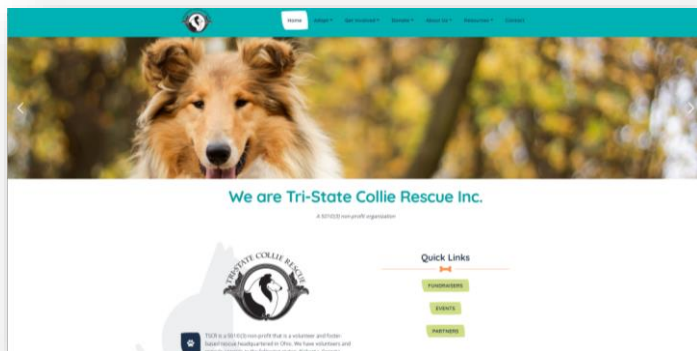


COLLIE ADVOCATE



Year End 2020

TSCR WEBSITE GETS NEW LOOK!



After months of planning and preparation, we are excited to debut our new TSCR website. Partnering with Sitka Creations, we have revamped and refreshed the website to grow with our organization.

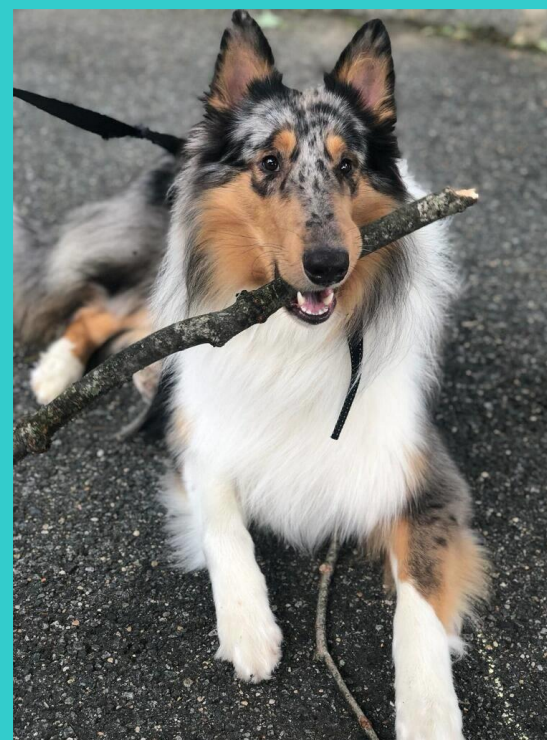
The new website features:

- A fresh design using our signature colors
- Streamlined navigation to help users reach desired content quickly
- Updated content to reflect our mission and services
- New forms and processes to aid with response and tracking
- A store front for fundraising and other monetary transactions

The new site will go live this month. And we will continue to work with Sitka on updates, newsletters, and online promotions to make sure this online tool generates interest and engagement for TSCR.

Year End Stats:

- **631 Applications**
- **118 Intakes**
- **108 Adoptions**
- **18 Dogs Currently in System**



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- *ProHeart Safety Concerns*
- *When One Chapter Ends*

Training:

Anything is Pawsible!

By Marianne Litzenberger

The Right training will give a puppy, or any dog at any age, the foundation, security, and confidence it needs to become a joy and a pleasure in your home. Positive reinforcement training will build a close bond between you and your dog. Whereas negative corrections, or no training at all, will corrode any relationship between yourself and your K-9 companion. The following story is a real TSCR adoption situation that centers around this subject.

Case in point: Jeff and Sandy were well prepared to bring their new family member home. As caring, dedicated, and experienced collie owners they were more than ready to bring little 9-week-old Buddy Home. At 3.5 months, Little Buddy was larger, pushing boundaries and displaying some concerning behaviors including biting and overly aggressive play. They reached out to their TSCR interviewer who was ready to put them in touch with help.



TSCR has enjoyed a 3-year relationship with a great trainer, Sherri Taylor. Jeff and Sandy said, "Since we talked with Sherri and took her advice, Buddy's behavior changed almost immediately. We also bought the book Sherri recommended, *"Purely Positive Training"*.

That one hour we spent on the phone with Sherri has been so helpful, and Buddy is already a different puppy! We appreciate everything everyone from the TSCR has done, and appreciate the fast response to any concerns, and problems we have had."

We give our dogs love, food, shelter, and medical care. Do we not owe it to them to provide the kind hand to guide and educate them? Training or lack thereof is usually the missing link in the lives of many dogs that end up alone in back yards, on chains or find themselves in the local shelter. TSCR supports our collies and adopters not only through the adoption process but also throughout the collie's lifetime.

If ever there is a concern or issue, we would love to help! We are a full-service rescue that does not stop with appropriate placement, we want the lifetime with your TSCR Alumni to be fantastic.

How to Choose a Trainer

By Sherri Taylor

It takes nothing more than a placard or a business card to call yourself a dog trainer. Unfortunately, there is no certification or license, or experience required to hold classes or take in dogs for boarding and training, so you must be careful. The typical answer given by a "Trainer" without a true foundation is "I have been training dogs my whole life". I have yet seen a baby born with a leash in their hand. The training must start somewhere. Perhaps it began by taking obedience training classes with a pet. Often it grows from there into a passion. It is a plus when a trainer has competed in dog obedience trials. I have read articles that insist that a person should not start training professionally until they have earned a utility title. I tend to agree with the statement for the following reasons:

How to Choose a Trainer, continued:

1. It takes years to obtain this title. You will learn so much about dogs and behavioral challenges during that time.
2. During the time you are competing, you learn so much about troubleshooting. Troubleshooting helps you address issues as they come along. It helps you look through the eyes of the dog to understand the root of the problem.
3. By the time you have completed a utility title, you will have trained with many people and learned that there are as many training methods as there are dogs.
4. Most people that have completed a utility title have attended many kinds of seminars and advanced classes.



Sherri's dogs at work

In addition to completing a utility title, the trainer should have experience teaching people. Many people understand a concept, but not everyone knows how to explain it.

Ask the trainer if you may audit a class so that you can decide if it is the right class for you and your dog. If the trainer will not allow it, find a different trainer. Not only do you want to watch how the trainer interacts with the dog/ handler teams, but you also want to observe the students to see if the trainer's instructions are easy to follow. It is much easier to watch than it is to comprehend with a wild dog on the end of the leash. The trainer should be able to get the class under control quickly. That comes with much experience. There is much more I could say but this is a good start. Stay away from the franchise trainers. Be wary of someone that charges an exorbitant amount of money. There is a skill that is needed in being an effective dog trainer, but honestly, it is not rocket science. And finally, look for a trainer that is absolutely passionate about dog behavior and training. Dog Training is not just a job, it is a love for animals and behavior that you were able to turn into a job.



Buddy's Story

Making a difference through fostering

By Claire Smrekar, TSCR Volunteer (Nashville, TN)

I was fortunate to have the time, opportunity, and resources to take a step forward in my commitment to animal rescue recently after TSCR contacted me regarding a collie who had been shot in the face: could I foster this (now), blind collie boy, until he could be adopted? Though caring for Buddy has been somewhat challenging -- emotionally and physically -- fostering this sweet collie has been extremely rewarding and restorative. I am immensely grateful that I could care for him and support his recovery and adoption. I would (*and will*) foster again and am eager to share the reasons why I and others embrace this level of care and commitment to collies and support this organization in the broader mission of rescue.

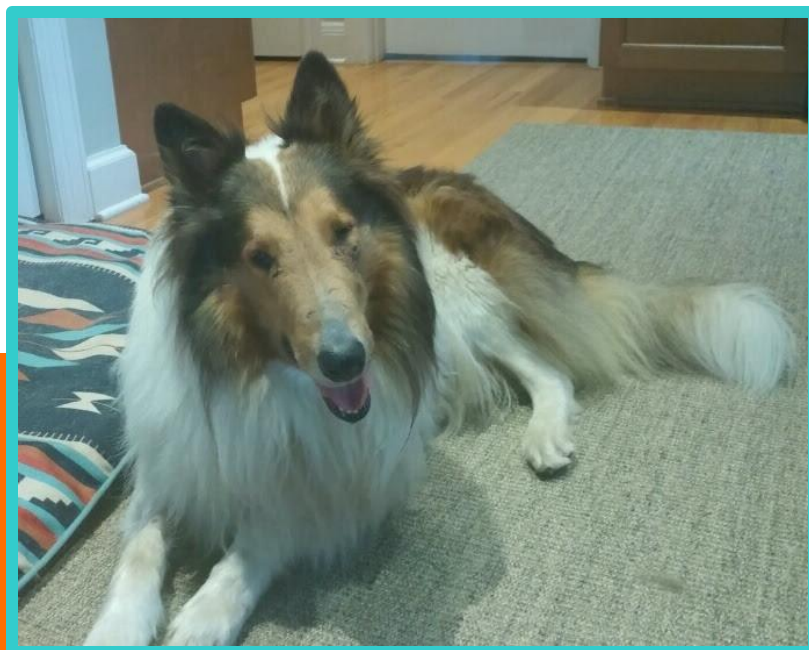
Buddy's blindness was never a problem -- apparently not for him and certainly not for me. I watched him recover from the trauma and the physical impact over the course of *less than a week* after arriving here. He seemed to move on with eagerness and a sense of adaptability. Buddy showed me his eagerness to walk around the block or a stroll in the backyard from the start, always tethered to me on a long leash, tail wagging. His keen senses kicked in to compensate for his new blindness. I was careful to be his eyes when necessary -- avoiding a tree trunk or prickly shrubs --but otherwise, Buddy adapted quickly to his new world and new surroundings with competence and confidence -- enjoying our family's kitchen "chatter," the company of my other collie boys, the tap-tap sounds of my computer keyboard, and the voices of TV news anchors. I learned that Buddy just needed some verbal cues, then he could figure out where I was and where *he should go*, straight away. He gained the capacity to "see" with his sharpened sense of smell, hearing, and feeling. He learned the floor plan of our home and made the adjustments to avoid bumps and barriers.

A typical collie, Buddy is immensely loving and super affectionate. Buddy showed *me* that despite whatever he endured physically and medically over the past 6 weeks, he was ready to enjoy interacting with new people and well-mannered dogs. With a notable degree of trust, patience, and tolerance, he seemed eager to share his new lease on life. His signals included tail wagging and walk-trotting, "leaning-in" against my legs, and cuddling when he was patted on his head or back end. Oh, eating has never been an issue for Buddy; he has an excellent and *reliable* appetite (and who does not love a few canned food meatballs atop kibble?).

Buddy exemplifies what we all love about the intelligent, handsome, eager-to-please collies that we rescue and rehome. I will hold dear my memories of Buddy's sweet disposition, companionship, and most excellent house manners. I have shed plenty of tears since he left for his new home. That is okay. His resilience, patience, loving and affectionate way -- a lesson for all. And I am comforted knowing that he will be loved and cared for in his new forever home in all the ways he richly deserves.

This experience underscores the role, return, and rich potential of making a difference in dogs' lives. You bet I would foster again. I am honored to be part of TSCR and to join all the other volunteers who stand ready to coordinate, collaborate, donate, transport, and commit to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of collies across our region.

Fostering is challenging, yes, but it is far more rewarding. So, thank you TSCR for providing this opportunity and supporting me all the way through it. Most of all, thank you, Buddy, for teaching me so many good things about the love and unbreakable bonds between people and dogs.



ProHeart Manufacturer

Notes & Safety Concerns

By Dr. Stephanie Hickey, Edited by Dawn Forsythe

Tri-State Collie Rescue is often asked for recommendations on vaccines and other preventative medications. We cannot provide medical advice, of course, but we can guide you to advice from veterinarians and drug manufacturers. Attention to possible adverse effects is especially important when we rescue dogs that come in without sufficient medical history or with health problems.

Recently, we have received questions about ProHeart 6 and ProHeart 12, injectable heartworm preventatives that last six months and twelve months, respectively.

Manufacturer's warning

ProHeart's manufacturer, Zoetis Petcare, prominently displays IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION [zoetispetcare.com] on their website (emphasis added):

"Use PROHEART 6 in dogs 6 months of age or older and PROHEART 12 in dogs 12 months of age or older. **Do not administer to dogs that are sick, debilitated, underweight, have a history of weight loss, or to those previously found to be hypersensitive to the drug.** Hypersensitivity reactions may occur in some dogs when PROHEART is administered alone or with vaccines. **Anaphylactic and anaphylactoid reactions can result in death** and should be treated immediately with the same measures used to treat hypersensitivity reactions to vaccines and other injectable products. Reported side effects in clinical trials included vomiting, lethargy, diarrhea, anorexia, and hypersensitivity reactions. People should avoid inhalation, contact with eyes, or accidental self-injection. Certification is required before veterinarians and staff administer these products. See full Prescribing Information for ProHeart 6 and ProHeart 12."

Perfectly healthy dogs that do not have any hypersensitivity (including allergies or autoimmunity) may be good candidates for ProHeart. According to Dr. Stephanie Hickey, with Admiral Veterinary Hospital in Tennessee, "we are seeing higher compliance in the veterinary field as a whole, since people who forget to give heartworm prevention or struggle to afford more expensive heartworm medication are having their dogs protected by using ProHeart."

"In rural Mississippi, for instance, heartworm disease (which can be fatal) is being drastically reduced since the launch of ProHeart 12," Dr. Hickey points out. "People tend to only go to the vet once a year -- if at all -- in lower-income or rural areas and this helps those dogs who would otherwise get no treatment."

Dr. Hickey also puts up some warning flags, however.

"ProHeart should not be used in dogs with a history of seizures, allergic reactions, vaccine reactions, atopy, food allergies or sensitivity to moxidectin [the active ingredient in ProHeart]," she says. "Dogs with known skin sensitivities should proceed with caution. Additionally, dogs allergic to insect bites, fleas, etc., should also use caution."

Dogs with MDR mutation

One of the major drug issues for collies, shelties, and other herding breeds is learning to identify drugs that may be dangerous to dogs with the MDR1 mutation. ProHeart's active ingredient is moxidectin, which the Washington State University Veterinary Clinic [vcpl.vetmed.wsu.edu] classifies as one of

the “drugs that have been documented to cause problems in dogs with the MDR1 mutation.”

Dr. Hickey explains that a study was done on ivermectin-sensitive collies with MDR1, at higher doses of moxidectin, and none had a reaction. She points out, however, that the study only included 15 collies.

“While the study was done on MDR1 collies, it is reasonable to assume that an MDR1 collie is at higher risk of reaction rate given that they can be moxidectin-sensitive,” Hickey says. “While not every collie would be affected, the one that IS may have a more serious reaction given the propensity for drug sensitivity. Chances of having a bad reaction are less if your collie is MDR1-negative.”

Some final advice from Dr. Hickey

“While the use of ProHeart can be a great convenience in the prevention of heartworm disease, we must use good judgment when it comes to our collies. There are slightly safer products on the market for the prevention of heartworm disease -- however, every known product available for collies has at some point caused a reaction, so no heartworm prevention product is 100% safe. Heartworm disease is a serious business, so we can be thankful that those reactions are rare.”

When One Chapter Ends...

By Destin Jenkins

Growing up, we always had a Collie around. My Dad has loved the breed ever since he was a young boy working on his Daddy’s farm with his Collie sidekick. When he and my Mom got married, their first “baby” was a collie, and their second. When us human kiddos finally came around, my Daddy instilled his love for the breed into us.



When I moved off to college, my heart longed to have a collie by my side each night – but I knew the tiny apartments and busy college scene was no home for one. Last year I turned 23 and decided it was time to purchase my first “home”. I had dreams of a cozy little place with a big yard that I could fill with as many furry friends as my heart desired. I saved and saved, and in October I finally closed on my home. The search for a home was over, and the search for my new best friend could finally begin! I have always been a strong advocate for rescuing vs. buying from a breeder, so I began researching Collie rescues around me.

Lonnie’s Adoptive Family

I was quickly disappointed as I began realizing that most rescues required a fenced in yard. Since I had just poured all of my savings into a down payment for my house, I would not be able to afford to fence mine in just yet. When I found out that TSCR would allow me to adopt without a fence, I immediately filled out an application! I had my phone screening and within a few weeks a home visit, and soon after that – I got the call that I had been matched with a dog in Indianapolis named Liam.

I could not meet him fast enough. I made arrangements with his foster mom and finally the day came. On November 21st, 2019, I packed up my car and headed north. The second I saw him I knew it was meant to be. We filled out our paperwork and began our journey back home! “Liam” is now Zero (named after the dog on Nightmare Before Christmas) and is truly my best bud. Every day I am reminded how lucky I am that our paths crossed and that TSCR brought him into my life.

It is that love & appreciation that pushed me to apply to be a volunteer. TSCR filled a place in my heart that had been empty for so long and I wanted to give back in whatever way that I could. When asked if I would foster, I immediately said yes! Another quick process, and soon enough I was a foster mom to "Lonnie."



I was initially extremely nervous... what if I get too attached and cannot let him go? I think it helped knowing he already had an adoptive family lined up and that I was just to be a steppingstone on his way to them. (also, my boyfriend said I would not be able to do it, so I HAD to prove him wrong - HA!)

My week with Lonnie went as fast as it came! I would be lying if I said I did not get attached to him or that it was not bittersweet sending him off that Saturday morning. I grew to love Lonnie during our short week together, but I always knew that he was not mine to keep. I think that keeping that in the back of my mind really helped ease the "goodbye" portion of fostering him.

The part that I initially dreaded so much, ended up being one of my favorite parts of the

journey. I got to witness Lonnie's new parents' eyes light up as they met him. It was a familiar light, the same one that was in mine when I met Zero for the first time. As they drove off with Lonnie, I smiled to myself knowing that while my chapter with him had closed, he was getting a chance to begin a whole new story, with his two new best friends - and I was certain that this story would have a happy ending.



Destin's rendition of Lonnie