

# A RUN THAT WENT WRONG, AND RIGHT

## Gunther runs off, gets hurt, winds up with an adopter, best buddy

It's every foster parent's worst nightmare. The dog you're taking care of suddenly disappears. You walk the streets for hours, calling and hoping, until darkness falls.

This nightmare came true for Scott Harnden, who was taking care of Gunther, a spirited young collie mix, while his regular foster parents were on vacation.

During a late afternoon walk in his new Scottsdale, AZ, neighborhood, something spooked Gunther and he got away. Scott searched the area for more than two hours, then headed home for a flashlight.

He'd left his garage door open, and a neighbor alerted him that an injured dog was there. It was Gunther, but his front paw was bleeding badly and bone was visible.

As ill-luck would have it, the date was Saturday, Aug. 31, on Labor Day weekend. Scott's vet clinic was closed. So he rushed Gunther to a nearby Emergency Veterinary Clinic.

If this has ever happened to you, you know what comes next: good care for your dog and a *gigantic* bill for you. In this case, for SWCR.

Gunther had a big, deep cut across the inside of his right carpal joint, which was displaced. An X-ray showed a ligament tear. The joint was set, bandaged and put in a cast. A few cactus spines were pulled. He stayed overnight for observation.

The bill was \$1,366.54.

But the silver linings of this dark financial cloud soon became apparent. With Scott's excellent care, Gunther healed quickly. Scott's own dog, a young Lab named Sid, faithfully stayed beside his friend throughout his recovery. Best of all, Scott adopted Gunther — and now they're all living happily ever after.



*Gunther, at left, is confined to a crate (and then a bigger one) after badly injuring his right carpal joint. His friend Sid stays by his side. Above, Sid continues his vigil during the healing process.*

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