

COLLIE RESCUE (ROUGH & SMOOTH)

WEBSITE: www.collierescueroughandsmooth.co.uk

FACEBOOK: [Rough and Smooth Rescue UK](#)



"PAWS FOR THOUGHT"
SPRING 2026
NEWSLETTER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi everyone

Welcome to our second new look edition of our newsletter, and thanks to David for a successful first!

It has been another busy year with twelve collies being rehomed since November. There are now popular walks and get togethers in regular and new areas. There are also fun days out with a Collie Rally in Tupton Rugby Club, near Chesterfield on Sunday 7th June, proceeds to be split between Collie Rescue (Rough & Smooth) and Buddy's Rescues Buddies and the usual Collie Chaos on Saturday 11th July in Wathe-Upon-Dearne.

We also have a "Listening Ear" for bereaved owners who just need someone to talk to after the death of a much loved pet, offered by Sheila Yerrell who can be contacted on 07794 553686.

Thank you everyone for organising all of the above.

Thanks also for the ongoing donations to rescue and the stories included here will give you an idea of how they are spent providing vet care and forever homes for our lovely collies.

Regards

Chris Slater

One of our foreign rescue stories:



Bella by Sheila Yerrell

She came into our lives as a foster girl, then she started to bond with Bribon so we adopted her, she was terrified of everything in the beginning, slowly and with some help she became a bit more confident, over time she got better after losing Bribon she lost confidence again but with our vets help she gained confidence again, now she's been diagnosed with hip dysplasia she starts physio next week we will do all we can for our sweet little diva, daddy's girl.

EDITORIAL

My journey of discovery of all things 'collie rescue' has continued at a pace over the past few months, what with attending the AGM of Collie Rescue (Rough & Smooth) [CRRS hereafter] and of being elected to the Committee, of being added as an Administrator of our Facebook group, of being one of Lesley's band of helpers with Buddy's Rescues Buddies [BRB hereafter], and most enjoyably of all attending several of the Collie Walks and of meeting so many of our wonderful collies and their adopters or fosterers, who have had some association with one or both of our outstanding charities.

The success and legacy of the work undertaken by CRRS cannot fail to impress; so many dogs now living a better life with their new family, or if they are adopted over the age of eight enjoying life as one of our permanent foster dogs with one of our fantastic foster carers. One of the unique benefits of our rescue is that if an older dog is welcomed into a new family, Rescue can help with vet costs, so as to ensure that the 'golden oldie' can be rescued where there is genuine need; we are not only interested in rescuing the younger dogs as evidenced by some of the stories in this edition of our newsletter. This comes about because of the collaboration between Officers, co-ordinators, home-checkers, fundraisers and the generosity of so many other volunteers. Both CRRS and BRB incur expense to make this come about, with BRB meeting the total cost of bringing dogs from abroad to the UK and then CRRS meeting the veterinary care costs of those dogs who are living in a permanent foster home to enjoy their retirement years.

Nevertheless, a fact that has hit me between the eyes is that the balance of dogs now in need of 'rescue' appears to be changing; no doubt this is due in part, in these days of social media and instant communication, to the sterling work of how our charities working together, has attracted the attention of many concerned people across large parts of Europe and in China, such that in 2023 BRB sponsored 28 dogs, in 2024 15 dogs, and in 2025 35 dogs.

The work of foreign rescue is a complex affair and Lesley Bassett is supported by a committed band of volunteers to help her - even just by listening on occasions - to the trials and tribulations of changing regulations, finding kennel accommodation abroad, of keeping abreast of vaccination requirements, of securing appropriate intervention of behaviourists, of finding transporters who prioritise the welfare of the dogs in their charge, all before being in a position to actively seek the support of CRRS to help out with home checks of potential adopters and fosterers, so that the life-time back up from CRRS can be offered to new adopters.

As we are all aware, costs have risen across the board, and this is true for foreign rescue too: whereas the pre-COVID cost of transport alone for a European-rescued dog might have been in the region of €300, it began to increase due to the Russian-Ukrainian War, and then with the impact of new regulations for import and for transporters, this can now be anywhere between €1000 - €1200. But when the rescue is from China, when a dog is either rescued from the meat market or is placed in imminent risk of being taken there because of having been abandoned because they are no longer wanted by their owners, this cost can be as high as £3000. The reality is that at a time when an increasing number of collies are in need of being rescued, the cost of doing so has also more than doubled.

So where does this money come from? Of course, adopters make a contribution of approximately half of the cost of current transport costs, but BRB also relies upon the regular donations from many of us, many of which are gift-aided, which adds another 25% at no cost to the donor (for UK tax payers), and of course there is the Buddies auction page.

There are then some specific activities, for example, Goldie's Memorial Walk in Betws-Y-Coed in February which raised a staggering £612 for BRB. In a similar vein, there are two **forthcoming events** over the summer; firstly, **Collie Rally in Tupton Rugby Club, near Chesterfield on Sunday 7th June**, where the proceeds are to be split equally between CRRS and BRB, and secondly, **Collie Chaos in Wath-Upon-Deerne on Saturday 11th July** which will support CRRS.

Our two charities have a common goal of prioritising the welfare of collies wherever they may be initially, so long as the intention is for them to be rehomed in the UK. Long may the vision of these two wonderful charities, working together to promote the rescue and well-being of our beloved breeds, continue.

If you would like to make a donation, either a one-off or a regular commitment, the details of our charities are as follows (and please also consider whether you could further enhance your donation by signing a gift aid declaration - just ask and I'll gladly provide you with the relevant information):

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

Tel.: 0114 234 7440

Email: rodchris@talktalk.net

Newsletter Editor: David Hayman

Tel.: 07793 503260

Email: davida.hayman@gmail.com

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Lily by Anne and her husband

We care for Lily, an 11-year-old blue merle, under the Permanent Foster Scheme with Collie Rescue.

For a few years I had been longing to own a rough collie again, after having previously owned two bitches, one of which, Tessa, we had adopted from Collie Rescue; we had her for many years, and she was a beautiful girl.

Lily came into the care of Collie Rescue when her owner was expecting her first baby and she thought that Lily might be jealous. Whilst living with this owner Lily had had two litters of puppies.

When Lily first arrived with us she seemed quite subdued and unsettled, so we just gave her a lot of encouragement and love and as the weeks went by she gradually came around and began to relax. This was when Collie Rescue decided that they could get on with a long overdue dental procedure. We are sure that the discomfort from her sore mouth had been adding to Lily's low mood. She needed several extractions and small growths removing. Now that this has all been done, as expected, Lily is much happier.

She has come on so well and we are now looking forward to another Spring and Summer with her. She enjoys her walks every day and visits to the park, where we let her off lead for a run. She thinks that she has to 'see off' all the pigeons and squirrels, but fast as she runs, she will never get close enough to worry them!

Sophia by Karen Slater

I have had Sophia from Scotland for nearly 4 years now and we are inseparable. She is such a sweetheart, gentle and loving and my very special fur baby. There is only one mistress in the house and that is most assuredly, Sophia. I have met my match in the stubborn arena! We take our holidays up in Scotland whenever we can and enjoy our afternoon naps after long walks.

At home in Penistone she loves squirrel chasing and seeing all her friends up on the showground and in the woods. We are very happy together!





Rosie joins Jura who had joined Tilly

by Mary and Steve Jefferson

Rosie is our latest addition here on South Uist. She came to us a few months ago from the south of England, and has quickly come to think of the local beach as hers!

She has settled with Jura who has been with us for two and a half years, having been rescued from Bosnia where he had lived outside in a kennel and run. He was about twelve years old at the time and had developed pressure sores from the journey. Even before we arrived home with him we discovered that he had testicular cancer and he had initial treatment for this en-route.

On arrival Jura was skinny and had been shaved prior to travelling from Bosnia, but he was very food orientated and had to be fed separately to our existing female dog Tilly, but they became very close, and Jura's initial reservation to enter the house was overcome and he has become a happy boy enjoying his life in the Hebrides.

Unfortunately, Jura has developed chronic arthritis and has limited mobility but we will do all we can to keep him happy and healthy for as long as we can. And in the meantime, Rosie who is eight and a half years old, keeps him company as she settles into the unique lifestyle of the Western Isles!



Honey by Jackie Fields

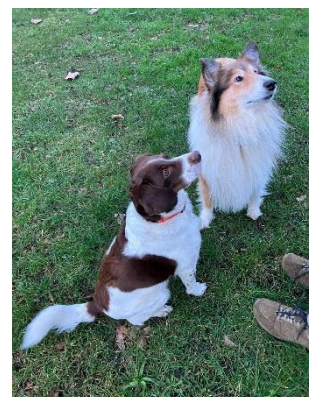
We lost our beautiful girl Cannelle (a border / rough cross) in March last year, suddenly and unexpectedly, and she left a large fluffy hole in our hearts and home. Our other dog Nestle (a Brittany cross) also looked lost without his friend.

In the busy lead up to Christmas I was talking to a friend about the medicinal uses of honey, and the next day I had another look at the collie rescue website and there was Honey, who needed to be rehomed due to a change in personal circumstances; it felt like a sign!

I immediately phoned Chris who was so helpful and friendly. Christmas shopping was a challenge as our minds were on adopting Honey! We drove to Oxford to meet her and her lovely owner Sheyne to make sure Honey was ok with Nestle and that Sheyne was happy for us to adopt Honey. Thankfully, everything went well and we picked her up on the 29th to learn that she had come into season. It was a challenging few weeks but with support and advice from Chris we got through it.

It is now 7 weeks and Honey has settled really well; it feels like she has been with us much longer and that the big fluffy hole has been filled! Nestle has a friend again and someone to go squirrel chasing with, so two happy dogs.

Honey can be very stubborn, especially if she thinks a treat could be involved. She is also very vocal when she thinks it should be dinner time! She is quite a character. It has been lovely to be able to talk to Sheyne about her little habits and we are grateful that he trusted us to take care of his beautiful girl. He knows she is now a much-loved member of our family and we stay in touch. We are also very grateful to Chris for her support and advice during the adoption process and follow up chats. Great Charity, thank you!



COCO by Ray Blackburn



She's been with me for almost two years now and has settled in well; she's not a bit of trouble and is very clean. She's a real treasure! Her dislikes? Cats and pigeons! But I love her to bits!

Jessie by John & Mary Rabbetts

Jessie is doing very well, and fast approaching becoming a teenager!

She is in good health apart from a little arthritis, which is being treated with monthly Librela injections.

She now weighs in at around 24kg, which is a vast improvement from when she was rescued.

Jessie has been with us now since August 2021 and gives us so much joy and we love her to bits. She gets many admirers when out for walking. Her favourite place is a local park and she loves to pose when we stop at the coffee shop, as you can see in the photo!



Bailey by Victoria & Warren Baker

We never thought after losing our previous rough collie that we could take on another. However, instinctively, I felt that Bailey could be a wonderful addition and this has certainly proved to be true. He has slotted into our life and home perfectly. Bailey is a lovely and loving companion and is happy to settle while we enjoy a coffee outside after a walk. His house manners are impeccable.

It has been a whirlwind year with acclimatising Bailey to walking without reactivity (80% there), grooming (he is a star), going to the vets for vaccinations, dental and polyp removal (absolutely fabulous according to the veterinary nurses).

He can now walk off lead in quiet areas, has a number of dog friends, climb a stone stile while being surprisingly obedient and he constantly checks in. He is a joy to walk now. Favourite pastimes are tossing around squeaky toys and singing to them, barking while bouncing around, playing ball, zoomies, rolling in the grass, walks and ... FOOD!. Dislikes are sparrows singing in hedges, tractors with trailers and crossing metal bridges (work in progress but improving).

We have just returned from a break in Northumberland at a hotel and he was a model house guest. We are so proud of our lovely boy.

Heidi by Joyce Brayne



Heidi has been with us since September 2024 and celebrated her 5th birthday on 15th March. She was rescued from Romania and we would like to say a massive thanks to Lesley Bassett (foreign rescue) and Sam Hale (rough collie rescue). She is our third rough collie.

Heidi is quite remarkable. She settled in immediately - quiet at first but well-mannered, but unsure of what life was going to be like with us. But with lots of playtime with her new ball, teddy, and other toys, regular walks along the canals and meres that we have around

Ellesmere, a set routine for her meals, her personality really came out and we heard her first bark after a couple of weeks! She is very intelligent and has easily picked up key words which we use all the time like "din dins", "walkies", "chew bar", "sweeties". She loves rolling on her back, all four legs in the air! She loves giving my husband and I kisses on our ears! She plays nicely with other dogs on her walks especially when she gets a small training treat as a reward!

There are times usually in the afternoons when she likes to be on her own to have a sleep and we respect that. She gives us so much pleasure and is so funny and we are really honoured to have her in our lives.



Betti with Melanie Saunders

Betti came into rescue in the Balkans at eight years of age. She hadn't had the best start in life, having lived a restricted outside life while her litter-brother had experienced much more freedom. Neither of them were healthy and sadly her brother died, but Betti has been treated for heart-worm and babesiosis (a tick-born infection which we don't get in the UK), and is regaining her health.

There was also a concern about Betti's behaviour as she did show some signs of aggression in new situations. So while still in the Balkans, Rescue arranged for Betti to spend a month with a behaviourist and his wife. It became clear that Betti was not a vicious dog, but rather a nervous one, and that her previous behaviour had been triggered by fear due to having been under-socialised; for her, to show aggression had been her way of wanting to protect herself in new situations. Gradually, the real Betti began to emerge and she was assessed as being suitable for adoption, but that a home with plenty of outside space and an adopter with experience of helping animals who has previously shown challenging behaviours to thrive would be ideal for her.

Betti has now found her perfect match with Melanie who has just the right amount of everything; experience of working with challenging dogs and horses amongst the rolling hills of South Wales!

Melanie says: "Our new girl Betti has been with us for five weeks and she's already running the household with the confidence of someone who pays the mortgage! She's affectionate, gentle and has mastered the art of looking innocent while stealing the comfiest spot on the sofa. We adore her, and she clearly agrees that we are very lucky to have her."

A story that shows just how much background work goes on in assessing a dog for their new life and of finding the right adopter to enable that dog to thrive!

Well done everyone!



Danny by Paul Stevenson

Danny came to the attention of rescue in May 2024. By sheer good fortune an animal activist happened to be driving down the highway when he passed a truck loaded with dogs in crates heading to the meat market. He managed to stop the truck and all dogs were saved. This included 2 rough collies, one was helped by a German rescue and we were asked if we could help the other.

Danny was very sick with pneumonia and spent many weeks in the vet where it was touch and go. Once he was sufficiently recovered he was transferred from the vet hospital to a kennel facility to await transport to the half-way house. Distances in China are huge as are the extremes of weather and throughout the summer it was deemed unsafe to travel him due to the temperatures. Eventually he made it to the half-way house where he befriended an elderly gentleman who was one of the carers.

Rescuing from China is difficult and expensive but we had the help of a great organisation who arranged all his medical checks and transport to the U.K.

Danny is now enjoying his new life with Paul in Peterborough; he is Paul's sixth collie! He has had 3 of them from puppies and 2 the other 2 from our rescue, Josh and Obie, so is an experienced collie lover. They are both now waiting for the warmer weather so they can begin their adventures together in Paul's caravan.

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Destiny (aka DJ) by Linda Diane

We already had 3 dogs; 2 Shetland Sheepdogs and a female Husky, but my heart melts at the rough collie breed, having owned 7 previously, and so it did again around Christmas 2024 when I saw this fella, a senior, possibly 10-12 years old. He looked like a tri rough but still not full breed. I instantly fell in love with him and thought could we have room in our family for him? His name was Destiny as he was rescued from the street in Romania to a safe kennel. The look in his eyes within the videos and photos showed he was a happy guy and loved being with his kennel buddies. We watched for the next update; he was now neutered and was ready for adoption. Lesley explained the process to adopt from Romania and how he would be on a 3-4 day journey to be delivered to our home, but as only so many can come on the bus, he finally arrived at the end of August 2025.

Destiny arrived about 6am, he walked out of the van and looked very shy and tired. We introduced him to our 3 and fed him some food and water. Poor guy was looking at us with gentle eyes and he just laid in the back garden and fell asleep. He seemed to love being with us and our 3. We would go for walks and he would pull, as again, he was only a street dog and needed to learn not to pull. He would stop and sniff everything; he truly was all boy! Not until about 4 months after having him did he truly bark along with our others. Instead, he would squeak and do a little dance for a treat or to have his harness put on for a walk. We renamed him Destiny Jareth "DJ". He would lay on his bed at the foot of my work chair and stare at me most of the day. He had the most beautiful loving human like brown eyes. On December 14th, he was laying on his pillow and our eldest Sheltie, Miggy, was right next to him. We could see that DJ could not stand and appeared to be in pain. The vet found that he had a blockage in his belly which had come about nearly overnight. We knew he was near 12 and an operation was not an option. We decided to say goodbye and have him go to Rainbow Bridge. It broke our hearts, we dearly loved him; something he may never have known if he had not been rescued from the streets in Romania. We were able to give but he gave in return! We will never forget him and thank Lesley and Rough and Smooth Collie UK Rescue for making this happen.

Theo by Suzanne Patterson



Theo came over to the UK from Romania with his brother Riley when they were about six months old, having been rescued from a pound. It's amazing that Theo survived because soon after we got him it turned out that he had two severe heart conditions which were too risky to be operated on. They reckoned he might get two or three years if he was lucky.

Theo did incredibly well until just before last Christmas. He had no outward symptoms and we built up his exercise so that he could easily do a few miles of walking and not be tired at the end of it. We didn't do hills or throw a ball but he loved his walks, playing with Misty and running around the garden. He came with us on long distance paths and loved camping; he was so good, he never barked, just sat happily looking around and snuggled quietly in the tent all night.

Just before Christmas he started coughing, the vet tripled his medication which stopped the coughing but the cardiologist showed us on a scan how much worse the defects in his heart had got and said he only had three or four months to go. On the 20th January we lost him suddenly. We were toddling around the block at glacial speed with him and old Misty when he suddenly

collapsed, did two or three yelps then passed in my arms. It is still very upsetting just thinking about it. He was a couple of months away from turning three. He was the happiest, most joyful dog I have ever known, such a gentle, funny, pure little soul who just loved life and being with us. RIP my darling boy.

By a bizarre twist of fate, a week after he died I was told his brother Riley was finding it difficult to adjust to changes in his home circumstances, and that his adopter had made the heart-breaking decision to prioritise his needs and seek a new home for him.

I didn't know if it was too soon and was worried it would hurt too much to see Theo's mirror image jumping about, but I remembered another twist of fate about how Theo and Riley first arrived in the UK... being almost identical the transport company delivered them to the wrong homes! But both of us adopters decided to keep the pup we had received rather than exchanging them for the one we had been expecting. The brothers and us adopters visited each other, and so under unexpected circumstances, Riley – now called Raleigh – has been welcomed into our home.

Although he only arrived up here on the first of February, he is still settling in but is a lovely boy, and we are looking forward to having lots of adventures together.



Harley by Linda Gibson

Although Harley (centre) was adopted through Pupcakes Rescue in Lincolnshire, a rescue which specialized in rehoming dogs with a history of complex behavioural needs, I first saw his details when they were shared on this website.

Harley had initially lived on a puppy farm for about eighteen months and then in a home for about a further eight months before moving to Pupcakes Resue. I knew that he had challenges from the outset, but we were able to support him with many of his anxieties and he had a good three years living with John and I and our two other rough collies rescues – Bodie (left) from Dogstrust and Jessie (right) from Collie Rescue (Rough and Smooth). For much of this time, he was a happy and loving member of our family, but gradually his anxieties became very unpredictable and we recognized, together with vets and behaviourists, that the underlying factors causing his anxieties were just too challenging to be managed, and the heart-breaking decision was made to let him go.

There are times when I still wonder what more we could have done, but deep down I know that the decision that none of us like to contemplate, especially as he was only six years old, was the right one for Harley, ourselves and others. He is missed every day, but I take consolation from knowing that he knew he was loved, and he loved us in return, and that we were able to ensure that the second half of his life was a much better experience for him than how his life had started.



Bribon

by Sheila Yerrell

Our beautiful, gentle boy Bribon passed in my arms on the 19th of September 2024, he was quiet and reserved but had such a cheeky nature, it was a pleasure to have him in our lives,

rest in peace sweetheart xx



Manu

by Shirley Barnes

Known to his friends as Mannie, he came from Southern Ireland as a very thin boy when he was 11. I only had him for a year but he made a big impression; he loved to play with his toy pig and loved Markies biscuits! Miss Mannie very much.

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