



SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE

Serving New Mexico, West Texas & Arizona

Winter 2015 newsletter

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Simma, a deaf and mostly blind collie puppy, finds a great home in Los Lunas, NM with plenty of friends.

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How to find a lost and very frightened collie

Max, age 6, had lived most of his life in a cage in a bedroom. When his owner-breeder in Los Angeles turned him over to us, he was highly skittish and afraid of people.

So when Max managed to escape on Oct. 25 from the fenced yard at his foster home in Alamogordo, NM, we knew we had a big problem. Finding Max would take more than just a call to the local shelter and a newspaper ad. It would take a well-organized campaign.

First, SWCR president Kathy Wallis started a search. "We had folks on horseback, in vehicles and on foot," she said. "The problem was that between ranches, BLM land, and the Air Force base, the search area is vast."

So she went online and contacted an expert: K9 investigator Karin TarQuin at LostPetProfessionals.com. Working from an online map, Karin drew the probable boundaries for the search area and marked where Max was likely to travel. Within minutes, she also created an 11x17-inch poster for Max, e-mailed it to Staples and ordered 50 posters for us.

Kathy notified the local animal



Max and the nice people who found him, Elaina and Will of Alamogordo.

shelters, newspapers, law enforcement, neighbors, other rescue groups, veterinarians, and more.

She posted Max's information on her Facebook page and on the Holloman AFB Yard Sales website under "Pets" and "Lost and Found."

And we decided to offer a reward of \$500, to be paid with personal funds from SWCR board members.

Meanwhile, search teams went out daily into the desert. No one searched harder than Wayne Ander-

son, Max's foster, who was "beside himself with worry," Kathy said.

For days we saw and heard nothing. Then there were two sightings of Max by people who'd seen the poster. We were elated, but a search found only pawprints in the mud.

Finally, on Nov. 1, a woman named Elaina spotted a stray dog. The next morning she found the exhausted, starving dog lying on her back porch. One of her sons recognized Max from a poster. Elaina then decided to check the Holloman Yard Sales website. By lunchtime, Max was home again.

Nurse saves collie from a beating

Kristina McMahon is a nurse at the county jail in El Paso. She's also working on her master's degree. On



Kristina and Riesling

Oct. 27, she was walking home from work when she saw an elderly man hitting a dog with a cane. The dog was cowering, not even trying to defend herself. "I kept walking but couldn't stand it," she told us. "So I turned around and asked the man if the dog was his."

He angrily said no and started cursing the dog. Kristina made him stop,

and after 20 minutes managed to persuade him to let her take the dog to her car and to a vet. A check for a microchip found nothing.

"She was sweet, scared but so loving," Kristine told us. "I got her shots and I got her groomed. I've already fallen in love with this cutie. I would appreciate any help possible!"

Given her long hours at work and at school, she knew she couldn't keep the 10-month-old collie mix, whom she'd named Riesling. After her "found" ad drew no response, we agreed to take the dog.

Not everyone would have stopped to help a strange dog, or persuaded a violent man to stop beating her. Now, thanks to a heroic young nurse, Riesling has a happy new life ahead of her.

"She is adorable and very sweet, gets along well with our dogs and likes people," her foster mom reports.

All she needs now is a forever home.