



NCR's Rescue Reporter

Summer 2008 Newsletter

President's Message: A "Tail" of Two Presidents

By Andrea Moss, NCR President

This August marks NorCal Collie Rescue's 3-year anniversary! As I thought about these last three years, I remembered how our sister organization, Southland Collie Rescue (SCR), had been invaluable in serving as a mentor to NCR. SCR's President, Chris Harmon, has been especially inspiring to me, both as a Collie owner and a rescuer.

Long before Chris and I became Presidents of SCR and NCR, we were introduced by others via e-mail and established an instant rapport. We became fast friends and shared our rescue experiences - moments of fulfillment and times of heartbreak. We were of like mind and it was Chris who motivated me through all the hours of work and occasional disappointments to keep plugging away to make our rescue in Northern California as viable as theirs was in the south.

At that time Stephen Colley (yes... his *real* name!) and Cathy Toft, NCR Treasurer and Area Coordinator Central Valley North & Foothills, were Presidents of our respective rescues -- SCR and the California Collie Rescue Coalition (CCRC), predecessor to NCR. Stephen and Cathy worked very closely in establishing the foundation of our organization. Because SCR is one of the most successful and professional Collie rescues in the country, Cathy chose them as a model and mentor organization. Between SCR's help and Cathy's talent as a behaviorist and background as a University Professor, they got CCRC up and running administratively with a strong foundation. We are so fortunate to share our mission of rescuing abandoned collies in California with such a wonderful, long-lasting and solid nonprofit as SCR.

Chris was an Area Coordinator when I met her and had been working in rescue for a number of years. My only rescue experience had been with the Montana Collie rescue situation - a hoarding case involving 181 Collies in 2002. Not wanting my rescue experience to end, I learned about the fledgling CCRC and jumped into it as the self-proclaimed "Adoption Coordinator." This was an off-the-record position I had created for myself in order to lend rescue the only real dog-related talents I had-- a knack for being a sort of Collie "Yenta," matching up homeless Collies with qualified applicants. I enjoyed it immensely, even though I spent many hours on the phone, computer and on the road, processing applications and arranging for home checks. In the process I met the most incredible people and dogs. And the reward of seeing a broken-down, filthy, discarded Collie transformed by the love of a new family - a forever home - continues to be my life's most rewarding experience!



Chris with Laddie and
Andrea with Stanford

A few years into my rescue organization experience, Stephen and Cathy needed to make a change, which meant there would be "President" positions open in both organizations. Chris became President of SCR, and I, with the encouragement of Chris, re-established our rescue organization as NorCal Collie Rescue, and became its first President.

That was in August 2005, so August 2008 marks our THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY! Chris and I continue to be good friends and collaborators. And thanks to the happy ending of the Yolo County hoarding case (www.theroadhome-dogs.org/collies/yolo.htm), we have more in common than just our mindset and our positions -- we are both very proud adopters of dogs from that same case: Laddie and Stanford owned by Chris, and Peter owned by me.



Peter

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Stay in touch with adopters and volunteers, join our Yahoo Group @ http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/NCR_Family/

and click JOIN THIS GROUP or send an email to:

NCR_Family-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Area Coordinator Reports

Bay Area, West & South

By Andrea Moss



I have placed a number of wonderful dogs in my region this year but the one I want to dedicate this report to is Sasha, a dog I placed a few years ago, and owned by the Miller family, who so patiently nursed her back to health from the heart-breaking disease of heartworm. Sasha went to Rainbow Bridge this spring after a tragic and freak accident. Rachael Miller, age 7, wrote this remembrance of her sweet companion for

her first grade class:

"I had a dog named Sasha. When we got her she had heart worms. Sasha was tan and white. Once on a nice day my mom and I went to a Collie rescue center to pick up a dog. It took a long time to get there. Finally we got out of the car and went inside. Then, I went in the back yard. I saw bunch of dogs running. One was Sasha. She ran right to me. I said to my mom, Is this her? Mom said yes, Mom had to sign a piece of paper that meant she owned Sasha. Then they gave mom dog food. They talked for a long time. Then they walked outside and she gave mom a ramp and a cage. I went inside and went in the back yard. I watched the dogs play. Mom came and got Sasha. I followed mom with Sasha. Sasha walked up the ramp into the cage and we went home.

We cured Sasha from heart worm. She was a very happy dog. She loved going on walks with us. She loved giving out kisses. She also loved cuddling, and always put me to sleep at night.

On May 30, 2008 Sasha got run over by a truck and died immediately. We gave her two years of life. She was a happy dog. We will miss her very much. The End."



Sasha & Rachel

Bay Area, East

By Billie Reiydelle



As a new AC, it seems to be busy in the East Bay. But then, the East Bay is a big area with Alameda County, most of Contra Costa County and much of Sonoma County and parts of Solano County.

Since early spring 2007, with the assistance of all NCR ACs, I have been able to place four Collies in homes, refer one Collie that resulted in adoption, and currently have a young Collie in a foster home where he will most likely be adopted. The most rewarding of these placements is Frankie who came to me through Cathy Toft, AC Central Valley.



Sally

Frankie came from the Reno area. When animal services picked her up as a stray she weighed 85 pounds on her small frame. During evening walks, my husband noticed that Frankie responded to the name of our older Collie, Sarah. We changed Frankie's name to Sally. The change was dramatic. Sally perked up significantly and became more responsive.

Sally had been abused and was unsocialized. She didn't know how to interact with our Collies. Play for her consisted of running after the tennis ball and dominating the Collie who caught it. Sally simply did not understand how to play.

For three months I hand fed her twice a day with a very low fat kibble. Treats for her were skinless, boiled chicken thighs. It was four months before Sally dropped enough weight to be spayed and three weeks later went to a wonderful home. Her adopter has been very patient with Sally and so has the family cat. Sally is now called Marsali, a proper Gaelic name.



Area Coordinator Reports

Mid-Central & San Joaquin Valleys

By Karen Boselly

Normally NCR does not take in mixed dogs because we do not have enough foster homes. But in February I was faced with something I could not turn my back on. A local shelter called to say they had four, 4-month old Collie puppies. At the time, I had four dogs of my own plus a two-year old foster Collie, Sonoma, who has since been adopted by Don and Pauline Usher—thanks to both of you! I was hoping the puppies would turn out to be mixes so I would not be obligated to take them as I already had my hands full.



As I walked down the aisles of kennels, I was overwhelmed by the number of dogs. Kennels that usually held up to three, held five to ten dogs. For a while we couldn't find the pups and the shelter told me to come back the next day but I was afraid they would be euthanized and insisted we find them. We finally did and they were most certainly mixes. But I could *not* leave them behind. I wondered if I would find homes for them as I posted their pictures and story on the NCR website. I was thrilled by the response I got and the wonderful homes who took each of these pups.

I have been doing rescue for six years and fostered 60 dogs. The key is to find the perfect home. Knowing that the dogs will live happy lives is the reward I need to continue this work.

Thank you to Ellen and Craig who adopted Kenya; to Patty and Jeff who adopted Zorra; to Laurretta who adopted Teddi; and, to Jennifer, Tom, Megan and Emily who adopted Tanner. And to the other families who adopted the 6 collies I've fostered this year—thank you Myra and Jim for adopting Shelby, and Susie and Sean for adopting Laddie. And to Margie—dear friend, generous contributor, and volunteer— who fostered Shelby and spent countless hours helping that very shy girl go out in the real world—you did a great job. Thanks for loving the Collies as I do.

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Don & Pauline with Sonoma

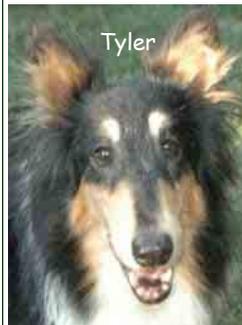
Central Valley, Foothills and Washoe County, Nevada

By Cathy Toft

Tyler and Jasper are our first mortgage crisis dogs (that we know of). They were left in a night deposit box with notes containing their names and, "Good dog. No more house."



Neither were well cared for. Their coats were dirty, greasy and matted and toenails so long—which can happen quickly - they interfered with their walking. However, most remarkable were their mouths: they both had advanced dental disease that is an indication of little or no veterinary care in their lifetime. Tyler ended up with virtually no teeth in her upper jaw after \$800 of oral surgery and Jasper lost a few teeth also.



Tyler

Neither is used to walking on a leash. It seems they were backyard dogs, who went nowhere and did nothing with their owners. Nevertheless, both adapted to life in a house very quickly. They were immediately housebroken and they learned their names and the house rules quickly.

Both want to be devoted to me, their foster mom, but my dogs aren't too excited about stepping aside. Because they are such people-loving dogs and they want nothing more than to hang out with their favorite person, they are going to make wonderful pets. As of July both are available.



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Davey came into rescue last year and is enjoying his forever home. His adopter sent us this news: "It's been a little over a year since Davey came to live with me and my two cats. There is a very nice nature walk around our housing tract. When we get out there I let him off leash and he stops to sniff where he wants and then trots to catch up with me. He had a little trauma when I got rid of my old couch and got a new one. It doesn't have the perfect 'Davey curve' the other one did, but he has adjusted and now hogs either end of the couch. Things are good with us and he's pretty spoiled."



Davey

Area Coordinator Reports

Monterey/San Benito Counties

By Mary Callaham

Monterey and San Benito Counties rarely have Collies come into rescue, so I stand by to assist other ACs in rescue placements. In the last six months, I have rescued Dasher, a two year old male, and Daisy, a three year old female mix, and participated in the annual SPCA Wag 'n Walk fund raiser.



Dasher's Story

Dasher was turned into a shelter because his owner was no longer able to care for him. He had acute behavioral problems which would have made him virtually unadoptable. His aversion to loud sounds made him a frantic barker inside and outside the house. Walks were nerve wracking when he reacted by lunging and snapping at noises. He was an energetic counter surfer, grabbing any available food, and he loved to snatch little plastic objects such as the bolt caps off toilets. The worst part of this behavior was that he was unwilling to surrender his bounty and growled and bared his teeth to anyone who approached.

His most useful tool for getting what he wanted was his high pitch, incessant bark! He would bark to be fed, bark to go for a walk or bark when he wanted you to do just about anything. If that didn't work, he would find something to chew or scratch. To top this off, he didn't want his tail end brushed. Something *had* to be done!



Dasher

Cathy Toft suggested I find a positive behaviorist and the NCRBoard of Directors agreed. Cathy also suggested I read; [Click for Joy](#) by Melissa Alexander and [Click to Calm](#) by Emma Parsons. While reading and waiting for our first appointment with Barbara De Groodt, a well known and highly recommended behaviorist in our area, we de-Dasherized the house - leaving nothing out to tempt him to chew or scratch.

As Barbara saw on her first visit, Dasher was a very clever dog and was easily reinforced by food. She worked with "take it," "bring it" and "drop it." He responded immediately but when she stopped giving treats he went around her and tried to grab the "goodie bag."

The next week I began using my clicker training knowledge to teach Dasher the ten foundation behaviors that Emma Parsons recommends every dog should know in [Click to Calm](#).

They are: name recognition, eye contact, sit, down, heeling on loose leash, targeting, stay, recall, four on the floor, kennel up, leave it, hold object, and emergency recall. Barbara had also given me the assignment to have Dasher go "to place" - I used the word "blanket." I worked all week and did not feel I was making any headway. At Barbara's next session, she came equipped with clicker and special liver treats. When Dasher's foot touched the blanket, she would click, then treat and repeat this action several times. Then she stopped clicking and treating. She waited until all four of Dasher's feet touched the blanket. Click, treat, repeat. Then she stopped clicking and treating again. Dasher looked around and Barbara ignored him. He glanced at his feet - all on the blanket. He looked around again. Maybe I'll sit. Click -treat again. Again, no treat. Dasher looked around, feet on blanket, sitting, looked at me - maybe I'll lie down! Click: treat, treat, treat, treat. The whole lesson was $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 hour without words, having Dasher make all the decisions. It gave me great insight on how intelligent a dog can be.

From then on our life became much easier. During meals, Dasher would go to his blanket. If he snatched a pen or other "valuable item," he would willingly "drop it." He began doing cute things for his dinner and outings like rolling on his back or doing a deep bow. Who can refuse that kind of behavior?

Barbara had yet to work with the sound aversion. For that lesson we were fortunate to have tree trimmers operating in the neighborhood. She adjusted his martingale collar to make sure it was tight and we proceeded toward the "noise". As soon as he became overly excited, we stopped and moved to a calm place - click, treat. We worked ourselves closer, clicking and treating. Whenever he relaxed - click, treat. We did that for awhile until she saw him totally relax—slouch on one hip and start to close his eyes. Click, treat, treat, treat - let's go home. Of course, I have repeated this many times over the last months and have gotten to know every gardener in the neighborhood. There are whole days now with no barking either inside or outside the house. But sudden loud sounds like motorcycles, skateboards, leaf blowers still can throw him into a fit of barking and lunging. We will always have to remain sensitive to his surroundings and manage his behavior before he is adversely stimulated.

As you probably guessed, we adopted Dasher after working with him for about six months. We've had many Collies and he has been the most difficult. It was hard and trying, but we knew that if we didn't succeed, Dasher would be the loser.

Area Coordinator Reports

Monterey/San Benito Counties *continued from page 4*

A rescue worker at the San Luis Obispo shelter contacted us in a panic about a Collie mix that was in jeopardy of being euthanized due to overcrowding as the 4th of July weekend approached. SLO volunteers quickly responded to Daisy's plight by knocking down bureaucratic and logistical obstacles to transfer her to NCR. After a flurry of phone calls and e-mails a coordinated hand off took place in King City.

"Driving Miss Daisy " 150 miles for three hours in valley heat and dodging the wildfires, she arrived safely and saved from the needle. This big lovable girl has been in a foster home and is about to be adopted so she will have the forever home she deserves soon.



Daisy

On May 3rd, 2008, Monterey's Rescue Collies once again made a great show at the SPCA's Annual Wag and Walk. The Collie SPCA website raised over \$320 for the cause. Breakfast and lunch were served and the walk along Canary Row to Lover's Point was highlighted by water and treat rest stops for the dogs. It was a fun day for everyone, even those dogs who just wagged and didn't walk.

SPCA Annual Wag and Walk



SPCA Annual Wag and Walk

Santa Cruz County

By Sherry Luttrell

It's been pretty quiet Collie-wise, as usual, in the Santa Cruz area. I have helped two lovely owner-relinquished Collie girls recently though.



Sandy is a ten year old sable who belonged to an elderly lady who purchased her from a breeder three years ago at the ripe old age of 89! Sandy did not cohabit well with the male sheltie in the house so she had to live a sad, lonely three years outside.



Sandy

Her 92 year old owner was no longer able to care for her and thanks to a referral from a volunteer at sheltie rescue, she contacted NCR. Sandy had survived a uterine infection and rat poison right after she was recovering from spay surgery! We believe she produced litters of puppies in her former life and has a very strong maternal instinct. She adopted her foster home's rabbits and watched over them as if they were her puppies. Sandy was very depressed but now lives with a wonderful retired couple in the country who love her. She has constant companionship and room to run.

Sassy, a seven year old sable, was purchased from a breeder as a puppy. Her owner who had been hospitalized mentioned to a nurse he was leaving town and was going to take her to a shelter. The nurse contacted a friend who picked Sassy up from the owner and then called NCR. Sassy had a cancerous tumor, an ameloblastoma, on her lower jaw and her knee has an old ligament tear. Thanks to generous donors from NCR Sassy recently had the tumor removed. Sassy is an absolute doll and happy as can be. She doesn't miss the opportunity to let you know she's hungry by pushing her bowl over to anyone who might slip her something to eat. Then she flashes that classic Collie smile. She's hard to resist.



Sassy

Ask the Behaviorist:

Understanding Your Dog — Part One: The Emotional Lives of Dogs

By Cathy Toft

This issue contains a piece by Mary Callahan on rehabbing Dasher, one of our rescue collies. Mary relates how she used modern, dog-friendly methods to decrease Dasher's resource guarding and other undesirable behaviors. Dasher's story is a good opportunity for me to explain the current methods of treating shyness and aggression in fearful dogs.

How can there be anything in common with shyness and aggression? Don't these traits seem like diametric opposites? The expression "Fight or Flight" summarizes most animals' reaction to frightening stimuli. Shyness and some types of so-called "aggression" are flip sides of one emotion: fear. Usually an animal's first reaction to fear is "flight" but if cornered, the animal will resort to "fight." In reality, the choice of fight or flight depends on the animal's personality and natural tendencies.

In rescue, we get many under-socialized dogs who are afraid of a lot of things. Sometimes this fear makes the dog an undesirable pet, so we work hard to rehabilitate so they can be adopted and their adopters will have much less work to do. However, even normal dogs can have strong emotional reactions to things in their environment, and their humans need to understand how best to deal with emotion-based behaviors in dogs.

When your dog growls at something, you may have been taught to correct your dog for that growling, scolding the dog "that's just not acceptable!" (as if your dog speaks English!). Or, perhaps your dog is terribly afraid of something, and a friend warns you not to reassure your dog because you will "reinforce" the fear. Neither of these responses will help reduce the undesired behavior in your dog—if anything they can make the dog feel even more fearful and unable to express its feelings freely.

In the first example, the mistake is to think that reducing the dog's expression of its emotions, usually fear or other discomfort, will reduce the emotion itself. When dogs are corrected for excessive barking, growling or air-snapping (clacking their teeth for show and no intention of biting), they will learn not to display emotions and appear to learn not to behave "aggressively." In reality, the dog may feel even more fearful or uncomfortable but cannot communicate that emotion anymore. In such cases, a dog may later escalate and attack you or another dog without warning "out of the blue." The growling itself is a good thing—you want to know what your dog is feeling. What you change instead is your dog's perceived need for growling.

To do that, behaviorists often use a program of desensitization and counter conditioning" or DS-CC. The idea is to pair a good thing with whatever the dog is afraid of. A local, dog-friendly behaviorist who uses positive reinforcement and DS-CC should be consulted (*not* Cesar Millan or his disciples, who use misguided approaches such as severe corrections and "flooding").

Some well-meaning people who see an owner giving a growling dog food or reassuring a terrified dog will tell you that you are "reinforcing" the fear or aggression. This remark arises from a deep misunderstanding of respondent versus operant behaviors. Respondent behavior includes the emotions, such as fear and fear-based aggression. Operant behaviors are learned behaviors that the dog can control or change with experience. Changing behaviors of the two different types requires two different approaches and sets of methods.

One of our rescue collies, Lucy, hated having her toenails clipped. In fact, she would become not simply frightened but terrified if anyone touched her feet. Yet, her toenails were uncomfortably long. How to desensitize her to nail trimming and counter-condition her to love it?

I got out a clicker and touched one of her feet lightly. As soon as I touched her foot, I clicked and gave her a treat. The very first time I touched her foot, Lucy gave me a hard stare and a loud snarl, and made a move toward me like she was going to bite me. What did I do? I stuck to my plan: I clicked and then in the midst of her snarl, I popped a piece of steak into her mouth. Anyone watching me would think that I just reinforced the snarling and the snapping. If anything, I reinforced her not moving and not biting me when I touched her foot. I used the clicker a little non-conventionally to mark something I did and not an action that she did—I clicked her for not reacting more than she did.

Proof that I did not reinforce her growling and snapping came rapidly. "Reinforce" in behavioral terms means a behavior increases in frequency. The second time I touched her foot, clicked, and treated, she gave a half-hearted growl and did not snap or feign a movement toward me. The third time I touched her foot, actually now I picked it up by one toe, and then clicked and treated, she was silent. Instead, she had become very interested in how the foot touching predicted a piece of steak. By the fourth and fifth times—now I was grabbing her foot and holding on tight—she simply waited eagerly for her steak. I next placed the toenail dremel against her toe while I held her foot, clicked and treated a couple more times and quit for the day. The following week, we started where we left off. In about 6 more clicks I was dremeling her toenails. Eventually, when Lucy saw me get out the dremel, she would push herself in front of me and present me with her foot, holding it in the air, to insist that I trim her toenails first, before the other dogs.

Please consider a dog-friendly approach to solving dog behavioral problems of all kinds. While you can read many good books to learn these methods yourself, I urge you to find a professional to help you when your dog growls or threatens to bite. To learn more, please visit <http://www.r-plusdogtraining.info>.





Collie Family Artistry Weekend

By Vicki Doyle-Jones

The fourth—not quite annual—Collie Family Artistry ("CFA") event took place at Willowside Ranch in Pescadero on May 10-11. It was a true "dog and pony show" attended by more than 200 human guests with their Collies (rough, smooth, and bearded), Shelties, Border Collies, Aussies, and Kelpies, plus an occasional un-Collie family member such as a Poodle, Great Dane or Golden Retriever. There were AHBA sanctioned herding tests and trials and AKC CGC tests both days, plus obedience, rally, tracking, and agility seminars, a juried art show with paintings, photos and crafts representing critter art, and a host of vendors and Collie Family fans and experts offering services and fun activities. Norcal Sheltie Rescue and NCR were well represented and together hosted a raffle and rescue parade with prizes. There was the usual "best" (or "stupidest"?) pet tricks demonstration and a dog-and-owner look-alike contest, won by Andrea and her Peter Rabbit. (Though some thought Anne Robinson and Sailor should have at least tied for first place!)

The highlight of the day in most Collie people's opinions was the "Lassie Look-alike Contest" in which both regular-sized and mini Lassie Look-alikes competed. The contest was judged by none other than "Timmy" himself (Jon Provost of the Lassie TV series) and his wife, Laurie Jacobson Provost. The Mini-Lassie Look-alike went to Barbara Norton's sable Sheltie, Tristan, and the most convincing "real" Lassie was Lisa & Bill McKenna's Jasper, who came into rescue as a stray from the Tracy area in 2007. The two look-alike winners received rosettes and signed copies of Jon's new book, *Timmy's in the Well*.

Then, of course, there was the wonderful, priceless camaraderie of a true family reunion: old and new friends, treats and picnics, organized hikes and disorganized romps in the corrals and in the wonderful, green fields and along the shores of the pond at Willowside Ranch. There was good food, too: the Pescadero Country Store catered continental breakfasts and snacks both days and a sumptuous, multi-course BBQ dinner for the CFA guests Saturday night.

This event started from a bet I made—with no one in particular—that one can put 100 Collies in a pen together and not have a rude word or curled lip from any of them. My inspiration is my very own Canterbury Coquette Camille, Montana Camp Collie Rescue No. 111. I thought an event that was fun and educational, as well as an opportunity for networking and fund-raising for rescues, could benefit everyone. I won my bet during that first "Amazing Versatile Collie" weekend at Willowside Ranch in 2005: we had over 100 Collies in one of the paddocks, and they all played together like long-lost friends, a blur of glorious Collie romping and jousting. The event was for Rough and Smooth Collies only as I wouldn't hazard the same bet for 100 Shelties, Aussies, or Border Collies. Now, with the entire Collie Family (currently over 650 on our mailing lists) invited, we still haven't had any rude words from any of our two- or four-legged guests! The single complaint about this year's event was that the peacocks were too noisy (wonder if it's possible to clicker-train a peacock not to "bark"?).

I am happy to take your Collie-Family-related comments or suggestions at Vicki.doylejones@gmail.com.

See you there next year!





Rainbow Bridge Collies ... Forever in our Hearts



Here we pay tribute to those Collies who have passed on in recent months. These beloved pets had been adopted through NCR or were cherished family members of our adopters, volunteers, and donors.



HAPPY
Loved by Marcialyn



MERRY
Loved by Susie & Sean



SASHA
Loved by Nicole, Rachel, Alexander & Matthew



ANGEL
Loved by Rick & Linda



TACOMA
Loved by Glenn & Family



DART
Loved by Cathy



PINKY
Loved by Paul & Carolyn



BUTTERSCOTCH
Loved by Bonnie & Chuck



THE GIFT
It is a gift—
To be willing to love,
Knowing all the while
That love will end in heartbreak.
It is a gift -
To be unafraid to love
Knowing all the while
That a piece of us will die
When the heartbreak comes.
To be willing
To be unafraid—
It is a true gift
To be treasured always.
Hold tightly that love
And when heartbreak arrives,
Remember the love hidden
Deep in the heart.
It is a Gift.
By Anne Robinson



BLUE
Loved by Dan & Shirley

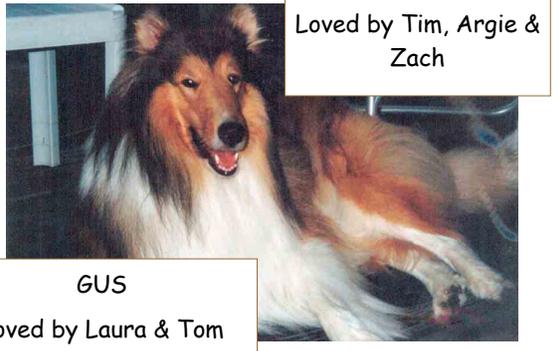
JULIE
Loved by Anneli & Peter



MAC
Loved by Tim, Argie & Zach



GUS
Loved by Laura & Tom



If you have a Collie who has recently gone to Rainbow Bridge, please send us a photo so we can support you in your loss and pay homage to your beloved friend. If we did not know about your dog's passing in time for this newsletter, we'll put your tribute in the next issue.

My Foster Dog is Beautiful

By Martha O'Connor

My foster dog stinks to high heaven. I don't know for sure what breed he is. His eyes are blank and hard. He won't let me pet him and growls when I reach for him. He has ragged scars and crusty sores on his skin. His nails are long and his teeth, which he showed me, are stained. I sigh. I drove two hours for this. I carefully maneuver him so that I can stuff him in the crate. Then I heft the crate and put it in the car. I am going home with my new foster dog.

At home I leave him in the crate till all the other dogs are in the yard. I get him out of the crate and ask him if he wants 'outside.' As I lead him to the door he hikes his leg on the wall and shows me his stained teeth again. When we come in he goes to the crate because that's the only safe place he sees. I offer him food but he won't eat it if I look at him, so I turn my back. When I come back the food is gone. I ask again about 'outside.' When we come back I pat him before I let him in the crate, he jerks away and runs into the crate to show me his teeth.

The next day I decide I can't stand the stink any longer. I lead him into the bath with cheese in my hand. His fear of me is not quite overcome by his wish for the cheese. And well he should fear me, for I will give him a bath. After an attempt or two to bail out he is defeated and stands there. I have bathed four legged bath squirts for more dog years than he has been alive. His only defense was a show of his stained teeth that did not hold up to a face full of water. As I wash him it is almost as if I wash not only the stink and dirt away but also some of his hardness. His eyes look full of sadness now. And he looks completely pitiful as only a soap-covered dog can. I tell him that he will feel better when he is clean. After the soap the towels are not too bad so he lets me rub him dry. I take him outside. He runs for joy. The joy of not being in the tub and the joy of being clean. I, the bath giver, am allowed to share the joy. He comes to me and lets me pet him.

One week later I have a vet bill. His skin is healing. He likes for me to pet him. I think I know what color he will be when his hair grows in. I have found out he is terrified of other dogs. So I carefully introduce him to my mildest four-legged boy. It doesn't go well. Two weeks later a new vet bill for an infection that was missed on the first visit. He plays with the other dogs. Three weeks later he asks to be petted. He chewed up part of the rug. Eight weeks later, his coat shines, he has gained weight. He shows his clean teeth when his tongue lolls out after he plays chase in the yard with the gang. His eyes are soft and filled with life. He loves hugs and likes to show off his tricks, if you have cheese.

Someone called today and asked about him, they saw the picture I took the first week. They asked about his personality, his history, his breed. They asked if he was pretty. I asked them lots of questions. I checked up on them. I prayed. I said yes. When they saw him the first time they said he was the most beautiful dog they had ever seen.

Six months later I got a call from his new family. He is wonderful, smart, well behaved and very loving. How could someone not want him?

I told them I didn't know. He is beautiful. **THEY ALL ARE!**

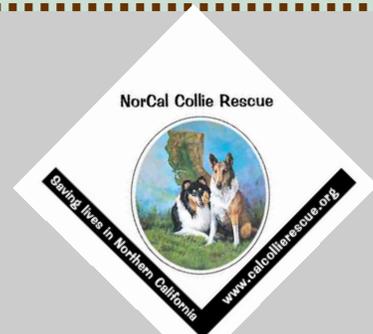
Editor's note:

This beautiful essay was written by Martha O'Connor, who is a Corgi/Corgi mix Rescuer in Missouri.



Foster dog Scotty & puppy Star playing

NCR desperately needs foster homes for rescued Collies to allow us to continue to save every Collie that needs a home. For more information, contact Andrea Moss at: andrea@calcollierescue.org



NCR Bandanas and T-shirts are available as "Gifts with Donation." Please write to: andrea@calcollierescue.org for more information!

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Medical Spotlight—Heartworm Prevention

By Cathy Toft

On June 5, 2008 the FDA approved ProHeart 6, a 6-months injectable form of heartworm prevention, for use again in dogs after this drug was recalled in September 2004 because of many deaths of dogs of all breeds attributed to this drug.

ProHeart 6 is a commercial name for moxidectin, which is in the same family of drugs that includes ivermectin (Heartguard), milbemycin (Interceptor), and selamectin (Sentinel). As Collie lovers, you probably know that three-fourths of all Collies carry a mutation (MDR1) that causes a defect in the blood-brain barrier and can allow a wide variety of drugs to reach unusually high levels in the brain. The ivermectin family of drugs in particular may be fatal to Collies even when used at normal therapeutic doses. ProHeart 6 caused the deaths of many Collies, but also dogs of other breeds, until it was recalled. The recent re-release of ProHeart 6 is controversial. Of particular concern are the objections of two members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce. To quote a House report issued on June 15, 2008:

"Reps. John D. Dingell, Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Bart Stupak, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, today pressed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to explain why it approved the return of ProHeart 6, a canine heartworm treatment, to the market.

In two letters sent to the FDA, the congressmen specifically asked for information and documents leading up to the agency's decision to re-approve ProHeart6.

'In light of the serious, life-threatening reactions associated with ProHeart 6, the Committee is concerned that there is simply not enough new data to justify reintroduction of this controversial product to the market,' said Dingell."

See more at http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_110/110nr300.shtml

We urge Collie owners not to use this drug because of Collies' sensitivity to ivermectin-family compounds. The convenience of a 6-month shot does not outweigh the loss of a dog's life.

PRE-PRESS RELEASE: Finally some good news in the heartworm prevention department for Collie lovers! Dr. Katrina Mealey and her colleagues at Washington State University will be publishing a study demonstrating that milbemycin (Interceptor) is in fact safer for Collies with the MDR1 mutation than other drugs used as monthly heartworm preventative. Please have your Collie tested for his or her drug sensitivity status; go to <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/> to find out more.

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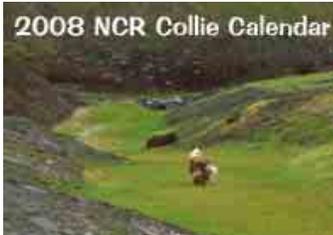
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Many thanks to all who purchased the 2008 calendar—it was a big fundraising success!

We are collecting pictures now for the 2009 calendar. Please send digital photos of your rescued Collies in 500 kb or higher resolution, preferably without people.



<http://www.flyingpanda.com/store/>



You must use our referral code—NCR at check-out or mention it when you call on the phone.