



Imprints

A publication of NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue

Spring 2012

Make Two Hearts Glad – Adopt A Homeless Collie!

Volume XI Issue 1

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Macie and the Bailey Chair

– By Beth Snider

Macie came into the world 7 years ago on January 18, 2005. She was adopted by a family who loved her but struggled with her care. She vomited between 10 and 15 times a day and was not thriving. The family turned her in to NEOCR knowing there was something wrong with her, but they did not have the resources to find the cause. NEOCR took her in and got the diagnosis. Macie had a somewhat rare disease: megaesophogus. This ailment causes a condition where dogs cannot move food down the esophagus and into the stomach. A pouch forms in the esophagus, and the food sits there instead of entering the stomach. The dog eats, but is always hungry. They regurgitate repeatedly and often some of the food will find its way into the lungs. The majority of pups don't survive long. The average life expectancy of those that do survive puppyhood is only two years. Most dogs die of pneumonia brought on by the constant regurgitation.

There are things that can be done to help these dogs. Feeding them at an angle or in an upright position, then keeping them there to allow gravity to help move the food into the stomach will help. Every dog is different with what kind of food it can eat. After Collie Rescue took Macie in and found out what was wrong, Tom called and asked if we would meet Macie. We met her and, of course, she stayed. Now the struggle began.

Macie has another issue that made her struggle more difficult. She has a problem with the richness of food. After months of trying foods with different consistencies — from chunks to milkshakes, soup-like, high protein, low fat, dry, grain free, and many others



Macie

— we found something that worked. We had even tried cooking our own food, making small meatballs, using recipes from vets and other pet owners who had megaesophogus dogs, but nothing seemed to get in and stay down. Every dog is different. We have only been able to feed her Purina EN Gastroenteric®, special ordered by the vet. It has to be refrigerated to get it to a consistency that will allow us to scoop it out into small chunks. Macie did well eating standing on the stairs, eating uphill. After eating I would pick her up and burp her like a baby for about seven minutes. Often I could hear the food moving down into the stomach. Now she would vomit only once or twice a day, and sometimes not at all. She was eating, keeping food down, and she was putting on some weight. She was happy, playful and loved to run indoors, bouncing from couch to couch, up on the living room chairs, then down again, outrunning our other three dogs. It looked like we found a solution for our little girl. This went on for a few years.

As time went by, the amount of time I needed to hold her in an upright position

See "Macie" continued on page 5...

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Listing of available dogs can be found on:

www.petfinder.com

www.pets911.com

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Don't forget!

Keep us current with your address!

Help us to keep mailing costs down by mailing address changes to NEOCR at our PO Box listed above, or by sending us an e-mail to the attention of Tom Hoadley at info@neocr.org. Thank you!

Donations

We would like to thank [Mega Fluidline Products of Akron, Ohio](#), and **Mr. Peter Newell** for donating the printing services for this newsletter.

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

Below is a list of donors since our last publication. If we have overlooked anyone, drop the editor a note and we'll acknowledge you in the next issue of *Imprints*.

Donors

- ★ Brian Wynn ★ Pat Cozzens ★ Dorothy Slavin ★
- ★ Cecilia & Joseph Arras ★ Janet Benson ★
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- ★ Marian Maskow ★ Tom Hoadley ★
- ★ Leo & Marilyn Kenzik ★ Johanna Lance ★
- ★ Cindy Lombardo ★ Kathy Leenhouts ★

NEOCR 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance January 1, 2011	\$5,828.20
Deposits Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2011	\$16,533.73
Total	\$22,361.93
Expenses	
Dog care — Vet, medical, grooming,	
adoption fees, food, licenses, etc	-\$15,907.27
CafePress items to resell — calendars,	
shirts, etc	-\$905.78
Liability Insurance \$1 million/1 year	-\$344.00
Postage	-\$264.00
Post Office Box for 2012	-\$46.00
Gasoline reimbursement for dog transport ...	-\$180.00
Dog turn in.....	-\$175.00
Lunar Pages Web site	-\$134.55
Mutt Hutt Whine & Cheese event.....	-\$120.00
Calendar reimbursement.....	-\$46.72
Food for Cleve. Collie Club Specialty Show.....	-\$27.25
Total Expenses	-\$18,150.57
Balance December 31, 2011	\$4,211.36
Leo Kenzik, Secretary / Treasurer	

A Year in Review – By Tom Hoadley

2011 proved to be a challenging year for NEOCR as our persistently unsettled economy continued to make it difficult for families to keep their pets, while also preventing others from adopting. Even so, we successfully placed 24 dogs during the year. And, while our total expenses for 2011 outstripped our revenue, the continued generosity of our supporters meant that we finished the year with a modest safety net in the bank. Of course, the end of the year also saw the relinquishment of a heartworm-positive female, who will prove to be a significant expense in the first quarter of 2012.

Money, of course, is only a portion of what is required for rescue to function, and I'd be remiss if I didn't take a moment to say "Thanks" to those who gave so much of their time and talents throughout the year. Betty Hodgson, our foster home coordinator, drove countless miles transporting dogs and making vet visits to ensure our charges were properly taken care of, in addition to always having 5-8 foster dogs in residence. Judy Lester, our adoptions coordinator, worked tirelessly to stay on top of incoming calls and Web mail, matching applicants (who she also made sure were properly screened) with available dogs, who then went into new, loving, forever homes. Leo Kenzik kept a keen eye on our finances, making sure the bills were paid and donations were acknowledged, and Marian Maskow put in long hours maintaining our Web presence in addition to putting out *Imprints*, our periodic way of staying in touch with our friends and supporters. Peggy Jensen did a fantastic job of handling the necessary arrangements for yet another enjoyable (and profitable) "Whine" and Cheese Party and picnic auction, and a whole host of folks joined together to make the annual collie reunion picnic a success. We were especially fortunate to have Mike and Valerie Gustovich agree to step in at the last minute to run the live auction, successfully encouraging

picnickers to part with a maximum of cash. Richard Shupe did a number of shelter pulls and transports, and our foster homes made sure that our "ARF"-ins received the love and care needed prior to re-homing. Our long-time foster home, the Snider family, turned in yet another year of overtime care, above and beyond, caring for Macie, the mega-esophagus poster dog, and the Singleys also dealt with ongoing foster dog health issues. Cindy Lombardo and Peggy Jensen kept those knitting needles going, too, creating many fund-raising items. Jim Bialosky, in addition to being a donor and regular display staffer, always managed to find a way to bring back display materials repaired, improved, or both.

Of course, the efforts of all our volunteers would come to naught (and soon to an end) if not for those wonderful folks who adopted a dog from us.

We were fortunate recipients of several large donations in 2011 as well. Beth Snider's Aunt Janet Delaney saw to it that the Delaney Foundation made another donation this year, Laurie Harwich's good friend, John Glenn, made a welcome end-of-year donation, and Dr. Glenn Brown, father of long-time supporter Eric Brown, also ended the year with a most-appreciated contribution. Cecilia and Joe Arras, Pat Cozzens and Brian Wynne also were repetitive donors. Every donation, no matter the size, helped to keep our group in operation, with over 96 cents of every incoming dollar going directly back out in dog-care related costs. In fact, over 90% of our total expenses in 2011 went for the care of our charges, with the balance going to the mundane, but necessary, things like postage and insurance.

Thanks to everyone for having a hand in helping our wonderful furry friends. I'm sure I've missed several folks who should have been mentioned by name. One of those names is probably on the mailing label of the newsletter you're holding. Thanks! You're all heroes to me.

Meeting Minutes – 1/15/12

President, Tom Hoadley called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. at the home of Tom Hoadley & Cindy Lombardo.

The next meeting date will be on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Old Business

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Leo Kenzik read the yearly Treasurer's report for 2011.

We discussed the NEOCR calendar for the year 2013.

Betty Hodgson discussed the adopted dogs: Blue, Nigel, Fancy, Sugar, Shadow, Jasper and Captain.

Betty also discussed the intake of dogs: Rusty, Corky, Shadow, Philo, Diamond, King, Duke and Chase.

Peggy Jensen discussed the embroidered logo gear, which should arrive soon.

New Business

The Ohio Attorney General established a new Web site for

non-profit organizations.

There was election of officers. All incumbent officers were re-elected for another term.

Tom Hoadley – President; Leo Kenzik – Secretary/Treasurer; Board members – Jon Lester, Johanna Lance and Kathy Leenhouts.

Peggy Jensen will contact the Mutt Hutt to set up a date for the "Whine & Cheese" event. Possible date is May 20, 2012.

Peggy Jensen said that Pet People would be willing to let us set up an adoption table.

June 9, 2012, is the WAKR Adoptathon.

Tom Hoadley has 4 or 5 crates available for dogs if anyone wants them. They are free for the asking.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leo Kenzik, Secretary/Treasurer.

The Dreaded Ringworm

– By Betty Hodgson

Ringworm is really a fungal skin infection and not caused by a worm at all. The fungi actually feed on dead skin/hair cells which, in people, causes a round, red lesion with a “ring” of scale around the edges making it look like a worm. The fungi associated with this are called dermatophytes — meaning plants which live on the skin, and there are different species of them. In animals, it looks more like a dry, gray scaly patch but can also look like other skin infections, so it’s hard to diagnose by appearance alone.

How do pets get it? The spores are extremely hardy in the environment; they can live for years. However, the pet must be abraded since the fungus does not infect healthy skin. Infected animals can drop spore-covered hairs into the environment. Some animals are carriers, who never show signs of skin irritation themselves but can infect others readily. A carrier might be “subclinically” infected, which means their skin is infected but shows no visible lesions. A carrier can also carry the spores on their fur without being infected, much as an inanimate object might have spores on its surface incidentally. In this situation, the spores can be easily washed away. There is no obvious way to distinguish between these two types of carrier state.

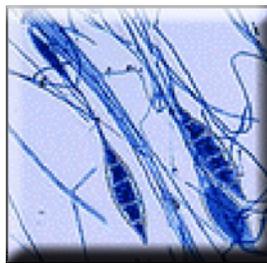
Is it contagious? Yes, ringworm is contagious to people; but generally to those with compromised immune systems. In general, if you don’t already have it at the time your pet is diagnosed, you probably will not get it. Keep in mind that skin must be abraded to become infected.

How do you know it is really ringworm? Testing is usually required since, in animals, the lesions may not even itch.

➤ **Wood’s Light** — *Microsporum canis*, the most common ringworm fungus, will fluoresce apple green in approximately 50% of cases. Fluorescence is an easy test to perform and may provide a strong clue that dermatophytes are present. Further testing is usually needed, however, to absolutely confirm diagnosis.



- **Microscopic Exam** — Hairs may be examined for microscopic spores and, if seen on damaged hairs, then the diagnosis of ringworm is confirmed. However, since the spores are difficult to see, many veterinarians skip this step.
- **Fungal Culture** — Hairs and skin scales are placed on a special culture medium in an attempt to grow one of the ringworm fungi. (This typically takes 10 days or more.) This test not only confirms ringworm but indicates which species is present. This may help ID the source of infection. This is the only test to help determine whether a pet is an asymptomatic carrier.
- **Biopsy** — Sometimes the lesions on the skin are so uncharacteristic that a skin biopsy is necessary to obtain



Appearance of Microsporum canis under a microscope

a diagnosis. Fungal spores are quite clear in these samples.

Treatment

The key to successful treatment, especially with more than one pet, is continual disinfection of surfaces in your house. Infected pets should be isolated while the environment is disinfected and should not be allowed back into the “clean” area until a culture is negative. Obviously, all pets should be cultured and isolated until they have been deemed clear.

Infected pets generally require oral medication which may be supplemented with topical treatment (dipping, lotion, or both). Very localized lesions might get away with topical treatment only.

Oral Meds for Infected Pets

There are primarily two medications being used to treat ringworm: Griseofulvin and Itraconazole. Both medications are relatively expensive, must be given with food, and have significant potential to cause birth defects in pregnant pets. It typically is continued for 1-2 months and should not be discontinued until the pet cultures negative. Stopping when the pet simply looks well visually frequently leads to recurrence of the disease.

- **Griseofulvin** – given with a fatty meal in order for an effective dose to be absorbed by the pet. Despite the side effects, which can be severe for some individuals, Griseofulvin is still the traditional medication for the treatment of ringworm and is usually somewhat less expensive than Itraconazole.
- **Itraconazole** – highly effective in the treatment of ringworm, but it is available in capsules far too large to be useful to most small animals. This means a compounding pharmacy make the medication into a more useful size. Nausea is a potential side effect for this medication, but probably the main reason it is passed by in favor of Griseofulvin is its expense.
- **Terbinafine** (worth mentioning) – a newer anti-fungal on the scene and seems to be effective against ringworm fungi. It is, however, expensive relative to the other medications and likely does not offer an advantage.
- **Lufenuron Program**® (worth mentioning) – a flea control product which is given to the pet orally or by injection. The flea drinks the Lufenuron in the pet’s blood and then becomes unable to make chitin, the material composing the insect’s exoskeleton. This is not a problem for the flea as it already has its exoskeleton, but it is a problem for any eggs laid by the flea as the larvae inside will not have the chitin egg-tooth they need to break out of the shell. Further, larvae that consume flea dirt containing Lufenuron will not be able to pupate. The flea life

Continued on next page...

(Continued from page 4)

cycle becomes highly compromised by introducing Lufenuron into the system, and since mammals do not make or need chitin, there is no effect on the pet.

It turns out that many fungi, including dermatophytes, have chitin in their cell walls. This led to a great deal of research as to whether Lufenuron could prevent ringworm or might facilitate recovery from ringworm. Doses far greater than those used for flea control are needed, and some studies have published good efficacy while others have shown no effect. This treatment remains controversial as to whether or not it actually works but it certainly is not harmful.

Lufenuron is the flea-sterilizing ingredient in both Program® and Sentinel®.

Topical Treatment

Along with oral meds, it is needed to reduce contamination of the environment. This means actually killing the fungus on the pet so that the hairs dropped will not be infectious. Killing the fungus on the pet means topical therapy. For many years, cats with ringworm lesions were shaved to allow for easier topical treatment. We now know that shaving may be spreading the fungus; thus, shaving is not always recommended (depending on the number of cats present in the home and the length of the hair).

- **Lime Sulfur Dip** – recommended twice a week and can be performed either by the hospital or at home. If you attempt this kind of dipping at home, you should expect:
 - Stained clothing and jewelry
 - Temporary yellowing of white fur
 - Nasty smell – rotten eggs

The dip is mixed according the label and is not rinsed off at the end of the bath. The pet should be towel dried. Shampooing is not necessary.

- **Miconazole-chlorhexidine Rinse** – available as a combination rinse as well as shampoo. The rinse, which is allowed to dry on the pet, is effective in killing ringworm spores, although in the field lime sulfur seemed associated with faster cure.

The Environment (Your House)

The problem with decontaminating the environment is that very few products are effective. Bleach diluted 1:10 will kill 80% of fungal spores with one application, and any surface that can be bleached, should be bleached. Vigorous vacuuming and steam cleaning of carpets will help remove spores and, of course, vacuum bags should be discarded. To reduce environmental contamination, infected cats should be confined to one room until they have cultured negative. The rest of the house can be disinfected during this confinement period. Cultures of the pet are done monthly during the course of treatment.

Will it go away by itself? Some studies have shown that it will eventually resolve on its own. Typically, this takes 4 months, a long time in a home environment for contamination to be occurring continuously. We recommend treatment for this infection rather than waiting for it to go away.

If it doesn't clear up, shaving the pet may help to ensure the topical treatment is getting where it needs to be, and twice a week dipping and fastidious cleaning of the environment may help.

Macie (continued from page 1)

increased. Now it's around 30 minutes. Macie has survived several bouts of pneumonia. At times she lost so much weight that I thought she wouldn't survive. The most this little girl ever weighed was 41 pounds. When she was sick she would drop to about 36 pounds, but then recover the weight when the pneumonia passed.



Recently she dropped down to 33 pounds. We couldn't get the food to her stomach, and she was starving before our eyes. We read about a chair that we could build called a Bailey Chair. The dog sits completely upright in the chair while eating and for several minutes after, letting gravity help move the food. My husband built one out of spare stuff we had in the garage. Macie now eats in the chair and sits there for between 20 and 30 minutes. I sit next to her and stroke her head, and read to her to keep her relaxed enough to let gravity work.

The Bailey Chair and Macie's determination to live has brought her back from the brink. Macie is now back up to 37 pounds. She is back to running and playing and barking. Oh, how she loves to bark!

Macie has so many people that help her and support her. She is one of the long-term foster collies. She will always have her home here with us, but it is Collie Rescue that financially supports her. It is the generous contributions that come in that buy her food and pay for the penicillin she so often needs. It is the people in NEOCR that back us up and support us with Macie. They believed in the value of a dog like Macie. She is such a funny, loving dog. She takes her illness in stride. I know when she was at her lowest point, when others were saying, "Well, she has lived longer than anyone thought she would," Macie didn't give up. I didn't give up on her and NEOCR didn't either. I'm not sure what tomorrow will bring, but for now Macie is again a happy, high-spirited member of our family pack. I am grateful to have her with me, and I thank Tom for bringing her to us. She has taught us all so much about faith and patience.

Some of Our Available Collies

Rusty

Collie/Wirehaired
Terrier Mix

Size: Medium
Age: Young
Sex: Male



Rusty is a very friendly, happy boy. He is estimated to be 2 years old and is housebroken. He likes to play with other dogs and just seems happy to be “rescued.” He would do best in a fenced yard where there is room for him to stretch his legs. Rusty is likely fine with kids and cats — he just seems like he likes everyone and everything. He is a typical young dog that needs exercise and some training.

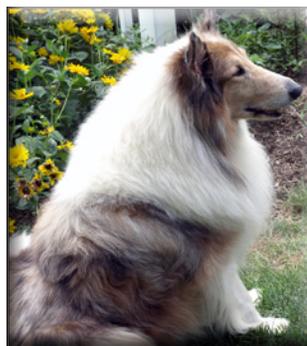


Bernie

Spaniel/Burmese
Mountain Dog Mix

Size: Large
Age: Adult
Sex: Male

Bernie has all his shots and is neutered. He is very sweet, laid back, and good with kids and other dogs. Overall, while not a collie, this 5-year-old boy has a great temperament and is just the best “buddy” you would ever have. His owners had to give him up and were very upset because he is a wonderful dog. Please call Betty at 330-571-4456 if interested. This is a courtesy cross-posting, so not really a collie rescue



Chance

Collie

Size: Large
Age: Senior
Sex: Male

Chance is a great boy with some spunk and plenty of love. He is 9 years old, but still frisky and doesn't have any issues with steps or playing with other dogs.

He is friendly with everyone and likes to eat. He is on a diet to drop a few of those pesky pounds. He enjoys just hanging out in nice weather on the deck — keeping the wildlife at bay and taking a nap or two. At night, he prefers the love seat or a cushy dog bed. Chance has a beautiful coat but doesn't care much for being combed, yet he is gradually getting more used to grooming. He will not tolerate being grabbed by the collar or having his face touched, so he should not be with small children. Overall, he is a handsome, typical collie and would just love his own, rest-of-his-life home in a calm, peaceful environment.



Peyton

Collie

Size: Medium
Age: Adult
Sex: Female

Collie

What a sweetie Peyton is, but she is very shy. She is also so very petite for a collie. She is definitely a purebred collie, though, and has perfect collie features. Peyton is 7 years old. She is warming up to life in the house and beginning to like being petted and cuddled. She is good on a leash but still unsure of new situations. Peyton needs to be with other dogs and loves to play/chase dogs. She must be in a fenced yard; should she get loose, she would probably run off and not come to anybody. She won't always come inside when you call, but will eventually lie down so you can put a leash on her. Peyton is considered a “special needs” collie. She is afraid of storms and loud noises. She will need an adopter who is experienced with very shy dogs. She seems to do better with a calming collar (pheromone collar) and is noticeably more anxious when the collar wears out (60 days).



Philo

Collie

Size: Large
Age: Senior
Sex: Male

Philo is a wonderfully sweet boy who just goes with the flow. He gets along with other dogs and is just happy to now be a house dog. He is about 7-8 years old. He totally tolerated lots of grooming. (He was loaded with mats and his nails were long when he came into rescue.) He has that typical great collie temperament and not as barky as some collies can be. Philo deserves a good home of his own in his retirement.



Diamond

Collie

Size: Medium
Age: Adult
Sex: Female

Diamond is a frisky 8-year-old female collie who is very affectionate. She was a kennel dog most of her life and is loving the one-on-one attention, making up for lost time. She gets along with other dogs and is very playful and active. She is very friendly and outgoing and is just a happy dog.

In Passing

Our sincere condolences on the passing of...

-  *Brie*, beloved collie of *Christine Vrooman*
-  *Crackers and Jasper*, beloved collies of *Leo & Marilyn Kenzik*
-  *Duffy*, beloved collie of *Don Roth*
-  *Jamey, Missy, and Ross*, beloved collies of *David Gray & Betty Hodgson*
-  *Joseph*, beloved collie of *Jennifer Bortner*
-  *Lucy*, beloved collie of *Sue Guarino*
-  *Mike*, beloved collie of *Melissa Johnston*
-  *Traveller* beloved collie of *Tom Hoadley & Cindy Lombardo*

Traveller – by Tom Hoadley



T Bunny • Trav Man •
T Bun Pickens • Traveller

In addition to the biggest brown eyes, that would bore right through you until your hand involuntarily went to the treat jar, he was known by many nicknames.

He'll be missed many times over. Traveller — 1996-2011. Sweet and gentle to the end.

Mike – by Melissa Johnston

I just wanted to let NEOCR know that Mike passed away in December. This was an extremely difficult decision for me to make, but in the end, as you know, “they” tell us when it’s time. For the previous month, Mike had been struggling with his walking and primarily with his ability to raise his hips. He was placed on some IM and oral meds, but when I went to taper his steroids, he would falter.



The morning of his passing, he had a very difficult time and really had lost his ability to stand and walk for any length of time. The vet and his staff were very kind, and Mike was given priority status for my urgent call. The two good things I can say about his last day is when I was trying to get some last minute photos, which he would not cooperate with, when I said “turkey treats,” he turned to me and did his canine smile. Lastly, when we entered the vet’s office, there was a boy with his parents. Mike went straight to him. He so dearly loved children, especially little boys. I so often think of that little boy at that adoptathon in May 2010 who loved Mike so clearly. I just can not fathom why no one wanted Mike. He was the dearest and gentlest dog. He made my life better. This was my second pet loss this year. I lost my 18-year-old cat, Frank, in September and now Mike. My old men are now together.



Chase: A Tribute to a Friend

– By Sharon Sopko

My dear friend,

I can still remember the first time I saw you. I was newly divorced and wanted a larger dog to feel safer at home. Jill had asked for a collie like Lassie and had actually started to save money for one at the ripe old age of six. I contacted the collie rescue agency about a dog I had seen online. The woman, Laura, told me that I did not want the dog I had seen pictured, but she assured me that the perfect dog awaited me in Columbus. You were in a large outdoor pen and I was amazed at how beautifully regal a picture you made standing there. I entered the pen and sat down on a hay bale saying nothing. You walked over and sat down next to me before placing your paw on my knee. I had my dog.

You came to us called Chase and were estimated to be 1.5 years old. I wanted to change your name, but the kids felt it was perfect and so it stuck. It turned out that Chase was appropriate since we spent some years chasing you around! Off you would go on an adventure only to make your way back just in time to reassure me that some awful mishap had not befallen you. Of course, there were some mornings that I made an SOS call to Dad or Jan asking them to stop by and see if you had moseyed home after I left for work. And there they would find you surveying the yard and looking as if you had been waiting for them for hours.

You had been found running the streets in either Dayton or Toledo. I feel sure now that you had been someone's good pet, but likely ran far and long from your home. I often used to wonder what your name had been and what kind of family had raised you. You were a mannerly dog and knew sit, come, down, stay, and could heel like a dream on a leash. Some family or someone had loved you.

You made your place in our family effortlessly. I had some concerns about bringing a grown dog into our household, but within the first few days it seemed as if you had been with us forever. Jill was only six and Nick was nine when you joined us here. I was often scared and unsure of what my life had become. You became my dearest friend. Where I went, you went...up the stairs, into the bathroom, side-by-side on the front steps. And each time I placed my hand on the top of your silky head or on your strong back, it helped me to put another little piece of myself back together. You watched over us and protected us and loved us.

You had a natural herding instinct that I discovered when I let the chickens out, and you promptly herded them back into their pen. This was a game that you enjoyed immensely, but you were always so gentle—walking back and forth continually until you moved those pea-brained hens where you wanted them to go. You herded and watched the kids, too. I never had to worry when they were outside with you. Your gentleness with them helped them learn to be gentle and kind to all animals.

We had some times together, you and me. Can you imagine how many miles we walked together over the years? Your regal-bearing and reserved behavior made you a magnet for

people on the Towpath. You accepted their praise and pats graciously, but never in a way that seemed “doggy,” which is one of the things that I always loved most about you. You were not a goofy or silly dog. You would laugh with that toothy smile or wave your tail, but you were never exuberant. You had it all going on and were much more sophisticated than most other canines!

I counted on your companionship in so many ways. When I taught all day and worked on master's projects once the kids were in bed, your nose would nudge under my elbow at the computer where I sit now as if to say, “Come on! Enough of that already!” It was always right when I needed a break the most, and I would rub your ears or kiss you on your silky head. We spent hours together on the front porch in all kinds of weather admiring the night around us, sometimes black as ink, and others so light that shadows danced across the lawn. In the summer, you would lie at my feet, and I would lace my bare toes in your fur as I rocked back and forth and back and forth on the porch swing. In winter, I would often sit on the floor against the couch and read, knit, or watch television. Your place was always right next to me, lying stretched out along my legs often with your head on my thigh. I had some lonely times during those years. I was so busy raising the kids that I had time for little else, and your presence filled a great void in my life.

Together we obtained the highest level of Delta certification and became visiting partners at Akron General Hospital. Oh, I was so incredibly proud of you. I will never forget the words of our evaluator when he said, “I think that dog would walk through fire for you.” I didn't have to think twice to know that you would. You taught me so much about just being in the moment. When patients on the oncology floor petted you, there was no need for words or movement. It was just a time to be...and you were...quiet, strong, steady, and comforting. We did Informational library programs and the Read-to-a-Dog Program there also. I think, though, that you loved the hospital best. If dogs have empathy, you had it mastered. I felt it many times myself when I needed it most with your paw on my leg or your muzzle on my knee.

You had a few real pleasures in life. You began your life here with us loving the chickens, and when you discovered chicken bread, it was heavenly! I would laugh as I threw out the bread and you joined the flock. You became very adept at launching yourself into the air to snag any bread that was thrown. Even this morning you came to the barn to get your slice of bread.

Then there were the squirrels. I have never seen a dog spend so much time looking up! You would run from tree to tree as they leapt high overhead. This leads to a very funny story. I had decided at one point that it would be great if I could ride my bike while you trotted along next to me. (I had seen someone doing this on the Towpath.) My idea was to try it out around the path here before doing the real deal out in public. We were doing quite well until you spotted a squirrel. I had foolishly wrapped the leash around my wrist. I was yanked from my bike and dragged along the ground before you stopped. My mouth was full of dirt and leaves since I must

Continued on next page...

(Continued from page 8)

have been yelling. I got up, brushed myself off, and decided to shelve that plan. It has always been good for laughs though! This looking up also led to seeing (and chasing) hawks and buzzards. Their large shadows would be cast on the ground and you would be up, barking, and after them.

We cannot leave pleasures without talking about spaghetti and Italian food. I could almost see you smack your lips when there was leftover spaghetti in your bowl. And the only time I can say I ever saw you act shamelessly dog-like was over pizza. I think the combination of pepperoni, sauce and your much-loved bread sent you over the top. The only thing better was following this with the drippings in a bowl of ice cream!

I was always impressed that on our morning and nightly walks that you attempted to be so tidy. You skirted puddles delicately padding around those nasty, muddy spots. You learned to stand nicely at the back door to have your feet wiped, lifting each paw as I came to it. Burrs, however, were another matter. On your romps through the woods, you would come home coated in burrs. The minute I would take your brushes down from the garage shelf, you would be heading to the picnic table. Up on it you would leap ready to get those awful things out of your fur. I would finish with you looking as if you were ready for Westminster, only to come out of the house to find you covered again half an hour later!

You were a little bit of a spoiled dog, and oh, did you love the bed. I used to joke and say that you were better than sleeping with any man...less snoring and flatulence! You were a groaner, though, and we would play the silliest game many nights. You would groan with the pure delight of being in bed. I would mimic you and groan back. You would groan more in a little different way, and again I would mimic. On and on it would go until I laughed or we both got tired of all that groaning.

For many years you seemed to age little, or perhaps it was that we both slowed down, and your aging was not so obvious. These last months, though, had taken their toll on you. Our morning and evening walks had become difficult for you. There was no more bounding and barking in anticipation. Each morning before heading out, you would sneeze twice and I

would laughingly say, "Oh, your allergies!" You became so frail that your sneezes were enough to knock you tipsy on your feet. Your eyes lost their sparkle and your tail dropped lower and lower. You could not tolerate brushing, and even petting seemed to pain you and upset your balance. You often stumbled, and on the day you fell while walking across the field and could not get up, I cried. You could no longer hear me tell you that you were such a good boy and I loved you so. There were days when you trembled and gasped. I think you so often wanted to be close and petted because you were afraid and unsure. Today you were released from the pain and discomfort that had become your life. You have been too good a friend and companion to see you struggle this way any longer.

Tomorrow is Saturday and life will go on as always. I will tidy the house, go to the post office, and do some Christmas shopping. I am a different person though than the scared, single mom that you met almost eleven years ago. I am a woman happy in her life with all her pieces back intact. I cannot help but attribute at least some of that to you, a dog that came into our home and loved us all unconditionally while asking so very little in return. I saw a bumper sticker about rescue dogs that simply said "Who saved who?" There is no doubt that in our case it was reciprocal.

Here is the memory that I carry with me always, Chasie. You are walking down the back path in the woods lightly on your feet. You tail is waving and your mouth is open in that grin I so love. It's the grin that says I am one happy guy, the woods are beautiful, and life is just grand! During our decade plus together, I have turned around almost every morning and evening in all kinds of weather to see just this, and each time I have said to myself, "Oh, please do not ever let me forget this moment." I do not know what happens to us at the end of our lives, what kinds of neurons may fire, what pictures may pass before our eyes as we take our last breath. But I do know that it is my fervent hope that I see this — I see you coming toward me down the path, the morning light is dappled through the trees, and the air is warm as I step forward and place my hand on your head to greet my dear, dear friend.

I love you always, – Sharon



Corky's Happy Tail Update

Thank you so much. Corky is a one of a kind. She immediately fit right in, and everyone who has come to visit her falls instantly in love. All you people at NEOCR are truly happiness givers. Everything you told about Corky was right on and then some. She has already started to establish herself as the leader. Greida just turned two and weighs around 85 pounds and is now super happy to have a friend. The two of them just love each other, and as far as exercise, they love to play constantly. Bailey, my little Yorkie, has also accepted her, and all three dogs are a joy to watch.

Thank you again, and if I ever hear of someone that is looking for a dog, I would highly recommend NEOCR.

– David A. Fletterick

Ripley to the Rescue! – By Laura Sherr

It was the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Ron had a party to DJ, so my brother Bob, and I decided to pop “Lassie Come Home” in the DVR and enjoy the show. Naturally, the entire pack was strewn about the family room. Ripley chose my feet on which to relax that evening.

The scene opens where Lassie is kenneled at the Duke’s estate and becomes more and more restless with the urge to go meet Joe at school. The rhythmic musical tones, made to imitate a ticking clock, swell up and under. Lassie begins to whine. All of a sudden, Ripley leaps from where he was stretched across my feet, and runs across the room to the TV, barking as he goes! Our TV sits in a little cubby hole above a built-in cabinet, right next to the fireplace. By putting his paws on the hearth, it brought him closer to the screen, where he continued to bark and bark.

For the first time in my life, I had a camera within arm’s reach! I grabbed that Nikon® faster than you could say, “Lad, A Dog!” Having to remove the lens cap, though, cost me precious seconds. Just as I was getting a crisp focus as he barked at Lassie on the screen, he decided to get back down to the floor. I still got a shot, but he was not looking directly at the screen. But I kept the camera, sans lens cap, in my lap to see if he would do it again.

Sure enough, the remaining photos captured the rest of the story. Wren even provided “back-up” for him in one of the second shots. Every time that music for Lassie’s restlessness swelled, and she began to whine, or any time she even barked, Ripley sprang into action! Bob and I thought we’d DIE laughing!

In addition to his fascination with TV, Ripley also likes to watch planes fly overhead. He is one, weird, but oh-so-wonderful dog!



(L to R) Wren and Ripley watching Lassie!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our [Events](#) page at www.neocr.org for more information about these events...

✎ The next **NEOCR Board Meeting** will be held **Sunday, April 22, 2012, at 1 p.m.**, at the home of Tom Hoadley and Cindy Lombardo in Richfield. The group will gather for **lunch at 11:30 a.m.** at [Panera Bread](#) in Brecksville.

✎ **May 5, 2012 – Medina County Adoptathon** – Medina National Guard Armory.

✎ **Tuesday, May 8, 2012, Yappy Hours** return to the [Winery at Wolf Creek](#) in Norton, OH, running the second Tuesday of the month from May – October, from 5-8 p.m.

✎ **Saturday, May 12, 2012 – 8th Annual PAWS-4-A-Cause Adoptathon and Family Fun Day** at the Cleveland Metroparks Polo Grounds, Moreland Hills.

✎ The **NEOCR Whine & Cheese Party** will be held **Sunday, May 20, 2012, from 1-4 p.m.** at the [Mutt Hutt](#) on Scranton Avenue in Cleveland’s Tremont Area. Admittance to this fund-raising event is \$10 per person (dogs are free) payable at the door. For more details or

to RSVP, contact Peggy at 216-228-6520 or e-mail her at jackalope110@gmail.com.

✎ **June 9, 2012 – Pet Expo at Hardesty Park**, Akron, Ohio, sponsored by WAKR radio.

✎ Join the Cleveland Indians™ for [Puppypalooza](#) at Progressive Field on **Tuesday, August 23, 2012**, as the Indians take on the Seattle Mariners at 7:05 p.m. Puppypalooza is brought to you in partnership with the Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL). A portion of the proceeds from Puppypalooza will be donated to the Cleveland APL. Puppypalooza registration begins at 5:00 p.m. Puppypalooza Ticket package of 1 person and 1 dog is \$30; each additional human ticket is \$15.

✎ **August 24-26, 2012 – Summer Classic Dog Show** at the Polo Fields in Chagrin Falls, sponsored by Western Reserve and Sugarbush Kennel Clubs.

✎ **NEOCR’s Annual Collie Reunion & Picnic** will be held **Sunday, September 16, 2012**, at [Hubbard Valley Park](#) in Medina County. Mark your calendars now to join us at this fund-raising event with both live and silent auctions, pot-luck picnic lunch, time to shop at our craft table, with great trails to hike, and lots of socializing time for pups and owners!

From the Scrapbook Gallery...

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From top left: (1) Sammy Gartung; (2) Bosco Maskow and (3) Rocker Lance sporting their Irish wares; (4) Princess "then" in 2003 when she was in the ICU at Metro and (5) "now" as she is today relaxing in her backyard; (6) NEOCR at the Akron St. Patrick's Day Parade, where the group came in second place; (6) Vana Kessler conversing with pals Cindy Lombardo and Tom Hoadley.

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Adoptions

October 2011 - February 2012

Blue — Suzanne Smith, Arlington, IN

Captain — Amy Wolfe, Princeton, NJ

Corky — Dave Fletterick, Bay Village, OH

Harry — Robert & Janet Porcher, Lorain, OH

Jasper — Tami Fecko, Old Brooklyn, OH

King II, David Gray & Betty Hodgson, Medina, OH

Jupiter (aka Nigel) — Erik Nystrom, Parma, OH

Rena — Roger & Kandice Marchant, Cleveland Hts., OH

Shadow — Pat Moreno, Toledo, OH

Sugar — Debbie Sablack, Twinsburg, OH



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