



Imprints

A publication of NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue

June 2008

Make Two Hearts Glad – Adopt A Homeless Collie!

Volume VII Issue 2

In this issue

Hello from Major!

→ Page 2

Grandmother Approved
& Kid Tested

→ Page 3

MRD1 Alert

→ Page 3

Adoptions

→ Page 3

Available Collies
the name

→ Pages 4-5

In Passing

→ Page 5

Final Jett-o-gram

→ Page 5

Lassie's Story

→ Page 6

Happy Tails

→ Pages 8, 10

Tribute to Sassy

→ Page 9

Upcoming Events

→ Page 9

Loss of an old friend

→ Page 10

Membership Renewal Form

→ Page 11

Living with a Blind Collie (or two!)

by Crystal Mocan

Blindness is unfortunately one of the more common ailments afflicting our beloved collie breed. And while I believe that all people involved with collies (whether breeding, rescuing, or just sharing your home and life with) should be striving to eradicate the various preventable eye diseases from future generations of collies, you might be surprised to learn that living with a collie with limited or no vision is easier than you might think.

A common saying supported by many people living with pets with special needs is that the pet is firstly a dog (species), secondly a collie (breed), and lastly is blind (disability). This means that the first-most consideration of what it is like to live with a blind collie is that it is mostly like living with any dog. All dogs share very common needs and behaviors, distinguishing them differently from living with a cat, for instance. Following this consideration is the factor of breed. How is it different to live with a collie versus living with a jack russell terrier? Like the species distinction, the breed distinction tells us a lot about the common traits associated with a certain breed. Of course, not every member of the breed will demonstrate all of the common traits, but we can still be relatively assured that our beloved collie will have a least a few of the personality traits which first endeared us to "Lassie." Finally, and I cannot stress how small of a factor is the consideration of the type of disability the collie has. In this case it is blindness, but also fairly common is deafness, among many other types of disabilities. If I had to translate the species : breed : disability ratio into



Pictured above are Noah and Cassidy, cherished pets of Crystal Mocan.

numbers, my experience would have me believe it would be something along the lines of 60 : 30 : 10. I will however note that my experiences are based on living with pets that have had their disability from a very young age. While dogs seem to be extraordinarily capable of adjusting to whatever life throws at them, dogs who become disabled later in life are somewhat more affected by their disability than those who are born not knowing life any other way.

I currently share my home with two very special collies, Cassidy and Noah. While they are both blind, they are also both very different individuals and their disability affects them in different ways. I do however believe that the way in which they deal with their blindness is dictated by their personality, more than the fact that they are blind. Cassidy is our "drama queen" who loves to be the

See BLIND continued on page 7...

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Thanks again to all of you who have supported our efforts, whether by donations, adoptions, memberships, fundraising or fostering! We couldn't do it without you! A detailed listing of recent donors will appear in the next newsletter.

Hello from Major! by Chris Baker

Hi, I'm Major, aka The Dog. Just wanted to send an update on me and Mom. We're doing great. She says I'm fat and sassy. I've included a picture to prove her point.

So, it's almost two years now that I came to live with my Mom. She says I'm a good dog, but that I have my "moments." Well yeah...I'm the dog, the king of all I survey, the man of the house, the head honcho... you get my drift.

Mom has lots of names for me, too. Of course, I don't agree with all of them, especially "Gladys." Remember Gladys Kravitz, the nosy neighbor on the old Bewitched show? She says that's me — always checking out the neighborhood. I'm also known as "Major Butt" when I'm being silly, "Major Baby" when she loves me, "Major Bad"... uh oh... and "Major Stop It" that usually goes along with "Major Bad." Then, of course, there's the mushy names, like... "Sweetie Pie", "Handsome", and "Jelly Bean" (oh come on)! My Indian name is "Dog with Big Black Nose and Loud Bark." Sometimes I wonder about my Mom.

Speaking of barking, man, I LOVE to bark. My mom, not so much. I'll bark at anything, I live to bark; barking is my life. I can actually make the grandfather clock chime with my barking. Now that's cool. How many other dogs can do that? Again, my mom, not loving it so much. When the clock starts chiming, I'm "Major Stop It."

I'm also quite the hunter and pretty proud of it. I know, I'm a collie, not a hound, but man, those dastardly squirrels and rabbits are trying to take over my back yard. I brought mom a whole mouthful of baby bunnies the other day. I'm like "Hey check this out...they squeak just like my toys." Mom, again, not loving it. So, okay, they're babies and that upsets Mom. So I brought her a big bunny and a big squirrel. Again, she wasn't happy. The possum didn't go over well either. Needless to say, this was one of my "moments."

I got lots of jobs. That's okay with me, I like having jobs. Mom says it keeps me out of trouble. Me? In trouble? Never happens. except once in a while. Anyway, some of my jobs are full time.

J-O-B #1 — taking care of Mom. What a klutz...she's always dropping something and then I gotta clean up after her (she is a good cook though, I gotta give her that). Then she CLAIMS she's putting my toys in the toy box so she can vacuum. No way...I can't play with my toys if their not on the floor. So, again, I have to help her out and take toys out of the box while she's putting toys in the box. You guessed it... "Major Butt." Sometimes Mom says she's not feeling good or that she's has a rough day, so I curl up next to her and put my head in her lap and just lay quiet. That's my way of saying that "It's not so bad, I still love you." It seems to make her feel better and it's all part of taking care of Mom.

J-O-B #2 — Take care of the house and the cats. Not a problem. The cats, I just herd them into another room. They sleep most of the time, but once in awhile I have to let them know who's running the show around here. That's when I'm "Major Please Don't Sit on The Cat." It kinda freaks Mom out when I sit on the cat, well it freaks The Cat out, too (and

See MAJOR continued on page 10...



Grandmother Approved and Kid Tested!

by Gloria Bickley , NEOCR Foster Mom

I have always loved animals as far back as I can remember. My life of rescuing and fostering animals actually started at an early age. I was about ten years old when a mother cat was hit on the road and left five three-day-old kittens behind. On my own, I was only able to successfully raise one from the litter with a doll bottle. Then that spring, I also fostered and raised, on my own, a three day old lamb who's Mother had twins and not enough milk for two. I raised the lamb on a pop bottle with a nipple until he was old enough to eat on his own. That was the beginning of my life helping animals in need whether it was domestic or wild. I have continued to do so for the past 45 years.



Gloria Bickley's granddaughter, Claire, affectionately grooms Ms. Georgia.

MRD1 News alert . . .

There is a gene called MRD1 that causes some collies and other herding dogs to be very sensitive to certain drugs. Common veterinary drugs that when given in a normal dose can kill a collie. One is ivermectin (in a common heartworm medication). Imodium, Pepto Diarrhea Control, Kaopectate II Caplets, and others contain drugs which are potentially lethal drugs to collies.

This affects 3 of every 4 collies (75%). The odds are not in your collie's favor.

There is a test which can definitively determine if your pet will be affected by these drugs. The price for this test is currently \$60.00 for each pet. This fee will rise to \$70.00 each on July 1, 2008 (\$60.00 each for 5 or more). All it takes is brushing the dog's gums with small brushes (which the testing facility sends you) and returning the brushes to the facility with the form filled out, and your check.

The results will be emailed to you in about 2 weeks and you will KNOW if there are certain drugs you and your veterinarian avoid administering to your collie.

The price seems high but our collies are worth it. Sixty dollars is less than a veterinary visit and less than the pain in my heart if I didn't do the test and saw my furry friend die because I gave her a simple medication.

There are currently 14 drugs that should be avoided. Find out what they are and how to have your collie tested at by visiting www.vetmed.wsu.edu/vcpl/.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I have not been able to continue incurring the financial cost involved in rescuing and fostering on my own. So I began fostering for a few different rescues until I found the one that I felt was the best one for me to work with and shared a lot of the same values. I have been fostering for NEOCR about a year and feel I have made the best choice for they are one of the best smaller rescues in the country. Small enough to keep the focus on what is best for each and every dog they rescue; big enough, to make a huge difference in all the animals lives they help!

I raised my own children with animals and taught them to love and respect all creatures. I am doing the same with my grandkids while their parents work. Claire, my youngest and my last grandchild, seems to have inherited my love and dedication to all animals. She really enjoys helping me with the fosters.

Once I know a foster is safe to be with the kids, Claire helps me in all kinds of ways. She will be 5 years old in May. She has helped me hand feed fosters that have come in too weak and sick to eat. When I am grooming one the dogs, she will ask to brush one of the others and is so very gentle. Some times she will just lay on the floor with her arm laid softy over one just watching them while they chew on a Nylabone®. Even dogs that come in and are unsure or mistrusting of adults seem to trust her. Claire plays a very important roll in the fosters' lives until they find their own loving forever homes.

I am so fortunate to be able to spend this time in my life with my grandkids and furkids. They are all such a blessing! I am thankful that my Granddaughter may follow in my footsteps, it would truly be an honor!! When a foster leaves my home, I can honestly say, "Grandmother Approved and Kid Tested!" thanks to the love my Granddaughter shares with me, of all the animals.

Adoptions

January – April 2008

Allie – Brandy & James Martin, Sterling Hts., MI

Annie – Darlene & Gary Reese, Strasburg, OH

Buddy – Phyllis Dempsey, Tallmadge, OH

Clancy – Sheri Dochat, Fairlawn, OH

Hagar & Hercules – Dennis & Margaret Palik, Hinkley, OH

Lacey – Joseph Schiciano, Wickliffe, OH

Lassie – Robin Lawson, Shreve, OH

McCain – Jennifer Splichal, Curtice, OH

McGyver – Raymond & Jeannie Fichter, Massillon, OH

Newton – Debra Matthews, Cleveland, OH

Rena – Amy Dunn, Elyria, OH

Shep – Steve & Nancy Craun, Novelty, OH

Taylor – Kevin & Anne Naugle, Vermilion, OH

Trista – Patricia Hamilton, Columbus, OH

Ty – Ben & Summer Longbons, Mentor, OH

Some of Our Available Collies



Mona

Collie

Sex: Female
Age: Senior
Size: Large

Mona is an older woman — about 10 years old, but moves well and does a flight of steps just fine. She will probably be even more active once she gains a little weight and her muscles get stronger. She is quite the “lounge lizard” and loves a nice nap.

Brie

Collie

Sex: Female
Age: Young
Size: Large

Brie is a two-year old beautiful white collie with a great collie coat. She is still a little shy with strangers and unknown situations but warms up quickly once she gets to know you. She is learning what affection from humans is all about (having not had much before) and now knows what toys are. She would do best with other dogs around and needs a fenced yard.



Cosmo

Collie / Border
Collie (mix)

Sex: Male
Age: Adult
Size: Large

Cosmo is a 4-5 year old collie/border collie mix with the more laid-back nature of a collie and but does have that border collie stare. His size is typical of a collie as is his fur.

He is active at a level typical for any youngish dog and loves to play with other dogs. He likes children and is easy to walk on a leash. Overall, he is a friendly dog with a great disposition.

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



Callie

Collie mix

Sex: Female
Age: Young
Size: Large

This is a cross-post, so call the number below – not NEOCR.

Callie is a one-year-old spayed female. She is up to date on all her vaccines. She has been obedience trained and house trained. Callie loves everyone, people and other dogs. She was rescued her from our local pound a few months ago, she

was vetted and put her in the prison program for training. For information please contact Debbie Helser 419-204-6157.

Bam Bam

Smooth Collie

Sex: Male
Age: Young
Size: Large

Bammers is a playful 3-year-old who counts balls, frisbees, and squirrels as a few of his favourite things. He'd be great in an active family with kids, but he also likes his couch time.

If you're in the market for a handsome dog-about-town, we'll be happy to put you in touch. His mom may have been Pebbles, but he's no cave man.



Sammy

Collie / Hound (mix)

Sex: Male
Age: Adult
Size: Large

I don't get it? I am one of the cutest smooth collie mixes around but I am still here. I am only 5 years old and really a nice guy — love people and love toys. Grooming is a breeze with my coat. Did I mention that I am housebroken and up-to-date on my shots and heartworm negative? It doesn't get much better than that!





Copper

Collie

Sex: Male
Age: Adult
Size: Large

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 is typical for the breed, i.e., an attention hound and wants to be your companion.

Copper is 8 years old but very active and playful

In passing...

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

- 🐾 *Jett*, beloved collie of *Tom Hoadley & Cindy Lombardo*.
- 🐾 *Finnegan*, beloved collie of *Crystal Mocan*.
- 🐾 *Troy*, beloved collie of *Jake & Mel Fox*.
- 🐾 *Liam*, beloved collie of *Phyllis Dempsey*.
- 🐾 *Sassy*, beloved collie of *Joe and Phyllis Pepoy*.



Tulip

(formerly Reese)

Beagle / Corgi (mix)

Sex: Female
Age: Young
Size: Small

This little girl is about 10 months old and probably isn't a collie-beagle mix but rather a beagle/corgi mix based upon the length

of her legs. She is too sweet for words and somewhat shy. She is playful with other dogs and loves to cuddle up and sleep close to them or people. Collie mix or not, we are just trying to help her find a good home.

Ginger

Collie

Sex: Female
Age: Senior
Size: Large

Ginger is an active collie — 9 years old, but acts like a 4-5 year-old girl. She loves to play and chase around with other dogs, and she is very companionable. She is friendly from the get-go and seems genuinely happy and easy going. She love people and kids.

Her owner had to give her up because of foreclosure, so she is anxious to settle into a new forever home.



Final Jett-o-gram by Tom Hoadley

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you our beloved Mr. Jett went to that great "Couch In The Sky" a few weeks ago. As many of you know, Jett had spent much of his final days at the vet's office where they worked to determine the best course of therapy for spinal problems that prevented him from being able to get up without help. In addition to some bridging between vertebrae, Jett also suffered from several collapsed discs.

When I picked him up that Thursday evening, he went home with somewhat improved mobility. He was able to get up on his own that night and, after some wobbly first steps, he would start to walk fairly well. By Friday morning, he was again unable to get up on his own; but, after being helped up, he could get around. When Cindy and I returned home Saturday afternoon, Jett was unable to stand and walk, even after being helped up. He did finish his dinner, although he had to be hand fed for part of it. By 9:00 p.m., though, it was clear Jett was in distress, and he actually began to vocalize the fact. At the vet clinic, he showed very little gum color, and, although an ultra-sound did not show internal bleeding, it was felt that Jett was now suffering from more than back pain. The decision was made, at that point, to release him from what was clearly severe pain, bidding him a sad farewell.

Jett's ashes, with those of his kennel-sister Jasmine, will make the journey to Sunnybank this August to be spread on the grounds where, for departed collies, every day is one filled with sunshine, love and, especially important to Jett, endless bowls of kibble and treats.



Lassie's Story

by Robin Lawson

There once was a wonderful little collie puppy who was purchased with much love and care. She was an outside dog who slept in the garage at night with her kitties. She loved her owners and they loved her back with a lot of food and walks through the fields.

As time went on the weight went on and in a few years the collie puppy grew to be a rather rotund adult who had a hard time getting up after lying down, didn't run, and she didn't want to accompany her people on their walks through the fields.

Time passed and the collie was still loved with food. She was allowed into a little spot in the crawl space of the basement but only on very cold nights. She didn't go on walks anymore because her limbs hurt too much. A ligament tore in her leg because she wanted to play but her muscles just weren't strong enough anymore. She hadn't been going for walks through the fields.

Her loving owners, one by one, had to go away. They had gotten older and needed others to care for them. The collie was left in the garage. Her kitties were found new homes and then she was alone for a long time with a lot of food. She was moved to another garage and some bouncy kids wanted her to bounce too, but her legs hurt, especially the injured one. The owners who had loved her had forgotten to take her to the veterinarian so she had two kinds of worms, a yeast infection, broken infected teeth, and no immunizations, including rabies. She'd developed cataracts and now weighed 106 pounds when she should have weighed 65 to 70. Her fur was so tangled and matted that the thorns and burdock didn't even show. No one knew she was always laying on several of them. She didn't look well, and she didn't smell good. She'd had gotten a case of diarrhea and now even her tail hurt. She vaguely remembered walking through some fields.

The collie didn't know it but a lady had been praying for her, and one day the garage door opened and the lady came to help her into her car. That wasn't easy because the collie's muscles were not strong, and her joints hurt, and she weighed 104 pounds. The lady tried for a long time that day to take care of her coat but she finally gave up. She telephoned until she found another kind heart. A groomer agreed to come in on her day off. The collie slept in the lady's garage that night but the lady kept walking to the garage through the night to make sure she was OK. The lady silently promised they would go walking through the fields.

The next day the lady and the groomer spent four hours, cutting fur that could not be combed, bathing sore flaky skin, cutting nails, cleaning ears, and in the end they had a nearly naked collie. That night, for the first time in her life the collie walked on carpeting, watched TV (especially enjoying kitties on Animal Planet), played with a different kitty, and a dog she remembered from long ago. She lay next to the lady who sat on the floor and gave her a massage. She had a little really good food to eat and slept in a soft cushioned crate dreaming of walking through the fields.

The lady loaded the collie again into the car and the veterinarian looked her over well. She didn't have heartworms, the lady just cheered. She got shots she hadn't had for years. The lady got advice on how to fix a few of the ailments,



Pictured above: Lassie visiting with her friends at the library.

antibiotics to fight some others, something for the collie to chew on to kill the worms, and an appointment to deal with the broken teeth. The lady took her back to the carpeting, brushed and combed hair that wasn't there and rubbed the muscles that would soon be walking through the fields.

Soon her bad teeth were gone, she was eating really good food (but just a little), and walking through the fields. But...that is not the end of the story.

The lady saw the collie's kind loving heart and how much she loved everyone she met. The collie was smart and soon learned to sit, and down, and stay, and come. She learned to walk on a leash, even through the fields, and soon she weighed less than 100 pounds. She even got into the car with much more ease (the lady got her a ramp). She enjoyed walking through a town with the other dog and wagged her tail for everyone. She made her ears gentle for each person she met, and used her puppy eyes on them. The people thought she was beautiful even though she only wore a little fuzz.

People came out of their homes before the sun came up to greet her. They came out on crutches. They stopped their cars in the middle of the street. All wanted to know who this new dog was. The collie loved them all.

One evening the lady took the collie to a place with a lot of other people and dogs. She had a lovely bow on her collar so she walked proudly on her leash. She sat, she lay down, she stayed, even when the lady walked away (that was really hard), and came as fast as she could when the lady called her name. She loved all the people, and thought the other dogs were nice. The collie noticed the lady had tears in her eyes and didn't understand all the talk about a Canine Good Citizen test, and a Therapy Dog test. But she did hear that she'd passed both.

The lady started taking the collie into lots of different buildings. She loves lying on carpeting with the children, and standing next to wheelchairs while kind hands rub her short fur. And she loves her new home, the lady, the man, the dog, and her new kitty. She again loves going for walks through the fields.

The collie now knows the garage is just the place where her car stays that takes her to places where people love her.

This wonderful dog went from a broken-down collie, to a Therapy Dog, in less than 30 days. Don't give up on these older, elegant, well-behaved dogs. She was an outside dog, not in a car, not in a crate, not on a leash. Overnight she became an inside dog who loves car rides, leash walks, and sleeping in a cushy cloth crate.

At last she is not only well loved; she is well cared for, and going on walks through the fields.

Blind ...continued from page 1

center of attention. She is very talkative, and expresses both her happiness and her displeasure vocally through over-exaggerated moans and groans, and sometimes excessive barking. The way in which I believe that Cassidy's blindness affects her is that she tends to be a little jumpy and quick to react. I think this is an extension of her personality because of her view of herself as the center of the world, and if anything is happening in the surrounding environment, it must be happening to her directly. If someone changes position on the couch where Cassidy is also sitting, Cassidy is quick to move, despite being previously quite comfortable and cozy. Another dog walks too close to where Cassidy is resting on the floor, Cassidy is up on her feet, telling them off for being so "rude" as to dare to interrupt her. Granted, Cassidy is completely blind and I can empathize with her that I too wouldn't want to risk being accidentally hurt if I couldn't see my family's whereabouts.

Noah is only partially blind, and yet I believe he is actually more affected by his blindness than Cassidy. He is completely blind in one eye, and mostly blind in the other, likely only seeing brief glimpses of blurry figures since he also experiences nystagmus (a type of involuntary eye movement). It appears the little he can see also causes him to have difficulty with depth perception, making things such as stairs and getting onto and off of the couch a challenge. Noah is my "momma's boy," and as his previous foster parent once said, he is the "definition of sweetness." Almost opposite to Cassidy's reactivity, Noah is a more laid-back, go-with-the-flow kind of dog. Nothing really bothers him much, such as being accidentally stepped on; if anything, it's an opportunity for play or even some good ol' butt scratches. Like Cassidy, I think that the way in which Noah handles his challenges is an extension of his personality. Despite really having to go relieve himself in the backyard, some days he just can't get over his fear of going down the two steps leading from the back deck to the grass, and instead goes back to the sliding door to plead with mom or dad to help him down. All he usually needs is moral support; just standing near him as he approaches the steps is often enough for him to gain the confidence to proceed down them.

Time and time again, people who live with blind dogs often hear from acquaintances that if they hadn't been told that the dog is blind, that they never would have guessed it. My blind dogs still run at full speed through the back yard, playing chase, even keeping up with most of their sighted foster brothers and sisters. Like most people with disabilities, I don't like to think of my dogs as disabled — they are very able. The last thing I would want is for anyone to feel sorry for them. Like any dog, they need routine and rules and love — not pity. Should just any family adopt a blind collie? Probably not, but it depends on the dynamics of the family and the personality of the collie, more than the fact that he or she is blind. A blind collie might not be able to excel at agility, so if that is something you intend to do with your

canine companion you should probably consider adopting a dog with full vision. (On the other hand, a deaf dog could excel at agility, and many do!) If you're primarily looking for a companion, or perhaps would like to try your hand at herding, or intend to do volunteer pet therapy work, then by all means, please don't rule out a collie because he or she is blind. If your personalities match, it could be a match made in heaven. I know it has been for me.

On a final note, I've found that living with a dog that is blind requires minimal extra effort beyond the usual requirements for living with any dog. In fact, despite being labeled as "special needs," they don't really have any special needs per se. Do I always follow the traditional advice to never move furniture or leave things lying around on the floor? If truth be told, no, but my dogs seem to do just fine with intermittent change. I actually think they may be better off because of it. The toys I purchase for my dogs do tend to be ones that make noise: grunting, squeaking, or talking, since silent toys get two paws down in my house. A tennis ball with a bell inside makes an excellent ball for a modified game of fetch, and tug-of-war is a lot more fun if the toy continues to make noise while being tugged and dropped since the game is easier to carry on. More important than being creative with the games I play with my dogs, is that I do put extra effort in ensuring my dogs feel they can trust me to ensure they are safe. This applies to situations such as walking on-lead through town (watching out for curbs, etc.), enjoying safe off-leash time (ensuring no large obstacles are in the way, or pointing out ones that are there), and interacting with new dogs (helping to neutralize the situation in case the new dog gets a little miffed that my dog can't read some of the doggy signals being displayed). While all caregivers of dogs with and without special needs should work to build upon the trust between canine and human, I feel that it is even more important to do so when the dog also trusts you to be his or her eyes. Of course, the deeper the trust, the deeper the bond, and I can't help but feel like the lucky one to have been blessed to know and love two such very special dogs.

Crystal Mocan is the Adoptions Coordinator of the Collie Rescue Network, in Canada. Noah came from NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, where he was known as Sherman.



Pals Noah and Cassidy lounging on their comfy bed.

Happy Tale Updates

Sable

The Farmer family would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at North East Ohio Collie Rescue. I came across Sable completely by accident while surfing your website in early November last year. We had recently lost one of our dogs to a stroke and our remaining dog was very lonely. I had probably looked at a million dogs on line and Sable stood out to me. We didn't want another puppy, we had just done that. Sable was crate trained and house broken and just beautiful. Her story that I read on your website just broke my heart. She had been left tied to a tree while her owners moved away. Neighbors heard her barks and rescued her. We couldn't be any happier! Sable has adjusted wonderfully with our family. We have Izzy, our Rhodesian Ridgeback and Alley, our cat. We also have 3 children and 2 additional houses of families with whom we share a large piece of property. There is plenty of room to run and play and the dogs do. I've enclosed a picture of Sable making



herself comfortable on our bed. She has complete run of the house and knows it. I know that in the future we will look to a rescue first when we are looking to add to our family. Thank you again for everything.

— Mike, Tracey, Samantha, Melanie, Emma
Izzy, Sable, and Alley Farmer

From a letter to Gloria Bickley from Cassie's new owners...

We were very surprised to receive a letter last week from NE Ohio Collie Rescue returning our \$150 check for Cassie's adoption and also including their check to us for \$500 to offset some of Cassie's vet expenses. It was a very thoughtful



and generous gesture on their part, and I suspect that you may have put them up to it. Thank you.

But we are very fortunate to be able to afford the care

that Cassie needed and it was our privilege to be able to

provide it. Cassie is a wonderful, sweet girl and we are very lucky to have found her and make her part of our family.

So, we returned the checks to NEOCR, per the attached letter. They can certainly put the money to better use to support their great work.

As I have said so many times before, the foster families, such as yours, and the rescues do wonderful, selfless work on behalf of our animal friends in need, and we can't thank you enough for that.

My biggest problem with Cassie right now is that she apparently never learned how to play. So, when we get to Florida, we're going to work on that! She may even learn how to roll over. Every dog I have ever had I have taught to roll over.

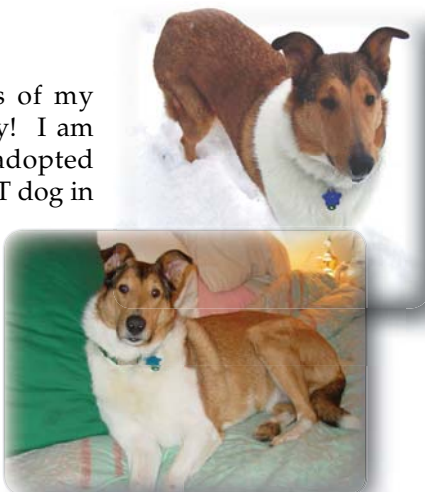
Take care. We'll keep in touch,

— Ken Kauffman

Polly

Here are some pics of my beautiful Snow Polly! I am so happy that she adopted me! Polly is the BEST dog in the world. Thanks to all of you again at NEOCR.

Regards,
— Debra Hughes &
Polly the Collie



Above: Georgia, adopted by Joan Greenburger, goes along to help her local scout troop!

At Left: Jackson with new owner Joanne Wischnewski.

A Tribute to Sassy

Collie Rescue people are indeed strange. They never stop looking for other Collies to adopt or foster. We found Sassy on another rescue organization's website. She was absolutely gorgeous according to her pictures. Even though we already had three other Collies and a miniature Schnauzer, the temptation to add her to our family was great.









Phyllis called and learned her sad story. She was her previous owner's from the time she was a pup. He loved her greatly, but, he was single when he got her, and in the course of time he acquired a wife who didn't really share his enthusiasm or his love for Sassy. Seemingly, she had her own dog and her own favorite. They had a child together and the baby began crawling. According to the wife, Sassy somehow "marked" the baby and she insisted that either Sassy goes or "the baby and I go". With great sadness, he took her to a local animal shelter. Fortunately, the person there was perceptive and knowledgeable. She informed the owner that if he told her that Sassy "bit" the baby the shelter was obligated to destroy the dog. She couldn't believe that Sassy bit the child or in any way attacked the baby. She suggested the local Collie Rescue as an alternative. They tell us he cried all the way from his house to the vehicle of the people from rescue. He kept inquiring as to how she was and where she was well after she was adopted.

Sassy was in another state when we reached the decision to add her to our "family." We met the rescue couple from there near the Ohio border and brought Sassy and her box of toys home to Aurora. Sweet, wonderful and pleasant, she fit in quickly. She was very loving and enjoyed company. We loved having her. After a couple of months, though, we learned why she was called Sassy. She became rather vocal and certainly let us know her feelings, wants and needs. As she got older, whenever Phyllis would call Joe from one end of the house, Sassy would join in to make sure he knew he was wanted. Arthritis slowed her down and getting up became difficult. Medicine eased the pain but not the stiffness and the weakness. Even so, we kept her going, picking her up when needed and helping her where she needed to be helped. Suddenly, she started having "accidents," and then for no apparent reason, she stopped eating. Ultimately, she was diagnosed with kidney disease, and she didn't respond to treatment. A few hours ago, before writing this, we had to make the decision that all animal lovers know is coming but never want to make.

We enjoyed and loved Sassy for over five years. She was about eleven when her time to cross the "Rainbow Bridge" came. We don't think a more loving or gentle animal could ever be found. She had wonderfully expressive eyes that winked and so often said, "I love you." Unlike our other collies, she never ran, but she walked with elegance and pride. It was if she was saying to the whole world, "I am a Queen." She always waited her turn for a treat and took it rather gently. She did not need her pills hidden in order to

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

-  **Meet your Best Friend at the Zoo**
Saturday, June 14, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Cleveland, Ohio
-  **NEOCR General Meeting**
Sunday, July 20, 2008 – 1:00-4:00 p.m.
The home of Joe & Phyllis Pepoy
500 Wheatfield Drive, Aurora, OH, 44202
Phone: 330-562-9407 or 440-248-9400
Email: jpepoy@adelphia.net
-  **Akron Aeros Pet Day**
Sponsored by The Humane Society of Greater Akron
Thursday, August 14, 2008 – 7:05 p.m.
Canal Park Stadium – Akron, OH
Aeros vs. Connecticut
-  **Sunnybank in the Summer #12**
The 18th Annual Gathering
"The Champions of Sunnybank"
August 16-17, 2008
Wayne, NJ
-  **Quailcrest Family of Friends Dog Walk**
Saturday, September 14, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Quailcrest Farm – Wooster, OH
-  **2008 NEOCR Annual Collie Reunion & Picnic**
Sunday, September 21, 2008
Hubbard Valley Park — Medina County, OH
-  **Doggie Doo Pooch Parade**
Saturday, September 20, 2008
Tappan Square — Oberlin, OH
-  **NEOCR Board Meeting**
October 18 or 19, 2008
Time & Location TBD

be medicated. She took them willingly. She loved children and wanted so much to play with them.

Yes, we have had to make this decision many times before. It never gets easier and folks involved with rescues probably have a harder time than most. The suffering of our pets becomes our suffering, if there is any reasonable hope, we will not let go. Realizing that there is nothing more we can do is always the hardest part of these decisions. Sleep in peace Sassy-girl. We love you and we will miss you. The hole you leave behind is too big to be filled.

— Joe and Phyllis Pepoy

Loss of an old friend – Jake & Mel Fox

I wanted to let you know that Troy passed away recently down here in Radford, Virginia, where we moved last August. He has had bad arthritis for a long time, and he seemed to have been in rapid decline for a month or two now. Something happened to him earlier the day he passed, and we're thinking the catalyst may have been a bad batch of raw food which had just arrived, since Pepper was also vomiting and sick that day.. She was healthy enough to fight off some food poison or something along those lines, but Troy was not. He probably died as a result of heart failure.

Jake did some Googling about his symptoms — edema, fluid-filled lungs, paralysis — which sounded consistent with heart failure. I think Pepper knew something was up — she had acted very strangely for the past couple of days. I thought you might like to know of his passing.



For those of you who knew him and who knew what great, gentle guy he was...we will miss him.

Allie's Happy Tail

Well, we just got through our third weekend with our Allie and "wow" she's already found a very special place in our hearts. I wanted to write you a quick little follow up to let know how we're all doing.

Allie's personality has come out so much more as she's gotten more and more comfortable. She's still so gentle, but she's sure a ham for attention and tummy rubs! Even though she's got two beds, she likes to sleep on her back propped up against the wall or



couch with her paws in the air—it's really funny. All of my neighbors love her, and she loves making new friends when we go to the park or for walks. We started an obedience class last week for the AKC "Good Canine Citizen" test. She's great on a leash but we're still practicing listening to the "Sit!" command outside with a bunch of distractions. I think she's doing great though, she's so smart! I spent last weekend working on our front flower beds, and Allie was supervising from the porch the whole time. At right is a photo my husband took.

We found a good vet, too, that impressed me with her knowledge when I asked her about collie's drug sensitivity (heartworm meds). Since we didn't have any records for her, we went ahead with vaccinations. I let the vet know that she may have had them all just recently at the pound/shelter, but she assured me that they were okay to give again if that was the case. She also said that she would have taken the floppy dew claw off at the same time she was spayed, but didn't recommend doing it by itself unless the claw catches on things etc. If we ever have to give her anesthesia for any other procedure in the future, we can re-evaluate then if we want to do that as well.

Thank you again for entrusting us with this beautiful girl. Feel free to check up on her anytime you like; I love having the chance to brag about her and show pictures. And if you ever need anything up here in the Detroit area, just let us know.

— Brandy, Jim & Allie Martin

MAJOR continued from page 2...

that's why I do it). The house, well, that involves the b-word, Barking. Mom doesn't get it; in order to be "The Big Brave Strong Man Dog," I have to bark. Everyday I chase that darn mailman away, but he just keeps coming back. Sometimes he brings re-enforcements, like the UPS guy. Now the UPS guy isn't so bad, cause he leaves boxes that usually are for the dog. Treats! Yes! The mailman though, he really needs to get a clue. Some of my other jobs... help mow the grass, help carry in groceries, help work in the flower garden, take mom for walks, the list goes on. As you can see, I'm a busy dog.

Mom's pretty cool. She goes outside in the rain with me, because I really hate the rain. Snow is great, but rain really bothers me, so she goes with me. I stopped biting her in the butt when she starts the lawn mower — that was a BIG Major Bad and another one of my "moments." I let her share my treats with Lucy and Tyler — they are neighbor dogs next

door to me. Mom says they don't have it as good as me, so I should share with them. She's right, so I'm cool with that.

All in all, I'm a pretty lucky dog and loving life. I have good food, lots of treats, lots of love from Mom, two cats to torment, and a nice warm bed to sleep in. Mom says it's her bed, but we all know who's bed it *really* is.

Before I go, I just want to say thanks to everyone that helped me find my mom. I remember a nice lady that bailed me out of jail and took me to her house. And another lady that took care of me when I had my heartworm shots. I never would have found my Mom if it wasn't for all of you, so thanks again.

Lots of Major Kisses from Major, The Dog

P.S. Mom says "Hi!" too.



NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue Inc.
PO Box 771098 • Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Phone • (216) 625-DOGS (3647) • www.neocr.org

Membership Renewal

If you have not been a member in the past, or have not renewed your membership in the last year and wish to do so, please fill out and return the form below with payment of \$20.00. Please make checks out to NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue. You may use a photocopy of the form if you prefer not to remove the page from the newsletter.

To obtain a one year Supporting Membership to NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, Inc. please fill in the information below and return the form along with a check for \$20.00 to the attention of our Membership Coordinator. Copies of the Constitution/By-Laws and Charter are available upon request. Thank you very much for your interest and support.

Name: _____ A.M. Phone: _____ ext. _____

Address: _____ P.M. Phone: _____ ext. _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Email address: _____

Whereas the undersigned individual(s) has agreed to volunteer his/her services or facilities to NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, Inc. Activities including, but are not limited to, fostering, grooming, evaluation, and transporting of dogs rescued by NEOCR Inc., public relations work at dog related events, telephone and clerical work, fundraising, and meetings of the organization.

Whereas the individual(s) acknowledges and understands that although NEOCR, Inc. makes every effort to screen out aggressive or dangerous dogs, the dogs involved in the rescue activities may be untrained, unhealthy, aggressive and unpredictable, and that NEOCR, Inc. makes no representations regarding the dog's health, temperament, or trainability.

I/We hereby agree that by executing this release the undersigned agrees to waive any and all claims for property damage or personal injury arising as a result of participation in the activities of NEOCR, Inc., and to hold harmless NEOCR, Inc., it's officers, directors, members, participants, volunteers and affiliates from any and all claims, suits, actions, damages, liabilities or costs, (including reasonable attorneys' fees) associated with or connected with the activities of NEOCR Inc.

Note: The above waiver conditions are optional, for people willing to act as volunteers, and are not conditions of membership.

Signature: _____ Date: _____


Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return to: **Membership Coordinator**
NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue Inc.
PO Box 771098
Lakewood, OH 44107



Or, you may bring the completed form along with payment to any NEOCR meeting.

NorthEast Ohio Collie Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 771098
Lakewood, Ohio 44107



NorthEast Ohio
Collie Rescue, Inc.



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