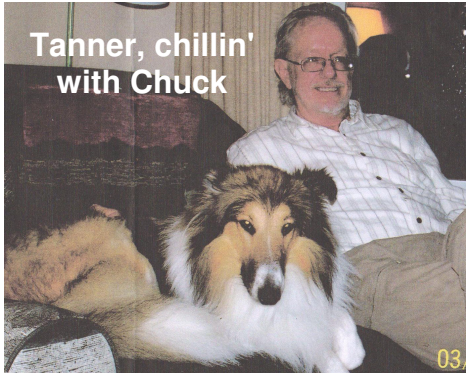


# Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

*Finding new hope and new homes for homeless collies.*

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**MWCR Newsletter, May 2012**  
**Volume 1, Issue 6**



## Life With My New People . . .

*by Tanner Hall*

My mom says that you folks at MWCR have been checking up on me, so Chuck asked me to drop you a line and sum up my first three months with him and Geri (my new people). Personally, I think Chuck is just too cheap to call you but at least this will give me an opportunity to vent a little.

Actually, this new home is workin' out pretty good. They are an older couple, of course, so they don't train as easily as I'd hoped. A perfect example is when it comes to running around the yard with toys (which of course is my favorite thing to do, next to those daily walks they give me). Well, this guy Chuck is going to be 67 this summer, and he's wheezing after one lap around the yard when I'm just getting going. Oh, well! ... at least he tries. Their previous Collies were both over 90 pounds, so they can't believe how fast I can motor this svelte body around the yard. Call me Greyhound!

You might remember that those two previous Collies were older (less active, I heard them say), and they always stayed in the back yard and liked to lie on the patio. Well, I'm a road warrior from Missouri . . . you know, the "Show Me" state. Well, so I showed them what a young dog likes to do. My theme song has always been Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again," so I was pretty good for a week or so as I got accustomed to my new surroundings. Tons of squirrels live here, and Chuck hates them eating all his bird seed, so I'm the new designated squirrel chaser. Those little chickens dart for the woods that surround our back yard, and of course I follow 'em in there. So, I finally thought let's put these folks to the test, and I started to "roam" a bit. Not too far, mind you, but just enough to get them concerned, worry warts that they are.

They'd be yellin' "TANNER!" from the patio, and I'd just hunker down and try to keep from barkin' (laughin') out loud. Well, you'd think the world was ending! What do they do? They run off to Menards and buy fencing,

*(cont'd on p. 2)*

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*(cont'd from p. 1)*

and now the whole one-acre back yard is fenced in! Well, if they thought I was going to take that lying down they were crazy! So I started testing that fence and found a couple spots where I could push my lean 54-pound body underneath it. So what do they do? They stake it down! So then I found a couple of spots where I could put my front paws on top, push the fence down a little, and jump up on top and over! So what do they do? They raise the fence and add supports ... they're relentless! So now my second favorite song is "Don't Fence Me In"!

Oh, and here are some recent pictures taken last month. The top photo is me and Max on the couch and Lugar on the floor. Max is a newly rescued Miniature Schnauzer that lives a block away. Lugar is a rescued German Wirehaired Terrier whose people go to church with my people. I think we're all watching for Max's mom to come pick him up. Lugar was here for 10 days and is more my size and fun to play with. Rusty is my other buddy, a female Yellow Lab, and she's a doll. If I was in the "settling down" mood, I'd pick her. She's coming to visit, too, and it'll be me, Lugar, and Rusty . . . what a blast!

The next photo is me watching Chuck leave for work. If they both leave I stand up on the headboard with both front paws and watch out the window ... they seem to get a kick out of that! And the other photo is me relaxing in one of mom's flower beds (before the flowers are up, of course). I could lie outside all day and enjoy the smells and sounds of country living—and wait for one of those bushy-tailed rats to make a move!

My people realize how much I love being with other dogs, and I'd love to have a Collie buddy to play with, but that's apparently a big move for them, so we'll see. Fortunately they do a lot of "dog sitting," so I have visitors on a regular basis. They do walk me every day (over two miles), and I love it. Just give them a big smile and push my nose in their hands and they're like kids in a candy store. No offense, but you humans can be awfully easy to please. If you'd all care about each other like you care for us, it would be a great world, wouldn't it?!?!

Lots of ticks this year, what with the mild weather and all, so they put this new "Intercept" on me. Supposed to be even better than "Frontline" and it's working pretty good. I'm "fit as a fiddle," as you humans say—whatever that means!

Enough for now. I'll keep in touch, and thanks so much for the love and care you give us doggies. And don't tell Chuck and Geri, but this is "Collie Heaven"!

Tanner, who was then named Deuce, and his brother Ace came to MWCR from a shelter in Missouri. They were taken in as strays, and it was pretty clear right away that Ace and Deuce needed to go to separate homes, since they didn't get along well with each other. Separately they turned out to be lively, loving Collies.

Ace is one of the "Collies Gone Wild" in the March Newsletter.

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## Oh, My Aching Back (Spine?) . . .

by Dr. Ryan Speltz

Another wonderful spring month is upon on us and hence our pets are getting more active. With increased spring activity comes occasional discomfort for our pets. Have you as a pet owner ever considered regular veterinary chiropractic treatments for a variety of reasons versus pain killers? Often our animals can clearly express just how valuable chiropractic treatments are for them, and of course the treatments are safer for them than conventional drugs.

The benefits of chiropractic care for animals are generally the same as they are for us. Chiropractic care can reduce arthritis-associated joint pain such as mild hip dysplasia, and decrease pain through the release of spinal pressure, which in turn reduces stiffness and muscle spasms throughout the painful region. Pain reduction with a chiropractic adjustment allows for better range of motion, better movement, and better coordination, especially for those dogs that are “neurologic” and display an abnormal gait or knuckling, more commonly in the rear. With treatment your pet will have more energy and will generally feel better due to proper alignment of the spine. Our canine friends can really benefit from this like our horses have for years. Dog owners just need to be a little more open to the therapy

Now, the next question I get is “where can I find veterinary chiropractic doctors and staff?” The best way to find a qualified and certified animal chiropractor is by asking your veterinarian, or by visiting the site for the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) approved program (<http://www.animalchiropractic.org/>). This is a post-graduate program that specializes in teaching chiropractors how to properly adjust animals. Many of those AVCA certified are DVMs, so that makes the ability to get multiple modes of support via one person.

I challenge everyone to consider the benefits of chiropractic care and try this wonderful means of therapy before grabbing the Rimadyl, Tramadol, or even aspirin off the shelf to cover the pain.

Enjoy the spring weather!



## Coming Events . . .

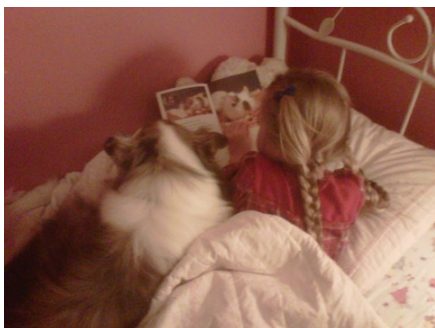
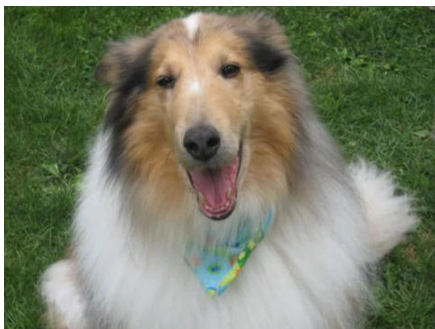
- No-Kill Walk for the Animals, May 5, Little Canada, MN
- Minnesota Scottish Fair, May 19, Farmington, MN
- Paws on Parade, May 19, Hutchinson, MN
- Canine Carnival, June 2, Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, MN
- Collie Frolic, June 16, Blaine, MN
- Super Adoption Event, June 23, Rochester, MN

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**Pepper, having a good laugh...and enjoying story time!**



***Tribute to Pepper . . .***

Pepper was an older boy when he came to MWCR to stay with his foster mom and her family. In his bio back in 2010, Pepper said, “I think they named me Pepper because even though I am an older guy, I still have lots of pep in my step. I like to project a friendly, welcoming manner because I’m not just a “stay at home” Collie – I have a job and go to work every day. My foster mom is a doggie groomer and takes me with her to the doggie salon. It is my job to meet and greet the customers and make them feel right at home. Wal-Mart has been trying to hire me away from foster mom, but I am a very loyal Collie who wouldn’t even think of deserting my family.

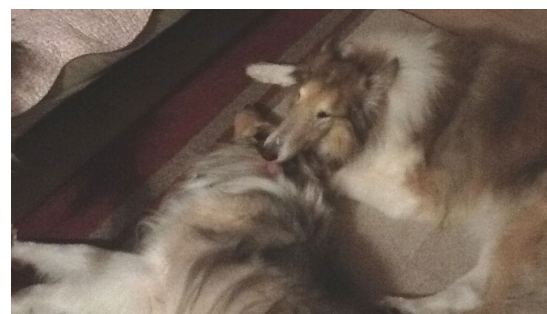
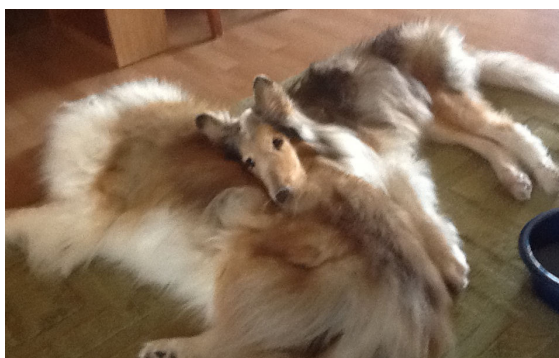
Before I came to my foster home, I had a sad experience. My family lost their job and their home and couldn’t keep me anymore. They loved me and for a loyal boy like me, it was tough to say goodbye. It took me a while to adjust here at my foster home, because I wasn’t used to living with other dogs and I was afraid they would steal my food and my toys. I had already lost my family, and I wasn’t about to lose anything else! Now that I have gotten used to my foster home, I realize that foster mom won’t let the other dogs take my stuff, so I am not as protective as I once was.

I have always lived with kids, and I really love them. I like it when they pet me, but they need to respect my space and not get too grabby. My foster mom takes me in the car to pick up her little girls from school, and I am always so happy to see them. I LOVE to go for rides in the car, and if foster mom doesn’t take me along I sulk. I get my favorite duck toy and go in a corner and pout until foster mom comes back. Then she feels guilty (which is exactly how she should feel) and the next time she takes me along.

Well, that’s me – Pepper. I know there are younger dogs available, but I can guarantee that there aren’t any that are more loyal and loving. After all, I’ve had lots of experience in loving my people, and I am very, very good at it!”

In May 2010 Pepper learned that his foster family would also be his permanent family, which made everyone very happy.

Sadly, in mid-April 2012 Pepper died, having lived the good life with his new family until then. Pepper’s mom has created a video tribute to Pepper, which can be viewed via this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJchJIvDV64>



**BFFs Buddy & Pepper**

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## *L-Train Finds a New Life . . .*

L-Train's story started out as a sad reminder that difficult economic times affect animals as well as people. Here is his story from back in 2011.

A bad economy causes suffering for all. Rescue groups are particularly aware of this as they encounter more and more dogs who are being surrendered because their owners are no longer able to care for them. Sadly, L-Train is a good example of this. He and his Aussie pal were owned and loved by a veteran who cared for them throughout their lives. Then this man lost his home and was forced to live with his two canine buddies in a pickup truck. When things got desperate, he appealed to the VA for help and they contacted an Aussie rescue and MWCR to help with the dogs. We know how painful it must have been for this veteran to lose his two best friends, and when L-Train came to MWCR he brought with him five years of vet records, toys, a blanket, and a letter from his owner, explaining the dog's needs and routine. We can only hope that there is consolation in knowing that L-Train is safe and loved. (Excerpted from L-Train's bio on the MWCR Web site)

In September 2011, L-Train went to live with his new family on a farm in North Dakota. Now, eight months later, L-Train is living happily with a canine companion (another Aussie!) and some cats. On the farm there are interesting things such as a huge barn to explore, and there are sheep for L-Train to watch. L-Train's new family sent this account of his life on the farm.

Since L-Train came to our home as the new boy on the block, he seemed to know life was good and that we loved him. He is a true joy as he brings smiles and laughter to our hearts. When we picked him up in Minnesota, he jumped right into the van without hesitation, lay down, and we never heard a peep out of him until we arrived on our farm. How exciting it was for him to meet Renee our Aussie, and, Sam, our dear Collie (whom we adopted from MWCR a year earlier). Sam, being 11 years old, showed all that he was head honcho on this farm and all showed him the respect due him. When Sam passed away one month later, then Renee thought he should be the "boss," but, to no avail--L-Train showed him who was boss.

One day Renee and Train were playing and Renee nipped Train on the left rear leg (a bit too aggressively, I'm thinking) because as I watched out the window you could see Train considering what to do. As Renee walked away with a bit of a bounce (guessing he felt he had secured the boss business), Train went up behind him and nipped him in the exact same place. Well, what a riot that was. Renee jumped and yelped and limped off like the big baby he is and pouted for awhile and decided it just wasn't worth the boss business at all. So, since then Train is the boss and Renee serves.

The first three nights here we tried to let Train stay in the bedroom with us, but he was a bit frightened. So, we let him sleep in our van (familiar territory!) until he became acclimated to his surroundings. He had his new bed, new toys, food dish and water dish. Good grief, in the morning he still didn't want to come out as he just loved his new domain. There he slept each and every night for a week.



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**L-Train & Renee looking smart in their Power Paws!**



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Finally, we decided maybe he would love a dog crate, so off to the store we went and bought an extra large crate, put in his therapeutic bed with blankets, water dish, and toys. We covered it like a den, and Renee's crate was right next door to his. The two cages side by side looked like a huge covered den, and Train just fell in love with his new domain. So, he finally said goodbye to the van and now goes to bed every night in his crate with Renee right next door.

When we groom him and clip his toenails, after we're all done he does a most funny thing. We call it the Collie Polka. We rub his rear end, and he dances for us and looks like he is laughing and having a grand time with all the attention he receives.

Regarding cats? Well, my oh my, he loves our kitten, Mitzee. As Train comes in the house to have breakfast or dinner or just to visit, Mitzee jumps off the chair onto his back and rides until he is serious about eating. She then jumps to her platform on the window and just watches him. When he's finished I'll come into the room, and he is pushing her all over the floor. She just lies on her back as he pushes her under the chair, over the carpet--she doesn't mind. She also does the same thing with Renee. All three get along great.

He is a wonderful companion and listens to us and watches our every move. Today he was so thrilled as he went for a bye-bye ride with Renee. We took a short trip, gave them a little treat on the way, and they both lay down on their therapeutic beds and napped. How they love to ride!

All is well with our new boy, and we love him as if he has been here always. Oh, and I must add, we have hardwood floors, and I purchased **Power Paws†**, which are little socks with rubber on the bottom. Well, when Train and Renee come in they wait for their socks because they know they won't fall, and then they come in and watch TV with us. If interested in them for your Collies, they will take either M or L depending on the size of the Collie. They were designed by a gal whose old dog had arthritis (his name was Woodrow). They are a fabulous product. Just go to the internet and look for Power Paws.

Glenn and I thank you for this wonderful dog and all the new and fabulous people we have met on our journey. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

All our love,  
Glenn, ME, L-Train, and Renee

**†Thank you so much for the tip about Power Paws, Mary Ellen! We have contacted the manufacturer, and are now starting to offer these products on our website! Check out the Collie Shop the next time you need to order more! [http://www.mwcr.org/merchandise.htm#POWER\\_PAWS](http://www.mwcr.org/merchandise.htm#POWER_PAWS)**



## Election Update . . .

MWCR's board of directors thanks the nominating/election committee for their work on the recent MWCR election. The positions of president and secretary were open this year, and the election was held in March, with ballots due in early April. Mary Hickerson and Terry Libro were reelected president and secretary respectively. The committee handled the preparation and mailing of ballots, along with the nomination process.

Thank you!

### MWCR's Board of Directors:

**Mary Hickerson**, president  
**Cindy Willman**, vice president  
**Terry Libro**, secretary  
**Douglas Christman**, treasurer  
**Leslie Ciaccio**, board member  
**Mary Hall**, board member  
**Chris Norman**, board member

Contact the board at:  
[bod@mwcr.org](mailto:bod@mwcr.org) or  
[collietalk@yahoo.com](mailto:collietalk@yahoo.com)

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## No Kill Walk for the Animals . . .

By Terry Libro

It's time to put on those walking shoes and raise funds for MWCR!

MWCR will once again participate in the No Kill Walk for the Animals on Saturday, May 5, at Spooner Park in Little Canada, MN. Spooner Park, 351 Eli Road, is conveniently located off of I-35E north of Saint Paul. The organizers of the walk generously invite nonprofit rescues to participate in the Walk at no cost to the rescues, so all the pledges go directly to MWCR. Can't beat that! Now is the time to contact relatives, neighbors, coworkers, and friends to get those pledges and raise money for our Collies. Fliers, pledge forms, and waiver forms are available on the MWCR Web site:

<http://www.mwcr.org/upcoming.htm>. Simply collect pledges, either cash or checks made payable to Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue, and turn in the funds on the day of the Walk.

Registration for the Walk, which will be held rain or shine, starts at 9 a.m. and the walk starts at 10 a.m. The walk is 1.6 miles in length and is handicapped accessible. Please check the MWCR website in the Upcoming Events section for a map and directions. MWCR will be one of many rescues and vendors to have a booth at the event, so please stop by. Feel free to walk with or without your Collie. If you live outside of the Twin Cities and can't attend the Walk, you can still participate by collecting pledges and walking in your neighborhood. Also, the MWCR website has a donation button for those who want to support walkers and make a pledge online.

We're looking forward to seeing many beautiful Collies participating in the Walk. Although rain fell during last year's Walk, the attendance was great and the atmosphere was joyous. People and dogs had a great time. Let me know if you have any questions ([collietalk@yahoo.com](mailto:collietalk@yahoo.com)).



## An Itchy Situation

Groomer Laura Michlig encounters lots of itchy dogs in her daily work and understands the complexity of the siege of allergies in dogs. Laura says that when people ask "why is my dog so itchy," she asks what kind of food the dog is eating. Many allergies are caused by corn and other grains often found in dog foods.

As a groomer, Laura doesn't diagnose conditions, but she does offer assistance by advising dog owners to get to the root cause of the allergy (food? fleas? a medical condition?) She also offers advice on selecting a shampoo that will help relieve itchy conditions. Her foster Collie Dice had one of the worst allergies: dust mites. Dice was treated to desensitize his allergy and bathed often with a shampoo that Laura found online and matched to Dice's skin needs. Dice's allergy is under control, and he is happy to be rid of that itchy situation.

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## MWCR TRAINING SESSION UPDATE . . .

Registration for MWCR's training session at Rock's Positive Training near Big Bend WI is now open to other rescue groups and other breeds, as well as to other interested dog owners. Participants are invited to register via the MWCR Website: [http://www.mwcr.org/events/Rocks\\_Training\\_Session.htm](http://www.mwcr.org/events/Rocks_Training_Session.htm). The session runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on May 12, 2012. Cost is \$90 per person/dog pair, a special rate offered to rescue groups. A reduced rate of \$45 per person/dog pair is available to the first 10 paying MWCR members and adopters of MWCR dogs. Registration/payment deadline is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Trainer Frank Allison specializes in training dogs with aggression and anti-social behavior problems, which will be the primary focus of this training session. Such training sessions are as much for people as they are for dogs, as trainers always say.

Among the issues to be addressed at the training session are these:

- **Aggression/Fear Involving Men**
- **Aggression/Fear Involving Women**
- **Aggression/Fear Involving Strangers in Neutral Territory**
- **Aggression Toward Other Dogs**
- **Obedience Issues**
- **Socialization**
- **Behavior Modification & Rehabilitation**
- **Barking Issues**
- **Resource Guarding**
- **Food Aggression**
- **Inappropriate Play with Other Dogs**
- **Fear of Loud Noises (Vacuums, thunder, fireworks, etc)**
- **General Anti-Social Behavior**

Allison has been a trainer for many years, having relocated to Wisconsin in 1996 and more recently to Big Bend. His training method is described as a "common sense approach to canine communication," taking a dog's point of view that enables dogs to understand expectations. The training style is described as "hands on" and positive.

