



NCR's Newsletter

Fall 2006

Our First Year...

By Andrea Moss, NCR President



Who would have ever thought I'd start a business where I'd hope to be put "out of business" as soon as possible? But the truth is my dream, and I'm sure every other rescuer's dream, is that there will no longer be a need for what we do. Sadly, and although there are many people working judiciously toward that end, I see us doing a booming business in rescue for the foreseeable future. As long as breeders are not very particular about where their puppies go, a certain percentage of them will inevitably end up in rescue ... or worse.

The good news is that many of these Collies who find themselves in the wrong homes for one reason or another, seem to be finding us with greater regularity! AND we are seeing far fewer turn up in shelters, and far more via owner surrender. Relinquishing owners are locating us on the internet and through other networking venues, and our wonderful adopters are finding us through these means as well. Our "business" has been an overwhelming success in that respect, this first year.

Visibility, Positive Reputation, Financial Stabil-

ity, and Professionalism are the cornerstones of my vision for NorCal. If we can continue in the future as we have in the past, in our mission to save every purebred Collie we know about, we're doing our job incredibly well. Whether by actually taking the dog into our system or by referral "match-making," we have not let a single Collie down. In fact, on page 5 are all but a few of the Collies we've helped place into homes during August 2005 through August 2006 .

Since we are a non-member, non-staffed, and no facility organization, we rely heavily on donations, on foster homes, and on our great and generous family of volunteers. I hope you will consider being a partner in our mission, by making a contribution to one of our funds within the enclosed envelope or better yet, by offering to be a foster home!



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Tray's Poem

One by one, they pass by my cage,
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way.
Way past his time, he can't run and play.
Then they shake their heads slowly and go on their way.
A little old man, arthritic and sore,
It seems I am not wanted anymore.

I once had a home, I once had a bed,
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.
Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail.
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?

My family decided I didn't belong,
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.
Whatever excuse they made in their head,
Can't justify how they left me for dead.
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,
The younger dogs get adopted away.

When I had almost come to the end of my rope,
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.
You saw thru the grey, and the legs bent with age,
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.

You took me home, gave me food and a bed,
And shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.
We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.

I may have lived most of my life with another,
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger.
And I promise to return all the love I can give,
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.

I may be with you for a week, or for years,
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.
And when the time comes that God deems I must leave,
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.

And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.
And I will brag to all who will hear,
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

By Leslie Whalen, Feb 2001



Collie Events at Willowside Ranch

Collie Playday and Artistry Weekend

The beautiful, 90-acre Willowside Ranch in Pescadero has hosted two wonderful events for Collies and their families in the last year.

Versatile Collie Playday

"The Amazing Versatile Collie Playday," held the weekend of October 15th, was attended by about 75 families with their Collies, many of whom were from rescue.

The weekend, planned and organized by Vicki Jones, featured obedience, health, conformation, and grooming seminars, followed by a rescue parade and barbeque dinner for all.

Collie rescue angel/vet tech/ AKC certified trainer Trish Wamsat offered the AKC "Canine Good Citizen" test to 14 collies (almost all of whom passed) and donated her proceeds to rescue. Linda Rorem offered herding instinct testing on sheep and ducks, and 9 Collies received AWCA HIC certificates. (See *Herding Test*, below)



Photo by Hal Feeney

Dr. Kelly Thompson from Adobe Animal Hospital offered chiropractic evaluations, and Janet Lawson, DVM, and her vet techs from Coastside Veterinary Clinic provided on-site consultations and assistance as needed.

The Collies enjoyed romps in the securely fenced fields of the Ranch (only a group of Collies will romp and play politely; Vicki claims no other breed fancy could dare to put so many of their breed in a pen without worrying about a single rude word or body slam in the lot).

Collie Artistry Weekend

The "Amazing Versatile Collie Playday" weekend was such a delightful success that Vicki organized the "Collie Family Artistry" weekend for May 20-21, 2006. The guest list expanded to include all members of the "Collie Family" — Rough-coated, Smooth, Bearded, and Border Collies; Shetland Sheepdogs; Australian Kelpies; and Australian and English Shepherds.

This celebration and activities included an art exhibition and contests with works by both professional and amateur "Collie



Family" painters, sculptors, photographers, and craftspeople and an AHBA-sanctioned herding trial (sheep, ducks, and geese).

All Collie Family non-profit rescue organizations in Northern California were invited and all of the guests were encouraged to exhibit materials, compete for prizes, and/or sell works of art at this event.

Karen Hudson of Family Tails Photography was there, taking formal studio portraits of many of the guests. Once again, Linda Rorem offered instinct testing and Dr. Thompson provided chiropractic evaluations. Trish Wamsat gave the AKC CGC tests —All the rough and smooth collies who took the test passed! They are:

La Diva Divina Fiona-Kitty Norwood; Fritz-Ariel Hughes; Rosslane The Rainbow-Daemeon and Billie Reiydelle; and Aki-Cristen Shinbashi

Well over 100 families attended the weekend despite the road closure on Highway One and no less than 15 competing functions (local art shows, agility, herding, and conformation trials) that weekend.

There have been lots of requests for more Collie Family weekends at Willowside Ranch. Willowside is willing; Vicki is recuperating...though she's talking about adding agility and tracking to the next one....

American Working Collie Association Herding Test

On October 15, several dogs passed the AWCA Herding Test (sponsored by Willowside Goose Wranglers). Linda Rorem was the tester, using sheep and ducks:

Barksdale Regimental Colors (Drummer)-Alan A. and Judith Cummings; Mickey-Michele Craig; Brenn & Boone-Charity Parsons; Sundance, Rusty and Tuffy-Fred J. Sylvester; Sam-Melissa & Ted Luebke; Jenny-Arla Van Lumburg and Richard Pickering; Cheyenne-Brian and Vickie Butscher; Afterhours McKinley Otrone (Laddie)-Karen, Jerry and Forest Benjamin; Baron-Vega C. Gerber

AHBA Herding Tests and Trials

On May 20, Linda Rorem judged the American Herding Breed Association's herding tests and on May 21 Terri Van Allen had the judging honors.

AHBA awards the titles HCT (Herding Capability Test) and

(Continued on page 7)

Veterinary Perspectives: The Itchy Collie

By Patricia Gilbert DVM, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Dermatology

Summer is a common time of year when itchy Collies need to visit their Vet. Owners usually report excessive scratching and biting. But Collies may also lick at themselves, rub against objects or roll on the carpet or grass. These behaviors frequently result in hair loss. Excessive licking also causes discoloration of the fur. A skin rash often develops with continued self-trauma. Collies also commonly develop "hot spots" — a large patch of chewed fur and skin resulting in a painful, oozy, bloody erosion.

There are many reasons why our Collies become itchy. A thorough history, physical exam and response to treatment can often lead to a likely diagnosis. Common diagnoses are:

Flea Allergies

Some collies develop an allergic reaction to the flea saliva injected with each bite. The flea-allergic Collie cannot tolerate even a small number of fleas. Suspect a flea allergy if your Collie primarily chews at rump, thighs and top of the tail base. "Hot spots" are frequently seen as well. Look for live fleas or flea dirt (tiny black specks of dried blood). Treatment requires thorough, regular environmental and topical flea control of all household dogs and cats. Frontline Plus and Advantage are very safe and effective products.

Inhalant Allergy

Atopy, or inhalant allergy, is a very common cause of itching in dogs, although the Collie is not a predisposed breed. Atopy results from sensitization to airborne substances such as house dust mites, mold spores and plant pollens. Affected dogs typically have itchy faces, ears, armpits and paws. Most are also flea allergic and have chronic ear infections. The time of year and duration of symptoms depends on what the dog is allergic to.

Testing can confirm the diagnosis of inhalant allergy, identify specific sensitivities and help formulate a vaccine for hypo sensitization. Other treatments consist of topical anti-itch sprays, fatty acids, antihistamines, and short courses of oral steroids. Long acting steroid injections are not recommended.

Food Allergy

An allergy or intolerance to food may cause itching or gastrointestinal signs or both. One study found Collies to be predisposed. The itching is year-round as long as the offending food is eaten. Diagnosis may require a 4-8 week strict elimination diet trial. The dog needs to be fed a food which shares *no* ingredients of the previous diet. Luckily, there are many novel protein diets on the market which are venison, rabbit, duck,

fish and even kangaroo based. Some dogs require home cooked food to recover. Once the Collie responds to the diet change, individual proteins may be added to the base diet to discover which foods need to be avoided.

Sarcoptic Mange

Sarcoptic mange ("scabies") is caused by a microscopic, parasitic skin mite, which causes intense itching of the ear margins, elbows and underside of the chest. The mite is difficult to find on skin scrapings. Suspect scabies when multiple family dogs are itchy. *Sarcoptic mange is contagious* — owners may have a rash and itching on their waist area. All contact dogs must be treated. Treatment with lime sulfur or Amitraz dip is safe. However, treatment is difficult in the Rough Collie so shaving is recommended. Ivermectin or Interceptor can be used in the non-herding breeds and individual collies free of the MDR1 mutation.

Skin Infection

A final common cause of itching in Collies is a skin infection. This is usually due to Staph bacteria or yeasts which are normal inhabitants of the skin. An infection is frequently seen secondary to any of the above diseases. The Collie is also predisposed to primary Staph infections which may reflect an underlying immune deficiency. Lesions are small, red bumps that get crusty or pustules that rupture leaving circular areas with a rim of adherent scale. The most common sites are the armpit, chest and groin. Diagnosis is made by sampling lesions and finding bacteria or yeasts using a microscope. Treatment consists of medicated baths, a systemic antibiotic/antifungal and, if secondary, elimination of the primary factors.

Since cool water is anti-itch and dry skin contributes to itching, a collie with mild itching, of undetermined cause, may respond to regular bathing in cool water using a hypoallergenic or oatmeal-based shampoo followed by a moisturizing rinse.

Dr. Gilbert obtained her DVM degree from UC Davis in 1984, and is Board Certified in Dermatology. She has worked as a Dermatologist in a multidoc-tor specialty clinic and in her own solo practice. Dr Gilbert has been a Collie lover since a child, having grown up watching

Lassie in movies and on TV. She shares her home with her 3 yr old tri Krista, 2 housecats and 2 parakeets.



Assisting Senior Collies

Two Funds to Help

Older collies come to us for many reasons. Some have elderly owners who must relinquish them -- in some cases, the dog's owner has died. Other senior collies are abandoned in shelters when their medical needs become too burdensome for their owners.

Most senior dogs relinquished to shelters face certain euthanasia.

NCR has established two programs to help senior collies.

- For elderly collies that clearly have time left, the "Angel Fund" helps pay their bills until homes are found for them.
- For seniors who are, for various reasons, not adoptable, a foster home through **The Senior Sanctuary** provides care and love during their final days.

The Angel Fund

Adoption fees rarely cover the expenses we incur for older and medically challenged collies. For elderly collies that are still enjoying life, the "Angel Fund" helps pay their bills until homes are found for them.



Angel herself came to collie rescue from a shelter. At a likely 11

Count the love, not the years.

years old, her chances of getting adopted were remote...but once you met her, well, let's just say that two volunteers independently came up with the name "Angel" for her.

Like Angel, many elderly collies clearly have some time left. Yes, they are old and creaky, but they are not sick or suffering. These seniors still have time to bask in the sun, lie in front of the fire, join their Humans on daily walks,

and enjoy pets, scratches, cuddles — and dinner!

Your contribution to The Angel Fund helps defray the care and medical costs of these older dogs — which means you'll help keep their adoption cost reasonable enough to enable an older collie to be adopted into a loving family.

Senior Sanctuary

The Senior Sanctuary Program is similar to hospice. The dogs in this program have typically less than 6 months of quality life left.

NCR provides financial support to foster homes for palliative care — that is, medical support to increase their comfort and quality of life but not to "cure" them of their ailments. NCR can also provide supplies such as dog dishes, pooper scoopers, and dog food, if needed.

How to Contribute...

Your tax-deductible contributions can be paid via PayPal at the NorCal Collie Rescue website under the "How To Donate" section at:

<http://www.calcollierescue.org>, or you can send checks to:

**NorCal Collie Rescue
PMB #126
1520 E. Covell Blvd. B5
Davis, CA 95616**

- Make your check payable to "Nor Cal Collie Rescue"
- On your check's memo line, enter any specific fund to which you want your contribution to go, such as **Angel Fund, Senior Sanctuary, or Eddy Fund.**



For an update on the Girlfriend Fund and the Yolo Collies, go to:
<http://www.theroadhome-dogs.org>



The Eddy Fund provides funds for veterinary care of young collies born with afflictions that reduce their quality of life but that can be helped with veterinary intervention.

The Eddy Fund was started by Andrea Moss, in honor of Eddy, her collie puppy, purchased from a breeder. He was born with many defects, including severe orthopedic problems that threatened to cripple him at a young age.

Eddy received several surgeries to fix his defective legs and he was finally able to run free like a normal dog.

Eddy died unexpectedly one bright sunny day, while sleeping peacefully at Andrea's side. He found a way to speak to Andrea from The Other Side, and was touched that she so chose to honor him in this way.

Owners with collies like Eddy can apply to the Eddy Fund for help with veterinary care to relieve the suffering of their collies.

Eligibility for the Eddy Fund:

- Your dog is a purebred collie
- Your collie has a genetic defect that causes suffering but can be helped with veterinary intervention
- You live in northern California and adjacent Nevada and Oregon
- Preference will be given to rescued collies, but other collies will be helped if funds are available.

The Face of Collie Rescue

NCR'S first year: Lovely dogs into loving homes — dogs we've helped



Photos not available for
 Laddie, Rajah & Spirit

Rainbow Bridge Rescue Collies... Forever here in our hearts...



Ask the Behaviorist

By Cathy Toft

One of the most frustrating things facing dog owners is *sensitivity to sounds*.

At the most extreme, the dog panics, pants, claws, quakes, and tries to hide in dark places, but no place ever seems safe enough. Many other collies seem startled by sharp sounds, including the sound of a clicker, which discourages owners from using that method to train them.

Lady's Story

One of my collies had the extreme form of sound sensitivity. Fourth of July was a nightmare, and each year got worse. Fireworks were "over the top" for her but any sharp sound could set off her panic attacks. After a panic attack subsided, it still took hours for her to recover, often sinking her into a deep depression for hours afterward. We tried everything to help her, but nothing worked well.

Some Medications Can Backfire

We used acepromazine on one 4th of July, only later to discover that Lady was mutant/mutant for the drug sensitivity gene, which includes an inability to tolerate normal doses of that drug. Her state of mind on the 4th of July was bordering on insanity. I tried to crate her, but she actually bent the wires of the crate door with her toenails, if you can imagine that, and another time she bit off the leg of a free-standing sink in the laundry room, breaking off a tooth in the process. There was no consoling her and almost nothing we could do to protect her from hearing the sounds of the fireworks.

That kind of extreme sound sensitivity seems to be caused by a biochemical defect in the brain, one for which the mechanism is still unknown, but it seems to have a genetic basis. Puppies can show this sound sensitivity as soon as they are evaluated and no amount of socialization will help them.

Relief with Melatonin

For my dog Lady, and many others, we found some relief, at long last, by giving them a dose of melatonin every three hours during the period of noises.

Although Lady still panicked at the sound of the noise itself, as soon as the noise stopped, she was normal again. Before melatonin, Lady would take hours and even a day or two to recover from each 4th of July. So melatonin was a godsend. You simply use the over-the-counter type, one pill

administered every three hours as needed. Melatonin is very safe and there are no known toxic effects.

Desensitization For Milder Cases

Other dogs are startled by sharp noises, but not at such a pathological level. For those dogs, simple socialization and desensitization can help, using counter-conditioning methods (pair the noise with a great reward).

As a clicker trainer, I've encountered a number of collies startled by a clicker to the degree that they cannot eat when they hear the sound, I assume because it

frightens them. (Lady, by the way, adored clicker training and had no problem whatsoever with that sound.)

When a dog is frightened by a clicker or other sound, they can get over this fear quickly if you cause the sound to happen each time you feed them their regular meal—a huge jackpot! Usually within a week, even the most fearful dog becomes excited and eager when they hear that sound.

Sound-sensitivity can cause dogs to panic, injure themselves, and remain upset for hours after noise abates.



Cathy figured out that collies were her perfect breed



when she and her Mom read the Hart's book, "How to pick the perfect puppy." They got their collies from rescue. Cathy devotes herself to collie rescue, getting as many collies as possible out of harm's way. She has 4 collies of her own, 2 of them rescued. Cathy trains dogs and teaches dog agility classes, and

has been a professor at UC Davis for 30 years, teaching ecology to students at all levels. To read more about Cathy's philosophy on dog training, go to this link on our website: <http://r-plusdogtraining.info/>

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CCRC vs. NCR

By Andrea Moss

Once upon a time... four people (Jeri and Roger Wilson, Cathy Toft, and Jean Roberts) decided to pool their efforts and form a board creating a coalition of rescuers. The name of that new corporation was the **California Collie Rescue Coalition**. CCRC was extremely successful in rescuing and re-homing Collies, but was not without its blips and burps in its seamless-seeming evolution. We had many casualties along the way, as rescue work can become an all-consuming wrecker of marriages and other relationships. It is a passionate commitment in which we struggle to maintain the vestiges of normalcy in our lives. That being said, Area Coordinators who came and went during the formation process included: Don Stair, Joanne Hawkins, Charity Parsons, and Vicki Jones. (All of whom continue to contribute to rescue as dedicated volunteers.) Eventually Karen Boselly became an additional Board Member and Area Coordinator and I became heavily involved as the unofficial "Adoption Coordinator." Because of the vast area CCRC covered and the enormous time involved in running a large corporate effort, Jeri (Sec-Treasurer) and Roger (CEO), after two years, decided they would prefer to limit their rescue efforts to the Fresno area, where they lived.

"CCRC or NCR, what's the difference? It's all Collie Rescue, right?"

Cast of Characters

Cathy, Jean, and Karen resigned from CCRC, and joined me in forming **NorCal Collie Rescue**, a public benefit non-profit corporation, so we could continue rescuing collies in our respective areas. NCR was born in August 2005 and filed papers for tax exempt status in November. We took with us our personal network of volunteers and adopters, website, and heartwarming Collie stories, but none of the funds we had raised. Those funds would continue to help Collies through Jeri and Roger at CCRC, and as NCR, we started from scratch.

Status of 501c3

Although we have received our nod from the state, we *continue to wait (grrrrr)* for our ruling from the IRS for our 501c3. What once took only 60 days, because of Hurricane Katrina and all the charities springing up for disaster relief, now has been over 9 months! When our ruling does come in, it will be retroactive to our date of incorporation.

Jean's Departure from NCR

In June 2006 Jean and Jeri (longtime friends and relatives) decided to give it another shot working together. So Jean resigned as Vice President and Area Coordinator from NorCal in July 2006, joining Jeri at CCRC, which is already a 501c3.

Why Make a Distinction?

Because this *is* pretty confusing and we do need to make a distinction, I felt that it was important to write this article. I've had many people say, "CCRC or NCR, what's the difference? It's all Collie Rescue, right?" The answer is, "Well, only sort of!" While we all work together for the joint purpose of rescuing collies, we are separate and distinct organizations with all the legal and tax ramifications associated with that fact. We hope that volunteers will feel comfortable in continuing to work

with whichever one of us calls and has an immediate need. But the paperwork will of course be different and we must be absolutely clear to shelters and other rescue organizations *who* we are representing when we conduct corporate business.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions and can be reached at: andrea@calcollierescue.org.

(Continued from page 2)

JHD (Junior Herding Dog). The **d** or **s** refer to what the dog herded: ducks or sheep. These collies earned legs toward AHBA herding degrees:

- Canterbury Coquette Camille (Vicki Jones owner, Linda Rorem handler) — JHD-s 2nd leg, HTD Ducks Level 1
- Bentley (Arla Van Limburg & Dick Pickering)— HCT-s
- Peter Rabbit (Andrea Moss) — HCT-d

Artist Award

The Best Photograph at Artistry Day was taken by Camille



Wills of Great Falls, Montana and submitted by Andrea Moss. It was taken in Montana in 2002 after 181 Collies were confiscated from their owner in an animal cruelty case now known as the "Montana Collie Rescue." The \$100 prize was donated to AWCA's Merlin Fund, for working so hard to save our Montana Collies.

No Name Newsletter!

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Name the Newsletter!

Email your ideas for the name of this Newsletter to editor@calcollierescue.org!

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We're on the Web at
<http://www.calcollierescue.org>

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Collie Spotlight: "Chase"

By Karen Boselly

This young guy ended up at a shelter — shaved due to a skin infection and with staples holding together a 4" laceration across his face. One of his canine teeth had died from the same trauma that cut his face wide open. He was trembling with fear, hiding as best he could in a fetal position. I'd promised my husband I'd take a break from fostering Collies. But my husband came home that evening and said "So where is the new dog?" He knows me well enough to know that I would not be capable of returning home without this dog once I saw his great need for help!

Barely a year old, Chase was the sad product of being in the wrong hands since he was 2 months old.

But just look at Chase now! His face is healing and his hair is growing in. The trembling has been replaced with playing with his pal Duncan (another rescued collie). And, boy, does Chase love to run and to explore the woods at his cabin in Tahoe!

After four months of abundant TLC, Chase is a completely changed dog, making up for his lost puppyhood in a big and wonderful way. He is fortunate to have been rescued and placed into a "Disneyland for dogs" home.

He has his own window seat, a huge yard at home, children and other dog buddies to play with and a Mom and Dad who love him dearly.

Chase now looks forward to the future he deserves—thanks to his new family and to Nor Cal Collie Rescue.

