



Imprints

A publication of NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue

Fall/Winter 2016

Make Two Hearts Glad – Adopt A Homeless Collie!

Volume 15 Issue 1

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Missy Helps Owners thru Rehab

– By Betty Hodgson

In June of 2015, Cecilia (C) and Joe Arras decided it was time to get another collie. Their dog, Peggy Sue, had passed away in 2014. Then in 2015, Dolly Rose, the collie they got from Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue, had also passed away. I had acquired Missy (Mistletoe) from an owner in Lorain County. She seemed like the perfect fit for C and Joe. She was not as big a girl as Peggy Sue or Dolly, but she was very sweet and loving.



Missy

We agreed to meet to do the exchange in Willard, Ohio, about halfway between Medina and Findlay. I arrived a few minutes early and waited for them, but C and Joe never came. I knew something terrible must have happened, and it did.

The Arras' son called my cell phone and told me his parents, while traveling eastbound on US 224, just west of Willard, were involved in a traffic accident. A westbound driver veered left of center and hit their Ford F-250 truck head on demolishing it. Their son conveyed C and Joe were alive but had been taken to the local hospital. I subsequently drove over to the hospital, but I wasn't allowed to see them.



Joe Arras and Missy

C had to be transported to a Toledo hospital. Joe cracked his hip, and C's lower right leg was shattered and required plates, screws and bone filler.

They both spent three months recovering at Briar Hill Health Campus, a nursing home for in-patient therapy just north of Findlay. They spent another eight weeks doing in-home therapy. I was able to take Missy to visit them in the nursing home and at their own home after they were discharged. After five long months, C and Joe were ready to adopt Missy. I took her to them, and it was a match made in heaven.

C said she felt that every time Missy would visit, she knew through eye-to-eye contact



Cecilia Arras and Missy

that she was her dog. Missy is smart and easy to train. She now gets very excited to go on her monthly visits to Briar Hill as a volunteer therapy dog. Missy also enjoys going to many other places with C and Joe, including the bank and the bookstore. Missy even attended calling hours for a friend of theirs who had passed.

NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, Inc.

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Listing of our available dogs can be found on...

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Walk for a Dog is a healthy app for users and dogs alike. Now you can support NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue just by walking your dog! Visit <http://www.wooftrax.com> to download the free app and start walking for NEOCR!



Imprinted Logo Items at CafePress.com/NEOCR



In addition to our Calendars, other imprinted NEOCR logo fundraising items are available for sale by shopping at our online store at www.CafePress.com/NEOCR.

Donations

Thanks to all who have supported our efforts, whether by monetary or goods donations, adoptions, memberships, fundraising, transport or fostering! We couldn't do it without you!

Special thanks to Adrian Raeside for donating reprint rights to *The Other Coast*.

Below is a list of donors since our last publication. If we have overlooked anyone, drop the treasurer a note, and we'll acknowledge you in the next news release.

Donors

C. & Joe Arras • Janet E. Benson • Jim & Joann Bialosky • Tina Blemenschutz in honor of Jeanette Singley • Jennifer Bortner • Beverly Briggs • Nancy Calcott • Stan & Lisa Corwin • Janet L. Delaney in memory of Ann Blueter • Robert Ferrell • Marianne Fugeman • Mary Fugeman in memory of Barbara Shie • Diane Gartung • Diana Geofrion • GlaxoSmithKline • Beth Grant • David Gray • Bonnie Harris • Gloria Hardington • Linda Hickerson in memory of her sister Barbara Shie • Tom Hoadley • Betty Hodgson • Brenda Ingram-Christian • Peggy Jensen • Kathryn Kenzik • Leo & Marilyn Kenzik in memory of Mishka and Sonny • Carol Knock • Rick J. LaLonde • Dale & Judy Leathers in memory of Jon & Judy Lester's Brady & Jesse • Jon and Judy Lester • Joe Lynn • Cindy Lombardo • Kathy Leenhouts • Marian Maskow • Sylvia Mattern • Dave & Kathie Miner • Deb Mitman • Anne M. Naugle • Partners With Paws • John Pinkowski • Arlene Pesselman in memory of her collie Rainbow • Becca Rice • Nancy & Mark Roesner / Copley Feed • Tony & Beverly Sciaeretta • Branton & Andrea Shearer celebrating the wedding of Neil McNich & Marc Ozanich • Dorrie Slavin in honor of Brian Wynne & Pat Cozzens • Richard T. Slenn, RPh DVM • James H. Smith • Suzanne Smith • Mary Snider • Linda Tesar • Tremont Tap House • Donald Tittle • Daryl R. Van Lehn • Christine Vrooman & Pelligrino Ciccarello in memory of Paisley • James G. Wagner • William West • Brian R. Wynne •

NEOCR

Current-Quarter Treasury Report

The latest NEOCR treasury report was not available at the time of printing for the current newsletter issue.

Our next issue will carry an updated treasury report for our readers, as well as a verified list of donors.

Thank you for your understanding.

Leo Kenzik, Secretary / Treasurer

Meeting Minutes 4/24/16

The NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue meeting was held at the Brecksville Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library on Sunday, April 24, 2016.

In attendance were President Tom Hoadley, Secretary/Treasurer Leo Kenzik, Marilyn Kenzik, Marian Maskow, Betty L. Hodgson, Beverly Briggs, Kathryn Leenhouts and Kathryn Kenzik.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by President Tom Hoadley.

Old Business

- The minutes of the last meeting were read. The 2015 yearly Treasurer's report was read as well as the first quarter 2016 Treasurer's report. The current balance was \$ 12,174.01.
- Leo read a Letter from Linda Hickerson, whose sister Barbara Shie donated \$ 5,000 to NEOCR in her will. A letter of thanks was mailed to Linda Hickerson thanking her for her sister's donation.
- Tom stated that Dino is costing us about a dollar a day for medication.

- Betty talked about intakes stating no dogs are currently posted for adoption, although some may be coming in the upcoming week.
- We have one available foster home but currently have no dogs that need fostering.
- We placed approximately 12 dogs in 2015 through April 2016.
- Leo stated that Becca Rice will handle Woof Trax for our organization.

New Business

- The WAKR adoptathon is coming up in June. Sunnybank will be coming up in August. September will be the annual picnic.
- Tom will be calling the Tremont Tap House for possible upcoming dates.

Marian moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathy seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Leo Kenzik, Secretary/Treasurer

Heartworms – Resistant to Prevention? – By Betty Hodgson

In order to understand heartworm resistance, you have to understand how the heartworm cycle works as well as how prevention is supposed to work.

The life cycle of heartworms is long, and it takes at least six months to develop adult worms and produce circulating microfilariae (microscopic baby worms) in a dog. Then in another six months, these microfilariae, when grown to L3 (the infective third-stage larvae) in mosquitoes, can infect additional dogs with a resistant strain. It also must be remembered that worms, unlike bacteria, have to undergo genetic recombination through mating between males and females to produce offspring. So if there is only one adult male in a resistant population, there is a good chance that a similar male may not develop in the group of 30–50 worms in the next infected dog. Once inside another host, it takes approximately six months for the larvae to mature into adult heartworms which have an average life of five to seven years in dogs, but only two or three years in cats.

Resistance to drugs comes about in several ways. It can be due to a spontaneous mutation or from mutagens (e.g., irradiation or chemical exposure). It can also be from a continued selection pressure—such as repeated treatment of worms with the same drug—causing a particular phenotype to rise in frequency within a population. In the case of heartworms, we can probably rule out a mutagen-induced resistance genes. Thus, it is most likely that the resistance is due to either a spontaneous mutation or via repeated treatment of worms with the same drug.

It is critical that dogs on prevention be tested annually and, if found infected, that the infection be cleared using ImmiticideW—the standard heartworm treatment to prevent a possibly resistant microfilariae from being picked up by a mosquito to infect another dog. There is some indication that doxycycline administered to dogs with adult worm infections might suppress the infectivity to the next canine host of L3 that develop from microfilariae produced by these doxycycline-treated worms but it isn't conclusive.

Studies show that most drugs used to prevent heartworm disease provide very little in the way of protection after just a few days. The purpose of dosing dogs every 30 days is to kill any circulating microfilaria so they cannot mature into adults.

In recent years, there have been concerns about the effectiveness of heartworm prevention. Veterinarians have seen cases where the owner indicates he/she has had his/her dog on heartworm prevention, and the dog was tested and found positive for heartworms. It appears this issue may be more widespread since hurricane Katrina because of the number of dogs that came north during rescue. The American Heartworm Society (AHS) estimates that 250,000 pets, many infected with heartworms, were shipped throughout the country as a result of Katrina. It appears that drug-resistant strains of heartworm had developed in that area, and now we are seeing dogs that are on prevention but are positive for heartworms. Some local vets indicate they are seeing several

See "Heartworms" on page 4

Heartworms *(continued from page 3)*

every week. Per the Companion Animal Parasite Council, a dog faithfully given heartworm prevention medication may still become infested with the parasitic worm *dirofilaria immitis* (dog heartworm), which inhabits the arteries of the lungs and sometimes a portion of the heart, causing serious and potentially fatal disease.

This is confirmed by the United States FDA. The FDA has seen an increase in reports of the lack of efficacy in all approved heartworm preventive therapies—reports coming from both manufacturers and veterinarians. Because of veterinarian concerns in the Mississippi River Valley, Novartis, one of the leading manufacturers of heartworm prevention drugs, set out to understand the issue, and if confirmed, work to help contain the spread of resistance.

Unfortunately, the data indicated the entire drug class is affected. Regardless of which product (oral, topical or injection), protection against some heartworms isolated from the Mississippi River Valley was less than 100% effective. This means the entire class of drugs appear to be vulnerable to resistance. However, not every product has shown reduced efficacy. No published studies showing that Bayer's Advantage Multi with moxidectin applied to the

skin isn't totally effective have been reported even though the injectable moxidectin failed to protect all dogs in a challenge study. The topical moxidectin is thought to result in higher plasma levels than the injectable drug which may be related to the difference in performance, but this is not fully understood at this time.

Dog owners shouldn't panic since not every third-stage larva is resistant—it is not uniform throughout the population. The number of heartworms is correlated with the severity of the disease. If one or two worms escape prevention rather than 25 to 30 that could infest a dog not on any prevention, this may be a success in terms of disease prevention.) **Do not conclude that heartworm prevention doesn't work and stop giving it.**

Per the AHS, annual testing is necessary, even when dogs are on heartworm prevention year-round, to ensure that the prevention program is working. Heartworm medications are highly effective but might not be 100% effective; hence, dogs can still become infected. If you miss just one dose of a monthly medication—or give it late—it can leave your dog unprotected. Even if you give the medication as recommended, your dog may spit out or vomit a heartworm pill or rub off a topical medication. **Bottom line:** If you don't get your dog tested, you won't know your dog needs treatment.

In Passing

Our sincere condolences on the passing of...

- 🐾 *Bosco, beloved collie of Marian Maskow*
- 🐾 🐾 *Brady and Jesse, beloved collies of Jon & Judy Lester*
- 🐾 *Cooper, beloved collie of Alexis Geoffrion*
- 🐾 *Copper, beloved collie of Eli Rife*
- 🐾 🐾 *Dino, Honey & Sandy, beloved collies of Tom Hoadley & Cindy Lombardo*
- 🐾 *Howard, beloved collie of Betty Hodgson & David Gray*
- 🐾 *Miranda, beloved collie of Paul & Michelle Murawski*
- 🐾 🐾 *Mishka and Sonny, beloved collies of Leo & Marilyn Kenzik*
- 🐾 *Paisley, beloved collie of Christine Vrooman & Pelligrino Ciccarello*
- 🐾 *Rainbow, beloved collie of Arlene Pesselman*
- ♥ *Mike Mahaney, beloved husband of Phyllis Mahaney*
- ♥ *Martha Maskow, beloved mother of Marian Maskow*
- ♥ *Joe Pepoy, beloved husband of Phyllis Pepoy*
- ♥ *Barbara Shie, beloved sister of Linda Hickerson*



Paisley



Howard

Tributes

Maggie's Story

—By Sylvia Janosov

I believe Maggie was a fuzzy, four-legged angel sent by God to keep me calm. She reminded us the Lord was watching over my husband and me. She came to us at the most needed time of my life—when my husband had stage four lung cancer, and I looked for a way to stay calm and walk on this new road of life.

We lost a collie we raised from a pup the previous December and were looking for another collie to help us with this loss. Along came Maggie, the calmest dog I could ever ask for, who only needed love and a home of her own. She was found in Wellsville, Ohio, and was in foster care waiting to be adopted.

Maggie came to us so scared she would hide in my hallway where the walls around her could protect her. We believe she came from a dog breeder who kept her confined to her cage until the day she was found.

Anytime I walked past her, I would hug her. She quickly learned I was her friend and began to trust me. I taught her to walk on a lead, but she was frightened to leave the yard. I'll never forget our first walk across the street. She was too scared to move, so I carried her across the street. Now that was a sight to see—a full-size collie being carried across the street. She was my baby, and I loved her very much.

Maggie had no clue how to play. She was a barker and would vocally let people know she was there defending her ground. With all the care and love I gave her, she learned to smile—something she did not do when I first got her. She always greeted me with that smile when I returned from being away.

Whenever my grandson came over, Maggie would let him crawl all over her, and she did not even try to move. She



loved sitting in the yard and watching over her home. The yard was not fenced, but she learned the boundaries when we were outside and stopped on command.

She loved my basement and claimed it as her own. As she aged, her hips gave her trouble. Eventually, she could no longer go up and down stairs unless she had help. We tried laser treatments to reduce some of her swelling, but it became difficult to get her in and out of the car. Once in the car, Maggie was okay, but it was a chore to get her there. We eventually had to give her assistance just to stand up.

Maggie is now walking in greener grass and running all over heaven's garden. She brought such love to me, and my heart misses her so. I will be looking for her in those gardens. I know life is much better for her now, and I rejoice for her in her new adventure. Many thanks to all who care for the needs of these beautiful heaven-sent dogs. Words cannot express what joy Maggie brought to my home.



Miranda

—By Paul Murowski

Miranda, our beautiful sable collie, was diagnosed with lymphoma, and after a couple of short weeks, she passed. The cancer was too far along for chemo to help her, and God mercifully took her.

She was such a gentle, kind soul, who always wanted to nuzzle, get tummy scratches and loved to play with other dogs in the neighborhood. She was best friends with our tri-color collie, Danny, and was always at his side. The kids in the neighborhood always ran over to pet Miranda and Danny when we walked them saying, "Here comes the fluffy dogs." They always marveled at Miranda's two different colored eyes and at Danny's size.

More than anything, Miranda and Katie (the sable before her) were the children we never had. They brought nothing but love into our lives. We know that she is at the Rainbow Bridge no longer suffering from cancer, and some day will we all be reunited. Thank you for bringing Miranda into our lives.

A Year in Review

– By Tom Hoadley

It's been a while since we last sent out a newsletter; hopefully this issue will fill in the gap and assure you that NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue is still active, fulfilling our mission of making life better for collies in need. The last year has certainly seen its share of needy collies. Cindy and I continued to foster Dino, our senior collie who suffered from exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. His enzyme therapy and supporting medications were costing rescue around a dollar a day, but this lovely and lively guy was worth every penny of it. Sadly, his shaky nutritional start in life resulted in his premature demise this fall. We continue to miss him every day.

Rescue also took in Lizzy, a female with a grade 6 heart murmur (that's as bad as they get). You can read more about her on [page 9](#) in this issue. Her treatment was costly, almost \$5,000 to date, but she is doing well. Since these things seem to come in threes, we recently took in Emma, a seriously underweight foster puppy who has intestinal issues. If that isn't challenging enough, her initial vet visit revealed that she also has a heart murmur, although not as severe as Lizzy's. During Emma's most recent vet visit, an echocardiogram determined she will need to undergo the same heart surgery as Lizzy.

You can well appreciate that it's only through your continued generosity that we can give these sweet dogs the treatments they need and deserve. A generous bequest from the late Barbara Shie, received through her sister Linda Hickerson, provided a timely lifeline for Lizzy, allowing our treasury to remain solid enough to proceed with Emma's care.

In addition to Barbara Shie, rescue lost two other good friends this year. In August, Joe Pepoy passed away. Joe and his wife Phyllis have been long time collie parents and rescue supporters. Their generosity continued with Phyllis' much-

appreciated request for memorial donations in Joe's name to be made to NEOCR. Our treasury received over \$ 1,000 in honor of Joe's memory.

In October, we were saddened to learn of the death of Mike Mahaney. Regular picnic goers will remember Mike attending each year, with donated items from his wife Phyllis' petwear business. One year, he even stepped in as our live auctioneer.

Speaking of the annual reunion picnic, this year's picnic was held on a perfect September day. An attempt was made to contact most of the membership in the absence of a newsletter, but a number of you were missed—my apologies for dropping the ball on that one. Even so, we had a respectable turnout, and folks enjoyed the usual hot dogs and delicious pot luck offerings. Even without a live auction, collie supporters added almost \$800 to our treasury with their purchases and donations.



Emma, who's in need of heart surgery

Over the years, our membership list has grown, even as alternate communication methods have become common. In an attempt to avoid missed messages to you, and also to clean up our old contact list, which is full of obsolete information, **we are asking everyone to take a moment to update your contact information, as well as to let us know your preferred communication method.** Please send us the information below, by e-mail, phone, or U.S. Mail so that we

can do a better job of keeping you in the loop. And if you're able to send in a donation at this time, both Lizzy and Emma will give you their HEARTFELT thanks



Contact Update Information

Please print or complete using Adobe Reader®

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP _____

E-mail Address _____

Communication Preference

- Please send my communications by U.S. Mail (black and white newsletter).
- Please send my communications to the e-mail address list above (full-color newsletter).
- Please remove me from your contact list.

Print and mail to: NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue Membership
3316 Treelawn Drive, Richfield OH 44286-9476

Or leave us a message with your updated info by calling: (330) 659-2962

Or send us an e-mail with your updated info to: thoadley@windstream.net



The Gathering at Sunnybank

– By Marian Maskow

Originating in 1997, The Gathering is an annual event sponsored by the Collie Health Foundation. This much-anticipated event is held annually on the third weekend in August and is widely considered the mecca for collie lovers. The Gathering takes place at Sunnybank in Wayne, New Jersey, on the grounds of what was once home of Albert Payson Terhune, acclaimed dog author and collie breeder, along with his wife, Anise. Sunnybank served as the backdrop for many of Terhune's famous dog stories. Despite the Sunnybank house being demolished in 1969, over nine acres of the property along the shore of Pompton Lake comprise Terhune Memorial Park, which remains open for the public to visit.

On Saturday morning, visitors can take a walking tour of Sunnybank led by experts from the Terhune Sunnybank Memorial. Participants can visit the graves of several of the famous Sunnybank collies featured in Terhune's books, including Lad, Wolf, Treve and Gray Dawn. Continuing along the walk, you can stop by the old puppy run and root cellar, visit the lily pool, and take in the breathtaking view from

the evening lookout just as the Master and Mistress did in their years at Sunnybank. The weekend program continues with lectures on Sunnybank, the Terhunes and their collies, agility demonstrations, CGC and therapy dog certification opportunities, silent and live auctions, and various levels of collie competitive matches.

In alternating years, Sunday morning begins with either the parade of rescues or the touching collie memorial service where deceased fur-family members, owners and friends are honored. The service concludes with a talented bagpiper leading attendees back to the main tent area of the park.

This past August, a few members from NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue and their collie companions attended this annual gathering. During the two-day outing, they hosted a table of various crafts and merchandise for sale, the proceeds from which benefited our rescue group. The Gathering is time for collie fans across the country to assemble in a spirit of camaraderie to celebrate friendships and the noble collie breed that unites them. The 2017 Gathering will be held the weekend of August 19 and 20. To learn more about the legend of Sunnybank, visit the Sunnybank Collies at <http://www.sunnybankcollies.us/index.htm> or the Collie Health Foundation at <http://www.colliehealth.org/>.



Clockwise from top left: (1) Placards from the Sunday morning memorial; (2) memorial plaque honoring Albert Payson and Anise Stockton Terhune; (3) Terhune Memorial Park entrance; (4) Betty Hodgson with collie companions Apollo and Skyler; (5) the gifted bagpiper who concluded the Sunday memorial; (6) novice traveler Jethro Maskow on his first outing to Sunnybank.

Grounded

– By Marian Maskow

*This is your pilot speaking.
We'll be landing soon.
Please fasten your seat belts.
Flight Crew: Prepare for arrival.
Welcome to your destination.
We hope you have enjoyed your flight
and you'll come back and fly with us
again soon.*



Bosco Maskow

If you have flown, you've probably heard words to this effect at one time or another. Yet as I ponder the events of this past year, these words seem to analogize my life. I know I am not unique. Many of you have probably gone through circumstances similar to mine. We've all taken a flight, had the time of our lives, and at some point we know the trip is going to end and the plane is going to land. We'd like the landing to be smooth and without turbulence, but that is not always the case. Nevertheless, we put on our bravest faces and try not to show our fear.

Bosco and I had a good ride together, but I knew in 2016 his plane was slowly coming in for landing. How would I handle it...would I be brave for my Bear...how comfortable could I keep his ride? These were all questions I asked myself.

Bosco was slowing up. His arthritis was catching up with him. We managed it well the last few years with different meds, supplements and an altered diet. I bought two footstools to help him more easily get in and out of the car, which worked well for quite a while. He no longer gobbled

his food but had to be encouraged to eat. If he had a two-bowl food day, it was a great day. Many days I sat on the floor and spoon fed him to encourage him to eat. Later, if he had one good bowl of food, I considered it a success.

Back-Pocket Bosco, as I had nicknamed him, always wanted to be wherever I was. He loved going for rides with me to visit his grandma. The last time we did our unofficial dog therapy was on Valentine's Day. That Sunday, my neighbor Bonnie and I visited with my mom at her assisted living apartment. From there we went to visit Bonnie's parents at their assisted living facility. By now, Bosco's eyesight was failing. He was losing his depth perception, and it was very difficult for him to judge spatial distances getting out of the car. At home, I blocked off access to the bedroom stairs and slept on the couch most nights so I could be near him.

I knew Bosco's days were numbered. At the same time, I knew my mom's health was failing. I couldn't imagine what I would do when they were both gone. I prayed they wouldn't both leave me at the same time. Losing each would be bad enough; losing them both at the same time would be devastating. Mom always asked about Bosco and if he was coming to visit. I had to explain to her that he no longer could get in the car. She was sad, but with her dementia, I wasn't sure how much she comprehended.

In the last few weeks of Bosco's life, he went totally blind, lost interest in food and treats (leaving me unable to give him his meds), seemed to have lost his sense of smell, and was losing control of all four of his legs. I continued to take him outside, but he even had difficulty doing his business. After speaking with my vet, Dr. Adams, and Cindy Lombardo from NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, we agreed Bosco was most likely in organ failure. I knew I had a difficult decision ahead of me, but I

See "Grounded" on page 10

Available for Adoption

Cassidy

Smooth Collie

Size: Medium
Age: Adult
Sex: Female

Cassidy (Cassie) is a very well-bred collie. She was a show dog for years and at eight years old is now retired. She is very smart and, because of that, finds ways to sneak food (aka a counter surfer). Luckily, she isn't very tall, so items pushed back seem to be unreachable for her, much to her dismay.



She is good with other dogs, great on a leash and seems to be a happy girl. She would do best in a fenced yard (preferably with privacy fencing so she doesn't see everything going on) and with other dogs to play with.

Special Thanks...

- A special thanks goes out to Cathy Pupo and the fund-raising efforts she coordinates through her Facebook group [AUCTIONS TO HELP COLLIES!](#) Through Cathy's hard work, she raised \$543 for the benefit of NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue.
- Cathy originally started her group to help raise funds for her two collies, Sadie and Sargent, who were both fighting cancer and undergoing costly treatment. She continued those fund-raising efforts and has now gone on to help other collies and collie rescue groups in serious financial need.
- Periodically, Cathy selects a new rescue organization to become the recipient of designated auction posts. NEOCR was recently selected as one of the group's beneficiaries.
- We are honored and grateful to Cathy and the auction community who made this generous contribution possible. Thank you so much, and keep up the good work!
- To participate in this ongoing fund-raising endeavor, visit Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HelpSadieandSargent/> and request to join the group.

Happy Tail: Lizzy Gets Much-Needed Heart Surgery

– By Betty Hodgson

Lizzy came to us from an owner whose veterinarian diagnosed her with a severe heart murmur (grade 6 out of 6), and her owners couldn't provide the help she needed. We made an appointment with Dr. Hitchcock at Akron Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital (Metro). Lizzy had an echocardiogram done to confirm Dr. Hitchcock's suspicion that her very loud murmur was caused by a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA).

Evidently, the descending aorta in the dog fetus is connected to the pulmonary artery by the ductus arteriosus blood vessel, allowing blood to flow directly from the right side of the heart to the aorta. This connection by-passes the lungs because the fetus gets its oxygen from the mother's bloodstream and does not yet need to have its own blood oxygenated.

Usually, by the time the puppy is born, this connection is no longer patent (open). Once the pup begins to breathe on its own, the pulmonary artery opens to allow blood to flow from the right side heart into the lungs to be oxygenated, and the ductus arteriosus closes. But with PDA, the connection remains open. Consequently, blood is shunted (or diverted) in abnormal patterns in the heart. PDA allows blood to flow from the aorta into the pulmonary artery and then to the lungs—not out to the body where it should be going. This causes turbulence in blood flow causing the heart to work harder.

When the shunt is moderate to large, it can result in heart damage to the left side from blood-volume overload on the left side of the heart. The longer the condition goes on, the more heart damage can occur.

The typical symptoms of PDA include breathing distress, coughing, exercise intolerance and weak hind legs, increased breathing rate, thickened blood causing arrhythmias, bluish gums, left-sided congestive heart failure, rapid and/or irregular heart beat and stunted growth.

Lizzy is four years old and exhibited signs of a weakened left side of her heart. She was a good candidate for the surgery,

so we proceeded to have it repaired. The procedure entailed plugging the hole between her aorta and pulmonary artery. We believed her prognosis was good. The vet did the same procedure on other dogs with more severe heart damage and followed many of those patients who went on to live normal lives. Dr. Hitchcock performed a minimally invasive catheter procedure (compared to open-heart surgery) and successfully plugged the hole. Lizzy's follow-up electrocardiogram showed marked improvement in the distended left side of the heart; it shrunk back to almost normal within the first 24 hours, which is a very good sign. However, once the loud PDA was repaired, it was apparent she has low-grade mitral valve murmur that doesn't require any medication at this point.

She is due for another echocardiogram on December 15 and then will be able to be spayed in March. By that time, her body tissue should completely encapsulate the plug which will minimize any chance of infection. She will be spayed at Metro with Dr. Hitchcock available in case there are any heart issues during the spay surgery.

Lizzy seemed more playful and healthier within the first week after surgery—her improved health was very noticeable. The initial echocardiogram was approximately \$500, and the surgery (with a 20% rescue discount from the surgeon and a 15% discount from Metro) was slightly over \$4,000. Because of our members' contributions, she now is expected to live a happy, normal life.



Lizzy after her recent heart surgery.



Gracie, Layla and Sabre Miner



Adoptions May 2015 – December 2016

Belle.....	Ed Plottke.....	Burton, OH
Chase	Dave & Tina Stannard	Akron, OH
DeeDee	Tim & Carolyn McClure.....	Ashland, OH
Domino.....	David Gray & Betty Hodgson	Medina, OH
Garrett.....	Jim & Joanne Bialosky	Chagrin Falls, OH
Jethro.....	Marian Maskow.....	North Royalton, OH
Lassie	Tom Hoadley & Cindy Lombardo.....	Richfield, OH
Layla	Dave & Kathie Miner.....	Crystal Beach, ON
Lizzy	David Gray & Betty Hodgson	Medina, OH
Mac.....	Diana & Alexis Geoffrion.....	Cleveland, OH
Missy.....	Joe & C. Arras.....	Findlay, OH
Poco.....	Robert & Sue Ferrell.....	Shelby Township, MI
Sam.....	Mike & Ruth Carlton	Chagrin Falls, OH

Grounded *(continued from page 8)*

knew it was the right decision to prepare for Bosco's final care. My vet suggested I call [A Gentle Farewell](#) and speak with Dr. Kimberly Parker, an emergency medicine veterinarian whose current practice is providing in-home euthanasia as an alternative choice for pet owners. I chose this option with the assurance of knowing I would not have to move Bosco out of his environment. He could stay comfortable in his home, on his bed, with his loved ones around him. I was fortunate to have Bonnie stay overnight the day before, and blessed to have my "flight crew" of Bonnie and my other neighbor Cathy (both of whom cancelled their plans) to stay the afternoon and evening with me until Dr. Parker arrived. At 13 years and 9 months, Bosco's plane had landed.

Bosco was loved to the very end, of that I am sure. I said goodbye to my Bosco Bear on March 5. His family and friends saw him off in the comfort of his home and wished for him the freedom to run and play freely with his fur friends until we meet again. When I subsequently visited with my mom, I had to break the difficult news. She understood in her own way, and she, too, was going to miss Bosco's visits.

Although I still had my cat, Buffy, life without Bosco was not the same. Mom's health continued to decline; I just couldn't fathom life without both of them. I was blessed on March 31 to bring home Jethro, a senior collie rescue who had recently lost his family and was put up for adoption. I welcomed him with open arms. My home was now his home, and Buffy, without much effort, became his new sibling.

By the end of March, we moved my mother from assisted living to a facility that dealt exclusively with dementia and Alzheimer's patients. While the staff was like angels, the transition was still difficult, and Mom was very confused. We were told not to visit Mom for at least a week so that she could adjust to her surroundings. In the meantime, Jethro was recovering from a case of dermatitis and neutering surgery. Once he was recovered, I brought a copy of Jethro's vet records to Mom's new facility so that he could visit. I always took along my tablet or phone when I went to see Mom because she loved looking at pictures. I showed her pictures of Jethro and told her he would visit soon.

Jethro had his first and only visitation with Mom on Mother's Day. After Bonnie, Jethro and I arrived, I wheeled Mom into a separate room so that we could visit in private. Mom's state of mind had declined steadily by then. We only visited 45 minutes before Mom tired. I will never forget the smile on her face when she saw the flowers I brought her. Then we watched as her face lit up again as she bent forward to pet Jethro. It was absolutely priceless. She was worry free for those few brief minutes. This was to be the last conversation I had with my mom. She entered hospice care that week and passed away the Saturday after Mother's Day. At age 93, Mom's plane had landed. I can't help but think that Bosco was part of Mom's welcoming crew.



Jethro with his grandma, Martha Maskow

Jethro, Buffy and I buckled up for another exciting ride, but it hasn't been without turbulence. Six weeks after Mom passed, my department was eliminated, and I lost my job. Together we are working through the next leg of our journey. I'm not sure where life will lead us, but I feel lucky to be in such good company.

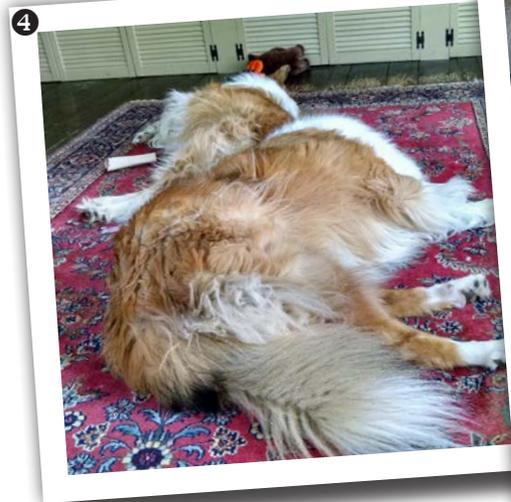
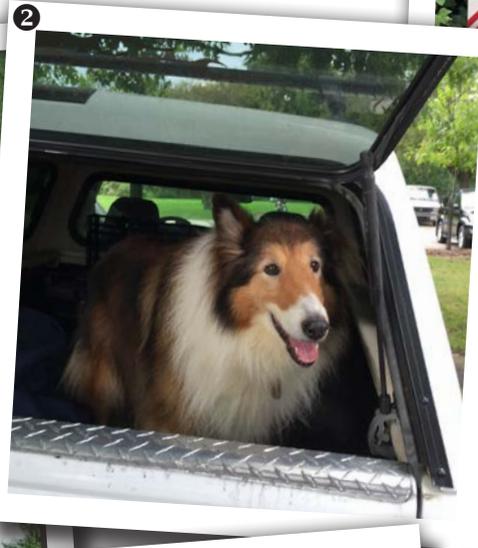
From your "pilots and flight crew" at NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue to all of you: may your travels in 2017 be smooth. And please, do come back and visit with us again soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 📅 **NEOCR Board Meeting** will be held **Sunday, January 15, 2017**, at 1 p.m. at the home of Betty Hodgson, 178 Waterside Drive in Medina.
- 📅 **NEOCR's Annual Collie Reunion & Picnic** will be held **Sunday, September 17, 2017**, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hubbard Valley Park in Medina County. More details to follow.
- 📅 **Collie Health Foundation's 20th Annual Gathering at Sunnybank** is scheduled for **August 19-20, 2017**, at Terhune Memorial Park at Sunnybank, Wayne, NJ.
- 📅 **Bark in the Park** — This dog friendly event will be held on **Saturday, May 6, 2017**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Springfield Lake Park in Akron, OH. Owners and dogs are free. All dogs must be leashed.

- 📅 **16th Annual WAKR Pet Expo** — **Saturday, June 3, 2017**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hardesty Park in Akron, OH.
- 📅 **Woof, Wag and Wine** — **Saturday, June 17, 2017**, at Grand River Cellars in Madison, OH.
- 📅 **Working Dog Weekend** — **June 17-18, 2017**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lake Metroparks Farmpark in Kirtland, OH.
- 📅 **8th Annual Hudson Wine Festival** — **July 21-22, 2017**, benefiting animal welfare and military support organizations.
- 📅 **From Dogs in the CLE** — Check out [50 Things To Do With Your Dog in Northeast Ohio](#).

From the Scrapbook Gallery...



From top left: (1) Betty Hodgson's and David Gray's collie, Lily, and their Irish wolfhound, Colin; (2) Monty Lynn excited to arrive at Hubbard Valley State Park; (3) Chase Stannard with Santa; (4) Collie bookends Sasha and Sam Carlton catch a nap; (5) Bo and Jasmine Beltz at the Yappy Hour at Wolf Creek Winery; (6) Gracie Miner of Crystal Beach, ON, eagerly greets pal Tom Hoadley; (7) 2016 Collie Reunion Picnic group photo.



NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, Inc.
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THE OTHER COAST



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