

Lizzy Talk[®]

A Newsletter From Lizzy

Winter 2021

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In This Issue:

- ♥ ATLAS, A Big name For A Little Man
- ♥ How Much Do They Remember?
- ♥ Looking Forward, Not Back
- ♥ Did you Know?
- ♥ Thanks For The Memories



Atlas, A Big Name For A Little Man



*Atlas as a boy's name is of Greek origin, and the meaning of **Atlas** is "to carry". **Atlas** was a mythical Titan who bore the weight of the world on his shoulders, so the name bears connotations of great strength*

We believe that everyone who knows about Lizzy's Fund, knows about what we do. The normal function that we provide is financial assistance for senior dogs at shelters and rescues. Senior dogs come into these organizations with a variety of issues; some minor,

some not. Little Atlas came to a shelter in Chicago, who in turn, called upon Riley's Rescue Foundation (RRF). His story is one of a senior dog with very sad major issues; surrendered by someone who did not and would not care for him properly. Without hesitation, RRF took on this little boy, with all of his major problems and has patiently and lovingly been caring for him in his journey to return to full health. His journey will be a long one but Lizzy's Fund will help every step of the way.

Unnamed at intake, RRF thought long and hard for a name for this little man. Weighing under 5 pounds at intake, this little man was grossly under the 11 or 12 pounds that he should be for a poodle mix. He had major skin infection issues, he could not close his eyes, and the vet had to use staples to close various wounds. Yet he never made a peep of a sound. He kept fighting to stay alive. RRF decided that the name "Atlas" was a fitting name for this young warrior.





Caked with scabs and “flea dirt”, Little Atlas fought on. His vet care consisted of skin scrapings, blood tests, staples, much medication and frequent high calorie feedings. We are happy to say that he is slowly improving. He has had his staples out and now, with frequent medicated baths, his “flea dirt” is starting to fall off. The latest success is that he can now stand long enough to eat from a bowl rather than being hand fed by his loving foster parents at Riley’s Rescue.

We are hoping for the best...

We will keep you apprised of Atlas’ progress in our next newsletter and on Facebook.

How Much Do They Remember?

When some of us rescue a dog, we often wonder about their past, especially if little is known about where they came from or the history of their care. Dogs do have memories and actually the types of memory is broken down into three different categories:

1. Semantic memory is a type of long-term memory that exists because of experience. It’s the dog’s brain recognizing a cue or command from the past. A rescue dog may remember more than you think. If you call out different commands such as “sit” or “come” you may be surprised to find out that your dog responds appropriately.
2. Episodic memory is the ability to relate specific events to places or times. You may be happily or unpleasantly surprised to see your dog’s reaction to places or things. This type of memory is created without conscious effort.
3. Associative memory is a more emotional type of memory. A sample of this would be the excitement your dog feels when he or she knows you are headed to the dog park. Dogs associate almost everything that they come into contact with; their toys, the vet, their favorite people...



So, we are not sure, but dogs may recall specific experiences, both good and bad. Some may have had a painful past but we can hope that the bad memory may be erased by new loving experiences with their new family.

Credit to iheartdogs.com



Looking Forward, Not Back

Most everyone was happy to see 2020 fade into history. There was not much to celebrate in that fateful Covid-19 year. It was a very bad year for businesses that depend on their customers to sustain them. Businesses such as restaurants, retail shops, shopping malls, etc. saw their sales volumes dwindle and drop to a level that they either closed and went out of business or had to cut their employees down to a bare minimum in order to survive. Government loans created some assistance but in the end, did little to ease the financial burden that many businesses faced.

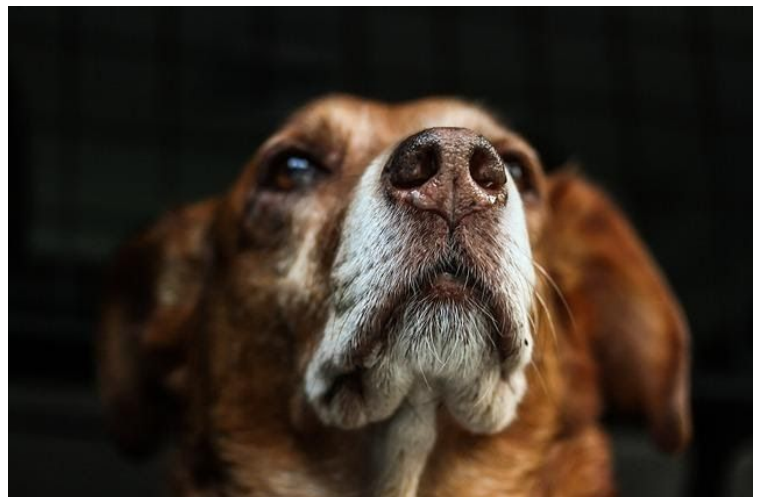


Shelters and rescue groups were also affected. While there were a lot of animals adopted because people were working from home; this outflow of animals was offset by the numbers of animals that were being surrendered or abandoned as people could no longer afford to take care of their pets. With these organizations needing to limit the number of visitors into the shelters as well as fund raising efforts and events being cancelled; a financial hardship surely existed.

Here at Lizzy's Fund, our situation was no different. In 2019, we hosted seven different fund raising efforts and successfully raised enough money to offset our expenses to support senior dogs. However, in 2020, *all* of our fundraising events had to be cancelled due to Covid. While necessary, these cancellations took a significant hit to our reserves. Even though the incoming money was reduced from that of the prior year, the financial need to support these deserving seniors in shelters and rescues increased due to surrenders or abandonment. In addition, the incoming dogs seemed to have more significant health issues that required additional monies to bring these deserving dogs to full health.

In November, senior pet month, the Fund made a push to place senior dogs in homes with a program wherein the Fund paid the adoption fees for senior dogs in order to get these animals into homes prior to the Holidays. We are thrilled that we were able to place nineteen dogs in forever homes with this program!

As is said, with every storm comes a silver lining, we are honored to have such loyal and generous supporters. Even though 2020 was financially difficult, our donors came through during our end of year 100% matching fund drive. During this drive, we were able to make up for some of our canceled events during the year and raised a whopping \$13,220 which then became \$26,440 with the matching funds from our generous benefactors. We are truly grateful for everyone that contributed for helping us continue on with our mission! We hopefully look forward to a happy and healthy 2021!





Did You Know... Senior dogs are ideal for households with children because of their low-key natures. They're also great with elderly people.

Thanks For The Memories

Lizzy's Fund gratefully accepts memorial donations for loved ones (human or canine) that have passed. What a loving tribute it is for someone to make a donation in remembrance of someone (or dog) that they loved? In 2020, the following people made such donations:

Wendy Marx & Ron Boulard made donations In memory of Miki, Kajsa, and Laddie

John & Patricia Wyllie made donations in memory of their beloved Josie and grand-dog Spike

Michelle Hersch made a donation in memory of Lizzie Reinsdorff

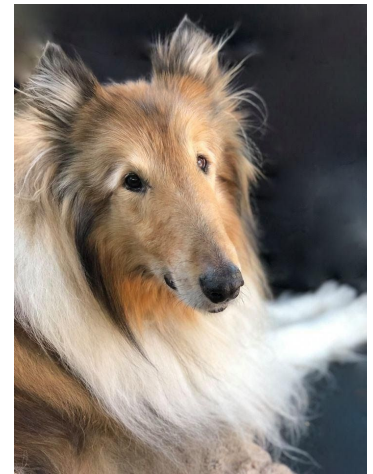
Gail & Art Diedrichsen made donations in memory of John McCalliom (husband of Ardis), In memory of collie Sally, their own dear Laddie, and dear friend Glori Wolf

Dolores Burns made a donation in memory of Laddie

Tom & Chris Wehrli made a donation in memory of Laddie

Kathy Stodgell made a donation in memory of Sally

Bernie & Ted Slupik made a donation in memory of Laddie



Lizzy's Fund is an IRS approved not-for-profit charity that provides financial support to senior canines, aged 7 and older. The Fund is named after a little long-haired Chihuahua named Lizzy, who after her owners discovered Alternative Care Medical help, lived to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ after vets gave up on her at age 9.

Would you like more information on Lizzy's Fund?
Visit www.lizzysfund.org, or follow her on **Facebook** and **Instagram**!

Donations are gratefully accepted, please consider helping a senior dog today!

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