




Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

Finding new hope and new homes for homeless collies.

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MWCR Newsletter, November 2012 Volume 1, Issue 11



LAST CALL FOR TOON ORDERS!!!!

An order for **McCartney Toon** merchandise will be placed on November 4. If you'd like to place an order, go to <http://goo.gl/kEJP5> or email Deb at webmaster@mwcr.org.

Merchandise for most breeds is also available upon request – email webmaster@mwcr.org for designs for other breeds.

The order will be placed in time for those shoppers attending MWCR's annual fundraiser dinner to pick up their merchandise at the event.

Time flies!—order now!

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MWCR's Great Annual Get-together . . .

Once again it's time for MWCR's annual dinner meeting and fundraiser, coming up on Saturday, November 17, 3:00-6:00 p.m., at the American Legion in Wayzata MN. Online registration is now open on MWCR's Web site: www.mwcr.org. Everyone is welcome—well, except the Collies themselves—no doggies at this event. As always, the dinner meeting is open to the public as well as to MWCR members. Pre-registration by November 5 will help the event planning committee in making decisions about event planning. Directions to the Legion are available on the Web site.

Featured speaker at the event is Ilga Cimbulis, animal communicator, whose Web site, <http://ilgacimbulis.com/>, notes that she is “a Twin Cities-based intuitive consultant, teacher, and animal communicator . . . known for her warmth, down-to-earth approach, and personal integrity.” Ilga offered individual sessions with dogs at the MN Collie Frolic in Blaine back in June. Ilga will be speaking at 4:00 p.m., and the customary lasagna and salad buffet will be served at 5:00, followed by a huge selection of delicious desserts donated by attendees.

A silent auction will be another highlight of the evening. Everyone is welcome to bring items for the silent auction (please identify the items on the online registration form so that the planners know what to expect). Silent auction items will include jewelry from the estate of Shayna Fineman, MWCR member who died in 2008, as well as items donated by attendees. Another featured item is a realistic looking, not quite life-sized plush Collie (or Sheltie, depending on who's looking!). There will be a tempting variety of items available for perusal, along with Kitty's Gray Gables holiday items and Critters & All doggie items. Special orders of Gray Gables items may be requested via the online registration site.

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See you there!



Zee, with his new daddy!



When Zee's new daddy came to meet Zee, foster mom was aghast when Zee barked ferociously as soon as Adrian walked through the door. "Zee!" she said, "You're not making a good first impression!" But Adrian was undaunted, and off went Zee, buckled in with his new seat belt, to his new Minnesota city life.

Adrian was interested in Zee partly because Zee has one blue eye, and Adrian's parents also have a Collie with one blue eye. It turns out that their Collie may well have come from the same South Dakota breeder as Zee. In any case, Zee is busy waking Adrian up early, going for walks and to the dog park. Zee loves playing with the other dogs--until he meets one that's bigger than he is, when he becomes a bit shy--most unlike his usual self. Zee's new life is off to a great start!

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Matching-fund Sponsors Needed! . . .

Give to the Max day (GTMD) is November 15, 2012, and MWCR and Collies alike are scurrying to get ready in time. We have the following things to complete to make this a fantastic day for Collies:

- We still need Matching Fund Sponsors who pledge to donate an amount of money once their challenge has been matched by donations from other sources. These need to be entered on our GTMD site no later than 7-10 days BEFORE November 15th in order to be eligible for the additional prize money. *Please*, if you can be a Matching Fund Sponsor, email webmaster@mwcr.org before November 2nd with the amount you wish to pledge so that your pledged donation will count towards our total.
- Matching Fund Sponsors can also be employers, so that is another avenue for you to explore. If you donate and your employer matches your donation, that would result in triple funds for MWCR when your pledge is matched by other donors! A win-win for Collies!
- Immediately after midnight on November 15, 2012, the clock starts ticking, and donors can now take up the challenge made by the Matching Fund Sponsors.
- **NEWSFLASH!!!** This year there is a NEW option. Beginning November 1 the Give MN Day donation button on the Home and Available Dog pages of our website can be used to plan your donation. As early as November 1, you can make your donation and it won't be charged to your card until 12:00 AM November 15, making your donation one of the first counted towards our cause. This will increase our chances of winning some of the prize money, and you don't even have to stay up past your bedtime to do this!

Bon-Ton Community Days Fundraiser, Nov. 9 & 10

MWCR is participating in Bon-Ton's Community Days fund raiser! You can use <http://goo.gl/Ysigr> to purchase coupon booklets online through **November 1** for the **Nov. 9th and 10th** event. The booklets have coupons worth over \$400 for a \$5 donation. Booklets are shipped free of charge and MWCR gets 100% of the \$5 booklet cost! Share our link with your friends and family! The coupons in the booklet can be used at any Bon-Ton, Bergner's, Boston Store, Carson's, Elder-Beerman, Herberger's, Detroit-area Parisian or Younkers store or online for purchases of regular, sale price and clearance items, including 10% off electronics, fashion watches, furniture & mattresses. The timing couldn't be better to get a jump on your holiday shopping! **100% of the proceeds** from booklet sales will help MWCR. Booklets can also be purchased at participating merchants through Nov. 10.

We're 1/4 of the way to our goal of selling 100 coupon booklets! The in-store sales event is Nov 9th and 10th. If you're out shopping this weekend, I'm sure you can buy them at any of the BonTon family of stores - just make sure you specify MNWI Collie Rescue as your charity. Thank you for helping to make this a successful fund-raiser for the collies!

Buy a coupon book - save money & help a Collie!

Thank you, Sarah, for making the arrangements!



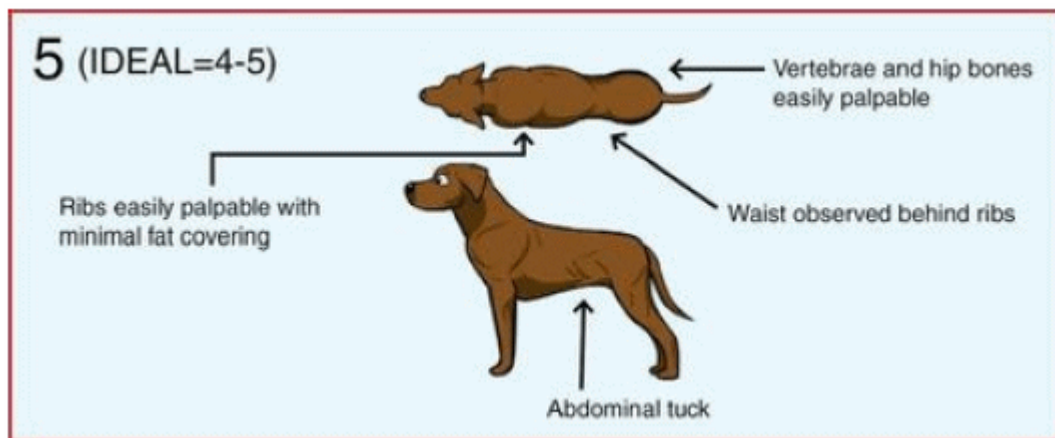
The #1 Pet Health Problem . . .

By Dr. Ryan Speltz

Happy upcoming calories time, everyone! Halloween candy, turkey goodness, then the Christmas cookies--just what we all need, right?

Just like people, our dogs can quickly put on unwanted pounds, especially as they get older and exercise less. In fact, a staggering half of U.S. dogs and cats are now overweight or obese, reports a recent study conducted by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention. Most owners don't even realize what has happened until they take their pets to the veterinarian for a related illness. Overweight and obese pets are much more likely to develop obesity-related health problems such as diabetes, respiratory conditions, arthritis, even behavioral problems. So this is our pets' number one health problem, and probably the most over-looked problem.

Is your dog overweight? Be honest with yourself here, and here's how to tell. It is relatively simple to weigh a small dog/cat at home using bathroom scales. For large breeds, you can run your hands around the dogs' flanks and abdomen area. At ideal weight, you should be able to feel the ribs quite easily, with a thin covering layer of fat. The waistline behind the ribs should be visible when looking down from above, with the abdomen noticeably tucked up when viewed from the side. And of course your veterinarian will let you know, too, if you ask about your pet's weight.



Once we accept the fact that a pet weighs too much, the challenge starts. If we are patient and use the tools available we can help our pets to lose weight, become healthier, and live longer with a lower chance of weight-related conditions.

The first step is make sure your veterinarian agrees that there is no underlying disease

like thyroid conditions, diabetes, or arthritis etc. If nothing medical is present, then the first step is to increase your dog's exercise slowly. And yes, I know, for us that means increasing our personal exercise, too. :o)

A second step is to cut out table scraps and treats, since both of these are often high in calories. I know that it is hard to do when our pets "beg," but we can all tough it out despite those pleading eyes. Another approach is to replace store treats with natural treats like carrots or other nutritious, low-calorie items.

Finally, light diet dog foods can slowly be introduced to help with calorie loss, and there are also prescription diets available. But no "crash" diets, remember, because crash diets are not healthy for a dog's liver and can hurt the psychology of our pets. Successful weight loss is slow and steady, and the secret to success is patience.

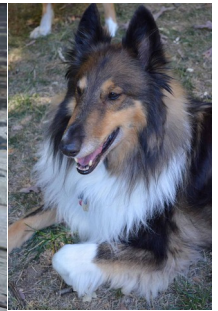
Have a wonderful fall/early winter season, everyone.



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Wisconsin Frolic, Take 2: September 30, 2012 in Madison, WI



Collie-Amities: [events that bring terrible loss or great misfortune as a consequence of the actions of Collies; see calamities]



So, Mom and Dad think they want to try their hand at fostering, do they? We'll just SEE about that! Is this NOT a democracy? Do NOT get a vote? Just LET them try to make sense of this foster manual after I'm through with it! Do you think they'll get the hint?

-- Joley

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More Collie-Amities...



Note: I AM a bird dog! Cody's my name & pheasant is my game, but in the off-season I like to keep my skills honed. Once I retrieved a clutch of duck eggs from a nest near the water and brought them up to the house. I was very careful not to harm them, but Mom said that Mother Duck wouldn't want them back. The gratitude! Well, then can I have them scrambled with a side of bacon?

-- Cody Mae, AKA Mother Goose...er Duck

Mom has a favorite pair of thongs & I am pretty partial to them too. I ate the left one for lunch one day and it was yummy. Mom was a bit peeved, but kept the right thong and was able to find another identical pair. But you know, that new left thong was every bit as tasty as the other one! Now she has two right thongs. She says I did this backwards, as she always says she has 2 left feet! Oh well! Maybe the third time will be the charm!

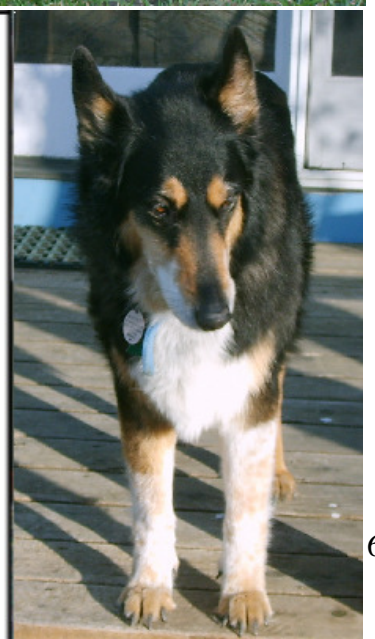
-- Cassie, Mom's 'sole' mate



I don't do topless! Sheesh, how obscene is that? So if I won't do topless, why would I want to ride in a car that is topless?

Mom and Dad have a topless car, a convertible I think they call it, and it is just WRONG! I love to go for car rides, but it has to have a top! I mean, that's a given, right?

-- Muffet



Even More Collie-Amities...



I like to help my foster mom with the gardening. My foster brother, Baxter, showed me how. I walk 'round and 'round her Korean lilac bush, using the lower branches to scratch myself all over, and presto, the branches are pruned and leafless! I hope she appreciates my efforts as much as I appreciate my Scratching Post!

-- Allie Mae, Master Gardener

One night when Dad let me out in the front yard for a call of nature, there was some kid leaning against our front wall smoking a joint! The nerve! I, of course, sprang into action, barking furiously and charging the fence. You have never seen anyone move so quickly *SMIRK*! Little did the twerp know that a Narc Squad Detective is on duty 24/7!

-- Lucy, 'Special' DEA Agent!



Please send us information about your Collies' (or other dogs/cats) antics—lovable or otherwise--and we'll use the photos and stories in future Newsletters. If you have an accompanying caption, that's fine, or our Webmaster Deb will create one. Please send photos and dog tales to Deb at webmaster@mwcr.org. Tales about un-Collies are welcome, too.

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Me and My Sheep...So Happy Together!

By Barb Gibson

Emily is a rescued Collie who was found wandering the streets around Maple Grove MN. She was adopted when she was a little over one year old, and has discovered the passion of her life, sheep herding! She is now a little over 5 years old, and this is the third year she has participated in the Collie Club herding day. The first year she took the instinct test and passed that with flying colors. Last year and again this year she has done a run through with 3 sheep. She brings them around the fenced pen and gathers them up into a group if one strays. She has acquired an adopted brother this year, Laddie. He passed his instinct test this year with Emily cheering him on. She seemed to be saying, "Let me in there, and I will show him how to do it!"

Emily is also in level 3 dog obedience at TCOTC. The next step will be competition obedience. She also passed her Canine Good Citizen test the first time she took it. She has taught Laddie that it is fun to play tug, shake toys around, and chase each other. Playing is her next favorite activity after sheep herding, and she found her perfect companion with Laddie. They take turns playing herd the sheep. One plays the sheep, the other the herding dog, and then they change roles. Laddie is also going to school. He is in Level 2 dog obedience, and is learning to stay, stand, sit, and down along with paying attention, and loose leash walking. Two rescued collies found each other, and are "So Happy Together"!



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Lassie: A Dream Finally Comes True After All These Years!

...By Joan Tadisch, new Intake Co-Coordinator

When we adopted Joley, a Collie mix, from a humane society six years ago, she did not like some dogs. The humane society reported that she was getting a little 'growly' toward some other dogs and should go to a home where she would be an only dog.

Two years later we decided to get a second dog, the "Lassie" Collie I had wanted since my childhood (see the photo from my 5th Birthday Party). I decided to foster for MWCR so that I could see how Joley reacted toward the dog before adopting. When we found a great match for her, we would adopt it. My first foster experience was two collies, Max and Jasmine who were surrendered together. The owner requested that they stay together. I was not ready to adopt two dogs but was excited about fostering so took them in. Joley got along great with Jasmine and pretty much just ignored Max except when she was in a sassy mood. Then while Max was lying down, Joley would stand over him just inches away and stare at him. Max did not like this intimidation and would growl at her. It was obvious to us Joley just wanted to tick him off, and we often had to tell her to leave Max alone.

It did not take long to find a forever home for Max and Jasmine, and I was looking forward to fostering again and finding the Collie we would adopt. Max and Jasmine were only gone a few hours when I walked into the bedroom and found that Joley had destroyed my printed copy of the MWCR Foster Handbook, as if to say "here is what I think of your fostering idea. We're not doing that again." (See Collie-Amities)

Well, though she sometimes tries, Joley does not rule the roost at our house, and we fostered again. Our second foster experience was with a young female sable and white rough Collie, Chloe, that was surrendered when her owner was stationed in Iraq. I was amazed how perfect Chloe was for Joley. Chloe could sense when Joley wanted to be left alone. If Joley ignored Chloe's offers to play, she did not pester her but walked away and would try again later. Within 24 hours I felt 95% percent sure that Chloe would be the Collie we would adopt. After a week with us, I notified MWCR that we were going to adopt her. Chloe (whose name I changed to Lassie because 'Chloe and Joley' is a bit of a tongue twister - say that 3 times real fast) respected Joley, and Joley respected her for that.

I now had the "Lassie" dog I wanted since I was a child but enjoyed fostering and continued to help find good homes for Collies needing one. With each new foster dog, Joley became better and better with other dogs. Now, a dozen foster dogs later, including another adoption (Rusty), Joley gets along with all dogs.



Winston's Story

By Cathy Cosgrove

Editor's Note: *Winston went to his new home with the Cosgrove family in summer 2008 when he was six years old. He was described by his foster family as a happy, playful, loving Collie who would be a perfect addition to almost any family, and that turned out to be true for his new family. Winston's mom Cathy picks up the story from here.*

In June, 2010, Winston developed a tumor on his right rear leg, which our veterinarian removed. At the time, we explored the possibility of radiation and/or chemotherapy but specialists indicated that it was a low grade, localized tumor and follow-up after surgery was not going to significantly improve the prognosis for recurrence. Now, in the last three weeks (August) he has had a recurrence lower on the leg just above the paw. Today I received the news that further surgery will not remove all the tumor and there is the probability of causing blood circulation problems and lymph draining issues. Radiation would not be considered because the tumor wraps around more than one side of the paw, and chemotherapy beads in such a small area would cause issues with the incision's proper healing. The best prognosis for cure would be amputation of the leg. The veterinarian said amputation would be at the femur, which she considered the better outcome, and not the hip.

At this point, we had two choices for Wins, and neither was one I wanted to make. The veterinarian said Wins was not experiencing the pain of bone cancer but most likely a throbbing in his paw, for which he was on pain medication.

Note: At this point, Cathy e-mailed Laure Victor, who was adoption coordinator when Winston was adopted, and asked if other MWCR members had had experience with similar amputations. Cathy continues:

I received several responses from your [Laure's] e-mail to members and responded to each person. Even before I received feedback, my husband and I decided to have the surgery for Wins.

On September 7 we traveled to our veterinary clinic in Blaine where we were given the news that the only option to save his life was to remove his leg. Of course, we were devastated. That was an option we had never considered. However, as bad as that news was to us, Wins' veterinarian said that everything else was good news for removing the leg: the tumor was low in his paw, it was most likely a low grade recurrence, his other limbs had good range of motion and strength to keep him mobile afterwards, it was a back leg and it would be a femoral amputation rather than at the hip. The word that convinced me was the vet said this was the "curative" treatment in this case. While I could see my husband was not comfortable with the surgery, he was adamant that we would not put Wins down because he was so healthy otherwise.

Of course to add to this, my husband and I were scheduled to be on a trip, so we scheduled the surgery for the day after our return, which gave us more time to digest the situation. The vet said Wins was most likely not in terrific pain but was experiencing a throbbing in his paw because the tumor was growing in such a confined space. I'd had a knot in my stomach since our local vet said it was a recurrence and so low in the paw that she was not comfortable doing the surgery and referred us to another clinic.

The thought of being out of town and having Wins boarded with the tumor still in his paw and in pain was not sitting well with me. When I talked again with my local vet, she mentioned that if I could schedule the surgery the week before we left town, her clinic was prepared to do the "after care" for Wins, including taking care of him and giving him "rehab" for that week of boarding. That was the first time I felt some easing of the knot in my stomach. I felt that I could handle Wins' "recovering" the week we were gone rather than being boarded with a painful paw, then taken to another hospital for surgery, and then recovering after that.

(Cont'd on Page 11)

Winston's Story (Cont'd from Page 10)

On September 13, Wins had his surgery around 5:00 PM, so we did not pick him up until around noon on Sunday, the 16th. The vet said everything went well, and since he was not pressed by other emergencies he had the time to suture the incision rather than using staples. He said Wins was being a typical Collie trying to figure out where his leg was and what the sling was all about.

When we picked him up he was of course weak and unsteady, but I realize now that most of that was the pain patch on his hip and pain medication by mouth. We got him home, helped him into the house, and settled him in the living room. He lay and watched us as usual, and when I got up and went into the kitchen, he followed me! At that point the knot left my stomach, and I knew we were on the road to being as normal as possible. The next day, we brought him to our local vet and boarding suites and settled him in for the week (where he has been boarded before, and been to doggy day care and knew all the staff). The boarding suites director said they would get him into a routine and handle him with all their knowledge and compassion, and I would be surprised at his progress in one week.

We went on our trip and I was able to call every day to check on Wins' progress to make sure he was eating, drinking, and going to the bathroom okay. The kennel assistants were very positive and said he was improving every day. When I went to pick Wins up, I could feel the tears come as he came down the hall towards me. I was amazed at how much his strength improved and by his comfort level in moving around.

We had a good week after our return home. When Wins went back to our local vet to have his incision checked two weeks after surgery, my local vet said everything looked great.

We are having a beautiful fall weekend here, and Wins and I have already been on two walks this morning. I have walking trails in the woods behind my house, and he wants to go back to our normal walking routine, but short and frequent are his new "normal" for now. He is sleeping right now. He has only two more days to go on his pain relief medication. Wins has to be walked on a leash for four weeks after his surgery. I carry the sling with me when we walk, but as the week has progressed I have used it less and less. He is doing wonderfully, and now I just have to make sure we don't do too much and get him overtired and sore.

Now, in late October, I see Wins getting stronger and moving faster by the day. Wins and I have always spent a lot of time walking the trails in the woods behind the house. Last weekend we walked for an hour on Saturday and Sunday, enjoying the fresh air and the daylight – especially since our weekday walks are usually in the dark before and after work. I admit our walk was not an hour of continuous walking. We stopped frequently and I let Wins set the pace. But he surprised me several times by lagging behind to sniff something, and the next thing I knew he was right beside me. He can move when he wants to!

During the weeks following his surgery on September 13, I told myself I would know Wins was back to his own sweet self the day he wanted to go to his toy basket and pull out a toy. I am happy to say that day came on October 15. When I came home from work he met me at the door and then made his way over to his toy basket and brought me his stuffed lion. I was absolutely thrilled and I am so thankful he wants to do the same things he enjoyed prior to his surgery.



Winston in Summer 2012



The Wolf in All of Us....A-rooooooooooooooooooooo!!!

By Willie Riegger



Now that I'm almost a certified Bark Avenue TDInc. Therapy Dog, I got to go to meet the wolves at the Wildlife Science Center annual Bark Avenue Potluck. The wolves all thought I was pretty darn cool - especially one cute and flirty little Mexican Grey Wolf. She thought I was as hot as a chili pepper! Yowza!



Name That Wine! . . . A New Venture for MWCR

MWCR will soon be partnering with BenefitWines, “a fundraising program . . . for non-profit organizations to raise funds through the sale of fine wines” (<http://www.benefitwines.com>). Six different wines will be available, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Malbec. The company, located in Winchendon MA, is described as “America’s Charity Wine Shop.”

As we get ready to launch the wine sales program, we are busy selecting unique names for each of our wines and the winery itself. The company prepares the labels for the wine bottles, but MWCR selects the graphics, the information on the back of the wine bottle, and the names of the wines. Once we’ve selected the names and the company has prepared the labels, a link and banner advertisement will be posted on MWCR’s Web site directing viewers to the BenefitWines Web site page dedicated to MWCR’s wine selections. We hope to have the wines available in time for the holiday season. We’ll drink to that!



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How They're Doing Now . . . Milo, Chester, Andy

Milo, Chester, and Andy have all been featured in this newsletter before, telling the tales of the traumas each suffered before coming to MWCR. Life is much better for all three now, and here's an update.



For a while it seemed that Milo might always be sans a typical rough Collie coat. He had to be almost completely shaved after he was rescued, and with everything else his body had to cope with—repeated dental surgeries among them—his coat just didn't seem to be a priority. But now, with the last surgery behind him—still some sutures to dissolve—his coat is coming back nicely. Foster mom says he is becoming a real Collie, too, “forgetting” his name and having to be led out of the dog park because he wants to stay and play some more. This means he's really healing and becoming himself with a distinct Milo personality. And then, on October 21, Milo had a really big day; he got to meet sheep in the field and try his paw at herding them. He'd seen sheep before but hadn't been allowed too close because of his compromised health. Foster mom watched him closely and took him out before he got too tired, since he's not yet 100% healthy. But that day was a VERY exciting day for Milo! He's showing off his new coat in the photo above, too.



Chester's foot has continued to heal, but recently it became obvious that he needed further surgery to remove pieces of bone that were “floating” in his foot. X-rays showed that the open “raspberry” looking spot on his foot was caused by bone fragments that were trying to work their way out of his foot. So, two weeks ago, Chester's foot was opened again to remove the fragments. The surgery meant that he was back on antibiotics and pain meds, and bandages that needed changing often. Now, though, foster mom reports that Chester's foot is healing again, and she says she hadn't realized how uncomfortable the bone fragments were making him until they were gone. Now he's feeling much better, and the dime-sized open spot on his foot continues to heal and become smaller. In about two weeks, Chester and his doctor will figure out what kind of boot will be best for him to wear permanently, either a fabric boot or the plastic boot he used previously. The plastic boot would need to be refitted to allow for changes in his foot. In either case, Chester will need new boots on a regular basis for all his life. Meanwhile, Chester is a busy boy (see his picture left and in Collie-amities), and keeps foster mom guessing what he will be into next.

Andy, who came to MWCR with three tick-borne diseases along with heartworm, to top things off, is now finished with his treatment and is recovering his general health. For the first 6 weeks of his new life, Andy was treated for Lyme, anaplasmosis, and erlichia. Andy's doctor said

(Cont'd on Page 14)

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How They're Doing Now . . . cont'd from page 13



Andrew Oct 2012

she'd never before seen a dog suffering from all three diseases, to say nothing of being heartworm positive at the same time. Once Andy's condition had stabilized and he was ready, he underwent treatment for heartworms. Heartworm (HW) treatment is severely taxing to a dog's health and can be fatal, as is the disease itself. Andy's HW treatment followed the American Heartworm Society's recommendation that he be treated first with doxycycline and steroids before receiving the first of three injections to kill the heartworms. Andy is still on Prednisone for another week or so, and then he's done. The Prednisone has made him ravenously hungry and thirsty, but within a couple of weeks of ceasing the meds, those effects will be gone. Meanwhile, Andy's new people said the

hardest part was keeping him quiet, as is necessary during HW treatment. Despite being about 8 years old, Andy is a lively boy, and being quiet was not a state he was interested in. Now, with the treatment all but finished, Andy is loving his new, healthy life.

Dante – Full Circle . . .

By Laure Victor

Dante arrived in our lives in February of 2007, along with his feline friend Sunny. We were just fostering them when they arrived, but I knew right away they were not going to leave, though it took me weeks to convince Jeff that we needed another dog and cat. After all, Shalamar, CeeCee and Gizzy needed someone to play with!

Dante and Sunny came to us because their owner was going to be working in Italy for several years. Dante had already spent several years in Europe traveling the countryside by train and bike, but this time he couldn't go along. His owner told us that Dante was named after the Italian poet, Dante Alighieri. (Jeff and I thought he was named after Daunte Culpepper).

As the years passed, our "Motley Crew" had its ups and downs. Sunny went missing in action, Dante had a stroke, was diagnosed with a heart condition, and was put on thyroid medication. CeeCee broke her leg 3 times in 2 months. Then, Dante turned 10 this past March and was diagnosed with arthritis. We installed the ramp we had used for CeeCee and covered all the floors with carpet or rugs. Dante also had chiropractic visits once or twice a month at our home. Even so, Dante's quality of life was not there anymore, so we made arrangements for our vet to come to our home to help Dante to the "bridge." I took a week off work to spend time with Dante, but having made the call to the vet in advance so Jeff could take off work, I was an emotional mess. Finally we decided to cancel the vet visit and vowed that we would carry him, if need be, til he took his last breath. (Cont'd on Page 15)

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Sunny & Dante in 2007



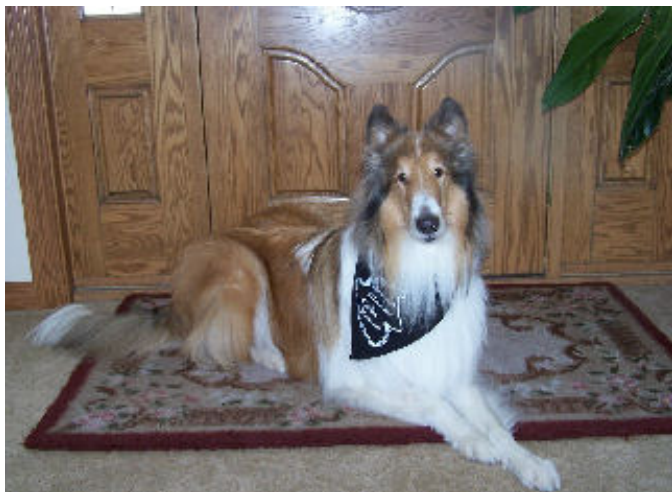
Dante – Full Circle (cont'd from Page 14)

On August 12, I was outside playing with the dogs. Dante was lying on the grass when I noticed he was moving his head in an odd way. Running over to him, I realized he was having a seizure. Since he had never had one previously, I felt that this was the end, but Dante came out of the seizure quickly. After my neighbor and I took him in the house, I stayed with him for several hours to make sure he was resting.

During that same time, I had missed a call, and when I checked our messages, I was overwhelmed to hear Mark, Dante's past owner, on voice mail. He had recently returned to the U.S. and said he had a strong feeling about Dante that morning and had to call. After I had an emotional meltdown, I called Mark back. Mark told me that he thought about Dante so often during the years they had been apart. After I explained to Mark what had happened that morning, I invited him to visit. He came several days later, and it was a very emotional reunion for both Dante and Mark. It was like Dante had been waiting for Mark to return; the reunion was simply amazing.

Because of Dante's health, and because he might not have much time left, Jeff and I decided to ask Mark if he would like to have Dante back (Mark knew about Dante's health issues). He said yes, and Dante went home with Mark the next week.

Since Dante's departure, we have talked with Mark often, and Dante has come back to visit several times. Dante's vet, who practices both eastern and western medicine, gave Dante a complete examination which, along with x-rays, revealed that Dante doesn't have arthritis. Instead his lameness is a result of the earlier stroke. Dante is now on different medications, has acupuncture weekly, and will be starting water therapy to gain strength in his back end. Dante spends both days and nights with Mark, and they will soon be moving to a location closer to Dante's vet clinic.



Coming Event . . .

November 8 Pause 4 Paws Fundraiser, Medina Entertainment Center, Medina MN, 5:00 – 10:30 p.m., buffet, silent auction, live auction, live music, information tables featuring rescue groups. MWCR will be there!

Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue
1600 18th Ave. NE, Box 68006
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Rescue Line: 612-869-0480
mwcr.org



Harvest Howl: Wildlife Science Center

October 6, 2012



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