



The Collie Rescue Network News

October 2011

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**Order your 2012 Calendar before they run out!
Limited supply left!**

www.collierescuenetwork.com



Adoptee Updates



Shadow

Here is Shadow, whom we adopted from CRN in the summer of 2008. We have moved to Memphis and have a lake cottage in SW Kentucky. Shadow loves going to the lake—here he is on the deck, taking a breather. He is a great boy and has been a wonderful addition to our family.

—Steve and Jane Miller

Randol is well and doing fine! We moved out of our home in town last June to a larger property (2 acres) just outside of town. Randol loves it outside and spends most of his free time roaming the property and even chasing a chicken or two!! There are no shortage of animals at our house: Randol, Shelby (our Sheltie), 3 cats, 2 guinea pigs and 9 chickens.

—Dwight

Randol



We're Adopted!

Jazz—Ontario

Justin & Aurora—Ontario

Lucas—Alberta

Laddie—Ontario

Betsy—Ontario

Princess Delilah needs sponsors!



This very sweet Smooth Collie gal is our very own Princess Delilah, or Princess D as she is affectionately known. Princess came to Collie Rescue Network by way of another rescue group who was getting fuller by the day and needed some space. This previous rescue had invested major amounts of money treating Princess but were at a loss as to what could be causing her odd symptoms. When she arrived, CRN decided to take her known medical history and see what else might be done to allow Princess D to finally breathe!

Princess D had, unfortunately, been left living outdoors in all kinds of weather in her past life. As a result she had developed chronic pneumonia, which her first rescue treated repeatedly. She still, however, had ongoing issues with severe congestion and at times even going up and down stairs was difficult for her. After many vet visit with the CRN vet, some x-rays, blood work and even a rhinoscopy it has been determined Princess D will need to be on antibiotics on and off for the remainder of her life for what amounts to a chronic cold with accompanying infections. She is otherwise healthy and in great shape and although it maybe sounds worse than it is, it truly is just an on and off cold. Princess D is approximately 10 years old and has years left to give to some special family.



With her vet bills now right around the \$2000 mark we're looking for sponsors to help pay off her bills. This incredibly sweet, smart (as you can see by her pictures, she is very attentive!), pretty girl is worth every penny! Now, with everything done that can be done, we can find the home that is perfect for her—one that is ready and able to ensure she stays healthy and fit!

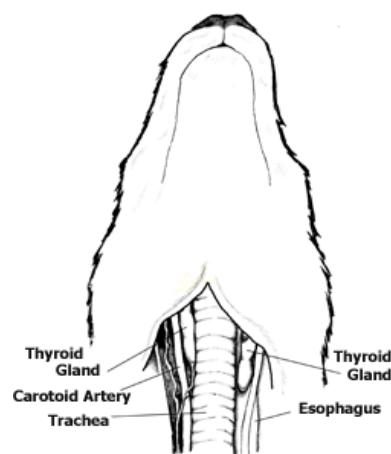
If you live in the Ottawa area, we are taking part in the walk-a-thon as part of the A.W.A.R.E. Festival on October 15th and walkers will help raise funds for Princess D! Check out the CRN webpage (www.collierescuenetwork.com) for more details.

Thyroid Disease: Hypothyroidism in Dogs

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Hypothyroidism is a common problem in dogs, but rarely occurs in cats. The thyroid gland has a number of different functions, but it is most well known for its role in regulating metabolism by producing thyroid hormones. Hypothyroidism is the condition that occurs when not enough thyroid hormones are produced.

Hypothyroidism causes a wide variety of symptoms, but is often suspected in dogs that have trouble with weight gain or obesity and suffer from hair loss and skin problems. Hypothyroidism is easy to diagnose with a blood test that checks the level of various thyroid hormones including T3 and T4. Most hypothyroid dogs respond readily to treatment with synthetic thyroid medication such as Soloxine. Many dogs suffer from a low thyroid hormone level for years without treatment. If your dog has chronic recurrent skin problems, or unexplained weight gain, she may be suffering from hypothyroidism.



What causes hypothyroidism?

Hypothyroidism results from the impaired production and secretion of thyroid hormones. The production of thyroid hormones is influenced by the pituitary gland, the hypothalamus, and the thyroid gland. Although dysfunction anywhere in the complicated hypothalamic-pituitary-thyroid pathway can result in hypothyroidism, more than 95% of all cases occur as a result of destruction of the thyroid gland. Most hypothyroidism is thyroid gland destruction that is suspected to be caused by the dog's own immune system killing the cells of the thyroid gland. Hypothyroidism may also be a result of atrophy of the thyroid tissue and result and infiltration of the tissue by fat, or by a cancer. Hypothyroidism can also be associated with the presence of other diseases and the use of certain medications. Rare cases of congenial hypothyroidism have been diagnosed as well.

Who gets hypothyroidism?

Although the onset of clinical signs is variable, hypothyroidism most commonly develops in middle-aged dogs between the ages of 4 to 10 years. The disorder usually affects mid- to large-size breeds of dogs and is rare in toy and miniature breeds of dogs. Breeds that appear to be predisposed to developing the condition include the Golden Retriever, Doberman Pinscher, Irish Setter, Miniature Schnauzer, Dachshund, Cocker Spaniel and Airedale Terrier. German Shepherds and mixed breeds appear to be at a reduced risk of contracting the disease. There does not appear to be a sex predilection but spayed females appear to develop it more often than intact females.

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Want a Collie Connection in your area?

Let us know and we can help you organize the event!

rescue@collierescuenetwork.com

Are You My New Family?

The following dogs are looking for fantastic new homes where they can become a member of a loving family. If you think you are a good match, please contact the rescue listed with each dog.



Maisie (Ontario)

Sweet Miss Maisie is 9-10 years of age and, as you can see from her picture, is just growing back her beautiful coat. Her previous owners had kept her shaved for ease of care but Maisie is much happier with her gorgeous Collie coat growing back! Miss Maisie is a sweet, gentle girl who would love to find a quiet place to call home. She is excellent with other dogs and great with cats too.

Maisie loves to be around her people and when you talk to her she does a little wiggly dance that her foster mom says is just adorable. She is thrilled to be getting the attention in her foster home and is such a sweet, affectionate girl. A home where Maisie will be loved and pampered is right up her alley. She loves kids and older children (12+) in the home would be fine for her. Miss Maisie likes her daily walks (and she's a little overweight yet so needs someone who will ensure she continues twice daily walks) but her foster mom says she's more of a "stroller" than full out "walker". Maisie likes to stop and sniff just about everything and she's of the mind-set that life is all about enjoying every moment so stopping to smell the roses is a good thing in her books! If you think you are that special home for this special girl, let us know today!

Contact: Collie Rescue Network
www.collierescuenetwork.com

Lacey (Ontario)

Lacey is hoping to find a place to call Home that will finally provide her with the stability and love she needs. Lacey has been "given away" often in her lifetime and she would just like to settle down and know, finally, she won't ever have to pack up her leash and move again. Lacey takes some time to warm up to new people and let her fun, sweet self shine through. Once she knows she is safe



she is a loving, affectionate girl. Lacey is very bonded with her foster dad and we feel a retired gentleman looking for a companion would be perfect for her. Lacey would like someone who is home at least part days as once she bonds with you, she really wants to stay close. Lacey is excellent with other dogs and likely fine with cats, although there are none currently in her foster home she's lived with them in her past life. Lacey has reoccurring infections around her back end and will need a home who is willing and able to visit the vet and get the appropriate medications when required.

Contact: Collie Rescue Network
www.collierescuenetwork.com

Are You My New Family?

The following dogs are looking for great new homes where they can become a new, loved family member. If you think you are a good match, please contact the rescue listed with each dog.



Dali (Ontario)

Dali is a Boxer mix who was found as a stray. She is believed to be around 2-3 years old. She is housetrained and crate-trained. She is in foster care with a female lab and bunnies and while she is good around the bunnies, she is better suited to a home where she is the only dog. In the home she is the sweetest girl imaginable! She is extremely loyal, loving and affectionate. She loves to play and smother you with kisses, lets you know when she needs to relieve herself and sleeps soundly through the night. She is very relaxed and calm in the house, she just needs to control her excitement outside and her leash walking as she does become reactive

to other dogs when on leash (this is a work in progress). She does need a good run every day so a fenced yard for this would be ideal. She also needs work on getting used to other dogs so continued training and socialization will be very important. Despite these issues, however, she has been nothing but a lovely companion and we are certain that she will be a great addition to the right family who is willing to work with her on her issues.

Contact: Boxer Rescue Ontario
www.boxerrescueontario.com



Jake (Ontario)

How sweet is that face? Jake is an approximately 9 year old boy who was left behind when his owners moved. The landlord found him and took him to the shelter. Jake is still very underweight and needs to gain a few pounds but he's a good eater so that won't be a worry for long. Jake is great with the other foster Collies in his foster home. We have no idea about cats but he's a very sweet, gentle boy. Jake loves people and would

to find a place to call home where he will truly be part of the family. Jake is went to visit the groomer this week so watch the website for updated pictures of this handsome boy!

Contact: Collie Rescue Network
www.collierescuenetwork.com

Oshawa Collie Connection!

Harmony Valley off-leash Dog Park
*2nd field

October 15th, 2011

1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Collie Connections are informal gatherings of people who love the Collie breed. Rough Collies, Smooth Collies, rescue Collies, show Collies, Collie mixes and even not-even-close-to-a-Collies! Anyone and everyone is invited to a Collie Connection. Bring your family, bring your friends but most importantly, bring your Collies!

Dog Park Etiquette:

1. Always clean up after your dog and *don't litter!*
2. Dogs should be leashed when entering and leaving any off-leash areas.
3. Watch your children! Never, ever allow them to play unsupervised with any dog in the off-leash area—even your own!
4. Intact females in heat, sick dogs and aggressive dogs should never use the off-leash areas of a park.
5. Don't hand out treats without asking the owner first.
6. Your dog should be fully in your sight and under your voice control at all times.
7. If your dog gets over-excited and stops responding to you, it's time to go home.
8. Prong collars and choke chains are NOT recommended in off-leash areas and can lead to serious injuries.
9. Dogs should be vaccinated and licensed,
10. Read, follow and respect the rules of each individual off-leash dog park.

A.W.A.R.E Festival

October 15th, 2011
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Mainline Room—
Rideau Carleton Raceway
Ottawa, Ontario

- Adoption Alley
- Company Connections
 - Animal Blessing
- Animal Rescue Walk-a-thon
 - Entertainment
 - Demos

There will be a Blessing of the Animals at noon.

Friendly, leashed or contained animals welcome!

Take part in the walk-a-thon and walk on behalf of Collie Rescue Network to raise funds for Princess Delilah! See page 3 of this newsletter for information on this sweet Collie girl!

Visit the website for more information on this great event!

www.awarefestival.ca

www.collierescuenetwork.com

Over the Rainbow Bridge

Malachi



Malachi came to rescue in September 2009. he was heartworm positive and spent many, many months receiving treatment before he finally tested negative and was considered cleared. The treatment, however, had taken it's toll on Malachi and his all-over health was just poor. It was decided that he would stay with the foster family who had made him their special boy and so he entered our "Forever Foster" program.

Malachi lived for two happy years as part of his foster family. He was loved and pampered and did all the wonderful things with his foster family that every happy, loved dog does. Diane and Rob ensured that every day Malachi had left was one that he knew he was a treasured member of the family.

Sophie

December 16, 1995—August 23, 2011



Dear Jenn,

It is with great sadness that I inform you about the passing of Sophie. My beautiful and loving companion had slowed down considerably this spring but we adjusted to the shorter and slower walks, the constant naps, etc., etc.

Her hind legs would not work quite suddenly; we were both surprised she could not stand that day. We buried her in the garden she loved.

Mya, my other Collie, continues to search for her.

Take care,

Georgie, Mya

Edmonton Collie Connection Pictures!

Collies of all types brought their owners along for a fun filled afternoon at the Buena Vista dog park in Edmonton, Alberta on September 23rd, 2011 for the 3rd Annual Edmonton Collie Connection. We saw Smooth Collies, Rough Collies, Sables and Tris, some Collie mixes, some Shelties -pretending like they didn't really wish they were Collies, -a cute Border Collie and even a Jack Russell! Many thanks to those who organized the event and all those wonderful, fun loving Collies who brought your people out for a day of Collie fun!



Thyroid Diseases: Hypothyroidism in Dogs Continued from page 4

What are the symptoms:

Thyroid hormones are needed for normal cellular metabolic function. A deficiency of thyroid hormones effects the metabolic function of all organ systems. As a result, the symptoms are usually variable and non-specific. There is not a specific symptom that is diagnostic for hypothyroidism. There are, however, several symptoms that when combined together make the veterinarian more suspicious of the likelihood of the animal having the disease. A study on hypothyroid dogs revealed the following information on the variety and frequency of symptoms seen with the disease:

Clinical Symptoms	Percentage of Dogs Showing Symptoms
Lethargy/mental dullness	70
Hair Loss	65
Weight gain/obesity	60
Dry hair, coat/excessive shedding	60
Hyperpigmentation of the skin	25
Cold intolerance	15
Slow heart rate	10
High blood cholesterol	80
Anemia	50

How is hypothyroidism diagnosed?

There are several different tests used to diagnose hypothyroidism in the dog. The test chosen will depend on the symptoms and the availability of different tests to your veterinarian.

Baseline T4 Test: The most common test run is the baseline T4 test. A blood sample is drawn and tested by radioimmunoassay to determine the level of T4 thyroid hormone in the bloodstream. The T4 hormone is produced only in the thyroid gland and dogs with a failure of the thyroid gland will have a lowered level of this hormone. However, there are other conditions that can cause a lowering of T4 so if this screening test is positive for hypothyroidism another more specific test is often done to confirm the diagnosis.

Baseline T3 Test: Another screening test that can be run is the baseline T3 test. T3 is another form of thyroid hormone found in the bloodstream. This test can be used as a screening test instead of T4. The T3 test is not as accurate in the early cases of hypothyroidism and occasionally will be normal when the T4 level is reduced. For these reasons, this test is not often used; if it is used, it is in combination with the TSH level or TSH stimulation test.

Free T4 by Equilibrium Dialysis: T4 is present in tow forms in the body. The "bound" form is attached to proteins in the blood and is unable to enter the cells. The "free" T4 is not attached to proteins and can readily enter the cells and perform its function. The free T4 is normally present in very small amounts. A special laboratory test—equilibrium dialysis—has been designed that can quite precisely measure free T4.

TSH Level: This blood test measures the amount of TSH in the bloodstream. In a hypothyroid dog the level will be elevated because the body is trying to stimulate the thyroid gland to produce more thyroid hormone. If the Baseline T4 and Baseline T3 are low and the TSH is elevated, a diagnosis of hypothyroidism can be made.

TSH Stimulation: If a dog has a low T4 or T3 level, this test may be performed to confirm a diagnosis of hypothyroidism. A small amount of Thyroid Stimulation Hormone (TSH) is injected into the

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Thyroid Diseases: Hypothyroidism in Dogs
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vein. After 6 hours, a blood sample is drawn and the T4 level is checked. A dog without thyroid disease that may have other conditions causing a low T4 will have a high T4 level after the TSH injection. A dog with true hypothyroidism will not have an increase in T4 after the injection.

As mentioned earlier, 95% of thyroid disease is caused by destruction or loss of the thyroid gland function. If hypothyroidism is suspected but not confirmed by these described tests then it is possible that the condition may be caused by one of the other 5% of conditions that cause hypothyroidism. To diagnose those problems one or several of the following tests may be used: TSH stimulation test, serum total reverse T3 concentration (a radioimmunoassay), serum free T4 and serum free T3 concentration.

How is hypothyroidism treated?

Hypothyroidism in dogs is easily treated. Treatment consists of placing the dog on a daily dose of a synthetic thyroid hormone called thyroxine (levothyroxine).



There are numerous brand names of this drug. The dose and frequency of administration of this drug varies depending on the severity of the disease and the individual response of the animal to the drug. A dog is usually placed on a standard dose for his weight and then blood samples are done periodically to check his response and then the dose is adjusted accordingly. Once therapy is started, the dog will need to be on treatment for the rest of his life. Usually after the treatment is started, the majority of the symptoms resolve.

www.peteducation.com

Thank You to the

Take The Plunge

Volunteers!!

Heartfelt thanks to the amazing volunteers who helped out at this year's Take The Plunge event in Ottawa! Happy Collie tail wags go out to Geri & Jack, Marie, Finola, Kristina & Marc, Alyson & Gary and all the Collies who attended too!

