



# COLLIE ADVOCATE

Tri-State Collie Rescue Newsletter

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## Problems with Grain-Free Diets?

By now, most everyone has seen news about the Food & Drug Administration’s investigation to determine if there is a connection between grain-free dog foods and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). The FDA issued its first alert in July of last year after receiving reports that numerous breeds not normally diagnosed with DCM were being affected. Their investigation is ongoing.

### What is DCM?

Dilated cardiomyopathy is a heart disease which results in weakened heart muscle contractions and poor pumping ability. This can cause fluid accumulations in the body, including the lungs. Left untreated, the disease leads to congestive heart failure.

### Symptoms

- ◇ Labored breathing
- ◇ Panting
- ◇ Coughing
- ◇ Lethargy
- ◇ Lack of appetite
- ◇ Distended abdomen
- ◇ Sudden collapse/fainting
- ◇ Pale gums

### Tests your vet may perform

Your vet will need to perform a thorough examination in order to confirm a diagnosis of DCM and to rule out other possible problems. The exam may include x-rays of the hearts and lungs to determine if the heart is enlarged. The x-ray will also show fluid accumulations in and around the lungs.

An ultrasound or echocardiogram is required to be able to examine the thickness of the heart muscle and each chamber’s ability to effectively pump blood. An EKG will check for irregular heartbeats.

### Treatment

Although there is no cure for this disease, it can usually be managed for a period of time. Your vet may want recommend frequent follow-up exams along with medications to increase the heart’s ability to pump blood and to dilate blood vessels and improve circulation. A diuretic may also be necessary to decrease fluid retention.

### Cause of DCM?

The definitive cause of DCM is still unknown but nutrition, infectious disease and genetics are believed to be contributing factors. Nutritional deficiencies related to taurine and carnitine have caused DCM in certain breeds, such as Boxers and Cocker Spaniels. Evidence also suggests that other breeds are genetically predisposed to DCM.

The FDA recommends that pet owners work with their vets for dietary advice prior to making diet changes.

## Adoption Statistics

### Monthly Adoptions Numbers

*We are proud to report that Tri-State Collie Rescue found new and loving homes for 70 Collies so far in 2019. And, we have decided to begin keeping track of how many dogs come into our care every month:*

- \* April 7
- \* May 9
- \* June 12

**10 in April:** Indiana, 1; Michigan, 2; Nebraska, 1; New Jersey, 1; Ohio, 2; Pennsylvania, 2; Tennessee, 1

**9 in May:** Alabama, 2; Georgia, 1; Kentucky, 2; Ohio, 3; Tennessee, 1

**12 in June:** Illinois, 2; Indiana, 1; Kentucky, 1; Michigan, 1; Missouri, 1; Ohio, 4; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 1

If you or someone you know has always wanted to own a Collie, please visit our website at [tristatecollierescue.org](http://tristatecollierescue.org) and fill out our adoption application. It is just that simple. We will take it from there; great vet references are mandatory, of course!



Blaze newly rescued



## Blaze and his new family



Cadan, Blaze & Ceara

“Such a sad dog.” That’s how his foster, Kathy Mathers, described two year old Blaze when she first saw him. He came into rescue with a group of collies who had been penned together with virtually no human socialization. In the three months or so that Blaze spent with Kathy and her family, it was a constant struggle to not upset him. Sudden movements or loud noises would send him running to hide in a corner or behind a couch. He hated to be touched. It took time, love and patience along with her two dogs, Zorro and Whimsy, for him to settle in. At long last, Kathy knew he was ready for his own family when he joined Zorro and Whimsy on the couch and rested for a bit. He was finally comfortable enough to relax!

Meanwhile, for more than a month, Tri-State volunteers had been interviewing a family that they thought would be perfect for Blaze. Laura Freely had seen his story and picture on the internet. So she submitted an application. In discussing the application, it came out that the Freelys’ beloved smooth collie, Joey, had passed away leaving their two collie mixes to run the large yard.

“I sat down with my husband and children so we could discuss as a family the benefits and drawbacks of adopting such a timid dog. We knew that we would be good for him,” she said. Laura is a former special ed teacher and her husband, Ed, is a scientist so they knew that consistency, planning, structure, time and love

would be necessary to set Blaze up for success. And to let him gain the self confidence he needed. They were eager to help Blaze.

When the day of his adoption arrived, Kathy and Blaze drove 5 hours from Kathy’s home in West Virginia to her daughter’s home in Virginia to meet the Freelys. Knowing that Blaze was a definite flight risk, no one wanted to chance multiple handoffs in the transport process. When the Freelys arrived at their home in New Jersey, it was a good thing they were well aware of his nature — he tried to bolt from the car. But they were prepared for this and there were no problems getting him into his new yard. Once there, he rolled himself up in a ball in the corner. Blaze sat there in the pouring rain for over an hour while Laura and her daughter, Ceara, sat on the porch steps waiting for him to calm down enough to entice him into the house. Once inside, he paced for hours until Laura was able to get him to go to sleep in his crate with the door open. Blaze was home. Time and love were what he needed most and he got both. After four months ... Success. He loves to be petted now!

With his incredible focus and desire to please, Laura can’t wait to enroll Blaze in a training class in September. And, possibly, agility classes will come after that. “He deserves it. For us, he’s the perfect dog.”

### MDR1

## Multidrug Resistance 1

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Multidrug Resistance 1 is an inherited disease which is often found in Collies. Dogs only need to inherit one copy of the MDR1 mutation to be at risk for sensitivity to certain products and drugs. When a dog inherits two copies (one from each parent), they can have severe drug reactions.

There are three possible genotypes reported for MDR1:

**CLEAR:** No gene mutation

**CARRIER:** One normal and one mutant gene (increased risk of drug problems)

**AFFECTED:** Two mutant genes (risk of severe drug reactions)

Drug Class	Drugs	Risk Level
Antiparasitic	Ivermectin, Doramectin, Abamectin	Totally Prohibited
Antidysrhythmic	Quinidine, Diltiazem, Verapamil	Totally Prohibited
Antiemetic	Metoclopramide	Potential High Risk
Pre-anesthetic / Analgesic	Propofol, Sevoflurane	Totally Prohibited
Antileptic	Phenytoin	Totally Prohibited
Antifungal	Terbinafine, Itraconazole	Totally Prohibited
Antibacterial	Clindamycin, Doxycycline, Erythromycin, Sparfloxacin, Rifampicin	Potential High Risk
Anticancer	Doxorubicin, Vincristine, Vinblastine	Totally Prohibited
Anticonvulsant	Phenytoin	Totally Prohibited
Antidepressant	Fluoxetine, Sertraline	Potential High Risk
Anticoagulant	Warfarin	Potential High Risk
Antidiabetic	Insulin	Caution and minimum doses
Anticholinergic	Atropine	Caution and minimum doses
Antihistamine	Diphenhydramine	Caution and minimum doses
Antispasmodic	Hydroxyzine	Caution and minimum doses
Antitumor	Fluorouracil	Caution and minimum doses
Antiparkinsonian	Amantadine	Caution and minimum doses
Antipsychotic	Haloperidol	Caution and minimum doses
Anticonvulsant	Phenytoin	Totally Prohibited
Anticancer	Fluorouracil	Caution and minimum doses
Antidiabetic	Insulin	Caution and minimum doses
Anticholinergic	Atropine	Caution and minimum doses
Antihistamine	Diphenhydramine	Caution and minimum doses
Antispasmodic	Hydroxyzine	Caution and minimum doses
Antitumor	Fluorouracil	Caution and minimum doses
Antiparkinsonian	Amantadine	Caution and minimum doses
Antipsychotic	Haloperidol	Caution and minimum doses

All TSCR dogs are tested for MDR1 and, if affected, should have received a report in their adoption package to give to their new vet at the first visit.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Just when you think there are no Angels, a Collie comes into your life.

Meet TSCR's Volunteer Spotlight honoree, Jackie Maier! She lives in Jeffersonville, Indiana and has been with TSCR 18 years. She got into rescue by accident when a family in her neighborhood moved, leaving a 12-year old collie in rough shape, heart-worm positive and with several tumors on her head. Jackie named her Lassie and it was love at first sight.



Lassie was Jackie's first collie and she had her treated for heartworms and slowly had the tumors on her head removed, tending not only to her physical needs, but emotional needs as well. She was an amazing collie who unfortunately was diagnosed with cancer and lived only a year after Jackie found her. Jackie loved and cared for Lassie until the end and promised her she would never let another collie go homeless, hungry or unloved as their short time together had changed Jackie's life forever.....and she has kept that promise!

Jackie lived in Louisville, Kentucky at the time and through an internet

search found TSCR. When she read the beautiful words, "Just when you think there are no Angels a Collie comes into your life," it hit her heart in time of need and she immediately reached out to volunteer. She was welcomed with open arms and she has never looked back.

"I have been blessed and touched by so many amazing collies through the years. I have met some wonderful people who I have learned so much from. The people who adopt my fosters treat me like family. Rescue is not an easy job; I have had my share of headaches over the years. There were many times I wanted to walk away but I kept feeling a tug that would not allow me to walk. I think my sweet Lassie still walks by my side today making sure I keep going in the right direction. I appreciate all the wonderful volunteers who make TSCR what we are today," says Jackie.

We at TSCR certainly appreciate Jackie for all she has done and continues to do in support of our mission!

## 12th Annual Adoption Reunion/Fundraiser

September 15, 2019 at Rocky Fork Metro Park, 7180 Walnut Street in Westerville, OH 43081

For hotel & event details and to register, go to:

[Tristatecollierescue.org](http://Tristatecollierescue.org)

## 2020 Calendar Pictures Request!

Work will begin soon on the 2020 Tri-State Collie Rescue calendar. If you would like to have a picture of your TSCR rescue dog included, please send your favorite pictures in JPEG format only to:

[Missellienor@aol.com](mailto:Missellienor@aol.com)

## WISH LIST

How can you really help us help them?

Foster. Foster. Foster.

We are constantly in need of loving foster homes.

Along with fosters, we need:

- \* Transporters
- \* Gas Cards
- \* Volunteers
- \* Discounted Veterinary Care
- \* Grooming Services
- \* Petco/PetSmart/Chewy Gift Cards and Cash Donations

**SPECIAL! SPECIAL!  
READ ALL ABOUT IT!!**

We now have an **Amazon Wish List!** Visit our Facebook page for the link to see what is currently needed for the care of our foster collies. We couldn't do it without you!