



# Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

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

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**Dr. Ryan Speltz**

*Dr. Speltz is located at Skyline Veterinary Clinic, 6220 Highway 65 NE, Fridley MN. He is MWCR's board veterinarian.*



## *Heartworm Prevention Woes this Spring Thanks to Novartis ...*

*By Dr. Ryan Speltz*

"Novartis Animal Health has ceased production of Interceptor, Sentinel, and several other drugs manufactured in its plant in Lincoln, NE while the facility undergoes 'process and compliance improvement activities,' a spokesman for the company confirmed..." Mickey McDermott, head of communications for Novartis Animal Health in North America, could not immediately identify what other products are being impacted by the plant's temporary shutdown aside from Interceptor and Sentinel, both pet parasiticides. He did not specify the type of modifications underway or whether they were prompted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which regulates facilities that manufacture and process livestock feeds, pet foods, and veterinary drugs and devices. Officials with the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine did not respond to a query about whether the agency is involved in Novartis's process and compliance upgrades.

McDermott noted that the changes are being made "voluntarily." The company hopes to resume its regular production schedule sometime in January ([Veterinary Info Network](#), 2011, Jennifer Fiala).  
*(Cont'd on page 2)*

## *Collies Gone Wild ...*

*By Judy McCalla*

Hi, folks. I'm Schatzie and my friend Ace and I are two more of those MWCR success stories. I got adopted into a great forever home, but I'm one of those dogs that loves an adventure. Every now and then I need to indulge my inner wolf and take a little unsupervised road trip – you know, hit the dusty trail, fly the coop, taste the delicious chew bone of freedom! That's why when a workman left the gate to our yard open, I was off and running. By the time my dad knew it, I was nowhere to be seen.  
*(Cont'd on page 3)*



**Schatzie**

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

**Rescue Line: 612-869-0480**  
mwcr.org



## Heartworm Info . . .

*Heartworm Disease, caused by the parasite Dirofilaria immitis, was once considered a disease of the southern United States. But it is now found in every state in the continental United States. The mosquito is the only known vector for transmitting heartworm. Microfilariae enter a mosquito when it bites an infected pet. In 10-28 days they mature into larvae. The larvae enter a new animal's body when it is bitten by an infected mosquito. Larvae mature and migrate to the pet's heart. Worms in the heart mate and produce microfilariae (6-7 months after infection in dogs, 8 months in cats).*

*An important part of a complete heartworm prevention program is testing. All dogs should be tested for heartworm infection before starting a preventive program. Testing ensures that your pet is free of adult heartworms, and ready to start or continue on heartworm preventive medication. The American Heartworm Society (AHS) estimates that only 50% of dogs in areas where heartworm occurs are actually on heartworm preventives. (Drs. Foster and Smith Web site)*

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## Interceptor Shortage . . . cont'd from page 1

As many Collie owners now know, the potential issue we all face this spring is the above recent voluntary production stoppage of the Novartis line of veterinary drugs, including the favorite for heartworm prevention in Collies, Interceptor/ Sentinel. Let us Collie owners not panic, however, but plan and react accordingly in case this shutdown draws out longer than a few weeks.

Many of us have already started purchasing our summer supply of the product Interceptor via warehouse stock because in the past these voluntary shutdowns have taken months to resolve. Please consider buying yours very soon before the supplies are used up. I also recommend making sure you're getting USA product in good dating and condition. Be aware that imported Milbemycin may not be a good replacement due to poor quality control and contamination.

When startup production of Interceptor happens, the pricing and demands may continue supply shortages into 2013, since southern states where Interceptor is used year round will be first in line for limited supplies. Many practitioners will be turning to another heartworm preventative like Trifexis, which contains spinosad and milbemycin oxime for Collies. Trifexis is not a bad direct substitute for Interceptor or Sentinel, which contains milbemycin oxime and lufenuron. The label for Trifexis does contain serious adverse reactions reports following concomitant extra-label use of another broad-spectrum antiparasiticide while on Trifexis. This doesn't mean Collies can't handle it, but if given a choice let's all try to get the Interceptor we all need.

We have received no new communication from Novartis since the "Dear Doctor Letters" with news of the disruption on December 11, 2011. Members of Veterinary Info Network have attempted to contact Novartis in search of clear answers about the supply issues, but so far we await answers according to our forums. Whenever further information is available, it will be passed on to MWCR Newsletter readers.



**There is still time to pledge your ♥ and \$ to the Collies. Visit the pledge page at <http://www.mwcr.org/events/pledge2.htm> to pledge an amount for the number of Collies adopted in 2012.**



**Be sure to connect with MWCR on**



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



Be sure to visit the Collie Shop, where there's always something Collie-related. Visit the Collie Shop at [www.mwcr.org](http://www.mwcr.org), and click on the Collie Shop icon. The newest item is mementos in memory of loved ones.



### *Collies Gone Wild . . . cont'd from page 1*

Now most humans don't really understand about the inner wolf thing, so my dad was terribly worried about me. He was afraid I would get lost or attacked by another dog or even hit by a car, so he and MWCR launched an all out search for me with flyers and volunteers and everything. Meanwhile, I was having a great time, feeling the winds of freedom in my fur and having amazing adventures. One of my best adventures involved my chasing a rabbit like the predator, wolf-dog that I am. Sadly, someone saw me and reported me to the searchers (by the way, they added a slanderous story about me being chased by a cat while I was chasing the rabbit. Lies, lies, lies!).

Anyway, the search was narrowing and I knew it was only a matter of time before I was caught, so I decided to give myself up (plus, the delicious chew bone of freedom isn't nearly as tasty as a yummy bowl of kibble). I headed home where my dad – alerted by a nosy neighbor – was waiting in the yard for me. He was so happy to see me that I even let him rub my tummy before I demanded my dinner. Altogether, it was a very satisfying adventure.

My friend Ace's story is a little different, but I'll let him tell you about it himself.

Hi, I'm Ace and I think Schatzie is nuts! I don't have an inner wolf; I have an inner cuddle-bunny. I got lost completely by accident when I decided to take a little romp near my house. My mom and her friend and I were getting out of the car when I saw something interesting in the distance and went off to check it out, dragging my leash behind me (see picture of my prints and leash trail at left). Mom's friend came to get me, but just then a train roared by and scared me. I ran and ran and ran, and when I stopped, I didn't know where I was. Thank heavens mom started a search for me. Like Schatzie's search, mine included flyers and Web postings and lots of volunteers out calling for me.

Poor mom. She was so worried about me. She even put a live trap in our yard and caught a neighborhood cat. That was pretty funny, and I wish I had been there to see it, but I was lost in a dark, scary wood with nothing to eat and no one to cuddle me. But then, after what seemed like YEARS, I heard something familiar: it sounded like my favorite squeaky toy and the next thing I knew, there was mom! We were both so happy that we rolled around in the snow together laughing and giving each other kisses. I was found! Someone had seen me near the woods and I had left a trail in the snow that showed both my footprints and the leash I was dragging. Mom tracked me down and saved me. Unlike Schatzie, mine was not a satisfying adventure, but it sure was a satisfying reunion.

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[mwcr.org](http://mwcr.org)



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.

**There are still a few MWCR calendars available, now at 50% off the original price. When they're gone, that's it until 2013! Orders may be placed online through the**

**FRITZ: The dog who launched 10+ years of rescue service.**



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## **Collies Gone Wild . . . cont'd from page 3**

*Whether a dog is an adventure-seeker like Schatzie or an accidental escapee like Ace, it is a dangerous world out there for lost dogs. Finding them requires immediate action, perseverance, and yes, money. There are automated calling systems that can alert hundreds of neighbors. There are flyers, yard signs, and live traps. None of these things is free and once a dog is missing, there is little time to raise that money. MWCR has set up a fund that will help with these expenses and that will be available immediately when a dog goes missing. Of course, there is also a great need for "boots on the ground" to search, put up flyers, and contact various humane organizations and vet clinics; and all of these activities are coordinated through our Web master.*

*Happy endings don't just happen; they are the result of planning, hard work, and money. Please help if you can. MWCR will use the funds we collect toward purchasing yard signs that can be reused and can also be loaned to other rescue groups as needed; purchasing robo-call service from findtoto.com or a similar company, printing flyers, and whatever else can be done to find a lost dog. The Lost Dog Fund can be found at [http://www.mwcr.org/missing\\_dog\\_fund.htm](http://www.mwcr.org/missing_dog_fund.htm).*

## **From Texas to MWCR . . .**

*By Linda Riegger*

On a scorching sidewalk in Dallas in the late 1990's, I knelt to get a better look at the Golden Retriever colored pup with oversized German shepherd ears and long Collie nose that sat crookedly in front of me, his little feathered tail swishing perilously close to a fire ant mound.



The woman who had saved him from being euthanized at the local pound looked at me hopefully as she wiped sweat from her forehead with the back of her hand. She'd placed an ad in the local paper trying to find him a home, and I'd responded, looking for a buddy for my shepherd/husky mix Heidi. I stood up and smiled at her. The little tyke was coming home with me. I named him Fritz.

Fritz was a character, and the love of my life. After a few more fun years in Texas, I drove home to Minnesota with Fritz, Heidi, and the kitties all comfortably squished together in my red Blazer. We bought a house with sunny windows and nearby dog parks and two years later God broke my heart, taking Fritz to heaven at the young age of seven. I made myself wait three months before trying to find another companion for sweet Heidi. (Cont'd on page 5)



### Asa, singing with the Roving Minstrels



### From Texas to MWCR . . . cont'd from page 4

The day finally arrived. I could start searching. My next dog, I'd decided, was going to certainly be a rescue dog, and either a Golden Retriever or Collie, in honor of Fritz. I wanted a dog similar in personality to Fritz, but unique as well.

Unique is what I got when I adopted Asa in 2002 from MWCR. A stunning blue merle, he charmed everybody he met as an MWCR event-attending Collie. He also loved the dog sport of agility, specializing in running out of the competition ring to flirt with flashy Golden Retrievers as they sashayed past with their owners. Herding sheep came naturally to my guy, and the judges at the Instinct tests always praised him highly. Asa was one of the first dog blood donors in the Twin Cities and was spotlighted on Channel 5 news for his good deeds, belching like a sailor for the camera, full of the bark-reducing treats I'd fed him during the filming. God took Asa this past Memorial Day at the age of 12, not long after the Scottish Fair, his very favorite event. The Roving Minstrels always looked forward to harmonizing with my "Singing Collie." He was my star.

### "BIG" Willie



It will be hard for me to attend this year's Scottish Fair without Asa, but I will be there. Willie has stepped into the paw-prints Asa left behind. Adopted from MWCR in July, my 100 pound curly-coated gentle giant of a Collie will accompany me, and I know Asa will be with Willie and me in spirit, as will Fritz and all the other 'loves of my life,' dogs and kitties alike, that God has graced me with over the years.

People that help dogs in need, whether it be pulling a golden-furred puppy from a high-kill shelter in Texas or fostering a Collie found wandering as a stray in the middle of a Minnesota winter, are the best of the best in my book. That's why I'm a member of MWCR. In my 10 or so years of helping in various capacities, I've found out that MWCR is also the best of the best.

Look for Willie and me at some of MWCR's upcoming events – we're on the Fundraising/Events Committee, helping to put on occasions for people to learn about MWCR and the Collies it helps. Maybe you'll see me painting a spider or a fairy on a shy child's cheek at the Pet Expo or emceeing the Collie Games at the Collie Frolic. You'll certainly be able to pick out Willie – he'll be the Big Guy that's sucking up to you for a butt-scratch. Willie might even audition with the Roving Minstrels at this year's Scottish Fair. He'd love for you to applaud for him!

All of us at MWCR send our best wishes to Rich and Gloria, for Rich's recovery; to Joan S for a restful period before her next treatments; to Jackie for her mother.

We also send our sympathies to Judy H and family, who lost husband and father Jay, and Pattie S, who lost two family members recently.

We are all thinking of you.



The estate of Shayna Fineman, MWCR member who died in 2008 (see our *In Memoriam* page on the Web site), has recently been settled. MWCR will receive a small monetary bequest and many jewelry items, which Shayna asked us to dispose of in support of the well-being of the Collies. Her wishes will be respected, and all proceeds will be dedicated to medical care for Collies in need.



### Follow Lost Dogs on Twitter . . .

Sign up for Lost Dog Updates on Twitter! If you sign up before a dog goes missing, you will be kept "in the loop" as things happen!  
[https://twitter.com/#!/MWCR\\_Lost](https://twitter.com/#!/MWCR_Lost)

### Twin Cities Pet Expo, March 24-25

Mark your calendars for Twin Cities Pet Expo which will be held on March 24-25 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The event runs from 9-6 on Saturday and from 10-5 on Sunday, so we'll need plenty of MWCR members, with or without their Collies, to help at the booth. This year, the Expo will be held in Hall C which is on the upper level so volunteers won't need to walk up the long ramp to get to the outside with their dogs.

### Better in Show, Eau Claire

MWCR had a table at the Eau Claire County Humane Society's Better in Show event on Friday evening, February 17. The Humane Society held a terrific event with great attendance. In addition to numerous vendors and a huge silent auction, the event awarded various prizes to dogs and had an agility area set up to entertain the dogs who visited the event with their humans. MWCR was represented by Terry Libro, Terry's Wisconsin friend Mary Ann, and Mary Ann's long-haired black German Shepherd puppy (pictured at left), who helped at the booth. Several Collies attended the event.

### Great Lakes Pet Expo (pictured at left)

The expo was a huge hit as usual. Thanks to everyone for volunteering their time and gorgeous collies. The expo was the busiest ever, with MWCR members coming from as far away as Green Bay and the Chicago area. The collie at right is obviously very pleased with the donations!



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