

# Australian Cattle Dog Rescue Inc.®

## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



# STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

(From the Corporation's By Laws)

The purpose of the corporation is to provide education and charitable assistance to the general public on the proper care, maintenance, fostering and adoption of purebred Australian Cattle Dogs. In the context of these general purposes, the corporation shall rescue purebred Australian Cattle Dogs in the United States and Canada from imminent death at animal shelters, humane societies, pounds and from owners who can no longer keep their dogs, and place the dog into a new and permanent adoptive home.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Australian Cattle Dog Rescue, Inc. strives to provide breed related education and training and other rescue assistance in order to place and retain as many purebred Australian Cattle Dog rescues as possible into permanent, appropriate, and loving homes. We will build and maintain a network of foster homes, evaluators, transporters and other volunteers and provide financial assistance whenever possible.

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**[HTTP://WWW.ACDRESCUEINC.COM](http://www.acdrescueinc.com)**

**RESCUE HOTLINE:**

**323-260-4673**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

**Stacey Helsel**

*President*

**Brooke Hicks**

*Secretary*

**Debbie Ray**

*Vice– President*

**Ivy Villegas Borges**

*Treasurer*

### Directors

**Sara Reiter**

**Linda Watkins**

**Ellen Beasley**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Each year time seems to pass by more quickly than the last. They say that happens when you are having fun.

Once again ACDRI has had a very busy year. The volume of phone calls, e-mails and other forms of requests for help keeps increasing. The number of dogs being placed or given up by owners is still climbing and the stories coming into the help line are heartrending. The board of ACDRI has done an admirable job of rising to the challenge and I'm very grateful for everyone's efforts.

The members of this board share a very focused passion to do as much as possible to assist ACD rescue dogs while at the same time keeping the stability and integrity of ACDRI in mind. The members of this board have worked incredibly well together and ACDRI is fortunate to have each of them serving.

This year saw some change in our board configuration as long-time member Brooke Hicks moved with her family to Texas. Between the move and the expected arrival of a new member to the Hicks family, Brooke is departing the ACDRI, but not stepping away from rescue. We wish Brooke and her growing family the very best and thank her for all of the time and work she's put into ACDRI and cattle dog rescue in general. She will be greatly missed.

Our financial assistance program has provided monetary aid for quite a few rescue dogs in the past 12 months and as always it is uplifting to hear success stories that ACDRI played a part in making happen. This financial assistance program is still a work in progress and we continue to make adaptations that will improve our ability to help as many dogs as possible.

As is always the case with rescue groups, ACDRI is looking to add even more registered foster homes. The need for foster care for these dogs is always one of the hardest to fill and the uncertain economy the past couple of years has taken its toll on foster providers. If you have ever thought about fostering an ACD rescue now would be a wonderful time to give it a go.

We announced our first Jack Russell Memorial Award at the 2008 Specialty. This award honors a person or group who has demonstrated outstanding service to ACD rescue. We received a number of worthy nominations and it was a difficult decision, but in the end we all agreed that it should go to Amy Berry whose passion and dedication helped give birth to ACDRI and who to this day makes a strong contribution to ACD rescue. Nominees for the 2009 award are equally deserving and choosing just one winner was a difficult decision for the board. I'm looking forward to announcing the recipient at our awards banquet in Belton, Texas this fall.

This past year has been a tricky one for fund raising and donations have been down. ACDRI is however in solid financial shape thanks to the diligence and forethought of this and previous boards. We expect to be able to ride out the current poor economy and continue to provide as much assistance as we have in the past.

We are once again grateful this year to all of those people who have been strong supporters of ACDRI. Your donations of money, time, and encouragement are what keep us going – along with the "Happy Tails" we continue to receive from ACD adopters.

Wishing a happy and healthy upcoming year for each of you, your family, and your furry loved ones.

*Stacey E. Helsel*

Message to the Community...

## OUR HISTORY

Australian Cattle Dog Rescue, Inc.® was formed in order to meet an increasing demand for the organized fostering and re-homing of purebred Australian Cattle Dogs in need. Although the organization was previously a committee of the AKC Parent Club, Australian Cattle Dog Club of America, it was incorporated in the state of California as a public benefit 501(c)(3) charity organization in the year 2000. ACDRI is a stand-alone corporation without members, and its Board of Directors are appointed by the Board of Directors of the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America.

ACDRI's Guidelines state that its two main objectives are to first rescue and re-home as many purebred ACDs in need as is realistically and responsibly possible, and second, to educate both the public and animal shelters about the breed so they can make informed placement decisions.

The Guidelines further state that in order to rescue through ACDRI, you must be a member in good standing of the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America. The Corporation's liability insurance does not cover non-members.

ACDRI's guidelines can be viewed in their entirety at: [www.acdrescueinc.com](http://www.acdrescueinc.com)

The past few years have found ACDRI responding to the demand for national and electronic accessibility by employing the use of a nationwide telephone hotline and the development of a website for informational and educational purposes.

ACDRI maintains general liability coverage for its Board of Directors as well as approved foster homes that rescue and rehome dogs under ACDRI's guidelines. ACDRI's insurance coverage includes a separate Directors' and Officers' policy.

## RESCUE INFORMATION

Each officer and director is responsible for monitoring the rescue hotline one day a week. We also field countless daily calls and emails to offer training suggestions, counsel, support, post bios and photos on ACDRI and other ACD-specific rescue websites. Postings include dogs we personally are supervising as well as dogs that cannot be personally assisted by a member, or as a courtesy to other groups and shelters. We also have volunteers monitoring online sites such as Craigslist, PetFinder, and other pet placement services – both to watch for dogs who need our help and to provide information and assistance for owners who have problems or questions about their ACD. As shelter reliance of rescue increases, we are seeing an increase in the number of calls we receive from shelters asking us to find foster space for ACDs, a breed that is notorious for doing poorly in the stress and noise of busy public shelters.

Our officers and directors mentored and supported four individuals interested in fostering rescue cattle dogs in 2008. We also coordinated closely with independent ACD rescues throughout the country including Texas, the Carolinas, Florida, New England, California, and the Great Lakes states. Broken down geographically by the states our board represents: CA (2 officers), FL (1 officer), NY (1 director), NC (1 director), OR (1 director), and WA (1 officer).

The number of calls to the ACDRI hotline increased in 2008 – board members fielded over 1,000 calls. Geographically, most of the calls ACDRI receives come from Southern California; however we also receive a significant number from the southeastern states.

Well over 13,000 emails were received by individual board members, mostly from people asking for assistance with placing their dogs, but also searching for behavioral and training assistance. By far, the smallest number of calls and emails came from individuals interested in adopting a cattle dog.

Understand that while ACDRI receives and reports a staggering number of calls and emails, not every inquiry results in a dog receiving assistance by one of our members. Most rescue organizations, shelters, and individual rescuers now network by utilizing the internet and email to forward and circulate information about dogs in need. It is not uncommon for many organizations to circulate the same information for a single dog. It is then up to the recipient to ascertain whether or not they have a potential adopter for a match, whether or not they have foster space available, or can move forward in any other way to help.

As noted earlier in the report, the current economic climate has dog owners shifting their priorities and focus and as a result 2008 saw a significant increase in dogs being abandoned and relinquished to state and county animal shelters and rescue organizations. The need for new foster homes, in every area of the country, is always at the top of ACDRI's wish list, and after monitoring calls and emails for the last two years, our greatest needs are appearing in Texas/Oklahoma and California.

What we do...

## YEAR IN REVIEW

2008 proved to be one of the most challenging years for rescue in recent times. The economic difficulties for so many people affected their ability to keep or care for their beloved pets and ACDRI along with every other rescue in the country found ourselves trying to find long- and short-term solutions for families forced to move or give up their pets due to economic hardship. Our officers and directors fostered and re-homed 38 dogs in 2008, and worked with numerous other rescues, both breed-specific and all-breed, to place or help with medical needs for more than 100 additional dogs.

We also saw a number of hoarding seizures – two in Texas and one in Oregon together netted over 1500 dogs taken out of substandard living conditions, two dozen of which were ACDs.

In spite of continuing high gas prices, our officers and directors honored their commitment to serving ACDs in need and traveled in excess of seven thousand miles in order to facilitate the foster or placement of rescue dogs in 2008. We also coordinated transport with other rescue groups, and arranged interstate transports and adoptions: adult dogs and puppies were sent from Texas to Oregon and Washington where there were foster homes and adopters waiting for them, one adult dog went from Oregon to an adoptive home in Texas, and another was sent from Oregon to foster in Indiana.

Our Northwest contingent has been helping dogs from far Northern California and Idaho as well as dogs in Washington and Oregon. In the Southeast our directors have been involved in working with ACDs out of Georgia, Florida, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee and Kentucky. All of us try to help with rescues in Louisiana, Alabama, and Arkansas.

ACDRI is available to mentor individuals on a personal or group level if interest is shown in becoming an approved foster home or starting a regional ACD rescue group. This last year we did not receive any start-up requests, but we do want rescuers to be aware that we have some funds available to help fledgling rescue groups get off the ground.

ACDRI's Rescue Versatility Trophy at the 2008 ACDCA National Specialty in Pennsylvania went to Betsy Sachs. Comprised of five events (herding-cattle, herding-sheep, agility, obedience, and rally), with all eligible dogs competing in three of those events. This trophy affords ACDRI the opportunity to encourage rescue owners to showcase their dog's talents in a national forum.

Our financial assistance program, introduced in 2006, continues to thrive. What began as a trial program to provide financial assistance for non-routine medical expenses for ACDs being rescued by any legitimate rescue group or individual, has blossomed into one of the key means by which ACDRI assists fellow rescuers. In 2008 we disbursed \$3174.00 for seven dogs. Information about our Financial Assistance Program can be found at ACDRI's website.

Assistance covered everything from an amputation to ER costs for an older female who was bitten in the head by her shelter kennel mate. We also helped with heartworm and parvo treatments.

We'd like all of our news to be good news, but sadly in rescue that's just not always possible. We do recognize that due to behavioral issues, abuse, poor breeding, or health issues, there are dogs that just cannot be fostered or placed in a forever home. When the safety of society in general becomes an issue, we have to do that which a responsible owner would have done. In the case of old age or chronic illness we will try to find hospice care for the dog until such a time as life becomes too painful. This year we had to say goodbye to two dogs; one due to age and illness, and one for behavior issues.

## LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Improving communication and continuing to educate the public and shelters about our Australian Cattle Dogs continue to be at the forefront of our mission.

In addition to our hotline, ACDRI members subscribe to a number of rescue sites and lists where we can post information about dogs in need. Networking is the most important means of getting the word out about rescue, and our board is becoming increasingly active in this area. Our goals this year include an ACDRI FaceBook page and a Twitter account. Both have the capacity to reach tens of thousands of individuals almost immediately and are being heavily used by the rescue and shelter community.

In July ACDRI was the featured rescue group on the blogspot radio show: *My Buddy Butch*. Vice-president Deb Ray was the guest with interviewer Jeff Marginean, which provided a great forum for not only ACD rescue, but also of the current general rescue climate.

We also look at other options for dogs besides fostering them through a rescue and being adopted as pets. This year we saw dogs being evaluated for Search and Rescue, drug detection work, and assistance dogs. We've helped place dogs in prison and youth detention training programs where the inmates learn valuable skills and lessons in living by training the dogs, and the dogs are given a chance at being adopted into loving homes.

We also have worked with ACDCA breeders, both referring folks who want to adopt a registered dog, and helping folks referred to us by breeders. This last year we worked with a couple of breeders to help recover dogs they'd sold, and who then were turned into the purchaser's local shelter. Breeders and rescuers alike all work hard to ensure that the dogs they send out are going into responsible forever homes, but there are always going to be a couple that slip through the cracks. That we don't see more registered and rescued ACDs in shelters is testament to the care most of us use in placing our dogs, and we thank the responsible breeders who keep track of their dogs, so we don't have to.

We also set a few communication goals for ACDRI this year – to make our financial information more easily available online at our website, and to make our website more easily up-dateable for the ACDRI board so we can keep available dog lists current. Both of these goals have been accomplished.

We continue to discuss other ways to contribute financially to the rescue efforts of other groups and individuals and we hope to establish a Seniors for Seniors program where ACDRI will pay the adoption fee for any senior ACD rescue being placed into a home with a senior citizen.

In addition, proposed projects for the coming year include: develop a FAQ for adopters and shelters, and tie this in with an online brochure; set up guidelines to fund small scholarships for rescuers to attend rescue-related trainings; and set up an electronic submission procedure for posting foster dogs.

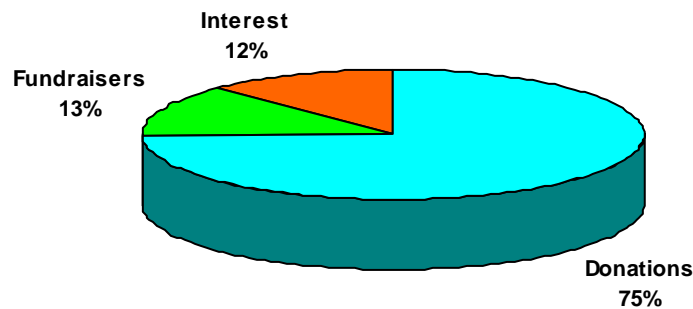
## FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, Australian Cattle Dog Rescue, Inc. relies on the generosity of its donors and fundraisers in order to exist. ACDRI strives to maintain a balance between our guidelines, rescuing pure bred ACDS in a realistic and responsible manner, and the desire to remain fiscally sound in order for the Corporation to continue long after its current members are gone.

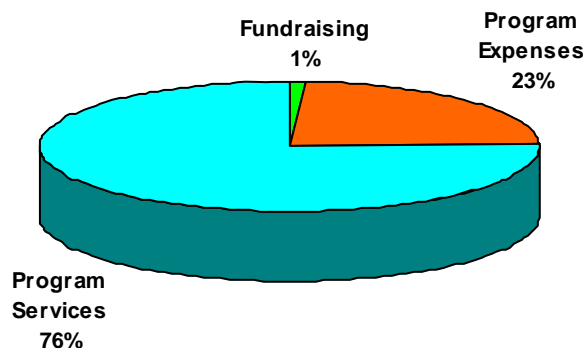
The \$30,000 Mary Eckstein bequest is in a two-year certificate of deposit and the interest the CD generates continues to fund Corporation expenses, education, foster and medical fund disbursements and operating costs. It continues to be the goal of ACDRI to only utilize the interest that the CD generates for expenses and keep the original bequest intact so that the Corporation continues to operate with a viable income in the future.

In addition to donations, ACDRI also holds its annual Silent Auction fundraiser at the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America's National Specialty. This helps us to create specific programs that will disburse funds to other rescue groups and organizations nationwide in an attempt to bring a more cohesive effort to its common goal of providing ACD rescues with their second chance at life and a loving home.

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



Australian Cattle Dog Rescue Inc.  
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2008

Assets:	
Downey Savings & Loan CD	\$30,000.00
Downey Checking	\$31,645.09
Retained Earnings from 1/1/08	\$59,998.95
Year to Date Change in Assets	\$1,646.14
<b>Total Assets &amp; Equities</b>	<b>\$61,645.09 \$61,645.09</b>

Income Statement for Year ending December 31, 2008

	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		YEAR TO DATE	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Corporation Income & Expense	\$197.00		\$450.00		\$200.00		\$4,842.30		\$5,689.30	\$0.00
Donations			\$462.77				\$481.61		\$944.38	\$0.00
Interest from CD							\$996.00		\$996.00	\$45.00
Fundraising Income & Expense								\$1,182.65	\$0.00	\$3,173.90
Rescue Medical Assistance	\$1,341.25			\$150.00		\$45.00		\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00
Special Programs						\$500.00			\$0.00	\$991.00
Liability Insurance								\$991.00	\$0.00	\$991.00
ACDRI Hotline/ Telephone		\$128.38		\$132.36		\$131.31		\$131.59	\$0.00	\$523.64
<b>Total Income and Expenses</b>									<b>\$7,629.68</b>	<b>\$5,983.54</b>
<b>Year to Date Net Income</b>										<b>\$1,646.14</b>

# Meet who it's all about...



Halo was the recipient of ACDRI medical funds due to roundworm and emergency surgery complications from the birth of 11 pups. She was rescued by Flying K9's Herd Dog Rescue and made a full recovery due to the efforts of Christina Curtis and Sjoukje Janssen.



Katy was rescued from a shelter in Brazoria, TX. Through the coordination efforts of Eileen Lankow, ACDRI contributed funds for her surgery for a fractured radius and ulna. Katy is none the worse for wear with a bone plate and multiple screws to repair her leg!



Sky now has a safe place to sleep after being rescued from a Spokane, WA shelter



Rescue Nyssa herding with her new Mom in Seattle, WA

**A second chance... For a happy ending.**



**Meeka and her new family on adoption day, after being left behind in a shelter overnight dropoff box.**



**Vinnie was rescued by Tennessee Valley ACD Rescue from a Georgia shelter. We all know ACDs who will eat just about anything, and Vinnie was no exception! ACDRI contributed funds for surgery to remove blockage from an ingested towel. Vinnie has recovered fully and is happily enjoying life as a healthy boy!**



**Zip was rescued by Robyn Bryant of New Hope Cattle Dog Rescue in AZ. He was thrown from a car when he was 4 months old, and two years of therapy on his leg ultimately resulted in total leg amputation in Sept 08 that ACDRI provided funds for. Zip is happily adjusting to life with 3-legs with his new family, and is finally pain free!**

**Lady was a 12-year old ACD that was abandoned in OK and was transported by Chris Ann Moore to Karen Lanning-Drager in CO. ACDRI contributed funds for Lady's surgery to repair an open wound and removal of a tumor in her neck. Lady still has lots of life left in her, and has a sweet disposition and a twinkle in her eye!**



**Australian Cattle Dog**



**Rescue, Inc.®**

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