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HAPPY HOLIDAYS EDITION

We can all admit that 2021 has been a wild and crazy year! The covid subsided, but now has returned. The world seems to be topsy-turvy with international and national tragedies. I am certain we have all experienced personal heartbreaks and losses. But through it all, Tri-State Collie Rescue has remained steadfast in its ongoing mission to rescue and adopt into new lives the wonderful breed we all love, The Collie. This year alone, we have taken in 115 dogs in need of our help. Throughout this year, using monies given to us through gracious donations, our selfless volunteers have made arrangements, pulled, transported and fostered these dogs, not one of these collies could have been given the life it deserved without this rescue chain. If you were any part of this chain, know that each dog that you helped is now living its best life through your kind efforts. Tri-State and these sentient beings are forever grateful to you. Please enjoy the collage of photographs for each collie that has come through Tri-State in 2021. We tried to include a photo of each and every one, and please pardon us if your foster/new companion did not get included!

THEN

Follow us as we feature as very special story

by Jon Andres about the journey of a

superlative rescue named Lad .

Class of 2021

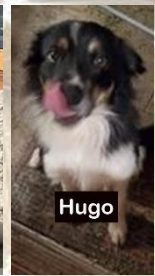




Henry



Honey



Hugo



Hunter



Ivy



Jace



Jaime



Jillian



Jinger



Joey



June



Kane



Kate



Kaitlyn



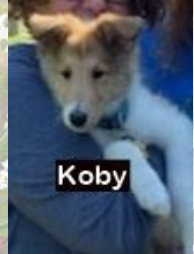
Kenna



Kenny



Kipper



Koby



Lacy



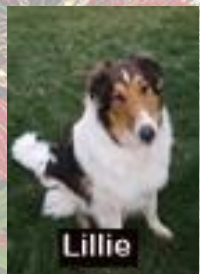
Lad



Leah



Liberty



Lillie



Louie



MacyGrey



Marty



Miles & Fletcher



Millie



MissCookie



Nikki



Nova



Ollie



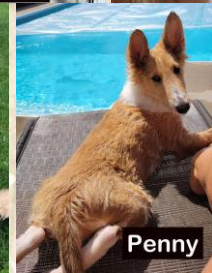
Oreo



Parker



Pasiley



Penny



Peyton



Polly



Prince



Punkers&Nonnie



The Five



Ranger



Raven



Roxy



Rudy



Rusty



Samantha



Sawyer



Scout



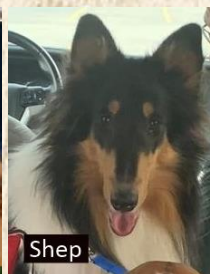
Sheena



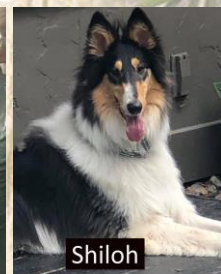
Shamus



Shelly&Maddie



Shep



Shiloh



Sissy & Eva



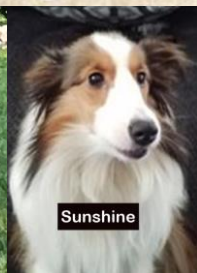
Smokey



Spencer



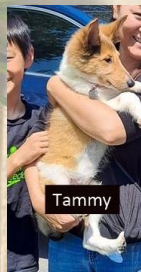
Stuey



Sunshine



Tamah



Tammy



Ted



Trapper



Travis



Wylie



Yoda



Yogi



Zander



Zoey

Congratulations to all and to all a wonderful life!

Lad: From Rescue to Wellness Ambassador

It is Friday morning. We are met at the entrance to the Atlantic General Hospital Burbage Cancer Center by “Pastor Gail,” the hospital Chaplain. Chaplain Gail serves as our guide accompanying us on our visit. As we enter the cancer center, Lad begins to greet the people in the waiting area. Our procedure is to ask each patient, caregiver, or associate if they would like to have a visit from Lad. If the response is positive, then Lad will move as close as possible to the person. Some are family and friends, while others are waiting for their turn for chemotherapy or radiation. With each encounter, the people run their hands through Lad’s merle colored, rough coat fur and reminisce about watching Lassie on television or knowing a collie from their past lives.

We enter the chemotherapy treatment area. The medical staff welcome Lad’s visit. Eight patients are sitting in reclining chairs with intravenous lines attached to their arms. A caregiver and nurse are sitting with each patient. Lad approaches each patient and stands next to their chair, allowing them to gently pet and finger brush his fur and scratch his ears. As the patients break into smiles, the conversation begins about Lad. How old is he? Does he shed? How often do you have to brush him? Does he go to a groomer? What training did you go through? Is this an unusual coat color for a collie? Was Lad always this calm? After the questions, the stories begin about a collie that they have known, or the books once read about collies written by Terhune or reminiscing about a time a collie was a part of their lives or watching the Lassie show on television. As Lad, Chaplain Gail, and I leave the patient treatment area, I smile as I hear the conversation about collies continue between them because I know Lad has created a respite from cancer among the patients and their caregivers. We exit the cancer center and make our way to the main hospital building.

We travel across campus from the cancer center to the main hospital. Our routine is to visit as many medical staff and patients as possible. We enter the hospital to the central waiting area which is hectic with people and medical staff traveling through the main hospital corridor. In this area of the hospital, numerous people and caregivers are waiting for outpatient procedures. Lad pauses at each patient, caregiver or medical staff, whose hand reaches out to stroke his fur and scratch his ears. As we gradually make our way down the long hallway to patient rooms, we are stopped by the medical personnel who know Lad by name and look forward to his visits. When we stop at a patients’ room, some readily want a visit from Lad, while others prefer privacy. If a patient wants a visit from Lad, Lad moves as close as he can to the bed so that the patient can caress Lad and run their hands through his long fur. The questions sparked in the cancer center are the same pondered here. These conversations are both enriching and stress relieving. A few patients always ask Lad to jump into bed with them but that is not allowed. The caregivers, if present, enjoy this visit from Lad as much as the patient. On one occasion, we find a teenager who has had an emergency appendectomy and is surrounded by family members. The patient smiles and warmly greets Lad. While the patient pets Lad, we chat about future university studies. The next patient is transitioning to hospice care. While the family is filling-out paperwork, the patient strokes Lads head, and we chat about our favorite dog moments. Through all of Lad’s visits with patients, he enables a moment in time when thoughts and conversations shift from the treatment of a physical ailment to those that cause an uplifting in the human spirit.

After visiting the patient ward, Lad, Chaplain Gail, and I travel to the Emergency Department (ED). The ED is an intense area of the hospital. Ambulances are arriving with patients. Medical staff scurrying to and fro. Yet, as we enter the ED and Lad walks through the medical staff station greeting each team member, the air seems to calm and relax for a brief respite as they stop to greet Lad. The charge nurse informs us that a four-year-old child is in treatment room ‘C.’ The child fell, causing a laceration of the forehead with no major trauma, but it will require stitches. Lad and I move to room ‘C.’ The curtain to the room is pulled closed. Lad lays down on the floor outside the curtain. We can hear the child screaming and crying. Parents and staff are trying to calm the child. As the medical team exits, the curtain is pulled back. The child with a bandage on her forehead sees Lad, the crying stops, and the child leaps down from the treatment table and runs to Lad. The child sits next to Lad and cuddles him. Lad looks up and their eyes meet, and the tear-stained eyes brighten with joy, the pain and fear forgotten. Lad poses with the now beaming child for a photo from the thankful parents.

On this day, we visited over 50 patients and family members and over 75 medical staff and associates. It is this beautiful dog, Lad, which has brought so much joy to the lives of others. Our journey from rescued dog to hospital wellness ambassador took time, training, patience, and love. And it all began when Lad was surrendered to TSCR in the fall of 2014. His early history is not known, only that Lad was kept outside in a kennel. Lad was truly fortunate to be fostered by Ms. Maryfrances! To quote, Ms. Maryfrances “When he first arrived, he was a mess!” Lad required treatment for mange and heartworm, and he weighed 56 pounds with muscle loss. Through the love and support of Ms. Maryfrances, Lad began to learn house manners, walk on a lead, and receive treatment for his physical ailments. Over, a three-month period, his foster family helped Lad regain his health by transporting him to numerous veterinarian visits, dispensing needed medication, and helping him learn to transition from a kennel dog to become a human companion.

Working with the placement volunteer at TSCR, we completed and submitted an adopting application in the fall of 2014. We were searching for a Collie with a great personality to become a therapy dog. We requested a rough coat sable female. We had several telephone conversations with the placement volunteer who was actively helping us find the right dog.

Finally, the placement volunteer shared with me that she had found a dog with a great personality, but he was a blue merle and I needed to have a conversation with the foster family because they wanted to make sure that Lad would have the perfect placement. In an hour-long telephone conversation, Ms. Maryfrances and I shared information about my experience owning and understanding collies, our purpose in adopting Lad, and living situation for Lad. At the conclusion of our conversation, we decided that Lad would be the perfect dog to transition to become a therapy dog. So, on one of the coldest days in February 2015, we traveled 10 hours by car from Maryland to Ohio to pick-up Lad. After chatting and completing paperwork, Lad jumped into our car, and we began the “journey” of our lives together. During the entire drive back to Maryland, Lad laid on a dog bed in the back of the car. I genuinely believe he sensed that life was going to be good. When we stopped for gas at a convenience store, I took Lad for a walk and several children exited and asked to pet Lad. Lad stood patiently while each child petted and asked me questions. Watching this interaction, and the calm, kind way Lad permitted the children to fawn over him, I knew that Lad was the right dog for our family and was perfect to fill the mission of therapy dog extraordinaire.

Arriving home in Maryland, Lad and I began our dog classes and training. We started with basic obedience, learning to walk on a lead, listen to commands, and off-lead recall. We graduated to advanced obedience, working on off-lead activities. Confident in our new learnings, we enrolled in the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) courses. We passed on our first attempt! And Lad was now an AKC CGC. We applied and were accepted to become a Certified Therapy Dog through the Delmarva Pets on Wheels program. To strengthen our connection, Lad and I enrolled in dog agility courses. Over a period of two years, we completed four agility classes. Our intent was not to compete but to continue to provide an exercise outlet and strengthen our bond. Through our various classes, we learned about each other, and built a trusting, supportive, and caring relationship. Through the Delmarva Pets on Wheels program, Lad visits elementary schools as a part of the “Tales for Tails” program and children read to him. Lad lays on the classroom floor and a child picks a book and reads the book to Lad. Lad is not limited to elementary children, at Salisbury University, Lad is a fixture on campus. His soft fur and calm demeanor helps to anchor students during finals week. Lad attends many other special community events, such as a Read at the Museum Day. And of course, Lad has become a great friend and playmate for our grandsons, ages 5 and 1.

Wherever we go, Lad is a people magnet. It is not only his physical beauty that attracts people, but it is his noble, calm demeanor that beckons admiration. Some people recognize Lad from an Atlantic General Hospital commercial, or the news special feature on TV. (<https://www.wboc.com/clip/13643876/berlin-therapy-dog-helps-patients-heal>) Children want to pet him, and adults want to know all about him. Lad has aged with grace and is now 11 years old. Although he has a cataract in his right eye and moves much more slowly, when I get his lead and the car keys, Lad is still ready to go! His spirit to help others has never diminished. We have adjusted his diet to provide supplements to support muscle and joints. I continue to brush his teeth after every meal and provide daily coat care. And he remains steadfast in gracing our lives with joy and love.

Lad’s journey from rescue to Wellness Ambassador was made possible by the volunteers of TSCR. Through the dedication of the TSCR volunteers, Lad has been able to touch so many lives. From people dealing with a cancer diagnosis to hospital patients striving to get better to medical staff coping with the stress of the profession to elementary children learning to read to university students preparing for final exams, Lad has touched so many lives. Our community and our family are eternally grateful to TSCR for saving and placing Lad in our forever home! *Jon Andres, Author*

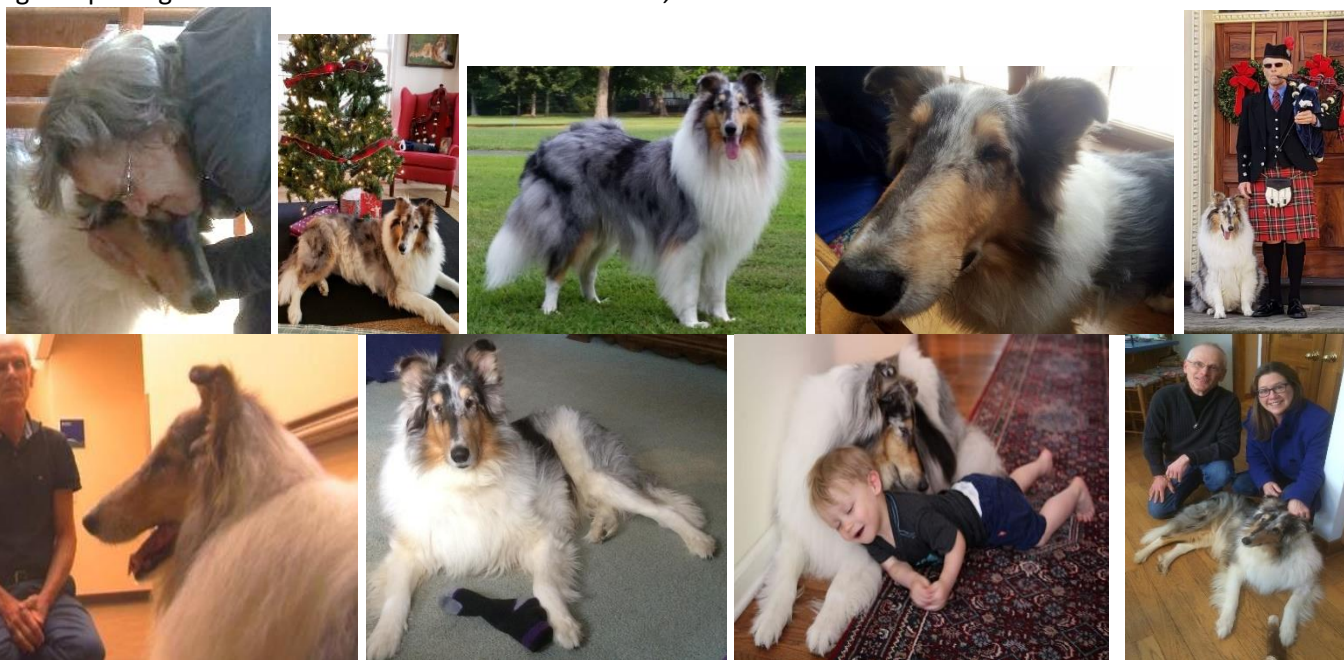


Photo credits: Maryfrances Kirsh and Jon Andres