This winter, we received an urgent call about a sweet senior collie named Darcy, whose owner was in hospice care and not expected to make it through the night. At once, Sylvia, one of our devoted volunteers, drove to Indiana to rescue Darcy—who was not only grieving but also dirty, scabbed, matted, and still itching from a recent bout of fleas. Furthermore, her body was swollen and bloody, in a manner indicative of trauma and recent pregnancy complications. At the vet, Darcy was diagnosed with a mammary infection. She was emotionally and physically drained—but her story has a happy ending, thanks to the medical funding granted to us by CRF.

We are thrilled to report that Darcy is now healthy, and has since been adopted by Janis (a college professor) and her daughter, both of whom are devoted to enriching the life of their new elderly dog/family member. Darcy and her previous owner brought each other comfort and strength during their twilight years, and now Darcy has another family with which to build indelible bonds and memories. Such is the reciprocal power of healing!

Winter also saw the rescue of DeeDee, a seven-year-old stray dog found by animal control. DeeDee was in desperate need of dental care, and was afforded treatment through the generosity of CRF. She, like Darcy, has been adopted by a college professor, and now goes by the name Dia. Affable Dia spends her days bringing joy to the many foreign exchange students that her mom works with, and her once solitary existence is now filled with love and companionship—a testament to the power of rescue.

We at AHDRO are exceptionally grateful to CRF for covering Darcy and DeeDee's medical costs, which in turn allowed us to give the best gifts of all this holiday season: health, love, and second chances. In the words of Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Darcy and DeeDee's transformations serve as proof of this mantra. All-in-all, 2016 was a blessed year made even more fruitful by the Collie Rescue Foundation!
From the Editor

I am a crier. I admit this freely and openly. So when I read a recent social media thread about people not wanting to read the classic stories by famous authors that depict some animal cruelty, I cried a little.

OK. I know there is some resistance to feeling sad out there. We live in a world with enough built-in sadness, and plenty of ill-advised antidotes to keep us from feeling pain. I can certainly understand the desire to avoid images of graphic cruelty thrust upon us by social media. But, please, not the classic authors!

I think it important to remind that the depiction of animal cruelty in literature is not typically actual animal cruelty. Rather, it is that authors attempt to make you aware - to make you FEEL something - so that you will take action in your own corner of the world. This is the nature of art.

Not so incidentally, this is also the nature of animal rescue. So go ahead...pull out that old Albert Payson Terhune story that made you cry...and read it again. CRY again. FEEL again. And then go out there and make your feelings count. -Chuck Heubach
New Members
YAY!

Joan Armitage
Catherine Schroeder
Deborah Franks

Returning Members
SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK!

Sandra & Guenther Reuter
Joanne Huff

I Rescued a Human Today...

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn’t be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn’t want her to know that I hadn’t been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn’t want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn’t feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone’s life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.

I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven’t walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.

Author Unknown
IN MEMORIAM

Maralyn Busse née Kuechenmeister passed into a perfect world February 4, 2017 at her residence. She was born 4/3/34 to Alfred and Adele Kuechenmeister in St Louis, MO.
She was active and lived in the dog show community with a lifetime of successfully owning and breeding Collies and Schipperke. She was an accomplished judge of Herding, Non Sporting, and Miscellaneous Groups as well as Best in Show. She loved the dog world and had judged within the US, Canada, China, South Korea and Puerto Rico.

The family request donations to the Collie Rescue Foundation http://CollieRescueFoundation.net in lieu of flowers.

Special Thanks to: The International White Collie Club, for its generous donation as they have disbanded.
Jen Munch, for donating her mother in laws collection of collie figurines for our auctions.

Photo credit: Shannon Hayes