

Collie Rescue of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.

Winter 2017



Collie Rescue of
Southeastern Pennsylvania
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www.collierescueofsepa.net

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Rudy

By Sharon Barberides

Rudy blew into our lives like a cold wind one February day in 2007. Within his first two minutes in our home he had bounded up the stairs, run through every room in the house, jumped on every bed, and barked like mad each time the heater went on. But it was, at last, his home.

When Sam and Barbara first took possession of Rudy, he was just about a year old. But his abundant puppy energy and enthusiasm, on top of all the other Collies they were caring for, became a little overwhelming. Cheryl and Steve then stepped up to foster Rudy, and Cheryl was the one that had named him. Rudy was definitely a Rudy. He was Rudy the beauty, and we were thrilled to have him in our home. With two teenage daughters and an 11 year old son, he was a perfect fit. Rudy had the longest legs of any Collie we had ever owned. He never had to jump onto anything, he would just gracefully step onto the sofa, or a bed. He could virtually fly across our back yard when retrieving a ball, or endlessly chasing squirrels, that loved to tease him running up trees or crossing wires over his head. That's why Sam and Barbara originally called him Flash. When our son Stephen and his friends were playing in the back yard, Rudy had to be part of the action. He was just one of the gang.



Early one December morning I set out a stick of butter on the counter to soften, for what was to become a batch of Xmas cookies. Later that morning I had walked my daughter Katie out to her car to say goodbye as she headed off to school. Upon my return to the kitchen the butter was nowhere to be found and Rudy was licking his lips.

Shortly after we got Rudy our family began a new Xmas eve tradition. Although Rudy was never a huge fan of riding in the car, we would fold down the seats in the van, fill it with quilts and all pile in to ride around the neighborhood looking at Xmas lights. Rudy had to go with us, he was our family after all, and couldn't be left home on Xmas eve. He would pant and smile as the kids laid all over him.

About 4 years after adopting Rudy we asked the Rescue about adding another Collie to our family. They learned of a stray Collie in a shelter in North Jersey. We all rode up, including Rudy, to meet the next member of our family, Heidi. Rudy instantly took to her, wagging his tail and giving her a good sniffing from head to toe. When we got home they played right away and soon became fast friends. Sadly we did not know Heidi's age when we got her, and her time with us was

all to short. She passed away in the summer of 2013, and Rudy missed his buddy. In November of 2013 we introduced Rudy to Holly a 1 year old Australian Shepherd who Rudy once again welcomed into our home. In the summer of 2016 Rudy began to look thinner. Our vet ran numerous tests. Everything came back normal. But his hips were getting stiff and days were now spent lying in "his spot" on the love seat, rather than lying on the patio or playing tug of war with Holly. On Sunday morning October 30th, I fed Rudy hamburger out of my hand, along with various medications he was now on. That night, the dog, who once pranced when he walked, could no longer stand or drink. Dave and I hardly slept that night, checking on Rudy and trying to coax him to drink or eat. In the morning Dave carried him out to our van and laid him on the Xmas quilts. We drove a short distance to our vet, barely speaking. The vet gave Rudy oxygen to help his breathing, and began a series of x-rays and blood work. Shortly thereafter came those awful words, cancer. It was deep in his belly and lungs. There was nothing too be done. Rudy was suffering, struggling for each breath. Now we had to comfort our sweet boy that had been a member of our family for so many years. Our oldest daughter was now a school teacher and could not leave to be with us. Our other daughter drove in to see him for the last time. She was the one who laid next to Rudy with his head in her lap and gently stroked his long nose and told him what a good boy he was as Rudy quietly left us.

The day we picked up Rudy from Cheryl and Steve it was love at first sight. He was our son's best buddy and constant companion. Stephen always felt safe coming home if no one was there, because Rudy was always there waiting for him. Stephen was now 21, and away at school, and now his pal was gone.

Life moves on and we were very fortunate to have Rudy the beauty for so many years, as we always said, "Rudy you're a good boy."

New Arrivals

Happy Got'cha Day for



*Quest (f.k.a. Laddie)
Adopted by Debbie*

In Sympathy

for those who have lost a loved one



*Our deepest
condolences to
the Samson
family on their
loss of Levi.*

***Until one has loved an animal, a part of ones soul remains
unawakend.***

Anatole France



After being rained out in May, Collie Rescue of Southeastern Pennsylvania celebrated 30 years of helping collies in need at its annual picnic in September.

A fun time was had by all in attendance.

Stay tuned for our next scheduled picnic and be sure to join us.



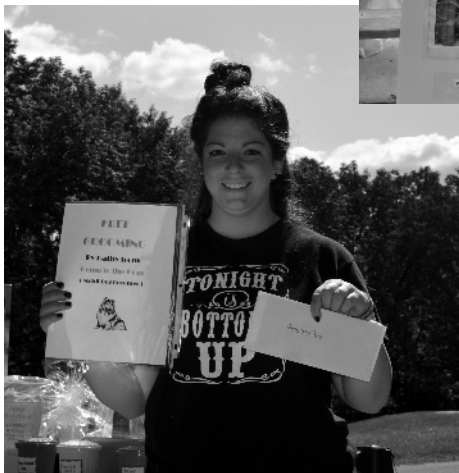


Thanks to our generous donors, we had 15 raffle baskets at this year's picnic.



AND THE WINNERS ARE...







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