

# All Collies Belong to You and Me



## Chase the Miracle Collie

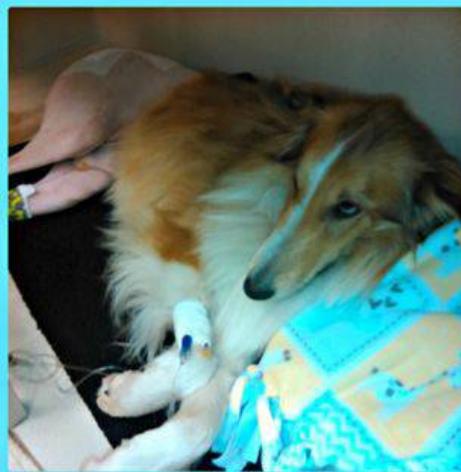
by Pat Booher, Freedom Collie Rescue

**C**hase is truly a miracle collie. What collie could possibly endure being hit by a car going over 70 mph on a major interstate and live?

We received a phone call from a concerned dog lover that she had witnessed a collie get hit on the I-10 in Texas, and she watched in horror as it rolled several times across the asphalt from the impact. She turned her car around and there was a man on the side of the road with the injured collie. With his help, she loaded him up into her van, and because she was in the middle of nowhere, the closest spot she could think of to get help, was a animal shelter about 20 miles down the road. She reluctantly left him there with promises that his injuries would be addressed. That is when she contacted us and asked if we could call the shelter and take him into our program. The shelter said he would not be available to be released until Monday if not claimed. We decided to call him Chase. As it turns out, Chase's injuries were not tended to, and he laid at the shelter in his own waste for approximately 5 days

before they would release him. He could not stand up or walk and would whine in pain. They estimated that Chase was not yet a year old, which proved to be in his favor.

Once we were able to claim Chase, we immediately took him to our vet to get his injuries assessed. The initial assessment was multiple fractures to his pelvis and



a dislocated hip. This vet recommended we get him to an orthopedic surgeon ASAP. Our wonderful foster home scheduled the appointment right away and they took Chase home and were able get him cleaned up and

some of the numerous mats cut off of him. It was a terrible mixture of knots, urine, and poop, in a tangled mess! Chase had three things in his favor; a wonderful foster home that was willing to take on the challenge of a very injured collie, his youth for recovery time, and the surgical skills of Dtr. Witsberger. Chase was a mess! He had fractures to his pelvis and the dislocated hip. Then after a CT scan, it was also discovered that he

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had a broken tail bone and his pelvic bone was actually disconnected from his spine, and he had multiple skin lesions from his roll across the highway. It appeared that Chase had been "clipped" by a car on the back portion of his body as he ran across the highway. It was a miracle that he did not suffer any internal organ damage, nor was he hit on his face on head. Dtr. Witsberger felt that because Chase was so young, he had an excellent prognosis if we opted for surgery. We decided we needed to give this young collie boy a chance!



Chase required several screws in his pelvic area to reconnect to his spine and on one side, he no longer has a hip joint, due to Hip FHO (femoral head osteotomy) surgery. This is the surgical removal of the head and neck of the femur. In simpler terms, it is the removal of the "ball" part of the ball-and-socket that makes up the hip joint. There was no real surgery to fix his broken tail bone, but Dtr. Witsberger assured us it would heal in time. We were warned that Chase's recovery might take longer than normal, as he had major surgeries on both sides of his rear end. Usually with FHO surgery a dog has good use of one leg, but both of Chase's legs were compromised. Well Chase proved us wrong! He actually stood up with help the very next day after surgery. He was released from the hospital 3 days later and when he got back to his foster home, with support from his foster dad, he proceeded to very slowly walk over to his water bowl. We could not be happier with his recovery. He is truly a miracle! Chase is known as the local "lion" in the neighborhood. His back portion of his body is completely shaved, so he has that distinct lion mane look. All the kids love him. His incisions are completely healed now, and he is walking at least two miles a day. Dtr. Witsberger has added some swimming to his exercise program to increase his range of motion, although Chase prefers to just float in the pool with his life vest on.

As you can imagine, the corrective surgeries that Chase required were not cheap, but the outpouring of support we received from collie lovers around the US and outside has been amazing. With those donations and the generosity of the CRF, we were able to pay for Chase's surgery in full. We are so very grateful for all the support, and the skill of Dtr. Witsberger. Chase does have some more recovery time ahead of him, and he ultimately needs to be neutered, but he will then be ready for his forever home and hopefully a long happy life ahead.



# MAGGIE'S STORY

By Pat Booher, Freedom Collie Rescue



**T**he city run animal shelter for Houston is known as BARC. Not far from the shelter is a pretty little park called Melrose Park, which has become a dumping ground for unwanted pets. Often when people don't want to stand in line at BARC to relinquish their dog or pay a fee, they just go ahead and leave their animal at the Melrose Park. This is how Maggie made her way to Freedom Collie Rescue.

We received a Facebook message about a collie that had been spotted at the park for several days, and could we take her. Of course we could, and plans were put in place to get Maggie into medical care. She was not chipped, and of course no tags were on her. She also needed to be spayed and her teeth were in horrible condition. She was very skiddish at our vet, and paced and cried, but we thought it was from everything she may have been through in the last several days. Once she was sedated, the condition of her teeth could really be determined. Her front teeth were ground down, and she needed four extractions, which resulted in a much more involved dental surgery. Much thanks to the CRF, who helped to cover the majority of Maggie's dental needs. Maggie has recovered from her spay and dental surgery, but we are still working with her to overcome anxiety issues and a very picky palate. Her foster mom is working with her to feel more comfortable in a home situation, and we believe she was only fed table scraps, as she is not a fan of dog food. We are hopeful that Maggie will slowly adjust to the life of a loved, house collie and we will find her forever home soon. Thank you CRF!



# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Vickie VonSeggern

**T**his month our newsletter features stories from 2 of the collies rescued by Freedom Collie Rescue in TX. The story of Chase is especially hard to read about. Getting hit by the car was the start of this poor young dogs misery because his next stop, at the shelter left him for 5 days with no medical care at all, living in his own feces. Thank God Freedom Collie Rescue was there to get him the care he desperately needed so fast. You all know what his fate would have been without them.

The focus of this month's message is that we all need to take a lesson from Chase. Your local shelters care for these pets and they represent pet care in your communities. All of us need to be proactive with our local shelters in some manner. My question is, why did no one even try to care for Chase while in the shelter? I know I would not have been able to walk away and sleep at night knowing he was suffering like that. Rescues take in many pets from shelters when they can. Check into your shelter locally and how they operate. Volunteer to help out, even one day a month would be huge. In my area I have seen several families who take one day a month and they all spend the day or the weekend at the shelter caring for pets, cleaning, walking, whatever is needed - kids go also. Great way to teach responsibility and caring for animals. If you see your shelter is not operating the way it should - do something about it. Stand up for these animals!

The great news is that Chase is recovering & will soon have a new life in his own forever home. Thanks to your help CRF has the privilege of being able to help these rescues with dogs like Chase and Maggie. Please consider joining CRF today - every membership counts! My dream is that someday CRF will not be needed any longer because all collies will have loving homes with responsible owners.

Have a wonderful summer with your collies!

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The Collie Rescue Foundation gratefully acknowledges the Collie Club of America, Barbara Graff Cleek (for the raffle tickets and box) and Janie Clymer for spearheading an auction of the print donated by Gayle Kaye to CRF at the National in Sacramento, California.



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## New Members!

Marion Ridge  
Betty Abbott  
Mary Banigan  
Carolyn Edgmon  
Shannon Jones  
Carolyn McCullough

**A HUGE Thank You to ALL CRF Members!**  
**Your Membership Saves Lives!**

# From the Editor

By Chuck Heubach

*Summertime...and the living is easy  
Collies jumping...and the cotton is high....*

I love summer. The dreaminess of those lyrics from George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess cause something to rise up in my soul and makes me want to sing!

Summer is a time of glorious recovery from the dreariness of the winter's cold. It is a time when we rise up and celebrate the earth's renewed energy, when school children sit beside cool streams, and when young lovers walk hand in hand.

And summer is victory. It is a time to watch recovering collies celebrate the joy in their new found lives. We look upon the foster collies in all of our affiliates programs and see that they are becoming...or have become...the collies that creation has meant them to be.

And so we celebrate! Through your membership and the hard work of all the individual rescues across this great nation, the hard winter is over for these collies. It's summer! And you have built the structure to meet the needs for the recovery of those collies not yet placed.

While the work is not over, give yourself a well deserved pat on the back, and celebrate the summer like a 9 month old pup. Celebrate the collie; his collie, her collie, your collie, my collie. For All Collies Belong to You and Me.



**All Collies Belong to You and Me**