

# Collie Rescue of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.

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Collie Rescue of  
Southeastern Pennsylvania  
PO Box 493  
Ambler, PA 19002

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[Collierescueofsepa.org](http://Collierescueofsepa.org)

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## A Rescue Deep Dive

By: Heidi Krueger

In this issue we decided to give our readers a deep dive into what is involved in the rescue of one dog:

This one began with a message not unlike many others that we receive. A gentleman said something like, “I have an 8-month old collie who I need to get rid of.” We followed up with a phone call. The story was not uncommon. Someone had purchased a smooth collie puppy and then found that they did not have the time nor knowledge to give this growing puppy the enrichment that he needed. His owners both had jobs that kept them away from home for long periods of time. His owner said they would be willing to work with us and understood that it might be a few weeks before arrangements could be made for a new foster or forever home.

Within a few days, we made arrangements to drive the 70 miles to meet the dog to determine where he would best fit. In those few days the story began to change and we were asked, “Can you take him with you when you come tomorrow?” Unfortunately, we cannot take in any dog for which we have no placement, neither foster home nor adopter. We had a potential foster home but he needed to be evaluated with the resident dogs, and they would need more than a day to get the house ready for a young, active adolescent puppy. We met the dog and found him to be a generally delightful untrained young



smooth collie. If he had in fact had a bath in the last two weeks as we were told, then he was managing to get himself into some really stinky situations despite spending so much time in a crate.

The story continued to build and morph, and we learned that this was also a case of someone with a dog moving into housing that wasn't dog friendly. This explained some of the surprise urgency after they had agreed to work with us for a few weeks, but we cannot do the impossible. We cannot bring in a dog for whom we have no place, and we cannot magically create a space by simply snapping our fingers or clicking out heels together while saying “there's no place like home.”

We met initially with “Jacob” and his owner in a public park and then drove the few miles to his home where we hoped to watch the dogs interact off-leash. At “home,” after showing us the crate inside and watching the dogs on the back porch for a few minutes, his owner actually disappeared into the house while we were still with the dogs on his porch. After getting no response when yelling for his owner inside the house, we opened the door and announced that we were letting Jacob inside and leaving and then had no

choice but to leave without any further acknowledgement from his owner.

The good news was that Jacob appeared to be compatible with the two resident dogs in our one available foster home and arrangements were made to bring him into the rescue to give him the chance to grow up into the wonderful collie that we had already recognized was hidden inside.

We again drove the 70 miles, this time to pickup Jacob and begin his journey to a new life. This was yet another adventure since we were given several different stories about who would be home at the time arranged to pick up Jacob. Jacob was finally brought out to us by the person who we had previously been told would NOT be home and we loaded him into our travel crate to assure a safe trip. Collie Rescue of SEPA's only interest is in the safety and long-term welfare of each dog. Our business is not to judge nor belittle the people who



need to rehome their dogs. There is no benefit for anyone to be dishonest about their dog nor why they need to rehome their dog. We will only be able to find the right home for your dog if we know the truth about your dog.

At 8-months old he had been spending most of his time in an empty crate. He had no toys, "because he destroys them," no crate pad "because he chewed it." He seemed to have no association with his name, and it was unclear whether he was house trained at all. He desperately needed a bath. His crate, that showed clear signs of a stressed-out dog who often couldn't "hold it" while being confined to it for too many hours, was left behind and he was given a new name, "Jay," or "JJ."



JJ had been to see a veterinarian once during his young life, and we learned from those records that he had been genetically tested and found to be 74% collie. His records did not show what the remaining 26% was. He had originally tested positive for one intestinal parasite and had been treated but never retested to confirm successful treatment. He was slightly overdue for vaccine boosters. This would all need to be resolved before he could be neutered.

JJ began to settle in to his new foster home and we began the search for his forever home almost immediately while also working to complete his vetting. We often get people asking us whether we have any smooth collies, and whether we have any young collies. We rarely have either. JJ fit both of those, so surely there would be a wonderful home waiting for him out there.

In the meantime, JJ was reminding us that it isn't always possible to fully learn a dog's temperament during even the most extensive meet-n-greet. It often takes time for a dog to adjust and become comfortable in any new circumstance and sometimes their personality doesn't fully manifest for several weeks. Due to the amount of time spent in a crate, JJ had little experience living in an actual home. JJ's collie temperament and generally friendly nature were clearly present, but underdeveloped, and his hormones were also new to him. He had been an only dog and had little experience interacting with other dogs. The resident dogs in his foster home didn't enjoy his abrupt attempts to interact, often by mounting them incessantly, nor his direct in-your-face greetings from the other end. It reached a point where he needed to be separated from them almost all of the time, even in the big yard, and that meant that he was now spending time in an X-pen instead of learning how to live in a household. Ultimately, a new placement needed to be found for him as quickly as possible.

The only immediate placement for JJ was in our emergency boarding facility. Once we have brought a dog in, we are committed to that dog, and in cases where we have no other option, we are blessed to have a great, cage-free boarding facility that works with us at a substantial discount. So, after only two months in a foster home, JJ moved to our boarding facility. Here he would at least be able to spend more playtime with other compatible dogs and would be



able to interact with many different types of people, but it still wasn't "home."

Where were the applicants who were interested in adopting him? People would express interest, and we would begin the process only to back out. One person immediately withdrew an application because JJ wasn't purebred and didn't come with papers. We are a rescue, and no one should ever have any expectation that we would provide registration papers for any dog. Another withdrew when we made it clear that our home check process must include the ability to see more than one room and the foyer. We vet our volunteers very carefully, including non-disclosure agreements and criminal background checks. This is in part to protect our applicants so that we can do our due diligence in evaluating potential homes for our dogs who have already been rejected by at least one home and who deserve only the best lives in the future. The safety and welfare of each dog is our paramount priority. He was loved by everyone who he met at the boarding facility and got along well with all of the other dogs. He loved to play, and loved to snuggle. But he was growing up outside of a home and he needed to be in a home.

It was a sad tragedy that opened up a place for JJ. After only a few months living his best life and being treated like a king, we lost Douglas to bladder cancer. While with his family, Douglas had helped to

show how far previous rescue Sammie had come since being rescued 2 1/2 years ago, and perhaps Sammie was ready to pay it forward for JJ. We arranged for two extended meet-n-greets between JJ and Sammie and the other resident dog. The meet-n-greets with JJ went very well, and after a month in



boarding, three months after coming into the rescue, JJ was able to move into a real foster home once again to get ready for his forever home wherever that might be.

We continued posting for JJ and even had a different rescue post him for us on their PetFinder page. Historically, Collie Rescue of SEPA has not had its own presence on wider-reaching sites like PetFinder. It was obvious that a wider reach with more visibility would help JJ's cause.

Meanwhile, we continued to get responses from initially interested adopters such as we already described, and JJ was growing up in foster care, not yet a year old and having lived in 3 different homes and one boarding facility.

We found that he would benefit very much from a fenced yard and compatible canine playmates. He wasn't fully house trained, so would benefit from someone who could provide him access to his yard several times during each day. He would not thrive in a home where he was expected to sleep by himself in a room apart from the rest of the family, and he needed someone who could work patiently



with him through his chewing stage to keep him safe and teach him more appropriate outlets. He would not do well with an older geriatric dog due to safety concerns with the rambunctious adolescent puppy. He would probably also not do well with a geriatric human for some of the same reasons. He would do well with older children but not likely very young children.

His requirements were not unusual for a dog of his age, size, and history. In the past two years we have successfully placed several dogs with similar requirements. Where was that perfect forever home for JJ? After almost another month, it became clear that perhaps JJ was already in his perfect forever home. Sammie was becoming more and more attached to JJ every day. JJ was learning the routine of his new place and was reaching an age where he might also be extra sensitive to any sudden change. He was really beginning to thrive and learn. Perhaps the perfect home wasn't appearing in the applications because he was already in his perfect home. It was officially decided that JJ had indeed arrived at his forever home, and we all couldn't be happier for him!

He gets to divide his energy between two older brothers. Each brother loves him very much in his own unique way and each contributes a piece of what JJ needs to thrive. JJ now has more toys than he can count, and at least one comfy bed in every room of the house. He shares all of these with his brothers of course. His crate is now a wonderful place where he can snuggle in for the night or any other time of his choice on a soft mattress with two blankets and his favorite toy. His favorite game is a combination of chase and collie-bitey-face with his brothers. Yes, he still loves to chew, so purchasing new furniture has been delayed for a little while, but he also loves to snuggle and nap. He is learning that bad things don't automatically happen when someone grabs his collar, and he knows that the sight of his harness means that something wonderful like a walk is likely to follow. His perfectly adorable ears never miss any sound, especially the sound of the treat jar being opened from across the yard. "Trade" means that he will get something just as awesome as or even better than what he has in his mouth if he lets go of what he has. When he isn't sure what he needs to do, he knows that sitting quietly always leads to something good. He celebrated his very first Christmas in his forever home, and the next day celebrated his first birthday. With his past behind him, he is looking forward to learning much more and enjoying many more Christmases and birthdays rooted in the same forever home.



Interested in adopting or fostering to help dogs like JJ?

**Download Applications Here:**

<https://collierescueofsepa.info/support-collie-rescue/>

# Volunteer

Do you have time to give to help Collie Rescue of SEPA?

People are needed to help board members staff tables at rescue events.

People are needed to help to transport dogs.

Do you have other talents and skills that you are willing to apply to help the rescue in its mission?

We are still in search of 2-3 additional board members. Would you be willing to donate a few hours each month to help from an administrative perspective to facilitate the behind-the-screens operations of the rescue?

Reach out to us if any of these seem like they might be a good fit for you, or if you aren't sure and have questions.

# Donate to Help with Expenses

Donate online through PayPal - see QR code on front page or

Mail a check to:

Collie Rescue of SEPA, PO Box 493, Ambler, PA 19002

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# Foster

Too often we find ourselves unable to help dogs in immediate need because we don't have available foster homes

Do you want to help collies in need but have periodic obligations that would make it impossible to care for a dog 365-days of every year? Would you have the ability to care for a dog for a few weeks or months while we worked to find the right forever home? If you have current pets, do they all agree that helping another pet in need is a good idea? Perhaps fostering on behalf of Collie Rescue of SEPA is right for you.

Download and submit an application today! Reach out to us if you have questions. We cover all costs associated with caring for a foster dog. Are you worried that you will love them too much and not be able to part with them? We allow fosters to adopt!





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Look inside for a deep dive into  
one recent rescue

