COLLIE RESCUE (ROUGH & SMOOTH)

WEBSITE: www.collierescueroughandsmooth.co.uk
FACEBOOK: Rough and Smooth Rescue UK

"PAWS FOR THOUGHT"
AUTUMN 2026
NEWSLETTER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi everyone

Thank you David for producing another enjoyable, sometimes emotional newsletter.

This year has been one of ups and downs but like all other rescues we will continue to care for our lovely breed.

Vet bills and fuel continue to rise but with your help, donations and fundraising we will be able to carry on helping all collies in need.

Thank you also to Buddys Rescue for your work with the foreign collies until they arrive at their new homes over here when we take over their care, and to Peter for his wonderful organization of the collie walks which are now a huge success.

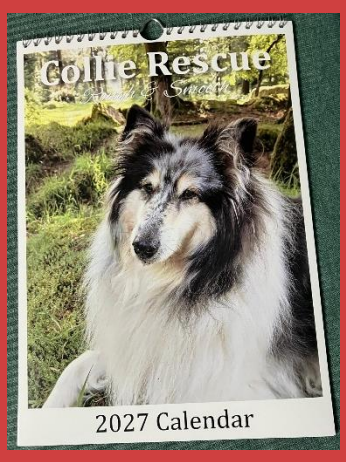
Regards

Chris Slater

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos for our Cards and Calendars

Pack of 8 cards £3.75; Calendars £6.00 plus P&P; contact Chris Slater to order







EDITORIAL

What an amazing network of people support the activities of Collie Rescue Rough and Smooth and Buddy's Rescue Buddies, from Officers who engage with the work of the two Charities, to volunteers who undertake home-checks and assist with fundraising, to those who foster dogs abroad when they first come into rescue, and to those who assist with transport to bring our dogs safely to their new homes in the UK. We need and appreciate all your contributions, be it financial or time, or indeed both!

During the Summer we saw the first Collie Rally take place in Tupton near Chesterfield, where there were over 80 collies in attendance plus many more honorary canine guests; a great day was had by all, and over £1200 was raised for Buddy's Rescue Buddies. Many thanks to Alison and all who contributed to make the day a memorable one for everyone who came along! If you missed it this year, save the date:

Collie Rally 2027

Tupton Rugby Club, near Chesterfield

Sunday 6th June

In July the familiar Collie Chaos took place in Wath Upon Dearne near Rotherham, but the high temperatures impacted attendance, nevertheless a good day was had by those present. We express our thanks to Sheila for organising this in recent years, and wish her well in her future endeavours amongst us.

As you will read in the newsletter, we continue to rescue dogs from abroad, including the Balkans, Turkey and China, and have four due to travel in October and a further five in November, but I'm also mindful of how this work is being made more difficult by the impact of increasing fuel prices; diesel has risen about 40% since I wrote in March, from an average of 142p per litre to 198p per litre, a challenge for all of us. But Buddy's is trying to carry this additional cost on very limited resources, and so any donations directly to them, as per the details for Buddy's below, will be greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter and catching up on the transformation you make possible by your support of both Collie Rescue Rough and Smooth and Buddy's Rescue Buddies.

Banking details for Collie Rescue and Buddy's Rescue Buddies

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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RESCUE vs REHOMING *by Lesley Bassett*





This is something I've been considering writing for a long time, both are of equal importance but they come with different challenges for the rescuer, the adopter and of course the dog.

Giving a dog a new forever home can be a very rewarding experience, however before letting your heart rule your head there are a number of things that must first be seriously considered. Is your current lifestyle, career and home set-up suitable for a introducing a new dog? Do you have the necessary time to exercise, socialise and train the dog? Is there someone at home for the majority of the day to look after the dog and do you have adequate back-up care for holidays and unforeseen emergency situations? There is also the financial aspect; veterinary care is very expensive, should you opt for insurance or to self fund? Whilst love, time and patience are the main ingredients, the practicalities of taking on a new dog cannot be ignored.

Rehoming is often a relatively simple transition for both the dog and the adopter. For a number of reasons, the most common being bereavement, divorce, relocation or some other change in circumstances, the dog is no longer able to remain with its original owner. These dogs have usually come from a normal loving home and it's often a very difficult and emotional decision for the owner or their family to have to make. In these situations, we will have a history on the dog, its likes, quirks and daily routine, the dog will be used to the normality of living in a domestic environment, noises such as the washing machine and vacuum cleaner will be familiar sounds, they will understand how to walk on a lead and fortunately only in rare cases have they experienced neglect or ill treatment at the hands of people.

Rescue is rather different scenario especially with the foreign dogs because we don't have any of the history of their previous lives. When a dog's plight is brought to our attention it is because it is neglected, in poor condition, may have underlying health problems and its life may have also been in danger either from traffic, because its time is up in the shelter or at the hands of people who in some countries see stray dogs as vermin. The poisoning of street dogs is not uncommon in certain European countries and we have also managed to rescue and rehome several collies from the Chinese meat markets.





Just because the dog has been rescued from a horrible situation it does not mean the dog is broken or damaged in any way, it simply means it has been badly let down by people. Our first priority is to take the dog to the vet for a medical assessment and then it is placed in a foster home where it will remain for several months to both recover and be made ready for adoption. During this time the fosterer will get to know its personality and we take this time to assess the dog's needs which provides invaluable information as to the type of home that will be most appropriate.

It's a joy to witness the transformation many of our dogs experience as they relax and settle into a secure and loving home. This can be seen from the pictures of Callie, once starving, neglected and abandoned to her fate and now much loved and cherished and living like a princess or Scarlett who was rescued at the last minute from the back of a Chinese meat trader's truck who is now living a wonderful new life with her family, or Lady who enjoyed her holidays in the UK with Lesley.

It's not only the dogs who benefit they also transform the lives of the people who adopt them, bringing a sense of purpose, joy, satisfaction and an immense amount of pride. Having a canine companion at their side can also help the adopter through a period of sadness or difficulty and provide a positive focus on the future.

All dogs deserve a second chance to have a loving home regardless of how they end up in rescue and we strive to help them achieve this. Rough Collie Rescue offers these dogs lifetime back up and continued support for the owners throughout their lives. We are always here to try to assist with any problems, please see our website for details of your nearest committee member should you need advice or assistance.





THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A TRACKER *by Sally Jones*

Starting your life with a rescue dog certainly has its rewards, however it can be very challenging, but mostly it is full of so much love and care because you know you are making a difference.

The thing to remember is that we don't always know their background or what their life was like before; we can only imagine. Then we have the job of giving them the life they deserve, filled with love, care, warmth and a happy safe home. It may take time, patience and a whole lot of reassurance, but sometimes, to be there with them and wait… the rewards coming back are worth the wait. The love and trust given back is what we all do this for. A dog's life should be like this!

Now, as we all know, a dog with an unknown background needs secure safety mechanisms in place:

1. We all know microchips are to be in place
2. A good collar / harness
3. A pet tag
4. A strong lead (maybe double leaded to begin with)
5. A Tracker – this could save their life!!

I for one recommend the PIT PAT tracker. This little tracker is a one-off payment and gives peace of mind that you can't put a price on. You can set it up in various ways and pay for add-ons if you want more from it, or you can just track your dog's activity daily and most importantly, the 'find my dog' function is a life saver. Believe me, Chance and I can tell you it works! The reassurance it provides means you can expand your activities and your 'family' (Astra) even to the Northern most parts of the country!

SPONSOR DOG UPDATES



A Tale of Hope *by Leigh Woodward*

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Hope and I was 11 years old last October. I would like to tell you a little about myself, and how I came to be re-homed by Collie Rescue.

I spent the first two years of my life with my breeders in Kent. They used to take me to dog shows, but I really did not enjoy them. The more I went, the more they scared me. And so I was sold to another breeder who spent a lot of time teaching me lots of things. I even got my Kennel Club Good Citizen Gold Award, which was brilliant. But my new owner liked to go to dog shows too, and although she was very kind and patient with me, I still disliked them, and eventually we stopped going, which was a great relief to me.

Very soon, a lady and gentleman came to buy a puppy called Sammy, and they decided to buy me as well. And so Sammy and I headed off for our new life, thankfully away from dog shows. Our new human mum and dad looked after us very well. We were well fed, had regular walks and always went to the groomers to make sure we looked good. The only problem was, they ran a business, and so we were left alone a lot of the time. This made us both sad because we love humans and we enjoy having fusses and cuddles. I got on well, but going in the car made me think of my days as a show dog, and I was always frightened, and sat down, refusing to jump into the car. But I needn't have worried, because we never went to a show.

One night, my human dad was taken very ill and died. My human mum was in shock, and Sammy and I were taken away for a couple of days to stay with strangers. All we wanted to do was go home, so when my human mum's son came to collect us one Saturday morning, we were excited, expecting to return to our home. But instead of the short journey home, we were taken on a much longer ride, and eventually arrived at a place called Hutton in Essex. We did not know where we were or what was happening, but Sammy and I were together as we had been for the past 8 years, so that was a bit of comfort.

We were greeted by a lady who took us all into her home. She sat talking for some time, and while Sammy was content to sit patiently, I decided to go upstairs and have a good look around. Not that there was much to look at, as the house was rather small. There was also another dog, not like us. She was a Havanese called Evie, and she did not look too pleased that we were in her house. Eventually, I saw our beds, food, toys and grooming equipment come into the house. Even our soft crate was taken in. What was happening? Why weren't we going home? It was all very confusing. You can imagine how pleased I was when our leads were fetched. Finally, we were going home. But instead, we all went out for a walk, including the lady whose name was Leigh, and Evie the Havanese. The walk was lovely, with big open fields and woods to investigate. We were kept on our leads, but that didn't matter; there was so much to investigate. So much so that I hadn't realised my old mum's son had left us and driven away. I had not seen him go.

When we got back to the house, we had some cuddles and some treats, and very soon Leigh's husband Colin came home. He seemed pleased to see us and made a big fuss of us. We had our dinner as usual and spent our first night in our emergency foster home, although we did not realise that was what was happening. We were both very confused and missed our old home, but we were safe and it was lovely to have company so much of the time.

The next Sunday we went for a ride to a lovely big park in Maldon. It was a beautiful sunny day, and we spent hours walking around and even had some doggie ice cream, which we all enjoyed. Evie had got used to us now, and we were all getting on very well and playing together. Our next trip wasn't so nice. It was a trip to the vets. I hate the vets. But he was very nice, and checked us all over to make sure we were fit and healthy. The vet found a small lump inside Sammie's eyelid which needed to be removed, and so the appointment was made a few weeks later for the small

operation. He looked so funny with a big collar round his neck, but he didn't seem to mind too much, and soon it was taken off and he was well again. To celebrate, we were taken to the groomers for a nice bath, and then we all went to the pet shop and were treated to lovely new collars and leads. I had the same as Evie, lilac with little daisies, while Sammy got a bright blue ensemble. We had both settled into our new home very well.

Imagine the horror, therefore, when I heard Leigh making a telephone call one day asking if a permanent home had been found for us. My heart sunk. I didn't want to leave. What if Sammy and I got split up? Where would we go? It was awful. I took myself upstairs as I didn't want to hear any more.

Soon I was called downstairs. Leigh sat Sammy and myself down and put her arms round us. "I want to tell you something", she whispered. "You are both very lovely, special dogs, and Colin and I don't want to let you go. So I have just spoken to Collie Rescue Head Office, and if you would like it, we want you to stay with us".

Well, of course that's what we wanted. And so the adoption forms were completed, and we officially had our new home. Well, actually my forms were what is called permanent foster because I am over 10 years old. It still means I live here permanently now, but my new mum & dad can get some help with my vets bills if I ever become poorly.

So that is how Sammy and I came to live with Collie Rescue officers Leigh & Colin (and Evie of course). I would love to tell you what has happened since then, but I think maybe we will leave that for the next time.

HOME RESCUE

Trigger *by Joanne & Robert Bowles*



Trigger came to us in June 2024 from the lovely Rough & Smooth Collie Rescue. We rehomed him at the age of 5 years old, and he has settled in with us really well; it feels like we have had him a lot longer. Trigger loves going out for walks and going to the park where he loves playing ball with his friends. He is very loving & obedient and has got great recall, but he loves to bark a lot when we have visitors in our home. We take him on the rough collie walks and he gets on really well with the other dogs.



Trigger looks forward to hosting many of you at the walks in Hinchingbrooke Country Park, Huntingdon

U P D A T E S



Milo *by Mick Oliver*

I lost my best friend Jake on Christmas Eve 2025, and at that time had no immediate plans to get another Rough Collie, but always knew that at some point I would, however, in March of this year I saw a little feature on Milo and decided to make an enquiry about him, and a couple of weeks later I was driving 250 miles to pick him up. He adapted to life in the North East pretty quickly and was soon welcomed into his new home by our four young Grandkids (who love giving him cuddles) and my son's dog Toby (Cocker Spaniel) who have now become good friends. We take care of Toby weekdays so Milo gets to run about with Toby regularly everyday and Milo also makes a good companion for me when we have an hours walk on an evening to escape rubbish TV.



We also have a caravan at Witton Castle in County Durham which he loves to visit, meeting other dogs and going on nice walks down the river Wear and occasionally getting his feet wet in the river. It seems everyday he is still learning new things out in the countryside having recently come across Squirrels, Hedgehogs, Rabbits, Hares etc and although he's usually a bit cautious and inquisitive, he soon gets excited and wants to play with them. We've recently had a week in Scotland with him walking the rivers and Lochs which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Milo is great on the lead, enjoys being on the lead or off it, and doesn't mind the odd half hour or so on the grooming bench as well, his new undercoat just coming in for the winter months as he enjoys being outside most of the time, weather permitting.



I wasn't expecting to get another Collie so soon after losing Jake, but so pleased we did as he's become a special addition to our family and is much loved by all, strangers walk up to us and remark what a good looking boy he is and I never tire of the attention he craves.

I'm very lucky to have had the opportunity to offer Milo a new home and want to thank the wonderful efforts of Lesley, David and the Rough Collie Rescue team for the hard work they do for the breed, but also, for personally enhancing mine and my family's lives with the addition of this gorgeous Rough Collie boy Milo.

FOREIGN RESCUE UPDATES

Our Rough Collie Journey; Rosie, Rene and Ralph *by Jackie White*



Our Rough Collie journey started after losing our beloved 18 year old Jack Russell (Bill) and thought – never again!!

Well of course if you're a doggie person you couldn't be without a dog for long… and so we acquired our first Rough Collie - Harvey - advertised in the local rag. Absolutely no research done – just 'well we won't be replacing Bill!'. He was an absolute perfect fit for a young family and soon became an integral part of the family going on our many camping adventures and became our children's confidante when things were tough at school!

We rescued a little pal for him – a little rescue black 'spadoodle' called Pippin. She was very needy and always had to be on your knee or very close by!

When Harvey passed we re-homed a beautiful blue merle Rough Collie - Rosie - from North Wales through a friend of a friend to keep Pippin company. Rosie was a show dog until 12 months old (and doesn't she know it!), had a litter of pups and was then rehomed. The breeder brought her to our home in Shropshire herself to ensure she'd have a good home. We're incredibly grateful to her. She came to us as very confident and vocal!

When Pippin passed we then looked for another small dog however our hearts by this time were with the Roughs, so reached out to the Rough and Smooth Rescue. In time we welcomed 7 year old, Sable coloured, Ross into our home. He was a rescue through and through meaning he had not had a very good start in life. He and his two brothers – Jock and Bruce – were rescued by the RSPCA from an animal hoarding situation in Nottingham. He was a very scared boy which, initially, showed itself in snapping and aggression which, as you know, is not a Rough trait!! With time and patience, he did overcome that although we ALWAYS had to have doors wide open before he'd venture through a doorway and always had to factor time in when arriving at a new place. He never overcame the inability to eat with other dogs and always had to be fed separately. He was also very needy and always had to be touching you, cwtching or leaning.

Not entirely sure how (ha ha) but we then welcomed Rene, a 7 month tri colour from Serbia, into our home through Buddies Rescue. She and her sister had been bred, not sold, and was then fostered by lovely people in Serbia before coming over to UK. Fosters had obviously done a fantastic job as she was very confident and a joy. She's probably the most intelligent Rough and she also can never be very far from you at any given time. She was incredibly good friends with Ross but when he passed and she tried very hard to play and be friends with Rosie, Rosie didn't want to know.

I asked Rough and Smooth Rescue and Buddies for help again! We duly welcomed 7 month old Ralph from Croatia into our home. He had a similar story to Rene in so far as he was bred, breeder became poorly I think, but then he was given to a rescue volunteer to foster in Croatia. He is a beautiful, kind, gentle boy and again, has to be touching you at all times.

In summation, in our experience - and I'm not purporting them to be typical at all - ALL our rescues have been very affectionate and, dare I say, needy and touchy and with lots of patience needed. Well worth it!! Our rehomer? Not as touchy-feely but needy - as in requiring lots of love and attention. She still needs to know she's a princess!



Charlie *by Peter & Gill Morgan*

Charlie came to us on 4th July 2024 via Buddies and Collie Rescue from the Balkans where he was rescued from a puppy farm. He was 6 months old and very timid.

At first he was afraid of the television and wouldn't come into the lounge if the TV was on.

2 years and 2 months later he has successfully trained his humans in the ways of Charlie in the process becoming Master of all he surveys!

He is still afraid of traffic and strangers so we quickly abandoned street walks: instead we go to the local fields where he can run free and zoom to his heart's content. He has a varied collection of friends there whom he loves to chase and to be chased by!

At home he likes to be close to his well-trained humans to supervise their tasks! He is always by our side, is a very affectionate boy and we feel privileged to have him in our lives.

He's absolutely delightful!



Tessa & Cookie *by Joanne & Kieren Wojcik*

Tessa & Cookie (T&C) became our family members in August 2025. Our pack was 3 RCs: Keefer 11y sable, Buddy 12y tri and Teagan 6y blue merle and our 4-year-old son Jaxson. We had lots of thoughts about this. How our team will react having them in? Will they accept 2 more? What if they don't get on? How our son behaves around them and the new team members will behave around us?

We did discuss it numerous times but deep down we knew we will make it work it out as we already had that in past with Keefer and Buddy (rescue). We always wanted to have a full house of life, 3 dogs and Jaxson maybe was too much for some, but not us!

From day one they settled in very well, we couldn't believe how quick and smooth this transition was for them and us as well. On the second day we had short walks around village. It was challenging but on day two you would not think that you were walking 5 dogs. Soon T&C were named by villagers, The Twins. Two weeks down the line and they were off lead having fun running wild chasing each other on the fields.

We introduced our family routines straight away and that was definitely best for them. They got it very quick, apart from feeding. They were always racing food and trying to steal from others but they quickly learned not to (which you can expect as T&C were underweight and probably hungry fair bit of their life). Within a few weeks all 5 had their breakfast, lunch snack and dinners together close by.

On the other hand, some issues still remain till this day, destructions. When mum/dad are not at home The Twins decide to: repot plants, shred pillows and duvet covers, shred shoe laces, flip flops, jumpers, T-shirts, lots of Lego cars (which Jaxson still doesn't know about), footballs, mum's clothes, boxes, kitchen towels - all that is left in their eye and nose view can and will be chewed!

We call them Collie declutter: No job is too big.

The biggest one so far was recliner chair, heavy one you would not think could be touched by a 19 kg doggie. When we went to work chair was in living room but when I arrived back mid-day (meaning 4 hours) that was in the middle of hallway without the back, all inside and outside was shredded to pieces. I suppose they thought that was waste of space, did not fit any doggie on and



was there only for grandad when he was coming over so no point having it then! We still go through it all and thinking how did they manage to move it so far, shredding was quite explainable (we knew they could do that). Some point we had camera pointing to the centre of action and manage to establish main leader and that was and still is, Tessa, forefront in the picture of innocence! Cookie is the one who just joins in. We have learned not to leave food on kitchen counter even if you think it's too far for them to reach, Tessa proves us wrong. She is crafty and clever who loves a whole lot of butter.

In February we have suddenly lost our oldest family member (the pack leader) Buddy which has changed and broken our life. We were glad to be able to say goodbye at home, so he has rested in peace with us. All this has changed the dynamics in our pack. Teagan tries to dominate but deep down I think Cookie will be leading all this soon. We have a wonderful pack of roughs which we would not change for anything. It's been a crazy and at the same time a fabulous last 12 months and would do same thing all over again (even knowing what was coming). There's nothing more rewarding than seeing them being happy, greeting you home before you realise they done something naughty! 😂



We are grateful to all people involved in Buddy's Rescues Buddies specially Lesley who made all this happen. Thank you to each one of you who is reading this article because I know for fact you made and supported their journey to a new home.



Koni *with Peter Lane*

As soon as Koni arrived on 14th March this year, Peter thought she was beautiful, and she began to make herself very relaxed in her new home! She had the run of the house and the garden, and the stairs were no challenge beyond her desires, to the point of having her own bedroom and bed!

She has adjusted to her new diet and is clean at home. She walks well on the lead and loves the local park and walks by the canal where she gets on well with other dogs, but watches the squirrels and ducks!

She loves her play times, either with a ball, or a soft toy with ears to nibble at, but typical of her breed, 'zoomies' have earned her the name of 'rocket pocket', and you just keep out of the way! She is so fast she's like flyball on steroids!

Her dislikes include the hoover, but that's not every human's favourite pastime either! And she sulks when rebuked, but that only happens on rare occasions!

But most importantly, she knows where she finds her security, going everywhere with her new human!

RAINBOW BRIDGE

Sasha *by David Hayman*



Igor, the Ukrainian Rescue, lost his big sister Sasha in September. Many will remember her as a treat-hunting honorary presence at many Rough Collie (and their sidekicks) walks and informal gatherings since Igor joined our family in March 2025.

She was with me since she was rescued over 15 years ago, and has been a loyal companion to me, especially during a very challenging couple of years when responding to her needs ensured that I did not withdraw further from daily routines, but she was so much more than this; a thief of anything tasty left in reach, having an intuitive sense for when people finding a conversation difficult just needed to be able to reach out and give her a little attention as a distraction, to knowing at what distance she could follow me and who she could then approach for a tasty treat, having ensured that she had trained them well in knowing what she liked and what she didn't and who to pass by quickly as her training efforts had been ineffective!

Although her sight deteriorated because of dry eye, she certainly developed an even keener ability to sniff out a tasty treat (or the empty space where one had been previously!) and all the more so if it was a forbidden item, like dark chocolate still wrapped and hidden under a tray - a recent antic but without serious consequence, thankfully!

While she has passed on a liking for pizza crust and all things human to Igor, more importantly she has helped him to adjust to a more normal life than he experienced as a young dog on the front line of the war in the Ukraine, but at the same time to remember that she was present in the house first and certain people retained a Sasha only zone around them!

The body was growing tired, but the spirit and the character remained present until the end; much loved and forever grateful.

Brucie *by Abdul Syed*

Hello Everyone, Brucie & Jock here.



So it is with sad regret that we have both journeyed over the Rainbow Bridge. We came into Rescue in late 2019. We were then housed with temporary Foster Parents. However, those who have been following our on-line adventures know how that turned out. Happily, they joined the Failed Foster Club. We had a great 5 to 6 years living with Mummy & Daddy. We got taken on lots of holidays, visits to different towns and cities, chances to explore and meet other dogs, plus all the lovey treats Mummy would give us. It was a shame these had to all come to an end, but now we are continuing our adventures here over the Rainbow Bridge.

Lots of Collie Love from Brucie & Jock



Dixie *by Sharon Glasby*

We moved in June to new premises with a larger garden for Dixie and Shadow. But unfortunately, after four weeks exactly, we lost Dixie very suddenly.

We rescued her when she was four years old and she made it to her 12th birthday. She was fit and healthy, never needing the vets, and so it was heart-breaking, but I stayed with her, holding her in my arms to the end, and gently she went to sleep, pain free.

Thank you rescue, for bringing her into our lives.

Rip Dixie Doo xx

Dee Dee *by Barry & Heather Hearn*



Sunday 12th January 2014 Dee Dee arrived late evening with the breeder. I took a thick matted coated girl out of the car; led her inside; she'd never walked on carpet before or seen a fire. The breeder left half an hour later; groomer next day and every six weeks it was her turn to be pampered. Dee Dee had unique qualities that we have ever known. Loved by everyone and especially her doggie friends. The reward she gave in return was second to none. Gentle in manner such a loving girl not a bad bone in her body. She knew she was loved and above all she was family.

We think Dee Dee when she passed peacefully at home was 17 years old.

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

REGIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT FOR SUPPORT

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