



SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE

Serving New Mexico, West Texas & Arizona

Spring 2016 newsletter

In this issue

Collie news, p.2

■ SWCR's Custom Collie Store, featuring terrific work by a longtime volunteer, is open for business.

■ Remember Riesling, who was rescued from a man who was beating her? Guess who adopted her.

Collies at home, p.3

Barney, once a stray, is now a churchgoer, p.4

He loves being there with his Arizona adopter, who happens to be the vicar.

How to contact us

Website

nmcollierescue.com

E-mail address

arlenestarky@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
arlenestarky@q.com

Alamogordo & Las Cruces,
Kathy Wallis
(575) 430-2361
katwallis1@msn.com

West Texas

For now, please contact Kathy Wallis (see above).

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

Kathy Wallis, President
Lee More, Vice president,
treasurer, newsletter editor
Arlene Starkey, Secretary
Lisa Boegl
Peg Cass
Bill Ferrell
Cindy Reel
Bettina Ross

So far, Honey's cancer treatment is working

On Valentine's Day we rescued Honey, a beautiful older collie-mix girl who was scheduled to be euthanized at a Phoenix shelter.

She was in terrible shape. Her teeth were rotted, she was underweight, her coat was like straw, she had a small mass on one eyelid, a back leg joint was nearly out of its socket, and she had a bleeding tumor the size of an orange on her rear end — a soft tissue sarcoma.

Yet Honey was far from being a hospice case. She was sweet, alert, active, and upbeat. She loved walking in the park. She was excited to meet new people. We could not let her die slowly from cancer if the right treatment were available.

It was. Honey's oncologist, Dr. Eric Boshoven at Arizona Veterinary Oncology, told us she'd be a good candidate for Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS). This non-invasive treatment, the clinic's website explains, directs "high doses of precisely focused radiation" to destroy a tumor "without damaging nearby healthy tissue."

The only obstacle was the cost:



Our sweet Honey has lots more energy now and loves her walks in the park.

\$9,000 plus an expensive CT scan and X-rays — more than we'd ever tried to raise for any single dog. It was a lot to ask of our supporters, many of whom already had been so generous at the end of 2015.

To our amazement, we raised nearly \$9,700 in a week or so. Once people read about Honey and saw the videos of her we posted online,

many wanted to help.

And help they did — more than 50 people from all over the country, but mostly those who've been generous to our collies many times before.

Honey had three doses of radiation on consecutive days at the end of March. When she next visited Dr. Boshoven, he was happy with what he saw. The tumor was shrinking.

Honey has a busy summer ahead: A much-needed dental surgery is scheduled for July 1, and in late July she'll have her first post-treatment X-rays and evaluation.

After that, we're hoping she'll have nothing but happy years ahead.

Heartfelt thanks to ...

■ **All the wonderful people** who made it possible for Honey to get the treatment she needed to live.

■ **Phoenix Animal Care Coalition (PACC911)** deserves a special thank you: Honey received a total of \$2,200 from its emergency fund and its **Lulu's Angel Fund**.

■ **Dr. Eric Boshoven and his staff**, who have been so kind to Honey and have done so much for her.

2015: Where our money came from and where it went

Last year SWCR ended up \$584 in the black. We're a nonprofit corporation, so we try to break even.

Since we strongly believe in financial transparency, we'd like you to know where the money came from how we spent it. As always, we pay no salaries; we're all volunteers. Our goal is to spend virtually every penny on the dogs we rescue. In 2015 the cost of running SWCR was just 4 percent.

One troubling trend: The

Category	Amount	Percentage
Donations	\$33,304	(75%)
Adoption fees	8,025	(18%)
Fundraising events	3,126	(7%)
Total	\$44,455	

collies we rescue are older and sicker than they were, say, five years ago.

We've also noticed that local shelters are only too happy to give us the old and sick, but often keep young, healthy, adoptable collies to adopt out themselves.

The result for SWCR: Higher medical bills and fewer young collies. And of course our collies don't wind up in shelters, making it even harder for our adopters to find a collie at all.

SWCR Expenses, 2015

Category	Amount	Percentage
Direct dog expenses		
Vet fees and meds	\$38,554	(88%)
Groom, board, chip, shelter, license fees	2,106	(5%)
Dog food, fosters; gas, dog transporters	851	(2%)
Business costs		
Insurance, website fees, printing, postage	\$1,702	(4%)
Miscellaneous*	658	(1%)
Total	\$43,871	

**This is what we spent to find Max, the lost collie in Alamogordo, NM: \$500 for the reward (donated by individual SWCR board members) and \$158 for posters and signs. After a major search we found him. He was later adopted by a family in Boulder, CO.*