



Third Quarter 2009

Imprints

A publication of NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue

Make Two Hearts Glad – Adopt A Homeless Collie!

Volume VIII Issue 3

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A Plea for Funds to Help the Collies...

— by Betty Hodgson & Tom Hoadley

We were going to start out with a pathetic story (it will still be here) and then gently ease into asking for donations, but we decided to do it “up front.” Our treasury is getting low and we need your support to help the collies, especially with some of the issues we have had with adults and seniors lately. Now for the pathetic stories...

Earlier this year we picked up two senior collies from a woman whose son died and left them. We spoke of them in the last newsletter. So, to make a long story short — one was barely alive so had to be taken to emergency and euthanized, and the other had severe pneumonia. After spending about \$600 on diagnostics and treatment to save her, she did not respond and she also had to be euthanized. This should have been taken care of by the former owner's family, but they ignored symptoms and dumped the dogs on others to deal with. At least both Kemo and Cricket were with those who cared about them at the end.

Another senior just came in from the Ashland County Shelter. He had been picked up as a stray. The owners did call the shelter, but when they found out they would have to pay for a dog license to get him back, they chose to leave him there. He is a gorgeous 10-11 year-old white-factored collie named Daytona. We can only assume he must have been very fast in his youth.

The woman who pulled him for us said he was going downhill at the shelter during the two weeks he had been there. The shelter had given him Cephalexin thinking he had kennel cough. We picked him up from the woman and scheduled

a vet appointment the next day. His gums were very pale, so they did a blood oxygen check and found his saturation to be 76%. It should be in the mid 90% range. In addition, Daytona is heartworm positive. That meant x-rays to see if he was heavily infected with heartworms and to check his lungs for pneumonia. Well, the pneumonia was found to be the



Above: Daytona. Read more about Daytona on page 7.

major issue. It was severe. Since his heart was not too enlarged, we decided to deal with the pneumonia first. Daytona went into intensive care overnight to see if he responded to antibiotics and the use of a nebulizer to break up the pneumonia. We decided to deal with the heartworm later if he improved.

We are happy to report that Daytona is doing much better — after three days in intensive care at a cost of \$1,245. He is maintaining his oxygen saturation at 90-91% off the oxygen supply and is now eating. He is still on the mend, and the vet added Baytril along with Clavamox to his antibiotic schedule. The hospital was able to donate a two-week supply of Baytril to us (it is typically \$4.50/dose) from a “Good Samaritan” who donated it to them. He will still need to be given 10 minutes of steam

See **PLEA** continued on page 3...



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Imprints is a quarterly newsletter of NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, Inc. The opinions expressed are those of the editor and contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, Inc.

On the Web: www.neocr.org

Listing of available dogs can be found on:

www.petfinder.org
www.1888pets911.org/
www.1-800-save-a-pet.com

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Jon & Judy Lester's grandson Felix can be seen here showing off his new NEOCR bib! Cool, dude!

To purchase bibs and other NEOCR logo clothing or merchandise, be sure to visit our logo shop at CafePress.com/neocr, or click on the Shop! button at NEOCR.org. A portion of sales will benefit our organization.

Donations

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

A special thanks to [Discount Drug Mart](#) for their donation from the sale of Dick Goddard's 2009 weather calendar/almanac and to [Copley Feed](#) and their customers for their generous combined donation this past quarter.

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!

Whine & Cheese Wrap-up

Thanks to EVERYONE who helped make the Whine & Cheese Party a great day for both people and dogs! A big thanks, too, goes out to the [Mutt Hutt](#) for their hospitality. Kudos especially to whomever was responsible for the wonderful weather. As a result of everyone's dedication and contributions, we raised \$987.00!

By the smiles and content looks we saw on our furry friends' faces, they were especially pleased. Jasper had such a good time he had to take a nap at the Mutt Hutt, and we heard Koufax was horizontal for the rest of the day. Ross, Roscoe and Holly were pleasantly exhausted by day's end. And contrary to popular belief, Jake (the miniature dachshund) was not smuggled home in someone's purse.

Below is a list donors from the Whine & Cheese gathering. We apologize if we overlooked anyone. If we did, drop the editor a note and we'll make mention of the oversight in our next issue. Great job everyone and thanks once again!

Janet Benson, Gloria Bickley, Dorothy Eller, Bonnie Harris, Tom Hoadley, Betty Hodgson, Peggy Jensen, Melissa Johnston, Jon & Judy Lester, Cindy Lombardo, Marian Maskow, Marilyn McCarthy, & Anita Silverman



Dylan (on left) with Marty Silverman

Plea... (continued from page 1)

treatment (steam up the bathroom) three times a day and some coupage (the slapping on the chest walls with cupped hands) 3-4 times a day to break up the secretions. See the following link for more details: http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_pneumonia_management.html.

In spite of the costs, he is well worth it and deserves to spend the rest of his days, however long, with people who will really love and care for him. He is gentle and likes other dogs. I assume Daytona will likely have to be in foster care for the rest of his life unless someone wants to adopt an older, loving collie with the understanding that he may not have a lot of time left — but who knows.

Regarding his heartworm treatment, he will be a candidate for the long-term use of HeartGuard to kill the microfilaria and eventually kill off the adult heartworms. The fast-acting treatment would likely be too tough on him.

So with Kemo & Cricket, Dakota (the lead story in the last newsletter) and Daytona, we have spent about \$5000 on just four dogs. Thankfully, most of our fosters are easier on our treasury. Many may wonder why we would commit these kinds of funds to old, sometimes unplaceable, dogs. The fact is that we don't get to pick and choose; rescuing collies is what we do. Sometimes that means only assuring that the dog can die a dignified death, in the company of at least one

person who can share their love with it; perhaps it's the only love it has known for a long time. And sometimes the dog that no "fiscally responsible" person would invest in winds up going to a new home and having a new chance at a happy life, just like the case of Dakota. It's not always cheap, it's not always easy, but time and again our members have told us that we should continue to be there for ALL collies in need of our help.

Hence the plea for support; no amount is too small, nor too big for that matter!

Pet Memorial Pin

Alan Spevak found a most beautiful pet memorial pin at a local funeral home. Alan has offered to take orders for the pins for any club members who may be interested in purchasing one. Orders will then be sent out upon request.

The pin is a nice size with a locking closure on the back. The pins, priced at \$12 dollars each, are at cost.

If you are interested, contact Alan at astevak@roadrunner.com. He will email you his home address, where you can mail the check. This is just another special way of remembering our precious loved ones that we have lost.



NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Hoadley at 1:35 p.m.

Members in attendance were Marilyn & Leo Kenzik, Janet Benson, Dorothy Eller, Alan Spevak, Kathryn Kenzik, Dot Schubert, Bev Briggs, Marian Maskow, Betty Hodgson, Melissa Johnston, Jon & Judy Lester, Marilyn McCarthy, Peggy Jensen, Johanna Lance and Tom Hoadley.

The treasurer's report shows a current balance of \$2,109.97.

Old Business — Judy Lester stated 13 dogs have been adopted this year.

New business:

- ✍ The Whine and Cheese Party will be on 05/31/09 at the Mutt Hutt. Peggy Jensen & Betty Hodgson will handle items for the silent auction. Invitations will be sent out in the newsletter.
- ✍ New business thank-you notes and pictures were posted on a board for everyone to see.
- ✍ Sharon Hamrick sent around pictures from the last picnic for everyone to pick what they wanted. Calendars were discussed.
- ✍ Various NEOCR forms were discussed including business cards, adoption forms, release forms, etc.

NEOCR 2nd Quarter 2009 Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward, March 31, 2009	\$ 2,262.27
Deposits April 1 to June 30, 2009	\$ 5,015.00
Total	\$ 7,277.27

Expenses

Postage	\$129.91
Web Site.....	\$127.30
Cafe Press (items to sell)	\$151.74
Pager.....	\$70.33
Banking	\$25.95
Insurance.....	\$34.00
Total Administrative & Other.....	\$539.23
Medical Expenses for Dogs.....	\$4,852.04
Total Expenses	\$5,931.27
Balance June 30, 2009	\$1,886.00

- ✍ Memberships were discussed. Leo to let Betty know who paid memberships.
- ✍ Lake Farm Park Working Dog Weekend is in June on the 13th & 14th.

Peggy J. motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Betty H. seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Leo Kenzik

Woofstock Review – by Tom Hoadley

Cindy and I both missed the original Woodstock in our foolish youth, so when our friends in the Collie Rescue Network in Canada started telling us what fun Woofstock was, we decided we'd better not be left out again. The event, which bills itself as "The Largest Festival for Dogs in North America," doesn't take place in a muddy field though. And there are no motorcycle gangs providing security. Instead, Woofstock takes place in the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood, in the historic heart of Old Town Toronto, closing down Front Street and intersecting blocks from Yonge to the market. The centerpiece of the event is charming Berczy Park, where a stage is occupied with dog events and contests throughout the weekend, and where the shaded, grassy knolls at the western end are taken over by rescues from across Canada.



Above: Rescue Row in Berczy Park

We went both to see if Woofstock lived up to its reputation and to spend time working with our compatriots at the CRN tent. "Working with" though, doesn't really describe the experience as much as "being adopted by."

Jeff, Kit, Cindy and I arrived in Toronto Friday evening and checked into the very pet-friendly Novotel on the Esplanade, where CRN's Jenn MacDonald had arranged for a block of rooms. We were immediately invited to dinner with Jenn, her husband John, her sister and her mom. John and Jenn had driven in the previous day from Hornepayne — only 12 hours from Toronto. Our drive, even with a stop at the Welland Canal Visitor Centre in St. Catharines (another pet-friendly place), was only eight hours; we began to get more of an appreciation of just how large Ontario is.

Saturday dawned with perfect weather for an outdoor event, and, after the boys had their breakfast, we headed up to the park for "walkies" (and my first cup of Tim Horton's coffee of the day) while Cindy caught up on her rest. Woofstock vendors were busily setting up (they'd been at it since 5 a.m.), preparing for the 10 a.m. opening. When Jeff and Kit were done making their mark, we returned to the hotel so that Cindy and I could get ready for the day. Shortly before 10 a.m., we headed up Scott Street to begin the adventure. After checking in at CRN's tent, we took a stroll to see just what Woofstock had to offer. We found that the event is similar

to those you may have gone to in our area, such as the one at the Polo Fields, except that Woofstock is on steroids! Not only are there more vendors of every description there, but by mid-afternoon so many are in attendance that the streets look like solid people (150,000 or so over the whole event). Almost everyone has brought along at least one dog.

It didn't take long to tire us out, and we were thankful for the chance to head back to the tent and "work" for a while (you know, visiting with collie lovers and swapping dog and rescue stories). Kit enjoyed napping, but Jeff was anxious to show our hosts his abilities at serious sleeping. Throughout the day, as Cindy and I made brief forays into the crowd with Kit in arms, Jeff never shirked his duty to "rest with the best." As 6:00 rolled around, and the area was secured for the night, we headed back to the hotel so that the boys could take care of the hunger they had worked up during the day. (Yes, snoring does burn calories.) A number of the rescues in attendance had made arrangements to meet in the outdoor rooftop garden to visit, have a drink, share concerns and be entertained by our dogs and the impromptu MC Kelly Pankatz of the Boston Terrier Club of Canada Rescue. After a quiet dinner and another trip to the park, we turned in for the night, tired but happy.

Sunday was a reprise of Saturday with the addition of the weekly Sunday Antique Market. In consideration of both our budget and our small car (in which I'd already claimed dibs for space for two cases of Alexander Keith's from the duty-free), we enjoyed browsing instead of buying. Although as Woofstock wound down, last-minute bargains from vendors who didn't want to take merchandise back with them proved irresistible; Kit got a carrier to snooze in. At 6:00, it was time to tear down the display and bid a sad farewell to many new friends. We capped off the weekend with another enjoyable dinner with Jenn's family (including Jeff's new girlfriend, niece Emily) and CRN Treasurer Zenith Mintert (who had flown in for the weekend from Alberta). I especially enjoyed listening to John's tales of the railroad. (I love trains, and John is an engineer for CN).

Then it was time to return to the hotel and rest up for the journey home. The weekend had been one to remember, and I'm sure it won't be our last trip to Woofstock. For more information, visit www.woofstock.ca.



Above: Jeff greets a new Canadian friend, eh?

Collies Meet Fourth Grade Class

— by Alan Spevak

On May 26, 2009, Jeanette and I had the pleasure of addressing a fourth grade class at St. Martin of Tours School in Maple Heights. We had received a very nice and touching note from the class about the recent loss of my mother, Grace Spevak. One nine-year-old girl in particular who had signed the note wrote her name in crayon as "Alison." The note was sent to us as a part of the school's curriculum teaching children about bereavement and losing a loved one. We wrote back to the class thanking them for the note and told them how much it meant to us. I explained in brief about my mother and how much she loved her collies. We suggested if it were okay with the school, we could bring a couple of our collies to meet the class.

I received a telephone call a few days later from Mrs. Takitch thanking us for the letter to the children. She cleared it with the principal of the school for us to come to the class with our collies. We gladly accepted the invitation and a chance to let the children meet my mom's collies. We looked forward to thanking them in person for their kind thoughts and prayers.

On the arranged date, we arrived at the school around 12:30 p.m. with Dustin and Toby, our two best ambassador collies. We met Mrs. Takitch, who escorted us to the classroom. Inside were 17 fourth graders who were anxiously awaiting our arrival. I went into the classroom first and met the children, I talked to them about my mom and thanked them for the note they sent, and I also thanked Alison. Seeing a great chance to teach these most eager children about dog safety, we spent a few minutes going over some related material I brought along from the AKC. We discussed what to do if they came across a strange dog on the street. We also had a chance to talk about how to approach a dog with an owner, ask permission before petting the dog, and how to place their hand out for the dog to sniff them.



Pictured here is Jeanette sitting behind Alison and her new stuffed collie "Bella" and ambassador collies Dustin and Toby.

We mentioned that we were members of NEOCR and explained in brief about how long the club has been in existence and how it tries to find homes for all of their rescued collies. We had a great time, and the students asked a lot of questions about what they had just learned. Jeanette and I also passed out some coloring books from the AKC. Then they met Toby and Dustin and had a chance to come up by rows to get closer and pet them both. We presented Alison with a stuffed collie dog that my mom had on her bed as a way of saying thanks for her kind thoughts. It should be noted that Alison's mother has leukemia which made the day a little more special meeting this wonderful little girl and knowing what she is going through at home.

Our ambassador collies came through with flying colors for the half hour we were there. We were very proud of them and for the chance to bring some joy into a little girl's life as well as her classmates for just a little while.

In passing...

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

- 🐾 *Alfie*, beloved collie of *Cyn Koubek*
- 🐾 *Cassie*, beloved collie of *Ken & Doris Kaufman*
- 🐾 *Caesar & Fiona*, beloved collies of *Tom Hoadley & Cindy Lombardo*
- 🐾 *Hobbs*, beloved collie of *David Gray & Betty Hodgson*.
- 🐾 *Laddie*, beloved foster collie of *Gloria Bickley*
- 🐾 *Lady*, beloved border collie of *Marilyn Hickman*
- 🐾 *Lucky*, beloved collie of *Ted & Cindy Johns*
- 🐾 *Zorro*, beloved collie of *Leo & Marilyn Kenzik*

Other condolences...

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the following NEOCR member...

- ☘ *Peggy Jensen* on the passing of her mother, *Nelle W. Jensen*.

Adoptions April – July, 2009

Roxy – Jill Tucker, Wadsworth, OH

Addie (aka Susie) – Jennifer Bortner,
New Wilmington, PA

Holly – Rob & Robin Householder, Findlay, OH

Prince Charlie – Diana Geoffrion, Willowick, OH

Joseph – Jennifer Bortner, New Wilmington, PA

Glen (aka Koufax) – Jim Wagner, Cleveland, OH

Rocky – Nicole Smith, Austintown, OH

Willie – Mark Pihlblad, Lorain, OH

Oliver – Charles Gordon, Cleveland, OH

Some of Our Available Collies

Clancy

Collie/Golden Retriever Mix

Size: Medium

Age: Adult

Sex: Male

Clancy is great dog. He is very affectionate and knows basic commands. He is easy-going and good with other dogs; he will likely be wonderful with children based upon his temperament. He is about 4-6 years old and is housebroken.

He does like to intimidate squirrels, so he will need to be secured. When he is outside, he mostly hangs out under trees keeping them at bay.

Clancy has the best of the collie and the golden retriever or whatever other breed is in his DNA.



Copper

Collie

Size: Large

Age: Senior

Sex: Male

Copper is a beautiful sable and white male collie — very coppery colored, hence the name. He loves attention and is good with other dogs. He is housebroken and as is typical for the breed — a real attention hound and wants to be your companion. Copper is nine years old but active and playful.



Kayla

Collie, German Shepherd Mix

Size: Medium

Age: Adult

Sex: Female

Kayla is a wonderful mixed-breed adult girl who needs her forever family. She loves attention and will be someone's loyal companion. She is friendly and gets along with most other dogs but would probably do best as an "only dog." She is good with school-age children. Kayla is spayed and up-to-date on all of her shots.

She loves to go for car rides and is well behaved. Kayla would especially like a large yard to play in and would like to go for walks, too.

Brandy

Collie

Size: Large

Age: Adult

Sex: Male

Brandy came to us from Kentucky, where this 7-8 year old had been an outdoor dog.

Like most outdoor collies, he's had a terrible time adjusting to being an indoor dog — it took him a whole 5 minutes! He is a sweetheart, who thinks he's 7 or 8 MONTHS old and can't understand why the other dogs in the pack are so dull!

Even though the picture doesn't show it, he also has very nice tipped ears, all the better to hear the food dish with.

All Brandy needs is a place to play, and people to love. Brandy is now affectionately called the Hamburglar!





Daytona

Collie

Size: Large
Age: Senior
Sex: Male

Daytona is a great, white-factored male collie who came to us with a nasty case of pneumonia but is doing fine now. He is friendly and loves to be petted; he seems to be making up for lost time. He was a stray picked up by a shelter, and the owners would not spring for his license fee, so they told the shelter to keep him. That was very lucky for Daytona since he is now a wonderful house dog and is healthy.

This beautiful senior collie needs a home of his own or permanent foster home where he can live out the rest of his life in comfort and style and with dignity.

If you are the person willing to open your heart and give this great guy that home, please contact us.

Traveler

Collie

Size: Large
Age: Senior
Sex: Male

Traveler is a gentle giant of a collie who is currently on a diet. He needs to drop a few pounds. (Don't we all?) Other than that, he is loving, good on a leash, and would make a great companion. He needs to be in a home without a lot of steps at least now. Once he drops some weight, who knows?



Nelson

Golden Retriever

Size: Large
Age: Adult
Sex: Male

Nelson has a very sad story. He was crated most of the time as a puppy and then his owners got a divorce, and he was chained outside or put in the garage. Golden Retrievers are highly social and need to be with people, so he is so he has some issues. He will likely come around with some work and needs to be loved and to trust someone. Nelson shouldn't be with children or other dogs until he is more socialized. He needs an experienced dog person to help him come around.

Nelson is a cross-posting, so please contact Sharon Hamrick if you can help him be the dog he was meant to be. Call 440-897-5917 or email her at Sharon.Hamrick@pepsiamericas.com.



Thomas

Rottweiler Mix

Size: Large
Age: Young
Sex: Male

Thomas is a sweet-heart of a rotti mix. He is so good with everyone and everything. How could you not love this boy? He has not made any messes, has no food issues, sits, and gives paw and huge doggie kisses. The owner allowed him to run loose and the neighbors hit him when he came around but, in spite of that, he holds no grudges and is just a happy, loving boy. His medical needs are up-to-date.

Thomas is a cross-posting, so please contact Sharon Hamrick if you are interested in giving him the loving home he deserves. Call 440-897-5917 or email her at Sharon.Hamrick@pepsiamericas.com.



Peanut

Collie/German Shepherd Mix

Size: Medium
Age: Adult
Sex: Female

Peanut is such a dear soul. She's very sweet even though her previous owners weren't very nice to her. She is fine with kids and dogs and happy to be loved and cared for. She will be someone's loyal companion if they give her a chance.

NOTE: All dogs are spayed or neutered and up to date on standard vaccinations (including Bordetella and Rabies).





COME JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN! NORTHEAST OHIO COLLIE RESCUE ANNUAL COLLIE REUNION & PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

FROM 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

HUBBARD VALLEY PARK, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO

Catch up on all the collie chatter and enjoy a great pot luck!
NEOCR will provide the hot dogs and all the fixin's!

ITEMS TO BRING

- ★ Lawn Chairs
- ★ Beverages
- ★ A Dish to Share
- ★ A Healthy Appetite
- ★ Happy Tails!
- ★ Dog Leash or X-pens
- ★ A jacket

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 11:00 Roundup Begins
- 11:30 Memorial
- 11:45 Group Photo
- 12:00 Pot Luck Lunch
- 1:00 Live Auction
- 2:00 Silent Auction
- 3:30 Clean-up

GOODIES TO BUY...

- ★ Collie crafts hand made from the heart including hand-knitted items, doggie crafts, and other assorted collie logo items.

Great Food ★ "Pot Luck" ★ Live Auction ★ Silent Auction ★ Crafts ★ Trails to Hike

We are presently collecting craft items to sell and donations for the silent and live auctions. Suggested items are gift certificates, gift baskets, collie memorabilia, framed prints, specialty crafts, cellophane wrap, ribbon, etc. Gift baskets can follow a theme, or they will be assembled from individual items donated to create a larger basket.

Items collected so far include pet baskets, collie-related books, hand-made crafts, hand-knitted scarves and more!

Anyone who has an item to donate for the silent auction, please contact Peggy Jensen at greta@neocr.com to coordinate opening bids, drop-off and/or delivery to the picnic. Be sure to include "Collie Picnic" in your subject line.

Items for the live auction may be brought with you the day of the picnic; however, please contact Betty Hodgson at hodgsonbl@yahoo.com with a description of your item along with suggested opening bid so we can organize the bidding process.



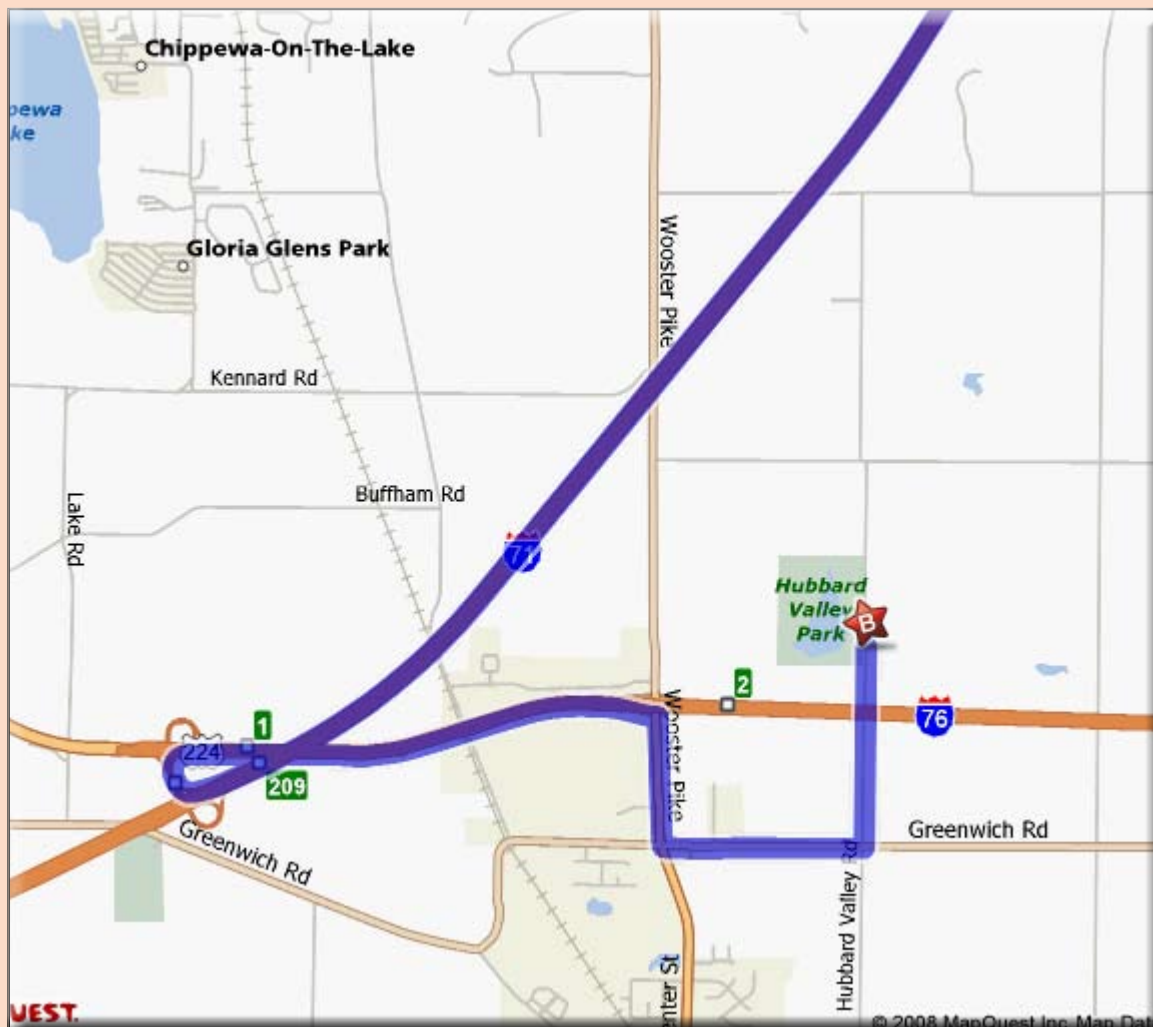
Money raised at this event directly benefits our rescues.

Owners are responsible for the safety of and any "mess" made by their dog.



DIRECTIONS TO HUBBARD VALLEY PARK, MEDINA COUNTY...

Hubbard Valley Park is located at 8600 Hubbard Valley Road in Guilford Township, south of Blake Road and north of Greenwich Road.



From the North:

- Take I-71 south to I-76 East / US 224 East, Exit 209 toward Akron.
- Take the Ohio Rt. 3, Exit 2, toward Medina/Seville.
- Turn RIGHT onto Wooster Pike / OH Rt. 3.
- Turn LEFT onto Greenwich Road / CR 97.
- Turn LEFT onto Hubbard Valley Road.

From the Northeast:

- Take I-271 South to I-71 South.
- Follow above directions.

From the West (or East):

- Take I-480 East (or West) to I-71 South.
- Follow first set of directions.

From the Akron area:

- Take I-76 West to OH Rt. 3, Exit 2, toward Medina/Seville.
- Turn LEFT onto Wooster Pike / OH Rt. 3.
- Turn LEFT onto Greenwich Road / CR 97.
- Turn LEFT onto Hubbard Valley Road.

From the South:

- Take I-71 North to I-76 East / US 224 East, Exit 209 toward Akron.
- Continue with first set of directions



Fiona: strong and good to the very end

— by Tom Hoadley

In 1941, the children's author Robert Lawson, penned the Caldecott Medal-winning story of his family, *They Were Strong and Good*. Four years later, Lawson wrote *Rabbit Hill*, a perennial children's favorite (and the first "good" book given to me by my parents and which I still read every few years). The book went on to win the Newbery Medal, making Lawson the first author to score this prestigious double-play. If the literature lesson seems a bit out of place, bear with me.

In the fall of 1997, we were contacted by a veterinarian in Ashland, Ohio, asking if we could help with the puppy of one of their clients for which they were trying to find a home. The couple only had the pup for a short while when the husband died of a heart attack, and the wife, both grieving and handicapped, was not up to dealing with the demands of childhood. NorthEast Ohio Collie/Sheltie Rescue (as we were at the time) agreed to foster this little girl, so Cindy and I drove from Ashland to pick her up.

Little Blaze, as she was called (but who had no blaze), was clearly a distraught little dog. We've often heard animal behaviorists talk about key, critical periods in a dog's emotional development. One thing you definitely DON'T want to have happen in the life of a 3-month old puppy is a death in the family. The atmosphere, both spoken and unspoken, had its effect on our new little orphan, and she spent her life emotionally damaged. She was a sweet little thing though, and her new foster home (us) decided that we would adopt her outright. (We were still fairly new to rescue and only had three dogs at the time.)

Blaze came complete with her uncompleted AKC registration papers. So, the first order of the day was to register her, and GET HER A BETTER NAME! Thus, she was reborn as FIONA of RABBIT HILL. And, in spite of conformation defects in her front legs that would give her a lifetime of discomfort, she

was always STRONG and GOOD. (There, now that's out of the way.)

Fiona settled into the routine at our household, accepting her new lot, even though she always had a little nervous hesitancy about her. In the fall of 1998, she underwent the herding instinct test put on by rescue at Hado Bar Farm and made it clear that she would not be following in her older sister Skye's pawprints. A life of moving woolly creatures around a field was not for her.



Where she did shine was in her relationships with people. Fiona easily passed her Delta Society certification and began visiting at Summa Health System as a member of "Prescription: Dog Love." (Skye, on the other hand, never shared Fiona's interest in people. If it couldn't be herded, it wasn't any fun.) By 2002, Fiona's front legs were causing her enough discomfort that she started taking etodolac, a drug she was on for most of the rest of her life. Still she soldiered bravely on and took over for Tennyson as the Sunnybank regular on our August pilgrimages to New Jersey. And, even though her front legs weren't right, Peggy Jensen was able to teach Fiona to jump from bed to bed in the hotel room. (Gee thanks, Peggy.)

Fiona also accompanied me to work every day as the official office dog. Sometimes we went with another dog in tow so Fiona could show it the ropes. By early spring, she was beginning to tell us that her discomfort had reached the point where she just wasn't having fun anymore and that she was ready to give up the pain and move on. On May 10, we said goodbye to this brave little trooper, strong and good to the very end.

And then there was Alfie...

— by Cyn Koubek

Alfie crossed the Rainbow Bridge recently one morning. While he had been losing muscle mass in his hind legs, his passing was mostly due to complications with the heart murmur and kidney issues. But make no mistake on how his heart touched so many people, especially me.



He was the best companion for me, and I've enjoyed every day with him. I know that the neighbors on the street and even strangers thought he was the nicest dog. He was so social, and I think that's what people loved the most about him. Children would see him and call out "Alfie! There's Alfie!" And he just basked in all of their attention.

Alfie was at the Working Dog Weekend last year and outstayed the younger dogs. We were there at the booth from beginning to end, and he loved to show people how great Collies are for pets. And I agree with Tom — if you weren't paying attention to him, he'd nudge your hand to remind you he was there and waiting for your attention.

This was so hard for me to do. My house feels so empty, but I still feel his presence. I will still be supporting the Collie Rescue, and hope to go to some of the events. I know there's another Collie out there for me; I just need some grieving time before bringing another one into my home.

I want to thank you for having him available for me when he needed me.

From the Scrapbook Gallery...

Clockwise from top left: 1. Leo & Marilyn Kenzik with their beloved Zorro (recently passed); 2. Oliver, newly adopted by Charles Gordon; 3. Lassie Lawson lounging during her camping expedition this summer; 4. Attendees from the Whine & Cheese Party held in May at the Mutt Hutt; 5. Jake sunbathing with his mom, Carol Sullivan; 6. Jennifer Bortner with her recently adopted dogs Joseph and Addie.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our web site at www.neocr.org for more information and links to the following events...

- Next NEOCR Board Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 22, 2009**, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the [Parma South Library](#), 7335 Ridge Road in Parma. The library is located on Ridge just north of Pleasant Valley Road. Join us before the meeting for a bite to eat at the **Parmatown Olive Garden**, 8383 Day Drive in Parma. Join the hungry bunch at 11:30 a.m.
- The **Quailcrest Family of Friends Dog Walk** will be held on **Saturday, September 19, 2009**, at Quailcrest Farm in Wooster, Ohio. This event benefits dog and cat rescues of Ohio.
- Oberlin Doggie Doo** will be held on **September 19, 2009**, at Tappan Square in Oberlin. This event raises funds for local animal shelters, increases awareness of homeless

dogs, and helps people become interested in adopting dogs. NEOCR will be in attendance.

The 2009 NEOCR Annual Collie Reunion & Pot Luck Picnic will be held **Sunday, September 20, 2009**, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This great fund-raising event, featuring silent and live auctions and lots of great food, will be held at Hubbard Valley Park in Medina County, Ohio. (See picnic insert on pages 8-9.)

Dog Days of Summer at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens will be held on **Sundays through September 27, 2009**, from noon to 5:00 p.m. The gardens are located at 11030 East Blvd. in University Circle. NEOCR will be in attendance on **September 6**.

Yappy Hours at the Winery at Wolf Creek are held on the **second Tuesday of every month from 5:00-8:00 p.m.** The winery is located at 2637 S. Cleveland Massillon Road in Norton, Ohio. Phone number is 800-436-0426.



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