



Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

Finding new hope and new homes for homeless collies.

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MWCR Newsletter, June
Volume 1, Issue 7

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy . . .

By Dr. Ryan Speltz

Summer--what a wonderful time of the year for our Collie pets! The summer for us brings sun and outdoor work, some of which is in our gardens. Did you know there are some great things that are very healthy for your pets that we grow yearly in our Minnesota gardens? For us, we always use a high grade canine and feline diet, but nothing says a happy pet like a fresh garden treat on the side or mixed in with the food they eat. I guess it is like a sweet cob of corn on a hot summer evening with my meal--what could be better? Here are a few great summer-grown treats you're welcome to feed your furry friends in moderation throughout the summer.

1. **Green peas** are a good source of available fiber and vitamin K. When choosing peas, pick ones that are full with peas; pods can be fine but are not full of flavor for your pet. They can be served raw or cooked, with no salt or butter, please, for our friends.
2. **Pumpkin** is rich in fiber and beta-carotene. The pumpkin can make passing dehydrated stool easier in the hot summer months. Keeping the GI tract moving helps keep the cells lining the gut healthy.
3. **Sweet potatoes** are another source of dietary fiber and contain vitamin B6, vitamin C, beta-carotene, and manganese. Sweet potatoes are a great, easy vegetable that keeps months if stored well, and dogs love it.
4. **Green beans** are a good source of plant fiber, vitamin K, vitamin C, and manganese.
5. **Squash** are a great source of very digestible protein and fiber. For some dogs that are prone to digestive upset, squash can give them a little protein/fiber boost.
6. **Apples** are wonderful crunchy treats for your dog. Apples with the skin on are full of plant phyto-nutrients that we think are protective against some types of cancers. They are a source of vitamins A and C and fiber. Remember, though, with apples **no seeds**, for the chemicals in them can hurt the dogs we love; so cut them out, and no cores to the pets please!

This home-grown produce serves the purpose of enjoyable treats that are safe and healthy for our loved ones and also get our pets the fresh food variety that we all love in the summer months. Enjoy!



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**No Kill Walk: May 5, 2012
Allie Mae, Willie, Baxter**



**Emily (above)
Phoebe (below)**



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In the Good Ol' Summertime . . .

As the summer season approaches, the pace of events and activities begins to heat up, too. MWCR has already been part of several events, with many more events planned in the future. Below are some of the events we've been part of, thanks to the members of the fundraising group who attend these events and recruit others to attend as well, represent MWCR, and bring their Collies along to show off their beautiful selves. Photos of some events are included here.

No Kill Walk for the Animals, May 5

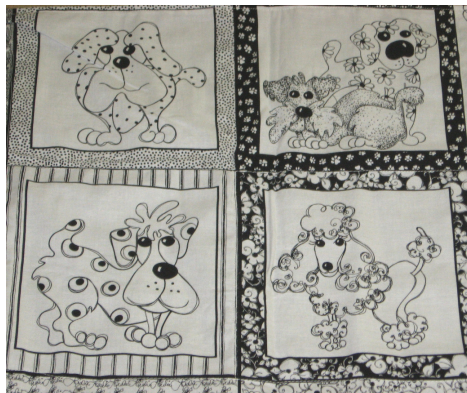
MWCR had a very successful day at the annual No Kill Walk for the Animals, which took place at Spooner Park in Little Canada MN. MWCR was ably represented by Phoebe and her person Judy, Emily and her person Barb, and Willie, Allie Mae, & Baxter with Linda. As usual the Collies looked gorgeous and proud as they joined in the 1.6 mile walk. The walk is held rain or shine, and this year it didn't rain—the rain held off until after the event, so no one took home wet dogs. Nearly 40 rescue groups participated, and even more are expected next year, for which plans are already underway.

Thank you to Terry Libro and other members of MWCR's fundraising group who organized MWCR's participation in the Walk. Organizers of the Walk invite nonprofit rescue groups to participate at no cost, so all proceeds go to the groups themselves. MWCR raised almost \$500 for the Collies. Thank you, all, and thank you to Kitty for the dog biscuits.

Foster Dogs Quilt Donation!!!

MWCR foster homes and foster Collies send sincere thanks to Pam Treiber, whose quilting group created, sewed, and delivered 15 more quilts for foster dogs at the Milwaukee area Collie Frolic on May 20. Pam's group donates the quilts to foster homes so that the foster dogs can use and sleep on the quilts, which then go along to new forever homes when the Collies have been adopted. The fabrics are colorful and the gesture wonderful.

Thank you, Pam, and please convey our thanks to your quilting group! This is the second batch of quilts donated by this group.



Frolicking Collies



Milwaukee Area Collie Frolic, May 20

At Central Bark in Wauwatosa, MWCR Collies and guests, along with their human companions, gathered for an afternoon of running, chasing, barking, sniffing, and playing—well, at least the dogs did. Their people enjoyed a chance to meet other Collie owners, and sample the sandwiches and vegetable trays donated by Sarah and Randy Rebernick and the cool drinks donated by Julie and Dave Lukes. May 20 turned out to be a hot day, but Collies and people could escape the heat in the indoor facility whenever they needed to. Everyone went home with tired, worn-out dogs who enjoyed meeting and greeting so many members of their own kind.

Thank you to all who participated, and especially to Sarah for organizing the event. The Frolic inspired a **Madison** area Collie owner to plan a similar event in the Madison area later this summer, tentatively scheduled for **September 30**. Watch for updates!



Paws on Parade, May 19

MWCR participated in the Paws on Parade walk and fundraiser sponsored by the Heart of Minnesota Humane Society in Hutchinson MN on Saturday, May 19. Robin Kashuba reserved a table for her business and generously shared it with MWCR. Robin, Kitty and Arnie represented MWCR and provided information to interested visitors. MWCR's Jezebel collars were very popular at this well-attended event.

A special pat on the head for Collie Ambassadors Harley -- a stunning white Collie (left, below), and Tristan -- a handsome tri (right). They were quite the people magnets and worked the crowds relentlessly. Good dogs!



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From a Bernese to a Collie . . .

By Vivian Moller

MWCR members:

Information regarding changes in MWCR's bylaws has been mailed to members who are eligible to vote in the balloting.

Ballots must be postmarked on or before June 20, 2012 in order to be counted, and should be mailed to:

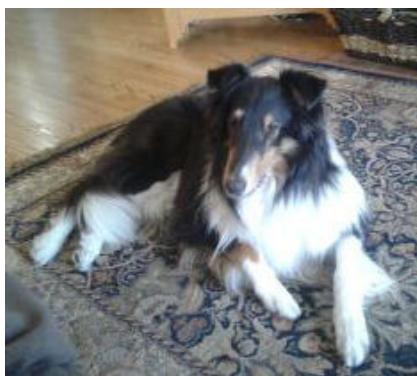
**MWCR
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The proposed changes were suggested to MWCR by an attorney at MAP for Nonprofits; MWCR contracts with MAP for legal and accounting services.

Thank you for voting!

How I got involved in MWCR is a very happy accident. After losing my best buddy Joey, a Bernese Mountain Dog X, in March of 2011, I wasn't too sure whether I wanted to get another dog. But things were just a little too quiet around the house, and I determined that complete freedom wasn't always a good thing. So I began visiting shelters looking for a new best buddy to take home. This is a process that is filled with hope and dread: hope that there will be that instant recognition of a new family member and dread of seeing all the wonderful dogs that are without homes, mostly through no fault of their own.

No luck for about 2 months and then an off-hand comment to a friend resulted in my finding a new Collie companion and Lady's finding a new forever home. You see, my friend gets her car fixed at an auto shop that just happened to be owned and run by Lady's foster family. It just happened that my friend needed an oil change the day after I mentioned that I was looking for a new dog to adopt. Lady, in her transition from being a farm dog to an inside pampered pooch, was in the shop that day getting used to new sounds and meeting new people. Photos were snapped and texted to me with the headline, "She's perfect for you." The rest is history. We met, I passed the application process, and Lady has been with me for about 6 months.



Through Lady's foster mom, I learned more about the great work done by MWCR, became a member, and answered the call when asked to try out the position of Transport Coordinator. I'm pretty new at this and everyone has been so helpful, giving up their time and gas money to help these wonderful animals when I call or send an email.

Thanks in advance for your help when I figuratively come knocking on your door in the future looking for someone to cover a transport leg to assist in getting a collie to a foster or forever home!

Be sure to connect with MWCR on:



<http://www.facebook.com/MWCRcollierescue?sk=wall>

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Leo with Cooper, AKA Sir Barfs-A-Lot



Leo, Cooper and Cody



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Now I Know What a Forever Home IS!

By Leo Bemis



Hi, Leo here. Thought I would let you folks know what I've been doing in my new home this year. It all started with being bounced from home to home my first two years. Then I went to some place different where I was cared for, given a bath and groomed, and told by my foster dad Todd that he was here to help me find that perfect forever home. I wasn't sure what that meant-- another couple of months, then off to a

new place? I liked my foster dad, but I just tried to be a nice boy and sure enough, someone came to see me and brought these two tiny Collies with her. They all seemed to be nice, and the lady really liked me, so off I went to another new home. At first I was worried that I wouldn't get enough food, or someone would steal my only toy, but my new dad started feeding me in a separate room with him, and I got lots of attention and toys when everyone was together. I found that I don't have to worry anymore about stuff like that and I can just be myself.

In a few days I went in the car to meet Dr. P. The girls in the office loved me and I was the perfect gentleman, so things went really well. I didn't even mind the little stick in my leg or Dr. P. looking at my tummy. Then he brought back a book with pictures of something that looked like my itchy spots, and gave Mom some shampoo for me. What's seborrhea?? I think it means lots of baths, but after a new stronger shampoo my baths only come once a month now and I feel great! Dr. P. also brought in a paper that said I was sick and I would have to take pills for at least six weeks, something called Lyme disease. You know, my back end had been feeling a little tender now and then, but after we finished those pills and I went to see the doctor a few more times for more sticks in the leg I felt really GREAT! Is this what a forever home feels like?

I started liking my tiny brothers, and one night when we went out for a potty break before bed something tried to get Cooper from one of the bushes in the yard. He was so scared he didn't even bark, more like a squeak. Well, no one is going to get my friend! I ran through a small table, tossing it four feet to the side, and hit that bush so hard I'm surprised it didn't move too. Cooper got behind me and was saying "Ha, my brother is going to kick your butt!!" as whatever it was ran away fast. Kind of cool, Cooper calling me his brother, and after that he looked to see where I was before starting something, like I was his back-up!

I met a bird, too. It was homeless on Mom's golf course and she brought it home so it wouldn't freeze after finding it on the ground. When Mom cleans the cage the bird sits on top of the cage and watches. That day the bird decided to check out something and flew off the cage, but since his wings are clipped he kind of glided to the floor. I wanted to check him out so I grabbed him out of the air.....Mom turned around and all she could see was flapping wings sticking out of either side of my

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Me & Mini-Me's



MWCR extends sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Ronald Vreeke, who died unexpectedly on May 4. Ron was a Collie owner and former breeder, and after his death MWCR took in his two Collies -- Lila and Jake. Both were adopted by their foster families and are doing well. Ron's family asked that memorials be in the form of donations to MWCR.

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mouth. She told me to "drop it," and I did right away because she seemed kind of excited. The bird was very wet, spitty, and mad, but was unharmed. I was just looking and I do have a very gentle mouth. Mom said it was OK, I was a good boy for minding Mom, but biting family members is not allowed. Then everybody laughed (except the bird) and gave me hugs and all was OK.

Then came a big day for me! Mom called it a Collie Frolic in Janesville, and we all got in the Jeep and drove for a while. Dad walked me around there until I felt comfortable; then let me walk by myself. Everyone was nice there and I only had to rescue Cooper from a bunch of curious Collies once. Dad said it was OK, Cooper (also known as Sir Barfs-a-Lot) was just overwhelmed by all the giants running around, so I just relaxed and walked around. But I was worried and didn't feel like playing because I had seen this kind of thing before, the long drive and lots of strange dogs. Was I being left somewhere again? I was so worn out I fell asleep as soon as I got back in the car, but when I woke up we were back at home... MY HOME!!! I got out and was so happy Mom and Dad noticed right away that I knew I was home. My FOREVER HOME... I know what that means now!! I completely let down my guard, and was free to be my own goofy self and be happy.

There were a few not so fun times for me too, like at Christmas when I was expected to open my presents. This was very scary for me because bad things had happened to me when I was little and I tore up paper. Dad helped me and actually gave me the toy inside the paper, with hugs and nice words. This was very different for me, and I got to practice a few more times at birthdays, too. I got good enough to take the toy out of the paper on my own if Dad helps and it's fun--who would have believed it! Another time I was playing with one of my toys and it flew out of my mouth and knocked a vase off of a shelf. I was terrified, and ran to hide behind the couch. I was so scared I was shaking with fear and wouldn't come out! Mom grabbed me from behind there and held me in her lap, hugging me and telling me over and over that no one would hurt me here ever. After a little while I started to listen to her and I believed her. I felt so much better and now if I have an accident it startles me a little, but I'm not scared anymore.



My tiny old brother Cody was diagnosed with lymphoma on his birthday in February. He goes to a special doctor every two weeks to get a big shot to kill the bad stuff in him, but it makes him sick for a day afterwards. I help him the best I can by staying close to him when he doesn't feel well, and I let him put his feet under my fur when he feels cold. He was even so cold one day he fell asleep with his head on my back, and I just lay there with him until he woke up. I know he likes it when I try to help--that's what brothers

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Training Session at Rock's Positive K-9 Training, May 12

On May 12, 11 dogs and their people attended a session with trainer Frank Allison in the Milwaukee area. Nine of the dogs were MWCR Collies, one was a St. Bernard, and one was a Pit Bull. Most trainers tell us that they are really training people, and this session was no exception. The session lasted three hours and gave each dog/handler pair the opportunity to practice the trainer's approaches. Frank Allison's book (also an e-book) was available at the session, as were collars and leashes and treats (for both people and dogs). Allison's focus is on understanding dog behavior and working with owners to change their dogs' behavior. Subjects covered at the session included aggressive behavior toward other dogs, which seemed to be the most common issue with the dogs present that day. Several photos from the training session are shown at left and below.



Now I Know What a Forever Home IS!

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are for. Mom said I was a very good boy, and she wished she could have gotten a picture but didn't want to wake us. I must be helping because Cody feels pretty good most of the time, and the doctor says he is getting better!

I'm really loving life now. I get to sleep on a waterbed until noon if I want, after I get breakfast and see everyone off to work. Sometimes my sister or my dad stays home with us all day. They take me on nature walks if the weather isn't too hot or wet for us long-haired guys. There are play times in the back yard every day, and Mom brings me new hardwood sticks from work all the time. She knows that a stick is my favorite toy. I'm even getting used to having my feet trimmed, and I help Mom give me my baths by getting in the tub myself. There is even a couch in the living room that is just the right size for me and I'm allowed to relax on it, just like the rest of my family. I think that is the best part for me...MY FAMILY! A happy forever home of my own, what I wished for since I was little. Thank you to all you folks at MWCR for helping my dreams come true.

With a big silly Collie smile,
Leo Bemis

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Striker: Striking a Chord with his Forever Family

Striker, AKA Strike Man, definitely lives up to his name—he is a very striking boy, and he even thinks so himself—he loves to lie by a mirror where he can see his own image. He is a beautiful blue merle boy who came to MWCR because his family no longer had time for him and thought he deserved better than being kept in a crate all day. In his new home, he has endeared himself by having much the same character as the Collie the family lost before Striker came to live with them.

Striker LOVES the outdoors, but when Mom asks him to stay while she walks out the driveway and down the road, he waits very nicely, and when she returns he is so excited he runs laps around the garage barking and smiling, telling her what a good boy he is. He has food and water and a lovely twin size doggie bed in the dining room and also in the garage that he shares with his kitty friend. He loves the garage when the house gets too warm for him, or when the bugs start bothering him outdoors—no flies or mosquitoes allowed!

When his people are home he lies Collie pretty on the front porch or back deck watching the deer eat off the bushes next to him. Sometimes he prefers being outside to being in the house, and when Mom checks on him he's always lying somewhere with his kitty friend. He still ducks his head when someone tries to pet him or raises their arms in an animated conversation or points at something quickly. He still comforts himself by lying in front of the big mirrors in the hallway if he is lonesome or it's storming. When he first came to his new home he either couldn't or wouldn't run, but now he runs and throws toys in the air so high while he "bunny hops" in one place from sheer excitement! He runs a short distance and stops, then turns around and runs back.

Striker LOVES his new dad and doing boy things in the shed, but he also loves office work and girl stuff. He's such a gentle boy. He rides like a gentleman, behaves so well at the groomer's, and has impeccable manners. The people at the kennel where he goes a couple of times a year say he's a gentleman and always so very good.

The photos at left and below show Striker lying by the big mirror he enjoys peering into, sharing his bed with his friend the cat, helping his dad on the computer, supervising in the kitchen while his mom bakes cookies, and just chillin' in the garden with Dad.

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Striking a Chord with his Forever Family

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When Striker was younger, he had some seizures, but there have been no seizures since he went to his new home. He loves the granddaughters who come to visit his home. He has one funny trick—he never gets on the furniture when anyone is home, but when he's waiting for them to return, he waits on the bed until he knows someone is coming, and then he RUNS to his own bed and feigns sleep! Mom and Dad can read the telltale signs of a mussed-up bed, but the sight itself has never been seen. Mom is considering a judiciously placed video camera in the future.

A little dog named Reggie (pictured at left), who belongs to the owners' daughter, comes to visit, and when Reggie arrives, Striker bunny hops around everyone in a circle, waiting for Reggie to chase him. Striker is a peace-loving boy and reacts to raised voices such as someone calling from another room, so everyone is careful to use their indoor voices around him.

Striker's only flaw is his "wet mouth." More water runs out than stays in when he drinks, and no one can hear the TV while he's at the water dish. Mom swears she uses half a roll of paper towels to soak up the flood he leaves as he walks around swallowing. But she also says he's a keeper for sure, and Striker intends to stay right where he is.

Follow lost dog updates on Twitter!

Information about lost dogs will be posted on Twitter, where updates and sightings can be found when a dog is lost in the area. The posts will include dogs from other rescue groups, too. Lost dogs of any breed can always use additional search help. MWCR has live traps that can be loaned as needed for a lost dog search.



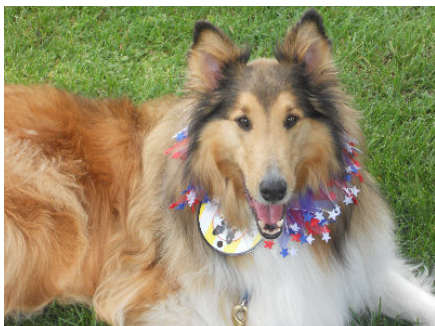
To sign up to follow lost dogs on Twitter, go to this site: https://twitter.com/#!/MWCR_Lost. Enter your information, then click follow.

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**2012 Scottish Fair
Maui, Phoebe (in her
cooler jacket), & Willie,
practicing for 2013!**



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Coming Events . . .

MWCR has a busy time coming up, beginning with the **Minnesota Collie Frolic** at Stone Mountain Pet Lodge on **Saturday, June 16**, from 11:00 to 3:00. Details and registration information are available on the MWCR Website upcoming events page -- <http://www.mwcr.org/upcoming.htm>. This event features lots of Collies, food, games, photos, and other activities! See the flyer on the events page for details.

Other Events (further information will appear on the Web site):

- June 2, Canine Carnival, Wildlife Science Center, Forest Lake MN
- June 23 or June 30, Super Adoption Event, Rochester MN
- June 30, Pet-A-Palooza, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul MN
- July 21, Central Bark Fido Fest, Milwaukee WI
- July 28, Dog Days of Summer Alimagnet, Burnsville MN
- August 4, Dog Days of Stockholm, Stockholm WI
- August 18, Dog Days of Westonka, Mound MN
- August 18-19, Renaissance Festival Shakopee MN
- October 6, Harvest Howl, Wildlife Science Center, Forest Lake MN
- October 6-7, Midwest Pet Expo, National Sports Center, Blaine MN
- November 8, Pause-4-Paws Fundraiser, Medina Entertainment Center
- November, MWCR Annual Dinner and Fundraiser

Scottish Fair and Highland Games, May 19

The Fair seems to be an ill-fated event for the MWCR tent booth! At last year's fair, a huge gust of wind came up and blew down the tent, which was destroyed and could not be used again. And this year??? Well, it was déjà vu all over again! Along came another wind blast that lifted the replacement tent off its tethers and it was up, up, and away! (We think maybe we'll invest in a sturdier tent!)

This event was always Asa's favorite (Asa was Linda's blue merle Collie who sang along with the Roving Minstrels every year). Willie went to the Fair this year but there was no one to sing with this time... He has another year to practice so that he doesn't embarrass his Mom or Asa!

Thank you to the MWCR fundraising group for organizing and attending the event, with special thanks to Linda & Willie; Judith, John, & Phoebe; Cat & Maui; and Terry.

