

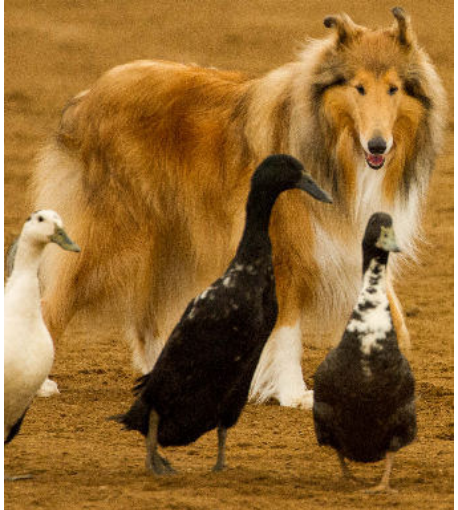
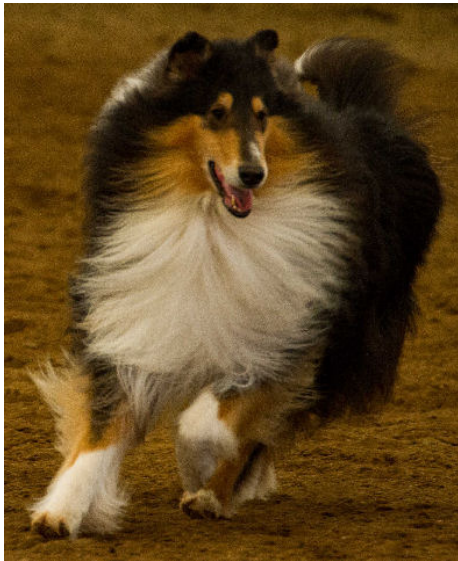
# Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

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

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MWCR  
Newsletter,  
May 2013  
Volume 2, Issue 5

**Finn, Vaughn, Take  
Notes: Watch How  
THESE Dogs Herd!**



## **City Meets Country, Or, The Grand-dogs Try Sheep Herding . . .**

*By Bonnie Ansley and Earlene Schable*

Finnegan, rescued by Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue, and Vaughn, rescued in the Dallas TX, area, are long-time city dwellers. In fact, they reside on the 28<sup>th</sup> floor of a high-rise in Chicago, but before you feel too sorry for them, you need to know that their owners picked their apartment based on the number of dog parks in the area. Not only that, but Finn and Vaughn also make regular visits to their grandparents' home in Janesville WI (known as the City of Parks) and to Door County WI, where they are eventually going to move. They get plenty of walks and exercise.

Still, they are Collies, and owners Tom and Bonnie Ansley often wondered how their two middle-aged pups would react if they were actually called upon to herd something: sheep, cattle, ducks, etc., anything a bit bigger than squirrels. Alas, cows roaming freely in the city of Chicago have been pretty much frowned upon since Mrs. O'Leary's incident, and even the Chicago stockyards closed almost three-quarters of a century ago, so their opportunities to herd have been minimal.

Thus Finn and Vaughn reached 7 and 8 years of age and had never had a chance to do their duty...er...their herding. But then, Tom and Bonnie found out about a sheep herding trial meet that would be held in Fort Atkinson WI as part of the Collie Club of America's National Specialty in April. That's just a stone's throw from their Grandma's and Grandpa's place in Janesville. The location and timing were ideal. Best of all, at the end of the trials, there would be a chance to test inexperienced collies to determine if they had an instinct for herding. Perfect!

The Ansleys decided that they would only test Vaughn, though. Vaughn seemed to them to be the more independent of the two dogs, more alpha and more the aggressive style. Finn is the more cuddly of the two, the one more attached to people, the less independent thinker. Tom and Bonnie didn't imagine that Finn would be very interested in the job of herding, but they reasoned that Vaughn had more of the necessary characteristics.

*(Cont'd on page 2)*

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**...And These Too**



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**City Meets Country, Or, The Grand-dogs Try Sheep Herding . . . (Cont'd from page 1)**

Trial day arrived, and like all good parents and grandparents, Vaughn's family was in the audience to cheer on their son and grand-dog. The family's excitement built as the day progressed. They marveled at the beauty of the working dogs. They "oohed and aahed" at the adeptness of the Border Collie who helped get the sheep and ducks situated so the Collies could strut their stuff in the various stages of training in herding techniques. The family just knew that Vaughn would make them as proud of him as these more advanced dog owners seemed to be of their herders. ... Vaughn would be a natural. Because he was older than most of the novices, he'd have poise and maturity. He'd be a star!

The testing began. Vaughn was to be number 10 of 18. Good. A chance to watch how the testing was done before Vaughn's turn.

The first dog entered the ring. He did well. He was critiqued afterwards and given his score sheet and a ribbon. He passed. The next dog needed a little encouragement, so the tester asked the owner to enter the ring and push the sheep by clapping her hands to show the dog how much fun she was having while doing the herding. The plan was that then the dog would decide to join the fun. It worked. The sheep ran from the clapping and the dog caught on. He passed the test also. The third dog was a natural. It did all the right things instinctively. It was beautiful.

Meanwhile, something outside the ring was going terribly wrong! It wasn't supposed to happen this way. As Tom and Bonnie stood watching the ring, Finn was eagerly pulling toward the ring. One could almost sense his thoughts: "Hey, this looks like fun. Let me in there." Vaughn, on the other hand, looked at the ring, turned his back and sat down watching all the other people and dogs. His thoughts? "What's the big deal in that ring? Hey, look at all these people and dogs out here."

Hmmmm...by the fifth or sixth test, it was obvious what should be done. Finnegan should be tested, not Vaughn. The handlers readily agreed to the switch.

Finally, it was time for number 10. In goes Finn. The handler/tester leads him by the rope to the center of the ring. Finn watches very closely...but it's his dad he's watching, not the sheep or handler. The handler runs with him; Finn reluctantly moves a bit, but he twists and turns and gets both himself and the handler twisted in the rope. Finn pleads silently with his father: "Get me out of here." Totally gone is the initial interest that he showed in the sheep when he was outside the ring.

"Okay," says the handler as she stops and turns to the audience, "Da-Da, come on in here. You help get the sheep moving." Her plan is to use

*(Cont'd on page 3)*





### Finn & Vaughn: "What's all the fuss about?"

## City Meets Country, Or, The Grand-dogs Try Sheep Herding . . . (Cont'd from page 2)

the same owner-clapping technique that she had used earlier. This will do it, Grandma and Grandpa think; now Finn will show the same interest he did during the first couple of tests.

Tom, the city man, enters the ring. He walks toward the sheep. He claps his hands. The sheep move all right. They start circling around Tom. Soon he is the center of the three sheep! Nobody's moving; nobody's herding. It's kind of "Like father; like son." The audience members stifle their giggles. Grandma and Grandpa love their son-in-law and they love their grand-dogs, but there's no stifling their full belly laughs.

"Okay," says the handler, making a quick decision, "Two for the price of one. Let's trade. We'll test Vaughn after all." She's trying to offer them some sort of success.

The swap is made. Finn and Tom leave the ring. Vaughn enters. The handler takes the rope and walks Vaughn to the center of the ring. He's one of the largest Collies at the event, but Vaughn takes one look around the ring; he bolts from the handler and within two seconds has squirmed his way under the bars and out of the ring, not once looking back.

Game, set, match. Over! Mighty Casey has struck out. City has tried country; city wins.

Grandma and Grandpa still love both their grand-dogs, but they haven't laughed so hard in a long, long time. As for Tom and Bonnie, they have their answer, and besides, they don't have room in their apartment for sheep anyway!

**Editors' Note:** Since Finn & Vaughn are two of our Wine Dog Stars (Collie Isle Winery Malbec), the above is in lieu of "What Our Stars Are Doing Now" for this issue ([http://www.benefitwines.com/mwcr\\_s/461.htm?Click=4667](http://www.benefitwines.com/mwcr_s/461.htm?Click=4667)). Let's hope they will be equally entertaining the next time an update is requested! As you can see, the sheep sure enjoyed it!



**COLLIE ISLE WINERY**

WWW.BENEFITWINES.COM/MWCR

### . . . Even Milo HERDS!



Milo





## What a Show!

Several MWCR members were fortunate to be able to attend the Collie Club of America National Specialty in La Crosse recently. The show opened on Wednesday, April 3, and continued through Saturday, April 6. MWCR had a table at the show and had excellent sales during the event, thanks to the efforts of Terry Libro, Cat Olund (and Maui and Lilo), Mary Ann Statz (and Cindy), Linda Riegger (and Willie and Allie Mae), Barb and David Gibson (and Emily and Laddie), Leslie Ciaccio (and Luna and Scotch), Judy Johnson (and Spice), Kitty and Arnie Hilk (and Daphne and Tristan), Sarah Rebernick, Iva Rahlf, Colin and Kristy Finn (and Caleb). Everyone helped out at the MWCR table, and also at the Collie Rescue Foundation raffle table. There were lots of tempting things to peruse at the various vendor tables and many items of Collie-themed clothing, jewelry, and mementos.



Judy Johnson



Of course the highlight of the event was all those Collies--so many gorgeous, elegant, exuberant, barking Collies! Blues, sables, tris, even a few white Collies, both roughs and smooths. The grooming areas were open to anyone who wanted to wander around and visit Collies, groomers, handlers, and owners. Collies came from New York, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Montana, California, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Texas, and lots of other places--even Hawaii. Collies participated in obedience and rally as well as in the conformation judging, which is similar to what goes on at the Westminster show many of us have seen on TV. Before the show itself began, herding events and trials took place near Ft. Atkinson, where Finn and Vaughn decided herding just wasn't for them. MWCR member Andi Wulff and her two Collies and foster Collie Milo participated in the herding events, and Milo passed the herding instinct test.



The world of breeding and dog shows has a vocabulary all its own, so there was a lot to learn in order to understand what was going on in the show ring. Show Collies are working, of course, when they're at the show, as are their handlers and groomers. Many of the Collies were debarked—which didn't stop them from being vocal!—the males are all intact, and the Collies are constantly groomed and primped before and during their appearances in the show ring. The grooming area is filled with Collie photos, awards, mementos, flags, flowers, grooming tables, pens, and displays. The floor in the grooming area and even in the ring becomes slippery with all the talc used to fluff Collies' coats, and the presence of all those intact males definitely ripens the air in the grooming area by the last day of the show.

At the end of the show, trophies and ribbons were awarded for Most Versatile Collie, Best of Breed, and several other categories. The Collie judged Best of Breed is a male blue merle named Blu Ridge Make Way (right), from Montana. The winner clearly knew he had done something wonderful and jumped up to give his owner a Collie kiss when she hugged him and told him what a good boy he was.



(Cont'd on page 5)

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### What a Show! (Cont'd from page 4)

Former MWCR member and breeder Michelle Tennis had two smooth Collies in the show, both of whom did well. One of her Collies is the grandmother (at left in picture) of MWCR member Iva Rahlf's rough tri-color Trajan. MWCR member Vickie Wilder's Bobby competed in the show, too. The audience favorite in the final round of judging of female Collies was an almost 12-year-old who made the final cut, though she didn't win the category. Her handler had to give her a bit of urging to do the obligatory trot around the show ring, but she did it in fine style.



On Friday night several MWCR folks got together for a wine and cheese fest featuring Collie Isle wines donated by Terry. Cindy and Willie and Allie Mae joined in, and Noelle, a smooth blue merle from Texas, along with her person and a friend from Indiana, dropped in too.

The CCA Collie National won't be back in La Crosse for several years--if at all--so this was a wonderful opportunity for all of us Collie fans to see a national show--and what a spectacle it was!



Left: Mary Hickerson, Iva Rahlf, Cat Olund  
Above: Mary Hickerson, Linda Riegger, Cat Olund



(Cont'd on page 6)





**What a Show!** (Cont'd from page 5)





What a Show! (Cont'd from page 6)



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(Cont'd on page 8)



**What a Show!** (Cont'd from page 7)



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# MWCR Collie (and Human) Ambassadors at the Collie National

(Cont'd from page 8)



**Cindy Statz**



**Kitty & Arnie Hilk**



**Allie Mae**



**Lilo Olund**



**Sarah Rebernick**

(Cont'd on page 10)



# MWCR Collie (and Human) Ambassadors at the Collie National

(Cont'd from page 9)

Linda Riegger, Sarah Rebernick, Iva Rahlf, Mary Hickerson, and Arnie Hilk



Scotch & Luna Ciaccio



Maui Olund



Caleb Finn



Daphne Hilk



Dave Gibson & Friends



(Cont'd on page 11)

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# MWCR Collie (and Human) Ambassadors at the Collie National

(Cont'd from page 10)



**Mary Hickerson, Terry Libro, Leslie Ciaccio and Friends**

**Barb G. & Mary H.**



**Tristan Hilk**



**Arnie Hilk with Daphne and Tristan**



**Scotch Ciaccio, Salesman**



**Willie Riegger**

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(Cont'd on page 12)





# MWCR Collie (and Human) Ambassadors at the Collie National

(Cont'd from page 11)



Milo's Story on Display



Mary Hickerson



Cat Olund, Barb Gibson & Friends



Sarah Rebernick, Iva Rahlf, Mary Hickerson, Linda Riegger



I wanna be A Contender!



Laddie Luke Gibson. . . Shopping....?



**Scenic La Crosse . . . The Collie National Venue**



**Laddie Luke Gibson**



**Linda Riegger, Barb Gibson, Willie, Laddie, Emily**



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**Indian Statue at Riverside Park**



**Linda Riegger, Allie Mae & Willie**



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

A strange car drove in our driveway and I went into 'attack mode' to defend my family against alien invaders. I jumped on the fender, then onto the hood of the car, clawing at the windshield. Then I jumped on the roof, barking ferociously the whole time, so that the trespassers would know I take my defense duties very seriously! Uh oh. I guess Mom and Dad had gotten a new car without telling me, so Mom's car now has some dings and scratches in the paint to remind her to keep me in the loop next time!

-- Buck, Finger Lakes District Security Chief



We were in La Crosse doing the Collie National thing, and I was in Aunt Terry's room waiting for Mom when miraculously a bowl of kibble topped with liver appeared on the floor in front of me! Yowza! Just what I needed after a hard day's work of being a winsome Collie Ambassador! I sooooo deserved it, so I wolfed it down! Oooops, my bad! Who knew it was not for me, but for Cindy, that black German Shepherd!

-- Willie, AKA the Bottomless Pit

Foster Dad was using the snow-blower one day and looked up to see me in the window. Being an acrobat of some renown, I had climbed on top of the washer/dryer and was supervising his work from inside the warm house. No need to catch a chill or get my paws wet just to bark orders at him. I could do that from my warm, indoor perch.

-- Lucy, Trapeze Artist Extraordinaire



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**Editors' Note: Send your pet's antics to [Newsletter-submissions@mwcr.org](mailto:Newsletter-submissions@mwcr.org). Feel free to include "evidence of the crime" and pictures (mug shots?).**



**On Thin Ice . . .**  
**By Julie Lukes**

Friday, March 15th, the Ides of March, was a cold, dreary, rainy/snowy day. I came home from work early that day, with a list of things I wanted to accomplish. My husband had taken his mother to visit relatives a couple of hours away. I let Brogan (2 yrs, 8 mos) and Finnegan (16 mos) upstairs. Instead of going for a walk (since it was so wet and miserable outside), I thought I'd just walk out the door with them for a quick pee. After a couple of minutes of sniffing around, in typical Brogan and Finn fashion.....3, 2, 1.....off they go! These two seem to think it's funny to run off on me. They NEVER do this when Dave is home! They always run off to the end of our road to play with Buddy, the neighbors' dog, and to romp in the woods and fields across the road. I whistled and called for them to no avail. Angry that they had done this again, I walked into the house and watched from the windows for them. After several minutes, here they came, trotting down the road towards our driveway. I walked outside and whistled and called for them. All of a sudden, I saw Finnegan take off through the lot next to us, with Brogan quickly following behind. They ran through that lot heading towards the lake that lies down the hill and behind a row of houses on a dead-end road. At this point, I was a bit confused as to where they were headed. My dogs HATE water and have never, ever gone anywhere near the lake. We've walked down there, and they just turn their backs to it. So, I assumed that any second I was going to see them running back up the hill towards the house.

I walked around the deck so I could see out towards the lake and called and whistled for them. Nothing. So, I came in and put my boots and coat on and walked down the hill. I walked up and down the road below us calling and whistling. No response. Now I was starting to worry. Where on earth did they go? I came back up to the house thinking maybe they had run around and were looking for me. No dogs.....just snow, wind, and cold! I came into the house, thinking I'd give them a few minutes to run off their naughtiness.

Several minutes later, and no sign of them. Now I'm really getting worried. They've now been gone approximately 15 minutes. I put on my shoes and walked out the door. Walking around the deck again, I whistled and called. I thought I heard something, so I whistled again. There it is again - and it's Brogan. He has a high pitched "scream" when he's really excited or scared. Oh my God....that was coming from the lake!!! I ran into the house, threw my boots and coat on, and grabbed my cell phone. I ran down the hill and through a yard to the lake. I whistled and called and heard Brogan again. I looked and looked and then I saw him.....across the lake I could just barely make out his ears. What I didn't see was Finnegan.....and I couldn't hear him. I yelled to Brogan to hang on and started running back up the hill.

I am a member of Stone Bank Volunteer Fire Department as an EMT. I called our station and told the two full-time members that I believed my dogs were in the lake. They know my dogs well and said they would start driving over this way. I still wasn't sure exactly where the dogs were. I jumped into my car and started driving around the lake. The first road I went down was gravel. With all the rain and snow, I thought for sure I was going to get stuck. I managed to get down to the lake, jumped out of my car and ran to the water. I could see them.....Brogan was treading water and Finn was standing in back high water. But - I couldn't get to them. So, I ran back to my car, called the Fire Department back, gave them the exact location, and drove around to the other side of the lake to another dead end road. The "Ice Rescue" team was paged out by the Fire Department.

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*(Cont'd on page 16)*





**On Thin Ice . . .** (Cont'd from page 15)

When I arrived to the area where they were, I ran screaming through someone's yard. Brogan screamed back at me. Finnegan just stood there, staring at me. Every time Brogan tried to get himself out of the water, the ice broke. In just a couple of minutes, although it seemed like forever, the North Lake Fire Department/Ice Rescue team and Stone Bank Ambulance arrived. They quickly surveyed the situation and got the ice rescue boat out. While a few members worked on going out for Brogan, others were trying to coax Finnegan in to shore. I called our vet's office to find out what I needed to do with two large, completely soaked, freezing dogs. They told me they couldn't handle two possibly critical dogs and that I needed to get them to the Emergency Vet. I told them I was alone, with a small vehicle, and wasn't sure how I'd get them there. They asked where I was and told me someone was on the way to help me.

The Ice Rescue team managed to get Brogan out easily. He seemed more than happy to cooperate with helping hands. He was rushed into the back of the ambulance where he was wrapped in blankets and packed with hot packs. Finnegan still wouldn't budge. I tried to go in after him. However, after a couple of steps in, I sank in water over my knees and was quickly grabbed by fire fighters. I knew not to go in, but I just wanted to get my dog!! The rescue team came up from behind him and he finally started to slowly walk towards us. The owner of my vet clinic arrived at this time. She jumped in (which she shouldn't have done!) and grabbed Finn. He was wrapped in blankets and also put in the back of the ambulance. Both dogs were then carried and put into the clinic owner's truck. She rushed off to the Emergency Vet, with me following in my vehicle.

Brogan suffered some freeze burns to his underarms and belly. He also had a very swollen "swimmers tail." The vet said what saved him was treading water so long. It kept his body temperature up. However, the vet also said he didn't think he would have lasted much longer treading water. We estimated that both dogs were in the water approximately 1 hour. Finnegan suffered from hypothermia. Because it seems he was just standing, his body temperature was dangerously low. He was treated for several hours with warm IV fluids and warm blankets. Both boys were released to me after several hours. There was some talk about keeping Finnegan overnight, but neither Brogan nor I was having that!!!

Both Finnegan and Brogan have made complete recoveries. I, on the other hand, still have nightmares. I have learned my lesson with these two. They NEVER go outside unless they are on leashes or on their chains. If they want to run, we'll go to the dog park. If their guardian angels hadn't been watching over them that day, we would have never found them. I believe that Finnegan took off after some critter and Brogan followed. Once they got out onto the ice, they just kept running until there wasn't any more ice and into a section of open water.

**At this time of year especially, please beware of open water on the lakes. And beware of thin ice.**

Our deepest appreciation goes to Stone Bank Volunteer Fire Department, North Lake Fire Department, Merton Veterinary Clinic and Emergency Vet Clinic in Waukesha. Without the help of many people, we would have lost these two. While there are moments that they are naughty, we love Brogan and Finnegan so much and just can't imagine our lives without them!!!

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# Coming Attractions Featuring MWCR!!! Mark Your Calendars!



May . . .

## Pause 4 Paws Beer & Wine Tasting Event

Thursday May 2, 2013  
Minneapolis, MN 55401



## Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games

Saturday May 4, 2013  
Farmington, MN

## Paws on Parade

May 18, 2013  
Hutchinson, MN



June . . .

## The 2013 Collie Frolic

Sunday, June 9  
Stone Mountain Pet Lodge  
Blaine, MN 55449

## The Canine Carnival

Saturday June 15, 2013  
Wildlife Science Center  
Forest Lake, MN 55025



## Take your Dog to Work Day!

Friday, June 21, 2013



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June . . . Continued

## 2013 Walk, Run, Wag for MADACC

Saturday June 22, 2013  
5K Run or a 1 or 2 mile walk; dogs welcome  
Register on our website Events page

## Central Bark Fido Fest to follow Milwaukee's Ulti-Mutt Day out with your Pooch

Hart Park in Wauwatosa, WI



August . . .

## Dog Days of Stockholm

Saturday August 3, 2013  
Stockholm, WI



## Dog Days of Westonka

Saturday August 17, 2013  
Mound, MN



If you wish to help at any event, please contact Cat at [cat\\_chisago@yahoo.com](mailto:cat_chisago@yahoo.com)



## A Whole Lotta Barkin' Goin' On!

By Sarah Rebernick

We had a wonderful time at the WI Collie Frolic on April 14<sup>th</sup>! MWCR members and adopters met indoors at Central Bark in Wauwatosa and foiled winter's attempts to keep us from having fun. Twenty-five lovely Collies (and mixes) chased, romped and barked while the humans had a chance to socialize and snack. The smoothies in the group kept things active with their race car moves and, judging from the noise level, everyone had a great time. Thanks to everyone who came out and shared their wonderful Collies with us, and another big 'thank you' to the people who took such lovely pictures and brought snacks and drinks.



*(Cont'd on page 19)*



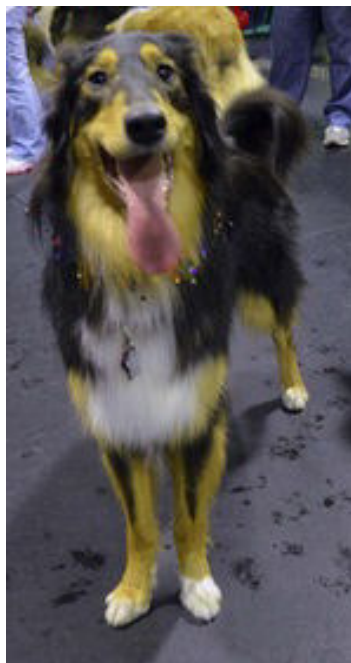
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**A Whole Lotta Barkin' Goin' On!** (Cont'd from page 18)



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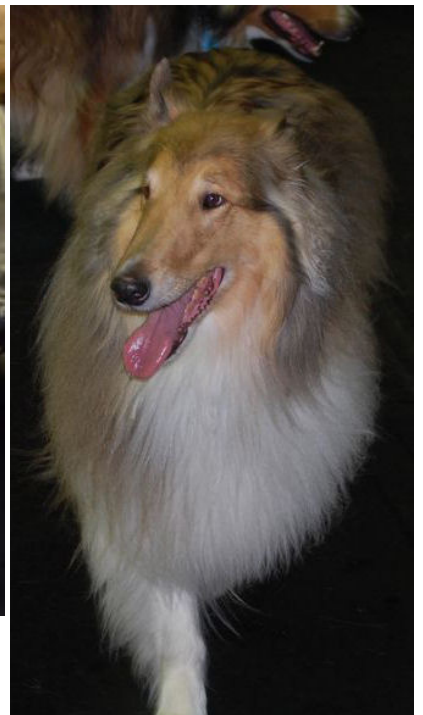
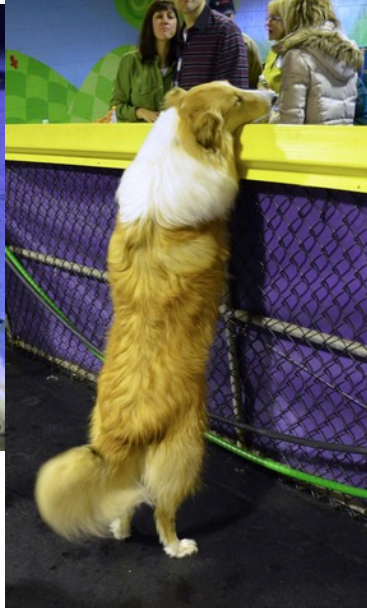
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**A Whole Lotta Barkin' Goin' On!** (Cont'd from page 19)



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(Cont'd on Page 21)



**A Whole Lotta Barkin' Goin' On!** (Cont'd from page 20)



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**(Cont'd on Page 22)**



**A Whole Lotta Barkin' Goin' On!** (Cont'd from page 21)



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## The Latest About Interceptor . . .

**Novartis, the maker of Interceptor, announced recently that it will no longer produce Interceptor, the preferred heartworm preventative for Collies and other herding breeds. Instead, the company is introducing Sentinel, which contains the Interceptor ingredient plus the flea preventative lufenuron and a wormer. The company also says that in the future it will add tick prevention ingredients to Sentinel but has not yet named the new product nor said when it will be available.**

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(Cont'd on page 24)

## 2013 Dog Olympics: Faster, Higher, Stronger . . .

By Terry Libro

The Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medicine Association held its first Dog Olympics at the Leatherdale Equine Center on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota on Sunday, April 14. MWCR had a booth at the event along the sidelines which gave us a perfect view of the activities. The day was filled with demonstrations as well as doggie games including tennis ball lotto, an obstacle course, and a doggie relay race.

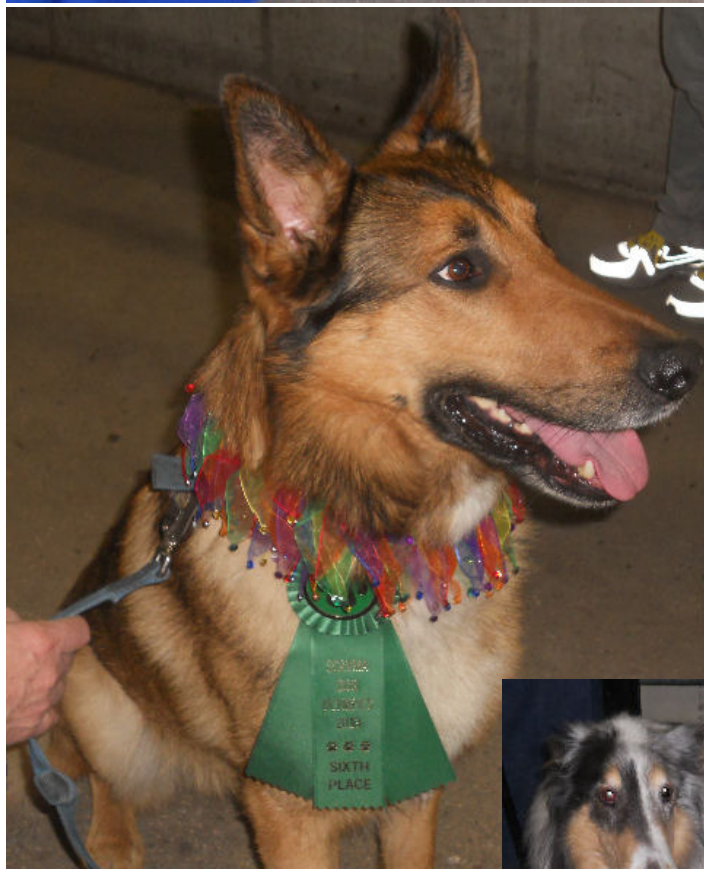
The Dog Olympics was organized to benefit the St. Paul Police Department's K-9 Unit which gave an exciting demonstration to the crowd. Megan Thibodeau, MWCR adopter and veterinary student, along with her MWCR white Collie, Sport, staffed the Veterinary School's Canine Club booth. Megan and Sport, who is quite the hit among Megan's classmates, stopped at MWCR's booth several times during the event.

Mary Ann Statz and Cindy staffed our booth. Cindy had a great time joining in the Olympic games.





2013 Dog Olympics: Faster, Higher, Stronger . . . (Cont'd from page 23)



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

Rescue Line: 612-869-0480  
mwcr.org



Top Left, Near Left, and Above: Megan Thibodeau & Sport

Far Left: Olympic Champion



## Post-Adoption Updates: Thor – Vacuum Herder Extraordinaire . . .

By Melanie & Rob Stanek

We lost Thor, our loving 12.5 year old smooth coated Collie on Sunday night. He had a seizure around 9 pm by our bedside and we rushed to him to the animal hospital. The consensus was that he had a growing brain tumor with other complications, in addition to his worsening Addison's disease. We made the decision to put him down because his quality of life would only continue to decline. We didn't want him to live like that.

His last day on Sunday was a happy one: lying in the sun, nipping at Mel's heels, and snarfing a piece of cheese off Rob's plate at dinner.

Not having had kids, you know Thor ("Mr. Smoooooth") was our baby. And a special needs one at that (health and socialization issues). We adopted him from Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue (MWCR) in 2002 and never looked back. He had come from a breeder originally, under the championship name of "Oak Knolls Olympiad" and had won a number of Land O' Lakes regional Collie championships in his brief 1.5 years before we got him. When he came into Collie Rescue, he had never been socialized, was underweight, and had immune system problems. After starting out right with MWCR, and then spending another 11 years with us and under the tutelage of our other Collie Barkley, he grew to be a normal Collie and loved just about everyone -- from kittens to kids.

We tried him at sheep herding trials for fun, and his natural instinct kicked in ... until he did a play bow on the sheep and they circled him decisively, knowing the jig was up. After that, we just let him continue to herd the vacuum, on his own turf, where he enjoyed great success.

Here is our favorite poem, which summed up our handsome boy completely:

### *When I Got My New Dog*

I asked for strength that I might rear her perfectly;  
I was given weakness that I might feed her more treats.

I asked for good health that I might rest easy;  
I was given a "special needs" dog that I might know nurturing.

I asked for an obedient dog that I might feel proud;  
I was given stubbornness that I might feel humble.

I asked for compliance that I might feel masterful;  
I was given a clown that I might laugh.

I asked for a companion that I might not feel lonely;  
I was given a best friend that I would feel loved.

I got nothing I asked for,  
But everything that I needed.

### **Unknown**

We grieve deeply.  
God bless you, Thor, for bringing such joy into our lives.



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## Post-Adoption Updates Cont'd: How I Spent My Winter Vacation

By Reilley Hilk

When Mom and Dad went on a vacation to New Orleans and on a Caribbean cruise, I got to spend two weeks with my friends Molly and Folie. I missed Mom and Dad, but I also had a lot of fun.

Even though I'm an older guy, I still enjoy playing with stuffed toys. Molly and Folie have a lot of toys and every morning after breakfast, the three of us would play with them, sometimes outside and sometimes in the house. Then we'd take a morning nap.

While Mom and Dad were pampered on the cruise ship, I had my own pampering. My veterinarian visited me three times a week to give me laser treatments for my sore hips and back. Those felt really good. Plus, my veterinarian always gave the three of us dog treats when he visited. He is a nice man.

Supper time was always enjoyable. We were treated to home-cooked doggie meals from Katie K-9's dog cookbook. Yummy.

Not a bad way to spend the cold winter.



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## ***Post-Adoption Updates Cont'd: Shadow and Rockman – A Perfect Couple***

Rocky, a Collie adopted by MWCR member Eileen Stephenson, suffers from a form of doggie senility that results in his getting stuck in corners, unable to find his way out. His little Sheltie pal Shadow, who recently joined Eileen and Rocky, seems to understand Rockman's dilemma and gently circles Rocky until he can guide Rocky out of corners and on his way.

As you can see from the picture at the right, these two are a perfect match, as they catch a bit of snooze time together. We should all be so lucky in our old age to have such a faithful and loyal helper as Rockman has found in Shadow!



## ***Finn Ansley's Herding Nightmare!***



"...And suddenly, I was in the ring, surrounded by a flock of sheep as big as elephants who were mocking me! I looked around for Dad, pleading for him to come to my rescue. I mean, what were these brutes' intentions, anyway? Hey, just because I was fascinated watching others herd them, didn't mean that I wanted to try my paws at such foolishness!"

## ***Good Golly Miss Molly!***

Molly is fitting in very well and she and Parker are really enjoying each other. She has gained 8 lbs in 3 weeks!



***Send Newsletter items to us at [newsletter-submissions@mwcr.org](mailto:newsletter-submissions@mwcr.org).***

***Please send major submissions (multi-page articles, events with many pictures, etc.) by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month if at all possible. Small items can come in as late as the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thank you!***



## Jack: the Christmas Collie . . .

MWCR is now taking pre-delivery orders for **Jack: the Christmas Collie**, a book by author Kevin Brett, who is described on Google Books as “a life long Collie lover.” He has owned several Collies and knows this wonderful breed very well. He is the CEO of Kevin Brett Studios, Inc., a media and entertainment publishing company that produces videos and books for Entertainment, Education, Family.” The book is being used as a fundraiser by several Collie rescue organizations as well as other rescue groups.

The blurb at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) summarizes the book thus:

*This Christmas, the Barnes family will receive a gift; a gift that will teach them about life ... about sacrifice and about giving. Kevin Brett recreates the child-like enchantment and romance of the Collie stories of old with this delightful tale of a family and their Collie. Jack's ancient wolf instincts serve him well, as he becomes the perfect addition to the Barnes family. Jack rollicks and romps his way through the Barnes's home and their lives, changing all of them in ways they had never expected. In true Collie tradition, Jack saves the day numerous times and protects his new family. This Christmas, discover the gift that each of us carries inside, as a family learns that life is not as perfect as our dreams, but sometimes our dreams may come true in ways we might not ever imagine.*

The book sells for \$20 (plus any applicable tax), including shipping to US destinations, and is **signed by the author!** To order go to [http://www.mwcr.org/merchandise.htm#CHRISTMAS COLLIE](http://www.mwcr.org/merchandise.htm#CHRISTMAS_COLLIE). Books will be mailed to purchasers as soon as MWCR receives the supply from the author.

It isn't every day you can get a copy of a book about Collies, signed by the author that includes shipping, and helps a rescue you care about, so this is a MUST HAVE item for Collie lovers everywhere. They make great gifts as well.

Kevin Brett asks that purchasers—and any readers of this Newsletter—go to his Facebook page and “Like” **Jack: the Christmas Collie**, too.

## CONTACT US . . .

To adopt a Collie:  
[applications@mwcr.org](mailto:applications@mwcr.org)

To foster a Collie:  
[foster@mwcr.org](mailto:foster@mwcr.org)

To become a member:  
[memberships@mwcr.org](mailto:memberships@mwcr.org)

To tell us about a Collie in need:  
[intake@mwcr.org](mailto:intake@mwcr.org)

For general questions:  
[collietalk@yahoo.com](mailto:collietalk@yahoo.com)

To contact a Board member:  
[BOD@mwcr.org](mailto:BOD@mwcr.org)

To submit something for inclusion in the Newsletter: [newsletter-submissions@mwcr.org](mailto:newsletter-submissions@mwcr.org)



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