

Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

Finding new hope and new homes for homeless collies.

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MWCR Newsletter, Feb. 2012
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Finn & Vaughn



Greetings from Finn . . .

By Judy McCalla

Hi. My name is Finn and I'm what's known in the rescue game as a "success story." For you rescue rookies, that means that I've been adopted by the perfect forever family into the perfect forever home. If you don't recognize my name, it's because when last you saw me I was called Sponge Bob and I had just come to MWCR with my brother Mingo. Once I was adopted, however, I needed a new name, because sponges live at the bottom of the sea, while I live on top of the world. It's true! Believe it or not, I live in a big, modern, high rise building in Chicago!

Living in a high rise takes a little getting used to when you are a Collie from Iowa. For one thing, when you need to go outside for a "call of nature" you can't just walk out the door. You have to get into an elevator and go down a bunch of floors before you can get outside. That means that you can't wait till the last minute to let your family know you need to go out. Fortunately, my new family understands these things and now I'm on a schedule. Once you get the hang of it, it's a breeze. (*cont'd on p. 2*)

Medical Notes . . .

When your dog goes in for his/her annual veterinary check-up, it's a good idea to have the microchip scanned during the visit to be sure that the chip is still in place and has not moved out of position.

Recently someone inquired about von Willebrands disease in dogs. This disease, which is related to hemophilia, is the most common blood disorder among dogs and has been found in many breeds. The disease is inherited and is characterized by excessive bleeding and difficulty with clotting. The Drs. Foster and Smith Pet Education Web site states that the best treatment is blood transfusions from dogs who do not have the disease—no cure.

Some veterinary clinics are warning that new rodenticides for eradicating rats and mice are not treatable with Vitamin K as were the previous generation of these chemicals. Ingestion of these new rodenticides is very dangerous to dogs.

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Rescue Line: 612-869-0480
mwcr.org

Veterinary and Groomer Recommendations . . .

MWCR would like to post veterinary and groomer recommendations on the Forum. The information could be used by new Collie owners or by Collie owners moving into the area.

If you have a favorite veterinary clinic, or a favorite groomer or pet shop that you would recommend to others, please send the information to MWCR at collietalk@yahoo.com, or post it on the Forum page.

And if you haven't created a forum account yet, there is no time like the present. Go to <http://mw-collie-rescue.proboards.com/> and register for your account.

Are there toys or treats your dogs find especially intriguing or tasty? Recommend those to others on the Forum page, too.

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Finn . . . (continued from page 1)

There are lots of great things about living in the city, but the best of all is that it is full of people to pet me. When I go out for a walk with my new brother, Vaughn, we get so much attention that we practically stop traffic (and there is plenty of traffic here). Even though I'm a city dog now, I still have my friendly "country" ways, and I like to stop and greet every human and every dog that I meet.

When I moved to Chicago, I not only gained a new mom and dad, I gained a new brother. His name is Vaughn and at first he wasn't too thrilled that I was moving into his house. I guess maybe he thought I was trying to take his mom and dad away from him. Little by little, I'm winning him over, though, and we're starting to be pretty good friends. He's learned that he's not losing a mom and dad, he's gaining a brother.

Speaking of brothers, you're probably wondering what happened to my brother Mingo. Well, just last weekend, he became another "success story" and was adopted by another perfect family. And guess where that family lives – Chicago! Who would ever have thought that two country Collies from Iowa would end up living in the big windy city as two sophisticated, urban Collies. Even though we don't live with the same family, we're hoping that there might be some play dates in our future or maybe we could take in a Cubs game. (I hope he's not a White Sox fan.)

Well, that's my story, and if you like happy endings, I'll bet you enjoyed it. There are lots of happy endings at MWCR, so be sure to check the website and read this regular feature of the newsletter.

Coming Events . . .

Great Lakes Pet Expo takes place on Saturday, February 4, at the Wisconsin Exposition Center in West Allis WI, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MWCR Collies and people will be there and would love to see everyone. More information is available on the MWCR Web site.

The 10th annual Twin Cities Pet Expo will be held in the Minneapolis Convention Center on March 24-25. MWCR will have a booth, and there will be Collies and people to greet everyone.

On the Web site . . .

MWCR's 2012 calendar is still available, and orders may be placed via the MWCR Web site: www.mwcr.org. This year's calendar features the Collies at the "work" they do best. As we all know, Collies are versatile creatures, and they do love a job.



Visit the Collie Shop!

There's something for everyone in the Collie Shop. The newest items include memorial keepsakes that hold a tiny amount of whatever memento you choose (cremains, fur, soil, flowers, e.g.), along with cremation urns and keychain keepsakes. The URL for the memorials is: (http://www.mwcr.org/merchandise/memorial/memorial_jewelry.htm).

Another new item: Collie picture frames, posted on the main Collie shop page on the Web site: www.mwcr.org.



Is there an item you'd like to see in the Collie shop? If so, please send suggestions to collietalk@mwcr.org, and we'll see what we can do!

What would you like to see featured in MWCR's newsletters? Let us know, and we'll give it a try. Contact us at collietalk@mwcr.org.

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Follow lost dog updates on Twitter!

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

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

Volunteer Feature . . .

By Judy McCalla

Why Collies?

The Collie per capita rate for MWCR volunteers is, not surprisingly, a high one. Equally unsurprising is the fact that I am often asked why a non-Collie owner like myself chose a Collie rescue as the place to volunteer. There are several reasons.

The first is the most obvious: Lassie. Like most people in my generation I grew up loving and cheering for what we all thought was a beautiful Collie girl. I sent in dozens of puppy names in the numerous "Name the Lassie Puppies" contests, never suspecting that if Lassie was related to the puppies at all, it was as the father. Knowing now that Lassie was a boy is no great shock; at the time, it would have been like learning that there was no Santa Claus.

But Lassie wasn't just beautiful. She was smart – smarter than the people that owned her. It always took them much too long to figure out what she was trying to convey, even though those of us in the audience knew exactly what she was saying. I think there is something innately appealing to children to see a dog that knows more than those grown ups who are always telling them to do things "because I say so." Like us kids, Lassie was often underestimated and misunderstood.

The second reason I chose a Collie rescue was that after retiring early, I wanted to spend some time helping animals. The first year, I volunteered at a wildlife rehab facility feeding orphaned baby birds. It was fun and interesting, but by the end of the summer I was beginning to see gaping baby bird mouths in my sleep. The next spring (2003), I started a search for a different outlet, and began volunteering with MWCR doing transport. A few months later, Andi Wulff learned that I had once been a corporate writer and had also taught freshman composition, and I was drafted as a bio editor.



Rosy Update

Rosy, the snow-covered Collie featured on the masthead of this newsletter, is one of the nine Iowa Collies fostered by Judy Johnson and now enjoying new homes. Rosy's coat is all grown out now, and to celebrate, she's sitting out there basking in a recent snowstorm.

Be sure to connect with MWCR on:



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



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Volunteer Feature . . . (continued from page 3)

These two reasons were enough, I thought, to explain my long tenure with MWCR. Then, about two years ago I met my second cousin, an 86-year-old woman, who produces a weekly, on-line, family newsletter. One of the photos she sent me was of my mom, dad and me as a two-year-old – and in the center of the family grouping was our dog, Thumper, a beautiful sable and white Collie. Thumper died shortly after the picture was taken and I have no memory of him. But it explains everything!



Judy's two rare, miniature, silver-shaded rescue Collies. ☺ Hastings (left, AKA the Stalker) & Lily (right, AKA the Stalked)

Veterinary Feature . . .

Dr. Ryan Speltz (pictured at left), of Skyline Veterinary Hospital in Fridley MN, is MWCR's board veterinarian. The board consults with Dr. Speltz as needed regarding Collie health issues and other matters. In the future, Dr. Speltz will write an occasional medical column or advisory for the MWCR Newsletter, with the first one to come in the March edition regarding the shortage of Interceptor heartworm preventive. Thank you, Dr. Speltz!



On the Web site now . . .

MWCR's Web site now features a **February Valentine pledge page**. Visitors to the site may pledge an amount per Collie adopted in 2012 in support of the Collies. Check the home page to show that your ♥ belongs to Collies. The Collies love your support!

