



Fall / Winter 2010

# Imprints

A publication of NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue

Make Two Hearts Glad – Adopt A Homeless Collie!

Volume IX Issue 2

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## Vestibulitis – “Old Dog’s Disease”

– By Lee Ann Vajda

**B**arkley adopted me from NEOCR about 12 years ago. At the time, he was estimated to be about 2-3 years old, so he is about 14-1/2 - 15 years old now. He is the most loving collie I have ever had. His loving nature and loyalty is like no other I have ever experienced.

This was a tough year for Barkley. On top of having age-related arthritis, colon problems and tummy troubles, he recently was diagnosed with Vestibulitis. Vestibulitis, or vestibular disease, is the inflammation of the nerves responsible for connecting the dog’s inner ear to the brain.<sup>1</sup>

Barkley had no balance or strength to stand for a few weeks. He did well, but then it hit him again three weeks later, which took a lot out of him as you can expect. Also, the drops prescribed for his ear made him go completely deaf, so he is now adjusting to that situation.

I really wish I would have been aware of this disease that can affect older dogs. I’m so surprised that both my First Aid (since we covered senior pets) and my Health for Senior Dogs classes didn’t mention the disease. I went through six health books and two mentioned it vaguely.

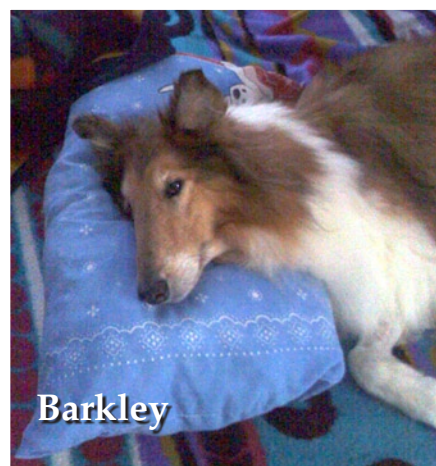
When it started, it was like he was having a stroke or seizure. He had vomited twice in the early morning. When I took him to the vet, he had no other symptoms; he was actually fine at 10 a.m. With Barkley having a sensitive tummy, it was just like any other time he ate something that bothered him.

Around 8 p.m. that night, he was laying against the dining room table and chair,

and his eyes were darting fast back and forth. His head kept tilting to one side and he couldn’t get up at all. He had no coordination and no strength in his legs to stand at all.

I immediately called my vet’s emergency number and the doctor called me right back. After I told him what was going on, he calmed me down and he had me go on the Internet and look up Vestibulitis (aka old dog’s disease). He called me back after ten minutes, and we went over what care I had to give Barkley until I took him to the vet on Monday morning.

It was a lot of 24-hour care and TLC. Dogs with Vestibulitis are very afraid because they have no idea what’s happening. All of a sudden they have no coordination, feel dizzy, can’t go out alone or stand. They become too queasy to eat or drink. It seems it starts in the inner ear, which swells the nerve from ear to brain causing them to feel like they are drunk standing on a rowboat in a storm. Imagine how frightening it is for them.



See “[Vestibulitis](#)” continued on page 3...

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[NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue FaceBook Page](#)

### Listing of available dogs can be found on:

[www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelter\\_id=OH167](http://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelter_id=OH167)  
[www.pets911.com](http://www.pets911.com)  
[www.1-800-save-a-pet.com](http://www.1-800-save-a-pet.com)

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### Gift Wrapping at Borders®

Thanks to everyone who helped out and visited us during our recent Gift Wrapping session at Borders in Strongsville. Every penny raised helps a rescued collie. Special thanks to our mascot collie, Brandy, who was very well behaved and didn't even bark!

## 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 of you 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

- ★ Monika Bachman ★ Jan Benson ★
- ★ Cardinal Health Foundation Inc. ★
- ★ Jim Clinger ★ Susan Dexter ★ Sheri Dochat ★
- ★ Janice Dutka ★ Dorothy Eller ★ John Francioso ★
- ★ Diane Gartung ★ John Glenn ★ Cheryl Grant ★
- ★ Val Gustovich ★ Sharon Hamrick ★
- ★ Alan Henderson ★ Tom Hoadley & Cindy Lombardo ★
- ★ Alexis & Diane Geoffrion, in honor of  
our forever family – Cooper, Sunny & Charlie ★
- ★ Bonnie Harris in memory of  
Marian Maskow's "Mollie the Collie" ★
- ★ Betty Hodgson ★ Evelyn Hynek ★
- ★ Peggy Jensen in memory of  
Marian Maskow's "Mollie the Collie" ★
- ★ Robert Jensen ★ Dianne Just ★ Kathryn Kenzik ★
- ★ Leo & Marilyn Kenzik ★ Johanna Lance ★
- ★ Jon & Judy Lester ★ Jane Krabill ★
- ★ Dale & Judy Leathers in memory of Johanna Lance's "Blaze" ★
- ★ Robert & Carolyn Leiter ★ Hubert & Caroline Lieb ★
- ★ Phyllis Mahaney (Pammer's Pets) ★ Marilyn McCarthy ★
- ★ Michael & Peg Partington ★ Edward Plotke ★
- ★ Dave Proctor ★ James & Lori Retter ★
- ★ Anita Silverman ★ Nancy Skinner ★ James Smith ★
- ★ Barbara Summer ★ Estate of Marilyn Swansinger –  
Gerry, Lena, Ron, Ronnie, Jacki and Bill West ★
- ★ Brian Wynne & matching donation  
from Glaxosmithkline Foundation ★

## NEOCR 3rd Quarter 2010 Treasurer's Report

(Revised) Balance July 1, 2010 .....	\$8,768.60
Deposits .....	\$3,374.14
Total .....	\$12,142.74
Expenses	
Care for dogs (medical food, licenses, etc.).....	-\$6,058.12
American Messaging.....	-\$73.31
Postage .....	-\$105.60
Total Expenses .....	-\$6,237.03
Ending Balance September 30, 2010 .....	\$ 5,905.71
Leo Kenzik, Secretary / Treasurer	

## Vestibulitis ...continued from page 1

For the next 12 days, he had to be on lots of blankets and pee pads, hand fed, carried everywhere and held up to go to the bathroom. For the first three days, he had lots of vet care with IVs, medications and help. After that, although wobbly and a slight head tilt, still there he was — doing great and completely healed with no lasting effects.

Then three weeks later, it hit again. He had the same symptoms, although it took a lot out of him. Then the ear drops caused deafness. The ordeal was so much for a sweet old guy to adjust to and get through.

Although he has a slight head tilt yet, lost nine pounds and slowed down quite a bit, I have to say he still tries to play at times, still barks at people that walk on HIS sidewalk, wants to sleep up on my bed, and has a WAY healthy appetite.

I will certainly be spoiling him even more than before. The good thing that helped both of us was the exceptional care and support we received from Broadview Animal Hospital in Seven Hills. His Vet, Dr. Jennifer Mills, and the whole staff gave him over-the-top care for him when he was there and made continuous follow-up and calls to check on him daily. Dr. Shaw also got me through two emergency weekend calls when I was so upset.

Dr. Mills had even offered to keep Barkley at her home while I went out of town because I was worried about him. Getting through serious scares with your pet, who is loved just as much as blood family, is easier when you have such dedicated pet-care people to help you.



Barkley is doing better now and trying to adjust to the deafness and a tummy issue that developed. He's quite a good boy, always being as upbeat and gentle as he can be. Through it all, Barkley has stayed very happy when he is around you. He's a bit slower and tired, but still has some of his old habits — which is good.

I wanted to thank everyone who gave me some input while Barkley was going through the Vestibulitis. It has really helped having people around that care about animals and to have extraordinary Veterinary doctors and staff.

<sup>1</sup>Vestibulitis in Dogs, [http://www.ehow.com/facts\\_5408439\\_vestibulitis-dogs.html](http://www.ehow.com/facts_5408439_vestibulitis-dogs.html)

### Adoptions May – December 2010

Anna – Peggy & Maureen O'Malley,  
Cleveland Heights, OH

Austin – Joyce Brently, Silver Spring, MD

Billy Jean – Jim & Rose Mary Clinger, Cardington, OH

Brighton – Cyn Koubek, Mentor, OH

Daisy – Caroline & Huber Lieb, Spencer, OH

Logan – John & Mary Cleary, Strongsville, OH

Rena – Lisa Afrates, Lorain, OH

Sammy – Diane Gartung, Lansing, MI

Shaunna, Bob & Maryann Worley, Avon Lake, OH

Stosh – Ed Plotke, Burton, OH

Toby & Tillie – Rich & Kathy Murray,  
Highland Heights, OH

Teddy (aka Tony) – Scott & Maria Salsgiver,  
Willoughby, OH

Vinnie – Brandon & Amanda Brown, LaGrange, OH

### In passing...

Our sincere condolences are extended on the passing of...

🐾 Cokie, beloved parakeet of Alan & Jeanette Spevak.

🐾 Denver, beloved dog of Sharon Hamrick

🐾 Ginger, beloved collie of Tim & April Guarino

🐾 Gracie, beloved collie of Ray & Marge Lakofsky

🐾 Max, beloved collie of Chuck & Eryn Wilson

🐾 Mollie, beloved collie of Marian Maskow

🐾 Solomon, beloved collie of Ron & Janice Lewandowski

🐾 🐾 Ross and Missy, beloved collies of David Gray & Betty Hodgson



# The Scoop on Poop

## Part One – General Information

– By Betty Hodgson



As many owners know, collies can have sensitive digestive systems and be prone to diarrhea (as are many other dogs). Since there are a multitude of reasons why diarrhea occurs in dogs, I am writing a series of articles for the next several newsletters to delve into this unseemly topic; don't plan on reading these articles at dinner time — we all know how talking about doggie doo at meals is not appropriate.

For this first installment about “poop,” some basic, general information will be provided; probably things you already know if you have owned a dog. Then more detail on specific conditions associated with doggie diarrhea and diagnosis and treatments will be provided in later articles.

To begin, there are a lot of common causes of diarrhea, and they are listed here in no particular order.

**Colitis** (Acute/Stress or Food related, or Chronic or Episodic) — the acute version can happen when a dog is stressed from an event, such as a visit to the vet, change in environment, or whatever the dog finds exceptionally stressful. It is usually not a long term issue, just immediate, and can leave as quickly as it came (which is a very good thing). We have seen this when taking dogs to events where they are stressed and react accordingly, sometimes explosively.

For persistent colitis, it is important to determine whether the problem relates to the small intestine (diarrhea originating here is more serious) or large intestine. Diarrhea of the large intestine has the following common characteristics:

- They are not associated with weight loss.
- They are associated with straining and sense of sudden urgency.
- They often involve fresh blood in the stool.
- They often involve slime or mucus in the stool.
- They often involve a stool that starts normal and finishes loose.
- They involve stool quality that is more gooey or slimy than watery.

A diagnosis of colitis is generally straight forward given the above classic findings, but how you proceed depends on the course of the signs. The problem can be acute (i.e. sudden onset), chronic (been happening for several weeks regularly), or episodic (happens then goes away then happens again).

A pet that has sudden symptoms of colitis probably has a stress-related colitis (common after boarding, moving, severe weather or other change) or a dietary indiscretion-related colitis (related to treats or raiding the garbage).

**Food/Non-food** — Just like us, some foods don't agree with some dogs. They can develop colitis or have food allergies;

just being on the same food for too long can cause issues. The *Whole Dog Journal* has recommended only feeding high-quality foods and not keeping dogs on the same food for years.

Then there are the miscellaneous things dogs will eat (usually unbeknownst to owners), such as grass, pine cones, excrement (dog, cat, rabbit, etc.), dead animals, toys, socks, rubber bands, plastic items, and on and on. They can result in mild or severe stomach/intestinal issues.

**Parasites** — This is one of the more common causes of diarrhea and some are hard to find in a culture (e.g., giardia). So deworming is one of the first treatments for diarrhea if it persists, if there are no obvious other reasons (see previous paragraph), and if the fecal is positive (or sometimes not) for parasites. Also, some parasites are very difficult to control; once in the soil they will persist and cause reinfestations.

**Chronic Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) vs. Irritant Bowel Syndrome (IBS)** — The difference between IBD and IBS is confusing. IBD is a physical disease where the intestinal lining is infiltrated by inflammatory cells such that the lining becomes thickened and absorption of nutrients becomes altered. The infiltration can be seen under the microscope and this is how the diagnosis is confirmed. This has nothing to do with IBS.

IBS is a psychosomatic disease. This means that it is the activity of the mind that causes the symptoms. Most of us do not have a trouble imagining having so much anxiety that diarrhea results (i.e., stress diarrhea). Chronic anxiety can similarly result in chronic diarrhea. This is basically what IBS is all about. Intestinal biopsies are normal because there is nothing physically wrong with the large intestine.

The symptoms of large intestinal diarrhea can have many causes, and IBS is to blame in about 10-15% of cases. It is important to rule out physical causes before blaming psychological reasons. But, if all tests are normal and treatment for physical problems isn't helping, then a biopsy is usually needed. Again, a normal intestinal biopsy is typical for IBS. It should be noted that fresh blood in the diarrhea is common with large intestinal diarrhea other than IBS. If fresh blood is present, this is a sign that a physical cause is actually present.

**Cancer** — I suppose cancer should also be mentioned. Various forms of cancer may directly or indirectly result in diarrhea in dogs. In general, blood tests and other tests would be used to determine if cancer (i.e., liver, pancreatic, stomach, etc.) is the underlying cause.

**Part Two** of this series will focus on diagnosis of the various conditions and **Part Three** will focus on treatment. One thing my vet always tells me when one of my dogs has diarrhea but is otherwise acting normal (drinking, playing, etc.) is to withhold food for 24 hours and feed a bland diet (chicken or beef and rice) for a few days to see if it clears up. If not, then we proceed from there.

## Meeting Minutes – 7/25/10

Meeting was called to order by President Tom Hoadley at 1:50 p.m. at the home of Jon and Judy Lester. There were 16 members present.

### Secretary's Report

Leo read the minutes from the 4/18/10 meeting. Motion was made by Johanna and seconded by Cindy to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

 — was submitted by Leo Kenzik.

Income was from the Whine and Cheese Event, donations and adoption fees. Expenses were for the care of dogs, web site, postage, pager, and Mutt Hutt rental for the Whine and Cheese Party.

### Old Business

**Intake/Adoptions** — There were two adoptions and two dogs that came back into care. There are possible homes for Sammy and Stosh. There are four dogs available.

**Whine and Cheese Party** — A fun time was had by all.

A **Facebook page** was set up by Marian Maskow for Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue. We've had a great response so far.

### New Business

**PayPal account** has been unlocked. Marian is awaiting approval for the site to be able to accept donations.

#### Past Events

- Medina Adopt-a-thon
- WAKR Adopt-a-thon
- Lake Farm Park,
- Cleveland Botanical Gardens

#### Upcoming Events

- Sunnybank – Aug 21-22, 2010
- Picnic – September 19, 2010

## 2011 NEOCR calendars have arrived!

Yes, hot off the presses, our 2011 calendars are now available. Thanks to all the contributors who submitted photos for this year's calendar.

To reserve advance sale copies at the discounted price of \$15, contact [info@neocr.org](mailto:info@neocr.org). Calendars must be picked up in person or at one of the Board Meetings to avoid additional shipping costs.

Individual copies for \$20 plus shipping are available from [www.CafePress.com/NEOCR](http://www.CafePress.com/NEOCR) or by clicking on the **Shop!** button shown on the [www.neocr.org](http://www.neocr.org) web page. A sneak peak of the calendar is available by visiting our web site.

A portion of the proceeds from the calendar benefit the NEOCR rescue efforts. We hope you'll support this wonderful fundraising opportunity.



#### New Events

- Wayne County Doggie Do – September 18, 2010
- Borders gift wrapping

**New Business cards** are available

**Phone/Pager** — Bev will return the pager. Pager will be transitioned to Judy's cell phone, and then we will eliminate the pager.

Discussion was held about Max, who was adopted in January. Max had a chronic ear infection when he was placed, and the new owners requested financial assistance. Max required extensive and expensive treatment to cure his ear infection. A motion was made by Johanna and seconded by Betty to reimburse Max's new owners \$1,000 for Max's vet bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Tom has accepted a position on the Corporators Board for the Collie Health Foundation. Nancy McDonald, who is president of the Collie Health Foundation, is concerned because we lose the interest of new owners after adoption. Discussion followed about how we can keep new owners interested and informed about breakthroughs in research. One of the suggestions that was made is to add Collie Health Foundation (CHF) updates in our newsletter. Another suggestion was made to add the CHF information to our adoption packet. It was also suggested to add excerpts from Albert Payson Terhune's Sunnybank books to get people interested in going to the Annual Gathering.

#### September 19, 2010 – Picnic

The Memorial will be held next year. Jon has been elected as Auctioneer, and David will take over the Grillmaster duties for Tom. Items are needed for the auctions.

Johanna brought up the possibility of NEOCR staffing the kitchen for the Cleveland Collie Club Specialty in Tallmadge in January 2011. Discussion followed. Johanna will need to iron out the details between the two clubs.

Alan made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mary. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45

Respectfully Submitted,  
Johanna Lance, Board Trustee

## Other New Arrivals

Congratulations to **Bill & Robin Lawson** on the arrival of their new grandson, **Samuel**. Son, **Jonathan**, his lovely wife, **Amy** are the proud parents. Samuel has eagerly met **Lassie, Galley, Rosie, and George** — featured together on the December 2011 NEOCR calendar!



Congratulations also go out to **Ray and Marge Lakofsky** on the new collie addition to their family, **Gaby**.



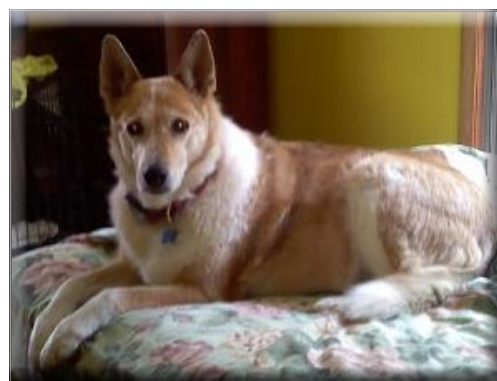
## Some of Our Available Collies

### Gilligan

Collie

Size: Large  
Age: Young  
Sex: Male

Need someone to keep your lap warm while you sit on the couch? Someone to adore you with his big brown eyes? How about a playmate or just someone who always wants to do just what YOU want to do. Make Gilligan your "little buddy" and you'll be all set.



### Cash

Collie

Size: Large  
Age: Senior  
Sex: Female

Cash is a wonderful, friendly girl who is quite active. She is mostly smooth

collie, but probably is part husky or other breed. She is about as sweet a girl as they come and a wonderful house dog. Her mommy has to let her go and so needs her to get a loving home; she needs someone who will care for her and give her a great rest of her life. Although she is about 9-10 years old, you would never know it. She is playful and bouncy. She sits on command and loves cats. We are helping the owner find a home for Cash, so if you can help so she won't have to end up in a shelter, please e-mail or call 330-571-4456.

### Dudley

Collie Mix

Size: Large  
Age: Adult  
Sex: Male

Dudley came to us from a shelter in Kentucky, where his owner dumped him. He was terribly matted — hence he is now shaved. (He is definitely a rough coat collie based upon his appearance prior to his buzz cut.) He is friendly and gets along with other dogs. He has adapted well to indoor life —

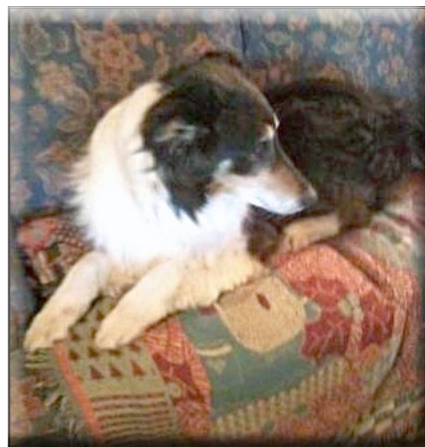


### Duke II

Collie

Size: Large  
Age: Senior  
Sex: Male

Duke is a great, tri-colored male collie. He is friendly and plays with other dogs. He is 9 years old and does steps just fine. He evidently had an injury on his tail when he was young and it was amputated. It is actually very cute — fluffy and curly and about 10 inches long. It actually adds some character to an already "character" of a dog. He is so happy to be an "in-the-house" collie and shows his appreciation daily by wagging his stub tail and licking your face. He really is a great boy. Duke is up-to-date with routine shots, house trained and neutered.



### Jasper II

Collie, German Shepherd Mix

Size: Large  
Age: Senior  
Sex: Male

Jasper is 8-9 years old but still gets around well. He does a full flight of stairs with no trouble and is able to jump up on the bed if you are inclined to let him. He was alone in his terminally ill owner's house for four months (let out a couple of times a day), so he is enjoying some activity and companionship. His eyes are clear and his teeth make him look more like a 6-7 year old dog. Jasper is definitely mostly collie but probably has some other breed in there, perhaps German shepherd. He is a nice boy and gets along with lots of other dogs. He would really like to find that special person who will love and keep him. He is friendly and seems to enjoy being brushed.



loves the AC and gets along with other dogs. Overall, he is a great boy. Although he is a little gimpy in the front left leg (x-rays indicate an old break in the shoulder area that didn't heal properly), he plays and does steps; the old injury doesn't seem to bother him. Dudley is estimated to be about 4-6 years old. He is up-to-date on everything, neutered, heartworm negative and on Interceptor, Frontline Plus, wormed and "good to go." Because of his current looks and his leg, he may be hard to adopt. But please, if you meet him, you will fall in love with him. Don't let a minor handicap stop you from giving this great collie a good and loving home.

# Happy Tail Update: Gable

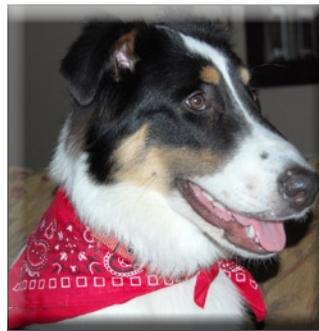
— By Amanda, Brandon & Gable Brown

Here's an update on Gable (formerly known as Vinnie) — who we adopted from NEOCR over the summer. We would like to start by extending our thanks to your organization. Without you, we wouldn't have acquired our new best pal. So far things have gone well, with only a few minor bumps in the road.

We discover new things about his personality every day. He loves to play frisbee in the back yard with my husband — although most of the game involves trying to trick him into giving the frisbee back just so that you can throw it again. This guy loves his toys, but often forgets where he's left them. So together we hunt around the house until we've found something with which to play. He always manages to find the coolest spot in the house for naps. I've even found him curled up in the shower a time or two.

He's learning very quickly too. He's starting to ring a bell tied to the back door when it is time to go out. However, he also knows that when he does that, no matter where you are, you'll come to him. Consequently, I sometimes think he's trying to keep tabs on us, too. He sleeps on the floor in our bedroom, and when my husband heads off early to work, he seems to think that means extra room in the bed for him.

He loves to go on car rides and had made several visits to see our family. They have all fallen in love with him as we have. He does very well with kids, too. I will say that my favorite thing about him is how he had adapted to our schedules. He knows when it's time to play, and he also knows when the day is winding down. I just love when he lays down on the couch with us at the end



of a long day (though sometimes he finds a way to take over all of the space and claim the couch for himself).

As far as we can figure from his age (estimated) when we got him, our guy has just turned 1 year old! And what better "gift" than to find out that he is going to be included in this year's NEOCR calendar.

Gable is becoming more and more of a cuddle-bug everyday, though things have to be on "his terms." If he's lying down and you sit next to him, he (most of the time) moves away from you. But, if you are curled up on the couch first, he's got to be right next to you!

We are trying to get him used to being with other dogs, and he has had several "play dates" with my dad's dog. I think that he is slowly learning to share attention. I'm still having a hard time finding a toy for him that will last more than a few days. He is a little bit of a destructive chewer, but the good news is that he's learning quickly to only chew on what is his.

I can't imagine not having him with us. I look forward to watching him grow and learn. I already can't wait to include him in our Christmas picture this year — I even bought him his very own Christmas stocking!

We couldn't be happier that we found this new member of our family, and we couldn't be more grateful to you for saving his life so that he could fill ours with so much joy.



## Ross — A Dog with Character

— By Betty Hodgson

In late November, our Ross passed away. He was diagnosed with lymphoma about three months ago and we recently increased his dose of Prednisone to 20 mg. twice a day because he stopped eating (probably because of the build-up of

calcium in his blood from the lymphoma). He did pretty well for about three weeks on the higher dose, but one night he wouldn't eat — he wouldn't even go into the kitchen where he normally eats.

Then he seemed to have trouble standing, so he laid in the bedroom and then the family room most of the evening. He was still breathing at 10:30 p.m. and seemed comfortable, not panting nor in distress. I checked on him at 3:50 a.m., and he was still laying in the family room but had moved off a throw rug and was still breathing fine. At 6 a.m. when I went to check on him, he was gone.

Ross was one of those dogs with so much character — the Roman nose and floppy ears gave him kind of a "silly" look, and he always seemed to have a happy-go-lucky personality. There wasn't one foster dog we had that he didn't like (although a few that didn't like him or any of our dogs). He just seemed to like all dogs and

people. He especially loved my sister Barbara. He would always jump up to get in her face; he just had to have her attention. She helped retrieve him from the Wayne County Humane Society, so I always wondered if that was his way of thanking her for getting him out of the shelter.

We will miss him terribly. It just won't be the same without Ross' goofy, happy presence. Tom and Cindy also fostered him for a time and loved him as much as David and I did.



Pictured at right: Barbara with Ross this past Halloween

## Max — You'll never be forgotten

— By Eryn Wilson

I love you Max, and I hope you know that my heart is broken without you here. But you will never be forgotten. You will always hold a very special place in my heart and in our home. And again one day you and I will be together as best friends. I miss you, boy, and I sure do love you Max-a-roo.

I cry many days and nights for you, but you were a good boy and my best friend. Thank you for coming into my life and making me so happy! Thanks for hanging in there when you were so sick just because you were my friend. I will always hold you in my heart, Max. I love you. — "Mom"





## A Tribute to Mollie: Another Beginning

— By Marian Maskow

A few years ago when Tom became President of NEOCR, he was looking for a volunteer to coordinate the group's newsletter. I thought about it. Considering the condo I live in has limited space and a small yard, taking in extra collies isn't possible. I thought maybe this was a way I could actually contribute to the organization. Since graphics

and communications come pretty naturally to me, I figured I could help the rescues while continuing to conquer the computer world.

I'm not one of the gifted and generous folks who do intakes, or coordinate foster homes, or place adoptions, or acquire multiple dogs when we don't have enough foster homes, or orchestrate the endless details to shuffle dogs to critical vet appointments. Rather I'm one of the "behind the scenes" people who flutter around tracking down e-mails, updating forms, maintaining websites, snapping pictures, tracking "happy tail" stories, editing copy, etc. In my own way, I wanted to "pay it forward" in gratitude for the wonderful and somewhat famous pup that came into my life six years ago, "Ms. Mollie the Collie."

No one told me as editor that I needed a box of Kleenex® to do my job. But then again, no one told me how much rejoicing or how many "happy feet dances" would be going on when I was fortunate enough to read about all the joyful endings and splendid adoptions. I would be up to my eyeballs in my usual design details, pulling another late-night shift, when Mollie would come into the office bedroom and give me "the paw." It was her way of letting me know she was still there, and it was probably time to call it a night. I would lean over, grab her behind the ears, ruffle her all up until she was fuzzy, and say to her, "It's all because of you, Mollie! Who knew? Who knew you would bring all this joy into my life?"

Mollie came into my life when I desperately needed to mend a broken heart. She and my calico kitty, Buffy, were very much filling the void I was experiencing. What I didn't know was how many people I would meet, how many friends I would make, or just how many lives Mollie would touch. I'm still amazed at the neighbors who got out of their cars to pet her, the kids who became her fan club, and the people in the park who stopped and tell me their story about their own dog once they met mine. Okay, I admit it: I'm guilty of stopping to talk to the local dog lovers as well.

I'm the kind of person who sees an injured animal on the road and then runs home to check on my animals and make sure they are okay. I loved the secure sound of my dog softly snoring in her bed on floor next to mine. I loved when my cat and dog played tag. And when I poked my head around the corner to see what they were up to, they both stopped in their tracks and looked at me as if to say, "Who me? Not me!" And I knew one day it would be my sad turn to write a tribute to the

pup who brought so many great experiences into my life.

Mollie, in a word, had an exuberance for life. On her walks, she pranced down the street with her head held high and a tail that eagerly swished. Squirrels, raccoons, bunnies and deer had better look out when she was on the prowl. Mollie loved everybody and everybody loved Mollie. If I walked without her, everyone wanted to know if she was okay.

Despite all her exuberance, Mollie's Achilles heel was her digestive system. It was a delicate balancing act to keep from tummy to tail happy. It seemed like in the last year we had made some real progress. We adjusted her diet, the stomach acid problem seemed under control and the span between vet visits was improving. Whenever I took her to the vet, they were able to fix her up, send her home, and she would be on the mend in no time at all. Then one day there was the trip to the vet where I wasn't so sure if they could put her back together again, but I was hopeful.

We had just attended the Whine & Cheese fundraiser in May and had a lovely time. Mollie became sick about a week later. We went to the vet, got some medication, and she seemed to be on a slow road to recovery. A few weeks later at the beginning of June, Mollie started to not feel well again. This time she wouldn't eat. She was restless and couldn't get comfortable. Climbing the one or two steps into the house now became a challenge. I made an appointment for her on a Monday morning before work. I called work and left a message that I would be in late. We got ready to go to the appointment, but this time I had to lift her into the car, which left me pretty concerned.

After her examination, we decided to keep Mollie at the vet's for the day to have some extra tests done. Off I went to work. Later in the day, the vet's office called back and told me that while her blood work came back good, something showed up on Mollie's x-ray. We decided to have her stay at the vet's overnight and have a series of barium x-rays done the next day. I thought it would be safe for her there where she could be monitored, and they could keep her medicated and hydrated. The house was strangely quiet that night.

The next morning, I went off to work again. I received a call in the morning from the vet's office, and we went over Mollie's history again on the phone. It sounded like she took a turn for the worse overnight, but they were still going to do the tests. The next call came in telling me that she had definite internal blockage in her intestines. Then I had to decide whether to do surgery to determine the nature of the blockage. I hoped it would be something fixable, like retrieving a swallowed cat toy. We went ahead with the surgery. At this point, no longer able to concentrate on work, I packed up my desk and headed home. Unfortunately, I took the bus that day and had a long commute home.

The third phone call came in while I was on the bus on the way home. Mollie had a rather large tumor totally obstructing her small intestine. Given her weakened state, the size of the tumor, her recent rapid weight loss, and her continual vomiting despite being on anti-nausea medicine, I made the difficult decision to let her pass on to that peaceful resting place where dogs freely play and romp the fields without pain or suffering. We decided not to wake Mollie up from the surgery, and then I would stop in to say my goodbyes when I got off



the bus. Mollie experienced such separation anxiety; I didn't have the heart to wake her up just to put her down again.

I hung up the phone and sobbed uncontrollably. I suppose the other people on the bus wondered why I was hyperventilating into my Kleenex. A few minutes later, a woman boarded the bus who was only riding for a short distance; she didn't even take a seat. She stood near the bus driver so she could get off at the right stop. I was watching her while tears were still streaming down my face. I blinked my tears away and took a closer look at the tote bag she carried over her shoulder. It had "Molly Molly Molly" written all over it. I couldn't believe it. A moment later, I swear I saw Mollie's face appear on the side of the bag as if she were once again eagerly looking out the window at me...bright eyed and alert. I blinked again and the face slowly disappeared and the canvas bag returned. I looked at my watch and concluded at that moment she must have passed... and that was her way of saying goodbye.

I stopped at the vet's office as soon as I got off the bus and paid my last respects. It was so hard to believe this time I was coming home without my beloved Mollie. She looked like she was just taking an afternoon nap. I am forever grateful to Royalton Road Animal Hospital for the compassion they showed both before and after Mollie's passing.

Only another pet lover can understand the range of emotion in this kind of situation. And those of us whose pets are our kids can understand when I say I felt I lost one of my girls. I hadn't felt this lousy since my dad passed way 11 years earlier.

At this point I could say that Mollie's life was over, or was it? I was truly amazed by all the concern that was expressed after she passed; humbled by the donations made in her honor. I received more cards from Mollie's passing than when my father died. I received cards from people I didn't directly know; they were my neighbor's friends who always asked how Mollie was doing. I had two friends who talked together

on the phone about a friend who lost a dog, and it turned out they both knew "Mollie the Collie" but didn't realize they both knew me!

Being Mollie's Mom was truly a privilege. I felt it was the one thing in life I had actually done right. She gave me a sense of purpose. Some people want a dog that brings them the newspaper or slippers. I wanted a dog that brought me out of myself, and indeed Mollie did just that.

I miss her nudging nose. I miss her noseprints on the patio door. I miss leaving lipstick smooches on her white snout. I miss that special language we had where she hung onto every word I said trying to anticipate what she should do next. Go outside? Go for a walk? Go for a ride? Go see grandma? Okay, let's go!

Well, it was a long and difficult summer to say the least. I apologize for this issue of *Imprints* being so long overdue, but I lost some of the wind out of my sails. This could be the end of Mollie's story, or it could be another beginning. Funny thing — she came into my life to heal a broken heart, and she somehow left me with a stronger heart.

So it begins again. I sit here writing this editorial with my handy box of Kleenex. My foster dog, Bosco, lays curled up at my side with his paw touching my leg.

"Bosco, you've got big paws to fill. I hope you realize that. Oh wait, you already have HUGE paws."

He lets out one of his long sighs.

"Well buddy, I think we're in it for the long haul. Don't plan on going anywhere, okay?"

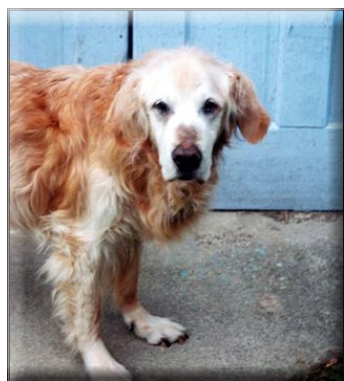
Okay.



## Denver, the Official Greeter

— By Sharon Hamrick

This tribute is about a very special dog named Denver who came to me through rescue. I figured in his life he had been in 10 homes! It was amazing that he hadn't given up hope on finding his forever home. I placed him once with a medical doctor, who had called to say he could no longer keep him. Thank God for small favors. Denver didn't look the same — there was something horribly wrong. So a friend told me about an animal communicator and I gave her a call. I told her his name was Denver and he was a golden retriever.



She proceeded to tell me some things about Denver. I asked what Denver had to say about me? She said he wanted to know why I didn't keep him?

At that time I had just lost one of my boys. I placed Denver with a woman who knew all about his past. I thought he left to his forever home. I said if he comes back, I would

never place him again! Nine months later, he came back! So he became the official greeter to all my rescues.

I walked him in Dick Goddard's Woolly Bear Festival! No one could believe he had been in so many places. He also made the news with Suzanne Strafford twice — once on the *Animal Communicator* and once as a lead in *About Lily, the Easter Dog*. When I gave him his bath for his big debut, he acted a little funny and standoffish. I called the communicator. She said he thought he was getting cleaned up to leave! No way!

Well, last year fall I thought I was going to lose him. He was getting up in age and his body was getting weak. I begged him not to leave in winter. We made it through winter, and things were looking up. Then we had a set back. He rallied again, but then we lost one of his friends, Missy — my big polar bear, the great Pyrenees. Denver missed his friend, I was little surprised because I really didn't think they liked each other that much.

Well recently it seemed he was giving up again, I asked him not to leave, but I understood if he wanted to go and see Missy. He decided early one morning to be with Missy. I will miss you, Denver, but I know you gave a good fight all the way to the end! You rallied so many times, and I thought you would again, but I just don't think your body would let you.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our web site [www.neocr.org](http://www.neocr.org) or the links below for more information about the following events...

✍ Mark your calendars! **The 2011 NEOCR Annual Collie Reunion & Pot-Luck Picnic** will be held **Sunday, September 17, 2011**, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

✍ The next NEOCR Board Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 16, 2011, at 1 p.m.** Place TBD. Consult our Web site for future details.

## THIS AND THAT...

✍ **Kathy Leenhouts** is proud to report that **Roddy** achieved his CGC and therapy dog certifications at Sunnybank, and **Luke** received his therapy dog recertification after several years of retirement.

✍ Congrats are also extended to **David Gray's & Betty Hodgson's Howard Huge**, who received his CGC certification.

✍ The *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* recently featured **Peggy Jensen** along with rescue dog **Abby** at the sixth annual Doggie Doo in Oberlin. The article entitled

"Undeniably Autumn" included a collage of 10 different color pictures in Lorain County.

✍ The September 2, 2011, issue of *Wayne Today* featured an article about the history of Sunnybank and the Annual Gathering. One of the pictures included with the article profiled our very own **Betty Hodgson** and **Peggy Jensen** along with their traveling collie companions.

✍ Congratulations to **Lassie** and proud owners **Bill & Robin Lawson**, members of the Caring Therapy Canines therapy dog club. The club, with over 75 members and over 90 dogs, awarded Lassie "2010 Dog of the Year." Here's what the club had to say about Lassie:

"Lassie has come so far in both manners and health since Robin adopted her. She has endured so much in her life and now is giving back. It's a wonderful 'fairy tale-like' story for Robin to tell while doing her visits. Lassie draws young or old, fearful or sick, happy or sad — ALL who meet her, with her kind, sweet nature. It is very easy to receive that healing comfort from Lassie when you look into her eyes and touch her warm, beautiful hair coat. It's magical. Lassie's eyes say 'Touch me, I will make you feel happy and peaceful.' She's a wonderfully sweet and spirited therapy dog!"

## Annual Collie Rescue Reunion Picnic

— By Judy Lester

September 19 marked this year's annual Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue Reunion picnic. Another resounding success, this year's picnic raised \$1,697! Adding to our success was the perfect fall day Mother Nature provided. The event was well attended by our ever-expanding collie rescue family.

This year we welcomed some new friends and their rescued collies. One person even came from as far away as Pennsylvania to enjoy the day with us. It seems once you've attended a reunion picnic, you'll set that special day aside year after year — as evidenced by our many returning friends.

Early on at the picnic is the group photo shoot. Dozens of collies and their families line up for the picture. All the collies, most unfamiliar with each other and crowded together, are amazingly well behaved. What a testament to the breed!

This year, hot dogs were grilled by "Chef" David Gray, and the picnic tables were loaded with many pot luck dishes to eat which everyone brought and shared. No one left hungry.

Thanks goes out to Betty Hodgson and Peggy Jensen who organized the silent and live auctions, and to Jon Lester our auctioneer and his assistant Valerie Gustovich, who kept the bidders raising their hands. Many thanks to everyone who donated items for the auctions, including Phyllis Mahaney (Pammer's Pets), Anita Silverman, Valerie Gustovich, Dorothy Eller, Monika Bachman, Susan Dexter, Janet Benson, Sharon Hamrick, Kate Kenzik, Jim Clinger, Nancy Skinner, Marilyn McCarthy, Cindy Lombardo, Betty Hodgson & Apollo, and Peggy Jensen. All the money from these great donated auction items goes directly to help more collies in need.

It takes a lot of effort and time to pull off this event year after year and we want to thank everyone who helped in any way. We hope to see you all there again in 2011!





# From the Scrapbook Gallery...

From top left: 1. Brandon Reed along with Linus on the first day of school; 2. Brighton, recently adopted by Cyn Koubek; 3. Bandit Leiter; 4. Daisy and her Lab buddy; 5. Apollo and 6. Austin, both posing at the Botanical Gardens; 7. Sammy, hard at work in the office; 8. Daytona and Lacey Zita; 9. Willow & Mom, Monika Bachmann on the left and Misty & Mom, Susan Decker on the right (mother & daughter collies); 10. Blue Zita snuggled under the covers; 11. Susan Decker with Misty and her other dog Raven at the "Blessing of the Animals" at her church last October

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*Saving one animal may not change the world, but, it will surely change the world for that one animal.*

- Only 1 out of 10 dogs born ever get a home.
- Only 1 out of 12 cats born ever find a home.
- 800 dogs and cats are killed each hour in the United States because there are not enough homes for them.
- A shelter animal is killed every 1.5 seconds in the United States.
- For every animal that dies in a shelter, there is a human somewhere responsible for its death.



*Pictured here: Beautiful **Gracie**, rescued and loved, now rests in peace...beloved collie of **Ray & Marge Lakofsky**.*



**NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, Inc**  
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