

COLLIE NEWS

THE JUAREZ CONNECTION

How SWCR came to rescue two young collies from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

No one at SWCR had ever asked, "Why don't we rescue collies from Mexico?" But this year we did, thanks to quite a few people.

Niza, now Nina, arrived in late April. She'd been a street dog in Juarez City until almost a year ago, when a rescuer there took her in, cleaned her up and searched for an owner.

No luck. Finally they contacted Alicia Kumke, director of Forever Homes, an all-breed rescue group in Alamogordo. Alicia lives down the street from SWCR's Kathy Wallis, and the two quickly hatched a plan.

Juarez rescuers Liz Higareda and Carlos Velasquez drove the one-year-old collie over the bridge into El Paso. Longtime SWCR volunteers Jenny and Mitch met them and kept Niza overnight. SWCR's Tim Groll picked her up the next morning and drove her back to Alamogordo, where she was fostered by SWCR's Wendi and Kevin White.

Two week later, Alicia called us again. She had just accepted another Juarez collie on



behalf of SWCR: Max, age four, whose elderly owner could no longer care for him. The owner had heard about Niza and wanted Max to come to us as well. So Tim drove the Forever Homes rescue van to El Paso, picked up Max from a driver from Juarez, and drove Max to Alamogordo, where he was vetted.



Niza, above, now renamed **Nina**, was our first collie rescued from Mexico, thanks to efforts to network with small rescue groups on both sides of the border. At left, **Max** was turned over to us by an elderly woman in Juarez who could no longer take care of him. When they found out we'd rescued Nina, they begged us to take Max as well.

Meanwhile, Wendi and Kevin fell in love with their underweight foster girl. They renamed her Nina and recently adopted her.

Max was fostered briefly in Alamo, then brought to Santa Fe. He's a very big, beautiful, way-too-thin boy, more puppy than adult, who clings to his humans and is learning essential English words. He's still a work in progress.

2017: Where SWCR's money came from and where it went

In 2016, a handful of very needy collies and shelties drove our vet costs to \$44,443. Last year, however, we rescued fewer collies and they were much healthier. The result: Vet costs for 2017 were much lower at \$32,152.

Why did this happen? Hard to say. There's no predictable business model for rescuing purebred collies and shelties. Some years we find quite a few, other

SWCR Revenues, 2017

Donations	\$37,387	(81%)
Adoption Fees	4,725	(10%)
Fundraising events	3,450	(8%)
Custom Collie Store	448	(1%)
Total	\$46,010	

years not so many. In 2016, the dogs we rescued were older than usual. Some were geriatric and required more medical care. In 2017 that changed: Younger dogs arrived needing less medical care.

So far this year, they're still trending younger. But we have no idea how many will be coming and how healthy they'll be.

Pilot **Jeremy Katusak**, who flew Benji from Houston to Midland, TX, the first leg of an elaborate transport to bring this collie to us.

SWCR adopter **David Knawa**. Earlier this year he picked up about 800 lbs. of donated dry dog food in Tucson, then drove it to the Phoenix area to be used by local foster homes.

Karen Forgang and **Dianne Nelson**, our new volunteer writers for the newsletter. Both are SWCR adopters and experienced writers, as you can tell by their stories on Page 1.



Our heartfelt thanks to ...

Tim Groll of Alamogordo, NM, who's transported so many SWCR dogs this year that he's driven a whopping 2,386 miles. And it's only early June! Here he is with Sierra, one of his own 3 dogs.

SWCR Expenses, 2017

Direct dog expenses		
Vet fees and meds	\$32,152	(88%)
Groom, board, chip, shelter & license fees	1,741	(5%)
Dog food, fosters; gas for dog transporters	359	(1%)
Business costs		
Insurance, website fees, printing, postage	2,145	(6%)
Total	\$36,397	

As always, SWCR paid no salaries. We're all volunteers; we spend virtually every penny on the dogs we rescue. In 2017 the cost of running SWCR was just 6% of expenses.

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 at home. I have a fenced yard and a lot of love to give!

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