

COLLIE RESCUE (ROUGH & SMOOTH)

WEBSITE: www.collierescueroughandsmooth.co.uk

FACEBOOK: Rough and Smooth Rescue UK



"PAWS FOR THOUGHT"
AUTUMN 2025
NEWSLETTER



Celebrating 40 years at Collie Chaos on 12th July 2025 in Wath-Upon-Dearne

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi everyone

Welcome to our latest newsletter and many thanks to David Hayman our new Editor.

This has been a special year for us, celebrating 40 years of rescue. Thanks to our committee and supporters we have been able to give thousands of collies a loving new home.

Sadly this year we were shocked by the sudden passing of our Vice-President, Paula Cunliffe, who covered the whole of the west country. For the last 3 years we have worked alongside the registered charity Buddy's Rescues Buddies who, raising their own funds, rescue collies from abroad till they can be brought to our country where we find new homes. It can be very emotional at times but also rewarding when we see the results of our efforts so thanks again to everyone involved.

Hope you all have a lovely Christmas and prosperous New Year when it arrives.

Regards

Chris Slater

FROM 2 TO 40... By Peter Vernon

A potted history of the collie gatherings since 2021



I started organising walks for Rough and Smooth Collies in September 2021 in Betws-y-coed where just six collies attended. But by the next meet in October over a dozen dogs came including Laddie and Teddy (two shelties). Thus "Rough Collie Gatherings" started catering for Rough and Smooth Collies and Shelties plus their owners (if well behaved).

The "Walks for Rough Collies" Facebook group had been set up in 2016 by Kevin and Alison Saunders to promote social interaction of collies and their humans but prior to this we had Pauline Homer's legendary Collie Chaos meets at Carsington Water and also meets at Elvaston Castle and Cleethorpes.

Following on from the first gathering I was approached by Rodney Bosomworth to see if a gathering could be organised in the North East. Goldie, my devoted sidekick, and I travelled up to Newcastle, met up with Rodney and checked out a couple of venues, with the Rising Sun Country Park winning the vote and the first gathering here was in 2022. It's been on the calendar ever since.

More additions followed with Llandudno, Delamere Forest and Kelly Svensen's gatherings at Birkenhead Park. While in the south Jules Pearson set up Lydiard Park near Swindon and Laura Radmall organised Lullingstone Country Park, Kent. More and more gatherings are now being held with lots of new organisers.



From small beginnings the calendar has exploded: 2 gatherings in 2021 increased to 40 in 2025 from Devon, Wiltshire and Kent in the south to Inverness in the north. Goldie and I travelled the length and breadth of the country meeting many wonderful people and their beautiful furbabies. I think over the years we have been to almost every venue.

My new sidekick Ebony has set the ball rolling as she attended her first gathering at Astbury Mere. She did very well meeting and greeting all the dogs and enjoying the walk.

Some standouts over the years for me must be the 53 dogs at Delamere Forest and 50 dogs at Falkirk. Others would be the gorgeous scenery on the Carrbridge walk and the welcome at the Gwydyr Hotel in Betws-y-coed for Goldie's 14th birthday party where we had two bar areas reserved for us. The management even wanted photos for their Facebook page. There are so many wonderful memories of gorgeous dogs and fantastic people.

If anyone wants to get involved organising and is unsure please get in touch and I will try to help you. Many of the 2026 dates are now in. Check them out on the website: www.roughcolliegatherings.co.uk

Ebony and I would like to wish you many happy gatherings in 2026. Come along and join us for a lovely, sociable get together.

Many thanks Peter for the support you show to others so that the Collie Meets continue to grow!

EDITORIAL

Little did I know what would flow from an innocuous conversation on the seafront in Hartlepool which introduced me to Collie Rescue early in the New Year!

While Igor was the initial focus, I continue to discover the amazing work that Collie Rescue (Rough & Smooth) have undertaken over the last 40 years in the UK, and of how their remit has expanded to include foreign rescue with the establishment of Buddy's Rescues Buddies about 10 years ago. What a debt of gratitude we owe to those who have transformed the lives of so many dogs and their humans!

Without doubt, a lot of information is shared via the website and Facebook, but I was reminded at a recent Collie Meet - when someone said that they were so glad to meet Igor and to see in the flesh the difference their financial contributions have made, that it is imperative that we communicate with those who don't access social media platforms, or who just prefer to have a hard copy in hand, and hence the importance of the newsletter.

I hope that as we celebrate Collie Rescue being 40 years old that this edition gives testament to the past while having an eye on the future, and for that to come to fruition that you will continue to submit your reports and articles about dogs who have been adopted - either at home or from abroad - or who are sponsored, through the sterling work of Collie Rescue (Rough & Smooth) and Buddy's Rescues Buddies.

COLLIE CHAOS 2025 & PRESENTATION

On a very hot 12th July, the 40th Anniversary of Collie Rescue was celebrated at Collie Chaos in Wath-Upon-Deerne, Rotherham. Despite the heat, there were a good number of dogs present who were grateful for the presence of the 'animal ambulance' crew who were willing to spray any canine or human in need of a cool down!

The day included a dog show with both breed and novelty classes which was judged by Avis Annabel.

Queen Camilla sent a letter of appreciation as follows which was presented by Sheila Yerrell along with a bouquet of flowers and a cake:

Dear Rodney and Christine

I wanted to write to thank you both very much for all that you have done to support the work of "Rough and Smooth" over the past 40 years.

I know that you have been tireless volunteers, finding new homes for collies who need them and, in the process, bringing joy to dogs and owners alike!

With best wishes

Camilla

On behalf of our canine and human community, we extend our gratitude to Chris and Rod for their generosity over the past 40 years! Ad multos annos!

Finally, we thank local funeral director, David Butterfield, for sponsoring the event again this year.





Tesla by Viki

Tesla joined our family through the wonderful Rough and Smooth Collie charity, coming from a lovely family in Newcastle who wanted a collie-loving home for him. He came into our lives in June 2024 and it's like he's always been here! He settled in really quickly, showing all sides of his massive personality; he is endlessly entertaining!

Tesla's favourite things are having woodland adventures, play bows and bouncing like a Tigger with his doggy friends, or head banging with his bestie Caterpillar (his favourite toy).

One treasured memory was our holiday in North Wales. A true rite of passage, as Tesla conquered Mount Snowdon, up and down! He also loved his ride on a steam train.

We're hoping to meet many of you at future Collie meetups - do come and say hello! And if you'd like to follow more of Tesla's adventures, find him on Instagram: @tesla_roughcollie.



Murphy by Barbara & Roy Richards

We lost our beautiful girl, Sadie, on March 24th this year. She was a rehome through Collie Rescue. One month later this beauty popped up for rehoming on the Rescue site. His picture pulled at our heart strings and we instantly applied to give this boy a new home. Fast forward 4 days and we picked him up on April 20th. He had had a rough time for a few months, losing his human Mum and his whole life changing. He is a really sweet boy, who loves his food and playing ball. He can be a little stubborn at times but we are getting there, bit by bit. He is an absolute joy to have around. Our thanks go to his family in Scotland,

who trusted us to take care of him and to Collie Rescue, especially Lesley Bassett, who set the wheels in motion for Murphy to join our family.



Echo by Louise MacFarlane

I'm so proud to share that my amazing dog, Echo, will be featured in next year's calendar!

Echo is a stunning rough collie, and he's already proving to be the most wonderful companion we could have hoped for. Even though he's only just joined our family, he settled in so quickly – as if he's always belonged here.

Echo has such a calm, gentle nature but also a bright, eager spirit. He's incredibly clever and picks up instructions like a pro, always listening and responding with that signature collie focus. Whether it's a new command or a routine walk, he gives everything his full attention and enthusiasm.

Every day with Echo feels like a little adventure. He absolutely loves his walks, exploring new places, and being out in the fresh air. Seeing him trot proudly along, ears perked and tail held high, fills us with joy. He's not just a beautiful dog – though he truly is – he's also a loyal friend, quick learner, and the perfect partner for all of life's adventures.

We're beyond thrilled to see his gorgeous face in the calendar next year. Echo is already a special part of our lives, and now everyone else will get to see just how wonderful he is too!



Jessie & Jake by Kathy Haywood Rand

Jessie and Jake, a bonded pair from the Azores, have now been with us for just over two years. During that time, they've come on in leaps and bounds - literally in Jessie's case, as she loves to run, jump, and investigate everything. She can't have too many walks in her opinion, and is always ready for action. She's also very sweet and affectionate, and loves a groom.

Jake is more laid back, and is very food motivated - he can sniff out food from half a mile away. He loves attention and a cuddle, and chooses to sleep as near to me as possible. As soon as I sit

down, he jumps onto the sofa next to me, and is highly offended when I cuddle Jessie or "the cat".

They really are the most loving and loyal pair of collies you could wish for, and they give us many hours of laughter, joy, and company. Whether we want to go for a long walk, go for a pub lunch, or just sit and watch a movie, we are never lonely as they are always happy to just be with us.

New experiences, and not just for Igor! by David Hayman



In an unexpected turn of events, I arrived in the Northeast last November with my faithful companion Sasha; a border collie who is now 15 years old, but who was a rescue over 13 years ago. She is remarkably agile for her age, and was delighted at the opportunity to run for about 50 minutes every day on the beach in her new surroundings; but was she ready for a new challenge? Some may say, was I?!

Having grown up with a sable and white rough collie in London in the 70s, I have often questioned whether the time

was right to have one of my own, but alas, it never happened, that is until now!

Early on Saturday the 15th of March, four collies from Dnipro in the Ukraine arrived in Braintree, who were a mix of having a zest for life and being traumatised by their life experiences and the journey. Among them was Igor, a tri who was almost eight months old, and probably the most traumatised of the four. My initial reaction was to question how prepared was I to deal with a young dog who was too scared of the world to even come out of his crate?

But two and a half hours later, thanks to Lesley and Carol's patience, and after an introduction to Sasha, all was ready to head north, with Sasha having been promoted to first class travel on the front seat, with Igor and his brother Oleg (now Storm) in the boot. After Storm continued his journey further north to Lanark, the realisation dawned that I was now responsible for the youngest dog I have ever adopted.

My anxieties were many, but they have gradually been overcome, as he has been clean from day one, has shown no sign of aggression at all, and grows in confidence every day. His recall is very good and so he's able to join Sasha in daily explorations on what is virtually our own private beach!



This is not meant to suggest that Igor is a finished article, but rather that one has to focus on the positives of every day when he decides to do something completely skittish. There is still further work to be done on his human social skills, and on teaching him to engage in play, but he has made progress at a rate that we thought highly unlikely when we saw such a frightened and timid dog arrive early on a spring morning.

Igor (continued from previous page)

Notwithstanding that there is still plenty of training to do, one thing that Igor has discovered since I first submitted this article a few months ago is his voice; he is no longer the silent and timid presence that he once was; he now talks and chatters in the hope of getting his own way!

Nevertheless, it is a blending of lives and opportunities that have coincided for the good of the human and canine spirit!

Long may it continue!



Riley by Annette Bell

Riley, a rescue from Romania came over with his brother Theo who now lives with Suzanne Patterson in Scotland.

He has grown into a gentle, clown. He is stunningly beautiful and no longer suffers with the skin complaints that he originally had. He is a big softy, adores his cuddles and is full of energy. He loves walkies and his confidence is so much better. He's loving and is great with our 8 cats. He's got a romance going with our cat, Jerry. It's a joy to see them cuddled up and playing together. Thank you so much to Buddy's Rescues Buddies and Collie Rescue for helping bring Riley to the UK. He's part of our crazy gang, and we couldn't be happier!

WHAT KEEPS THE SHOW ON THE ROAD?

Your donations to both Charities, supporting the raffles online or in person at one of the Collie Walks, by bidding on Buddy's auction page and by buying our Christmas Cards (£3.75 for a pack of 8 plus p&p) and Calendars (£6 plus p&p) which are now available from Chris Slater.

Bank details for each charity:

Collie Rescue (Rough & Smooth)

Sort Code: 05 08 48

Account No.: 19919435

Buddy's Rescues Buddies

Sort Code: 20 17 20

Account No.: 00653454

PayPal: Carolwillis@plumits.com

Collie Rescue Secretary: Chris Slater

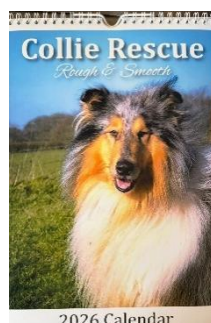
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Brucie, Jock & Ross by Abdul Syed

Hello everyone, Brucie here! No doubt a number of Collie folks know of us, Brucie and Jock (in photo) and Ross, the three brother Collies that were rescued back in 2019. A lot has happened to us in that time and our Foster Daddy has posted many articles on the group's Facebook page about our adventures! However today, it's not about any adventures but more a reflection of the past 6 years.

For whatever reason, we Collies can end up needing a new home. This is where the lovely people at Rough & Smooth Collie Rescue spring into action. In our case it was us three brothers that needed re-homing. Now one brother, named Ross, was fortunate enough to find his new forever home, courtesy of Jackie-Ann. This meant us two, Brucie and Jock, were left in kennels. To be fair, we were well looked after and we would stay with our aunty Margaret on several occasions. However, being in kennels came with a large financial cost. What we really needed was a proper home and soon. Enter the role of Foster Parents. These are the caring people who take on us lost souls. They spend their time, effort and patience in getting us dogs settled. They make us feel loved and safe and help us adjust to our strange new world. All this time, the good people at Collie Rescue are busily looking for a permanent home for us dogs. We know of this as we had met several possible new owners in the early months. In the end, there was only ever going to be one result.

Our forever home became the one with our Foster Parents. We believe they are now part of the 'Failed Foster Club'. Good on them we say. There was still work that our new Parents had to do for us. Such as learning new skills (yum, yum!), getting better behaviours, being less stressed and generally becoming good and agreeable boy dogs. We still had our 'moments', but what would anyone expect of two spirited boy Collie dogs.



Now a lot has happened in the world of 'Brucie and Jock'. We are sure folk have read our stories and will know that Ross and Jock have gone off for their own special adventures, leaving me, Brucie to continue keeping my Parents on the straight and narrow, and bag all the treats for myself.

Needless to say, we would not be enjoying these adventures were it not for the interventions of the good caring volunteers at Rough and Smooth Collie Rescue. So on behalf of all rescued Collie girls and boys, may we say a very big 'Thank You' to all concerned and please continue to save more lost Collie souls. Our world is better for all you do.

Lots of love from three rescued boys. Brucie, Jock & Ross



Timmy by Suzanne and Nicole Davison

After his previous owner had passed away, and a couple of temporary placements, members of Collie Rescue spotted Timmy on FreeAds, and when the family were approached they agreed to surrender him for re-homing by a breed-specific rescue, having been reassured that he would be placed in a suitable home following vetting procedures. At the time, he was 10 years old,

underweight and had medical issues which needed attention, which Collie Rescue would support us with, if required.

Timmy was picky with his food initially choosing not to eat many things, but he had a liking for cheese, so along with a good quality diet, and many pieces of cheese, he began to gain his weight for pending surgery; this went well and he has continued to thrive since needing no further veterinary treatment.

Timmy was unsure of us when he first came to live with my daughter and myself, and spent a lot of time in the first weeks watching everything going on around him but choosing not to get too close to people; I'm sure he was probably very scared, moving such a long way, to a place he did not recognise, but slowly, with patience and allowing him to get to know us and his environment, we have gained his trust. Having had his 11th birthday with us, we are pleased to say he has settled into his new life very well, and he is now a typical vocal collie who talks back to us, letting us know if his meal is late being served, a trait which I'm sure many collie owners will recognise!

Although he is in his senior years he didn't get the memo... and he is living his best life showing no signs of slowing down just yet, he's a playful active boy who is looking forward to enjoying many more adventures. Finally, we can't thank the rescue and its members enough for allowing us the opportunity to give Timmy a home in his senior years, he is precious, and a much-loved member of the family and we are privileged to have been entrusted with his care.

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Ollie by Sally Jones

Loving a Rough Collie is easy because they are a people's dog, they are so loving, so affectionate and loyal, but losing one is very painful. Ollie didn't have a great start in life, his last forever home with me was his 3rd, but we more than made up for that with the love we shared and the adventures we travelled. Taking on a Rescue dog can be very challenging but the rewards outweigh the risks by miles. He had the best life with me and he changed my life in so many ways. I showed him that life was good and that there was so much love for him.

What having Ollie didn't prepare me for was when it was time for him to go over the Rainbow Bridge; nothing can prepare you for that. The pain cuts through you like a knife, the only thing I can say is I have a thousand great memories of a good life we had.

In the end Ollie was at home in my arms surrounded by love, warmth and the reassurance that I was with him every step of the way. He knew at the end he was loved ♥

Then you ask yourself would you do it again to go through that pain of losing a Rough Collie. The answer is simply YES, but you would always carry them in your heart, but your heart is big if you've ever had a Rough Collie and there is enough of that love to go around again ♥



Goldie (07/02/11-12/06/25) by Peter Vernon

Goldie was born in South Wales. For some unknown reason she was left in a rescue centre, all this before she was six months old. The rescue centre manager said she was the product of a back-yard breeder.

On 6th July 2011 her life changed forever. I collected her and brought her to our loving forever home where she was loved by all my family. She settled at once. In her early years I still worked part time so she spent lots of time with her adopted mum (aka my daughter) and my grandson who is

the same age as Goldie. They spent lots of time playing at the nearby nature reserve with Goldie always watching carefully over my grandson.

I retired in June 2014 and we moved to the heart of Snowdonia. Here we enjoyed so many mountain and seaside adventures, where Goldie always attracted lots of attention. Standouts were completing the 85 mile Snowdonia Slate Trail in ten days and climbing the Miner's track on Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon). Lots of explorations and fun times were enjoyed right across the area.

Wherever she travelled to she always showed her loving, gentle nature to all she met, canines and humans. She will be sorely missed.

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose; all that we have loved deeply, becomes a part of us"
(Helen Keller)

