



Z.I.N.G.E.R.S. COMPACT

Special Edition — March 2013

Off He Goes, Into the Wild Blue Yonder

In December 2012, Nano (the cutest Chihuahua in the world) went to Pittsburgh. Nano was a rescued dog from All Dog Rescue. He was given up because his old family moved to Hawaii and couldn't take him. Now, after a whole year, Nano is



Nano, packed and ready to go!

a loving, cuddly, and well-behaved Chihuahua. Everyone loves him. He went to Pittsburgh because

Rachel, our club's co-leader, had just recovered from an arm injury and was going back to college. Our 4-H club misses him very much. We are glad that he can come back to visit. Olivia and I sent Nano a scarf to wear right after



Listening to band practice (wearing earplugs!)

he left. Rachel says he wears it all the time! I can't wait till he comes back for a week in May!

— Grace Blaufuss



Rachel and Nano at church in Pittsburgh

Acclimating Animals

Before taking any animal to the nursing home, we make sure they are comfortable in chaotic situations. It is important the animals understand humans' actions in order to become respectable nursing home visitors. Most important is actually accustoming them to

strangers so that they can effectively socialize with the residents. After teaching them the basics, we have to get them in the habit of being gentle. An animal that gets spooked easily or that is being too rough with the residents can be disastrous to every-

one. We have to teach them to interact peacefully with everyone. Some animals take longer than others at being "cleared" for nursing home visits; we just need to be patient during the process.

— Stefan Gibbs

Acton C.R.A.F.T. 4-H Club

4-H year — 2012-2013

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- ☺ Carolyn Kautz
- ☺ Theresa Lewis
- ☺ Victoria (Tori) Richardson
- ☺ Timothy (Timmy) Seale
- ☺ Emma Steele
- ☺ Andrew Zeng
- ☺ Anna Zeng
- ☺ Elaine Shirron, leader
- ☺ Rachel Shirron, asst. leader

Inside this issue:

Elaine's New Dog 2

Coordinating Visits 2



Anja helping Dinky get used to being loved

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Hannah, Andrew, Olivia, Emily, Grace, Anna

Zany Ingenious Neighborly Generous Energetic Resourceful Souls COMPACT (Companion Animals for Assisted Activity)

Z.I.N.G.E.R.S. is a subset of the club, focused on community service

A Not So Social Butterfly

A few months ago, I walked into the house of my 4-H leader, Elaine. Suddenly, I heard a squeak! I heard Elaine say, "There, there! Calm down, Dinky Dog!" Dinky Dog? I took off my coat and ran into the room our leader was in. There in her lap was a tiny dog I had never seen before! She introduced me to the shivering dog and I pet her.



Dinky Doggie is a rescue dog. She was neglected and left alone by her owners for 8-10 hours every day! She is afraid of people. Our job is to teach her that most people are kind and gentle and that she is safe with us. Elaine got her on August 17th, 2012. In the beginning, Dinky shook all the time because everything frightened her. She is getting

much better, but she still gets frightened easily. We love our Dinky Dog and are glad that she is part of our 4-H family!

— Grace Blaufuss



Coordinating COMPACT Visits

Every other week, I coordinate the Acton nursing home visits. I've made tons of mistakes, but now I'm sure that the 4-H slogan is true: Learn by Doing! Since the visits are on Thursdays, I call people on Tuesday. If I only got a few answers Tuesday, then



Elaine's Three Dogs!
Fireball, Nano, Dinky

I have to call people on Wednesday. First, I call Elaine just to make sure it's

true that we are doing the nursing home that week. Since Elaine is the one with the animals it is important she is able to go! Then I call the others who are going, Theresa and Grace. All I have to do is to bus to Elaine's house and enjoy the dogs and the people at the nursing home. Elaine even makes me

"I've made tons of mistakes, but now I'm sure that the 4-H slogan is true: Learn by Doing!"

work on my homework while we wait for Grace's bus to arrive.

— Carolyn Kautz

Traveling to the Nursing Home



Grace with Dinky
Acton nursing home



Emily with Fireball
Littleton nursing home