

A "PROBLEM CHILD" LANDS IN PARADISE

Duke's long trail of happy accidents

We take a chance and rescue, sight unseen, an 8-month-old "smooth collie" who's about to be put down at a Texas shelter.

Next day we see a photo and realize it's Duke, a collie-mix boy we'd turned down because of his long rap sheet. He's aggressive, we were told. He guards his food, growls and snaps at other dogs, gets into fights.

On the plus side, he really likes people.

We discover that Duke is indeed friendly. Also, his ribs stick out and he's *very* hungry.

Perhaps, we say, he's aggressive about food because he's had to fight for it or starve.

Perhaps, given enough food, love, attention, and training, he'll be fine.

At his foster home in Albuquerque, Duke gains weight and makes friends with the resident female collie. They even sleep back to back on the couch. All is well! Until he jumps the fence — three times in one night.

We move Duke to a kennel. He gets some training and excels. Next stop: a foster home



After many months in foster care, Duke finds the perfect home with Randy Gunn, a rancher in Colorado.

with a retired policeman and three dogs.

Duke decides he wants the policeman *all to himself*. Who, we ask, can take this problem child? Finally, a good-hearted woman with training skills, who cares for a blind collie, volunteers. Months pass; Duke improves.

We post his photo and bio on our website. Nothing happens. Then we post him on a site we've never tried. Bingo! A professional horse trainer calls. He lives on a 2,400-acre mountain-top ranch in Colorado and he's looking for a collie companion.

His name is Randy Gunn, and when he adopts Duke, he picks him up in person.

A month or so later Randy e-mails us:

Duke "has free roam of the ranch, but doesn't leave my side. He loves the horse rides, bunnies, field mice (I say 'no' when he has them in his mouth and he drops them) and constant exploration. Whenever he is out of my sight, my whistle brings him in seconds. He loves to auto-load in the back of the ranch trucks to go feed or work fence or pastures. If I go into one of the buildings, he just lays down and waits for me to come out.

"I couldn't be more happy and I do believe Duke thinks he has died and gone to heaven ... I am so blessed to have found him."

E-mail: leemore@mac.com
Website: www.nmcollierescue.com

52 Estrada Calabasa
Santa Fe, NM 87506

SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE

