

Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

Finding new hope and new homes for homeless collies.

<i>Adopting an Older Dog</i>1	<i>Spark in our Workplace</i>6
<i>Going to the Dogs</i>2	<i>Duke, the Dog with 9 Lives</i>8
<i>Pet Bed Alert</i>3	<i>Bloat: Signs, Symptoms</i>9
<i>Novartis News</i>4	<i>Collie-amities</i>10
<i>Wild About Reggie</i>4	<i>What's in that Bag?</i>11
<i>Farm Dog to City Pooch</i>5	<i>Takin' Care of Business</i>12

MWCR Newsletter,
January 2013 Volume 2,
Issue 1

Happy Collie Days..... 13
Unforgettable Father's Day. 21
A Star's Update: Spike..... 22

Some of MWCR's Available Senior Dogs: Basie (top) Pippa (center) Baby (bottom)



The Wisdom of Adopting an Older Dog . . .

One of the realities of rescue work is that older dogs often go for long periods of time without finding a new home where they will be loved for the rest of their lives. Adopters prefer younger dogs for many reasons, including the possibility of expensive veterinary care and the pain of losing the dog too soon. But there are plenty of reasons to adopt an older dog, too. The Senior Dogs Project Web site lists several reasons, among them these:

- Older dogs are exactly what they seem to be when they go to a new home; they have already grown into their personalities. Unlike younger dogs, their personalities are not likely to become different from the way they currently are.
- Older dogs are used to being with humans; they don't require long adjustment periods to get used to the way their people do things.
- Older dogs make fewer demands on owners' time than younger ones.
- Rescued older dogs are grateful to have another chance at a good life with people who love them. They have lots of love to give and are truly generous with that love.
- They settle into a household more easily than younger dogs because they know how to get along with a human pack or a pack that includes other dogs.
- Older dogs are mellower, and that makes it easier for them to fit into a new household.

The ASPCA lists another reason to adopt an older dog. While young dogs usually require a long period of commitment, 10 or even 15 years, older dogs are more suitable for people with uncertain long-term plans. Besides, older dogs require less expenditure of human energy because they have less energy of their own and demand less of their people's time. When their people come home after an already demanding day, older dogs demand only their people's love and companionship rather than needing to burn off excess energy.

The Senior Dog Project Web site reminds us that adopting an older dog also makes "a statement about compassion and the value of all life at all ages" and protests "against the indiscriminate and inhumane breeding of dogs." Older dogs still have the rest of **their** lives ahead of them, and adopting one can give that dog the best years of his/her life. The site also reminds us that adopting an older dog who might otherwise be euthanized is a step toward the goal of becoming a no-kill nation. Good advice indeed.

(Cont'd on page 2)

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Rescue Line: 612-869-0480
mwcr.org



More of MWCR's Available Senior Dogs:
Allie Mae (top)
Mariah (bottom)



Some of MWCR's "Working Dogs"
Boss Riley in his Office



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The Wisdom of Adopting an Older Dog . . . (Cont'd from page 1)

The site also answers some common questions about adopting an older dog, including these.

Don't older dogs cost more in vet bills?

..... **Answer:** Veterinary attention and medication are needed at all ages and may or may not be more costly for an older dog. **Before you adopt a senior, be sure you get a health report from a veterinarian.** That way, if you discover that the dog has a health problem, you can decide if you are able to make the needed financial commitment before making an emotional commitment.

Do older dogs have any "special needs"?

..... **Answer:** With a health assessment of the dog, you will know whether any age-related conditions are present and you can take appropriate measures to address them. Otherwise, older dogs need all the things younger dogs do -- good nutrition, exercise (although less intensive, usually, than for a younger dog), and regular visits to the vet. The "**Care**" pages at <http://www.srdogs.com/Pages/care.fr.html> provide further insight into maintaining an older dog's health.

Isn't it true that you can't train an older dog the way you can train a puppy?

.....**Answer:** Dogs can be trained at any age. The old adage, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" just isn't true. Read the case study of "**Autumn**" <http://www.srdogs.com/Pages/sdrl.a.html#Autumn>, who was called "Stupid" by her family for the first ten years of her life. She was adopted at the age of 10 by a caring person and at age 14 was winning awards for being first in her obedience class. Also see the notes on "Training." (*The Senior Dog Project Web site can be found at www.srdogs.com.*)

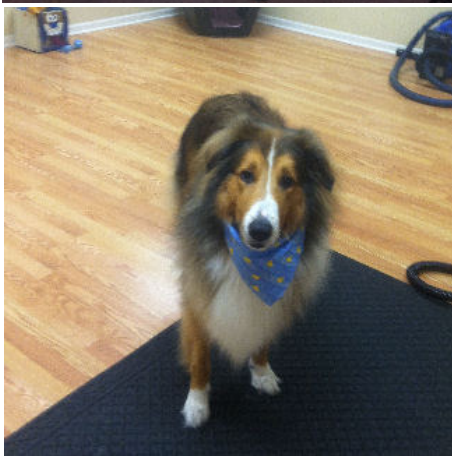
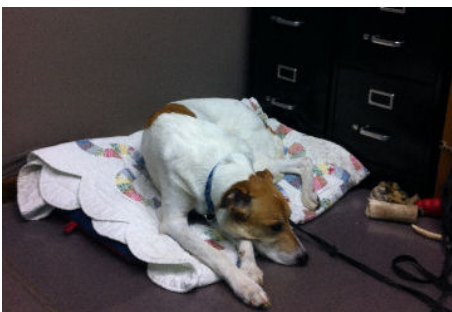
Going to the Dogs . . .

There's been lots of news lately about dogs going to work with their people, and of course Collies have joined the trend. Take Your Dog to Work Day has been around for a while, but more recently the trend is to allow dogs in the workplace or place of business at any time. Among the benefits of allowing dogs in office/retail settings are creating a positive and welcoming atmosphere, increasing employee morale and motivation, lowering stress, breaking down typical office barriers, encouraging employees to take work breaks with their canine companions, cutting down on tardiness and absenteeism, creating a healthier environment with fewer coughs and headaches, and even increasing worker productivity—the magic words in today's economic environment. “Shop dogs” who go to work with their owners in retail shops often change the dynamic when customers are greeted by a friendly dog or can interact with a dog behind the counter.

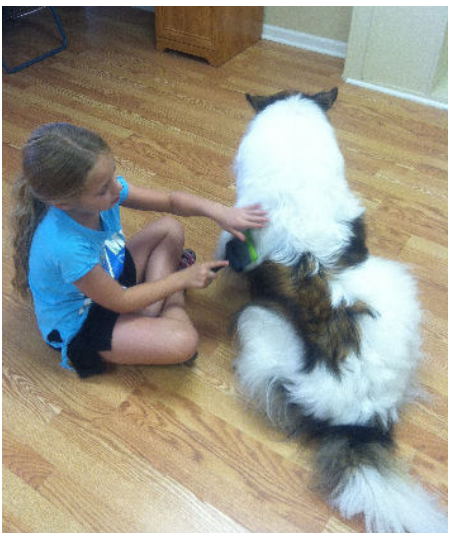
Companies that allow dogs at work sites include Google, Ben and Jerry's, and Amazon, with an estimated 1.4 million dogs welcome at offices. Estimates vary depending on which source is doing the calculating, of course. Some sources say

(Cont'd on page 3)





Dakota, training an apprentice



Going to the Dogs . . . (Cont'd from page 2)

that one in five businesses welcome dogs in the workplace. The number of small businesses or shops that have shop dogs is harder to calculate since such arrangements are usually rather informal.

Articles in Internet and print media give plenty of advice to employers and employees about setting things up so that both people and dogs enjoy the experience at the office.

From the employer's perspective, advice includes:

- setting ground rules and having a company policy about pets in the office;
- setting trial periods for dogs coming to the office for the first time;
- considering legal issues such as liability and property damage prior to inviting animals into the office;
- requiring that dog owners have appropriate insurance coverage;
- avoiding ADA violations where there are employees with allergy issues;
- setting boundaries about dog free areas—for example, no dogs in eating areas or restrooms.

From the employee/dog owner's point of view, more advice:

- set up a place for the dog, such as blankets or a pet bed, rather than allowing the dog to select a place, thus avoiding territory issues;
- know the dog well enough to understand how the dog will react in an office or retail setting; some dogs are not well suited to being in such a setting;
- be responsible for the dog's behavior and comfort during the entire time the dog is at the office;
- give the dog breaks by going outdoors for potty breaks or times to be alone with the owner;
- avoid feeding the dog at the office, since food can create issues between dogs;
- set up a common water bowl where dogs can occasionally meet and greet one another;
- keep the dog leashed in areas where other employees are present;
- have a baby gate or a crate handy to keep a dog confined when the owner is out of his/her space for any length of time.

When both business and dog owners take a thoughtful approach to having dogs in the workplace, the results are positive for both humans and canines.

Alert! Toxic Chemical in Pet Beds and Chew Toys

Pet beds and chew toys advertised as antimicrobial or antifungal are likely to contain the chemical product **triclosan**, which belongs to "a class of synthetic chemicals that scientists term endocrine disruptors" and can interfere with thyroid function, brain function, and insulin regulation. An article by Susan McGrath in **The Bark** warns about the dangers of this chemical, which is commonly used in anything labeled antimicrobial or antifungal.

Coming Events . . .

Great Lakes Pet Expo
WI Exposition Center
West Allis WI
February 2, 2013
10:00 – 5:00

**Cudahy Kennel Club Collies
Only Specialty Event**
February 2-3, 2013
3820 S Pennsylvania
St. Francis WI

*MWCR needs WI event
coordinators! If interested,
please contact us at
bod@mwcr.org*

Twin Cities Pet Expo
Minneapolis
Convention Center
March 23-24, 2013
MWCR will have a
Booth!

Take Your Dog to Work Day
June 21, 2013
Go, Collies! Work Hard!



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News About HW Prevention Meds for Collies . . .

By Dr. Ryan Speltz

Here is the latest news on product shortages from Novartis, the maker of Interceptor. Novartis states that "various stages of pre-production and production have begun for some Novartis Animal Health brands. Production, packaging, and shipping of the 5mg strength of Clomicalm® (clomipramine hydrochloride) is now ongoing at the Lincoln plant, and shipments of that stock keeping unit (SKU) began in mid-June. We also have initiated validation batch production of Sentinel® (milbemycin oxime / lufenuron) Flavor Tabs® at the plant, a critical phase of process testing that is required before full-scale production can begin. As we validate, technical issues do arise. Due to the evolving situation at the plant, we cannot give exact dates when product will be shipping but hope for Spring 2013."

Basically what this means is that Sentinel has a very good chance of being released in four to five months, but unfortunately Interceptor does not. Veterinary clinics are told that Novartis is re-formulating Interceptor in a newer, stronger version, but hopes of its being available in 2013 are not good.

So, for 2013 we will be hopeful to get Sentinel and Trifexis.

(Editor's Note: There is information about Trifexis at this URL:
<http://www.askavetquestion.com/news/2012/trifexis-side-effects/>.

Everyone's Just Wild About Reggie . . .

We got our Reggie from MWCR in the fall of 2008. He is now 10 years old. When he came to live with us, there was documented information that he ran away from 8 different homes, but he has stayed with us. In visiting several very large dog parks, we have discovered that he gets disoriented when he races around, and, in combination with his fear/aggression toward thunder, we think he previously got lost, rather than "ran away."

He travels from Nebraska to Pueblo, CO with us several times a year and seems to love the trip and the activity. He is a little arthritic, so we have purchased a ramp for him to get in and out of the car. He has a new companion dog, Lindy (a rescue who might be older than Reggie), and he loves watching and "talking to" the squirrels when they are in the back yard.

Thank you so much for Reggie. He is one of the most beautifully-colored collies we've ever seen, and he is so friendly to humans as well as dogs. At dog parks, he makes the rounds greeting every human there, and then he makes the rounds greeting the other dogs. He has given us much love.

With sincere appreciation, Jane O'Leary



From Farm Dog to City Pooch . . .

By Nancy Kittredge, with Cody



Cody is doing well. From day one he seemed to understand that he was here to stay. During the first week he kept an eye peeled for you guys [his foster home], but he wasn't moody or sulky about it. He was a little food aggressive at first, but once he understood food came regularly he's backed off and seems to be fine about it, although he always scopes Rocky's bowl to make sure nothing was missed.

All your good work helping him lose weight was undone with training treats in the first couple of weeks. Cody won't cooperate in training activities unless there's something in it for him. He's been back on a diet, and I think he's close to where you had him. The green beans help, and we've discovered he'll go for them as training treats too.

The dog door has been fabulous for him but tricky for training. Every time he felt overwhelmed with what we were asking of him he would bolt for the backyard. The good news is that now he only leaves the room, which we consider a victory in and of itself. One of his favorite things to do, though, is to stand in the kitchen with his head hanging out the dog door. He'll do this for really long periods of time, just keeping an eye on everything. I think our heating bill will be high this year!

He only comes when called about 80% of the time but usually responds when it's important. He's a bit more reluctant with Vince even though Vince is the great Bringer-of-Food. He is still suspicious of our motives and pretty cautious altogether, but he still asks for attention on his own. He's cooperative but not friendly about most grooming, but he's pretty unhappy about the toothbrush.

He's been out on a leash some now. He's still not good at it, and we had to change his collar out for something called a Martingale collar so he can't slip out of it. He was the master of the reverse and twist to escape, and this one prevents that. Fortunately he never headed for the hills when he slipped his collar, just the nearest squirrel. Leash training is going slowly. His tendency is to run until the leash jerks him back, then turn back to you and stop; then he can't figure out why you're walking in the direction you so clearly didn't want him to be going a moment ago. Poor baby. He has been to the small dog park which is now free and clear of squirrels, thank you very much. By next summer we think we'll be ready for the big dog park. He's not so much about the dogs there but the romping seems fun. We're wondering how he'll do with water as the big park has a large pond. I'm still trying to provide some fun car ride destinations so the vet won't be a traumatic experience. We're also thinking about sending him to the groomer before the holidays, so I don't want that to be what makes all car rides bad.

He still loves being outside, but he's established his favorite spot on the living room couch and can be found there most times. We still can't get him up on the beds, but I think he can't jump. He's not really built for it being as long as he is with his swayback, and I suspect he never had to learn it. I think we're going to try some steps for him as he's big on cuddling.

(Cont'd on page 6)

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2012 Persy Award

MWCR is pleased to announce that the 2012 Spirit of Perseverance Award goes to Deb Smith, our talented and tireless Web master. The Persy award is given each year to someone in MWCR who represents the spirit and generosity of our volunteers/members. The list of things Deb does on behalf of the Collies is too lengthy to include here (some of them are listed in MWCR's annual holiday letter), but we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Deb for her many contributions to the Collies. She does a wonderful job of formatting this Newsletter, too.



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From Farm Dog to City Pooch . . . (Cont'd from page 5)

He's still hell on toys but the rate of total destruction has dropped. He and Rocky get on well enough and romp occasionally. There have been very few disputes since the early days, and they both seem okay with the terms of the agreement they've come to.

All in all, we're thrilled. He's a very sweet dog with no bad habits and has immediately become one of the family. Thank you again for all the good you did him.

Editor's note: Cody came to MWCR as a farm dog who had never worn a collar or seen a leash or been in a house or ridden in a car. He was also quite overweight. Thanks to lots of work with Cody by his foster family, he found out that being in a house with people and lying on a soft, fluffy white rug was just lovely. He also lost weight and got rid of all the knots and mats he came with. Now he and his farm sister Tobi (featured in the December 2012 Newsletter) have both found new homes.

The Spark in Our Workplace: Spark-A-Doodle!

By Nancy Soucek

My boss took this photo of Sparky (left) when he was at work with me. We can't imagine what we did without him. He has filled out nicely, his coat is so full and glossy and he eats all his meals, even looking for a little extra. Other than an ear infection, which I think he got from water in his ear when I had him groomed, he has been doing well. He hangs out with us and wants to be nearby. He still doesn't go upstairs, sleeping at the bottom of the steps at night. He is not a big fan of having his feet wiped off, but we are working on that.

Heart is enjoying the cooler weather. They get along, and Sparky plays the trickster, teasing her until she starts to play and chase him. He runs circles around her, but she is wily and knows how to conserve her energy, while still holding her own. She acts like she is above playing fetch and with toys, but butts in when Sparky is playing with one. If she takes an antler away, he just goes and gets another one. What a sweetheart, so easygoing.

A coworker started calling Sparky "Spark-a-doodle" and that seems to be his new nickname. The kids love him and he is so tolerant of them, following them around and putting up with all kinds of hugs.



Merry Christmas to all the great people who helped me find my forever home! Here's a photo of my new mom, dad, sister, Heart, and me! Thank you for all that you do. ~ Sparky

New Merchandise in the Collie Shop!

In the past month we have gotten a few new things in our Collie Shop.

- BooBooLoon inflatable collars to replace Elizabethan Collars. These collars protect the dog from injuring itself, while not impeding movement like the cones do. At present we are stocking Medium and Large sizes. If these are popular and there is sufficient demand, we will consider ordering other sizes in the future. Pictured at top left.
- Collie NoteCards depicting the artwork of dog artist M.K. Zeppa. These come in boxes of 8 cards with envelopes and stickers. 3 designs available. Rough sable & white pictured at left.
- Collie coasters also depicting the artwork of M.K. Zeppa. 3 designs available. Rough tricolor and Blue Smoothie pictured at left.
- Message boards showing a handsome threesome (pictured at left) of M.K. Zeppa's collies in front of a (MN or WI?) lake.
- In the coming weeks, we shall also receive a few of the Carolina Blue Hoodies with two new designs.
- Also, as a reminder, we sell cremation urns, keepsake urns, and keepsake jewelry designed to hold a tiny amount of cremains, fur, or other mementos of your beloved pet. Items come in many designs suitable for most any species of animal, and recently we sold an urn to a family in Texas who lost their beloved pet frog Emma.



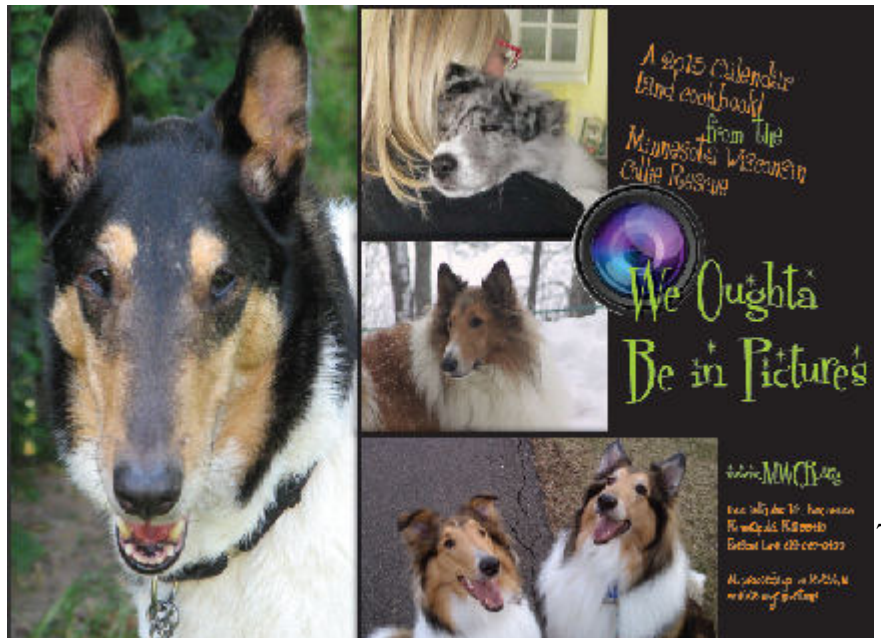
We Oughta Be In Pictures!!!

And don't forget to order your fabulous 2013 MWCR Calendar featuring beautiful Collies strutting their stuff, proving to all that they indeed **Oughta Be In Pictures!!!** Also featured are dog biscuit recipes touted by the Collies as being among their faves of healthy treats.

For purchases in smaller quantities, the price includes shipping to destinations within the United States. For purchases of 10 calendars, add \$2 in shipping to help defray our shipping costs.

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COLLIE ISLE WINERY



WWW.BENEFITWINES.COM/MWCR

Collie Isle Winery



Duke
Barkin' the Blues
Merlot
13.0% Alc. By Vol.

Duke: The Dog with 9 Lives

By Tressa Soressi

I have to report that our featured wine star, Duke, beat the odds and has survived bloat ONCE AGAIN! Maybe he's part cat and has 9 lives?? I don't know!

This episode started in the afternoon. I found him halfway down our road, which is unheard of because he has a bad foot. He was panting furiously. Maybe something triggered him or scared him, but I really don't know. We walked back to the house, and he just kept pacing and trying to puke, but nothing would come up. Having seen these signs before, I went to feel his gut and sure enough, he was bloated. I felt so bad knowing he was in pain. I quickly drove a mile down the road to Walgreen's, grabbed some Gas-X, and made my way home. I shoved one down his throat and then watched him carefully. Soon he was a little better. So, I gave him another Gas-X and in 20 minutes or so he was resting comfortably. I felt his gut later that night and WOW—what a difference. It was obvious his gut had deflated.

But he had a rough night. He wasn't out of the woods, and I could still feel that his gut was a little hard yet the next morning. Later that morning I took him into the vet, who took X-rays which showed that Duke had a few more gas bubbles to pass. He wasn't twisted, as often happens where the stomach gets twisted on itself and the dog could die in minutes. When Duke had his first surgery, the vet stitched his stomach down so it couldn't twist, and I believe THAT saved Duke along with the Gas-X! And if your dog has bloated once there is a very high chance of its happening again, which I learned that night. I highly suggest every Collie owner keep Gas-X nearby because you never know when bloat will strike.

That night Duke finished his supper and lounged around as he always does. I heard a few belches, so I knew he's going to be ok! Unbelievably, he's made it through two of these episodes!!!

Editor's Note: Duke is the Collie featured on MWCR's Collie Isle Winery Barkin' the Blues Merlot. We are so glad that he's doing fine!

Member Update ...

MWCR member Eileen Stephenson, who was seriously injured in a car accident earlier this fall, reports that she is doing much better and about 90% back to normal. She has two pins in her pelvis to remind her of what happened, but she feels lucky to be returning to work in January. She's also looking forward to fostering in the Spring and adopting a new Sheltie.

She can now wiggle her toes!!! That is the best Christmas gift ever! She wants everyone to know how much she appreciated your thoughts, flowers, and prayers throughout this ordeal.

Be sure to connect with MWCR on:



<http://www.facebook.com/MWCRcollierescue>

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Hey There, Charli Girl!

Well, Charli Girl is quite a lady but at times is a wild woman. We sure have lots of fun. She isn't shy or timid anymore and loves to ride. At first she was nervous about the rides but now is always anxious to go. We have truly bonded. She is a real sweetie.



Above: Charli Girl at Riverview park for a run. She is so fast but stays close and comes when called. She loves her outings.

Below: She loves the snow. I dig a path but she plows right through the snow. We had about 15" a couple of weeks ago.



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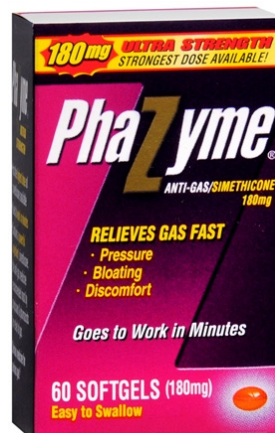
BLOAT: Signs, Symptoms, and First Aid for the Second Leading Killer of Dogs

Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus, or GDV, commonly known as bloat, is the second leading killer of dogs after cancer (see <http://www.globalspan.net/bloat.htm> and related links). Bloat appears to have several possible causes, and as Annette McDonald recently suggested after her St. Bernard's experience, stress can be one of the possible causes. Symptoms of bloat include the attempts to throw up mentioned in Tressa's article about Duke, along with unusual behavior such as pacing, wanting to go outside in the middle of the night, or anything that's different from the way the dog usually acts; anxiety and restlessness; lack of digestive sounds in the gut; the tightness in the abdominal area reported by Tressa; shallow breathing; heavy panting; refusal to lie or sit down; and so on.

The causes of GDV are identified in the globalspan.net article as including stress, eating habits, heredity, exercise before or after eating, physical build of the dog, and a fearful or anxious disposition. The article summarizes advice from various links intended to lessen the chances of a dog's getting bloat:

- avoiding situations that stress your dog;
- avoiding elevated food bowls;
- preventing your dog from eating too fast;
- feeding 2-3 times a day, rather than just once;
- keeping a simethicone product on hand—such as Gas-X, Mylanta Gas, or Phazyme;
- feeding a high-quality dog food and adequate amounts of fiber;
- avoiding anything with brewers' yeast, alfalfa, or soybeans;
- knowing when your dog is acting strangely and getting him/her to the vet right away at the first signs of trouble.

Collies are listed in the article as one of many breeds “at greatest risk” for developing bloat. The article itself doesn't mention tacking the stomach in place, though some of the links in the article may, but having the stomach tacked when the dog is undergoing some type of surgery anyway makes good sense—and quite possibly saved Duke's life. The many links that follow the globalspan.net article offer lots of information and advice for dog owners concerned about the risk of GDV. Having a Bloat First Aid Kit on hand might be especially critical if you live 20 minutes or more from a veterinarian.



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



If you're not going to make me breakfast I'll get it myself.
-- Eddie

Eddie was adopted in August 2012, and his new mom came home from work to find her brand new 2-lb 10-oz container of oatmeal half gone. He even ate the lid. The poor boy paid for it the next day! Good thing she had a groomer appointment scheduled!

Also a good thing you didn't suffer from bloat after that, Eddie! Ouch!



Halloween is my FAVORITE holiday of all! It is even better than Christmas! One year Mom had a popcorn bowl FULL of candy for ghosts and goblins. Well, I felt that I qualified as a ghost or goblin! I ate it all, wrappers and everything! It was yummy! Now I can't wait for next Oct. 31!

-- Cody Mae

Need a shredder? I'm your boy and cardboard is my specialty. Any time my foster parents empty a box, I am right there to provide this invaluable service. I decimate the box to recyclable bits in no time.

-- Liam



What's Really in that Bag???

Dr. Julie Churchill, a clinical veterinary nutritionist at the University of Minnesota, has a suggestion for pet owners interested in evaluating their dogs' food. Instead of looking first at the list of ingredients on the bag, we might look for the letters **AAFCO**. AAFCO stands for the Association of American Feed Control Officials. The AAFCO Web site, www.aaafco.org, states that AAFCO "is a voluntary membership association of local, state, and federal agencies charged by law to regulate the sale and distribution of animal feeds and animal drug remedies." The goals stated on AAFCO's Web site include:

- Ensuring consumer protection,
- Safeguarding the health of animals and humans, and
- Providing a level playing field of orderly commerce for the animal feed industry.

According to AAFCO, "these goals are achieved by developing and implementing uniform and equitable laws, regulations, standards, definitions and enforcement policies for regulating the manufacture, distribution and sale of animal feeds--resulting in safe, effective and useful feeds by promoting uniformity amongst member agencies." The Web site also states: AAFCO does not regulate, test, approve or certify pet foods in any way. AAFCO establishes the nutritional standards for complete and balanced pet foods. It is pet food companies' responsibility to formulate their products according to the appropriate AAFCO standard. State feed control officials are responsible for regulating pet food to ensure that the laws and rules established for the protection of companion animals and their custodians are complied with so that only unadulterated, correctly and uniformly labeled pet food products are distributed in the marketplace.

Every bag of dog food sold in Minnesota—and probably other states as well—must follow AAFCO guidelines, which require a Nutritional Adequacy Statement for all dog food. In a recent experiment, reporters at local Minneapolis TV station WCCO bought dog food from five area stores which they described as "a specialty pet store, drug store, and grocery store." They took these foods to Dr. Churchill and asked her what she looks for in dog foods.

On four out of the five bags WCCO reporters asked Dr. Churchill to check, the word "formulated" appeared. The term formulated in this context means that the food was analyzed at a lab and that the nutrients stated in the Nutritional Adequacy Statement were found in the food. However, the term indicates nothing about the quality of the food. The fifth bag of food displayed the phrase "animal feeding tests" meaning that the food was fed to a group of eight dogs for a minimum number of weeks during which time the dogs had physical exams, blood work, and body weights taken at the beginning of and during the test period. Needless to say, tests like this are expensive and thus are done only by certain dog food companies.

Foods that have undergone animal feeding tests have a label stating that "Animal feeding tests using AAFCO procedures substantiate that (Name of Product) provides complete and balanced nutrition for ____." The blank space in this statement would be completed on the dog food bag by a stage of a dog's life such as gestation, lactation, growth, maintenance, or all life stages.

From Dr. Churchill's perspective, it makes sense to pick a dog food made by a company whose label states that the food has gone through animal feeding tests. Selecting from a group of dog foods that have been tested in such trials and then picking a food with the ingredients that best suit the needs of a particular dog—a puppy, a nursing mother, a mid-life dog, for example—should yield positive results for an individual dog.

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AAFCO Statement: Animal feeding tests using AAFCO procedures substantiate that Science Diet® Adult Oral Care Dog Food provides complete and balanced nutrition for maintenance of adult dogs.



COLLIES' CALL TO ACTION!!

2012 was an extraordinarily difficult year for medical expenses for Collies suffering everything from heartworm to a leg caught in a trap to near starvation to a broken knee. For 2013, the Collies need our help to replenish MWCR's veterinary reserve fund. Any and all donations are welcome and may be made via check to the MWCR PO box address or via PayPal to mwcrcollies@yahoo.com. Donations are tax deductible, and the Collies thank you in advance.



Donations may also be made along with membership renewals or applications (see below).

Membership forms were recently mailed along with MWCR's holiday card and annual letter.

Membership Renewal and Election Time Are Here!!!

It's Election Time Again! MWCR will soon be electing a vice president and treasurer (current terms expire in 2013). Ballots will be mailed to voting members in March. To be eligible to vote, please return your membership form with payment by Dec. 31, 2012, via US mail to MWCR in the bottom left corner of this page.

For first time members or those with expired memberships, go to http://www.mwcr.org/Applications/Membership_form.htm to complete an application. If address, phone, etc are unchanged, current members can also renew their memberships online at: http://www.mwcr.org/Applications/~PAYMENT/~membership_payment.htm.

For Your 2013 New Year's Resolution Pledge to Help Collies . . .

Pledge bills recently went out to those who pledged \$X for each Collie adopted in 2012. In order to get the tax deduction for 2012, bills need to be paid or postmarked in 2012. Payments received after January 1 will be eligible for tax deductions in 2013. When all bills are paid, MWCR should have made around \$2,100 on the 2012 pledges! Now that you can accurately gauge the amount you would owe, you can still pledge for 2012!!! Simply go to: <http://www.mwcr.org/events/pledge2.htm>. Thank you to all who participated.

After the first of the year, the pledge period for 2013 will begin. The Collies look forward to your continued support.

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

Rescue Line: 612-869-0480
mwcr.org



Happy Collie-Days: The Collies Show Their Christmas Spirit!



Sonny, Sadie, & Lucy Ferlaak



Joan & Gary Pansier's Xmas Card



Buddy Witt



Finnegan (caroling) & Brogan Lukes



Mac Vedvig



Foster Dog Belle

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Cont'd on page 14

Happy Collie-Days [Cont'd from page 13]



Max Michlig



Dice Michlig



Ringo & Desi Hansen



Tripper McKibbon



**Cassie
Hickerson**

*Cont'd on
page 15*

Happy Collie-Days [Cont'd from page 14]

Cody Mae Hickerson



The Cisewski Family



Foster Dog Liam with Foster Sister Cassie



Jack Winter



Ruby Witt

Cont'd on page 16



Happy Collie-Days [Cont'd from page 15]



Buddy Winter, Foster Sister Ellie (Cara), & Jack Winter



Desi Christiansen

Reindeer, Sophie Marie Phelps



Buddy Witt & Ruby Witt

Cont'd on page 17



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Happy Collie-Days [Cont'd from page 16]



Foster Dog Gabe & Ryder Dutter



**Ranger Eichstadt & Spike Kappelman;
Below with Ranger's brother Tigger**



Foster Dog Gabe



**Finnegan
Lukes**



Foster Dog Liam

*Cont'd on
page 18*

Happy Collie-Days [Cont'd from page 17]



Jacob & Isabella Finn



**Caleb, Jacob, Isabella,
& Satchel Finn**



**Cole, Autumn, Jacob,
Kyle, Caleb & Isabella,
Finn**

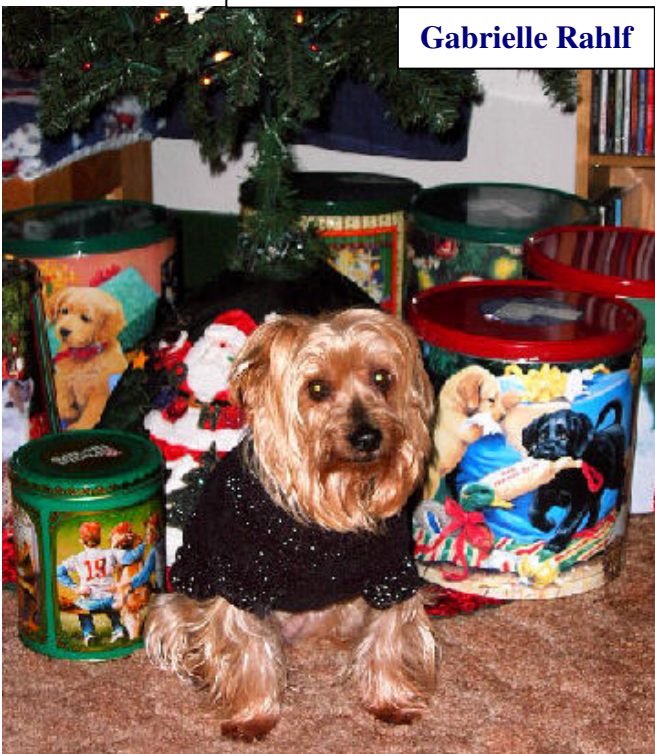
Happy Collie-Days *[Cont'd from P. 18]*



Kitty Whisker Rahlf



Gabrielle Rahlf



Pebbles Rahlf



Keelin Rahlf

Happy Collie-Days [Cont'd from page 19]



Dice Michlig



Foster Dog
Allie Mae



Cassie Hickerson



Arwen Rahlf

And when the festivities are over, the clean-up crew comes in:

- Dakota Michlig on dishes;
- Piper Hanson supervising snow removal;
- Gabby Hanson supervising the hired paws.



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An Unforgettable Father's Day

By Matt Beckwith

Kai, a handsome boy who was adopted on Father's Day 2012, quickly won over his family's hearts and settled into his new home. His second day in the house, he went "shopping" and found a rubber duck that has become one of his favorite toys. He is content carrying it around or dropping at your feet indicating he wants you to throw it. Kai's favorite game is lazy fetch. What is lazy fetch? That's where Kai lies either at the top of the steps or on them and drops toys (balls, rubber duck, rubber bear, kong, etc) down and has his family toss them to him. Once he's caught the toy he drops it again while not moving an inch but making one of us does all the work of retrieving and tossing. Clearly he trained us in this game!

When Kai arrived, walking was not his favorite outside activity. Heck, being outside is not high on his list unless it's to play in the snow. Kai was leery of going for walks, but after a month of coaxing he decided it wasn't too bad or scary. The only scary outside noises are the fireworks. Thank goodness they only lasted a couple days or so. Now walking is a pleasure. He doesn't look forward to walks, but once outside he walks nicely on his leash with little pulling. The snowstorm in Wisconsin on December 21 brought a whole new adventure outside – snow angels! After making a few snow angels and eating snow, it's time to head back inside and warm up.

Thank you so much to all those photogenic Collies and their furry friends of other canine or feline persuasions—and to their people—for sending the beautiful holiday photos. Thank you!!

Fund-Raising Opportunity!

This spring, Bon-Ton Community Days will be March 1 and 2—well, it's not spring that soon, but close enough! Booklet sales for Community Days start in mid-January. MWCR is already signed up to participate, and anyone who is able to help the Collies take advantage of this fund-raising opportunity can pick up booklets at local Bon-Ton, Bergner's, Boston Store, Carson's, Elder-Beerman, Herberger's, Detroit-area Parisian, or Younkers stores, or online, for purchases of regular, sale price, and clearance items. Booklets are \$5, and all of the booklet cost goes to MWCR. Booklets ordered online are shipped free of charge. Sarah, whose husband gave us the idea for this opportunity, says it works to sell booklets to friends, coworkers, relatives, etc., as well as having the booklets purchased online. Local stores do allow groups to sell booklets inside the stores on the actual days, in this case, March 1 and 2. And if you take your dog to work, what better sales dog than a Collie who can put on a "poor, pitiful Collie" face?? Sarah says it works!



What Our Stars Are Doing Now...

Spike: of Collie Isle Winery Fame (pictured at left & below)

By Spike Kappelman

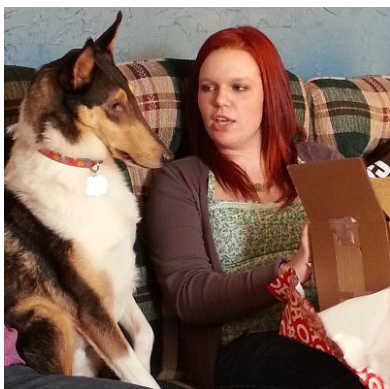


Hello everyone! Spike here. You may recognize me from my new job as the model for the "Feelin' Smo--oo-othie" Sauvignon Blanc, or as the MWCR calendar dog with my best buddy Ranger, or even one of the handsome threesome on the MWCR website background. It's been just over two years since I was rescued, and I'm taking time out of my busy post-holidays napping time to give everyone an update! I was super lucky when I came to my fur-ever home because Mom lives a few doors down from another MWCR collie, Ranger. Ranger and I became best friends right away, and we walk together with our humans all the time.

Mom calls me a Nervous Nellie, and she says that it took months before my tail wasn't stuck between my legs! At first, I was nervous on the walks. There were all kinds of new people, kids, and noises, so when I got spooked, I stopped walking and tried to get home as quickly as I could. I have gotten much better though and don't try to sneak home anymore, although I'm still nervous on windy days and around kids playing ball. I've gotten so much better that I even went to Chicago to visit my two Boxer friends, Wrigley and George! I didn't like all of the people and traffic, so I was really happy to get back to Milwaukee.

I gave all my aunts, uncles, and Grandma my bottle of wine for the holidays. No one wants to open their bottle since I look so handsome on it! And I must have been a good Collie this year...I gave my list to Santa Paws when I saw him at the Ozaukee Humane Society, and I got a new dog bed, lots of treats, and a bunch of squeaky toys! My favorite is this huge hedgehog that is really loud. Mom loves it when I play with my squeaky toys when she's on the phone.

But I haven't let my status as one of the new wine models go to my head. I still sit for all my treats, and I still play with all the other mixed breeds in my neighborhood. Happy Holidays, and I hope to see you in the treat aisle!



Spike, helping his cousin open her present



L to R: George, Wrigley (Chicago Boxer Buddies) and Spike guarding the neighborhood



Spike with Santa Paws



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