



SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE

Serving New Mexico, West Texas and Arizona

Spring 2019 newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Collie news, p.2

SWCR has a new treasurer. And a new editor for the newsletter, complete with supporting cast. And a new database manager.

A plea for Trudy, p.2

This sweet girl, rescued from the Hobbs, NM shelter, is in terrible pain and needs surgery. Please help her!

Celtic Festival, p. 2

This annual event in Rio Rancho, NM, attracted lots of collies and shelties.

What Thor yearns for, p. 4

A home of his own and someone to love him.

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Remembering Hershey, celebrity Gray Collie

By Valerie Loll-Thompson

Everyone wanted to see him, touch him, be with him. He was a celebrity with a rare disease: Gray Collie Syndrome, which kills early.

In early April, when Hershey was 12 years and two months old, it finally took his life. I couldn't believe it. I thought he'd live longer.

Hershey arrived in 2011, when Bill Ferrell dropped him off at our house to foster. His teeth were rotten, he was in pain and he was very skinny.

I had no idea why he was such a funny color. I had to do research on the Internet. I contacted Dr. William Osborn at the University of Washington, who was studying the disease. He told me that Hershey, then 4½, would not live much longer.

Even so, I knew we had to help him. I found a dental specialist who could operate on a collie who, like Hershey, also had hemophilia, and I convinced the board to go ahead with the surgery. He lost all his teeth except his canines. It cost SWCR \$3,000.

Meanwhile, Bill found the name of Hershey's breeder and called her. There was nothing wrong with him, the woman insisted. He was a perfectly normal dog. Then she hung up.

I told Bill that Hershey was unadoptable and that we would keep him until the end. We soon realized that every two weeks for two days



Beautiful Hershey was a showstopper wherever he went. Valerie, right, took him to many dog events in the Phoenix area.

he had his spells. He didn't want to eat, slept a lot, drooled like crazy and most of the time got diarrhea. He'd be a mess and we had to clean him and his pillows. I brought a rag wherever we went because of the drooling.

We worked closely with our regular vet, Dr. Rhonda Lepardo at Amherst Plaza Animal Clinic in Phoenix, to come up with solutions. For example, Hershey was on antibiotics for an ear infection. I noticed that he didn't have a spell that month, so I discussed it with Dr. Lepardo and we decided to keep him on antibiotics forever. His spells were not as severe after that. Eventually they disappeared.

Hershey was always friendly and laid back. I called him my dog rug. He thought he was a lap dog and was sneaky about it. He would put one paw in my husband Ron's lap, then the other paw and wait. Then he'd put his back feet up and try to fit in Ron's lap.



Once I special-ordered a vest online that said, "Hershey Kisses, \$1." Ron walked him around at the 12K of Christmas event in Gilbert and people put money in the vest pouch. He came back with \$20.

I loved that dog, took him everywhere. He loved to ride in the car and he followed me all over the house.

His favorite thing to eat was my homemade dog food stew, which was his last meal the night before I had to have him put down. For no reason we could identify, Hershey suddenly took a turn for the worse. We couldn't save him. I miss him so much.

2018: Where our money came from and where it went

We rescued 37 collies and mixes last year, up from 21 in 2017.

Twenty of the 37 were purebred collies, vs. only 7 in 2017.

Expenses were lower last year, especially for vet fees: 83% of expenses compared to 88% in 2017. We ended up with a small

SWCR Revenues, 2018	
Donations	\$33,850 (84%)
Adoption fees	4,905 (12%)
Fundraising events	1,777 (4%)
Total:	\$40,532

profit of \$1,169 for 2018.

As usual, SWCR paid no salaries. We're all volunteers; we spend virtually every penny on the dogs. The cost of running SWCR in 2018 was just 5% of expenses. We're proud of that!

SWCR Expenses, 2018	
Direct dog expenses	
Vet fees and meds	\$32,755 (83%)
Groom, board, chip, shelter & license fees	1,455 (4%)
Dog food, fosters; gas dog transporters	1,581 (4%)
Business costs	
Insurance, website fees, printing, postage	1,997 (5%)
Balancing items	1,575
Total	\$39,363