

RESCUING BENJI

One look at Benji's damaged face, and we knew we had to help

The first photo of Benji showed two cherry eyes and a swollen, scabbed, pitted face.

Was it from fleas? Mange? All we knew was that our friends at Freedom Collie Rescue and Houston Collie Rescue were out of room and couldn't take him.

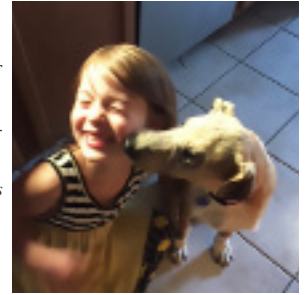
But that face! We had to help this puppy, just four months old, in Fulshear, TX. So, along with major help from Pat Booher of Freedom Collie Rescue, we put together a team.

In Fulshear, Melissa Hollingworth and Caroline deBoer took care of Benji with the help of Houston K911; Melissa and K911 paid his early medical bills. Jeremy Katusak, of Pilots N Paws, flew Benji to Midland. SWCR volunteer Catherine Clifton met the plane. Tim Groll drove 10 hours to get him to Alamogordo.

By then we had a working diagnosis for Benji's face: dermatomyositis (DM), an inherited



At left, the first photo of Benji. Despite the long distance, we had to try to help him. Above, Jeremy Katusak of Pilots N Paws flew Benji 400+ miles at no charge. At right, Amy's daughter Abby gets a kiss from Benji. "He's eating well and the lesions on his ears seem to be healing up," Amy says. "I've been slathering his face in aloe or calendula salve twice a day."



inflammatory disease in young collies and shelties. What to do? Clearly Benji needed to be in an expert foster home with access to veterinary specialists. That pointed to Amy, in Phoenix, who had fostered other dogs with medical issues. Once again, Tim Groll drove most of the way.

Amy already has made an appointment with a Phoenix eye specialist, reached out to the Collie Health Foundation and corresponded with a professor at Clemson University, in South Carolina, about DM.

At last, Benji will get all the help he needs.

Website: www.nmcollierescue.com

E-mail: leemore@mac.com

Santa Fe, NM 87506

52 Estrada Calabasa E.

SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE

