



From left to right, Daisy, Ivy, Harriet (from a different mill), Madeline, Eddie and Mitzi.

## President's Letter

**Did you know that one puppy mill, located in the central U.S.:**

- Keeps an average inventory of 1200 adult dogs and 400 puppies?
- Raises nearly 30 breeds and 30 cross-breeds?
- Is USDA-licensed as a broker and sells directly to pet shops in four states?
- Sells puppies to pet stores for \$300?
- Sells a total of about 3,000 puppies every year?
- Keeps 14 employees, most part time?
- Makes a gross profit of \$900,000 per year on "designer breeds" alone?

If 14 employees are all working full time for a total of 560 hours per week, and if there are 1600 dogs to care for this week, each employee will be responsible for the care of 114 dogs each day. Thus, each dog in this puppy mill receives 4 minutes of care each day! These are the startling statistics. The "Prisoners of Greed" organization estimates that there are hundreds of thousands of dogs languishing in mills right now.

HRI is occasionally contacted to take one or more dogs that have been raised in mill situations. While we strongly discourage any action that would perpetuate the continuation of the puppy mill business, we are proud to be the agent of "new beginnings" for those who come into our care. In this issue of our newsletter, we share stories about some Havs who came to us in March from a puppy mill to start their new lives, of a volunteer who literally "went the distance" (we were fortunate to have an anonymous donor who covered the expenses related to the trip) and of a happy ending for a dog from another mill at another time.

Even if you are not among our cherished volunteers who can help transport or foster dogs, please consider being part of our "education team" and reach out to inform everyone you know about where those sweet pet store puppies begin their lives. Only by refusing to buy a puppy from a local pet store will mills be out of business, and the misery of so many innocent Havanese be over.

*Jane Hohne  
President, HRI*

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## The Incredible Journey Begins

by Lori Brostrom

On a normal day Karen Grant serves as HRI's volunteer "dog wrangler," coordinating efforts to get Havs coming into rescue to their foster homes efficiently and cost-effectively. It's a demanding job requiring flexibility and problem-solving abilities beyond what most of us possess.

# Untold Stories

By Lu Wyland

The number of Havanese coming to HRI is rapidly increasing. Whether the dogs come from people who lost their homes, left their dog behind when their home foreclosed or they came from a puppy mill, our foster homes are inundated.

Four of the six Havanese pictured above in this newsletter's banner almost never made it to HRI. The reason? There was no place for them to go. Which four would you have chosen to leave behind?

If HRI hadn't been there, one would have starved...the puppy mill owner that had her said he wasn't feeding her anymore; he didn't want her. One would have likely been sold to another puppy mill, if she had survived, since she was tiny and underweight. Two other puppies from that same mill were missing tails as they'd frozen off over the winter. The other four Havanese you see above were slated for a medical lab for testing if rescue hadn't stepped in to help.

A lot of effort went into finding a way to transport a total of ten dogs from a Wisconsin puppy mill in mid-March. Boston Terrier rescue started the work to get the



Havanese to rescue, both in talking with the owner and helping transport the dogs to the second leg of their journey. HRI volunteer, Erica Greis, picked up the ten and drove them for hours to Central Bark in Brookfield, WI where they were allowed to stay the night. The owners of the new facility generously donated the space and the cleaning supplies that HRI volunteers Angie Jungbluth and Lu Wyland used to disinfect the kennels and the room after the dogs were on their way to foster care.

The articles that follow tell you of a journey that began on Sunday, but it was a trek just to get these dogs to that point.

Without foster homes, HRI will have to say no to dogs that need our help. Look at the faces above. Read their stories on our website. Ask yourself, who would you leave behind? Then ask, "How can I help?" Without you, there are Havanese who will miss the soft landing that HRI provides.



However, when HRI decided to take in 5 Havs (another 5 were taken by another rescue group) from a puppy mill in WI, Karen's skills were put to the test. Nearby foster families could not be found for all the dogs-but there were eager volunteers on the east coast. There was little opportunity to make time-consuming arrangements, as the dogs were being released from the mill and moved into a temporary holding facility where they needed to be removed within 24 hours. What to do about the three dogs needing transport eastward?

As Lu Wyland, who coordinated ground operations near Milwaukee for the WI 10, put it, "Karen showing up today on a VERY cold Wisconsin Sunday to take some incredibly smelly dogs on one heck of a road trip," was amazing. The 1327 mile odyssey began when she flew to Milwaukee and rented a car. Picking up the 3 dogs, and then Dominic, another foster dog in IL, she headed east. Some excerpts from her account:

- Made a few pitstops and walked Dominic. None of the mill dogs wanted to come out of the crates, so I just exchanged soiled bedding for clean towels.
- I stopped at about 10 p.m. and found a motel that allowed dogs for a fee of \$7 a dog LOL. I told the manager that Daisy was only 4 lbs. so she got in for free!
- After one bout of barking at who knows what, and the manager calling, THEN paying us a visit, I got them quieted down. Dominic curled up in bed next to me, with his head

# The Gift of Hope

By Suzy McQuown

Most of us are aware of the hopelessness that defines the life of a dog in a puppy mill. However, this is not a story of despair, but one of hope. I have been given the best assignment, the honor of relating the stories about the progress of the six Havanese from Wisconsin as told by their foster moms. While each of these dogs was quite different in size, shape, and appearance, their moms shared stories that were often strikingly similar. Tales of dogs unaccustomed to eating from a bowl because food at the mill was just thrown onto the crate floor; fear of stairs because life prior to foster was a single level cage; and those haunting, lifeless, fearful eyes.

But, this is a story of change, promise, and love best told by their caretakers. Like all our foster parents their stories are the little steps that begin a life's journey. The following are excerpts from their narratives.

Maddie quickly became friends with my other Havanese and learned lots of things from them. She goes up and down the stairs, with a little help, and now drinks from a water bottle. Outside play is her favorite. She chases the other dogs, jumps on them, and loves to roll around in the grass!! Her tail is always wagging!!



Eddie loves playing with his brother Max, the Hav way. Belly rubs have become a daily thing. He loves to kiss and have his ears rubbed. When you are sitting down, he has to be right on your feet. He has learned to jump on the bed, where he has to sleep with my arm around him, or his nose snuggled in my elbow.

If Mitzi's world could be the human bed she would be so happy. She becomes very relaxed, wants to snuggle and gives little kisses. She will also take treats when she is on the bed but nowhere else. Best of all she gets to watch TV which she seems to love.

Ivy absolutely loves going on walks and racing around the yard with the other

over my shoulder, while Daisy, Maddie and Eddie slept in their now-clean crates.

Setting off again at 5:30 a.m., Karen dropped off the dogs, one by one with their new foster families, arriving back home on Long Island at 9 p.m., tired but happy for the dogs and their new beginnings. The HRI community was grateful to Karen for her efforts as well as to the anonymous donor who underwrote the expenses for the trip. As Marilyn Pozas wrote on the HRI Yahoo list, "Karen, you have made sainthood as far as I am concerned. Your e-mail reminded me of how we all do our part in HRI, but in any organization there are people like you who go above and beyond. You are an inspiration to me. God bless you."

## Letters From Home

You may remember me as Duffy. I have a new name, Olly, and I think it's really cool. I was called Olly after the "Oliver Twist" character, since we both had such a hard life. My new family will tell you I changed their lives forever, and changed them as people. It has been a year of great adjustments, learning about me and learning about themselves.



The first few months I spent bonding with my new mom. I was deathly afraid of my new dad, although I knew he was a true animal lover. They suspected that my prior owner at the puppy mill who dumped me was a male. With love and understanding, I learned my new dad was a great guy! I will now take food out of his

dogs. She takes everything in and you can see her face and know the little wheels are turning. It is amazing how a dog that lived six years of her life in a mill, is just taking it all in and loving every minute of it!



Harriet has mastered stairs, jumping on and off furniture, going for walks and car rides, coming in and out of the house, chewing bones and playing with all the toys. She loves sitting on your lap and napping and she'll keep you very warm as her body is like a little hot water bottle. She is very treat-motivated and that has helped her during transitional times.

Daisy still behaves as though each bowl of food might be her last. But, this now seven pound ball of fluff, spunk, and energy is learning that she is safe, that dog toys are for tossing and that love



surrounds her. Daisy knows that life is good and that being loved and cherished is great.

**Give the gift of hope** to a Havanese in need; please consider opening your home and your heart to a foster Havanese.

HRI would like to thank everyone involved in this rescue, and especially the dogs and their fosters: Daisy (Suzy McQuown); Eddie (Sharon LaGrange);

Ivy, (Lu Wyland and now, Char Renslow); Maddie (Laurie Frangione), now in her forever home; and Mitzi (Betty Iliff). Harriet, from another mill, came in shortly afterward (Lu Wyland and now, Char Renslow). If you are interested in adopting one of these dogs, please submit an application.

For another story on these dogs please read the next edition of the [Havanese Hotline](#)

hand and go on walks with him.

My biggest challenge was marking. I thought I had to claim everything and I just didn't know any better. Everyone was frustrated. Well, my mom solved the problem! She realized I never marked in the Great Room, where the family spends most of their time. So now, they close the doors and I stay in there.

My favorite thing in the world is going to our beach house with my family and my canine sister Amy. We run on the beach, my ears flopping up and down, until I am exhausted. Amy enjoys fetching the ball. I enjoy chasing her. We both enjoy snuggling on the bed together. My other favorite things are exploring the backyard, going on long walks and snuggling on the couch.

Every so often I will have an unexpected "bad day," where I am unsettled, skittish, and just "off," but those days are getting fewer and farther apart. My family reassures me that the past is the past.

When I am happily running at the beach, or running around the backyard, or snuggled on the couch, it makes me feel happy that there are families who love animals and want to help them, and in the process may learn a thing or two about themselves, such as patience and understanding.

Sincerely,  
Olly Engrav (and the Engrav family)

## Donations

Everyone hears about the economy...few stop to think about what it means to pets. Pet relinquishment is increasing rapidly. Please help when you can.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Choose an appropriate contact below.**

Click [here](#)

to request assistance for a [dog needing rescue](#)

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to complete an adoption application.

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Click [here](#)

if you have a question, or a suggestion for this newsletter.

Click below to **check the status** of your **previously submitted**:

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