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HRI Dogs: Chewy's Story



This was a 7-month-old puppy, Chewy. Chewy's elderly owner had rheumatoid arthritis and found it impossible to care for and play with a puppy, so she turned him into HRI. He tested positive for giardia, and it took two rounds of treatment to clear him up. Chewy needed careful supervision to disinfect any areas where he relieved himself. There had to be a separation from the other dogs in his foster Jill's home, so he wouldn't infect Jill's other dogs.



Chewy before grooming

Lucky for Chewy his foster, and State Contact for Florida, Jill Brecher, was also trained as a groomer. As you can see, Chewy needed grooming! What a difference it made!



Chewy after grooming

A retired couple adopted him they lived in Illinois and were previous adopters from HRI. They have lots of time for Chewy and are excellent trainers! Chewy is now trained in all the basic commands and even does tricks. He is the joy of their lives.



Chewy at home with his new family



Chewy enjoying the snow

HRI News

Our Florida State Contact and board member

It is a pleasure to introduce Jill Brecher.



Jill and Tallulah

After retiring early from Delta Air Lines in 2005, I went to grooming school and started a pet sitting business. I worked for a groomer for a while but decided I didn't want to do grooming full time. My grooming classes come in handy to groom my dogs, HRI foster dogs, and my pet sitting clients with small dogs.

Some of the foster dogs I have taken in over the years have been badly matted when I got them. I try to use my detangling tool if it doesn't hurt the dog. Some dogs are so severely matted they have to be shaved down. I always try to save the tail and ears, though. The body will grow back much faster. Brushing your dog often is better for the dog and you. I trim nails with clippers and then file them down with a Dremel.

My first introduction to the Havanese breed was in December of 2004 when my daughter bought my granddaughter a Havanese. Then in August of 2005,

I purchased my first Havanese that I named Boomer. He was the best dog. I got him at 13 weeks old, and he passed away one month after he turned 15 years old. He always greeted me at the door with a toy in his mouth.

I loved the Havanese breed so much I decided I could join rescue and foster them. In 2007, I became a volunteer and foster home for HRI. My first foster was a dog named Misty. She was three years old and had cataracts. I had her for about four months while she went through cataract surgery and all her rechecks before being adopted. I was asked to be the State Contact in Florida for HRI a few years later and held that position for several years. After a break, in November of 2019, I was asked again if I would again be the Florida State Contact, and I said yes. Then in May of 2021, I was honored to be asked to join the Board of Directors for HRI.

Since joining HRI in 2007, I have fostered over 30 dogs. One of the perks of being a Delta employee is flying free, which still applies after retiring. I can also take a dog in a carrier on the airplane for free. I flew in September of 2009 to pick up Rockie from Rockford, Illinois. Rockie was an owner turn-in because of divorce. He was my first foster fail three weeks later. I adopted him when he was three years old, and he passed away last March, one month before his 14th birthday. Boomer and Rockie were best buddies, I still miss them. My second foster fail, Bebe, just turned 17 years old in October 2021. I picked her up in May of 2016 to foster due to the passing of her original owner.



Bebe (bottom) with sister Tallulah

In November of 2021, I was forwarding applications for one of HRI's fosters, Tallulah. Tallulah's foster home was in South Carolina. I wasn't looking for another dog at the time but then thought she would be a dog that would fit in

with my senior dog Bebe because she was almost four years old. They have become buddies making Bebe a little younger again. Bebe has had her spurts of running through the house playing with Tallulah.

I have a genuine love for dogs and especially the Havanese breed. And yes, I am one of those that cry when the dog dies in a movie.

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FYI: **Grooming and Cords**

Havanese always look cute. All that is truly needed is a good bath, a good brush and blow dry, foot hair trimming, and nail cutting. Why then do so many of us have a closet full of products?

Ear Cleaners

Havanese are floppy-eared dogs. Floppy-eared dogs are more prone to ear infections. A good flush to the ears while brushing is an excellent preventative against infection. There are many ear cleaning products available. Some use Oticlean-A. Cherrybrook or 1-800 Petmeds are good places to look for these products.

Shampoos

There are so many companies making quality products. Ziggy's makes a good shampoo and conditioner for Havanese. I use Sasha Reiss shampoo and conditioner. The best are available online, not in pet stores. Jill Brecher uses Tropiclean Luxury shampoo and conditioner in one with papaya and coconut. Others love Isle of Dogs, Crown Royale, Chris Christensen, and various 'systems' for washing and grooming. All dogs are different, so products for dry skin and hair, sensitive skin, and allergies are available too. It is best to use shampoo and conditioner from the same brand as they are made to work together. Standing dryers are easiest, but any dryer is fine. As long as it isn't too hot, just set it cool.

Do you go to a groomer? Give them instructions and a picture of how you want your Havanese should look. A picture can make a big difference when helping describe to the groomer what type of trim you want for your dog. You could ask for ears to be 'feathered' to a soft point and not cut straight across like a Cocker Spaniel. Your groomer could trim your dog's tail to be in a plume. Some say a Havanese face should have whiskers and a thinned top-knot, and the body looks best when all the hair is cut to the same length, and not shaped.

Here are two puppies, one showing the trim described.



Brushes

Pin brushes are best, look for one with rounded tips, so they don't scratch the skin! A comb can show you where there is a mat, then pull it apart with your fingers and brush it out.

Doggy Dreadlocks

Cording is a technique in which dog coats are separated patiently into dreadlocks for coat care or presentation purposes—some dog breeds are always corded: such as the Puli and the Komondor. Less often, Poodles and the Havanese may be corded.

The long rope-like strands are formed when the topcoat is entwined with the undercoat. It takes some time for the cords to develop. In the beginning, cords need to be separated to form the dreadlocks rather just creating a matted dog.

Maintaining a corded coat takes a lot of time and effort. Regular bathing is necessary to form the cords and keep them clean. Cords repel water, so soaking the dog is required to rinse the shampoo thoroughly. Soaking and agitating the cords help them to form. Drying a corded coat requires hours. A corded dog can take up to 48 hours to dry if left alone. Your dog will need to sit by a fan for hours to dry the cords completely so they don't become moldy!

Eww, who wants that? Blow drying with heat can cause the dog to overheat and ruin the cords.



Example of a corded Havanese. This is Swiffer, Donna Rotoloni's dog.



"Just how long has it been since you've had him groomed?"

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