COLLIE ADVOCATE

THE TSCR NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

Jill Fredricksons'TSCR alumni, Maggie, aboard the family boat, *The SS Colliewood*. As you can see, Maggie, (as well as her two other TSCR siblings), loved to go out on the water. What a wonderful way to spend a day!

MDRI STATUS ***explained***. Every Collie that comes through TriState Collie Rescue is tested for the gene anomaly that causes drug sensitivity. Nearly 70% of all Collies are afflicted. Below is the explanation of what that test revealed about your dog. You will find the test results in your adoption package. Please present this information to your veterinary so it can be included in your Collies' health record.

A is Clear/Normal Clear/Normal (CLEAR/NORMAL): These dogs have two copies of the normal gene and will not develop multidrug sensitivity.

B is Carrier/Not Affected Carrier/Affected (CARRIER/AFFECTED): These dogs have one copy of the normal gene, and one copy of the mutation associated with this disease. They can react to certain drugs at higher doses.

C is At Risk/Affected At Risk/Affected (AT RISK/AFFECTED): These dogs have two copies of the mutation associated with this disease which results in sensitivity to a number of drugs including Ivermectin.

Year to date statistics and comparison to last year:
Total Adoptions for May 2025.....10
2025 Total Adoptions Jan through May...50
2024 Total Adoptions Jan through May...72

INTAKES FOR May 2025...11
2025 Total Intakes Jan through May...49
2024 Total Intakes Jan through May ...81

3 Heartworm Positive Dogs for January through May 2025
13 Lyme Positive Dogs for January through May 2025

The best advice is to keep your dog home! Safe, secure, and cool.


Asphalt burned paws

If you *must* be out in the heat, be prepared! Know the symptoms of heat stroke/ heat exhaustion BEFORE it strikes!!

~ Take a cooler packed with ice and water.

~Have a soaking wet washcloth in a zip lock bag in the cooler.

~Locate a shady spot before your activity and retreat to it with your dog if things get too hot.

***What to do if you dog overheats*:**

~ Get to a shady or cool place immediately!

~Offer your dog water that is tepid at first, then follow with chilled water.

~If your dog refuses to drink, use the washcloth you have in your ice cooler to moisten their mouth and gums.

~Take ice cubes and put them on your dog's paw pads. Most ice cubes can be tucked between the pads. If you cannot do this, dip paws in ice water to help cool your dog quickly.

~ If your dog is still panting heavily and has a bright red tongue and gums, take dog to water spigot and place dog under it. Let water flow over dog's chest to help cool quickly.

~ If you succeed in cooling your dog, a trip to the closest vet is needed. Your dog will likely need extra supportive care, IV fluids and a wellness check!

Your Dog is not a Fish and other Reasons Not to Use a Retractable (Reel) Leash

A retractable leash is not so much a leash as it is a length of thin cord wound around a spring-loaded device housed inside a plastic handle. The handles of most retractable leashes are designed to fit comfortably in a human hand. A button on the handle controls how much of the cord is extended. Retractable leashes are popular primarily because they aren't as confining as regular leashes, allowing dogs more freedom to sniff and poke around on walks. But unfortunately, there are many downsides to this type of leash.

1: The length of retractable leashes, some of which can extend up to 26 feet, allows dogs to get far enough away from their humans that a situation can quickly turn dangerous. A dog on a retractable leash is often able to run into the middle of the street, for example, or make uninvited contact with other dogs or people.

2: In the above scenario, or one in which an aggressive dog is approaching your pet, it is nearly impossible to get control of the situation if the need arises. It's much easier to regain control of – or protect -- a dog at the end of a six-foot standard flat leash than it is if he's 20 or so feet away at the end of what amounts to a thin string.

3: The thin cord of a retractable leash can break – especially when a powerful dog is on the other end of it. If a strong, good-sized dog takes off at full speed, the cord can snap. Not only can that put the dog and whatever he may be chasing in danger, but also the cord can snap back and injure the human at the other end.

4: If a dog walker gets tangled up in the cord of a retractable leash or grabs it in an attempt to reel in their dog, it can result in burns, cuts, and even amputation. In addition, many people have been pulled right off their feet by a dog that reaches the end of the leash and keeps going. This can result in bruises, "road rash," broken bones, and worse.

5: Dogs have also received terrible injuries as a result of the sudden jerk on their neck that occurs when they run out the leash, including neck wounds, lacerated trachea, and injuries to the spine.

6: Retractable leashes allow dogs more freedom to pull at the end of them, which can look like aggression to another dog who may decide to "fight back."

7: The handles of retractable leashes are bulky and can be easily pulled out of human hands, resulting in a runaway dog.

8: Along those same lines, many dogs – especially fearful ones – are terrorized by the sound of a dropped retractable leash handle and may take off running, which is dangerous enough. To make matters worse, the object of the poor dog's fear is then "chasing" her, and if the leash is retracting as she runs, the handle is gaining ground on her – she can't escape it. Even if this scenario ultimately ends without physical harm to the dog (or anyone else), it can create lingering fear in the dog not only of leashes, but also of being walked.

9: Retractable leashes, like most retractable devices, tend to malfunction over time, either refusing to extend, refusing to retract, or unspooling at will.

10: Retractable leashes are an especially bad idea for dogs that haven't been trained to walk politely on a regular leash. By their very nature, retractable train dogs to pull while on leash, because they learn that pulling extends the lead.

Believe in Me!

A story of dedication, love, and blind faith.

By Nancy Compton

Dahlia relaxing in her new home

We were apprehensive about adopting a blind and deaf dog. The initial thought was intimidating due to the unknown. We have always had dogs but never a dog with these types of challenges. After we decided to go through with adoption we met up with her foster mom to make the transfer. We drove from Cincinnati to Nashville to make the exchange. Fortunately, Dahlia was being fostered by a wonderful woman Cindy who loved Dahlia. She gave us some cues that she had taught Dahlia along with words of encouragement. The 5-hour trip back home was uneventful, and Dahlia laid calmly in the back seat with Nancy on the way home. Once we got home, we introduced her to Sally our 8-year-old English cream golden rescue. At first Sally was not really that interested in Dahlia but after a few days they were wrestling and getting along great. The first order of business after getting her home was taking her into the backyard to go potty. Fortunately, we had a ramp from our porch to the backyard since Dahlia is not keen on stairs. We had built the ramp for our collie rescue Louie (aka Tank) who had trouble with steps in his final year. We had to add a railing and some lattice to the deck to prevent Dahlia from going under the porch and potentially getting stuck. Using a leash, we were able to walk Dahlia through the porch, down the ramp and into the yard to do her business. We developed a cue (gently twist to her left ear) to let her know it was time to go in the backyard. We walked her around the backyard to show her the different texture cues like mulch around trees and bushes, the paver sidewalk and fence line. She quickly learned how to find the ramp on her own after being out in the yard.

We have a doggie door from our porch to access the backyard. Our goal was to teach Dahlia how to use it so she could go out on her own just like Sally. Initially she learned how to come in from the yard to the porch using the doggie door but would not go out. After several more days she figured it out and now she goes in and out with no problem. The one thing we have not been able to teach her is to go out the front door when we go for a walk. As soon as you open the front door she locks up and won't budge so we have to take her out the back through the porch and around the front to go for walks. Fortunately, she comes in the front door when we return home but still needs to work on going out.

We can't imagine our life without her now. It has been amazing to watch her adapt to our home and become part of our family. We are looking forward to many years with our sweet Dahlia.

Understanding Dahila and why she was born deaf and blind. Dahila is considered a double dilute Rough Collie, also known as a double merle. She is a dog that inherited two copies of the merle gene, one from each parent. This genetic combination often leads to a predominantly white coat with patches of color and can be associated with hearing and vision impairments. Here's a more detailed explanation:

- Merle Gene:

The merle gene is responsible for the mottled or patchy coat patterns seen in many dog breeds, including Rough Collies.

- Double Dilute/Double Merle:

When a dog inherits the merle gene from both parents, it's called a double dilute or double merle.

- Coat Color:

Double merles often have a predominantly white coat with patches of color, which can vary in size and distribution.

- Health Concerns:

Double merles are prone to various degrees of hearing and vision loss due to the impact of the merle gene on melanocytes, which are cells responsible for pigmentation in the inner ear and choroid of the eye.

- Breeding Practices:

Breeding two merle dogs together is generally discouraged by ethical breeders, as it increases the risk of producing double merle offspring.

- Not All White Collies are Double Merle:

It's important to note that not all white Rough Collies are double merles. Some white Collies are simply a variation of other color patterns, such as sable, tri-color, or blue merle.

- Distinguishing Double Merle from Other White Collies:

Determining whether a white Rough Collie is a double merle can be challenging. Sophisticated DNA testing can help clarify the dog's genetic makeup, and a veterinary ophthalmologist can assess potential eye problems.

We at TSCR are proud of being able to provide these dogs with the support and the love they all deserve. Rock on, Dahila!!!

BOOM!!! Noise anxiety and how to help

Try to create a safe place for your dog to go to when she hears the noises that frighten her. But remember, this must be a safe location from her perspective, not yours. Notice where she goes, or tries to go, when she's frightened, and if at all possible, give her access to that place. If she's trying to get inside the house, consider installing a dog door. If she's trying to get under your bed, give her access to your bedroom. You can also create a "hidey-hole" that's dark, small and shielded from the frightening sound as much as possible (a fan or radio playing will help block out the sound). Encourage her to go there when you're home and the thunder or other noise occurs. Feed her in that location and associate other "good things" happening to her there. She must be able to come and go from this location freely. Confining her in the "hidey-hole" when she doesn't want to be there will only cause more problems. The "safe place" approach may work with some dogs, but not all. Some dogs are motivated to move and be active when frightened and "hiding out" won't help them feel less fearful.

Distract Your Dog

This method works best when your dog is just beginning to get anxious. Encourage her to engage in any activity that captures her attention and distracts her from behaving fearfully. Start when she first alerts you to the noise and is not yet showing a lot of fearful behavior but is only watchful. Immediately try to interest her in doing something that she really enjoys. Get out the tennis ball and play fetch (in an escape-proof area) or practice some commands that she knows. Give her a lot of praise and treats for paying attention to the game or the commands. As the storm or the noise builds, you may not be able to keep her attention on the activity, but it might delay the start of the fearful behavior for longer and longer each time you do it. If you can't keep her attention and she begins acting afraid, stop the process. If you continue, you may inadvertently reinforce her fearful behavior.

Behavior Modification

Behavior modification techniques are often successful in reducing fears and phobias. The appropriate techniques are called "counterconditioning" and "desensitization." This means to condition or teach your dog to respond in non-fearful ways to sounds and other stimuli that previously frightened her. This must be done very gradually. Begin by exposing her to an intensity level of noise that doesn't frighten her and pair it with something pleasant, like a treat or a fun game. Gradually increase the volume as you continue to offer her something pleasant. Through this process, she'll come to associate "good things" with the previously feared sound.

Example:

- Make a recording with firecracker noises on it.
- Play the recording at such a low volume that your dog doesn't respond fearfully. While the recording is playing, feed her dinner, give her a treat or play her favorite game.
- In your next session, play the recording a little louder while you feed her or play her favorite game.
- Continue increasing the volume through many sessions over a period of several weeks or months. If at any time while the tape is playing, she displays fearful behavior, STOP. Begin your next session at a lower volume – one that doesn't produce anxiety – and proceed more slowly.

If these techniques aren't used correctly, they won't be successful and can even make the problem worse. For some fears, it can be difficult to recreate the fear stimulus. For example, thunder is accompanied by changes in barometric pressure, lightening and rain, and your dog's fearful response may be to the combination of these things and not just the thunder. You may need professional assistance to create and implement this kind of behavior modification program.

Consult Your Veterinarian

Medication may be available which can make your dog less anxious for short time periods. Your veterinarian is the only person who is licensed and qualified to prescribe medication for your dog.

Don't attempt to give your dog any over-the-counter or prescription medication without consulting your veterinarian. Animals don't respond to drugs the same way people do, and a medication that may be safe for humans could be fatal to your dog. Drug therapy, alone, won't reduce fears and phobias permanently, but in extreme cases, behavior modification and medication used together might be the best approach.

What Not To Do

Attempting to reassure your dog when she's afraid may reinforce her fearful behavior. If you pet, soothe or give treats to her when she's behaving fearfully, she may interpret this as a reward for her fearful behavior. Instead, try to behave normally, as if you don't notice her fearfulness.

Putting your dog in a crate to prevent her from being destructive during a thunderstorm is not recommended. She'll still be afraid when she's in the crate and is likely to injure herself, perhaps even severely, while attempting to get out of the crate.

Tick Talk: The Science Behind the Bite *By Dr. Chip Taylor*

Growing up around here, summertime meant horseback rides through shaded woods—carefree days.
with the occasional tick we'd flick off without much thought. But today, ticks are more than a nuisance.
They're a growing public health concern, and their biology is anything but simple.

The Biology of a Bloodsucker

Ticks aren't insects—they're arachnids, kin to spiders and mites.
They mature through four life stages: egg, larva, nymph, and adult.
Each phase requires a blood meal to progress, giving them multiple chances
to spread disease over a life cycle that can stretch up to three years.
Their saliva is a marvel of stealth biology. Packed with anticoagulants,
anesthetics, and immune-disrupting enzymes,
it allows them to latch on undetected for days—
giving pathogens like Lymes (*Borrelia)* and *Ehrlichia* ample time to slip into the bloodstream.

More Ticks, More Trouble

The U.S. now faces greater tick diversity—and greater risk. Key players include:

- **Blacklegged (Deer) Tick**: Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Powassan virus.
- **Lone Star Tick**: Ehrlichiosis, Tularemia, Heartland virus, STARI
- **American Dog Tick**: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- **Brown Dog Tick**: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- **Western Blacklegged Tick**: Anaplasmosis
- **Gulf Coast Tick**: Rickettsiosis

And let's not forget the Common Deer Tick *Ixodes scapularis*—a primary vector for both Babesiosis and Lyme disease.

Pets Are Easy Targets

Living low to the ground and exploring brushy terrain, dogs and cats are ideal tick hosts.
Tick-borne diseases in pets can be serious, and co-infections are common. To minimize risk:

- Use veterinary-approved tick preventatives **year-round.**
- Thoroughly inspect your pets after outdoor time
- Keep grass trimmed and leaf litter cleared
- Remove ticks gently with a tool you're confident using

Exposure vs. Illness: Decoding a Positive Test

A positive tick-borne disease test doesn't always spell active illness. Most tests detect antibodies—
signs of exposure, not necessarily current infection.

- **Exposure** means your pet's immune system met the pathogen and responded.
- **Active infection** means the pathogen is present and causing illness.

Common symptoms: fatigue, shifting lameness, fever, or abnormal lab results (like anemia or low platelets).
If your pet tests positive but seems healthy, your veterinarian may opt to monitor
or run additional diagnostics
like PCR or a complete blood count. If symptoms are present, treatment—
often doxycycline—is typically initiated without delay.

TRI-STATE COLLIE RESCUE

THE 16TH ANNUAL

Collies IN THE PARK

REUNION & FUNDRAISER

Join us for an afternoon of food, fun, and celebration, rain or shine! We'll have a raffle, Collie items for sale, and more!
Admission is $15 including food and drink.
Kids are free!

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025

12-4 pm @ Shagbark Shelter
in Battelle Darby Creek
Metro Park
1125 Darby Creek Dr.
Galloway, OH 43119

Leashed Dogs Welcomed!

*Featuring TSCR Adoptable Dandy

In memory of lost friends

Our Ruby! We were fortunate to have her for 2.5 years (too sudden & short) before her kidneys shut down.
She was beautiful in every way!

Duff. He was the sweetest soul. He achieved certification as a therapy dog and loved visiting the local Veterans home, where most of the residents called him "Lassie". He also loved children and was a favorite when our group visited local schools. He was gentle with all small animals and loved our cats. He loved our entire family and always welcomed visitors with a happy tail wag. He was my "heart dog", through our therapy dog visits he helped me find a new purpose after we became empty-nesters. We lost him very unexpectedly in late January to a suspected ruptured tumor.

My heart still aches.

I adopted **Ollie** from Tri State Collie Rescue 8 years ago at the age of 4. He was a wonderful gentle pup and I miss him every day.

Thank you Tri State Collie Rescue for doing what you do. Rescue dogs. And that's where this wonderful statement comes from. If it weren't for my rescue dog, **Cookie**, I don't know where my life would be now., She brought beauty, responsibility, love and caring into my life. I am an older person and having Cookie in my life made a world of difference. We walked together (which I didn't do before) and now still do, all because of her. I loved all the beautiful comments about her beauty and of course I just lapped it up, knowing how we rescued each other. She protected me from life's 'not so good' moments, stood by my bed in the am, waking me up. She followed me all around the house, protecting me from 'mayhem,. I truly miss her so very much. P.S. I didn't know there were black Collies, so I did a DNA on her, yup, 100% Collie. Again, thanks Tri-State Collie Rescue. She was one in a million.