

COLLIE NEWS

Overwhelmed by sick, expensive dogs

Every year SWCR takes in a few collies or shelties who run up huge vet bills. We're used to this and budget for it. This year has been different.

Twelve dogs have cost us close to or well beyond \$1,000 each. Our bank account is low, and we may need to help many sick dogs next year.

Here are this year's costliest dogs:

■ The first was **Shasta**, who developed another large tumor. Her doctors couldn't tell whether it was malignant. After surgery, they discovered it was. She died two months later.

■ Then **Cassidy**, one of the Tom-ball collies, had to be rushed to the VCA hospital in Albuquerque, where we learned she had two serious auto-immune diseases. Her medications seemed to help, but months later she relapsed. She had almost no red blood cells left and had to have a transfusion. Within three weeks she relapsed again. This time we realized there was no saving her, and ended her suffering.

■ **Kady** developed some alarming symptoms. After many tests, she was found to have Cushing's Disease. She's now doing very well on her medications and is a happy girl.

■ **Heidi** needed a tumor removed.

■ **Gray**, almost deaf, arrived with skin and thyroid issues, tumors, and symptoms that his vets agreed looked like Cushing's. But his test results were inconclusive, so we couldn't give him Cushing's meds. Still, he's doing well.

■ Both **Laci** and **Heidi Ho** needed major dental surgery.

■ **Wrangler** chewed up a toy at his foster home, began vomiting and became lethargic. Afraid he might have an obstruction, we took him to a vet right away. No obstruction. He's fine.

■ **Prince** had such rotten, infected teeth that he could barely eat. Dental surgery removed 25 teeth and now he's eating with gusto.

■ **Sandy** seemed healthy at first, albeit nervous. Then she had a long, scary seizure. We rushed her to an emergency vet. Was it epilepsy? A brain tumor? At great cost, a neurologist found nothing wrong. Since then she's had several more seizures. Her doctors are baffled.

■ **Wyatt** arrived with heartworms and is undergoing treatment.

■ **Barney** arrived with a punctured eye that needed to be surgically removed. He's fine now.



Above, tri girl Magpie is much more relaxed & energetic, thanks to her acupuncture treatments. At left, Dr. Jenna Beyer ministers to Bentley. You can see the ends of the acupuncture needles on Bentley's back.

Two SWCR collies try acupuncture, like it

Magpie, SWCR '06, is 12 or 13 years old. She used to take pain meds but now they're rarely needed, thanks to her acupuncture treatments every three or four weeks.

"She has resumed her duties of guarding the back yard from the trash truck monster, says her mom, SWCR volunteer Beverly, in Amarillo, Texas. "She has also mellowed ... she has gone from being hunched up on the couch to being totally relaxed."

Bentley, '09, is 10. He began monthly acupuncture last spring to provide pain relief for his arthritis. It's working, says SWCR volunteer Lisa, also in Amarillo.

"Not only does it provide pain relief, it enhances flexibility and allows me to keep an older dog more active. Plus, all my dogs have adored it and they usually 'bliss out' after a session. It's just an excellent alternative tool."

who searched the area by air during his training hours.

"It only takes a couple hundred people to find one missing dog," joked Kathy Wallis after it was all over.

■ **Scruff's Dog Food Co.**, which donated 300 lbs. of premium dog food to SWCR in July for the fosters in our program. SWCR volunteer **Howard Thorpe** handled the logistics and approached Scruff's. The company is based in Goodyear, AZ, and helps several local rescues, donating food and offering discounts for adopters.

Heartfelt thanks to ...

■ K9 investigator **Karin TarQwin**, who gave us great advice, created the posters & e-mailed them to Staples — all at no charge. The 50 laminated posters cost \$4.00 each. Karin ordered them for us at her business rate of \$1.74, plus tax.

■ **Everyone else who helped** look for Max, including **Kathy Wallis**, who coordinated the search; **Staples**, which rushed the laminated posters into print; **Wayne Anderson**; **Kelly Wallis**, who searched the desert on a 4-wheeler; **Eddy Boles**, who searched the area on horseback; **Shirley Fambrough** of NM Husky Rescue, who searched early mornings and late nights along the highway; **U.S Border Patrol officers** and nearby

Otero County Sheriff's deputies; **Southwest Disposal drivers**; **Darla** at SWD, who circulated posters; **Janine Fouchard**, Fouchard Ranch and Rescue; many **residents of Boles Acres** and nearby subdivisions; **Alamogordo Animal Control**; **Otero County Animal Control**; **Weimaraner Rescue and Forever Homes Animal Rescue**; NM Wildlife Officer **Mike Jones**, who offered tracking services and a live capture trap; SWCR volunteers **Alma and Ralph LoBianco**; **Sally Walker**, Walker Ranch; **Mountain Propane drivers**; **Jim Talbot**, manager, Alamogordo Regional Airport; **Security Forces**, Main Gate, Holloman AFB; **Severn Trent Water Treatment Plant**; and **Mike Storseth**, a private pilot,

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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