



August 2005

volume 5

What's in this issue:

Rescues Can Do It All!

~~~

**Editor's Pick: "When I Am Old"**

~~~

Upcoming Activities

~~~

**Our Featured Foster Family - Jill & Tyler Harrelson**

~~~

Pet Expo & Walk-n-Wag

~~~

**Ehrliciosis; should you be concerned?**

~~~

Editorial by Bridget Byrne

~~~

**Q & A with Pam Wolf**

~~~

The Almost Forgotten Dog A story by Bridget

Rescue Dogs Can Do It!



Vicki Walton and her SAR rescue BC Solo

Well folks, thanks to you we are rehabilitating more Border collies and finding wonderful homes for them. Our number of foster homes and volunteers has again increased and we hear that Mo-Kan Border Collie Rescue has a reputation for being an outstanding rescue group. No surprise to any of us who are so impressed with what we experience on this side of the block. The quiet donations, the offers to transport dogs and evaluate them in shelters, the donation of time for activities like the Pet Expo and the Gladstone Wag and Wag, have been overwhelming.

The theme of our current issues is "Rescue Dogs Can Do It!" In addition to being great new family members Mo-Kan Dogs are involved in Search and Rescue, Agility, Flyball, Herding and Therapy Work and Obedience. In addition, meet our featured adoptive dog, Tazz as well as our featured foster family Jill Harrelson and her son Tyler.



MKBCR has adopting out some awesome flyball dogs! Here is Charly flying thru the air at a flyball tourney in St Louis with the Flexible Flyers!

When I Am Old

When I am Old....

I shall wear Turquoise and soft gray sweatshirts...
and a bandana over my silver hair.....
and I shall spend my Social Security Checks on Sweet Wine and My Dogs.....
and sit in my house on my well-worn chair
and listen to my dog's breathing.

I will sneak out in the middle of a warm Summer night
and take my dogs for a run, if my old bones will allow...

and when people come to call,
I will smile and nod as I show them my dogs...
and talk of them and about them...
The Ones so Beloved of the Past
and the Ones so Beloved of Today....

I still will work hard cleaning after them
and mopping and feeding them
and whispering their names in a soft, loving way...

will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat, like a jewel
and I will be an embarrassment to all...
and my family...

who have not yet found the peace
in being free to have dogs as your Best Friends....

These friends who always wait, at any hour, for your footfall...

and eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep,

to greet you as if you are a God,
with warm eyes full of adoring love and hope
that you will stay
and their big, strong necks...

and kiss their dear sweet heads...
and whisper to their very special company....

I look in the Mirror...
and see I am getting old...
this is the kind of woman I am...
And have always been.

Loving dogs is easy,
They are part of me,>...
my dogs appreciate my presence in their lives
when I am old this will be important to me...
you will understand when you are old.....
and if you have dogs to love too

-With gratitude to Jenny Joseph, who gave us the original "When I Am Old 1961"

Our Featured Foster Family.



Jill and Kelly at the Pet Expo

Jill & Tyler Harrelson

We have nominated Jill & Tyler Harrelson as our bravest foster family to date! They began by fostering not one but two dogs, Eve and Buddy nka Finn. Eve had to have her leg amputated because she had been hit by a car not once by twice, so not only did Jill and Tyler take two new dogs into their home but some nursing skill was also involved.

Since those first dogs Jill has adopted two of her fosters, Kelty and Charlie. Kelty reminded them of their last Border collie and Charlie who had been replaced in his last home by a new boyfriend bonded with Tyler so tightly that Jill has commented that Tyler may have to take him to the fraternity house with him when he goes to college in the fall!

Nothing seems to faze Jill in terms of foster dogs. We have brought her dogs so dirty that the white on their coats was hard to see. They most recently fostered a five year old dog that had been abandoned by his family was severely overweight and very wary of new people. Jill and Tyler had to hand feed him and gently introduced him to her two Border collies. This was followed by picking up, what was supposed to be, 1 dog from a trucker who was transporting a mother and pups from Kansas. He announced at 11:00 pm at a rest stop on I-70 that Jill would also be taking one of the pups that the mother had recently given birth too. Being the trooper Jill is she took them both home! Jill also has helped Mo-Kan with other activities like transporting and “womaning” our booth at the Pet Expo.

Most recently we were given custody of 7 dogs from a breeder whose operation had been closed down. Jill, in addition to fostering for us, recruited four excellent foster homes for these dogs.

We are very grateful to have Jill and Tyler as part of our Mo-Kan family and thank them on behalf of all the Border collies they have helped to a new life.



MKBCR's Featured Adopted Dog - Tazz

A friend of Mo-Kan, Linda Huber, frantically called us regarding a Border collie she had seen at a pet adoption. He was in a group of dogs from the shelter in Independence who had been taken by volunteers to one of the local adoptions. The dog she saw was terrified, licking her fingers through his crate. It was bad timing in many ways to take in a new foster dog with all of our foster homes full except for mine. But I had just brought a new puppy home and wanted to give him some time to settle in with my other Border collie Charly. But Linda was persistent, we must save this dog! So Jennifer went to the shelter to evaluate him and returned with him. What a beauty he was and so full of energy that when he was released into my yard, he shot through the gate and immediately did at least 10 laps delighted to be free to run.

What a delight Tazz was. He was smart, an incredible athletic with a very sweet disposition. It wasn't dampened a bit by a serious case of kennel cough. He grieved during that time as we had to keep him separated from other dogs especially my puppy. They would watch each other play through the window not understanding why they weren't allowed to play together.

Christy Felty, who lives in Michigan, saw Tazz on our website. Christy is active in Agility, teaching it in fact and starting a flyball team and inquired about Tazz. We were sure than only an active owner would be suitable for Tazz and had a pretty good idea that he would be a good candidate for flyball, agility, and herding. But many people foolishly believe that “rescue Border collies “aren't on par with those whose pedigree can be followed back several generations. Christy was wise enough to know better and to know that most Border collies are in rescue because their people didn't understand this breed rather than there being any “defect” in the dog.”



So, in May Tazz took off for his new home. He has more than fulfilled all of expectations and is having the perfect life. He is already excelling at Agility and obedience and has started flyball showing promise there. He also loves to swim in Lake Michigan and return balls and sticks from the water. His temperament remains outstanding and Christy says of Tazz “He can do it all and he has stolen my heart.” Tazz is certainly a dog that will go as far as Christy can take him.

Ehrlichiosis – Should you be concerned?

Recently, one of our MKBCR alumni's, Nell (aka Panda/Hope) was taken in for a routine checkup. They did the usual heartworm test and included in that was a test for Ehrlichiosis. Nell tested positive for the disease and began a month long treatment with another testing in 3 weeks following the treatment. I had never heard of this disease before and it was explained to me that it is a tick-born disease similar to Lyme disease.

Ehrlichiosis has 3 stages and in areas where ehrlichiosis is common, many dogs are seen during the acute phase. Infected dogs may have fever, swollen lymph nodes, respiratory distress, weight loss, bleeding disorders, and, occasionally, neurologic disturbances. This stage may last 2-4 weeks.

The subclinical phase represents the stage of infection in which the organism is present but not causing any sign of disease. Sometimes, a dog will pass through the acute phase without its owner being aware of the infection. These dogs may become subclinical and develop laboratory changes yet have no apparent signs of illness. During this stage, the dog may eliminate the organism, or it may progress to the next stage. Dogs are likely to develop a host of problems: anemia, thrombocytopenia (decreased platelets, the blood clotting cells), bleeding episodes, lameness, eye problems (including hemorrhage into the eyes), neurologic problems, and swollen limbs. If the bone marrow (site of blood cell production) fails, the dog becomes unable to manufacture any of the blood cells necessary to sustain life (red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets).

It may be difficult to diagnose infected dogs during the very early stages of infection. The immune system usually takes 2-3 weeks to respond to the presence of the organism and develop antibodies. Since the presence of antibodies to Ehrlichia canis is the basis of the most common diagnostic test, such dogs may be infected yet test negative. Testing performed a few weeks later will reveal the presence of antibodies and make confirmation of the diagnosis possible.

Dogs experiencing severe anemia or bleeding problems may require a blood transfusion, initially. However, this does nothing to treat the underlying disease. Drugs in the tetracycline family are the first choice to rid the dog of the organism that causes ehrlichiosis. Recently, evidence has been found that another antibiotic, enrofloxacin, may also be effective. It has been traditionally recommended to treat infected dogs for 10 - 30 days, depending on the severity of the infection and clinical signs. Some of the newer research suggests that certain dogs may need to be treated or 2-4 months. Dogs with competent immune systems will usually recover, although they remain susceptible to reinfection. Dogs with weak immune systems and those which have progressed to the acute or terminal stages of infection (bone marrow failure) have a guarded prognosis.

Ehrlichiosis -cont-

Ridding the dog's environment of ticks is the most effective means of prevention. When this is not possible, low doses of one of the tetracyclines can be given during tick season. You can not contract ehrlichiosis from your dog; however, humans can get ehrlichiosis. The disease is only transmitted to humans through the bites of ticks. Thus, although the disease is not transmitted directly from dogs to humans, infected dogs serve as sentinels to indicate the presence of infected ticks in the area and may be a source of the organism for infections in humans or other dogs.

Ehrlichiosis was said to have been brought to the US during the Vietnam war when military dogs were returned to the States. The disease originated in Japan and spread throughout Asia. Dogs serving in the military contracted the disease thru brown ticks there. It was more commonly seen in the southern part of the US because it is considered a more tropical disease but is now being seen more frequently here in the Midwest. Basically, anywhere the brown tick inhabits, ehrlichiosis will be found.

So yes, you should be concerned about this disease, however, if caught early and treated aggressively, it is easily controlled. It is important to ask your vet if the routinely test for this disease. If they do not, specifically ask for the test during your dog's yearly checkup.

**Resource: www.pethealthcare.net*



Upcoming Events

Once again, its time for the **Rescue Reunion!** Caryn & Joe Miller has graciously agreed to host the second annual at their beautiful 10 acres east Smithville Missouri. Our master organizers, the McVey family (Stacey, Mark, Emily and Molly) are working feverishly to get things ready. It will be on **Saturday, September 24th starting at 10 am.** Invites will be mailed out around the first of Sept including a list of activities and directions to the reunion site. It will also be listed on the website soon. Lunch will be available, proceeds will go to MKBCR. We'll also have plenty of t-shirts and will take orders for other items. We're hoping that once again Joni Johnson-Godsy and Alan Godsy will be able to take professional photos for purchase; proceeds would also go to rescue. CGC testing will be provided by Barbie and Fred Ernst, with limited entries! Our family has grown, we hope to see everyone there!!

An Editorial From the Desk of Bridget Byrne

Mo-Kan Border Collie Rescue has had as its primary mission the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of unwanted and neglected Border collies in Kansas and Missouri. Until recently we only had indirect contact with the realities of the “puppy mill industry” in Missouri including the relationship between commercial dog breeders and auctions and the folks who are supposed to regulate this “puppy agriculture.”

Our learning experience came when we were contacted by an individual who was aware of a breeder who allegedly had close to 40 dogs that were being inadequately cared for. This individual had been shocked when visiting the breeding operation by the body of the sire of his own puppy rotting in the Missouri sun.

We notified the Missouri Department of Agriculture who indicated they would make a visit and if in violation, would seek to have the owner relinquish the dogs and then turn them over to rescue. As we attempted to negotiate with the Missouri Dept of Agriculture on behalf of the dogs what we were told changed and ultimately the 26 seized dogs were sent to an auction house. We were then told we “would be considered” for adoption but were never contacted back. Meanwhile some friends of rescue made their own contacts and in at least one case were told they would not send any of the dogs to a rescue organization. They in fact contacted the Humane Society in this individual’s home town to be sure this individual was “not a rescue person.” We were assured the animals would be seen by a veterinarian and sold to “good homes where the dogs would be working dogs and not couch potatoes”.

Several of these dogs were purchased by friends of rescue. When they arrived at the auction they noted that all of the breeding females were already sold. None of them were even asked for any references and most were not even required to give their names. No paper work was exchanged nor was information regarding the dog’s health provided. The cost per dog was \$30.00. No discussion of spaying or neutering took place. The dogs all had hookworms, fleas, and ticks. One was so anemic he almost required a transfusion. So there was no evidence that these dogs had had any veterinary care.

We were shocked to discover that the agency responsible for the regulation of animal breeders in Missouri had themselves been sighted for conflict of interest, poor and infrequent inspections and a reluctance to seize animals even those in the worst situations. This information was in two letters put out by the Missouri Auditors office which indicated no improvements in their last audit in 20004. We were also surprised by the apparent antagonism that the Missouri Dept of Agriculture showed towards the Humane Society of Missouri as well as the lack of cooperation between the state and federal regulators. When we first contacted our Missouri Department of Agriculture representative we were told “The Humane Society would not be welcome and would only create confusion.” We were also told by this same representative that the fate of seized dogs was usually either euthanasia or to be sent to the auction house.

The reality seems clear. The production of puppies is a major “crop” in Missouri. The annual revenue is estimated at forty million dollars in Missouri. It is also clear that the economic interest involved have significant influence in our legislature as at each session a bill is introduced to make it a felony to record or take pictures in any of these facilities. We have also learned that one of the

largest “wholesalers” of puppies the Hunte Corporation has been given a loan of \$900,000 by the USDA in addition to previous loans in the amount of 3.5 million dollars.

Most ethical and concerned people already know what the issues are regarding puppy mills. Females are bred continuously until no longer useful. They are often crated in small cages and given little socialization. Even though the law states they cannot be sold until the pups are 8 weeks, they are often sent out as young as five weeks. These puppies are transported all over the country. Many die in route and unsuspecting people buy what are often sick puppies that may have genetic or temperament problems. The issue then becomes more than one of compassion and more than a Missouri problem. There are six other states that are known as “puppy mill states.” These puppies born of registered parents are becoming pets all over the country. One can’t help wondering if the increase in dog bites and the increase in a variety of illnesses in many of our dogs is the result of these poorly bred and socialized dogs. It is a well known fact among reputable breeders that each bitch should have at most one litter a year and that all breeding dogs should be screened for genetic and temperament issues. It is also well known that puppies need socialization with humans from a very early age to be able to bond and to have appropriate stimulation to enhance their ability to learn.

Pet stores like PetCo and PetSmart refuse to sell puppies or kittens and instead host adoption events. They know of the conditions in puppy mills as well as due to pressure from the public. They also know that over 6 million animals are euthanized in our shelters each year.

So it seems our mission has to broaden. We need to take a stand on some of these issues that affect the health and welfare of thousands of dogs. There are two opportunities at this time. One is national legislation known as the Pet Animal Welfare Statute or the Pet Safety and Protection Act. A bill has been introduced in the Senate (1139) and the House (HR2669) addresses regulating pets sold over the internet which has been a loophole for wholesale breeders. This applies to breeders of 25 or more animals. At a national level the economic interests which seem to be so powerful will be diluted. Read about this at :

www.hsus.org/pets/pets_related_news_and_events/paws.html
we all need to write to our senators and representatives to support this legislation.

A second opportunity comes through the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation www.maal.org. This is a lobbying group in Missouri which monitors all legislation which affects animals. They will provide legislative alerts to individuals via e-mail when letters to our senators and representative are needed for specific legislation. It seems that politicians are sensitive to some degree to their constituents concerns. We are told that we have the most effect with our own legislators and that individual e-mails or letters are more impactful than just adding one’s name to a prepared letter or e-mail.

So join us in our broader mission. Already friends of Mo-Kan have saved and improved the lives of many Border collies and that will not ever be of less priority to us. But we can add our voice to helping even thousands of more dogs and impact on the unspeakable suffering these poor creatures endure in the name of profit.

Question & Answers with Pam Wolf

Q Lori asked: "Our 10 month old is SO happy to see any of the family after they have been away (even for only 1 hour) that she leaps through the air and into their body - licking their face as she does so. While this might sound fun, she has almost knocked me down several times. I don't want to scold her, because I'm happy to see her, too. How can I teach her to "calm down"?"

A I think overly exuberant pups is a common complaint with BC's. I will try to explain BC's a bit. First, BC's come with a natural higher drive than most dogs. And when people are accustomed to working with other breeds they do all they can to increase the dog's drive (tug, balls, excited playing etc. These things often cause the BC to 'go over the top'. I prefer to teach the pup that all excitement/good things come from its work - be it obedience, agility or herding. When not at work the dog must remain calm. This being calm is yet another 'job' for the pup to do. For the enthusiastic greeter, try teaching the dog a sit. Start in a calm situation, then once the dog is sitting reliably on a verbal cue and not relying on the cookie over the nose or leash jerk, then up the stakes. Start getting the dog a little excited then stop all play and request 'sit'. If the dog sits on the FIRST command then you start playing again, gradually increasing the stimulus (excitement) and distance the dog will sit from you. If the dog does NOT sit on the first command, keep everything quiet and calm and do what ever it takes to get the sit. Wait a couple of seconds then start playing again, but lower the stimulus (don't get the dog as excited this time). Gradually you will ask the dog to sit at distances farther away and ALWAYS require it on the first command. Keep your voice very calm and quiet, yet firm. Loud voices etc add to the excitement level and will hinder the training (i.e. yelling ☺). This can become a game the whole family can join, having everyone take a turn at playing the 'sit game'. It is sort of a red light, green light game, but the dog MUST sit on the first command before resuming play.

Q Jill asked: "Any advice on working with Remy's fascination with cars? When I walk him, he goes after the cars. I've tried keeping him by my side with the command to "leave it" or "no" but he continues as soon as I give him any leash length. Last night I finally noticed that he was "chasing" cars from the back of my car!"

A Redirect his mind. He may have to be very hungry to have food draw his attention away from cars. I had this problem with my first BC and in those days one definitely did NOT use food. Try flooding him. In other words, take him someplace where there are MANY cars moving and keep his attention on you. You may have to actually hold his head so he is facing you, using your hand to shield his side vision so he cannot see the cars. Keep very calm but firm. A gentle leader may help with this. Then start 'rewarding'

him by stroking between the eyes any time he looks you in the eye, even if it is for just a microsecond. Gradually require him to continue looking you in the eye. After some time (often 15 min) he will start to relax and offer the eye contact. Then it is usually possible to offer food as a reward in addition to stroking. Keep the food coming, but make sure he is giving/maintaining eye contact BEFORE you give the food. It is best to time the reward with those moments he is watching you and not the cars. Do this as often as you have time. My first BC was VERY interested in cars and I did basic obedience on the road side by our house. There were many cars coming and going by the house and she got rewarded for not looking at them (I had already taught her to watch me while doing obedience). Later as she knew what was expected, I would correct her (leash correction) when she broke the rules and stared at a car. Also, make sure Remy isn't housed where he can watch cars go by on his own. And, **do not** allow the dog to chase cars while in a car!! Put the dog in a crate-the airline type when riding. If that's not possible, seat belt him in such a manner as he is lying down where he cannot see cars.

~~~~~

### Here are a few events that MKBCR Participated over the Spring & Summer:

**Walk and Wag:** In April the Flexible Flyers brushed off their flyball harnesses and gave a demo at the Gladstone Walk and Wag. We sold T-shirts, answered numerous questions, and enjoyed the beautiful day!

**Pet Expo:** Kansas City's first Pet Expo was a huge success for MKBCR. The Flexible Flyers wowed the crowd with several flyball demonstrations. The booth display was donated by Kathy Hallberg's father and Kathy and the McVey's used it to create a wonderful display for Mo-Kan. As a result we have several new volunteers and adopters. Additionally it helped us provide information about Border collies. Several thousand people attended and The Incredible Dog Challenge was also there. Several herding demonstrations were provided and other rescue groups were also represented.

**Hogs for Dogs:** In July (yes July!) hearty Border collie rescue folks including the McVey family, Kathy Hallberg and Fred and Barbie Ernst represented Mo-Kan with a booth at Hogs for Dogs in Springfield MO. Glory (Barbie and Fred's wonderful Border collie) was once again our ambassador. Glory was also our ambassador at a legislative awareness day in Jefferson City earlier in the year.

**Contacts:**

Jennifer Fitzwater  
fitzh20@  
mokanbcrescue.org  
816.413.7623

Kathy Hallberg  
khallberg3@comcast.net  
816.478.3756

Barbie Ernst  
barbieernst@  
mokanbcrescue.org

Bridget Byrne  
bridgetbyrne@  
mokanbcrescue.org

Stacey McVey  
staceymcvey  
@mokanbcrescue.org

**Website:**  
www.mokanbcrescue.org

**How you can  
Help MKBCR:**

There are four ways to help:

- Transport
- Foster
- Volunteer
- Donate *(includes becoming a Border Collie Angel)*

For more information on the suggestions above, please visit our website!

~~~~~

**If you are thinking
of charitable
donations please
remember Mo-Kan
Border Rescue!**

**From all of us and
the Border collies
you have saved
THANK YOU!!**

The Almost Forgotten Dog...

I came to them as a puppy barely seven weeks old. I was a baby really. They loved to cuddle and hold me and we played until I collapsed into a pile of sleeping warm puppy. At first I missed my mother and litter mates but I knew this was the way of the dog to leave their pack behind and come to a new family.

But then the shouting began, “don’t jump, don’t chew-do that outside.” I was confused because this was new to me they hadn’t minded before. In fact they encouraged me to play this way. But my legs had grown longer my bark deeper and “get away” replaced the “isn’t he cute.”

So the backyard became my fate. I was lonely and bored. I howled as lost members of packs do calling to my family to respond to my voice. And they responded by yelling at me which was better than the lonely isolation I felt. When they fed me I was so excited to see them I jumped and barked forgetting there was mud on my feet and the scolding continued. Finally I couldn’t take the loneliness anymore so I learned how to jump over my fence looking for a pack that would want me to play and cuddle with and to teach me the right way.

One day I was put in the car for a long ride. At first happy I thought maybe we would play but their faces were sober and their voices silent. We arrived at a new place where there were many dogs and I heard their voices which sounded like mine. They were calling to their families...feeling separated from their pack.

I knew this was the place where they bring bad dogs. I tried to tell them with a lick and a whine that I would do better if only they would teach me. But instead they wouldn’t look at me and put me on the lead, that I loved so much, used for those rare walks. I was led inside and taken to a cell and my people turned their backs and walked away.

It seems there are millions of us. Some like me who weren’t cute enough any more. Others never were taught the manners dogs need to live with a family. Some were replaced by a new baby or lover. Others abandoned because their people wanted to

live where dogs weren’t allowed. Or maybe they became inconvenient to their people or their people simply grew bored looking for new fun and entertainment.

I waited in my cell and began to realize that others who left never came back. Somehow I knew they all weren’t going to new families and my feelings of fear and dread grew.

Each time the door opened I hoped my people would appear. Each trip outside I hoped each car was my family and my tail would wave hopefully each time a disappointment.

Then one day the door opened and I feared it was my time to take that long walk from which there is no return. I pulled to the back of my kennel and gave a low growl hoping to scare them to leave me alone. But this new person wouldn’t give up offering treats and the walk was a short one that only went outside. She didn’t seem to mind that my coat was matted nor that I wouldn’t look at her or take a treat. And she told me I was a good dog not bad at all. She taught me to sit in a minute or less. And told me how smart and handsome she thought I was. Even though I was now five neither cute nor young she told me there was a new family for me. She told me this family would teach and love me and keep me inside unless throwing a Frisbee or taking a walk. And she said this family would know what a rare treasure I was and help me to heal.

Then she told me the name of my new family. It seems there are two. The first is called foster and the second forever...

-Bridget Byrne



Mo-Kan Border Collie Rescue
3525 N Wabash Ave
Kansas City MO 64116