Collie Rescue Story - Robbie

Robbie came into San Diego County’s Bonita shelter as a stray, which probably means his owner dumped him somewhere. He was only 47 pounds, flea ridden and with “microphthalmic eye” (hereditary). The shelter, fearing he was unadoptable, called us, and our San Diego Area Coordinator, Linda Kratz, immediately went and got him.

Robbie had striking grey-white gums. But he acted healthy and ate well. However, his bloodwork revealed severe anemia. As the months went on, he still was nowhere near normal – and an internist at the local specialty hospital, a blood specialist from the veterinary school in PA and the veterinary blood lab at Kansas State couldn’t figure out why. His case seemed unique. The only option left, without guarantee of success, was to do an invasive diagnostic in several possible steps, depending on which step found a cause for this weird anemia.

First endoscopy -- nothing. Then colonoscopy -- nothing. Then surgery to insert the scope directly -- aha! A section of Robbie’s colon contained lesions similar to those found in a rare condition in dogs, vascular ectasia. The biopsy could not confirm this. What it DID confirm was inflammatory bowel syndrome, quite surprising in a dog that was acting and eating normally.

Robbie’s now on a daily iron supplement. The plan is to recheck his blood at three months and six months. If all is normal, the iron supplement will be discontinued in the hope that he’ll maintain normal iron in his blood. If not, we’ll see what the options are. We still don’t know whether the cause was vascular ectasia or inflammatory bowel disease or both. But being able to try a potentially successful treatment is the good news.

The even better news is that Robbie’s been adopted by Michael Rudin. Mike’s one of our best people, a multiple-collie adopter who loves the golden oldies and had instantly fallen in love with Robbie at a collie event in late February. So Robbie’s now in a forever home and having a grand old time.

Mike reports that Robbie’s gums are pink and that he’s an exuberant boy who loves going on walks and schmoozing with adopted-collie housemates Cassie (10 1/2) and Sheila (5 1/2). As Mike put it, “Robbie is definitely one of those special, wonderful souls who is a walking reminder of why we love collies.”

~Stephen Colley
President’s Message

The CRF held its Annual Meeting in February, 2014. This year’s Officers and Board are: President: Brenda Shreve – Vice President: Candi Sapp – Secretary: Kathy Jackson – Treasurer: Mary Jane Anderson – Board of Directors: Babbi Dilbeck, DVM, Meg Goldsmith, & Vickie VonSeggern. We have since welcomed Diane Troxell to our Board.

At this writing we are all working feverishly preparing for our booth at the Collie Club of America National Specialty April 6th, thru 12th, 2014 at West Springfield, Mass. We have some wonderful items for our silent auctions/raffles, & hope all of you in attendance will visit our booth & bid generously on our many items. If you have some spare time, PLEASE offer to help Mary Jane at our booth. Just remember, “All Collies Belong to You and Me.”

CCA National Specialty 2014

Thanks to everyone who contributed items to the Collie Rescue Foundation table at the National! Please come and see the treasures we have for you. New items will be available each day.

Check out this beautiful kangaroo leather lead donated by Lynda Cox!

A huge thanks goes out to all of you that donated tags for the collie wreath. The collie cut out was donated by Candi Sapp – Sabata. The wreath was put together by Kathy Jackson.