

COLLIE ADVOCATE



SPRING 2021

Bulletin Board

NOTICES FROM THE BOARD!



The waiting list has dramatically decreased over the last 3 months. However, we are still looking at preapproved applicants as new dogs become available and may be a perfect match.



The format for biographies has changed and been added to the Volunteer FB page. Fosters should complete within the first week of having their new foster and update weekly thereafter.



The updated expense reports have been added to the Volunteer FB page. Please utilize and send to Sharon to expedite reimbursement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Collie Gathering at Sunnybank would be a dream for any collie lover. Sponsored by Collie Health Foundation and the Terhune Memorial group, it is an event held every August in Wayne, New Jersey at the historic homestead of Albert Terhune (author of Lad a Dog) and his many collies. Last year, due to Covid, it had to be cancelled. This year plans are to hold the event as usual on the weekend of August 21st and 22nd. More detailed information will be included in the next newsletter. Mark your calendars now! Any questions? contact me at mbaumgardt@att.net.

First Quarter Stats:

Adoption applications:	91	Dogs in System:	29
Intakes:	32	Pending:	15
Adoptions:	20	Available:	12
		Forever Fostered:	2

In This Issue:



TSCR BULLETIN

Important news for you



Upcoming Events



First Quarter Stats



Coming to America

From China with love.



The Life of Kenny

A journey of a hard to rehabilitate dog.



Fostering Seniors

When being old is wonderful!



Canine Good Citizen

What it takes



What it Means to Rescue

A note for fosters and adopters

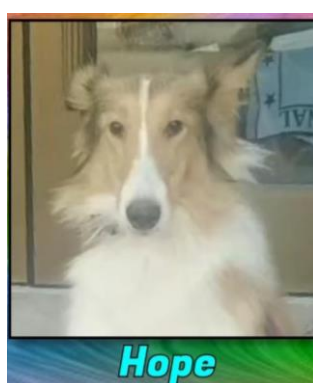
Coming to America – The Collie Edition by Kim Adkins and Denise Rutherford

Many of you read the story of 3 collies rescued from Chinese wet markets back in February. **TSCR** had a definite attachment to these dogs, and had agreed to take them when they arrived at JFK. As fate would have it, the only freedom flight they could take was to the West Coast and all involved felt it was in the dog's best interest for them to go to a local collie group rather than travel across country. Each dog is currently living his/her best life in either foster care or in their adoptive homes. There are 4 more collies in need and **TSCR** stands ready to accept them as soon as their flight to the US can be secured. It certainly takes an army of devoted individuals to help these poor souls. Starting with the benefactor who has chosen this faction of rescue as her passion and life's mission, it is a massive labor of love from the Rescue organizations who obtain the dogs, house and provide vet care in China; the transporters both in China and the US; administrative folks who coordinate the trip; the Rescues in the US who step forward to provide loving foster homes, that make this all happen.

Plush Bear Shelter, a non-profit organization located in Baicheng, Northern China, is where the story of this quartet begins. They have acquired, housed and tended to the health of these dogs over the past year, caring for one through distemper (he is now a happy healthy boy). *Plush Bear* works with *Nana's Haven*, another non-profit rescue based in China, who will conduct the 800-mile trip to the Beijing airport, from where the dogs will fly to the United States. Ground transporters state side will then get the dogs to **TSCR** where they will receive further medical attention, evaluations, fostering, and prepare for their furever homes. Plans are underway and the collie quartet will be taking the long 13-plus-hour flight to the United States very soon.

It seems very simplistic when you jot it down in a paragraph, but in reality, it has taken many players working in tandem for months to plan this great adventure. In addition to the manpower involved, each pup needs quarantine, a health certificate, crate, flight, and funding, none of which could be done without the donations and caring heart of Diane Palumbo and her great "*Lad White Rose Collie Fund*." We are furever in Diane's debt.

There will be those who ask why this amount of work would go into saving animals from other countries when there are collies in need right here? Diane, through "*Lad White Rose*", has provided and continues to support collie rescue to keep these regal creatures out of harm's way and get them into loving homes. In this case, they are being saved from being butchered for human consumption so they can go on and have wonderful lives with fantastic forever families. Seven collies out of China may not mean much to the world, but it certainly means the world to these collies! Stay tuned as we will keep everyone informed on their progress.



The Life of Kenny the Collie by Pam Demko

🐾 Kenny is a collie mix that **TSCR** rescued in October 2020. He came from a multidog home where the dogs lived in a barn and were not indoor family members experiencing all of the love and socialization he deserved. He then came to **TSCR** for his vet work and to find a foster that could unwind the neglect of his past. A foster for Kenny would be difficult although he was interested in humans and their kind words, but had no trust level and certainly didn't want to be handled. His eyes said it all. He had not felt the kindness of human touch, he had only been part of a "pack" and it was not going to be easy for someone to initially earn his trust and then secondly show him a wonderful and better way of life. Fostering a dog like Kenny is not like fostering or training many of the dogs in our program and is akin to trying to work with a feral.

🐾 Most rescue dogs have some basic training behind them such as, walking on leash, housetraining, basic commands, but not Kenny. Kenny had many hang ups that needed to be addressed first. See, in Kenny's mind, the world was dangerous, threatening, and scary. In order to get Kenny to a more normal life, one must first understand what is going on in Kenny's brain. I ask myself many questions for a dog with his background. I started with these as I sat by his cage and looked at this broken dog.

- What was it that made you this way?
- Have you ever trusted anyone?
- What will it take or what can I do for you to trust me?
- How are you feeling now in this environment that you are now in?
- Will you allow me to touch you?
- Can you understand that I am trying to understand you?
- Why do you cower when I try to pet your head? Were you hit? Please allow me to pet you oh so softly.
- I'm sitting 5 ft away from you now. Will you let me move closer?

🐾 These are just some of the things I had on my mind that would help me understand him. Understanding is the first step in getting through to a dog of any breed. Slow patient movements are key to gaining a dog's trust. Being patient is another quality that is a must. Hurrying a broken dog will only make them sink into a deeper state of mind that they may not come back from. After gaining his trust we started working with him on a lead because without that it is hard to get anywhere. Taking away the choice to run removes much of the stress in a dog like Kenny. We then placed him on a long tie-out to spend safe time in the yard together. With this method he knew that getting away would not work. He would back away from us as far as he could. There were many days of just sitting in a chair outside, with him and our other dogs, just taking in the sun. I would love on my dogs as they came to me for pets. Kenny saw this and would associate this behavior as non-threatening. I would also just sit in his very large cage to get through to him that I was not a threat.

🐾 From the safety of his cage, he watched as I gathered my dogs for treats. I would offer treats to Kenny as well. He would not take from my hand. I would drop a treat in front of him, and as his eyes warily watched me, he would snatch it. This became our daily drill and eventually Kenny started to accept treats from my hands.

🐾 We continued to work on Kenny's trust by walking inside a small enclosure and about the house. With dogs such as Kenny, not looking or even acknowledging that they are there is a must for their mental state of mind. We would walk by his cage or when he was not in his cage, with no recognition that he was even there. In time, Kenny would follow me into another room. Again, I did not acknowledge he was there. Eventually he would start coming around with tail wagging when my dogs would come to me for attention. He would be behind all of them, and I would slowly move my hand forward so I could rub him under his chin. With this method, Kenny was beginning to trust.

🐾 For better socialization, we would go to pet stores and Home Depot to work on lead and walking by people. On lead he did very well. Understandably, walking by strangers was a threat to him. We would ask the associates to stand in one spot as I continually walked back and forth with confidence and some "good boys" as we were performing this exercise. With each pass I would move closer to the associates with Kenny walking easily by. We got within 2 ft of the associates with Kenny just walking by my side. After almost 6 months, we believed Kenny was adoptable to the "right" adopter with the understanding what it would take to give Kenny that happy life we all strive for with our foster dogs. We did find an adopter who was willing to come to our home repeatedly to understand Kenny, and allowed Kenny to realize that these people were friends. We then took Kenny to the adopter's house 1 week later to finalize the adoption.

🐾 Kenny and many dogs like him not only need time, patience and love. They need understanding. Once a foster truly understands the dog and what his mental state of mind is, then the real work can begin. Kenny is now in a home with people that not only love him, but understand his needs and have the patience to allow Kenny to flourish and become the dog Kenny was always meant to become.

Kenny shortly after intake



Kenny with 6 months of love



Kenny starting his best life!



Fostering Senior Dogs

🐾 His pedigree name was Ridgewood. It was 2003, and he was our 35th foster dog for Indiana Sheltie Rescue. The first time I saw him, I sobbed. I had been pulling dogs from shelters and taking in owner surrenders for more than three years, and had seen some shelties in very sad states, but nothing prepared me for this poor little guy.

🐾 He had lived his whole life (estimated 12 years) as a stud dog in a cage. He was a bi-black and must have been a gorgeous dog when young. But now the pads of his feet were swollen and cracked from chemical burns. His urine was bright red with blood. His teeth were loose and literally hanging out of his mouth. There was no light in his eyes. The only thing the shelter he was dumped at had done was shave him to remove his matted coat (never shave a sheltie!)

🐾 When I took him to my gentle, wonderful veterinarian, he said, “Cynthia, maybe we should let this one go.” But after his urinary infection was cleared up and his dental was completed (leaving him with only one very proud and very stubborn lower canine) he came home with me and was christened Dugan, the name I had reserved for my first male sheltie after all the females we had had.

🐾 When Doogie felt better physically, he became a puppy. Having never been able to run around or play with toys or go outside, he was thrilled with every new adventure. We called him “counterclockwise Dugan,” because his years of cage dwelling made him spin in endless circles when he was excited. His coat grew out thick and beautiful, but with that “cotton candy” texture that shaved shelties get.

🐾 When we were gone, he loved to decorate the house with toilet paper, strung right from the roll, and one of his more successful attempts went through a hallway and three rooms and took almost a whole roll! He loved to herd the ducks that landed in our yard, but he was scared to death of bumblebees. If one got near him, he would run away fast. His favorite toy was “Mr. Orangeball,” a basketball-sized tennis ball that he would chase all over the house and yard.

🐾 We had him two and a half years before lymphoma, despite weeks of chemotherapy, took him from us on June 6, 2006, D-Day.

🐾 The time with Dugan changed my life, and from then on I wanted to specialize in fostering the seniors that would probably never be adopted, knowing they would live out their lives in our home. Sarah Sue, PawPaw, Carson, Toni Pierre, Kayla, Chester, ... and then I became involved with Tri State Collie Rescue, and got sweet old Betty White.

🐾 She was turned in to a kill shelter by the family that had owned her for all her twelve years of life, probably because she was incontinent. But one simple daily pill fixed that fast, and she became a perfect house dog who loved us as much as we loved her. So gentle, so sweet, and gone after only 18 months. But what a wonderful experience to let her live the last of her life in a loving home.

And now comes another little old man, Scottie, left by his family at a shelter because they were tired of him. At age 12, he will in all probability live out his life, the couple of years he has left, with us. And that's fine with me.

🐾 When I took Dugan in for euthanasia, and was so heartbroken because he'd been with us such a short time after such a terrible life, my vet said a wonderful thing: “Yes, but you gave him the dessert, and everybody knows dessert is the best part of the meal.”

🐾 Won't you consider opening your home to a senior in need of a soft place to be for the dessert of his or her life? It will be a blessing, not only for the dog, but for you also.

I promise.

Cynthia Fett

DUGAN



BETTY



SCOTTY



The Canine Good Citizen program

Wendy Cridlebaugh, who is an AKC certified Canine Good Citizen evaluator and trainer. Wendy is a steadfast volunteer at TSCR. Her wisdom and knowledge of dog behavior and training is beyond reproach. Wendy started training dogs at the young age of 10, when her family acquired a young female collie. Wendy took to her immediately and started to train her in basic obedience. Sadly, after only a year and a half, SHY suddenly passed away. Because of her close relationship with SHY, Wendy's family was soon able to take ownership of SHY's mother and full brother. Wendy continued in her love of training and obedience, and has continued ever since. Wendy became acquainted with **TSCR** when a seizure of a dogs (over 100) brought 20 collies into the rescue. **TSCR** put out a red alert for help in fostering these poor dogs, and Wendy answered the call, taking on the behavioral challenges with which these dogs presented. Because of this call to arms, Wendy re-kindled her love of the breed. She dedicated herself to taking online courses to expand her knowledge to help all dogs. She became certified through the AKC as an instructor in their then fledgling Canine Good Citizen courses that train dogs in 10 specific points of obedience. While the Canine Good Citizen training is only available to AKC registered dogs, the AKC has a shadow program called *PAL* that is open to all dogs. *PAL* and CGC both have the same goals. Teaching your dog to be polite and respectful.

AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZENSM (CGC) The AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program

The CGC Program teaches good manners to dogs and responsible dog ownership to their owners. The 10-step Canine Good Citizen test is a non-competitive test for all dogs, including purebreds and mixed breeds. The CGC award is a prerequisite for many therapy dog groups. Some homeowner's insurance companies are encouraging CGC testing, and an increasing number of apartments and condos require that resident dogs pass the CGC test.

Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger.

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler.

Test 2: Sitting politely for petting.

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to pet it while it is out with its handler.

Test 3: Appearance and grooming.

The dog will permit someone to check its ears and front feet, as a groomer or veterinarian would do.

Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)

Following the evaluator's instructions, the dog will walk on a loose lead (with the handler/owner).

Test 5: Walking through a crowd

This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.

The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three).

Test 6: Sit and down on command and Staying in place

The dog must do sit AND down on command, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay.

Test 7: Coming when called

This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler (from 10 feet on a leash).

Test 8: Reaction to another dog

This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries.

Test 9: Reaction to distraction

The evaluator will select and present two distractions such as dropping a chair, etc.

Test 10: Supervised separation

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person. The evaluator will hold the dog's leash while the owner goes out of sight for three minutes.

For Canine Good Citizen details, go to www.akc.org Type "CGC" in the search box

WHAT IT MEANS TO RESCUE

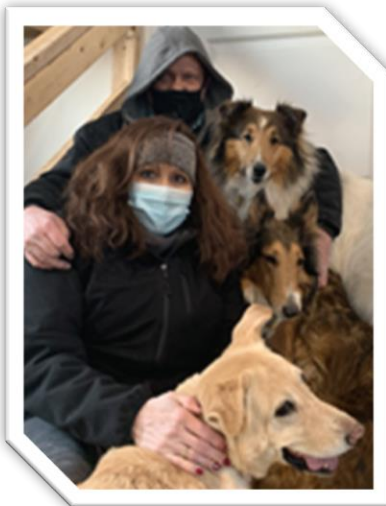
🐾 We often hear the words, “I don’t want to go to a breeder. I want to rescue a collie.” So, what exactly does it mean to rescue one?

🐾 While we do bring in a handful of well-adjusted, well-trained, super sweet collies who have been lovingly turned over to our rescue by families who sadly find themselves in a position of needing to rehome their dog, this is not the norm. Most of the dogs brought into rescue are dogs in serious need of help, whether it be medical, behavioral, or both. It may be a one or two-year-old, untrained “wild child” who needs to learn household manners, leash-walking, or even safe meet and greets with other people and dogs. Or a senior who needs a safe and loving home to live out its remaining days. It could also be one who has been living outside, chained to a tree, confined to a crate, or crammed into a small, filthy space with so many dogs it is impossible to stand on its own four paws.

It is these types of dogs that truly need us – the fosters and adopters.

🐾 As a foster, it is our job to help prepare a dog for its “moving on” day. First and foremost, it is important to remember that it is not our dog. Things we might let our own dogs do (for example, offer food at the dinner table) we cannot let a foster do as its adopter may not enjoy dogs salivating at the table in anticipation of a nice, juicy piece of steak. Preventing unwanted behaviors is of the utmost importance. This means always having eyes on the dog (or placed somewhere safe such as a crate or gated in a safe area when our eyes cannot be on it). Whether it is in our home or its adoptive home, basic household manners are important to learn and we, as fosters, need to begin the training process. Adopters must continue it.

Recently adopted Kaitlin (in middle) is getting to know her new pack.



Newly adopted dogs must be given ample time to adjust to being part of the pack. Whether the “pack” is just humans, or it includes other animals in the household. Adopters must realize that changes to the pack structure do not happen overnight. Patience and understanding make for a happy adoptee.

🐾 It is important for adopters to know that it can take at least three days for a dog to decompress after being brought into its brand-new environment. Unfamiliar sights, sounds and smells all take an adjustment period. Then at least another three weeks for the dog to acclimate to its new environment and learn the ropes -- where and when the food bowl goes down; where and when it is time to go outside; how to communicate that it needs to go outside to do its business; and so much more, not the least of which is the building of trust. If a dog hasn’t known love and hasn’t had many positive experiences with humans, it can take a lot longer to build a relationship with the dog.

🐾 It is unrealistic to think that a dog is going to arrive at your home, whether it be a foster or adopter home, perfectly behaved and ready to fit into your family routine like a piece of a puzzle. It takes both time and patience, along with a heavy dose of confidence building using positive reinforcement with things such as treats, praise, pats, and anything else you learn along the way that the dog enjoys.

Do all of the dogs transform into what people often imagine when they think of a collie – sweet, affectionate, sociable, good with children, cats, and other dogs? Not necessarily. But that doesn’t mean they don’t deserve unconditional love in a safe home with someone to care for them and accept them for who they are and where they are in terms of their rehabilitation. It isn’t what the collie can do for its adoptive family; rather it is what the adoptive family can do for the collie. This is what rescuing a dog truly means.

Robin Grasso