All Collies Belong to You and Me

CELEBRATING WHERE THEY ARE TODAY!

ALMOST HOME
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
TOMBALL
COLLIES
RECOVERY
NEW MEMBERS

“Cricket was 37 pounds and the smallest among the 15 or so females in her enclosure.”

Photo Patti DeLong

Volume 7 Number 3 September 2017
We appreciate Almost Home Ohio placing Mulligan with our Family.

It was clear that Mulligan was in good hands with his Foster Mom Brianne since he didn’t stray very far from Brianne and looked to be quite nervous. We did spend a little time alone with him and there was always a safe distance of about 4-5 feet and plenty of barking but at the end Mulligan had no problems getting into our car for the long ride home.

Mulligan was to be our 3rd Collie and we couldn’t help but smile.

Our previous Male Collie (Bingo) had been gone for 5 months and we really missed the interaction which included barking. We knew we wanted him before we met him and knew that Mulligan would find his forever home with our Family no matter how he behaved when we met him.

Mulligan is a sweet natured dog and absolutely loves meeting people and mostly other dogs on his walks in the local parks. My son brings over his female dog to play with him as well. They get along great although she has lots of energy and wears him out very quickly.

Mully has a unique personality with plenty of quirks. He is very frightened of thunderstorms and will seek refuge in the bathtub if we happen to leave the bathroom door open. If they occur at night then we stay up with him until it’s over. Mulligan groans every time he lays down as if he is aggravated with his location or possibly just relaxing.

Mully has excellent hearing but possibly poor vision in low light, so everyone is a suspect at night. Between his food with fish and his fish based toothpaste he has constant fish breath. His teeth will have to be cleaned by the veterinarian in about 6 months to keep them in a good shape. Other than that he is in really good health and hopefully stays like this for a long time to come. Everything about him is endearing and we absolutely Love him.

New Member!

Cynthia Richburg
Phantom is a dream boy. He is the sweetest. He gets along with everybody. He has not had one accident in the house. He is not destructive. Just a perfect boy. He has been very cautious about coming inside and only recently comes in on his own. He loves being outside and gets a little extra pep in his step when out in the yard. He loves to roll on his back and kick those legs in the air. He follows my every step when I’m in the yard with him. He loves to watch me while I’m in the barn with the horses. He loves treats but still will not take one from my hand. I have to lay it on the floor. He loves to eat his meals and barks the entire time I’m fixing his bowl. (The coonhound taught him that.) I love him with all my heart and I’m so grateful to have him in my life, thanks to Cheryl and Almost Home.

**CRF ANNUAL FUNDRAISER KICKS OFF OCTOBER 1**

No matter how much we may wish it wasn’t so, money is essential to achieving our goals to help Collies all across the United States.

With so many natural disasters facing different regions of our Country these past few months, one might find it difficult to decide where to donate to promote the worthy cause. Here are a couple of pointers courtesy of Charity Navigator:

**Give To An Established Charity**

Don’t let an unscrupulous charity take advantage of your goodwill. Find a charity with a proven track record of success with dealing with the type of disaster and in the region in which the disaster occurred. Avoid fly-by-night charities created specifically to deal with the new crisis. Even well-meaning new organizations will not have the infrastructure and knowledge of the region to efficiently maximize your gift. If you do feel compelled to give to a new charity, be sure to get proof that the group is in fact a registered public charity with 501 (c) (3) status.

The Collie Rescue Foundation is an established 501(c)(3) public charity and is extremely proud of the fact that 97% of your donation goes directly to help Collie rescue organizations with MDRI testing, dental services and emergency or extraordinary medical expenses. CRF’s success is contingent upon the dedication of its members. Please watch for your 2018 membership renewal letter coming in October or send in your donation early using the simple jot form and PayPal option found on our website.

http://www.collierescuefoundation.net/membership-enrollment

The Collies thank you!
Presidents Message by Vickie VonSeggern

Emergency Preparedness for our Pets

For this issue, a subject we all need to be concerned about is preparing our pets for emergencies. This includes your dogs, cats, birds, any livestock, etc. All of these animals should be micro chipped. It is vital to have the chips scanned at least yearly to make certain they are still working. Have your vets do this on your annual checkup visits. Keep your chip info registered & current. Collars & tags are so often lost & removed in emergencies. Many times these pets are not truly abandoned - owners may not be allowed to go back to their homes to get their animals. Rescue people may get them out and take them to shelters all over the place making it hard for owners to find them. This is exactly the scenarios we are seeing right now with owners trying to find their animals after the awful flooding in TX and FL. Add the fires out west, and now as I write this Puerto Rico under threat also. That chip might save your pets lives, and help reunite them with you.

Plan ahead for your animals - what to do in case of disasters.

Another thing to think about is emergency vet visits - they always happen in the middle of the night when your personal vet is closed so you end up using a vet not familiar with your dog or your breed. I pretty much know all the no-no drugs on the MDRI list for collies - most people do not remember all of them, and are often in a panic when their beloved dog is in the ER. Keep in your glove compartment a copy of the MDRI list, copy it off the WSU website - that is the official and accurate one. Hand it to the vets at the ER when you go in. The sheet I give out is at this link - http://vcpl.vetmed.wsu.edu/docs/librariesprovider17/default-document-library/vcplflier.pdf I have seen other lists floating around on Facebook with completely incorrect info - best to use the authority on this when your dog has an emergency.

Needless to say summer heat in vehicles is another thing we all need to be acutely aware of. Even 10 minutes can be too long in that car, and too often we lose track of time easily. The 10 minutes could be your pet’s death sentence.

Safety first when we own pets - and it also applies to children. They rely on us to do our best for them! In closing, with all the fires and flooding, our collie rescue people were very lucky for the most part and were not seriously affected. Others have not been so lucky. I hope all of you were safe as well.

Vickie VonSeggern
CRF President
Tomball Revisited by Chuck Heubach

In 2014, the Houston area suffered one of the most devastating blows to the collie world during the Tomball seizure and rescue. Others have written in great detail about that rescue including the horrific conditions and the heroic efforts of the people who worked together and bonded at what came to be known as Camp Collie.

As the third anniversary year approached, we decided to travel to Houston in order to visit some of the collies who endured these circumstances. I was curious to discover if the legendary resilience of the collie breed could be defeated by the despicable failures and criminal acts to which they were inflicted.

After meeting several of the Tomball Collies, I found them to be as different as they could possibly be. Yes, there are some fear based behaviors in nearly all of them, but for the most part they have proven to be fairly normal, recovered dogs. Each of the adoptive owners of the collies told similar stories of victory as their collies emerged from their shells to become good friends and reliable chums, in spite of health challenges which required significant attention.

And yet, psychological and physical scars remain, and are evident in the collies in different ways. Each of the adopters who responded to my inquiry reported oddities in the Tomball collies which they believe are a result of their inhumane treatment.

Cookie is missing a part of a foot and a corner of her ear. Bitsey was pregnant and injured and was essentially feral. Georgie suffers multiple medical complications and became extremely overweight as a result. The beautiful Shay remains extremely shy and was not easy to approach when I met her in March. The tiny smoothie, Cricket, remains fearful and yet gamely attends events, and has proven to have an exceptional herding instinct. All are recovering now.

It becomes evident to me that the true rewards of collie rescue lie not in the past, but in the present and future of the dogs. This was never more evident one late March afternoon when I gathered with a group of rescuers and about twenty collies, several labs, a golden, and a sheltie, most from a rescue environment. There was an waft of authentic gratification in the wind as the rescuers happily viewed the pack playing, barking, chasing, and sometimes even snarling a bit at each other. These animals are the redeemed - the recovered. These are the dogs that could have died in the clutches of ignorant hoarders and irrational breeders, but were snatched from the clutches of doom just in time. These folks know it, but they didn’t have to say it out loud. You could feel the satisfaction in the air as they laughed and talked... a group bonded by having completed a difficult task...and doing it well.

Next Issue:

The recovery. Stories by Actual Adopters About Their Collies Journey.