

Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

Finding new hope and new homes for homeless collies.

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MWCR Newsletter,
April 2013
Volume 2, Issue 4

Asking Sensible Pre-Surgery Questions . . .

By Dr. Ryan Speltz

Editors' Note: An MWCR member who owns and has fostered several Collies recently told us about adverse reactions to anesthesia suffered by some Collies, so we asked Dr. Speltz, MWCR's board veterinarian, for his insights on the topic.

This month's veterinary topic is anesthesia and possible reactions to it. Weekly in our clinic a pet owner expresses concern about anesthesia and/or reactions. Sometimes the owner has been through issues in the past with other pets at other places. With these concerns in mind, here are some anesthesia-related observations.

Modern anesthesia is very safe, but nonetheless there are still some risks. Having a Collie react to or die under anesthesia while undergoing a routine spay, neuter, dental procedure, or mass removal procedure is low, but the risk can be affected by the choice of anesthetic drugs, dosages, the dog's general health, and surgical monitoring.

There are no mandatory standards of care for veterinary anesthesia in Collies. Some clinics may still be using older, cheaper techniques. The best way to approach concerns about anesthesia with your clinic is to ask your veterinarian some questions the next time your Collie or foster Collie is scheduled for an anesthetic event. Please note use of the word "ask"—not demand. :o)

- Will a full pre-anesthetic blood workup be done, and when?
- Is my Collie healthy enough for this procedure? This question is important because weight may be a concern, along with the risk of infection.
- Are intravenous catheters used? Are fluids administered during anesthesia? The answer should be yes because intravenous fluids will combat low blood pressure, and if there are any adverse reactions under anesthesia, a catheter allows for use of emergency drugs to counteract what is happening.
- Will the Collie be intubated? Intubation makes dental procedures safer because it decreases the risk of bacteria in the airway.
- What anesthetic gas will be used? Modern gas anesthetics include halothane, isoflurane, and sevoflurane.
- What monitoring techniques will be used? Examples are EKG, pulse oximeter, blood pressure check, Certified Veterinary Technician assistance.
- What pain control will be used? This is a touchy subject because while pain control is needed, some pain medications prolong lethargy or vocalization or whiny dog syndrome. Although these symptoms may be termed a reaction, pain medication is still needed.
- Are the drugs to be used labeled for use in a dog like mine, and are the drugs brand name or generic? The best choice is to use brand name drugs if possible.
- Is the dog's body temperature maintained during and after anesthesia?

(Cont'd on page 2)



Dangerous Drugs for Collies

TOTALLY PROHIBITED
POTENTIAL HIGH RISK
CAUTION & MINIMUM DOSAGE
PREVENTION FOR SOME PAST CASES OF TOXICITY

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

Rescue Line: 612-869-0480
 mwcr.org

Asking Sensible Pre-Surgery Questions . . . (Cont'd from page 1)

How much will all of the above factors influence cost? A cheap procedure is cheap for a reason: the focus may be on reducing or holding down cost rather than insuring health and safety. Price shopping for anesthetic-related surgical costs is legal, of course, but possibly ill-advised and even dangerous. How many of us would do something similar with our own health by asking our doctors to hold costs down? Outdated products, rushed techniques, less monitoring, and less staff attention during anesthetic procedures can reduce or control costs, but these things also increase risk potential.

The best advice when Collie owners know that a procedure requiring anesthesia is coming up is to play it safe, save money in a fund set aside for the purpose, and get the best possible care for the Collie.

Editors' Note: The MWCR Web site has a chart delineating some drugs, including pre-anesthesia medications that can be serious problems for collies. Visit <http://www.mwcr.org/events/drug-graphic.pdf>, print it up (in color!), post it on your fridge, and refer to it whenever you head out to the vet. More details of drug classes that are potentially dangerous for Collies can be found at http://www.mwcr.org/be_aware.htm.

Jack: the Christmas Collie is 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." An MWCR member brought the book to our attention because Houston Collie Rescue (HCR) has been selling the book as a fundraiser for their organization.

The blurb at 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.

A Novel Based On A True Collie

Jack

The Christmas Collie

Sometimes the perfect gift has a few perfect flaws

Kevin L. Brett

Experience the adventures of Captain Jack the beautiful tri-color Collie - based on a true Collie



This Christmas, the Barnes family will receive a gift; a gift that will teach them about life ... about making sacrifices and about giving back. 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.



www.KevinBrettStudios.com

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MWCR AT THE COLLIE NATIONAL SPECIALTY . . .

La Crosse WI is the site for the 2013 Collie Club of America National Specialty, and for the first time MWCR will have a booth at the show. MWCR will be there April 3rd through April 6th. We'll have Collie Shop merchandise for sale, along with information about MWCR, fostering a Collie, adopting a Collie, and more.

We are seeking volunteers to help out at MWCR's booth during the event. Anyone who can help please contact Cat at cat_chisago@yahoo.com to volunteer.

The National Specialty includes herding, agility, and conformation events, along with a Collie Health Foundation dinner. The full event schedule is available on this site: www.collieclubofamerica.org We hope you can make it to La Crosse—and that the weather cooperates!



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Tales of an Allergic Dog . . . By Cassie and Mary Hickerson

Cassie says: I think I'm pretty lucky. I live by a lake in central Minnesota with my Golden Retriever sister and my two humans, and I love living near the water. I'm 7 or 8 years old, according to my people, and I'm not going to tell them otherwise. I came from something called a hoarding situation in Ohio a while back, so I'm a rescue girl of an uncertain age. Back then someone told MWCR I looked like I was part Collie, so MWCR took me in, even though I'm pretty small as Collies go. If they like to think I'm part Collie, that's fine by me.



Anyway, life is good even in the winter because my people take me and my sister to a warmer place for a while. We all go to a funny place with the biggest lake I've ever seen, something my people call the Atlantic. Dogs are everywhere down here, even on all that sand by that huge lake, and there's a great big dog park with water on three sides and plenty of room to run. It's warmer here, too, but there's none of that white stuff that I like to stick my nose in when I'm outdoors.

The first year we came here, my sister and I were really happy to get out of the cold for a while and have this huge unfrozen lake to play in. But last year I started to scratch a lot after we'd been here a while, and my people were pretty worried. Then we went home to Minnesota and I was fine again. This year I started scratching right away after we got here, and even though I tried not to scratch, I just had to do it. So off we went to the vet clinic, where the doctor man made a big deal out of checking me for fleas—how insulting is that!! Then he said I had something called allergies, and he gave mom some advice about what to do for me. What he told her to do hasn't been fun, I can tell you that!

She drags me off to a dog store, plops me in a big white tub, gets me all wet and soapy with something icky, and worse yet she uses a fur blaster after we're done with the water torture. Mom says I love water everywhere else, so why not in the tub? But I get back at her by shaking myself a lot and flinging water everywhere, especially on her. I guess she's right that all these baths make me feel better—and I look soft and fluffy, too. But really!—why all the fuss about a little scratching?

Mom says: When Cassie started itching and scratching about 6 weeks into our stay in South Carolina last year, we checked for fleas but found nothing—as expected, since she'd had her usual topical applications. There were only a few weeks before we headed back to MN, so we decided to wait until we got home to check things out further. Cassie's MN doctor did scrapings and found nothing, and after a couple of weeks the scratching stopped and we thought no more about it.

(Cont'd on page 4)



MWCR Contacts:

For Newsletter
submissions: [newsletter-
submissions@mwcr.org](mailto:newsletter-submissions@mwcr.org)

To adopt a Collie:
applications@mwcr.org

To foster a Collie:
foster@mwcr.org

To become a member:
memberships@mwcr.org

To tell us about a Collie
in need:
intake@mwcr.org

For general questions:
collietalk@yahoo.com

To contact the Board:
BOD@mwcr.org

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Tales of an Allergic Dog . . .

(Cont'd from Page 3)

This year Cassie started scratching a few days after we arrived, and she seemed pretty miserable. So we dashed off to the nearest vet clinic, and thus began our education about canine allergies—more than we ever wanted to know!

Canine allergies are a huge and complex subject that includes allergies to flea bites or food as well as environmental substances. Since Cassie was eating the same food she'd eaten at home in MN, the veterinarian who saw Cassie narrowed her condition down to **canine atopic dermatitis (CAD)**. Dogs with this condition develop IgE antibodies in response to exposure to allergens absorbed through the skin or inhaled, causing the dogs to become itchy and uncomfortable. Pollen is absorbed through a dog's skin, rather than inhaled as it is with people.

According to PetsWebMD, atopic dermatitis affects about 10-15% of all dogs and is the second most common skin reaction, after flea allergy dermatitis. The Web site lists certain breeds of dogs as being especially susceptible to atopic reactions, though Collies are not among the listed breeds. The fact that Cassie's allergy didn't show up until the second year of exposure and then became worse during the third year is typical of atopic dermatitis. Allergies to pollen don't develop immediately.

In Cassie's case, the vet suspected tree pollen as the culprit. Even in January, the South Carolina air is laden with tree pollen; cars parked outdoors are always covered with a yellowish green layer of what looks like thick dust. Dogs with food allergies tend to bite their feet, scratch their ears, develop reddened ears and even ear infections. Dogs with atopic dermatitis usually scratch the underside of their bodies, which the vet called a "starting the motorcycle" motion. Cassie displayed the classic reaction, which helped with the diagnosis of an allergy to tree pollen.

So now we knew Cassie was allergic to South Carolina tree pollens, even though she doesn't react to the tree pollens back home. Her doctor's first recommendation was to give her two Benadryl tablets twice a day, though he said that Benadryl is effective for only about 40% of dogs and not for others, and there was no guarantee that Cassie would get relief. The most effective medications against atopic dermatitis are the Cortisone family of steroid medications, including prednisone, but because there are side effects, the doctor didn't want to prescribe those unless absolutely necessary. Then he said that the best thing we could do for Cassie was to bathe her twice a week. Oh, joy!—what a prospect!

Since we had no facilities for washing a dog where we lived, I found a holistic pet store that had convenient facilities for bathing dogs. The vet had recommended a shampoo with oatmeal and aloe, but the pet store

(Cont'd on page 5)



Tales of an Allergic Dog . . .

(Cont'd from page 4)



suggested Groomer's Secret Nature's Remedy with tea tree oil as the soothing ingredient. So, for six weeks Cassie and I went to the pet store twice a week where we soon got very skilled at being bathed and dried within 20 minutes. I usually got nearly as wet as Cassie did and quickly learned not to wear my glasses during a bath. Cassie usually forgave me for all this indignity right after she got a tasty treat from the clerk when we were paying the bill.

Was it the Benadryl or the baths that helped most? We don't know, but Cassie isn't scratching any more, she looks fluffy and cute after her baths—and I know lots of stuff about atopic dermatitis! One online source about allergies suggested that washing the dog's legs, feet, and underside after every foray outdoors would help, so we did that, too, and we gave Cassie fish oil to help her skin calm down. Something worked, thankfully.



There is a great deal of information about types, causes, and treatment of allergies on the Internet, including the Doctors Foster and Smith site and PetWebMD. One of the most interesting suggestions came from the holistic pet store, when one of the clerks there said she had

successfully desensitized her dog by putting local bee pollen in his food. The treatment works only if local pollens are used and of course only if pollen is the allergen that causes the allergic reaction.

Cassie and I are not quite ready to think about doing this routine all over again next winter when we head back to a warmer climate, but we know we were fortunate that she didn't need extensive testing or have to take steroids to relieve her itching.



Cassie says: Mom thinks I'm putting up with this stuff again next year??? We'll see about that!



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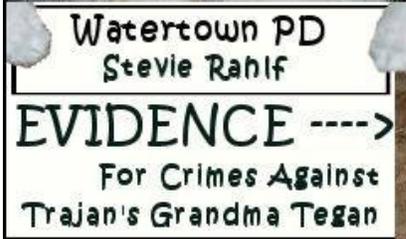
Collie-Amities: [events that bring terrible loss or great misfortune as a consequence of the actions of Collies; see *calamities*]



I ate Mom's Collie Club of America Calendar. It contained a picture of my brother Trajan's Grandmother Tegan, and I singled her out for destruction! Oops, my bad! Trajan is sad, but I'm hoping Mom can get me another calendar! This Tricolor is my brother Trajan. He doesn't look sad to me!



-- Candy Hill's Blue Denim Stevie of Garwood



I LOVE snow! In fact, I think it should snow 24/7, 365 days a year, inside and out! So I chewed Mom's feather pillow and shook that sucker to make it happen! Pretty cool, huh?

--Creena, Weather Maker



My human foster sister had her laptop plugged into the kitchen island, and she very thoughtfully left the cord hanging down. Foster Mom had no sooner said, "Hey, that's not a good idea with a puppy around!" when I came barreling through, grabbed the cord and raced off with it. It was a Mac, with a magnetic cord, or I really could have caused a big bang!

My adoptive family is going to be so happy to see all the tricks I learned in my foster home!

-- Molly, FKA Winnie



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Lost Dogs of Minnesota

<http://lostdogsmn.com/>



Lost Dogs of Wisconsin

<http://lostdogsofwisconsin.org/>



Lost Dogs Illinois

<http://www.lostdogsillinois.org/>



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What to Do If Your Dog is Lost . . .

Many dog owners have had the terrifying experience of having a dog become lost, and we all understand how emotionally draining it is to know that a dog is lost, alone, and afraid. MWCR and MN Sheltie Rescue have both developed strategies for finding lost dogs, and MWCR's list of suggestions is posted in the Files section of the MWCR Yahoo group. Many items on MWCR's list of suggestions were provided by MN Sheltie Rescue, whose members are adept at finding Shelties, one of the breeds that often presents a flight risk.

An MWCR member recently spotted an article in the "No Dog About It Blog" that includes advice both for owners of lost dogs and for people who help search for lost dogs. The article began with the question "Do you know what to do if your dog goes missing?" and went on to answer the question with a list of dos and don'ts. Below is an adapted list of DOs for owners of missing dogs.

1. Tell everyone you know that your dog is missing, and contact all local shelters, animal control facilities, vet clinics, and local police with the information.
2. Make a flyer that includes a photo of the dog and descriptive information such as size, weight, location last seen, contact information, and cautionary information such as for a shy dog that should not be approached.
3. Leave copies of flyers at local vet clinics, shelters, stores, businesses, etc., and distribute them in the neighborhood where the dog was last seen.
4. Put an ad in Craigslist.
5. Ask friends and family to help spread the word and/or pass out flyers.
6. Use Facebook and Twitter, and contact groups such as Lost Dogs of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, etc.
7. Post signs in locations where they will be seen by passing drivers.
8. If the lost dog has been sighted, see if there is a pattern of sightings and put food out to try to keep the dog in the general area. Once a dog has gotten used to the food locations, traps can be set up in one or more locations.
9. Contact one or more of the services that help put out information about lost dogs, such as Pet Amber Alert or FindToto.com. MWCR has used the latter with some success.
10. Carry along smelly treats that can be tossed to your dog when you are in areas where the dog has been sighted.
11. Put items such as your clothing or your dog's bedding in traps or around the yard or a location where the dog has been sighted; sometimes lost dogs are drawn in by the scent of something familiar.
12. If you spot your dog at a location, sit down facing away from the dog, or sideways from the dog, sit quietly, and keep your head down. Toss treats gently toward the dog.

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Thank You to everyone who voted in the recent MWCR election. Sarah Rebernick was elected vice president and Douglas Christman was reelected treasurer.

Thank you also to the candidates who participated in the election, and to the nominating committee who handled election procedures. MWCR is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who offer their help in so many ways.

MWCR's current board of directors includes:

**President—Mary Hickerson
Vice President—Sarah Rebernick
Secretary—Terry Libro
Treasurer—Douglas Christman
Leslie Ciaccio, board member
Mary Hall, board member
Chris Norman, board member**

To contact a board member, send a message to: bod@mwcr.org.

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What to Do If Your Dog is Lost . . . (Cont'd from page 7)

Among the DON'Ts:

1. Don't give up hope. Dogs are resilient and they can find food and shelter, even in winter.
2. Don't assume your dog will come running to you if you spot him/her. The dog is probably afraid and wary and may not recognize you from a distance.
3. Don't give out information about where you've placed traps except to a couple of people, because well meaning people could scare the dog away.
4. Don't drive around looking for the dog because that wastes time that could be spent spreading the word that your dog is lost.

For people who are trying to help others search for a lost dog, there are also some dos and don'ts. Among the DOs:

1. Offer to help spread the word, hand out flyers, etc.
2. Offer encouragement and hope to the owner because it's important not to give up, even when it seems like the search is hopeless.
3. Let others know via Facebook and Twitter that a dog is being searched for, even if they don't live nearby. They may have connections that will lead to finding the dog.
4. Report any sightings to the dog's owner immediately.
5. If you spot a lost dog, the point is to try to keep the dog there until the owner can come to the location. Follow the advice above about sitting down quietly, turning away from the dog, and gently tossing smelly treats to do the dog.

And among the DON'Ts:

1. Don't tell the owner horror stories about dogs being eaten by coyotes or frozen to death in cold weather, etc.
2. Don't try to catch a lost dog yourself because most lost dogs are afraid, and don't chase the dog.
3. Don't assume that the owner hasn't tried everything and/or make remarks about how the dog was lost. Losing a dog can happen to even the most careful of owners.
4. Don't assume that you will be the person who finds the lost dog; instead, focus on getting out the word and getting more eyes watching for the dog.
5. Don't go near traps after they've been placed, because the scent around the traps should be the owner's.
6. Finally, don't ask the owner to call you when the dog has been found. The owner is too busy searching to remember to inform a particular individual when the dog is found.

Following is the inspirational story about how Duke, a lost German Shepherd, was found.



Finding Duke . . .

After nine weeks of searching, an emotionally spent owner had almost given up hope that she would ever see her family's beloved German shepherd again. In November, she had dropped off 6-year-old Duke at a kennel for safekeeping while she took a trip to California to visit her new grandson. The dog, described by the owner as skittish, escaped from the facility and had not been seen since. The owner decided that she would not give up searching even after several weeks had passed. Then, nine weeks after Duke disappeared, an unexpected phone call from a stranger revealed that her faith had not been in vain.

An employee at a local auto dealership was certain that the frail dog who often limped back and forth in front of the dealership had been loved once. She called animal control and reached out to the dog whenever she saw him, but her efforts were only met with flaring nostrils and teeth. After she saw the dog survive being hit by a car, she made it a mission to find the dog's owners. She searched Craigslist and found two families who were looking for lost German Shepherds. One of the posts showed a happy, well-kept pet that looked just like the injured dog that sought refuge in the wooded area across from the car lot.

When she contacted the family that had created the post, the dog's owners immediately traveled to the location on the off chance that the wounded dog, located 13 miles away from the kennel he escaped from, could be Duke. The family searched the wooded area where he had been seen, calling Duke's name. After they were startled at hearing something stirring in the bushes, thinking it was more likely that the sound came from a wild animal than Duke, much to their surprise, Duke appeared.



"At first he just stood there. I think he was just in shock that we were there. As soon as he realized it was us, he went crazy," the owner said. "The whole thing is amazing. I just can't believe he was found." Duke's pelvis was broken in three places, and his hip was out of its socket from the impact of being hit by the car. Veterinarians gave him morphine to ease the pain until surgery could be performed, and Duke is expected to recover from the ordeal.

This happy ending resulted from the owners' never giving up hope and from a caring person's determination to help a lost and wounded dog find his family again.

*(Editors' Note: This story is adapted from a newspaper article in the Charleston **Post and Courier** about the dog's ordeal.)*

More tips on finding lost dogs can be found at http://www.mwcr.org/missing_dog_fund.htm.

SUNNY 3/29/13 UPDATE - SAFE!! March 20th we received a call that a large Sheltie had been eating cat food set out for feral cats at a home in Vадnais Heights. This family monitored the trap we set, and March 29th, they called to let us know the dog was in the trap. Sunny's dad drove out from Ohio the same day to confirm it is him! Lost December 24th, reunited March 29th!

Remember Domino? The Sheltie who set out on a summer adventure 2 years ago? Read still more tips to find your lost dog here: <http://goo.gl/CvLPE>

Coming Attractions Featuring MWCR!!! Mark Your Calendars!



April . . .
Collie Club of America National Specialty
April 3 - 6, 2013
La Crosse, WI

2013 Dog Olympics
April 14, 2013
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN



Wisconsin Collie Frolic at Central Bark
April 14, 2013
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
RSVP to Sarah at sbrebe@yahoo.com



June . . .
The 2013 Collie Frolic
Saturday, 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

2013 Walk, Run, Wag for MADACC
Saturday June 22, 2013
5K Run or a 1 or 2 mile walk; dogs welcome



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



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

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BonTon Success Story

By Sarah Rebernick

The BonTon Community Days Sale continues to be a great fundraiser for MWCR. The sale this March brought in almost \$300 for the Collies. Although it's very handy for our members to be able to purchase the coupon booklets online, the majority of our sales have been made in person. A lot of my customers and friends have purchased them directly from me, and BonTon provides in-store booklet selling opportunities which allow us to get out in public to share our message and educate people about the breed as well as adoption and fostering opportunities. During the last two sale periods we spent time in the local Boston Store and it was wonderful to see the customers' excitement at encountering a Collie or 2 there. When people are able to meet a sad-eyed Collie with a hard luck/happy ending story, the donations are even greater – Stella (sable at right), Dakota and Creena (tricolor) have been particularly helpful in that regard. They have all perfected the "life is so hard but if you pet me (and donate to the rescue) it will be better" look.

The next BonTon Community Days Event is November 8-9, but we need to sign up by September to get the best in-store times. We are hoping that members in different areas will be interested in signing up for in-store booklet sales at their local stores during future Community Days events. In addition to selling the booklets it is a great setting to be able to talk to people in depth about adopting, fostering and volunteering for the rescue. If you have a Boston Store, Younkers, Bergner's, Carson's, Elder-Beerman or Herberger's in your area and are interested in helping out locally just let me know and I'll be happy to help you get started: sbrebe@yahoo.com.

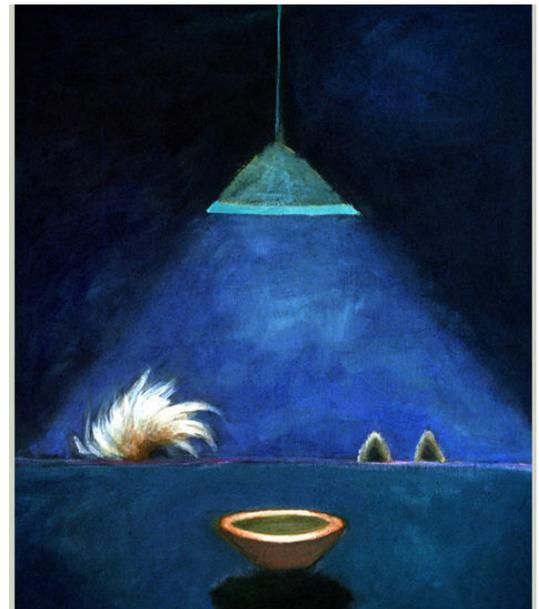


"Still Life With Collie"

Artist Nancy Schutt's limited edition print entitled "Still Life With Collie" (pictured at right) has been donated to MWCR by Milwaukee area gallery owner Sandy Sykora. The gallery featured dog and cat art, and Nancy Schutt of

Good Dog Art (www.nancyschutt.com) was one of the featured artists. Sandy and her husband also run a pet-sitting service (www.bayviewpamperedpets.com), and one of their clients was an MWCR adopter of two Collies, which inspired Sandy to donate the print to MWCR. MWCR will decide how best to use the print as a fund raiser, perhaps with an online auction.

Thank you so much to Sandy Sykora for donating the print, to artist Nancy Schutt for creating it, and to Sonny and Kenzie for the inspiration! Stay tuned for further information about availability of the print.



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Teen Volunteer Extraordinaire: K J Early . . .

By Terry Libro

When Events/Fundraising Committee member Mary Ann Statz learned of the Kohl's Cares Scholarship program for youth volunteers, she immediately thought of MWCR's teen volunteer, KJ Early.

In addition to helping his mother, MWCR Board member Chris Norman, foster our Collies, KJ has been volunteering at MWCR events for several years. KJ is a dedicated, enthusiastic, and much appreciated volunteer who staffs our booth, raises awareness of the need for permanent homes for our Collies and the benefits of adopting a Collie, and raises funds to provide necessary veterinary care for our Collies. KJ willingly helps wherever needed and always represents MWCR in a very positive way. He answers questions about our organization, helps to set up our booth, and is always there to carry items to the cars at the end of an event. KJ has also served as a model for Linda Riegger's face painting at Twin Cities Pet Expo. He walked around the Minneapolis Convention Center and directed children and their parents to our booth to have their faces painted, resulting in many donations to MWCR. KJ and his Collie, Thor, taped a short video about MWCR for the Pause-4-Paws fundraiser. At the 2011 Annual Dinner, the Board recognized KJ, along with Kyle Jahnke, for their contributions to MWCR and our Collies.



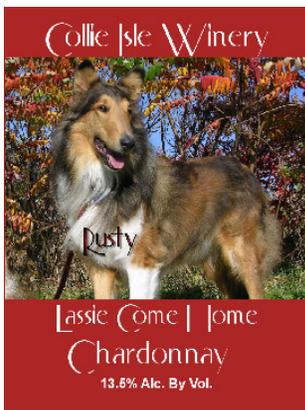
The Kohl's Scholarship program focuses exclusively on volunteer activities in 2012. KJ volunteered at the Twin Cities Pet Expo, the MWCR Collie Frolic, CBS Radio's Pet-A-Palooza, the Great Minnesota Pet Together adoption event, the Pause-4-Paws fundraiser, and our Annual Dinner Meeting and Fundraiser. KJ also volunteered at Feed My Starving Children and at the Christ English Lutheran Church's Community Dinner in 2012. He helped configure the Square credit card reader account so that we could accept credit card transactions for donations and purchases at events and spent several hours at the event accepting credit card transactions using an iPad. KJ has now taken on the role of trainer to teach each of us working at the events on the use of the iPad with the Square reader and the PayPal reader.

At each of these events, KJ, who recently turned 16, did an exceptional job representing MWCR to the public, enthusiastically helping where needed, and doing his utmost to raise funds for our Collies. All of us who have worked with KJ greatly appreciate his enthusiasm, his maturity, his dedication to MWCR, and his willingness to do whatever is needed to make an event a success. MWCR's Board of Directors and the Events/Fundraising Committee are very proud to have nominated KJ Early for a Kohl's Cares Scholarship.

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What Our Stars Are Doing Now...
Rusty: of Collie Isle Winery Fame's Lassie Come Home Chardonnay
By Rusty Tadisch

Hello, I'm Rusty, one of the MWCR wine Collies. I became an MWCR Collie three years ago and I am so happy they rescued me. My home was a dog house out by the barn where I was tied up most of the time even as a little puppy. This did not give me much chance to learn how to socialize with people so I was afraid of people, even my owners. That is why they surrendered me when I was two years old.

It was very scary for me when I got to my foster home as I had never been inside a house before. So many things were new to me; tile floors, stairs, people moving around so close to me, just about everything. I was terrified to move. There was a large crate in the living room with a blanket over it for me to hide in. It was sort of like the dog house I was used to so I hid in there, afraid to come out. Then Allie crawled into the crate with me. She was also an MWCR foster Collie who arrived at our foster home a couple weeks earlier. She saw that I was afraid and she made me feel more relaxed. Allie was the friend I needed at that very moment.



With Allie's help I slowly became friends with the resident dogs, an Aussie mix named Joley and an adopted MWCR Collie named Lassie. Being outdoors was less scary for me than being indoors. Outside there was a big spruce tree I could hide under.

After one year as a foster dog, I had made a lot of progress getting over my fears yet I had a lot more progress to make. I gave up the crate for my new favorite spot in the house, under the desk in the home office. My foster family recognized how hard it was for me to adjust thus far and did not want me to have to adjust to a new family so they adopted me.



It's been two years since I was adopted and life here is pretty good. I love going for walks every day, even when it is very cold outside. It is also fun to have foster Collies come and stay here until they find a permanent home. There have been a lot of them and every one is a friend of mine.

One of my mom's hobbies is taking photos of the dogs here; us resident dogs, fosters, visitors, and dogs that she doggie sits. This is great for me because posing for photos is one of MY hobbies. If she is taking a photo of a foster dog I often will run over by that dog so that I get in the photo, too. I have quite a large portfolio of photos. MWCR was so impressed that they choose me as one of their wine dogs.

My mom promises that she will keep fostering so if you keep watching, I'm sure you'll see me in more photos soon.

[Editors' Note: When deciding what photos to use for our Collie Isle Winery labels, we had a difficult time choosing between Rusty and his sister Lassie. Lassie had recently gotten a lot of "press" in mastheads, graphics, etc, and Rusty, looking so proud and confident standing in front of the beautiful fall colors, won the day. Apologies, Lassie! However, we can see that you and Rusty have kissed and made up, so we assume there are no hard feelings!]



Go to:
http://www.benefitwines.com/mwcr_s/461.htm?Click=4667
 for Rusty's wine and those of our other Spokesdogs



Hip Surgery Leads to Pain-Free Walking for Jake . . .

Jake is a 4 or 5-year old mahogany sable Collie—or maybe a Collie mix. He came to MWCR from a shelter where he arrived as a stray, underweight and full of burrs, friendly, loving, and a little shy.

When Jake arrived at foster mom Sharon's home, his third foster home, he wore an insecure, pinched look. He also had an odd gait that looked uncomfortable, and he seemed anxious when he was crated at night. All the same, Jake was gentle, loving, and sweet, watching for foster mom out the window and barking when he saw her. He liked cats, other dogs, and kids and became more relaxed after foster mom decided he didn't need to be crated at night. Now she put his food bowl in the crate and left the door open so he could go in when he felt like it.



Early in February Jake experienced an infected anal gland that burst, and while he was being treated for that, the vet diagnosed Jake's odd gait as a dislocated left hip that left him in constant pain. Worse yet, he had been walking with most of his weight on the dislocated hip because his other back foot had somehow been damaged in the past. So Jake had X-rays that revealed that he needed an ostectomy. As described in Wikipedia, ostectomy involves removing the head of the femur, allowing it to heal and develop scar tissue as a sort of false joint that prevents bone-to-bone contact. Jake had his surgery on February 8, and when foster mom went to pick him up the next day, he came plodding out with the vet, looked up and saw her, and let her know he was very happy that he hadn't been left again. His look said, "You didn't abandon me! You came back!"

Jake has been recovering from the surgery and still has a ways to go. Before he had his stitches out he got too frisky and fell off the sofa. The incision wasn't damaged, but his hip was sore, so he went on Rimadyl to make him more comfortable. By March he was walking better, bearing more weight on his right foot, and no longer stiff-legged as he was before. He had one more setback when he fell on the kitchen floor, so he went back on Rimadyl. Now Jake is walking again, has had his medication changed, and is due for another check-up. In four or five weeks his hip should be fully healed and Jake will be ready to go to a permanent home. While he will never quite have normal range of motion on his injured side, Jake will walk pain free.

Meanwhile, Jake is happiest when he's in a lap with someone's arms around him. Foster mom says he's a low maintenance, happy dog, and he's much more relaxed than he was when he arrived. He's very patient with foster sister Lucy, who is 11 months old and can be a real pest. He loves to be talked to and to hear his name, which makes him wag his tail with pleasure.

MWCR is truly grateful to everyone who donated to replenish MWCR's emergency funds. Because of their generosity, Jake and other Collies like him receive the medical care they need to become happy, healthy, tail wagging dogs.



Post-Adoption Updates . . . Nellie

By Natalie Kiehne

It is with great heartache that I inform you my beloved Nellie passed away March 7th, 2013, after a long battle with Cushing's disease. I adopted her from MWCR in December of 2010, and it was the best decision I have ever made. I knew we wouldn't have a long time together as she was a senior when she came to live with me, but we had two good years together. Nellie was the Basset/Collie mix who was taken to MWCR twice before. Nellie loved to sniff outside (especially after it rained), eat her dog food and treats, and snuggle with me on the couch. I am completely lost without her, and I miss her so much. I just wanted to thank you for letting me be a part of her life. She was a good girl and a 'once in a lifetime dog.' I will never forget her and will forever hold her close to my heart. Thank you again.



...Abby, An Iowa Smoothie

Abby is well, a beloved member of our family. Thank you for the care MWCR gives to finding good homes for Collies. (Abby, pictured at right.)



...Two of our Wine Dog Stars take a break to play in the snow before Spring!



**Gabby
(Pinot Noir)**



**Finn
(with Vaughn, Malbec
Label Model)**

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Post-Adoption Update . . . Blue . . .

Blue was 6 years old in 2010 when she was surrendered to a shelter because she was having incontinence issues—which were really diarrhea—and was confined to a laundry room. As soon as foster mom saw Blue, she knew she wanted to adopt this pretty Collie who was as lovely on the inside as she was on the outside. She was mellow, well-mannered, and quiet, and foster mom gave her the run of the house from the moment she arrived. Soon Blue and her foster family knew that she had found her permanent home and wasn't going anywhere.

Blue had digestive issues which were resolved with specially prepared food, but when Blue developed strange symptoms, her family knew that something else was wrong. Blue was wasting away even though she had a big appetite. Her coat was constantly oily and turned yellow if she wasn't bathed regularly, she drank constantly, and her coat, even though oily, was brittle. Eventually Blue's mom found a veterinarian who listened carefully to Blue's symptoms and did a blood test specifically evaluating her pancreas. That test was a turning point for Blue, who has Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (EPI).

The Web site www.epi4dogs.com describes EPI as occurring when a dog's exocrine part of the pancreas is atrophied and can no longer produce pancreatic digestive enzymes. Some food particles then remain undigested resulting in a dog who, although eating copious amounts of food, is constantly undernourished and can literally waste away. Without proper treatment, the EPI dog can suffer greatly and even die a painful death from malnourishment, starvation, or organ failure. With EPI, organ, immune, nervous and all other body systems may become compromised to one degree or another.

These are the most common symptoms of EPI:

- Gradual wasting away despite a voracious appetite
- Eliminating much more frequently, sometimes every hour or two
- Stools are greasy voluminous yellowish cow-plops, but sometimes grayish
- Eating their own stools, or other inappropriate substances
- Increased rumbling sounds from the abdomen
- Increased amounts of flatulence
- Some experience intermittent watery diarrhea or vomiting
- Some dogs even display personality changes such as fearfulness or sudden aggression



EPI is an expensive disease because every meal must be treated with pancreatic enzymes. Blue has done very well with her specially prepared food, and she now weighs 80 pounds, has a soft coat that is much less oily. She is bathed every two or three weeks to keep her coat soft. Recently Blue developed urinary incontinence and had three urinary tract infections in succession. Blue's doctor said the three strike rule was now in effect and that Blue needed an ultrasound to figure out what was going on. The ultrasound showed that Blue had bladder stones and would have to have surgery to remove the stones.

Last week Blue underwent surgery for the bladder stones and is now recovering. The surgery turned out to be more complicated than expected, but thanks to the caring and skilled veterinarians who cared for her, Blue is doing well. Her doctors are having the bladder stones analyzed to determine whether Blue's food needs to be adjusted to prevent more stones from forming.



(Cont'd on page 17)

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Post-Adoption Update . . . Blue . . . (Cont'd from page 16)

Blue and her family have been through a lot together, and having Blue back on the road to health is a big relief for Blue's mom, who calls her "my little Bluebell." Everyone at MWCR is happy to hear that Blue's surgery is over with and that she's back home where she is still that lovely girl who stole foster mom's heart back in 2010.

Post-Adoption Update . . . Scout and Coco . . .

MWCR's February Newsletter told the story of Scout and Coco, two MWCR Collies adopted in 2007 and 2010 and currently living near Washington, D. C. Sadly, their owner now had a terminal illness and needed to return Scout and Coco to MWCR so that they could find a new home.

Thanks to the efforts of Intake Coordinator Joan Tadisich and MWCR board member Mary Hall, Scout and Coco flew from a Maryland airport to Illinois, where they were picked up and transported by car to foster mom Joan's home near Green Bay. While they were in foster care, Coco had surgery, from which she is now recovered. Scout and Coco got along just fine with the two resident Collies, who loved having foster playmates again.

In March Scout and Coco found their new permanent home with a 10-year-old smoothie brother named Padders, some cats, and two humans. Their new people say that Scout & Coco are doing great and have made friends with Padders, who runs and plays with them, which his people hadn't seen him do in a couple of years. The cats are slowly making moves to be friends with little head bumps and rubbing up on the Collies. Scout still isn't too sure what to make of the cats, but they all are one big happy furry family. Their new people say that it is such a joy having Scout and Coco around; there is absolutely no stress or tension, and they seem very happy. The only issue is that Coco has had a couple of accidents in the house after not going when she was outside. She is too concentrated on play and sometimes forgets why she is out there. As Coco's previous owner said, "Yes, Coco sometimes needs isolated outdoor time to 'remember' she needs to pee! Silly, but true." She truly is a "girls just wanna have fun" girl!

Foster mom Joan says the house feels pretty quiet and empty without Scout and Coco, and resident Collies Rusty and Lassie don't know what to do with themselves. Rusty and Lassie like someone else to initiate play, and Scout and Coco always did that. Scout and Coco live not far away, though, so they may all get together again before long.



Left: Rusty, Scout, Lassie, Coco, & Joley

Right: Scout & Coco



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Post-Adoption Update . . . Big Paw Prints to Fill . . . By Shiloh Timm

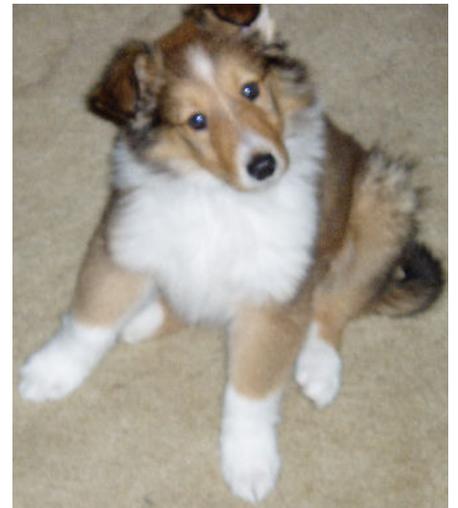
Hi, my name is Shiloh Timm. I was born November 11, 2012, on the Bush Farm in Fleetwood MN. After losing his two dogs (Shadow and MWCR Scottie) last fall, my dad Richard waited just for me! He is surprised that chasing after me is a lot harder than it was 11 years ago when Shadow was just a puppy - he isn't as fast either.



He says he does a lot of things for me that he wouldn't do for most people. For example, all I had to do was cry the first night home, and I have been sleeping beside him on the bed ever since. I have been a good girl though . . . I haven't gone potty on the bed at all. Tricked him there though, didn't I? Hee, hee.

Another thing I get to do is play in the back yard on my own. Dad and I checked the yard to make sure I could not get through the fence in the back and now that I have grown up so much I can roam free. Secretly, I know he watches me from the bedroom window. I can't wait for spring so I don't trip and stumble in the deep snow anymore. Dad says he is tired of shoveling the snow, too. I like to look out the picture window and watch him shovel now that my legs are long enough to reach the top of the hassock. As time goes on Dad and I are getting to know each other's needs --he needs more sleep and I don't have to pee as often so we can stay in bed longer.

My baby teeth are starting to fall out, so I don't hurt his hands so much. He plays a great game of hide and seek with me. Unfortunately, I don't like riding in the car -- I get sick every time so I don't travel much yet. I am patiently waiting to play with my step-sisters this summer. I am sure Josie will play with me, but I am not so sure about Baylee -- they tell me she is not very friendly! Guess I will have to wait until I am bigger to find out.



Following behind Shadow and Scottie, I know I have some pretty big paw prints to fill, but I am doing my very best. If I am really good Dad says some day I can have an MWCR sister of my very own.



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Living Proof – Vaccinations CAN Hurt!

By Iva Jane Rahlf

Boromir entered our lives from the Sioux Falls SD Humane Society on July 20, 2007. All we were told was that he was deaf, about 6 years old, and had been relinquished because he ate too much. At 87 pounds he was definitely overweight! As a double merle, in addition to the deafness and characteristic coloring, he also had vision problems, and as an added bonus, anxiety issues and UTIs. But he was losing weight! By September 2008 he had achieved the perfect weight of 72 pounds. He was going to be staying at the kennel while we were traveling, so he was vaccinated for the occasion.

In February 2009 we took him to the vet because he was vomiting and had dropped to 65.5 pounds. His lab work indicated anemia, but one month and many tests later, Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA) appeared the likely culprit, and prednisone treatment was begun based on that tentative diagnosis. However, his platelets decreased, liver enzymes increased, and x-rays showed an enlarged liver. By this time he was lethargic, down to 56.8 pounds, and a liver biopsy was necessary. Although the clinic hoped to be able to perform this by aspiration, they ended up performing surgery. Probably due to the prednisone, his liver was enlarged, discolored, hard, and pressing on his stomach. His spleen was also abnormal, and due to a reaction to the anesthesia, he almost died on the table. Fate was not through with this dear boy even yet, as his incision became infected, too.

Online research led me to a product called BioPrep which had helped many dogs with IMHA. BioPrep (a Bio-Algae Concentrate containing algae and spirulina), in conjunction with milk thistle, thyroid medication, reduced doses of prednisone, and grain-free food, led to some improvement in his lab tests, but there were also many setbacks. He had bouts of diarrhea, and it seemed like we were doing a dance – one step forward, two steps back. My goal was to get him well enough so that when the weather cooperated, he could enjoy another romp at the dog park even though I knew it might be his last visit to that much loved place.

August 2009 was the day – Boromir made it to the dog park after so MANY ups and downs. He was ecstatic and so was I! We didn't really know the cause of his issues, but suspected it might have been due to vaccinations. Whatever the reason, I was convinced that the BioPrep played a huge role in his improved health and in keeping his test results fairly stable for two years.

In June 2011 he was due for a rabies shot, and 10 days later the cycle began again – weight loss, poor lab results, increased BioPrep, and the dreaded prednisone. He held his own and after a month of treatment his test results improved. Now there are big **red flags** on his chart warning NO MORE VACCINATIONS! Case solved!

(Cont'd on page 20)



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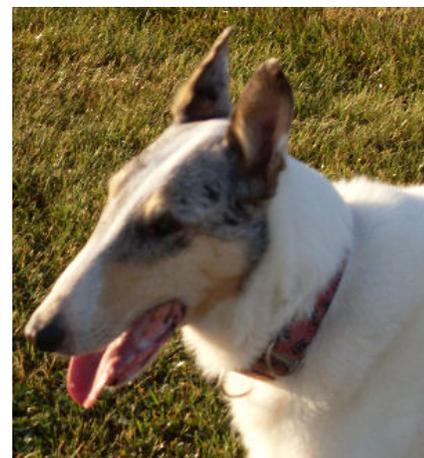
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Living Proof – Vaccinations CAN Hurt!

(Cont'd from page 19)

Today Boromir is doing wonderfully well. If his intake information is any indication, he should be turning 11 this year. If you could see him at the dog park (pictured at right and on the previous page at the dog park in 2012), running and playing, you would not believe it. He and Collie sis Stevie (of Collie-Amity fame, page 6), keep the cars on the road in line from within their fenced domain. His playmates are 1 and 2 year old Collies, and we are amazed and so very thankful that he is still with us! The only signs of his illness, and possibly his age, are that he needs help getting into vehicles.

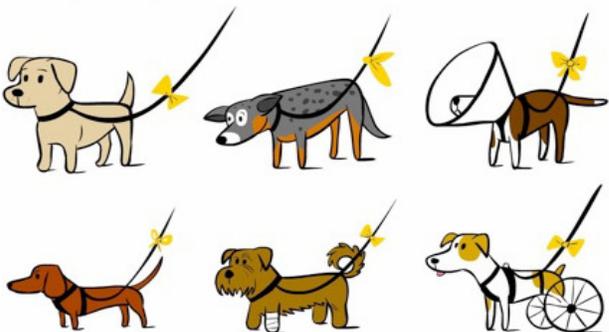


Having had issues with vaccines in yet another pet – my first rescue, Amy – a Yorkie, I am very cautious about vaccination. I never have multiple vaccines given in one visit, and for older dogs, we don't do yearly vaccinations. If there are concerns, titers can always be performed, and if a dog is ill, absolutely NO vaccinations until they are better. Boromir is, thankfully, LIVING PROOF that vaccinations can be a serious problem for some dogs.

Editors' Note: Boromir is the December Collie Model for the 2013 MWCR Calendar. He is shown there "incognito," using the "stage name" of Jill.

THE YELLOW DOG PROJECT.com

If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space.** Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.



There are many reasons why a dog may need space:
 HEALTH ISSUES
 IN TRAINING
 BEING REHABILITATED
 SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

THANK YOU!

Those of us who own these dogs appreciate your help and respect!



Illustrated by Li Chin www.doggedrawings.net

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Your Pledge To Collies

WANTED: MWCR Supporters, Donors, Members, etc to pledge any amount per dog adopted during the coming year. Because you *care*, pledge your heart and dollars FOR every Collie adopted to ensure that all future Collies have the funds available to help them find their forever homes, too! If you pledge \$1 per dog, and 100 dogs are adopted in 2013, at the end of the year you will owe \$100. If 20 people make this same pledge, MWCR would get \$2,000. You can choose to pay quarterly or semi-annually throughout the year, or pay as one lump sum in December 2013. **NOTE:** Pledges paid are tax-deductible. Go to <http://www.mwcr.org/events/pledge1.htm> to pledge today!



2013 Twin Cities Pet Expo By Terry Libro

The Twin Cities Pet Expo, held on March 23 - 24 at the Minneapolis Convention Center was a huge success for MWCR. Our gorgeous Collies and their humans charmed the crowd, made sales, and took in donations via the prize wheel made by Arnie Hilk and the MWCR donation vests made by Mary Hall.

In addition to numerous visitors who have stopped at our booth for years, several people whom we first met at other events in the last year stopped by. Judy from Pawsome Lodge Mobile Grooming in western Wisconsin, who groomed Gabe MWCR's foster dog recently, stopped by as did Joy and her daughter Addison whom we met last August when they had a booth next to our booth at the Dog Days Westonka event. It is always wonderful to see familiar faces who seek out our booth.

KJ Early, MWCR's outstanding teen volunteer and iPad expert, volunteered at our booth both days to ensure that our new credit card capabilities were working perfectly. Our Square credit card reader with the iPad, which we first used at the Annual Dinner in November, made its event debut at the Pet Expo and all went smoothly.

Linda Riegger's face painting once again was very popular. Our booth's location at the end of an aisle and near the Pier Pups show gave our booth, our Collies, and Linda's face painting great visibility.

The MWCR volunteers and their stunning Collies deserve much thanks for making the Pet Expo so successful. Thank you to KJ Early and Woodson; Robin Kashuba and Harley and Shelby; Cat Olund and Lilo and Maui; Linda Riegger and Willie; Judy Roggow and Phoebe; and Jen, Scott, Olivia, and Zoe Swanson and Ilsa. And, thank you to Cat for scheduling everyone. You are all greatly appreciated!

(Cont'd on Page 22)

Cat Olund



Linda Riegger & Cat Olund with Willie, Maui, & Lilo



**Cat Olund with Lilo & Maui
Robin Kashuba with Harley & Shelby**

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**2013 Twin Cities Pet Expo
(Cont'd from Page 21)**

**Jen Swanson
with Ilsa**



**Judy Kippenhan from
Pawsome Lodge Mobile
Pet Grooming**



**Phoebe
Roggow with
Joy & Addison**

Woodson Norman & Friend



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2013 Twin Cities Pet Expo (Cont'd from Page 22)

Willie Riegger & KJ Early



**Woodson
Norman
& Phoebe
Roggow**

**Harley & Shelby with
Robin Kashuba**



**Carol
Brandenburg**

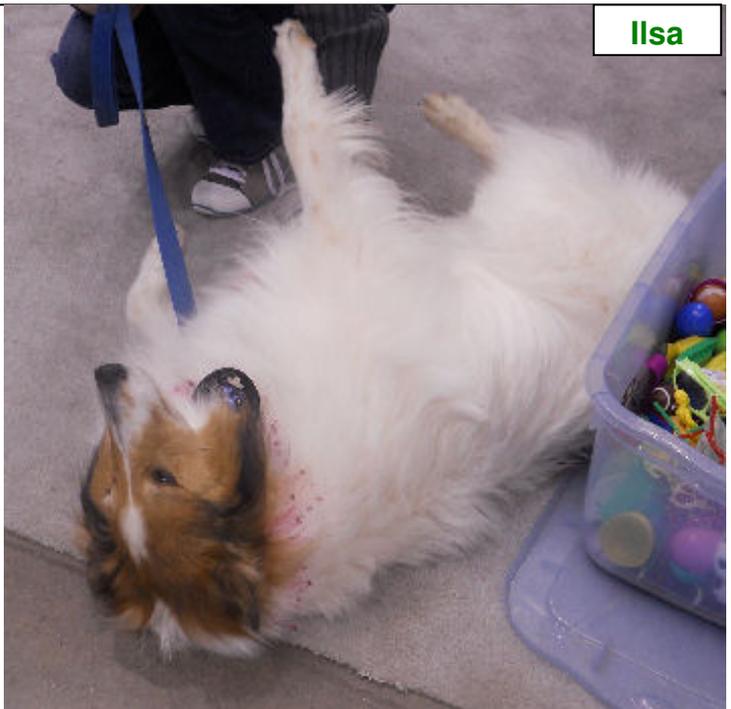
Willie Riegger



2013 Twin Cities Pet Expo (Cont'd from Page 23)



KJ Early & Woodson



Ilsa



Willie



Maui & Lilo



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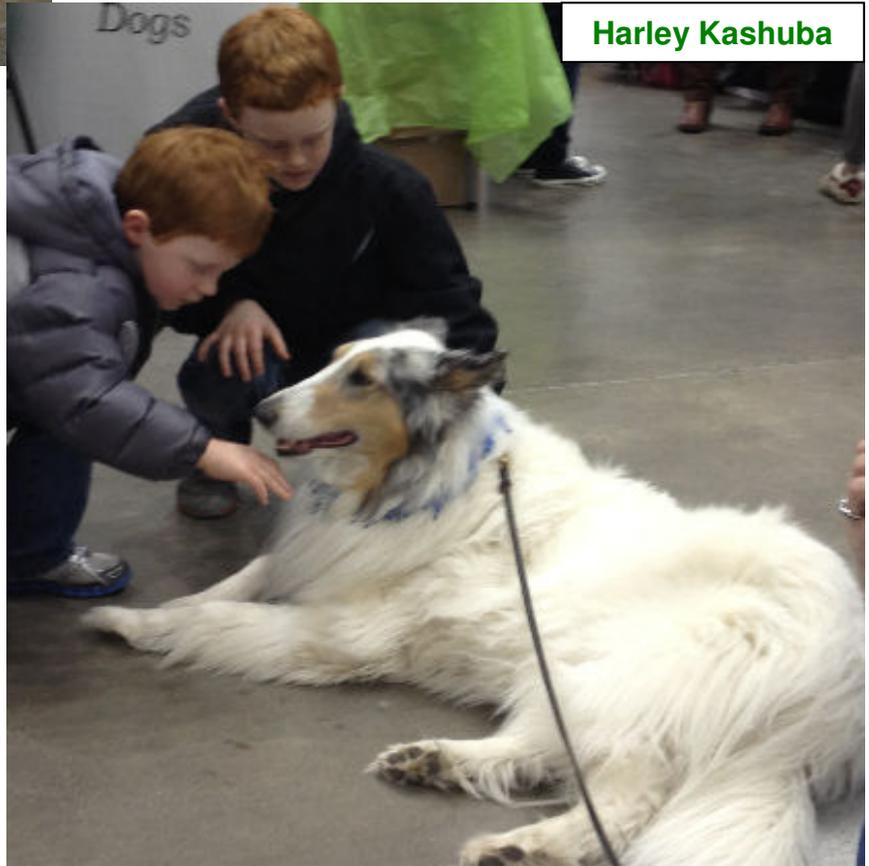
**2013 Twin Cities Pet Expo
(Cont'd from Page 24)**

Terry Libro



**Robin Kashuba
with Shelby &
Harley**

Harley Kashuba



Ilsa Swanson



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**2013 Twin Cities Pet Expo
(Cont'd from Page 25)**

**KJ Early &
Woodson**

Linda Riegger



**Jen Swanson &
Ilsa**



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