

2010: In With a Roar - and Out With a Roar

That's right, 2010 has kept definitely WBCR rockin' and rollin' as an extremely busy year. After taking in a record number of special needs dogs in the early part of the year, by June we were hustling all over the Rocky Mountain region to attend events throughout the summer and early fall – all the while tending to an avalanche of adoption applications and rescuing dogs all over the western region. For more info on all we've been up to – take a peek inside!!

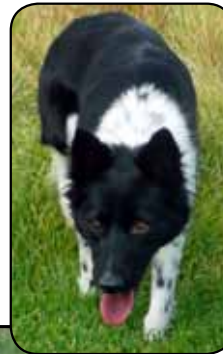


WBCR's Second Annual Harvest Festival

It rang strangely familiar... it was fall, and shelters were once again teeming with Border Collies whose time was about to run out.

In November 2009, WBCR was faced with an unprecedented number of Border Collies in shelters all over the region. It felt almost hopeless – but we reached out to our wonderful group of volunteers, and amazingly, all 20 dogs in need found safe haven in WBCR foster homes by Thanksgiving. We breathed a big sigh of relief and foolishly thought, "Thank goodness we'll never have to do THAT again!"

Lo and behold, October 2010 rolled around and we were looking at exactly the same scenario: 20 Border Collies in 9 different shelters in 6 different states – all in danger of euthanasia.



Again, we reached out and again, we received a wonderful response from WBCR's network of Border Collie lovers. During a timespan of just 16 days, we rescued 20 Border Collies from Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. But this year, some of these dogs won't be in foster care for the holidays.

A couple of those rescued in this year's "WBCR Second Annual Harvest Festival" have already found their forever homes!

Thank you to all of you who stepped forward to help these lovely dogs get the chance they desperately needed – we couldn't do it without you!

OUR MISSION

Western Border Collie Rescue is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming Border Collies and Border Collie mixes, as well as educating the public on the characteristics and needs of this breed.

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WBCR'S SPECIAL NEEDS DOGS OF 2010

Some Newbies, Some Oldies, and ALL Goodies!

The first months of 2010 brought WBCR an overwhelming number of special needs dogs : Cotton, Bing, Jazmine, Ian, and the N and O pups. We are thrilled to report that not only have all of these tougher-than-average cases recuperated wonderfully thanks to wonderful care and medical intervention, but they all have found loving forever homes!! This includes Raena, who came to WBCR with an old fracture on a front leg, who was waiting oh-so-patiently for her turn at a pain-free life – which she got, thanks to Dr. Felix Duerr and Paws of the Rockies Veterinary Clinic -- along with a loving home to call her own! Raena had surgery to repair her leg, and is now living (and fetching!) happily and well loved by her new family near Steamboat Springs, CO. It was a long wait but well worth it for this sweet girl.

We are also thrilled to report that Paddy Clarke, who survived parvo last fall, found his long-awaited forever home this summer as well, and now spends his days playing with his family and doggy brother in southern CO.



We and our checkbook had little time to recuperate before the action started again, and we waded in with both feet. From one small, high-kill rural Idaho shelter came Jax, a young Border Collie with an old leg injury, and Rose and her pups.

Rose is a young Bearded Collie, left tied to the shelter doghouse one night with 12 (yes, TWELVE) tiny puppies, whose father was clearly a Border Collie. Rose was malnourished, filthy, matted, covered in sores and infected, imbedded grass seeds – and her pups were in worse shape than that.

Half the size they should have been, within a week from arriving in a WBCR foster home, the pups battled life-threatening respiratory infections, then were diagnosed with Parvo. Despite round-the-clock vet care and the extraordinary efforts of their unbelievable foster parents, three of the puppies did not survive.

The remaining 9 continued to battle for their lives for weeks and weeks. After three months (yes, THREE months) of severe illness in foster care, the R pups were finally healthy and ready for adoption!!! In early November, a few of the R pups went to their forever homes, and we don't think it will be much longer for these little champs to all be soon nestled in the homes and hearts of their forever families' homes. An enormous THANK YOU to their heroic foster parents, Christina and Eric, for hanging in there through weeks of vet visits, medication administration, and more piddle pads than anyone can imagine!



And in the meantime, darling Rose continues to come out of her shell and is busy learning about life as a happy, playful dog in her foster home in Jackson, WY.

Jax came in with a limp that we hoped was just a sprain/muscle tear, but xrays showed an old and ugly break to his femur (youch!) that left an ugly dislocation with lots of bone shards and tissue damage. Jax had much-need surgery to repair all the damage and straighten out the bone, thanks to Dr Dan Forman of Spring Creek Animal Hospital in Jackson, WY, and Dr Eric Eggers of CSU.

He is expected to make a full recovery and live life as a pain-free, exuberant, playful Border Collie, and, just before this newsletter was done, found a loving forever family in CO!



WBCR Presence Stretches Further in 2010

While we have always been wholeheartedly dedicated to rescuing Border Collies in need, another large part of WBCR's mission is that of education, both about our rescue, and the Border Collie breed itself. This year we've been "out and about" more than ever before, participating in an array of events. Our busy calendar included agility trials, flyball tournaments, discdog tournaments, and sheepherding trials – many for the first time – including the Colorado Canine Challenge/Quadrapped Disc Dog Championships and the Meeker Classic Sheepdog Trials. We met many wonderful Border Collie lovers, made new friends, met new supporters, and continued to spread the word about and raise funds for WBCR. Check out our Events Calendar at wbcrecue.org to see what we've got in store for 2011 – we may even have a presence at the National Sheepdog Finals in Carbondale, CO in the works and we'd love to have you join us!



Is More Always Better?

In some situations, the answer is yes! But when it comes to feeding your dog – definitely not! In our travels this year, we've seen more and more dogs that are packing extra pounds. Often, those dogs' families have no idea they're carrying too much weight, nor do they realize what an impact that can have on both the dog's quantity and quality of life.

Extra pounds are more than hard on a dog – they are downright dangerous. A Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine study concluded that a dog's lifespan can be shortened by **33%** if that dog is just **10%** overweight. When looking at Border Collies averaging 40-55 pounds, just an extra 4-5 pounds can shorten their lifespan dramatically. Overweight dogs are much more likely to suffer from heart and joint problems, loss of energy (which begins a vicious cycle of less exercise, more weight gain), diabetes and some types of cancer among many other problems.

Knowing how to assess your dog's body condition is the first step to maintaining (or getting down to) a healthy weight for him/her. Obviously many breeds have differing body types, so for the sake of brevity, we're going to concentrate on Border Collies and Border Collie mixes here!

To assess your dog's condition: Stand over your Border Collie, viewing his/her back. You should see a nice "tuck" (a curved indentation) in the waist area just behind the rib cage. If your Border Collie has a straight line from shoulder to tail, or even a pooch in the waist area, he/she is likely overweight.



Look at your Border Collie from the side. Again, you should see a nice 'tucked up' area behind the rib cage, in front of the hips/rear legs. If it looks like a straight line, or there's a saggy area at the belly, your dog is likely overweight.

Especially with rough-coated Border Collies with a lot of coat, you need to run your fingers along his/her rib cage to assess condition. The ribs should be felt easily with minimal pressure from your fingers, and the skin should glide smoothly over the ribs, vs. layers of fat moving along the ribs. You should easily feel the hip bones with gentle pressure on your fingers.

If you think your Border Collie may be overweight, the fix is relatively simple! In order to lose those unwanted pounds, calories in must be less than calories out, so either you need to reduce your dog's caloric intake, increase your dog's caloric output through exercise, or, best case scenario is a combination of the two! Here's wishing for more happy, healthy 2011 for both you and your Border Collie(s)!

Find us online at Facebook!

Western Border Collie Rescue has its own Facebook page!

We welcome you to become a fan, check out photos of fosters & adopted dogs and learn about upcoming WBCR events.



MORE SPECIAL NEEDS DOGS

Seniors – What’s Not To Love???

Really -- who’s more loveable than a senior dog?? Well mannered, laid back, appreciative, and easy to get along with – these undemanding creatures are just happy to have a warm spot in the sun, a few ear scratches, and a person to pad around after.

Who would dump their old dog in a shelter?

Well, more people than you would think... and when we see them, we just cannot leave them there. This darling senior, Patch, was lucky enough to find a loving home just before this newsletter went to print. But other loving seniors often end up in WBCR foster homes waiting for a loving home to spend their aging years.



If you or someone you know is looking for a low maintenance, loving canine companion – consider adopting one of our older and distinguished beauties.

Unfortunately, We Can’t Win them All...

And it is with heavy hearts that we report the loss of one of our most beloved of special needs dogs. BanJo, the little imp who, despite the odds, managed to survive long enough to be diagnosed with a liver shunt, and had surgery in an attempt to repair the shunt last fall, is no longer with us.



Almost a year to the day that she came into WBCR, BanJo passed away suddenly at her home in Colorado. Although her time on earth was entirely too short, she sure crammed every bit of fun she could into the time she was here, thanks in large part to her outstanding adopters.

Our hearts ache for you, Felix and Colleen; BanJo was a very special girl who touched the hearts of all she met, and thanks to you, she had everything she could have wanted. This special girl graces the cover of the 2011 calendar – surrounded by a halo of water, happiness, and mischief – and we can’t think of a better way to honor her irrepensible spirit. We are so thankful to have known her, and that we were able to give her a little more time to show us how delightful life can be.

Introducing The Texas Trio!

We heard about them as suddenly as we heard of the Oklahoma dogs last year; another hoarding case, this time in a small rural Texas town.

This smaller, much lower profile case was nonetheless desperate – 60 dogs living in miserable conditions, all Border Collies, and this time no large humane associations were on site. The dogs were not yet in the hands of law enforcement, but time was of the essence to be able to save them.

WBCR did not hesitate to step in, and 3 days later, on November 4th, the Texas Trio arrived at WBCR – three little boys, and about half the size they should be at 5 months old.

Like many of the Oklahoma dogs, while these three were certainly physically compromised (full of worms, along with giardia and coccidiosis), the real damage was emotional. Likely never touched or interacted with by humans, these three little boys were frightened and skittish.



They are young and extremely sweet, however, and we are hopeful they will come around quickly with loving care and socialization. And yes - they are adorable! There are nine more young adult BCs seized from this situation that are in need of safe haven – and we would love to help. However, we are in need of more foster homes to make that happen. If you are interested in fostering one of these shy youngsters and have experience working with feral/unsocialized dogs, please contact Tonya at wbc@hughes.net.

Planning for your Pet

Who will care for your dog if you are no longer able to? You want the best for your dog...forever. But life takes some unexpected turns. What if your dog outlives you? Having an animal in your life means making a lifetime commitment, and having written preparations regarding care and provisions for the pets you leave behind are essential. After years of rescue work, we’ve come across many wonderful Border Collies in danger of euthanasia at shelters because their owners passed away and had not made provisions for their pet(s) in the event of their deaths. While WBCR is committed to its rescued Border Collies for life and will always take in a dog adopted from WBCR (it’s a contractual obligation of all of our adopters that the dog is returned to us), we encourage our adopters to consider financial as well as legal planning for the future of their pets, and including that information in their wills. Visit www.petguardian.com for more information on making plans for your pets in your will.

Dear WBCR Adopters, Fosters, Volunteers and Supporters,
You can walk the malls and agonize over the items on your list but you will not purchase a greater gift than the one you gave when you said "Yes" to a dog in need.

Rescued dogs do not come in perfectly wrapped presents that you find under your tree on December 25th. They come to us with histories, often sad, or imperfections such as missing teeth, broken bones or physical/emotional scars from their past. Many are strays with pasts that remain a mystery. Some come to us with behavioral/emotional issues - separation anxiety, nervousness, reactivity, digging, jumping or barking while some have special physical needs that require additional time, patience and resources.

As you read this, please stop, take a deep breath, relax and smile. At some point this past year, you gave a second or third chance, a loving home to one of God's beautiful creatures who through no fault of their own were put in a position of not being wanted, of not fitting into their families' lives. Your caring, love and generosity cannot be surpassed - you have given the ultimate gift, whether through adopting, fostering, transporting, providing financial support, or any of the other many tasks performed by loving volunteers to help Border Collies in need.

On behalf of the dogs who cannot speak for themselves and the rescue, we thank you from the bottom of our Border Collie-loving hearts for your support. You have kept WBCR in operation, and helped us continue our mission to save the lives of Border Collies in need.

At a time of year that's often overwhelming, stressful and hectic, take a moment to look in your dog's eyes and receive the only gift they can give to you - their unconditional love - a special love that we know did not come into your life as the perfect package. And please give them an extra hug from us!

Bless you and Happy Holidays!

Tonya and Tim Cain
and all of us at Western Border Collie Rescue



This Christmas, a wish...

For every dog searching trash cans for breakfast, a filled bowl with his name printed in bright letters.

For every dog who slept fitfully last night, chained in a frozen yard, a soft, warm bed with a person snoring gently nearby.

For every shelter dog spending Christmas morning in a soiled run, a forever home, filled with sounds and smells of family.

For every "Christmas" puppy given today, a tolerant, caring owner who won't abandon you as you grow into a real dog.

For every ailing pet, enough money for your owner to pay the bills to make you well.

For every lost dog, a clear, safe road, and well marked path, to lead you home.

For every old and tired friend, a warm fire, and a soft bed, to ease your aches and pains. and For every Heart Dog at the Bridge, a moment when you know that you are remembered today, missed again, and loved forever.

Author unknown

ABOUT WBCR

Western Border Collie Rescue (formerly known as Wyoming Border Collie Rescue) was founded in 2003. WBCR is a 501(c)3 non-profit all volunteer organization. We have no staff - all the work is done by volunteers - people who love Border Collies and give of their time and talents to help dogs in need. We rescue and rehome Border Collies throughout Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Montana, New Mexico, Idaho, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and beyond.



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