Collie Rescue Story - Tagg

"The Service Dog Has Left The Building....."

This phrase is so often used at the death of famous people. But it is now fitting to say of a great-hearted service dog, who served not one owner but three, as a Psychiatric Service Dog, a Therapy Dog, then as a Autism Service Dog. Tagg helped his teenaged owner to attend public school. Unfortunately the school wouldn't accept the law that allows students the use of service dogs at schools and all other public places. Instead, the school forced them to leave....but Tagg left his pawprints there, as the first service dog on the Oregon Trail, the latest of trailblazers through St.Marys,Kansas.

This dog is the sort that you read about in books, starting with having 5 owners before us, working brilliantly in three branches of SD work—as a psych SD for me, a therapy dog in Oklahoma for awhile, then as a autism SD for Aric, the first in Kansas. While working for me as my Psychiatric Service Dog, he saved our lives from a high speed crash on the freeway when i dissociated and Tagg did something to bring me out of it before the car even moved in the lane.

If it were not for his good manners and quiet work during the statehouse hearings about changing the Kansas laws on SDs, we wouldn't be allowed to train our own SDs here without hassle. I didn't know the man who kept coming to see Tagg and talk to me was one of the lawmakers....a friend of mine knew him, and told me later that it was Tagg who influenced them to make owner training allowed here– he called it 'Tagg's Law'.

To the best of my knowledge Tagg was the first autism SD to work with his owner in public schools in kansas, and did a great job of it, according to our son's friends. It was the teachers and staff of our local high school who couldn't wrap their minds around the fact that SDs do a lot of their work without commands, and that Tagg wasn't a pet. Eventually they harassed and bullied our son till we had to pull him out of school for good but not before Aric and Tagg had taught the students all about SDs. They were extremely popular, especially with the girls. Tagg came home daily, with the perfume of numerous girls hugs in his lion like mane!

When Tagg was retired, he never stopped taking care of us all: pointing out to someone to watch out for kidney stones, picking up dropped items and bringing them to me or the owner...the last time was Saturday before his death. Our youngest had dropped his watch, and it was going off. Tagg knew it annoyed me, so he picked it up, even with his sore mouth, and brought it to Barrett. These last days I've been crying, knowing it was time and past to let him go. He would come in here to see me, and put his head on the bed, he couldn't jump up on the bed with me any more. Tagg would look at me as I petted him. He would try to stand there, but his back legs just wouldn't let him for long,
Collie Rescue Foundation

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Collie Rescue Story - Tagg
Tagg's Last Day

Last Monday afternoon, June 4th...at the vet, they wanted him on the table. Last time, he fought to be back on the floor. Yesterday, I was in my wheelchair, eye level with him, and swear he was looking at me, and thinking, 'its OK', that he knew what was going to happen, and he was glad of it, that he was going to go to sleep and not be hurting or hungry anymore. He knew we tried to help him, but it was time to sleep. I kept thinking of the picture I made of him, a long time ago, wearing his harness, with big wings that matched his coat, because SDs are our four footed guardian angels. But when I thought of that, the wings would close, and the harness was gone. I think his angel was telling me Tagg’s time as our angel was over. He was eating cheese that I brought for him, but the fourth piece, he dropped out of his mouth, looked at me, licked my hand, looked at the vet, who was waiting, put his leg out, and laid his head down...he chose the moment to leave, he said goodbye, and gave the vet his leg for the shot. I couldn't believe it all....no dog ever saw did this. He walked in there, into the vet's, calmly, proudly wearing his harness, at the side of the young man who he had come to take care of eleven years ago, and when he left us, died wearing it, the service dog's badge of honour.

Now an empty harness hangs in a place of honour on the wall, and a great dog, loved by so many, has left us. but he will never leave our hearts.

Tagg, our four footed guardian angel...1998-2013

~Gail Nichols, St. Mary’s Kansas

Editor’s Note - Tagg was originally a rescue from Kansas Collie Rescue.

Collie Rescue Update - Milo

Back in the March 2013 CRF newsletter we featured Milo. Milo was rescued just as he was about to be shot. He was in awful shape. With love and care Milo is so much better. Here he is! With his coat grown back Milo is a very handsome dog. From matted and tick infested to happy healthy collie. That's what your donations do in the hands of collie rescue! Check out the following links for a video about Milo’s progress and updates from his very own blog!

Milo’s Journey – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rV1gGbGhi4U
Milo’s blog – http://milothefostercollie.blogspot.com/

Thanks to Red Lake Rosie's Rescue and Minnesota/Wisconsin Collie Rescue for giving this story a happy ending!
President's Message

This year marks the eighth anniversary of Collie Rescue Foundation, Inc. We are a 501c3 organization founded to provide financial aid to rescues. Whether it's a large-scale seizure with dozens of Collies or one dog in rescue needing help, we are there. Any Collie in a rescue situation that needs medical attention so he/she can find their forever home is eligible for our assistance.

While we are a separate organization from the CCA, our roots began with the foresight of Presidents Michael Esch and Pati Merrill. They envisioned a national 501c3 umbrella organization that would step up to aid any Collie in trouble. We are indebted to the CCA for their support, both past and present.

This year we welcomed Mountain High Collie and Sheltie Rescue and Freedom Collie Rescue to our growing list of Affiliates. When rescue groups become an Affiliate with CRF they are listed as a resource on our website and become the core of our efforts to help Collies. While they are not the only ones who step up, they are who we turn to first when there is something to be done.

We remain committed to our mission of helping Collies all across the country and sincerely welcome all donations in order for us to realize that goal. Remember, "All Collies belong to you and me."

Candi Sapp-Sabata, President

CCA National Specialty 2014

Now is the time to start sorting through all your collie treasures for donations to the CRF silent auction at the National Specialty. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and it's because of generous collie lovers that it is a success.

Happy Holidays!

As you finish up your holiday shopping, remember the Collie Rescue Foundation. Collies need your help all year round.
Thank YOU!!

"I wonder if it’s heretical to believe that when at last my tired feet shall tread the Other Shore, a madly welcoming swirl of Collies will bound forward, circling and barking around me, to lead me Home!"
-Albert Payson Terhune
Thank You Members and Donors!

The Collie Rescue Foundation could not do its important work without the help of our members and donors. Thank You. Please consider becoming a member – your membership dollars go to help collies in need.

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