



SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE

SERVING NEW MEXICO, WEST TEXAS & ARIZONA

Spring 2013 newsletter

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HOW TO FIND US

Website

nmcollierescue.com

E-mail address

arlenestarkey@q.com

Mailing address

Southwest Collie Rescue
52 Estrada Calabasa E.
Santa Fe, NM 87506

Rescue Coordinators

New Mexico

Santa Fe, Lee More
(505) 989-3530
leemore@mac.com
Albuquerque, Arlene Starkey
(505) 892-8538
arlenestarkey@q.com
Alamogordo and Las Cruces,
Kathy Wallis
(575) 430-2361
katwallis1@msn.com

West Texas

El Paso, Bettina Ross
(915) 584-1619
collies6629@cs.com

Arizona

Gilbert, Phoenix area, Bill Ferrell
(480) 507-7996
bkferrell@cox.net
Phoenix, Cindy Reel
(602) 570-2951
REELRACER@aol.com
Tucson, Peg Cass
(520) 904-5733
sneekypie@msn.com

Board of Directors

Peg Cass, President
Lee More, Vice president,
treasurer, newsletter editor
Arlene Starkey, Secretary
Bill Ferrell
Vicki Loucks
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Kathy Wallis

A mystery is solved, and a family found

Ranger, now suffering from bone cancer, is reunited with the two brothers who loved him

The little collie was found wandering in the desert outside Naco, AZ. He was starved, dehydrated, and had a wound on his right front paw.

A nearby rescue group took him and contacted us. Within days he was settled in at the home of Wendi and Kevin, our wonderful fosters in Alamogordo, NM. They named him Ranger.

He was a mystery, a collie with a microchip that, despite considerable sleuthing, led us nowhere. Then we learned there was a second name on the chip — that of the original owner.

When she found out what had happened to Ranger, then called Buddy, she was horrified. Before moving out of state she had adopted him to a couple who'd promised to give him a good home.

She called her sons Patrick and Nick, who still lived in Arizona, to tell them the news.

By then we had learned that the problem with Ranger's paw was bone cancer. After we told his former family, Patrick and Nick drove all the way to Alamogordo the following week to see him.

Ranger knew them immediately and was all smiles. They walked, and played, and hugged.

Why it's a good idea to have your collie tested for the mutant MDR1 gene

At least 70 percent of collies, more than any other breed, have the mutant MDR1 gene, which makes them vulnerable to the toxic effects of many commonly used drugs.

Among them, **acepromazine**, a tranquilizer; **butorphanol**, a pre-anesthetic; **erythromycin**, an antibiotic; **loperamide (Imodium)**, used to treat diarrhea; **vincristine**, an anti-cancer drug; and anti-parasitic drugs such as **ivermectin**, **selamectin**, **milbemycin** and **moxidectin**.

The test for the mutant

MDR1 gene, available from Washington State University for \$70, will tell you just how vulnerable your collie may be.

All genes have two copies, one from each parent. Your collie could test "normal/normal" (no mutant gene); "normal/mutant" or "mutant/normal" (one copy of the mutant gene); or "mutant/mutant" (two copies of the mutant gene, meaning your collie is at much higher risk).

In one study of unrelated collies, only 22 percent had no copies of the mutant gene; 42 percent had one copy, and fully 35 percent had two copies.

Given these numbers, it makes



Ranger is reunited with his boys, now grown up.

Still weak from his ordeal, Ranger soon became exhausted. But Patrick and Nick left for home knowing their collie was in good hands, and would be loved and cared for until the end.

Ranger is happy, stronger, and taking walks every day. We hope the end is a long time coming.

sense to find out your collie's status for the mutant gene. This simple test could save his life.

For more information, see Washington State University's website, <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/test.aspx>

Some breeds affected by the MDR1 mutation (frequency %)

Collie	70%
Australian Shepherd	50%
Shetland Sheepdog	15%
English Shepherd	15%
German Shepherd	10%
Herding breed cross	10%
Old English Sheepdog	5%
Mixed Breed	5%
Border Collie	< 5%

Source: Washington State University