Seeing From A Blind Dog’s Point Of View

In late February 2011, the Missouri Human Society shut down a Missouri puppy mill. Of the more than seventy collies seized, one of them stood out as being unadoptable. What doomed this large, male mahogany dog was the fact he was completely blind.

In this case, Sammy as he came to be called, got a reprieve. Almost Home, a collie rescue group out of Ohio, offered to take the big guy. They put his story online and placed him in foster care. My wife and I read about him on Facebook and offered the collie that had been saved from death row a home.

Initially, we looked at adopting Sammy as a leap on faith. After all, we had no idea how to deal with a blind animal. Yet within days we discovered that Sammy was our teacher. His unique way of coping with his handicap provided us with a new perspective. Thanks to his lessons we no longer set limits on animals or people with disabilities; instead we view the endless possibilities for every life.

I can’t begin to imagine a world without Sammy. This optimistic and outgoing dog has filled our home with great joy and constant laughter. It is all but impossible to believe this gentle clown spent his first two years in a cage and, even upon being rescued, was considered not worthy of adoption.

I have written books about Lassie and worked with four generations of that remarkable canine line, but though he is anything but famous, Sammy is still the bigger star in my view. He shows us that it doesn’t matter where we start or how others view us, instead Sammy gives us a model of how to live beyond our expectations and exceed our supposed limitations. His example even pushed me to step away from writing novels to pen a book citing dog tales that teach us the way humans should live. In the final paragraph of Man’s Best Hero — True Stories Of Great American Dogs, I wrote this, “The world we live in just might be a much better place if we were all a bit more like man’s best hero and a little less like man.” And Sammy taught me that too. So when you begin your search for a role model you likely have to look no further than your dog. It has worked for me.

~ Ace Collins

Sammy's Rescue & CRF

The Missouri Humane Society took the lead in the rescue that included Sammy. The CRF was able to provide monetary assistance to MHS to help them with this large rescue. The CRF helped the humane society find collie rescues that could take the dogs with special needs and conditions which is how Almost Home came to have Sammy. The Collie Rescue Foundation stands ready to help collies and collie rescues faced with extraordinary expenses. Sometimes just a little extra will enable a collie to have a long and happy life in a forever home.

For more information on Ace Collins and Sammy check out Sammy’s blog on Ace’s website – http://www.acecollins.com/lessonstaughtbys.html
Collie Rescue Update - "G"

Hello again, my name is "G." Many of you first heard my story back in February 2012. I wanted to give you an update on the wonderful things that have been occurring in my life. The biggest change is my mommy adopted another smooth coated collie from the Collie Rescue League of New England (CRLNE).

In April, we all went out to Springfield, Massachusetts, to Collie Nationals. My mommy wanted to visit my brother Tigg's foster mommy to let them see how well my brother was doing. We both competed in the two-day Agility Trial. Everyone had a great time competing with our fellow collies. During the trial I received "High In Trial for IPL Collie" both days. My mommy was so excited, because we had never received such a beautiful ribbon and prestigious award. When we walked out to the car my mommy got teary eyed and told me how proud she was of me. While in Massachusetts, we visited Tigg's foster mom and her collie named Jolie. I made a new friend and quickly made myself at home in a matter of minutes after arriving.

Along with my excitement at the nationals this year, on May 9th, after working so hard as a team for more than four years, we received our first MACH (Master Agility Champion) at the Indiana Collie Club Trial. It was very special, because it was at my home club's trial under judge Carolynne Rose. All our fellow teammates and good friends were there to celebrate with us. I was not sure my mommy was going to make it through the run without breaking down. At one point, I looked up and saw her sucking back a few tears. Our team is currently rated in the Top 25 in the county for Collies. For a team that started out training to build our relationship, we have come so far. Please remember that you can do anything as long as you have the love and support of your forever family!

~ Kim Johnson
CCA National Specialty 2014

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items to the CRF table at the National! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and YOU help make it a success!

An extra thank you goes to Mary Jane Anderson who took charge and made sure the tables were staffed and organized. Without her we couldn’t have done it!

There were great items each day. Plenty to bid on early and often!

Here is a picture of our table at the national. Thanks to Mary Jane Anderson (CRF Treasurer) and Sandy Reuter (CRF member) for doing the bulk of booth manning during the show!

~photo courtesy of Nancy Parsons

“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 Donors!

Thanks again to all of you who donated to the CRF silent auction at the national this year. Your generosity makes it possible for us to help collies all year round!

Diana Hillesalu-Bain
Lynda Cox
Lisa Whitten
Ramonette Dugan
Linda Whitley
Diane Troxell
Rick Lingenfelter
Joanne Huff
Al Boulanger
Alix Vorkapich
Sunny Reffett
Cindy Dorsten
Gayle Taylor
John Buddie
Sandy McPherson
Robert Meier
Steve Baxley
Babbi Dilbeck
Kathy Jackson
Jacquie Bailey
Candice Hunter
Ken Zook
Brenda Shreve
Candi Sapp
Meg Goldsmith
Mary Jane
Anderson
Dixie Cisco
Rita Sotu
Pati Merrill

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members of the Collie Rescue Foundation.

Kerry Mitchell
Catherine Mirabel & James DeLucca
Ginny & Jack White
Nancy Litzenberger
Many Banigan
Judy Belluomini

Please consider starting/renewing your membership in the CRF – the collies thank you!