

COLLIE NEWS

Beware those who rescue dogs for the money

Last month NBC Connecticut reported on so-called rescue groups that were importing animals in large numbers from other states, primarily to make money — as much as \$550 per dog.

According to the report, in 2012 14,138 animals were brought into Connecticut, most of them from Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Alabama.

Greedy “rescuers” are not a new problem. Two years ago, a North Carolina rescue called Saving Fur Kids was busted for transporting dogs with parvovirus to New Jersey, selling them at suburban malls for \$270 to \$400 each.

No diseased animals were found when Oregon police arrested the woman who ran Tiny Paws Puppy Rescue, because it didn't exist. Thanks to a knack for persuasion, a compelling website and a Petfinder listing, she pocketed at least \$40,000 in donations.

These cases and many more are detailed on Rescue-Abuse.com, a new website that tracks “fake, shady and disreputable” animal rescue groups, including animal hoarders posing as rescuers.

The website asks, “Do you really know the rescue?” “Does your rescue neglect its animals?” “Is your rescue an animal hoarder?”

In fact, SWCR's sweet collie mix Paige is one of 208 dogs found by sheriff's deputies in September at the Desert Mission Sanctuary for

Dogs in Chaparral, NM. They had no food or water. Dead dogs were stacked in the trash. Others were emaciated. Some, rescuers were informed, had severe internal injuries. The man responsible for this horror story is in jail on assault charges unrelated to the animals.

So how can you tell the greedy or deranged rescuers from, well, the rest of us? How *do* you really know the rescue, when even some of the bad ones have non-profit, 501c3 status, Petfinder listings, nice websites and Facebook pages?

We suggest that you look for evidence of certain essential values:

■ **Nearly all the rescue's revenue is spent on the dogs.** You know this because its financial information is made available.

■ **A high standard of care:** In-home foster care. Comprehensive veterinary care, including necessary testing, specialty vet visits, surgery. Spay/neuter before adoption.

■ **Full disclosure** about a dog's health and behavior. Adopters can talk to the foster and visit the dog. The rescue always will take a dog back and refund the adoption fee.

■ **A thorough adoption process:** A detailed application. A home visit. Careful matches of dogs with adopters. Transport of dogs all or part-way to adopters at no charge. Advice and help *after* the adoption.

■ **A commitment to the breed.** The breed rescue group accepts old, sick, and special-needs dogs, and provides long-term and hospice care.



SWCR volunteer Bettina demonstrates massage techniques on her blissed-out collie Lupita at the Dog Lovers Fair in El Paso in October. Bettina learned canine massage at the Rocky Mountain School of Animal Acupressure and Massage, in Colorado.

The real cost of rescue

How much money, on average, does SWCR spend on each collie and sheltie we rescue?

In 2012 we rescued 75 dogs. We spent \$38,318 on vet fees and medications. Add \$909 for food, \$839 for grooming, \$126 for microchipping and \$110 for licenses, for a total of \$40,302 spent directly on the dogs.

Divide this by 75 and the result is \$537 and change.

But our standard adoption fee is just \$175 — more for puppies, less for old dogs.

As a result, **SWCR loses, on average, hundreds of dollars on each dog we rescue.**

And that doesn't count the other expenses of running a

rescue group: website hosting, supplies and postage, gas for transporters, insurance, newsletters (covered by earmarked donations), and Paypal fees.

In fact, **SWCR's total expenses in 2012 were \$44,267, or an average of \$590 per dog.**

Happily, our revenues of \$46,793 were more than enough to cover these costs.

Of this total, \$10,805 came from adoption fees; \$29,121 from donations, and \$6,806 from local fund-raising events and sales.

That left \$2,526 for us to roll into 2013, which has turned out to be a *very* good thing. We'll tell you more when all the numbers are in.

YES, I WANT TO SAVE A COLLIE!

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE \$ _____

to bail a collie out of a shelter, groom a matted collie, spay/neuter a collie, or pay a collie's vet bills.

I WOULD LIKE TO FOSTER a collie in my home. I have a fenced yard and a lot of love to give!

Mail to: Southwest Collie Rescue
c/o Lee More, treasurer
52 Estrada Calabasa
Santa Fe, NM 87506

HEARTFELT THANKS TO ...

SWCR foster parents who care for very old or sick collies who are dying. **Amy**, in Phoenix, looked after **Joy** for nearly a year as her body slowly gave out. **Barb**, in Tijeras, NM, helped the sheltie **Travis**, who had cancer, through his last 6 weeks. **Wendi** and **Kevin**, in Alamogordo, NM, have cared for **Ranger** for 8 months as his bone cancer has spread. This is hard

duty, but for the dogs, the benefit of such love and devotion at the end of their lives is immeasurable.

■ **Dr. Bob Gruda** in Santa Fe, this time for his surgery on Bart's leg. The little guy is almost ready to run again!

■ SWCR's **Lisa Boegl**, who is managing our Facebook page so well.

■ SWCR's **Kathy Wallis**, who's been spending an hour each day helping take care of the dogs who survived the grisly hoarding situation in Chaparral.