



NCR's Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2007

Christmas Pups

By Andrea Moss, NCR President



It's the week before Christmas and I'm readying my disaster of a house for a rare visit by my out-of-state, 80 year old parents. I had taken the whole week off between Christmas and New Years for the big occasion, which I was very much looking forward to. The last thing I was expecting was a call from long-time Collie rescuer Don Stair, with whom I hadn't spoken in almost 2 years. My jaw dropped when he told me that he had just received four, 8-week old Collie puppies and a yearling! The dogs had been turned over to him by a breeder. Because Don had been ill and retired from rescue, he wanted to see if we could help. My reflexive response was of course, "Yes."

Anyone who has worked in rescue can tell you to expect the unexpected, but I had no idea what I was in for this Christmas season. Shockingly, this breeder no longer wanted the puppies because she'd intended to sell them as "Christmas presents" and they hadn't sold. She had a smallish operation and couldn't keep any extra dogs. She had known of Don and his rescue efforts, and having nowhere else to turn, turned to him.

I should explain that my parents already think there's something terribly wrong with me for devoting so much of my life to rescue. In fact they made me promise that if they came out for a visit, I wouldn't spend all my time on the phone and computer doing Collie rescue. Would they understand that this situation was different and enjoy having a few puppies around the house? NO.

So, having just told Don I'd help him, I now needed to figure out how I was going to do this. I desperately needed help from my colleagues, and after several feverish phone calls, in which the NorCal Board declared this a major rescue, we had a plan: Karen stepped up to foster the Rough Sable boy and the Yearling; Billie took the Rough Tri boy, Sherry arranged a foster home for the Smooth Sable girl, and Cristen, who was home recovering from a medical procedure, took the Smooth Tri girl. Whew! I could keep my promise to my parents and all dogs would have a temporary home for the holidays. Then all we'd have to do is find someone to adopt them!

Two days later, Karen and Billie drove several hours in the pouring rain to meet Don for the puppy and paperwork exchange.



An issue chock full o' collie fun!

- The Christmas Pups
- Collies on Parade!
- Veterinary Perspectives: Drug Sensitivities
- Collies We've Helped Since Summer
- And Collies Who've Crossed the Bridge
- Karen's Tribute to Taylor
- Ask the Behaviorist: Your Adopted Dog's First Days at Home
- Collies in Oregon Have Rescuers!
- Ways You Can Donate to NCR
- The Eddy Fund Helps Merlin
- Name This Newsletter
- A Tribute and Call for Volunteers
- Afghan Kathy, Rest in Peace
- The Collie Spotlight is on Mae



The Christmas Pups



Lots of Lassies in the Lakewood Holiday Parade

By Kitty Norwood

Photos by Hal Feeny

Three years ago I meet a sweet, tom-boyish girl at the Lakewood Holiday Parade in Sunnyvale. She insisted on going home with me a week later because she stole my heart. So it was only fitting that we wished to walk in that parade this year to celebrate all her accomplishments and remember where we first met.

(Diva is celebrating the fact that she has her CGC, Rally Novice title, 2 legs toward her C.D., and 1 agility leg. She is a Reading Assistance Dog for Delta Pet Partners, and is working on her Backpacking I and Social Dog I titles with American Working Collie Association.)

As organizer for the parade I was sweating as December 6 drew near -- we did not have enough collies to make an impressive group! So I enlisted the help of members of the Mixed Breed Dog Club of California. Then the collies started coming out of the woodwork in twos and one set of three! We had dogs who were just learning obedience all the way up to two dogs with their Utility Dog titles. The total number of collies was 11 (including two smooths), 8 mixed breeds (MB) and 1 corgi.



my Diva. Diva sported her red back packs, carrying the clean up kits, water and extra treats. All the dogs started with a handful of Diva's Homemade Salmon Cookies.

Two handlers gave out bookmarks for the movie "Charlotte's Web" to kids lining the parade route. At the end we gathered for group pictures and hot apple cider and cookies. Then we strolled back to our vehicles. The weather was gorgeous, the dogs were fantastic. The best part for me was to be at a function with ALL of my dog friends: collie lovers, mixed breed club, friends from Delta Pet Partners, and friends I walk with.

Already, I'm thinking about next year. Let's have some drill teams to really entertain the crowds. We can all come up with different decorations and have a contest for best outfits. I think that would make it more appealing to the crowds -- and they do notice us. I heard one trumpet player said, "I think I saw 17 Lassies today!"

(A similar version of this article by Kitty also appeared in the AWCA's Collie Connection newsletter, Winter 2006/2007 edition.)



We had plenty of holiday decorations for dressing up: elastic collars with poinsettias sewn on and a beautiful red and leather harness of huge brass sleigh bells. Most handlers had red leashes and Santa hats. We even had two elves. And one of the MBs pulled a wagon loaded with plush animals.

We hoped we'd be able to show off some Rally moves but we ended up two groups behind the band. The band had a mission: to march as fast as they could to the park. Hence, our group was quite spread out and we never got a chance to stop and perform. Luckily, Susan Klein and Rowan U.D. did some of their advanced exercises to entertain the crowd. The MB's entertained with their creative costumes.

I had my hands full with my MB, Rex, so Janet Gardiner walked



Veterinary Perspectives: Drug Sensitivity

By Patricia Gilbert DVM, Diplomate American College of Veterinary

When I recommend MDR1 DNA testing to Collie breeders and pet owners, a frequent response is "I just won't give ivermectin."

However, the issue is not as simple as avoiding one or two non-essential or easily substituted drugs. There are many diseases where the most effective, convenient or economical drug for the condition is on "the list" (see below).

Some of these drugs can still safely be used in mutant Collies, if given at lower doses or with closer monitoring. In a Collie *without* the MDR1 mutation, there is no need to avoid any of these commonly used medications.

Remember: The drugs listed below ARE RISKY for collies with the mutant or unknown genotype.

Dermatology

The easiest, most effective and often cheapest treatment for:

- Gen Demodectic Mange --- Ivermectin
- Sarcoptic Mange --- Ivermectin
- Yeast Dermatitis --- Ketoconazole
- Gen Ringworm --- Ketoconazole, Itraconazole

The safest treatment for autoimmune skin disease

- Discoid Lupus --- Tetracycline, tacrolimus

Surgery

- Most effective pain relievers --- Opioids (butorphanol, morphine)
- Inexpensive pre-surgical sedative --- Acepromazine

Internal Medicine

The most effective treatment for:

- Tick-borne Diseases --- Doxycycline
- Resistant AutoImmune Dz --Cyclosporine
- Excellent OTC anti-diarrheal --- Loperamide (Imodium)

Oncology

The most effective treatment for Lymphoma includes *both* Vincristine and Doxorubicin

My preference, therefore, is to know from MDR1 test results whether or not I can use these drugs on each specific dog.. I advocate that the MDR1 genotype be known for ALL collies.

Dr. Gilbert obtained her DVM degree from UC Davis in 1984, and is Board Certified in Dermatology. She has worked as a Dermatologist in a multi-doctor specialty clinic and in her own solo practice. Dr. Gilbert has been a Collie lover since a child, having grown up watching Lassie in movies and on TV. She shares her home with her 3 yr old tri Christa, 2 housecats and 2 parakeets.



Pat with her Christa

MDR1 Resources

NCR strongly recommends you have MDR1 testing done on your collie.

We also recommend these Web sites for information about MDR1 testing and drug sensitivity in collies:

- NCR Rescue: www.calcollierescue.org/drug.htm
- Washington State Vet School: www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/

Drug Sensitivity Form

NCR also has a Drug Sensitivity form you can bring to your Vet (thanks to Cathy Toft, who created the form for the Yolo rescue dogs.)

We provide this form to each rescue dog adopted, and suggest you download it from our website and bring it with you every single time you go to the Vet. Even if your Vet tells you they "know all about" drug reactions in collies - be safe, not sorry!

To SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE to this Newsletter, simply send an e-mail to:
subscriptions@calcollierescue.org

Happy Tails Family Album

Since Summer 2006

In our last newsletter, we showed you photos of lots of collies we helped into loving homes. Now we're proud to present a little photo album of some of the dogs we've helped since then. Most of these dogs came into NCR, we fostered them and found them forever homes. A few of them were "referrals," meaning NCR helped our applicants work directly with owners or shelters in adopting them.



Jeff, Carine and Ryan with
DAPHNE and Ruby.
(Referral)



Todd with JAMES
(NCR)



Karen and Ken with DEEDEE and
MERLIN
(NCR)



Nicole, Matt, Rachel and Alexander
with SASHA
(NCR)



Valentina and Alex with MACKIE, Giorgio and Callie
(Referral)

More of the Happy Tails Family Album



Laurie and Bill with MERLIN
and BAILEY
(NCR & CCRC)



Meghan and Cristian and Sonama with
SHANE
(NCR)



Kallie and Teddy With CODY
(NCR)



Margie with CHASE and VINNIE
(NCR)



Patty with WYATT
(NCR)

A Tribute to Taylor—twice rescued

by Karen Boselly

Taylor was so beautiful. Right up till the day he died, I always thought he was such a handsome guy. He was very special. He loved my grandkids, and got so excited whenever they were here. Even lately when he was so frail. He would still get up and be so excited when they walked in the door.

Sometimes I think that this is just too hard for me, but I realized something the morning I put Taylor to sleep. Kenny was leaving for work at 5 am, and he noticed that something was wrong with Taylor. So he came and woke me up. Taylor's eyes were jetting back and forth. And he couldn't get up. (I know there is a name for that but I can't spell it right now.) You know what I'm talking about. I tried for a few hours to see if he would come out of it. Because I just couldn't bring myself to make the decision.



Anyway, I had been praying for months for God just to take Taylor in his sleep, so that I wouldn't have to make the decision. That morning, a sudden realization came over me as I was

praying to God again, please don't make me do this. Please take him, so I don't have to do this. I realized that I had rescued Taylor from his abusive past, and kept him from suffering. Helping him to cross over *is* rescuing him too. I realized that this is what I do. I rescue them from suffering of any kind. Whether it be from neglectful or abusive owners, or from cold lonely shelters, or from old age and illness. It is all the same. It is all rescue.

That gave me the courage to pick him up and carry him to the car, and the courage to hold him in my arms while they administered the shot that would take him away from me forever. I have had to do it many times, but I was always so upset for weeks afterwards. It has always been so unbearable for me. This time even though it was sad, and I miss him terribly, I was comfortable with the thought of rescuing him from his suffering. This is really the first time that I have felt peaceful about it.

He was my antique collie. He lived way longer than any of us expected. I am grateful to have had him as long as I did.



Taylor

August ? 1991 to December 13, 2006

My hope for Rescue...

By Vicki Jones

That the last days/weeks/months or years will be filled with love and comfort. So many times we succeed in making those last days the most wonderful and special ones these little critters have ever known. Nothing is guaranteed; nothing on Earth will last, and so each day should be counted a blessing for those we expect will be with us for years and years as well as for those whose time is expected to be too short. You never know. What we all do know is that you gave Lucky everything you could in the way of TLC...whether it's days or months or years, it's the love that counts, and "we" give and receive it in spades. This is what true rescue is all about.



Other Rainbow Bridge Collies...

Forever here in our hearts...

In each NCR newsletter we like to remember and pay tribute to Collies who were either our rescues or loved by our rescuers. The Collies on this page came to our attention as having gone to Rainbow Bridge since last newsletter, but it's never too late to send us a photo of a Collie you'd like us to include if we've missed yours.



BIGMAN, loved by Cathy Toft



SAILOR, loved by Susie Good



CODY, loved by Jon Gelbard



DANNY, loved by Mary and Tom Callaham



JOEY, loved by Teresa Pelkie



HONEY, loved by Sherry Luttrell and Jim and Shirley Duncan



PETEY, loved by Cathy Toft



CELESTE, loved by Billie and Daemeon Reiydelle



SIOUX, loved by the Luttrell Family

Ask the Behaviorist:

Adopting the Rescue Dog—The First Few Days

By Cathy Toft

Adopters of rescue dogs are angels, no doubt about it. Dogs that come into rescue, and our collies are no different, are needy in one respect or other, and in that sense, they are less than perfect (although we've had some perfect ones too). Rehabilitating a rescue dog requires time and patience, and it takes a special person to give a rescue dog a second chance. We at NorCal Collie Rescue cannot thank our adopters enough.

Collies that come into rescue are at the very least disoriented and robbed of a solid foundation of security and love. Just loving them to make up for that, however, is usually not enough. Insecure dogs need structure as well as love, and patient understanding. They also need unconditional love, which is difficult to give—after all, most of us turn to dogs to get unconditional love because people aren't very good at it.

How can you best help your new collie integrate into your home? First of all, we recommend the kinder, gentler brand of dog training that is has taken over from the old-fashioned punitive, "show 'em who's boss" kind of dog training. This new kind of dog training is based upon solid scientific principles of operant conditioning and positive reinforcement. The last thing a frightened or insecure dog needs is for the new owner to scold her for "going" in the house, or kneeling him to prevent him from jumping up. What your new collie needs is the benevolent guidance of a loving parent—you would show your new dog what you WANT her to do, not what you do NOT want her to do.

A new dog needs a secure space to call her own. We highly recommend crate training (please ask us how), but if you or your new dog are not comfortable with crates, at the very least provide your dog with a secure place where your dog will stay when you are not at home. Giving your new collie total freedom in the house at first is not a good idea, especially if you are not home. You can feed your collie in this secure place, for example, so that he associates this place with good things.

Where your dog sleeps is very important. Ideally, your new collie can sleep in the same room as you do, in his own bed or better yet crate. Confining your dog to a crate or room at night will prevent your new dog from pacing around at night. Sharing the "den" to sleep with the pack leaders will make a new dog feel secure and part of the family. Allowing your new dog to sleep on your bed with you may or may not be a good idea—it all depends on the dog and his or her personality. Be aware that sleeping on your bed gives your dog extra status, and she or he may not use that special position in the pack wisely.

You can help your new dog bond to you and family members by reserving at least half of your collie's daily ration of food—don't waste its value by giving it to your dog in a bowl all at once. Divvy this food up among family members—whenever your new collie checks in with you, say his name and give him some kibble.

Handfeeding for the first week or two can "fast-forward" your bonding with your new collie.

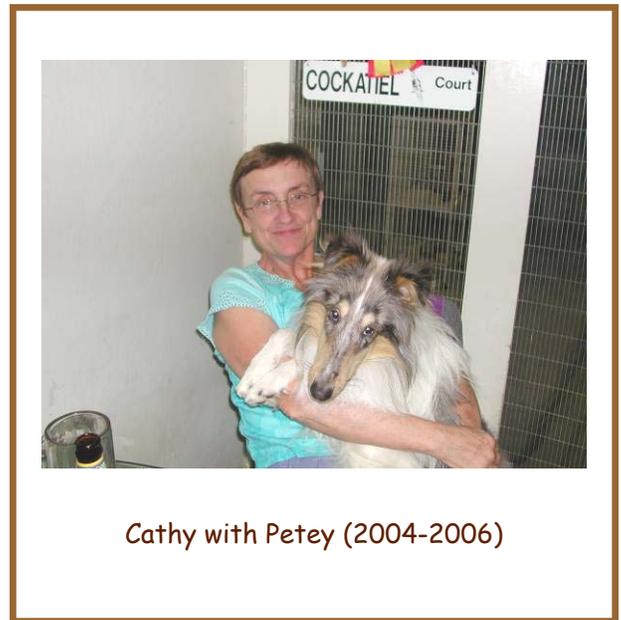
Make sure your new collie knows how to get outside to "go." Always escort him outside right after he eats. Eventually he'll learn the routine and when he is able to go outside to "go". Be aware that not all dogs are able to tell you that they need outside. You'll have to make sure that there is easy access to outside at least 4 times a day.

A daily walk once or twice a day will not only enrich your new dog's life but also exercise him (which he needs) and regulate his potty habits. Most dogs prefer to "go" as far from the living quarters as possible. We find that collies are so naturally clean and fastidious that they are immediately housebroken, if only they know how to get outside to their potty place.

Insecure dogs however might be inclined to "mark" in the house. This should go away after the first few days. If ever you find your dog has relieved himself in the house, there is no use to punish him for this. He cannot possibly associate the punishment with his act, which is long over, and he can only learn to fear and distrust you. If you catch him in the act, calmly interrupt and escort him outside.

In our next issue: Adjusting your new collie to a multiple dog household.

Insecure dogs need structure as well as love, and patient understanding.



Cathy with Petey (2004-2006)

Cathy figured out that collies were her perfect breed when she and her Mom read the Hart's book, "How to pick the perfect puppy." They got their collies from rescue. Cathy devotes herself to collie rescue, getting as many collies as possible out of harm's way. She has 4 collies of her own, 2 of them rescued. Cathy trains dogs and teaches dog agility classes, and has been a professor at UC Davis for 30 years, teaching ecology to students at all levels. For more on Cathy's philosophy on dog training, go to this link on our website: <http://r-plusdogtraining.info/>

NCR Spawns a New Rescue Group in Oregon!

Our very good friends, Linda Arnett and Laura Kjosness, have started their own rescue up in Oregon: **Cascade Collie Rescue**. (Linda is "mom" to Poomba, who she adopted from NCR, while Laura adopted BeeGee (which stood for "Blind Guy" and whose name is now Gus) from The Road Home Rescue.)



NCR is proud to be the mentor organization for this VERY exciting new rescue!

The Arnetts founded Roy-A-Lin Siberian Huskies in 1969. For over 20 years they showed in conformation and obedience and participated in the sport of sled dog racing. As soon as their daughter could walk, she learned to pooper-scoop! Margie was the recipient of three Dog Writer's of America scholarship when she was attending college at O.S.U. The Arnetts spent ten years editing & mailing out the 1,000 copies of the monthly magazine for the International Siberian Husky Club. Roy currently works as a systems analyst/programmer and Margie teaches science at a local junior high school. Linda is retired after 25 years as a high school secretary. They rescued their first purebred collie in 1999. The Montana Collie rescue captured their hearts & attention and the rest has just played itself out to where they all are now - founding and running Cascade Collie Rescue with the leadership and



help of their new friend Laura. CCR is a "family affair" with Roy as Treasurer, Margie as VP, Linda as Secretary, and Laura as President.

Laura lives in Portland with her husband and three collies; Molly, Riley and Gus. She has been a long time collie only owner and has adopted rescues along the way. By profession she is a social worker, working in the field of child abuse and adoption. Their daughter is also a "rescue", adopted out of the foster care system when she was 7. She is now 24, married and has a 3 year old son. Gus, the "Road Home" rescue is doing great! Laura reports "We have to tell people he is blind because it is hard to tell. We are just so amazed and inspired by his tenacity and ability to fit in and live a normal life."



Lil' Mac Says...

Hi! I'm Mac, pleased to met ya. I'm one of the Christmas puppies. Did you read Andrea's story about me, on the first page? Well, of course you did! Aren't I the cutest? I'm even cuter than pandas! But please read below about Flying Pandas, and how you can get stuff for yourself and help collies at the same time! And check out the Cash for Critters, helping us save the environment and collies. After all, doesn't every collie deserve a



Flying Panda Gifts, a rescue-friendly organization, has a special "Just For Pets" program. They recently added NCR to their list of beneficiaries.

When you purchase items from Flying Panda, just designate NorCal Collie rescue and they will donate 10% of your purchase to us!

So take a look at

<http://www.flyingpandagifts.com> when you are shopping for your family, your friends and your furry pals and help Collie Rescue at the same time.



Gifts for Pets and Their People

FLYING PANDA

They've got clothing, jewelry, stationery, home and office accessories and holiday items for you and your pets!

When you finish shopping and are purchasing your order, you'll see the option to select an organization for the 10% donation. Select **NorCal Collie Rescue** — and then pat yourself on the back, because you're helping us help the collies.



Save some trash, to turn into cash! NorCal Collie Rescue is participating in the **Cash For Critters** fund raising recycling program which pays:

- up to \$4.00 for empty Inkjet cartridges
- up to \$15.00 for Laser printer cartridges
- up to \$5.00 for digital cell phones (depending on styles)

Great for collies — great for the environment. Save your empty ink jet, laser cartridges and cell phones for us; Cash for Critter will arrange to pick them up to send in for cash. If you have a large volume of cartridges, they can supply you with a fully postage paid mailing box. They'll put a form with our group's name in the box so we can get credit for the cartridges you may send on our behalf.

For more information on how this works, go to the Cash for Critters website at <http://www.cashforcritters.com>.

Our First Eddy Fund Recipient ! MERLIN



Merlin
(His Good Health Wasn't Magic!)

Handsome blue-merle Merlin was diagnosed with a *congenital portosystemic shunt* only weeks after his adoption. This shunt, in his liver, is an extra blood vessel connecting two veins (the hepatic portal vein and the rest of the systemic blood circulation). Before birth, the fetal blood correctly

circulates through this sort of shunt, which allows the mother and her placenta to do the cleansing of blood for the fetus. Then, the shunt should cut off or degenerate when the puppy is born.

In Merlin's case, the fetal blood circulation continued even after he was born. It means virtual liver failure.

Merlin's adopters, the Leifers, chose to keep Merlin and do the best they possibly could to ensure this one-year old Collie lived a long, quality life. Here's what they experienced, after their vet referred them to the UC Davis Veterinary center:

"Merlin was there about 10 days while they did diagnostic tests and made decisions what to do about it. They found his shunt to be difficult to bypass because of its location and size. We had the choice at the time to put him through an extensive, risky surgery that may not work or an experimental minimally invasive procedure that may not work.

We chose the minimally invasive procedure. We do not yet know how successful this was because we did not take him back to Davis for another scan. It would have meant more expense, travel and stress on Merlin. Our vet feels that he can follow him by doing blood work and possibly another CAT Scan here. Since we would not put him through another surgery we feel this to be the best route. He seems to be doing well, with a much increased energy level from before, but we don't know what his life expectancy will be.

Our expenses so far are about \$6500. Merlin will continue on some medications and there will be further expenses with our vet for follow up.

Merlin is a joy to have, loving and fun. He has made a world of difference in our other rescue Collie that, before Merlin, was afraid of everything and did not respond to our attempts at love and affection. Bailey now sleeps on the bed with us and plays in the yard with Merlin. Bailey seems to have found his "puppy life" at the age of 3 or 4 that he didn't have before Merlin."



The Eddy Fund is thrilled to be able to help defray some of their costs. Eddy would be pleased to help Merlin's people with the unbelievable burden they have so generously shouldered.



The Eddy Fund



The Eddy Fund provides funds for veterinary care of young collies born with afflictions that reduce their quality of life but that can be helped with veterinary intervention.

The Eddy Fund was started by Andrea Moss, in honor of Eddy, her collie puppy, purchased from a breeder. He was born with many defects, including severe orthopedic problems that threatened to cripple him at a young age.

Eddy received several surgeries to fix his defective legs and he was finally able to run free like a normal dog. He died unexpectedly one bright sunny day, while sleeping peacefully at Andrea's side. He found a way to speak to Andrea from The Other Side, and was touched that she so chose to honor him in this way.

If you live in Northern California and adjacent Nevada and Oregon, and have a dog like Eddy — a purebred collie with a genetic defect that causes suffering but that can be helped with veterinary intervention — contact NCR to apply for assistance from The Eddy Fund.



Big news: From the Kennel Horror to ... Therapy Dogs!

Skye and Honey, both came to their people (Jeff and Martha Froke) from hoarding cases. They are now certified therapy dogs and will also be helping their local shelter in a fundraiser, representing NorCal on May 5.

http://spscam.convio.net/site/TR?px=1005181&pg=personal&fr_id=1030

"Our dogs are now certified or 'registered' (pending returned paperwork from the Vet) by Therapy Dogs International. TDI is one of several national therapy dog *organizations* (somewhere else it might be Delta Society, et al.). Careful hospitals and nursing homes rely on such organizations to do the training but at minimum the testing and certification to ensure the proper fit and safety before a pup's 'admittance.'

When we went in to the Hospital to have the kids tested and certified, we first entered the small check-in room, wherein there were two bratty and loud Shar-peis... Looking back, I think it was a set-up and test #1. Anyway, what did Skye and Honey do? They looked at the other two dogs, blinked and sat down next to each other, kissed, and took collie-naps. Later, at the end of the evening, we rode an elevator down to the parking lot, with our dogs (of course) and the certifier's experienced therapy dog - who shook and shivered all the way down. Honey looked out the glass wall like we were on a Sunday drive, and Skye nodded off. I thought, did someone let these collies into the hospital drug cabinet or what?!

Martha's next goal for the kids is "Paws for Reading," whereby kids who are reticent to read at all, much less out-loud, seem to be drawn out and have an easier time of it if to read to a dog who is sitting, lying or snuggled alongside. Makes sense to me.

"Afghan Kathy" We Will Miss You...

One of Collie Rescue's greatest benefactors, "Afghan Kathy," pictured at right with devoted husband Larry, passed away last year.

Disabled by a freak medical accident, Kathy tirelessly knitted Collie afghans from her wheelchair at her ranch in rural Colorado. She offered them for auction on eBay, donating the proceeds to Collie Rescues across America. NorCal Collie Rescue was the recipient of her most generous efforts.

Kathy and Larry owned several Collies, including a Collie from the Montana rescue, named Sandy.



One of Kathy's lovely afghans



Quinn's Rushing to Use PayPal!



Where is Quinn going so fast? To tell everyone they can donate by credit card to NCR, to help other collies get wonderful homes (just like he has with Katie Hawkins).

NorCal Collie Rescue offers you the convenience of donating through your credit card. You will receive a tax donation receipt once your billing comes through to us from PayPal. (PayPal takes 3% + 30¢ to provide us with this service.)

To use PayPal to donate by credit card, click here:

<http://www.calcollierescue.org/donate.htm#PayPal>:

For your PayPal ID use our email address: info@calcollierescue.org.

(Photo by Katie Hawkins)

A Tribute and Call for Volunteers

By Cathy Toft

(Excerpted from her Essay, "We are the Ones")

Recently I was sharing with a friend my frustration about how much collie rescue continues to claim of my life. Her reaction was to leap into a series of admonishments, in a well-meaning attempt to help me.

"You're not the only person in the world. If you don't respond [to a needy collie], someone else will take care of it."

I replied, "Well, no. The shelter calls me when a collie has failed all their tests for adoptability and is scheduled for euthanasia. I am the last resort. If I don't respond, that dog will die." Absorbing that, she came back "Get someone else to do it". I replied "Who?" "What about all those people who helped you with the Yolo County case? Have one of them help you". I replied "I have, and they are all helping, as much as they can." "OK, go find someone at the Vet School. Get them to do it".

I was wondering whom at the "Vet School" she had in mind.



Lucky

But I replied, "They *are* doing rescue. Everyone who is stepping up to do rescue is doing as much as they can. Still, something like 15 million dogs are euthanized in shelters each year."

I tried to explain that we carve out a relatively manageable piece of this overwhelming disaster by focusing only on purebred collies. We have a ready-made group of adopters who seek us out all over the western U.S. and Canada because the supply of rescued collies cannot meet the demand. That's not to say we rehome every collie instantly, but we are somehow able to place virtually all of the 50-odd collies that are at risk and come to our attention each year--one collie per week.

Most of all, someone has to take in needy collies—dogs that

come into rescue most often as complete unknowns. They are often filthy, sick, and scared. They all too often have been neglected, abused and abandoned. Sometimes their grieving, loving owners have fallen on hard times through no fault of their own and are giving up their dogs as a last act of caring and kindness. No matter how they get here, collies come into rescue confused and disoriented, and often grieving themselves for the loss of their family and home. Someone has to be a "front-line foster home" willing to take in unknown, "raw" dogs and rehabilitate them for placement ultimately in an ordinary pet owner's home, or until then in another, less skilled foster home.

A small army of qualified, dedicated, selfless people is needed to meet the demands of most rescue businesses, but usually there is no army, not even a small one. Usually there is just a handful of people who make great sacrifices in their lives, with little time for rest and recovery, while the relentless, endless march of unwanted innocent victims finds their way to the rescue organization's door.

Will you join us? We need you.

We are the ones who walk into shelters, look a dog in the eye and say "you live" or "you die" today.



Chipper



Chipper

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

We are the ones who mop up after others. We do things other people are not willing to do. We make other people feel good, because they don't have to worry about sweet, innocent, wonderful collies dying for no good reason. Someone else will take care of it. We are the "someone else's" who take care of it for you.



Sioux

We are the ones who take dirty, sick, wild, unsocialized, untrained dogs into our homes. Do we need outside kennels to keep these "raw" dogs out of our houses? Not for preparing a dog to live as a pet dog, no. We are the ones who roll up our sleeves and put our hands on these unknown dogs. We might be bitten, or one of our pets might be bitten or killed, because no one knows how this strange dog will react to new dogs, new experiences, and small animals and children. Our furniture, carpets, floors, and doors all bear the marks of poorly mannered collies, unused to living as house dogs.

We are the ones who take phone calls and emails, and develop relationships with many nice, wonderful people who adopt the dogs and become our friends. We are also the ones who necessarily anger potential adopters who are not in our estimation able to care for a certain dog or any dog. We are the ones who spend what seems like an endless amount of time in front of a computer, or in a van driving to a distant shelter, a distant home check, or ferrying a dog from here to there like the underground railroad. We never get reimbursed for any of that—for our computers, or email, or mileage, or phone bills.

In participating in this intense business, we often ruin our homes, yards, and relationships. Divorces happen and friendships are lost. Family members may be disparaging, thinking that you care more about animals than them, and therefore you are selfish. Family members or employers may put strict limits on how far you can go down the path of rescue.

We often despair at how we can return to "normal" lives. We know that if we step away, chances are there will be no one to replace us.

Why do we do it? Maybe reading Monty's story can explain why.

A full version of this tribute, including Monty's story, is available on the NCR website:

<http://www.calcollierescue.org/newsletter.htm>



Monty



Chloe

Will you join us?
We need you.

Collie Spotlight: “Mae” The Thief Guilty of Stealing Any Heart She’s Touched!

By Karen Boselly

Mae is a 6 to 8 year old girl left by her owners (who could no longer keep her) with friends that would not allow her in the house. Mae obviously was used to being in the house with her people. She found herself neglected and alone in her new backyard, and so she let everyone know about it. She barked and barked, begging to be in with the people inside. Animal control was called several times with complaints about her barking. The officer that went out to investigate, saw the sweetest dog she had ever met being neglected and unhappy. Finally, the officer

convinced the people to turn Mae over to Animal services, and the officer contacted NCR. It was Christmas time and we were in the middle of an abnormal freezing spell. Unfortunately the shelter had no heat. And because NCR foster homes were at our limit with too many dogs, Mae unfortunately had to stay in

the freezing cold shelter for two weeks. The shelter folks would bring Mae into the warm office when they could, but most of the time she was in a cold cement kennel. The shelter officer cried and hugged Mae when I was finally able to pick her up. She has called me since just to see how Mae is doing. She was in love with this special dog.

I took Mae straight to my vet to run some health tests and she spent the night there. The vet tech fell in love with her and wanted to adopt her but she already had her limit of two dogs. She regretfully hugged Mae and wished her a happy life. When I brought Mae home, it was so obvious how grateful she was to be in a warm house. When I laid the dog bed down for her, she went right to it, happily rolling on it like it was her own piece of heaven. She looked at me and wagged her tail with such gratitude I was touched by her sweetness right away.

She was dirty and matted, so I took her to the groomer. Yes, she stole the groomer's heart too. She was so taken in by Mae that she offered to adopt her on the spot. But I told her that Mae would have no trouble finding a home, and the groomer had so many other obligations. I was convinced I was going to find Mae the perfect home -- A stay-at-home Mom, with children to love and other dogs to play with. You see, if I were to describe the perfect collie, I would be describing Mae. She has a pure collie heart. She drips with sweetness and kindness. She lives only to please her people. And takes great joy in doing so. She loves kids and loves to play with other dogs, and is great with cats. So this perfect collie needed the perfect home to match.

A few weeks earlier a woman had offered to volunteer for NCR. She had 4 dogs, so she really didn't want to foster, but was willing to help in other ways. My house was full with 8 dogs to care for. I asked her if she would foster sweet, kind, very well-behaved Mae. She said she would.

Mae and I went to the house to meet the family — which included 3 children (ages 17, 12, 10), four small dogs and the cat. I spent about an hour there with the dogs and the family. As I was leaving, the woman asked me to describe what I thought a perfect home for Mae would be. After I described it, we laughed as we realized that I had just described *her home* to a tee! (Except the fact that they already had 4 dogs.)

For the next few weeks I poured over tons of applications, and interviewed several possible homes for Mae. But I dreaded the time when I would have to uproot Mae from the foster home I knew she belonged in.

When I did find a home for Mae, it was too late! Her foster family, including all of the dogs, had fallen too deeply in love with Mae to bear giving her up. I went to see them, and I agreed that uprooting Mae from this wonderful family would be a heart-breaking thing to do for all of us — Mae especially, who had already endured years of neglect. Mae had found exactly what she had longed for all the years she had languished as a throw-away dog, unloved, in someone's backyard. She is still stealing every heart that she touches, including her new kitty friend. After meeting Mae, even Grandma, who came to visit — and who thought it would be crazy to add a 5th dog to the family — understood completely why Mae belonged there.



Officer Kelly Pangilinan, Mae's Guardian Angel



Molly, Dash, & Mae

Oh and by the way... the barking issue? NOT a problem now that Mae is happy and loved.



(Continued from page 1)

We received scant records along with two normal-looking puppies (the Sables), and two severely undersized and shy ones (the Tris), plus a wildly energetic, unaltered yearling. I relied heavily on Billie Reiydelle, who has had a long history of whelping and caring for litters of puppies, to take charge of the three puppies she'd picked up. She called to say she was worried about the two Tris, and that the little Rough Tri had zero muscle-tone so that she didn't know where they'd find a place to give him his vaccinations which were due that week. She agreed that Sherry could come pick up the Smooth Sable girl the next day and Cristen could come get the little Smooth Tri girl in two days, after she'd had a chance to observe her more.

To make a long story short, all of the dogs settled into their new foster homes and became **Gavin** (Karen's Rough Sable puppy), **Sunny** (the yearling), **Abbie** (Sherry and foster mom Carol's Smooth Sable puppy), and **Kaiya** (Cristen and James' Smooth Tri puppy). I got up to visit three of the puppies at Billie's house before my parents arrived on Christmas Day, but after that, everyone was basically on their own. They all did an absolutely fabulous job! My parents had a wonderful visit, which was undisturbed as promised, in spite of Monty (now **Shane**), Mel (now **Cody**), and **Mae** ALL spending *their* Christmas at shelters until we could spring them the next week. But that's another story and this one is already too long!



Karen with GAVIN



Susie with GAVIN, now BAXTER



Daameon with MAC,
Billie with KAIYA



New family Gail & Mark, and foster family
Cristen and James with KAIYA



Foster mom Carol and Tyler with
ABBIE



New family Eddie, Diane, Sarah
and Jerry with ABBIE



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Is Your Collie Photogenic?

Trick Question! Of course: ALL collies look terrific in photos!

If you have a collie from NCR — adopted or fostered — send us photos of your dog and tell us about his new life with your family. You could see his photo in an issue of the newsletter!

Happy Tails

If you recently adopted your collie, we'd love to see a "family portrait." Please send as a snapshot of your dog and his new family members and we'll print it in the Happy Tails section.

Rainbow Bridge

If your adopted collie has passed away, we'd like to print his photo in memorial to your bond. Please send a photo of your dog, with or without family, and we'll print it in the Rainbow Bridge section.

Nifty Photos

If you've got a great collie photo — super-cute or ultra-cool — send it in! We use particularly interesting photos to "introduce" newsletter articles, as we did with Mac on page 9 and Quinn on page 11.

2008 Rescue Collie Calendar?

We're hoping to put together a calendar of rescue Collies for 2008 and need good, high res photos of your collie!

Submission Guidelines

- Sending a photo means you agree that we can print it in the newsletter.
- Either mail hardcopies to the NorCal address in Davis CA or email digital files to editor@calcollierescue.org.
- Sorry, we cannot return photos.

Name This Newsletter!

The NorCal Collie Newsletter's first issue got rave reviews —not just from readers in Northern California and not just from collie owners! Thank you all for your kind comments.

We want to continue providing you a quality newsletter that will:

- Educate those of you who own or foster collies, who are dealing with training, health and behavioral issues with your pets. We also want our educational articles to help those of you considering adopting or fostering a collie to make an informed decision.
- Motivate those of you who want to help with rescue, to let you know what types of help we need and how you can contribute. In this issue, you've found out that you don't need to own a collie—or a panda—to help out!

- Thank those of you who love dogs! Thank you for every kind of support you give NorCal Collie Rescue and the wonderful collie dog.

So let's give this newsletter a name that reflects the goals of rescue and the purposes of our publication. The nominees are:

- Collie Come Home
- Rough Draft
- The Calling
- Collie Love Forever
- Collie Homecoming

Send us an email with your choices or come up with a new one — you can send in a 1st and 2nd choice — and you'll find out the winner when you receive the next issue of the...

