Collie Rescue Story - Chance

Chance was rescued by Houston Collie Rescue on August 30, 2014. He was one of 146 collies awarded to HCR by a federal court in a bankruptcy case that also revealed a hoarding situation. Like the rest of the collie world, I was horrified by what I was seeing. It was heartbreaking to see the pictures and video, but now that I have one of these dogs in my life, it’s even harder to see those pictures. One of my Facebook friends who is a vet, traveled to Houston to help that first weekend and suggested I consider trying to adopt one of those dogs. At that time I never dreamed it could happen; now, I can’t imagine it if it didn’t.

Chance was initially named Christopher Robin and was thought to be about three months old. It turned out he was severely malnourished and under developed. His eyes were also so under developed and badly infected that it was thought he might be blind. Chance had diffuse demodectic mange all over his body and a terrible skin infection. Bottom line was that he was one sick and miserable puppy; and upon initial evaluation many did not expect him to survive.

Because of the large number of dogs being cared for by Houston Collie Rescue, help. The first batch of “Tomball Collies” left for New Mexico on September 19, under the care of Southwest Collie Rescue. Chance was one of the eleven taken, and he was also the most ill. Once arriving in New Mexico all were assessed and vetted. I had already applied to Southwest Collie Rescue, and after the dogs arrived they sent me the list of the dogs they received and told me to give them my top three picks. I gave them my top five, Dog #03 being my first choice. Dog #03 was Chance, so named because he was getting a second chance to have the life he deserved.

After reviewing my application and request, they replied that they felt he was probably eight months old and blind, my heart fell. For a split second I was going to say no, but in my heart I knew I wanted him and that he was worth “the chance.” So our adoption process began. Chance stayed in a pet resort and was treated for his mange for six weeks. During this time he gained weight and his overall health improved. On November 8 he was transported to Phoenix, where he was fostered in a home for the first time. An ophthalmologist examined him and he was given different eye medications. He may possibly need these for the rest of his life. His foster mom taught him to sit and wait for his meds and she would reward him with a treat afterwards. He is very good about allowing me to medicate his eyes twice a day! He is such a good boy!

As his health continued to improve it was decided that Chance was ready to come to his forever home. He was transported to Las Vegas from Phoenix on November 30, and then my friend in Las Vegas brought him to Reno on December 1, 2014. What an exciting day for me!!! Chance settled in well. He only had to be crated at night for a couple of nights, only had one accident in the house and only dumped the water bowl once.

I started a Facebook page for Chance so people could follow his story and his progress. For a dog that had such a bad start, he is remarkable. He is well mannered and very well behaved. He is attentive and playful.

We started obedience classes at Petco the first part of January. He is now into the second adult obedience class and hopefully will go on to the Canine Good Citizen classes when they are available.

Chance was seen by the ophthalmologist in Reno in January. I was thrilled that the doctor said his vision is good and as he gains weight and fills out, his eyes are becoming more normal, possibly eliminating the need for entropion surgery in future. He will recheck Chance’s eyes in July.
Chance - Poster Dog For Rescue

Just to give you a little background about the dynamics here and the role that Chance has played in my life, on December 24, 2013, I lost my heart dog, Ozzy, to a suspected brain tumor. He was my dream dog, and it was devastating to me to lose him. I was blessed with the opportunity to have Lyric, and I did have my two blue merles, Buddy and Pistol, but there was a big hole. I tried to find another brown-eyed sable merle boy but things didn’t work out and I had given up. And then Tomball happened. Chance is a healer for me. I still miss the dogs I’ve lost, and in particular Ozzy, but Chance has filled the void and brought life back to the pack.

Today Chance is a happy and healthy collie, weighing 55 pounds. He has a nice coat and looks great. He gets along well with other dogs and with our cats. He has a good appetite and enjoys his meals, no matter what kind of special things I might put in his bowl. Although Chance’s beginning was horrific, today he is Collie who has a “joie de vivre” that makes my heart sing. He gets immense pleasure enjoying the simplest things in life: zoomies in the yard, barking, chewing on a bone, sleeping on his bolster bed. In fact he loves his bolster bed so much that if someone is occupying it he barks them off.

He has his own Facebook page called “Take a Chance on Me” and has made lots of friends all over the world. Chance and I would like to thank the wonderful people of Houston Collie Rescue for all that they did to get these dogs out of that House of Horrors and on the road to healing and finding new homes. In addition to the people in Houston we would like to thank Kathy, Bill and Linn of Southwest Collie Rescue for all that they did to help Chance get back to good health and get him home to Reno. And Darlene, thank you for setting the wheels in motion. I met Sandy on your page because of a post about another Collie situation. Without Sandy, I might not have gotten the opportunity to have Chance in my life. Thanks to my friend, Marsha, who drove him home from Las Vegas. It took a lot of coordination from the first day of that rescue in August to save just one dog, and collie rescues all over this country did it many times over. Finally here is a link to a YouTube video https://youtu.be/9do2ubBzaYCS that pictorially tells of Chance’s journey. It was made by Denice, who is the foster mom to another Tomball Collie, Dallas. Once again I am so grateful to all the people who decided to take a chance on my Chance. I am so blessed to have him in my life!

~ Bonnie Pinkston

Chance with his new family.
President's Message

The Collie Rescue Foundation is in its tenth year...does that seem possible? The amount of dogs we've assisted in that time is mind boggling! The Tomball Collies being the latest major endeavor. Most, if not all of them, are in their forever homes by this writing....and the "after" pictures and stories we receive are chock full of warm fuzzies. If you are on facebook, please check out our frequent auctions that we hold there. We've had some pretty cool stuff and the proceeds we get from these, help us to continue what we do best....help Collies with medical expenses so they can be placed in loving, permanent homes. CRF thanks you for your support and remember...."All Collies belong to you to to me!"

Respectfully, Candi Sapp-Sabata, President

Thanks

"The Collie Rescue Foundation extends a special thanks to the following for their extraordinary contributions:
Collie Club of America – In Memory of Members That Passed in 2014
James & Nanci Burri in memory of Shirley Smith Osborne
Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation Corporate Matching Gift for Donna Walle.
Verizon Matching Donation for Mary Banigan"

New Members

The Collie Rescue Foundation would like to welcome our new members. Thanks so much for your help!

Linda Blubaugh
Angela Gillespie and Anne Sinclair
Lori Gottlieb
Annette Miller

Sandra Rebernick
Cheryl Rakich
Sandra Noyes
Jeffrey Tallackson

We Invite You to Become A Member

Membership:
Single Collie $25.00
Pair of Collies Family $40.00
Serious Supporter of Rescue $100.00
Wild About Rescue $500.00
Totally Crazy Over Rescue $1000.00

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"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