

One-woman effort helps collies across the country

Cathy Pupo was devastated when she lost both her collies, Sadie and Sargent, to cancer.

She also wiped out her savings to pay for their surgeries and chemotherapy. Friends helped too, sending money to her vet and donating items for her to sell on Facebook.

But instead of giving in to her grief, Cathy decided to give back. She created "Auctions to Help Collies," a Facebook page to continue the legacy of Sadie and Sargent. In the past two years she's raised \$15,303 for 18 collie rescue groups, including \$1,500 for SWCR.

If you go to the page, you'll see collie and dog memorabilia for sale, messages from customers and friends, photos of their collies, notes from Cathy, photos of collies in need.

Raising money is never easy, but Cathy does it the hard way. She comes up with the items to sell, holds the auctions, wraps and mails the packages, writes and sends the thank-you notes.

It helps, of course, that she's



Sadie, at right, and her son Sargent.

lived all her life in Lewistown, PA, that her mother ran an antique store, and that she knows how to buy and sell and make a profit. She also lives near a large antique co-op and has a network of friends and dealers looking for collie items.

Still ... all that effort, year-round. Plus she's raised \$3,639 for other dogs, including some orphaned by hurricanes Irma and Harvey. "I have such love for my collies, I feel honored to be able to do this in their name," she told us.

Three collies, all rescued, now live at Cathy's house — Sawyer, Scout and Storm. Plus Bubba, a beagle who was being abused and needed a home.

As one commenter wrote on the "Auctions" Facebook page, "When I grow up, I want to be just like you Cathy Pupo."



Smooth boy Ryker, formerly known as Rhett, far left, was the traumatized victim of a hoarder in Tomball, Texas. But he became a great dog parent to Connor, center, and Kaydance, right, after they arrived as puppies at his adoptive home in Reno, NV.

Traumatized collie is all smiles now

Three years ago, Ryker came to SWCR with two big problems.

The first was that he was one of the Tomball collies, whose lives had been blighted by a hoarder.

The second revealed itself more gradually. Ryker had serious anal gland problems: infections and abscesses, then cellulitis and emergency surgery. "After he healed, our vet recommended the gland be removed," wrote adopter Reva Crump in Reno, NV. "Turned out it was much worse than expected; the gland had exploded and pieces of it were all over inside.

"Thanks to a very skilled surgeon

and a very resilient dog, Ryker now is 8 months out from surgery without complications."

He also found a purpose. Reva had adopted two collie puppies, Connor and Kaydance, who "brought out a new side of Ryker's personality: a sweet, gentle, playful kindness. They seemed to fill a hole in his heart that we, as people, could not.

"This last year we have noticed a big change in him. Ryker has found joy. He smiles all the time. He plays with the other dogs and sometimes even us people. I think he might actually trust us."

Look who's available!

Last year Logan, picked up as a stray, landed in the Las Cruces, NM shelter. He was treated for ehrlichiosis and a horrible tick infestation. He spent nine months there.

SWCR rescued him in late June. We quickly saw how much he longed for the attention and love he'd never had. He was affectionate, obedient, and eager to please. But he'd never been a house dog and there were many things he needed to learn.

Now this big handsome boy, age 2, is ready for a forever home. He's leash-trained, crate-trained, housebroken, rides well in the car and knows basic commands.

Logan is a dog who bonds very closely with his humans. He's good with kids and plays well with dogs his size. He's not a barker. And he LOVES to be hugged.

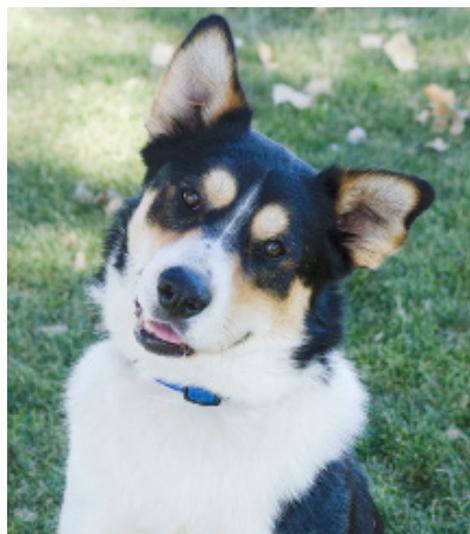


Photo by Savage Photography

For more information about Logan, call Kathy Wallis at (575) 430-2361 or email katwallis1@msn.com.

Writer wanted. Hours? Not many. Pay? Um, no. Satisfaction? Unlimited

SWCR is looking for someone who'd like to write about collies and their adopters for this newsletter.

You don't need any experience. You can work from home. Plus you can learn writing and interviewing skills that might come in handy someday.

Newsletter editor Lee More is a retired editorial page editor, features editor, movie critic and book editor. She'll help you every step of the way. And your work will help rescued collies get the care they need to be adopted.

Interested? Email leemore@mac.com.