



NCR's

# Rescue Reporter

Fall 2009 Newsletter

## Never Give Up: Pumpkin's Story

### President's Message

By Andrea Moss

Last June I heard about a Collie who needed our help and needed it quickly, but this Collie was different- she didn't live in northern California.

She had become known in rescue circles on the internet as "Fran the Collie." The photo of Fran, with those imploring eyes, lying broken in a kennel in a very poor, Katrina-ravaged area of rural Louisiana, moved me to tears.

Her story was just heartbreaking. Driving home around midnight, someone passed by a Collie that had been hit by a car and killed. But driving back at six in the morning, he saw she was in a slightly different spot. He realized the poor girl was alive-, and had lain there helpless and alone all through the night, in painful silence.

The driver picked her up carefully and brought her to the St. Bernard Parish Animal Shelter, where they found she was paralyzed from the mid-section down, her back apparently broken. The staff looked into those Collie eyes and knew how much she hurt, but could tell she wasn't ready to give up. They said she was the *sweetest* natured dog they had ever met, and decided to do everything they could to help. They rushed her to the St. Bernard Vet Hospital, where it was determined her L6-7 vertebrae were severely fractured.

The people at the hospital lovingly cared for Fran, who never once curled her lip, growled, or tried to bite in spite of the discomfort and severe pain she endured. It became clear that in order for Fran to have any chance at regaining bladder and bowel control and the use of her hind legs, she would need immediate surgery. And that was going to be *very expensive*, even with a substantial discount. Before the specialist could move forward with surgery, we had to raise funds in a hurry. I was encouraged to see on the American Working Collie Association's Rescue List that rescue organizations throughout the country were stepping up for Fran, thanks to "The Friends of the St. Bernard Animal Parish Shelter" [sbpanimal.homestead.com/#anchor\\_157](http://sbpanimal.homestead.com/#anchor_157) making her situation known. The response was incredible and made me proud to be a part of the Collie rescue community.

Because I felt that our donors too would support this sweet, non-California girl with the "never-give-up" eyes, I spoke with our Board the same day. The Board came back with a unanimous "Yes" and we were able to pledge our contribution to the fund, which soon raised enough money to get Fran her surgery.

Eventually Fran's owners were located, and we found out that she was only two and a half years old, and her real name was Pumpkin. The owners were quite poor, still recovering from the devastation of Katrina, and had no money to pay for the operation or her rehabilitation. For her benefit, they relinquished her to the care of St. Bernard Parish Shelter.

Fran/Pumpkin's surgery was difficult and complicated, but ultimately a success. She ended up with 8 pins and a lot of bone cement, which will remain permanently. At first she regained only partial bladder and bowel control, with some feeling and movement in her legs, so she was moved to a rehabilitation facility to regain full use of her body. She is currently living at "Dag's House" where she went from using a doggie wheelwalker to standing and walking on her own! Yay!!!! The staff will be looking for a foster home while Pumpkin is in rehab, and then for a permanent

home after she is released. Unfortunately, she is also heartworm positive and unspayed. But first things first, as they say.

Thanks to so many generous people in many different states, Pumpkin was able to get the surgery she needed. While we unfortunately can't help every Collie across the country, I felt compelled to help this one (with a personal donation as well), not only because her story touched me deeply, but because her story exemplifies both "the Collie spirit" and the charity of the human heart.

Although Pumpkin wasn't one of *our* rescues, it is part of NorCal Collie Rescue's mission to give well-deserved recognition to those dogs who overcome adversity as well as to the people who help them find their way back. In a consumer culture that too often celebrates the shallow, these stories inspire us to remember what is truly valuable in life.

Many of Pumpkin's vet bills have been covered by contributions. However, even with the discounts on the surgery, boarding and rehab, the "Friends" still need more to cover the balance of the surgery bill and for all the special rehabilitation that is

ongoing. Please help if you can.

From the "Friends": *All contributions are tax deductible and every dime that's contributed goes for Pumpkin's care—we're all volunteers and none of the money goes for administrative costs. If you think you can help, you can send contributions to:*

**Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOAS) PO Box 933 Chalmette, LA 70043.** Please make checks out to FOAS and note that it's for "Pumpkin's Care". Don't ever think any contribution is too small—every little bit helps! If you have any questions, you can call one of my Friends' buddies, Chris, at 914-720-6888 or e-mail her at: [tisme@mindspring.com](mailto:tisme@mindspring.com)



Pumpkin at rehab



Fran/Pumpkin at the shelter



Pumpkin today

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# Area Coordinator Reports

## Central Valley, Foothills and Washoe County, Nevada

By Cathy Toft

This year I have rescued Collies from human tragedies. I took in two Collies - Darcy and Boomer - whose young owner had died unexpectedly. These dogs were the center of her life, her "kids," and she gave them the best, most loving care possible. They had every toy imaginable and had completed training classes. They came to NCR with their graduate certificates and veterinary records, evidence of conscientious care and the certainty that it was not their owner's intent to leave them. Good Samaritan neighbors came to her dogs' aid and contacted NCR for help. Darcy and Boomer are now in the Bay Area looking for a family where they can be together.

Chantilly arrived in NCR because her elderly owner could no longer live independently and was moved into senior assisted care. Her family put her dog in a shelter.

I am a firm believer, and research shows, that pets help the elderly have a longer, happier life. Age as the reason not to have a pet is not a good reason in my view.

Have you made arrangements for your dogs, should the unexpected happen? There is no age limit for disaster, as we in NCR have discovered over the years. If something happens to you, your family may or may not understand your love for your dogs. A mission of NCR is indeed to also help Collies at risk due to human tragedy.

Another risk for Collies is the economic downturn. NCR's mission is also to rescue Collies when pet owners lose their jobs or their homes are forced into foreclosure. We hope to intervene before owners drop their Collies in shelters, but NCR does not have enough foster homes to take in all Collies at risk.

Many of you volunteered to foster in January, when we put out a desperate plea, and most waited months to take in a Collie. We are so grateful to those of you who have volunteered to foster. But we still need more foster homes. Not every Collie can go into a foster home, due to compatibility or distance. We desperately need foster home volunteers in the Santa Cruz and Monterey areas.

We also need area coordinator volunteers, to manage groups of volunteers that are distant from any of our current area coordinators. We need someone to cover Sonoma County, 707 area code north; someone to cover the Chico area, and 530 area code north; and we could use another hub in the southern Central Valley, Fresno and south, area code 209.

I have found that Collie lovers want, indeed need, to have active, healthy Collie rescue organizations around them. It's much too painful to think of no one there for Collies at risk. Yet, the cost to volunteers of rescue organizations is high, emotionally, financially and in time demand. About 50 Collies a year come to the attention of NCR volunteers. Our donors are so generous that we can financially help all the Collies in need, but our volunteer base is slim and tired. For those of you who volunteer, we—and the Collies—are forever grateful. If you haven't taken a turn yet, please consider volunteering to share the burden of caring for so many needy Collies.



Tilly



"Champ" from the Clearlake Shelter

## Bay Area, East

By Billie Reiydelle

Many people ask me whatever happened to that beautiful white Rough Collie I placed earlier this year. Joey now lives in Benicia with his Collie house mate, Lola. He's very happy and has a fabulous view. We urged Joey's new family to get another large dog to be Joey's buddy, so Joey wouldn't be lonely as Joey had grown up with other dogs and loved having play mates.



All of our Collies - Tessie, Sarah, Ty, Lizzie and Mac - have visited Joey and Lola in Benicia. Mac was Joey's best buddy till Lola came on the scene. Joey's family drove 175 miles each way to pick up Lola in Midpines, California, near Yosemite National Park. It was an all day trip for them.



Joey



Joey, Lola & Mac

Lola had lived with six border collies and many, many other animals. Lola was the only "Lassie" on the ranch. Now she and Joey run the house in Benicia and keep each other company.

## Monterey/San Benito Counties

By Mary Callahan

Monterey County's "Wag n' Walk" and San Benito County's "Dog Days" were the highlights of this area's spring time activities.

Monterey SPCA's annual fund raiser has become a yearly opportunity for our rescue Collies to show themselves. We not only raise money for animal rescue but make the many participants at the "Wag n' Walk" aware of all the good work NCR does.

Hollister's "Dog Days" was San Benito County's first annual gathering of dog lovers. We were able to join them and were warmly welcomed by Sheltie Rescue who were very well organized with a booth, participants and cute shelties. It was a great opportunity to meet with shelter workers and the many rescue organizations in the area. We were also very fortunate to meet both Collie owners and owners-to-be that we had not met before.

These opportunities as well as the great "Woof to Woof" held in Scotts Valley are great opportunities to meet people who may be possible volunteers or adopters. Monterey was able this spring to rescue and adopt out two Collies to waiting applicants.



Wag n' Walk participants



"Dog Days"

## Classic Pet Grooming

572 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (650) 493-0107



Come meet the "Classic" people who groomed Boomer and Darcy!



# Area Coordinator Reports

## Mid-Central & San Joaquin Valleys, By Karen Boselly



I have had quite a busy time in Collie rescue in my area this year. In fact, it started last November, when a sweet young sable girl stray was found in Manteca and taken to the animal shelter. She was emaciated and dirty but otherwise a lovely sweet girl. The Manteca shelter is very small and the overwhelming number of animals in the area has forced them to be a very high kill shelter. I knew if I was not at the shelter on that Saturday when

her stray hold lifted, she might not make it out of the shelter alive. I whisked her up to Petaluma to our devoted volunteers, Tracey and her mom, Lee, to foster. I have so much gratitude to them for jumping right in to help and I knew the young Collie would be in good hands.

I also had a gut feeling, having been in this business a long time, that I should ask to have an ultra sound done prior to having her spayed. Sure enough, we learned she was carrying 3-4 puppies and was already half way to term. Tracey and Lee kept the sweet little mother-to-be for a couple more weeks and then I brought her back to my house, where she delivered 8 little cutie pies on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Yes 8! I don't trust ultra sounds anymore!

My husband, Ken, and I worked together to raise, potty train, and socialize the pups over the next three months. Having eight puppies at once certainly kept us on our toes but we enjoyed our time with them very much. They were the focus of our lives and helped us get through the sadness of loss and sickness in our own family at the time. What appeared to be the worst possible timing to take in a pregnant rescue dog turned out to be the most healing thing that could have happened for us.



Willow with puppies



Willow Now



Today all of these Collie/Cattle Dog mixed puppies - Bernard, Max, Jasper, Boomer, Simon, Bianca, Lola, and Shiah - are in loving homes, making eight wonderful families very happy. As for the little Mama, well, I named her Willow, and adopted her myself. She and I shared a seemingly never ending night of labor that has bonded us closely. She is my special girl and I owe her plenty - the intelligence, sweetness, and intuitiveness of a Collie is something only we that have been blessed enough to have one in our lives can know.

I have rescued several other collies since: Rufus/Wolfie, Selena, Dottie, and Sparkles. They all have their stories, and they are each very special to me in

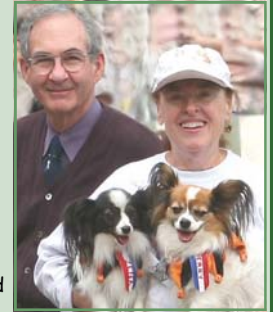


Dottie

their own unique way. Rufus/Wolfie crossed over the Rainbow Bridge, sadly, just four short months after being adopted by his wonderful mom, Lynn. Their time together was full of love and Lynn has said she would not have given up the chance of loving Wolfie, even if she had known it would be for such a short time. She truly loved him and he her. Wolfie came from very bad circumstances that we see so often in rescue, and it is

always heart breaking. I would like to thank Lynn for taking Wolfie in, knowing his health was not good, and giving him the love he had always longed for. Far too often we rescue older dogs that are viewed as "unadoptable" simply because they are older. Unfortunately there are very few people like Lynn who know that these dogs still need and deserve a quality of life and are willing to take them in despite their age or health. Fortunately for Wolfie, he found Lynn who cared more about his feelings than her own. Wolfie thanks you Lynn and so do we.

## Special Article: 'Guilt' in dogs By Z Kripke, PAPILLON RESCUE



I recently saw an interesting video showing an experiment in 'guilt' behaviors in dogs. A researcher in a room invited in an owner and dog. After some social time, the owner put a treat on a little table, conveyed to the dog not to eat it, and left the room for one minute. As the owner re-entered, the researcher told the owner randomly that the dog had or hadn't eaten the treat. When told the dog hadn't eaten the treat, the owner and dog had a nice reunion. When told right upon opening the door that the dog had eaten the treat, the dog immediately began to cower, tried to get under the table, looked up pleadingly from a crouched position, all the behaviors we have always taken as proof the dog was guilty.

Dogs are acutely attuned to disapproval from the human that can hurt them and can sense it even when the owner does not display outward signs of anger. But the dog knows the owner is about to hurt it and will begin appeasement maneuvers. These behaviors work in the dog world; a larger dog is unlikely to attack another dog showing such submission.

What was horrifying to see on the research video I viewed, is that the human interpreted the dog's attempts to submit and defer violence by saying, "Look at you, you know very well that you ate that and I told you no. I will smack you in the ribs, throw you on your back and hold you down, and throw you in your kennel and you can just think about what you have done." The dog's attempts to deflect violence brought much more on. The most submissive and frightened dogs got by far the worst punishing threats from the owner.

Most dogs who urinate in the house know the owner comes home happy, so there is a happy greeting. Those dogs also know that for some reason when the human goes to the bedroom or living room, it's a toss up, some days they stay nice, some days at that point they get violent. So there are videos of dogs who have been punished when the owner found urine in the living room. The original greeting is happy, the dog knows at this point the human is safe. Then the dog gets unsure about what will happen next, so hangs back, hides a little, goes into a mild submission routine, waiting to see. The owner sees the urine, marches out to the dog and begins to rant and hit, and takes the already-present submission behavior as proof the dog 'knew he was guilty', and therefore due for even more severe punishment than the day before.

Dogs know when they are in danger and will do anything to avoid it, and they are watching us every second for some subtle sign we are about to get violent, since we do that so often for no reason the dog can fathom. Avoiding being put in a kennel, rolled on the back, hit, screamed at, is just the dog's price to pay for living with a human, and they haven't got any new behaviors other than the ones interpreted by humans as 'guilty' ones of crawling, pleading, hiding, which work with other dogs and have the opposite effect with us.

When an owner now says to me, "she knew very well she'd been bad, so I didn't take her on a walk and made her stay in her kennel for the whole evening," I could cry. All that dog knows is that humans get mean and no amount of crawling and begging seems to soften that.



# Area Coordinator Reports



## Bay Area, West and South

By Andrea Moss

The last eight months have been quite busy for this Area Coordinator, with some amazing highlights and unusual stories and happy tails.

### Opening of the new HSSV facility

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, I attended the long-awaited grand opening of the Humane Society Silicon Valley's (HSSV) brand new dream facility in Milpitas. My contact, the shelter's rescue coordinator Jeri Seiden, promised me it would be fantastic and I was *not* disappointed. Surely, if there is a state-of-the-art animal shelter facility, this one is IT! The HSSV has been serving people and pets in Silicon Valley for 80 years, and with this new facility, the community now has an awesome resource as well as a super shelter.

*"The new Animal Community Center is the first environmentally 'green' certified animal facility in the country to offer an adoption program with a full spectrum of pet and community services: medical center specializing in affordable spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchipping and testing services; dog park; doggie daycare, boarding, training and grooming services provided through A DOG'S LIFE; education center with programs for children and teens; community room that can be rented by groups for meetings; Whole Pets store; and a pet-friendly cafe. All proceeds from these services support our life saving work."* - from the HSSV brochure



I can breathe easier with this new Center, because it really takes some of the burden off our shoulders in rescue. It not only provides low cost services and education to the public, but I know if a Collie ends up there, he will be in good hands until we can find an applicant to refer directly or a home for him in foster care. For more information on the Center, please see their website at: [www.hssv.org](http://www.hssv.org).

### Lucky and Sparky - Happy Tails

Lucky and Sparky were casualties of the home foreclosure crisis in our country. I received a call from their owner, who was about to be homeless himself. At the last minute, he found a suitable place to live for their family, but sadly could not take his beloved pet Collies with him. Unfortunately, hoping to figure out a way to keep them, he had waited until the last minute.



I made arrangements to pick them up that weekend, not knowing what I was going to do with them. I spent the next two days on the phone and on e-mail, desperately seeking foster homes. Two wonderful homes manifested, with a third as back-up. I was hoping these homes would be "foster-to-adopt" situations and Sparky thankfully did work out that way.

Both homes were prior applicants who were waiting for a Collie and had already been home-checked. Lucky went to one of our previous adopters who happened to see his photo up on the website when she was coincidentally checking our website for news, after he was in foster care for a couple of weeks. These dogs



were both young (1 year and 1.5 years), healthy, and gregarious, and had their whole lives ahead of them. Their owner told me he had kept them separated, and I could see *why* when I got them to my house! The 1-year old dwarfed the 1.5 year old, and liked to play really rough. (He was also still un-neutered, which probably added to his vigor!) In this case, I knew it was best to foster and adopt them out separately. I am happy to report that both of these Collies went to homes with other Collies and are living happily ever after!

### Darcy and Boomer - STILL Available!



Darcy and Boomer's lives changed radically, when their middle-aged owner passed away suddenly. The owner's friends and family arranged for D & B to come into rescue immediately, since they had nowhere else to go. They told us these dogs were her whole world and she showered them with good care and affection. Once again, I had to zoom into action on little notice (typical of rescue) and figure out a foster situation. Fortunately, I had my "temporary" foster volunteer, Linda Renaud on stand-by

for the next emergency, and she was there for me and for D & B. Darcy and Boomer turned out to be absolutely delightful and loving Collies with only a few quirks. Whereas I thought these two would be easily adoptable, we have now had D & B for over three months. Some *temporary* foster home situation! Unlike Lucky and Sparky, these two are bonded littermates we would prefer to keep together, so I'm guessing that is the problem. Thankfully, Linda and her old Collie "Diva," along with her supportive husband Bernard, have agreed to care for them until they are adopted. Here's a sample of my good-natured foster mom's daily report:

*"We had a lovely walk this morning, not too hot, and then hanging out with me whilst I resumed my fight against the weeds. I put them away for a snooze as I am going to hang out by the pool for a well earned rest and otherwise they bark at me when I swim, plus I get covered in wet collie hair from the relieved hugs when I don't drown in front of their eyes. Having dogs who are so well trained at giving their paw has the disadvantage of receiving said paw as they sit at the edge of the pool, desperately begging me to come out. It's wet in there. That can't be good!" they seem to say."*

These two are very large, most likely from early spay/neuter at 4 months, but are genuinely darling, loving, and well-trained Collies, who need a forever home with no cats, no other dogs, and no small children. I know the right home will come along. And I hope soon, because this summer our rescue is being pelted with Collies throughout northern California and the close borders of Nevada and Oregon!



Saturday, October 10, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
@ Santa Clara County Fairgrounds.

## Ask the Behaviorist

Our very own Cathy Toft has an extremely informative blog about positive reinforcement dog training filled with "dog-friendly resources for understanding and changing your dog's behavior." See her article entitled: *Thumbs up: Victoria Stillwell & It's Me Or The Dog*, as well as more articles, photos, and much more at: <http://blog.r-plusdogtraining.info> (Make sure to type the address in exactly as shown.)





# Area Coordinator Reports



## Santa Cruz County, By Sherry Luttrell

It was a beautiful, sunny day on June 6<sup>th</sup> for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Woof to Woof Doggie Fun Day and Assistance Dog Expo. This event, held at the Skypark Soccer Fields in my home town of Scotts Valley, is an annual benefit for the Vista Center for the Blind. Over 40 animal product vendors were in attendance as well as NCR and other animal rescue organizations. There were products for people, too, and the Woof to Woof volunteers were scrambling to keep their neon-colored t-shirts in stock as the bright greens, yellows, and pinks with the adorable logo caught everyone's eye.

Fun was the theme for the day and it was plentiful with a host of contests covering all shapes and sizes of dogs, including the Puppies on Parade, Best Costume Parade, Best Doggie Hair Parade, Biggest & Littlest Dogs Parade, Lassie Look-a-Like Contest, and the Best Pet Trick Contest.

Of course, we at NCR thought the day's highlight was the invitation to "call all Collies" to join Jon Provost ("Timmy" from the Lassie series) for his famous Lassie lookalike contest. There were over 30 lovely Bay Area Collie competitors for him to choose from in our own parade. The Collies and contest were a big hit with the crowd! Before crowning the winner, Jon took some questions from the large audience about the Lassie series including the perennial, "Was Lassie really a boy?" Yes, (s)he was - all 14 of them that Jon worked with in his career as Timmy! Jon also



Woof to Woof parade of Collies

remained after the Lookalike contest to sign copies of his autobiography, *Timmy's In the Well: The Jon Provost Story*. Congratulations to Janet and Lindy for being chosen by Jon as the lucky Woof to Woof Lassie Lookalike!

Our booth was busy as NCR President Andrea Moss and I talked with Woof to Woof attendees about the mission of NCR, signed people up to receive our newsletter, and met some new Collies and owners from around the Santa Cruz area.

Our Mary Callaham (Monterey County Area Coordinator) brought along several of her area's volunteers to help out at the booth, and her handsome Collie Brigadoon, sporting his specially made NCR sign was quite a hit. Even my dogs were there, all working as Collie ambassadors helping others of their kind. It was a wonderful day for the Vista



Janet and Lindy

Center for the Blind, NCR, and all the dog-lovers who came out to enjoy the sunshine, food, fun, and canine camaraderie.

Special thanks to Alice Sakamoto, rescue Collie adopter, NCR volunteer and owner of the Critter Couch company, who invited Jon and Laurie, and made a movie of the parade of Collies for us to see! The link to the video is as follows: [http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=2009+NorCal+collie&search\\_type=&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=2009+NorCal+collie&search_type=&aq=f)

<http://www.crittercouch.com/>

Alice's "Dylan" modeling a critter couch.



Photo by Atom Biggs

Andrea Moss, Laurie Jacobson, Jon Provost, and Alice Sakamoto



Kathleen Smith with Leah, Kristen Axline with Danny and Wanda, Mary Callaham with Brigadoon



Andrea and Sherry at NCR booth

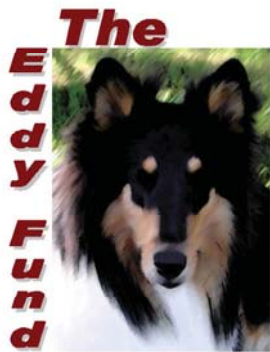


Chuck and Joanne with their champion show dogs

Stay in touch with adopters and volunteers, join our Yahoo Group at: [http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/NCR\\_Family/](http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/NCR_Family/) and click JOIN THIS GROUP or send an email to: [NCR\\_Family-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NCR_Family-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)







## Eddy Fund Helps Sophie

By Andrea Moss

I was on a rare vacation in Hawaii when I received this heartfelt email from a young woman in Sacramento:

*My name is Melissa Dahlstrom, I'm 20-years-old, and I'm writing this email to you on behalf of my three-year-old Rough Collie, Sophie. It appears that Sophie was born with a heart defect that causes her heart to be enlarged and the valve in her heart not to close properly*

*when it beats (I don't recall [the veterinarian's] specific terminology). Normally, I'd never appeal to anybody under these circumstances, but the circumstances aren't normal. Last year, we lost our home and our car after my father lost his job and we are barely making it month-to-month especially after the strain caused my parents to split up. Now, the diagnosis is only tentative and if it's confirmed she'll likely need surgery that will cost \$2000 or more. At the moment she needs tests that neither I nor my parents have the money for. We've managed to get the money for her to see the specialist (she's on some heart medications that are helping a bit), but what he wants to do are some very expensive tests. The confirmation tests alone are going to cost \$500-600, which is not an amount of money we have to spare. Somebody at the specialist's office suggested I try contacting the NorCal Collie Rescue about my situation to see if there's any way you can help. So if there's anything at all you can do or even if you have any suggestions I'd be immensely grateful.*

I noticed that Melissa gave only the briefest summary of her family's financial difficulties. She had to explain, but didn't want me to spend one minute feeling sorry for her. Saving Sophie was foremost in her heart.

It's an unfortunate reality that many families fall on hard times, decide "we can't keep the dog" and leave their uncomprehending companion at a shelter. Melissa wasn't going to be "realistic" when the Collie she loved so much needed expensive medical care. I could tell by her words that if I couldn't help, she'd find another way. She wasn't going to give up.

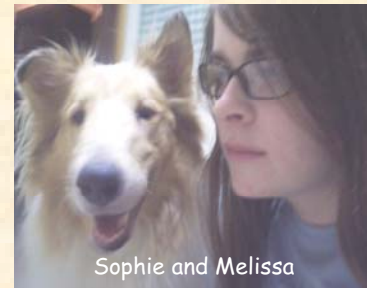
I wrote back that even though the Eddy Fund was low, we'd figure something out as soon as I got home. In follow-up correspondence—among some discouraging discussion about costs for tests and my frustration with veterinary offices that showed their concern by leaving my emails unanswered and phone calls unreturned—Melissa always included something about just how much she appreciated her dog and her presence in their lives: "Sophie is so loving and sweet and we love her so much, I just want to help her."

Sophie, at three years old, was actually quite sick—she had little energy, panted constantly, and her heart beat so hard it seemed it was going to burst through her chest. Despite feeling so bad, she was always sweet and loving to her family.

It took several weeks to find the right specialist, arrange for tests, and get the financing together to help her. One day I discovered, almost by chance, that Melissa made a \$50 PayPal donation to the Eddy Fund—of course I emailed her they couldn't afford it and that I was sending it right back! She responded, "I just made the donation because it seems silly of me not to contribute when the Eddy Fund is doing so much to help Sophie." This gesture, the desire to give back, showed me the depth of her character. Foreclosure and divorce are extremely stressful life events. She and her mom had to work several jobs to make ends meet. Her Collie was suffering. And to top it off, a distracted driver had recently rear-ended her, which totaled the only car they had. But in spite of

everything she had to deal with, Melissa kept in mind that others might also need support. It seemed she and Sophie had the same philosophy: don't whine about your bad luck, just do your best and give what you can to others.

When she first heard about the heart problem, Melissa felt the ambivalence I did when I found out Eddy had genetic defects. Sure, the breeder would take him back and give me a refund. But what would have happened to him? I knew the answer to that and... it was unthinkable. No "refund" could replace the innocently joyous and unique being that came into my life. Melissa came to the same conclusion. In her application she wrote: "Sophie is a beautiful dog who loves everybody equally and is full of happiness and joy... Sophie helps bring joy to our lives with her unconditional love and I don't want to lose her, especially if there is something out there to help her and make her better. I'd be eternally grateful for any help that can be offered."

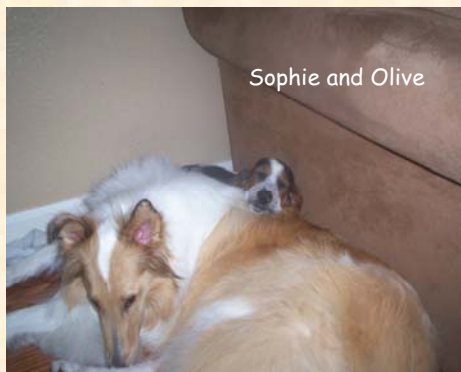


Sophie and Melissa

Melissa and her mom did some research and found that the treatment at UC Davis would be the best and least expensive route. The tests paid for by The Eddy Fund showed that Sophie had an open and leaking blood vessel. Without surgery—even on medication, which caused her to sleep all day and become incontinent—she wouldn't live more than a few months. The cost of surgery was over \$2,000, but UC Davis generously said they'd cover \$1,000 of it. The Eddy Fund provided another \$850, and American Working Collie Association graciously donated the rest.

Sophie had her surgery May 27th. Melissa reported that she showed dramatic improvement almost immediately—no more panting or racing heart. After a week of recovery she began to play with Olive, their Basset Hound, as enthusiastically as before she became ill. Melissa and her mom were delighted to see Sophie playing again... and so was Olive!

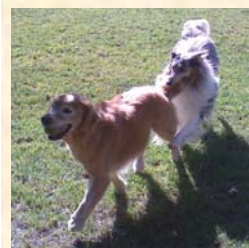
Thanks to many small donations from people who care, the Eddy Fund helped give a dying Collie the chance to live a long and happy life. I'm very glad we were able to help her, and I know Eddy is too.



Sophie and Olive

## Eddy Fund Update - Merlin

Merlin was our first Eddy Fund recipient. Here is what his "mom" had to say about his current state of health: "He has been very healthy since his experimental surgery at UC Davis. His energy level is as high as any other dog and his lab tests, at our Vet, have all been normal. Our vet follows him with yearly liver enzyme studies which have all been normal."



"Merlin is a great dog! He was described to us as a "Velcro" dog and he is just that. He loves people, anyone. He is the first collie we have had that doesn't show family favorites. He also loves having other dogs around. He has a friend who comes here at least once a week for "play day" and they love

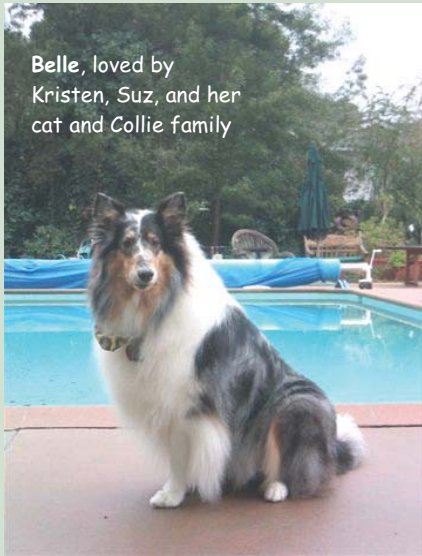
it. They run and tease each other like best friends. He is a talker, like all Collies and of course very smart and tuned into what is going on around the house. We really enjoy having him around. When Bill gets home from the office he runs in the bedroom, gets on the bed and waits for Bill to change so that they can have their evening conversation. At 5:55 PM, he is ready to EAT. He somehow knows that it is time."







# Rainbow Bridge Collies ... Forever in our Hearts



**Belle**, loved by Kristen, Suz, and her cat and Collie family

**Chip**, loved by Pat



**Bailey**, loved by Jan and Rick



**Poppy** was loved by Mary, Jerry, Manoel, Laura, Chris, Misha, Basil, and Shadow....



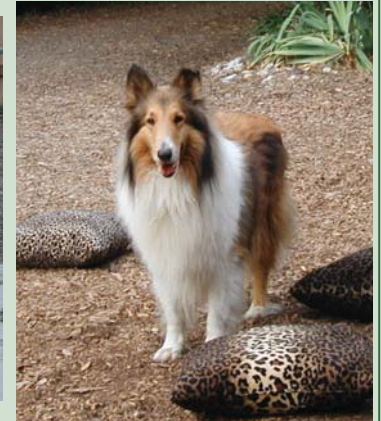
**Austin**, loved by Robin, Briann, his brother Jason and everyone who met him along the way



**Bonnie**, loved by Howard



**Bailey**, loved by Bill and Laurie



**Dylan**, loved by Kent and Alice



**Rainey**, loved by Lori, Elaine, and Rocky. Beloved sister of Vinnie.



**Stanford**, loved by Chris, Bill, and Lad-man



**Paige**, loved by Gary and Heidi, Kira, Porter, and Cassidy



**Silver** loved by Cheryl and Bill



**Rusty**

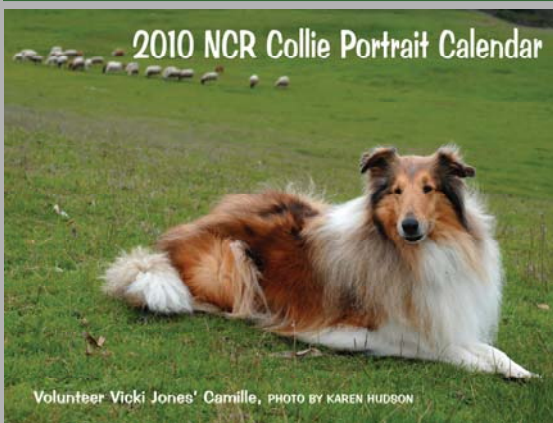


**Wolfie**, loved by Lynn



**Cody**, loved by Mike and Cheryl





Bandanas Available Upon Request as a Gift with Donation!

## The 2010 Collie Calendars are here!

Just in time for the holidays, our annual calendars full of beautiful rescue Collies are available for you and your family and friends.

Please visit our website at [www.calcollierescue.org](http://www.calcollierescue.org) and click on "calendars." They are only \$29; of which almost half goes to NCR.

NCR is always looking for quality, clear photos of their adopted rescue Collies so, if you're interested in seeing your Collie on next year's calendar, please submit via email to: [andrea@calcollierescue.org](mailto:andrea@calcollierescue.org).

### Want cool stuff with your Collie on it?

Contact Sherry Luttrell at [sherry@calcollierescue.org](mailto:sherry@calcollierescue.org) and she'll be glad to put your favorite Collie on mugs, t-shirts, aprons and more!!

NCR Bandanas also available upon request as a gift with donation.



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