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## HRI Dogs: Zizou's Story



In 2021, Zizou, a three-year-old dog from Ohio, was accepted by Intake. He was described as being 'extremely anxious'. He really needed to be an "only" dog. He lived in fear as his original owners had many very large dogs. Seeing his unhappiness one owner kept him in her room, away from the other dogs, but this created terrible separation anxiety. When the owner left the room, leaving him alone, he was terrified. HRI was contacted.

Unfortunately there was no appropriate foster available. As you might guess, most of our fosters have dogs, and he needed to be the 'only' dog.

Luckily, Nancy Rogers (State Contact for several nearby states) remembered that a very experienced foster, Colleen Liktenhaus, had recently lost her dog. Colleen currently had no dog in her home and could help out with Zizou. Nancy also knew that Colleen would stick to a plan and be very disciplined about following through with a behavioral trainer who would be needed to help Zizou. To make matters even better for Zizou, Nancy knew that Colleen, who lives in Washington DC, was currently working most of her time from her lake house in Virginia due to the pandemic. Zizou would have a peaceful environment to decompress, relax, and adjust. Plans were made for Zizou to be dropped off in PA to be taken to Colleen.

Colleen accepted the challenge, fostered Zizou, and followed through. With time, love, and patience he became more secure and even became friends with another Havanese. Colleen and her partner Brian fell in love with the little fellow and have adopted Zizou! He is called Herbie, the love bug now!



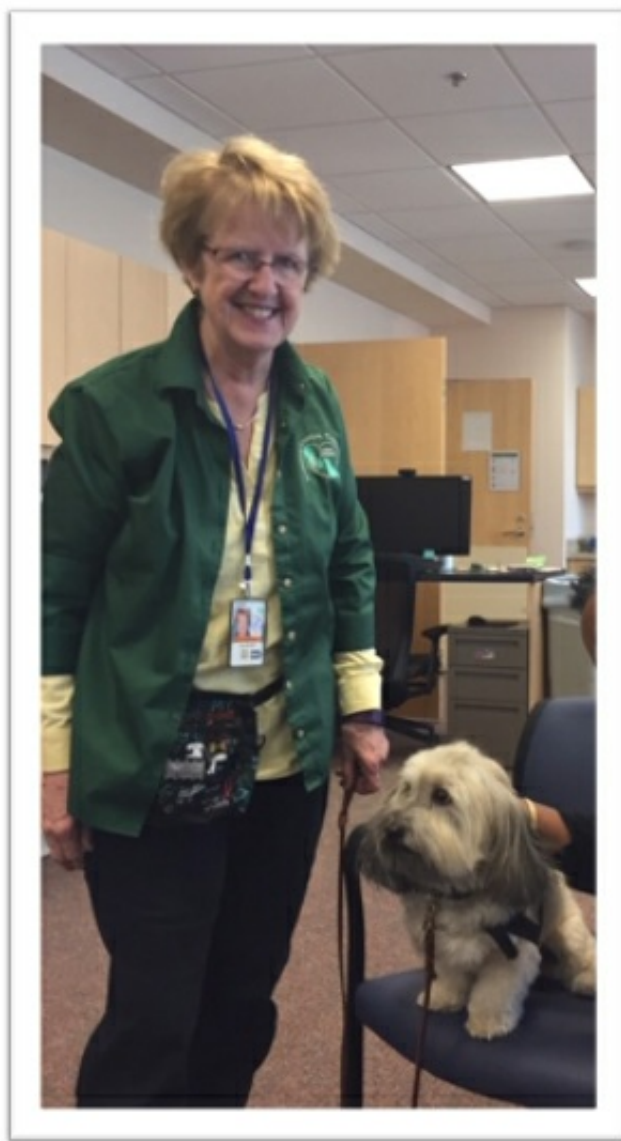
Zizou, now Herbie, with new owners, Brian and Colleen, happy and living a good life.

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## **HRI News**

# **Introducing A State Contact**

*It is a pleasure to introduce Nancy Rogers.*



Since 2004, I have been owned by 4 Havanese. I love the breed and only wish I had known about them earlier in my life. I have trained and have certified all four of mine as Therapy Dogs first, through Delta, (now Pet Partners ) and then National Capital Therapy Dogs, inc. My joy has been doing Animal Assisted Therapy at different facilities, my favorite being NIH, National Institute of Health. Unfortunately, all this has been curtailed due to COVID.

I also serve on the Board of NCTD inc. (National Capital Therapy Dogs). About 10 years ago, I became the Havanese Rescue Inc State Contact for Maryland. Ultimately, I became the State Contact for Maryland, DC, Virginia, West Virginia, and Delaware.

When I first became State Contact the Dog Wrangler had charge of every dog that came into HRI and “supervised” the state contacts. We were responsible and accountable for paperwork etc. A few years later, the Dog Management Team (DMT) came into being and that made my State Contact job so much easier. The team helps with tasks that were previously my responsibility. Now I can concentrate on finding the appropriate foster home for each dog that comes into one of “my “ states.

I live in the DMV (DC Maryland and Virginia) and not too far from PA, NJ, and NC, so I can collaborate with other State Contacts who are looking for

foster homes for incoming dogs in their states. I've developed a network with some of the other SCs and we work together, helping each other find appropriate foster homes. It is vital to match the dog with a foster who is appropriate for the dog's needs. Because I cover a large geographic and very populated area, I can usually find a foster home for any dog in just a short time! Zizou is just one example.

I keep an up-to-date list of experienced fosters. If it is not convenient at the moment they often express a willingness to foster "if I can't find anyone else" and that is really helpful. There are newer fosters, who haven't yet been called upon, but I keep a record of who and where they are and their skills. It is an important part of the State Contact job to know who's willing and available.

As well as finding the right foster home, I follow up with the foster, I help with any issues that come along and assist with forms, etc. It has been an interesting experience being State Contact and I've enjoyed getting to know and interacting with other HRI volunteers. This is an amazing and dedicated group of people!

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- 🐾 Gift Cards

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*"Yes, I came back. I always come back."*

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