

Alberta Dachshund Rescue Newsletter

February 2019

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A year-end wrap-up from our President

Thank you all for helping make ADR the fun and accomplished small group we are. This year we have grown significantly, we are getting many more inquiries, comments, support and most of all DOGS!

In 2018 we managed to take in 56 dogs! Almost every one of those dogs that came in is placed and in a happy place! It may be our most dogs in a calendar year yet! THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU.

We have had so many highlighting moments this year and cannot even begin to name them. Here are a few to share.

- We have started a partnership with the Canine Fitness Center in Calgary. They have been amazing to work with and have given so much hope for some of our friends!
- 3 MAJOR SURGERIES. Totalling over \$16,000 of money from our supporting families, we gave a back surgery to young Charlotte, a multiple hernia surgery to little Charlie Brown (who we were told by 3 sources it couldn't be done) and as most of you know, recently Franky and his cancer removal. It required the removal of 3 ribs and a lengthy recovery. Happy to say all dogs are doing well to this day. Charlotte has had a major relapse but is doing amazing again!!!!
- Our board this year grew a couple members. This year we added an [Instagram account](#) (@albertadachshundrescue) and we now have started a specific fundraising position to help further our cause! Of course, we also have our [ADR Facebook page](#) where you'll find the most up to date information!

Your tax receipts will be on the way shortly when we are able to catch up.

New additions to the ADR board

A big ADR welcome to Ladelle Pitcher, our new foster coordinator, and Tracey Kellington, our new fundraiser coordinator!

Great Christmas gift – to ADR

How amazing are these ornaments from Claypot Friends & More by Tara look? Tara sold them over the holidays and generously donated a portion of the proceeds to ADR. The sales raised \$200 for ADR. Thank you Tara! Tara makes all sorts of wonderful pet-themed items and can also do custom orders (as my wine glass collection can attest to!). Check out her [Facebook page](#) and see all the amazing things she has to offer!



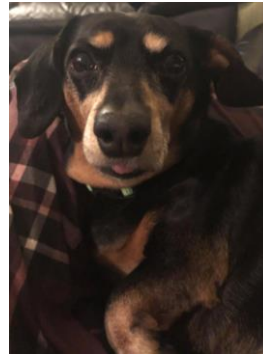
Couldn't be happier!!!

For those who've been following the stories of Stitch and Franky, we're ecstatic to say BOTH are finally health, happy and it looks like they're going to be leaving our care soon!!

Stitch is going to a woman who owns a kennel and doggie daycare, and he'll get to go to work with her every day. From found living with squatters to the lap of luxury. We're so happy for you Stitch!! His foster mom got him this new sweater and said, *"He looks very GQ and has been boofing since he put it on so I think he approves!!"* We do too Stitch!



Here's an update on Franky from his foster home: *Franky is all healed up post-surgery, back to his playful old self, and even more active than before. He's much happier now that a literal weight has been lifted from him! He is very expressive and communicates with his little grumbles. He always gives you a talking to whether you're not scratching the right part of his head or if you're not giving him that treat quick enough.* He's got a meet & greet scheduled and if everything goes well, will be off to his new home!



Happy tails

Brandy is the former "dog with no name" profiled on our [website](#). She was picked up by a trucker who kept her safe until we could get her. She still needs some vetting but has already been spoken for! Someone came to meet another dog, but as soon as he saw Brandy it was love at first sight (with those leg wrinkles, can you blame him?) So, he's going to adopt her instead!



More happy tails

Jersey just had her dental done and will soon be on her way to her new home. Her mom is a very long-time supporter of ADR and has previously adopted several dogs. She's had 9 (!!) doxies in total over the years, all adoptions. She just recently lost her female, and her other dog is feeling the loss. She thinks Jersey will be the right fit. Congratulations Jersey!



Moka was surrendered as her owners brought a new puppy home and she didn't like that so had to go (we're all shaking our heads). This sweetheart was quickly snapped up & going to a home that will love her forever!



Waiting tails

Funny story behind Dachs. The vet paperwork we received with him listed him as a dachshund named Dachsen & checked off his species as a cat! Funniest looking cat we've seen! 😊 He's a sweet 10-year-old cuddle bug looking for his forever home. How can you resist those puppy-dog eyes??



Lexi is the little 5-year-old female that came to us with IVDD. She's been fitted with a pair of wheels – and there's no stopping her now! Her Glamour Shot below is by our own ADR photographer, Lori Smashnuk-Leduc.

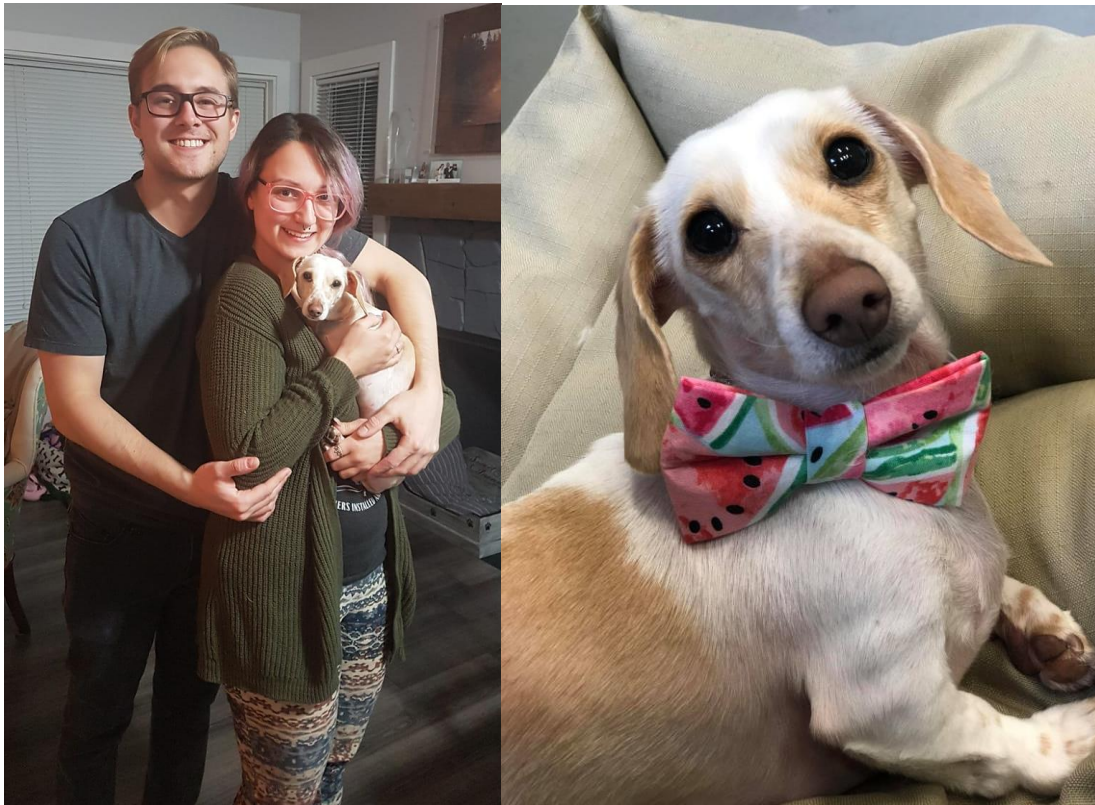


Special happy ending

(from our president and posted on the [ADR Facebook page](#))

Congratulations to Shanea and Douglas on their new addition to the family. This young couple did so much diligence and homework before deciding to take on Miss Khaleesi. She requires extra care with her IVDD and is recovering well. Khaleesi will join a pack of 2 other dogs and a cat in Fort McMurray. Shanea is a professional groomer with her own business as well.

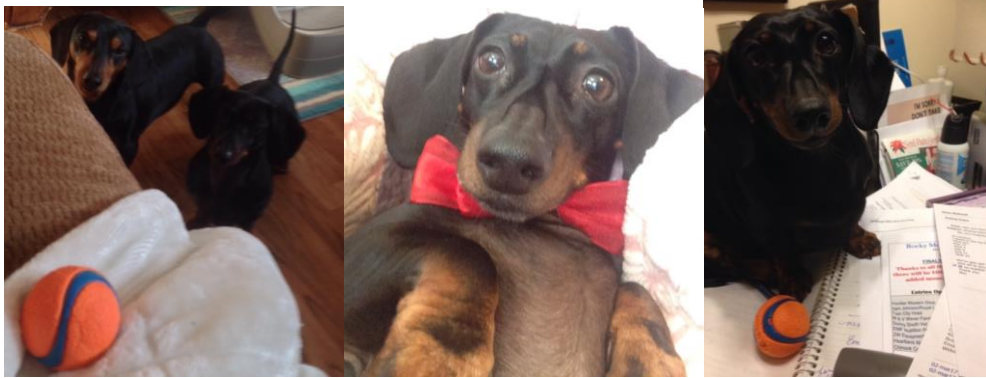
We are so proud of Khaleesi's improvement and are very confident this home will give her the best life ever and we look forward to updates, stories and future visits. Thank you to everyone that followed her photos and donated in support of her treatments. We love you Khaleesi!



Sloppy kisses

"We adopted Tucker from ADR after he was surrendered for having epilepsy. I have epilepsy too and thought he would be fine as my son and I both know what to do re: seizures. ADR told me he was also addicted to playing ball. He still plays ball everyday.... his seizure medication is monitored & adjusted by our wonderful vets. He is so loving and fun, and so glad we have him. He even taught Louis (L) to play ball and they tease each other. Pretty handsome guy!"

Lorraine & Jeremy Norgard



"Pixel and her buddy Rango settling in for a good nights sleep!" Tim Hamelin (Editor's note: they must have known winter was coming!!)



More sloppy kisses...

Hard to believe that 2 +1/2 years has passed since we adopted Anton. Just wanted to send you a New Years greeting and let you know how he is doing.

Anton has fit into our family extremely well and is happy and thriving. He is such a character and makes us laugh regularly! Anton and Elsie get along great now and often cuddle then chase each other around the house. He has learned to ring a bell to go outside - or to my dismay ring, ring and ring some more when he wants a cookie or attention! Now knows how to sit, shake a paw, roll over, and play dead when we say "bang!" He sits at his food bowl and patiently waits for our signal before eating, sits to get his cookie etc. Such good manners now! However, lately he has figured out how to get onto the kitchen table if the chair is not pushed in and ate my danish and finished my cup of coffee! So hard to be mad at him when he looks at you with wide eyes and head tilted sideways as if to say "what did I do....don't you love me?"

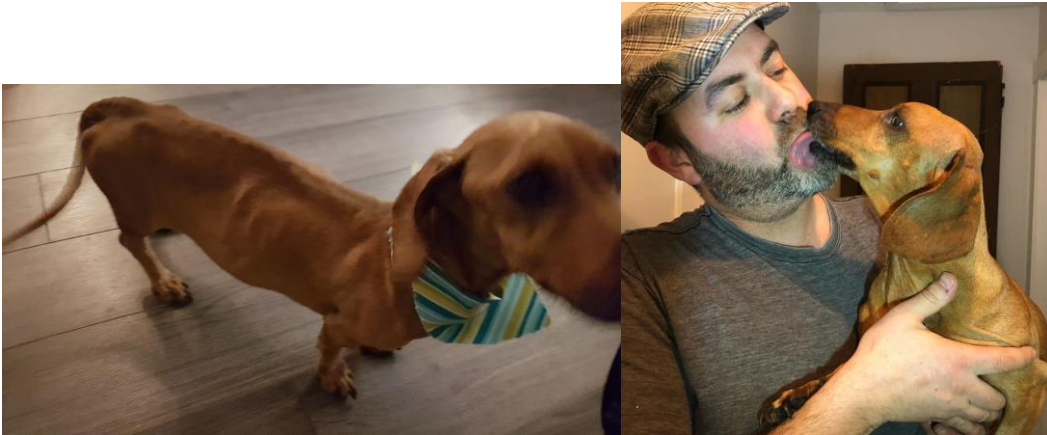
Anton loves to cuddle and kiss but still is a little clumsy with judging personal space. He literally walks across our heads in the morning to get us up with his tail wagging and sloppy kisses all over our faces to boot! We wake up smiling and laughing at his antics. He lives for going for long walks and hitting Terwillegar Dog park where he runs around and loves playing with other dogs - he has such a good, friendly and gentle disposition.

He still has some separation anxiety as he follows me everywhere, and howls when I leave the house. Hopefully this issue will subside with age and perhaps finally realizing he/we are here to stay. We LOVE him to bits! We sincerely thank you and the Alberta Dachshund Rescue for all that you do. Wish you all the best in 2019 and God Bless". Maureen & Joe Strigl



Why rescue?

This is an example of why we do what we do. The picture on the left is Levi when he came to us several years ago, so thin you could see all his ribs. He stayed for a few months with an amazing foster to get him healthy enough to move on to his forever home. The picture on the right is from a week ago when Levi's new dad came for a visit and to meet a possible sibling. What an amazing difference!! Looks like he's thanking our president for helping him live a new and happy life!



Upcoming events

Recently ADR has covered some major medical bills for some of our hounds. In efforts to help cover the costs, here are some upcoming fundraising events:

- Paint Night: waiting for confirmation on location & date. Have asked the group that puts it on to do a dog-themed picture
- Plant Sales: will be closer to spring. Spring is coming, just not this week
- Build your own Snuffle Mat: waiting for confirmation on location & date

Keep your eyes out on future newsletters and our [ADR Facebook page](#) for ore details once they're confirmed.

For those not familiar with Snuffle Mats, it's a homemade toy that provides dogs with an opportunity to sniff and search for hidden treats. The mat consists of strips of material tied on to a rubber mat with holes in it. The loose ends of the material are on top and provide the hiding spots for the treats. Below is a picture of one:



Raw Pet Foods - What Does the Science Really Say?

By: Dr. Steve Marsden, DVM ND MSOM LAc DiplCH CVA, Edmonton Holistic Veterinarian Clinic

Posted on December 3, 2018 by [Pet Connection](#)

Both the Alberta and Canadian Veterinary Medical associations have been targeting raw pet foods of late, claiming they are unsafe due to potential exposure of owners and their pets to food-borne pathogens. Despite any good intentions, these articles and position statements actually do the public a disservice, because the implication is that the converse must also be true. That is, feeding canned and kibble diets must be safe, if raw foods are unsafe. This is not at all the case, as any brief investigation will reveal.

For example, only 1 of the 17 pet food recalls reported by the FDA in 2017 was a raw food company. The company in question is located in Oregon. No illnesses arose from consumption of the food. It was the company's own internal monitoring that detected higher than acceptable numbers of Salmonella, prompting the company to pull the food from the shelves.

The other 16 recalls were of canned and dry foods and treats, for a number of reasons, ranging from the presence of Salmonella and Listeria to metal fragments and phenobarbital. More foods had to be recalled due to phenobarbital residues than for any other reason. A few years ago, it was melamine in canned and dry foods that was the problem. Thousands of dogs and cats died. Veterinarians happily endorse those same foods today – in fact, they never stopped! But can you imagine the hue and cry if it was a raw food manufacturer that was the guilty party back then?

Here is a list of pet food recalls dating back several years: <https://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-recalls/>

You'll notice that the vast number of recalls were for canned dog food and treats, none of which have ever been targeted by the CVMA and AVMA. Certainly some raw brands are on the list, but they are uncommon. Just as frequently appearing are household names like Iams, Purina and Hill's, which most veterinarians happily recommend, in spite of this data. These companies have a much broader reach, however, affecting many more dogs and cats than small boutique raw food manufacturers. Much more harm has been done by feeding canned and kibble diets than has ever been incurred by feeding raw diets.

Not to belabor the point, but, but a study published by U of A grad student Bushra Alam found that of the four pet foods recalled in Canada since 2012 for the presence of Salmonella, three were dry dog foods.

The bottom line is that no food is immune from bacterial contamination, so this issue really needs to be taken off the table as a reason to feed one food over another. Controls are in place in all industries, including the best of the raw pet food manufacturers, to limit bacterial exposure. Veterinarians like to think of themselves as scientists, but our turning a blind eye to these facts reveals us to be anything but. True scientists don't have biases.

How would a true scientist investigate the merits of feeding of raw pet foods? Surely they wouldn't do yet another test to see if they could find bacteria in the food. After three decades of doing that, I think we can finally safely assume the answer is 'yes', although the actual counts of bacteria in frozen raw foods are generally small. That is why they are recalled only infrequently.

Instead, I feel a scientist would ask "Why are people feeding raw petfood?". Consumer surveys have found that ninety percent of people are aware of the risk of bacterial contamination of raw food. A scientist would surely ask what possible benefit could arise from feeding raw foods that consumers would consider it worth the risk.

If we search up 'raw pet food' in a medical research database like Pubmed, we find the usual tedious reporting of the presence of bacteria in raw meat. Discussions of health benefits are absent, as veterinarians continue to gleefully report. If, however, we stop focusing on the word 'raw', and instead search for evidence of the negative effects of food processing on health, we not surprisingly find thousands of articles. Included among them are articles on the deleterious effects of food processing on canine physiology.

The weight of the evidence supports what most consumers would consider obvious – the more unadulterated whole foods you eat, the healthier you are. It's not the 'raw' that's important. It's whether a food is processed. Homemade diets that aren't loaded with carbs would be expected to create the same benefits in a dog or cat as a raw diet, and those benefits turn out to be just 'avoidance of problems' that processed diets create.

I'm embarrassed to say that I was once a veterinarian who toed the line and spouted the usual biased rhetoric currently rampant in our profession against raw foods, all the while thinking that I was a good little scientist. It took the clinical experiences of my wife, colleague, and EHVC co-owner Kären Marsden, to show me the light.

Kären had patients that were sick for years with inflammatory bowel disease become normal within a few days of a switch to raw. These animals did not lack for the best efforts of our city veterinarians, who had gone to the lengths of even putting the animals on chemotherapy to try to shut down their exuberant inflammatory responses.

The most recent of these miracle cures was just a few weeks ago, which several city veterinarians bore witness to. It turns out that high insulin levels are a big driver of both acute and chronic inflammation as well as obesity, and raw diets excel at keeping insulin levels low by being digested much more slowly. THAT'S why these diets are popular. Know anyone with an overweight or inflamed cat or dog? Search a medical database for articles on the link between inflammation and insulin, and you'll find tens of thousands.

These patients of Kären's are now free of medication and truly healthy for the first time in their lives. Note that, contrary to what we are all told to expect, none of these chemotherapy-treated raw fed cats keeled over from Salmonellosis.

Why isn't this research collated, packaged, and disseminated to veterinarians? Let's just say there is a 'financial disincentive' to do so. Veterinarians don't feel they have the time to read research on nutrition, so they rely on pet food companies to inform them. As for manufacturers of processed pet foods, they know the information I've shared here, but are not about to publicize it – it would be corporate suicide.

So long as big money is at stake and so long as owners want to save time or effort by feeding cheap convenient foods to their pets, canned and dry dog and cat foods are not going away. Fair enough. Let's just be honest about the real reasons these diets are promoted. But as for them being safer and lower in bacteria counts than raw diets, enough already. They aren't. Ten minutes of unbiased scientific investigation shows it.

Snow way you want to go out to return your empties!

Winter is here! Are your empties piling up, but you don't want to have to go outside and drive to the depot to return them? Skip the Depot can help with that! They're a service in Calgary where you can schedule a free pick up for all your empties. The best part? You can donate your refund directly to ADR!! Just say yes when it asks if you want to donate your refund, select ADR from the list of charities and the money will automatically be sent to us. We can even issue you a tax receipt for anything over \$10 if you want. Please note – you must select “request a tax receipt” for us to be notified.

There is no charge for the pickup. However, they offer slightly lower deposit rates than a bottle depot to offset the pickup costs. So, head over to skipthedepot.com, set up an account and turn your empties into a donation for ADR. It's that easy! You can even set up recurring pick ups if you want.

Charitable donations

As a reminder, Alberta Dachshund Rescue has full Charitable Status and our Charity Registration is #81659 8064 RR0001. You can donate through Benevity, the United Way, by visiting our website at <https://www.albertadachshundrescue.com/> or sending an e-transfer to adrpresident@gmail.com. You can also set up monthly donations with PayPal. We can issue receipts for any donation over \$10; please let us know if you'd like a receipt. For monthly donations, we'll issue one receipt at the end of the year.