wish to surrender, adopt or support our cause!



**Please see our contact details:**

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

[www.Facebook.com/NewZealandChihuahuaRescue](https://www.Facebook.com/NewZealandChihuahuaRescue)

[Contact@NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz](mailto:Contact@NZChihuahuaRescue.co.nz)