

Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

Finding new hope and new homes for homeless collies.

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MWCR Newsletter, April,
2012, Issue # 5

Rock's K-9 Facility

Training Session for MWCR Collies. . .

On May 12, at Rock's Positive Training, Big Bend WI, MWCR will sponsor a training session for MWCR Collies. Registration opens in early April, and interested Collies and their people are invited to register via the MWCR Website. Trainer Frank Allison specializes in training dogs with aggression and anti-social behavior problems, which will be the primary focus of this training session. Naturally, such training sessions are just as much for Collie people as they are for Collies, as trainers usually say.

The session will run from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. on the 12th and is open to MWCR members and adopters of MWCR dogs, with a registration subsidy provided to the first 10 who register and pay the registration fee. Registration fees for the first 10 registrants are \$45, and MWCR will pick up the rest of the cost. Registration for additional participants will be \$90 (a reduced rate for rescue groups). The facility is indoors, so the session can be held no matter the weather on May 12. Fees are non-refundable, unless the event is canceled.

Foster Collies with identified behavior issues and their foster people may also attend the session, with total cost paid by MWCR, subject to approval by the board of directors.

The trainer at Rock's, Frank Allison, has significantly helped two MWCR Collies, one an adopted Collie and the other a foster Collie. Both dogs had socialization issues, and both showed marked improvement after the sessions with them and their owners at Rock's. Allison has worked with several breed rescue groups, helping rescued dogs get ready for their permanent homes.

Allison has been a trainer for many years, having relocated to Wisconsin in 1996 and more recently to Big Bend. His training method is described as a "common sense approach to canine communication," taking a dog's point of view that enables dogs to understand expectations. The training style is described as "hands on" and positive. He employs a humane pinch collar in his training sessions to focus a dog's attention. Once the session is over, a dog should be sufficiently well trained to wear its usual collar.

Allison is the author of a book entitled Allison's American Way to Dog Training, and books will be available at the training session.

(cont'd on page 6)



Election Ballots Deadline!!!

A reminder to those of you who are voting members of MWCR as of Feb. 1, 2012: please mark your ballots and make sure they are postmarked **no later than April 3** in order to count toward the election results.

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Dr Ryan Speltz



Interceptor Update from Novartis...

The production halt at the Lincoln NE facility has created a back-order situation for veterinary customers, and the company has been unable to meet all of the demand. Novartis is working around the clock to build new production schedules for their products, but the exact timelines are uncertain. The company hopes to provide a restart date within the next few weeks.

--Released March 16, 2012

Selecting the Right Dog Food . . .

by Dr. Ryan Speltz

This last month or two sure has seen different weather for us all in the Midwest, the warmest March I have seen in a while. People are out and about exercising with their dogs sooner than I can think of in years past. We all realize the increased warmth is nice, and no, I am not here to spread doom and gloom about ticks, fleas, and mosquitoes out there yet, but to think about the warm spring as a new start for both people and pets, especially in the form of nutrition. How do you pick out your dog's nutritional food?

Most people buy their dogs' food either based on the location/brand sold, i.e. Walmart, Target or perhaps a local hardware retailer, grocery store, etc., or they buy it based on price. Less than 20% of our clients follow the advice of our veterinarian team. Let us all look at the average male customers with large breed dogs, for example: they look at the bag or brands not for the nutritional info but for catch phrases like "dental supportive," "weight control," "no corn," or "gluten free." Then they look at the shelf for the price sticker. Once they see that then they look back to the bag for the appropriate size and that is what Fido gets. Most men can't even tell me the main ingredients in the dog food they buy for their pets. Sorry guys, but we are terrible label readers.

I realize in tough times economics have to play into the choice of pet food, but I challenge my clients to look a little deeper into the choice of foods. Ask yourself these basic questions as you compare different brands and see if they help you find a good food for your loved one.

- Manufacturer control - Does the company make the food, or is it made elsewhere?
- Reputation and availability - Is the food consistently available, or is it sometimes out of stock? Have there been any recalls of this food? The food needs to be available; shortages are not cool.
- Meat and protein sources - Are they cheap by-products, or good sources of nutrition?
- Raw, organic, or natural - These are very good words to see, but do they apply to the whole bag, or is that just the meat and veggies added to the other ingredients?
- Shelf life and expiration dates - Would you buy your groceries expired? Dogs shouldn't eat food past its sell by date, either.
- Proper labels and easy to read formatting of ingredients - Does any of us buy our food with labels written in Korean? Do you know what all the ingredients are? Or are some so foreign in name that you can only assume that those must be chemicals, right?

These are a few of the areas I ask our clients to be aware of when shopping for food. I know there are more areas of concern like types of packaging, warehouse storage, and even calories and cholesterol, but these can all be addressed once the brands are sorted out based on the above questions, with the help of your veterinarian.

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Teddy Snoozing . . .



Teddy with Keelin . .



And other Pals . . .



Be sure to connect with MWCR on:



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

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Selecting the Right Dog Food . . . (cont'd from page 2)

I look forward to spring and great nutrition for all our pets this year, and I challenge all of us to do better at knowing what is in our pets' food.

Editor's Note: Of course we think Collie folks (including the men!) are among the 20% who heed this advice and select nutritious food for their dogs.

Down Memory Lane with Teddy . . .

by Iva Rahlf

In late summer 2005, when I was serving as MWCR's intake coordinator, a shelter in Oskaloosa, IA contacted MWCR about a Collie named Beethoven. Since Beethoven's owner had been sent to jail, he and his two dog mates were left confined in a pen without food and water, ended up at the shelter, and needed new homes.

As soon as we received Beethoven's photos, we knew he wasn't all Collie, but it just wasn't acceptable to turn away a dog with such a sad story. Meanwhile, as we were making transport and foster arrangements, Beethoven suffered an injured hip during play with other dogs at the shelter. X-rays showed that the hip had been injured before, left untreated, healed improperly, and now was even more seriously injured. Since my veterinarian had just performed hip surgery on another MWCR foster Collie, MWCR asked if my husband Gordy and I would foster this Collie, too. Beethoven came to live with us the day before Labor Day 2005, and he had surgery the day after Labor Day.

Because we had several other dogs at our house, Beethoven went to a quieter foster home in Marshall MN to recover. He also got a new name, and Beethoven became Teddy. Teddy's entire hip area was shaved from the surgery, he didn't walk on the affected leg, nor could he lie on that side. Although the initial surgery had gone well, Teddy's hip later became infected, and he came back to us in Watertown for a second surgery to remove bone fragments floating in the injured hip. He became our Teddy when we adopted him soon thereafter.

For weeks Teddy didn't use the injured hip and held the foot on that side off the floor. I worried that Teddy would never use that leg again, but gradually his foot came down closer to the floor, and then one day he decided he could lie down on the injured side. Success! Although he always walked with a limp, he was once again able to play with other dogs and dash around at the dog park, which he loved.

When Teddy came to us, his coat was short, dry, and brittle, obviously showing the effects of poor nutrition. By the time Teddy's coat came back in on the injured and shaved hip, he had a whole new look; he had developed the long, luxurious Collie coat with mahogany markings that appear in the later photos of him on the left.

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Down Memory Lane with Teddy . . . (cont'd from page 3)

Teddy also had dermatomyositis, an inherited inflammatory disease of the skin, muscles, and blood vessels, and the lesions typical of this condition appear on his nose in the photos (see picture at left). This condition sometimes develops in young Collies, Shelties, and related breeds, and was the root cause of Teddy's recurring hotspots and ear infections.

Teddy was friendly and got along well with both humans and other dogs. When he went into protective mode, he had a big, deep bark, but when his Yorkie companion Gabrielle scolded him for stepping on her, that big bark became submissive and whiny. When we adopted another Collie named Boromir, who was deaf, Teddy let Boromir intimidate him into moving off a dog bed if Boromir wanted that bed. Our Maltese Lance always expected Teddy to help him bark at whatever needed barking at, but Teddy's best canine friend was a little Terrier mix named Flick.

Teddy went back to visit his other foster home several times when we were traveling or needed a dog sitter. His Marshall family also had a lake cabin, and Teddy loved being at the lake. No matter how long between his visits to Marshall or the lake, the minute he got there he remembered where the water bowl and the treats were and helped himself to both.

Teddy's favorite place to lie was in a doorway where he could watch both me and Gordy and see what we were doing. His other favorite thing was barking at and chasing airplanes—despite the fact that we told him he didn't stand a chance of catching one. We lived near the approach to the local airport, and every time Teddy saw or heard a plane, or saw the lights from a plane at night, he tried to chase it. He thought the lights from the nearby sports stadium were planes and barked at those, too. He taught Boromir to bark at and chase planes, and although Boromir couldn't hear the planes, he barked at them and still barks at the stadium lights. We always say he's barking for Teddy.

In September 2010, Teddy fell and had a hard time getting up, and when that happened again two weeks later I knew something was wrong and rushed Teddy to the vet clinic. Teddy had had a stroke, and he went to the Rainbow Bridge on September 30. We never knew how old Teddy really was, so I chose July 25, 1998, as his birthday (July 25 is my birthday, too). We think he was 12 when he went to the Bridge. Our beloved Teddy's ashes are preserved in a special wooden box made by Gordy, with Teddy's name in brass letters, and some of his ashes are buried at the lake cabin he loved to visit.

Taking this trip down memory lane with Teddy has been both happy and sad, but Teddy's story also tells the story of what MWCR and other rescues do best. Sad beginnings turn into happier times when rescued dogs are given a second chance to overcome injury and neglect with the help of foster homes, veterinary clinics, the people who give the dogs permanent homes, and those who donate in support of the Collies.

Coming Events . . .

- Pet Wellness Expo, April 14, Burlington WI High School. Includes Frank Allison's presentation: "Proper Communication = Well Adjusted Dog"
- No-Kill Walk for the Animals, May 5, Little Canada, MN
- Minnesota Scottish Fair, May 19, Farmington, MN
- Paws on Parade, May 19, Hutchinson, MN
- Canine Carnival, June 2, Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, MN
- Collie Frolic, June 16, Blaine, MN
- Super Adoption Event, June 23, Rochester, MN

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Katie & her Buddha!

Katie at her Foster Home



Richard Gerber

Everyone at MWCR extends sympathy and caring to Gloria Gerber and family at the loss of Rich Gerber, who died on March 19. Rich's family has asked that in lieu of flowers memorials be made to MWCR. Gloria and Rich adopted two beautiful Collies, Maisie and Jake, from MWCR. A donation button is set up on the MWCR website.

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All About Katie . . .

by Katie's new mom

Katie remains an itty bitty dog--we call her our pocket Collie. She topped out at about 32 pounds, and we still need to convince her eating is OK. Somehow we've ended up with another dog that doesn't like to eat--that just seems unnatural for a canine! Sometimes even people food isn't enough of a bribe. We have a sense that mealtimes were chaotic and perhaps competitive with our girl on the losing end in her former life. She's doing better all the time though.

You can't tell from the picture but she has an unusual coat for a Collie--she's missing all that warm fluff fur under the long silky top coat so we dress her in warm clothes when it gets very cold out. She seems to get cold easily but loves winter anyway. She also loves her Buddha!

Now for the wonderful stuff--she is such a happy dog! She LOVES her yard and field. We have an acre of yard and another acre of field that used to be prairie out back. We are letting it go natural, trees have filled in probably half of it, and the rest remains prairie grass (and our vegetable garden). It's also home to a herd of 16 deer that sleep there every night. Nothing makes Katie happier than sailing out the back door, tail high in the air wagging all the way, and waking them up every morning and sending them on their way. She stops exactly at the property line (we have an invisible fence around the entire two acres) and runs in each direction to make sure they're all gone before prancing back proudly into the yard.

She hasn't quite figured out squirrels. They move, so they're interesting and fun as a reason to launch out the back door, but once she gets under the trees they climb, she's over all that. She chases butterflies, birds, and would LOVE to play with the foxes if we let her. She likes to watch out the windows and always lets us know when there's new wildlife out back, and the only time she growls is when it's the occasional coyote. You can tell she doesn't REALLY want to go out and meet them, just likes to show us she's on the job.

On the domestic side, she's an angel. She rings the jingle bells at the front and back door when she wants to go out, and gives one polite doorbell bark when she wants to come back in. She sleeps perfectly through the night on her bed and in the morning likes to jump up on our son's bed for just a few minutes of quiet guarding before he gets up for school.

She's so sweet that last Christmas, the little girls who play with her when we have to be gone for a long day came over with presents for Katie.

She LOVES to walk on a leash and is getting used to car rides. She has one habit left from her former life that we can't quite figure out and will probably always have to work with her on: although she sails into the back of the car as if she's on springs, once she is in there, she cowers in the corner when we open the

(cont'd on page 7)



Training Session for MWCR Collies. . . (cont'd from page 1)

Further information will be provided at the time of registration, or more information may be requested via collietalk@yahoo.com. You can register at http://www.mwcr.org/events/Rocks_Training_Session.htm.

We Get By With A Little Help For Our Best Friends. . .

An MWCR Dogs' and Frank Allison Training Success Story

Perhaps Gabby had always been a bit of a "wild child," or maybe her stint of homelessness led her to fight for every morsel of food that came her way. Whatever the motive, Gabby would sometimes launch pre-emptive strikes on other dogs for no apparent reason. When the perfect home came along – a retired gentleman who lived alone on a nice acreage with no other pets – it seemed like a match made in heaven.

Gabby settled in nicely, enjoying the long walks, attention from her beloved master, and a large yard in which to play. However, she didn't appreciate Dad's paying attention to other dogs. As a further insult, one little black dog bit her on the nose without provocation – an understandable turn-off! Sometimes Gabby would stake her claim to territory even if it was while they were out on walks or while visiting another's home. She would assert alpha dog status and let it be known that she'd better not face any challenge to that ranking! After she lunged at a standard Poodle twice her size on his home turf, Gabby's Dad realized that she was capable of doing great harm if this behavior went unchecked. He needed help, and he needed it fast!

Fortunately, Gabby lived in Big Bend WI, close to Frank Allison's training facility. In their initial one-hour session, Frank used a humane pinch collar, and employing consistency and frequent rewards, he kept reminding her who was boss. "Keep it positive" was his mantra. Frank then took Gabby outside where there were lots of other dogs. Amazingly, after that brief one-on-one session, she was suddenly as interested in the other dogs as they were in her.

Gabby and her master were invited to attend several other training sessions. Her Dad was anxious that Gabby might attack the other dogs, and she quickly sensed his nervousness. Recognizing this, Frank took Gabby in tow to demonstrate his techniques to the group, using this former "wild child" to teach the entire class lessons in canine control. Soon Gabby was shouldering other dogs, ducking through Hula Hoops, jumping up on tables, passing alongside loud vacuum cleaners, and much, much more!

In short, Gabby needed to learn how to socialize with other dogs, and now she can't wait to visit her canine friends on their walks – well, except for the little black dog who bit her snout! And Gabby now loves Aunt Linda's standard Poodles and looks forward to house-sitting for them with her Dad! Whether she wonders, as comedian Rita Rudner has speculated, if Poodles might be members of some weird religious cult, Gabby isn't saying, proving once again that she has truly become a lady! No more pinch collar needed for this lovely girl!

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Gabby, savoring a rare snowfall this winter and enjoying a spring romp.



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An MWCR Dogs' and Frank Allison Training Success Story (cont'd from page 6)

JayJay (left), another MWCR dog, also needed a little help! He had a stubborn streak and would growl at those trying to get him to do things he didn't want to do. A session with Frank Allison and follow-up work at home turned him into the *perfect dog*. JayJay was home at last, because what foster home could send the perfect dog somewhere else to live?

All About Katie . . . (cont'd from page 5)

tailgate and reach in to put on her leash. SOMETHING happened once, or regularly, that makes that exact activity terrifying for her. We continue to assure her it's all OK but this may be a lifelong fear that we all have to live with.

Katie is a doll, and we wouldn't trade her for a bona fide, big, typical Collie for anything. And hey, when we have to, she's easy to pick up!

Family Reunion!

Finn (fka Sponge Bob, featured in the February 2012 newsletter) and Ringo (fka Mingo) were reunited at a St Patrick's Day event at Montrose Beach Dog Park. After the initial excitement generated by their new surroundings and hundreds of loose dogs, they joined and formed their own little pack. Finn and brother Vaughn ventured into Lake Michigan. Humans and dogs were all well behaved, and the dogs enjoyed the refreshing breezes off Lake Michigan and running free, unrestrained by leashes. (Pictured at left)

Lucie Loves Sully...Sully Loves Lucie...♥

Lucie has endeared herself to her new family. She and Sully are "so in love"! They are a perfect match and enjoy each other so much. Lucie is coming out of her shell more each day. She is still wary of the children but will now venture about the house even when they are present. Another success story!

Twin Cities Pet Expo 2012!!!

The 2012 Twin Cities Pet Expo held last weekend at the Minneapolis Convention Center was a huge success. Our booth was busy both days. Many people stopped by to visit, including MWCR members, applicants, Collie owners, friends from other rescues, and people who couldn't resist our beautiful, charming Collie ambassadors. Willie, Ilsa, Harley, Cindy, Phoebe, Lilo, Baxter, and Woodson were show stoppers who brought numerous people to the booth. Plus, their new MWCR donation vests made by Mary Hall were a hit. Our dogs wagged their tails and barked with delight whenever someone placed a donation in the vest. Linda had children lined up to get one of her magical face paintings. The prize wheel and Jezebel collars were a hit again. Kitty's bags of gourmet dog biscuits were gone by the end of Saturday. Cat's homemade soaps with MWCR labels which we handed out to visitors barely lasted into Sunday afternoon.



Sully (left) and Lucie...



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Attention, Parents and Kids!

MWCR welcomes stories told by children of members and adopters about their experiences with their dogs. We'd be happy to publish the stories in future editions of the newsletter, along with photos. Just send us the stories at collietalk@yahoo.com, and we'll include them. We can do some editing if need be, too.

Send us those stories!

Twin Cities Pet Expo 2012!!!



Above, Woodson (FKA Bruno)
Below Left: Ilsa and Family



Above Cindy, honorary Collie
Below, Big Willie



Cat & Lilo



Harley and Big Willie



Phoebe, Therapy Dog

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