



SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE

SERVING NEW MEXICO, WEST TEXAS & ARIZONA

Spring 2014 newsletter

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ABBY: Bred too often, discarded, now reborn

When we rescued Abby from the El Paso shelter, she was dazed, lethargic and terribly thin.

She had a urinary tract infection and a high bacterial content in her gut. All her front teeth were missing.

And, at age 9 or 10, she had just given birth to a litter of puppies, who weren't found when she was picked up wandering in the desert.

She probably had given birth to many litters, year after year, our vet said — the fate of female dogs at puppy mills and so many backyard breeders. They're bred until they're used up, then discarded.

Abby also suffers from severe spinal arthritis.

740 miles later, Bella finds a kindred Spirit

Bella, 6, a tricolor collie in northern Utah, needed a new home. Her owners had raised her from a puppy, but when allergies overtook them, they had to give her up.

Meanwhile, in Scottsdale, AZ, a collie named Spirit, 5, adopted from SWCR last year, was missing his companion, who had died of old age.

Thanks to volunteers (see Page 2), we brought Bella as far as Las Vegas — and arranged with Spirit's adopters, Lew



Above, Abby's body was worn out from having had so many litters of puppies. Her health had badly deteriorated. In her loving adoptive home, left, she smiles and wags her tail all the time.

Her lumbar vertebrae are fused together with heavy calcium deposits, making her unable to run or play. And what looked like a cyst on her side was a bullet. Bullet fragments also were found in her chest.

Now, at her adoptive home in Rio Rancho with SWCR's Arlene Starkey and her collie

and Char, to pick up Bella and take her home.

In all, she had traveled 740 miles. But would the two collies get along?

"Oh my gosh, what a pair," Char wrote. "They are so funny together.

"We are amazed at Spirit. Another side of him is coming out.

"He is a big tease!

"He observed for a couple of days. Now he gets her toy and runs through the house and Bella chases him. She grabs his toy and he gets it back and then gets in the chair and guards it.

"Bella is a very happy girl and we feel so blessed

Tess, Abby "talks" as though making up for lost conversation.

"She's a hoot — a silly collie who does silly things," says Arlene.

Such as preferring three booties, not four, to negotiate slick floors. And play-bowing when she's excited, such as before breakfast. And, after meals, using a couch

cushion as a napkin.

"She makes me laugh," Arlene adds. "She smiles at me all the time."



Tempted to buy that cute puppy you found online or in a newspaper ad? Don't do it unless you're allowed to meet its mother — and make sure she's being treated like a queen.



Bella, left, is having a great time with her new friend Spirit.

to have her. We can tell a lot of time went into raising this precious girl.

"She is a lover and is fitting into her new home just fine. She goes for a mile walk every morning and loves it. She loves to talk and be sassy.

And does this girl love to play!"

Bella's former owners are delighted: "It does our heart such good to know she is in good hands! Thanks to everyone who helped find our Bella a fabulous home!"