

COLLIE NEWS



Honey's cancer has returned

In March, Honey underwent Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) for a malignant tumor.

She responded well. The tumor shrunk and she has enjoyed an active, happy life. Recently, however, Honey visited her oncologist and the news was not good: The tumor was back.

Even worse, a CT scan revealed a large new mass, probably malignant, on her liver.

At this point, the oncologist told us, any new treatment would be unrealistic. There's nothing left to do but love her and watch for signs that she's deteriorating.

Which is both heartbreaking and hard to accept: She's still the vibrant girl you see in the photo above, taken just last month.

Heartfelt thanks to ...

■ Longtime fosters **Wendy**, who works for a vet, and her husband **Kevin**, for giving **Ranger**, a collie mix, three extra years of life.

Ranger died last month at their home in Alamogordo at age 13 1/2, despite having battled bone cancer for his last three years.

"I can't believe how much Ranger taught me about holistic cancer treatments, about his health and about my health," Wendy wrote.

No one ever thought the cancer would slow down enough for Ranger to enjoy so much good time with a family that loved him.

Bravo, Wendy and Kevin. Well done!

■ **John, Linn** and **Emma** of the Phoenix area, who have helped many of our collies — but none so much as **JoJo**, age 10. This boy has a "bowel pouch," which accumulated feces, prevented defecation and required frequent manual clean-outs at the vet's office.

Our wonderful Bettina, still with us in spirit

On July 4 we lost our friend Bettina Ross to cancer. The collies lost a champion.

Born in Wuppertal, Germany, in 1961, Bettina became an accomplished professional musician, performing on clarinet, flute, bass clarinet and saxophone.

She was teaching and playing clarinet in Hamburg and playing with a quartet in Cologne when she served as an English translator for David Ross, a classical musician lecturing in Germany.

They married in 2003 and returned to David's home in El Paso to teach and perform.

In 2006 a collie intervened. David's parents had just died, and after settling their affairs, he and Bettina drove home with the family collie, Gypsy.

At local dog events they soon met collie volunteers from SWCR. When a sickly sable and white pup needed fostering, Bettina and David said yes. They fell in love with Bear and adopted him.

They also fostered collies and helped organize and staff many local SWCR events.



Bettina with Bear, left, and full of joy, above.

Bettina's passion for helping dogs grew. She had once worked as a massage therapist; now she wanted to learn canine massage therapy.

"Her goal was to help geriatric, ill, and handicapped or otherwise disadvantaged dogs," David told us.

Bettina located a school in Colorado. David hooked up their camper. She soon received her certificate (and later an advanced certificate) in canine massage.

In late 2014, she noticed a lump. She was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer and began treatment. By spring she was in full remission.

"I'm not going to worry

about anything any more," she told friends. "I'm just going to live my life and see what happens next."

We elected Bettina to our board in 2015. We saw her gift for handling sensitive issues with kindness, her down-to-earth practicality, her unerring moral compass.

Sadly, in April of this year the cancer returned. She had more surgery, to no avail.

David and Bear presided over her memorial service.

Shortly after, SWCR was asked to take in a collie mix. We debated the pros and cons. Finally someone asked, "What would Bettina do?"

And we had our answer.



Sweet JoJo with John, Linn and Emma.

Working closely with her vet, Linn put JoJo on a diet of hamburger and rice (later half venison-based kibble and half rice, plus coconut oil for his coat). He also gets Meloxicam,

a probiotic, and Proin, which ended his incontinence.

Happily, JoJo's body now seems to be working on its own, and Linn thinks he's stable enough for adoption.

"JoJo is a sweet, easygoing gentleman who loves his people. He is affectionate, gentle, and loves getting his ears scratched and his tummy rubbed. He's housebroken, uses a dog door, rides well in a car, and doesn't beg (much) or counter-surf. He's great with children and our dog-savvy cat."

Bless you, Linn, for giving JoJo a new life.

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!

Mail to: Lee More, SWCR treasurer
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