



www.nebraskabordercollierescue.com

Newsletter for February/March 2006

Managing Editor: [Karen Battreal](#)

Find archived issues of previous newsletters on the NBCR website. If you are receiving the newsletter by US mail and would prefer to have it sent by email, please send your email address to maeseck@cox.net.

Adoptions and Fostering

Adoptions have been very slow, but appear to be picking up. Unfortunately, we have many dogs needing to come into Rescue. If you know of anyone who would like to foster, have them contact Karen at maeseck@cox.net. NBCR provides all medical care, which includes Interceptor and Frontline.

Fortunately, we have a good relationship with Nebraska Humane Society, so BCs that are in danger of being euthanized at another shelter can be taken to NHS where they will be adopted. We have been able to save many BCs this way.

NBCR Recent and Future Events

PETCO: We have a table at PETCO at 72nd and Dodge on the third Sunday of each month. Paula, Paul, Tammy and Jessica sat at the NBCR table the month of December. If you would like to donate 3 hours, this would be a good opportunity to do so. Pam and Keri have been going to the PETCO in Lincoln the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Horse Expo: We will be at the Horse Expo in Lincoln, NE March 10, 11, and 12. Come and enjoy a lot of very interesting horse activities and stop by our table and say hello. If you would like to donate a few hours at the table let Mike and Cindy know. You can reach them at EnVirus@aol.com.

Rocky Mountain Border Collie Rescue News

RMBCR recently added their own Café Press link. Buy RMBCR products by clicking on the Café Press link on their website: <http://www.rockymountainbcrescue.org>.

Fundraising

Note: We want to thank everyone who has sent a donation to NBCR. We appreciate it very much.

iGive.com Shopping

If you shop on line, you can join iGive.com. When you make a purchase, a percentage of that purchase goes to NBCR. Just click on the iGive.com button on our website to join. This is a great way to do your shopping and donate to NBCR at the same time. There are some great stores that participate, such as Target, JC Penny, LL Bean and many, many more.

Flowers from Hometown Blues

Sending flowers? Don't forget to contact Hometown Blues Florist at <http://hometownbluesflorist.com> or call toll-free at 1.877.287.5751. Mention Rescue and they will donate \$1.00 to rescue. Web customers should enter RESCUE after your card message for rescue to get the donation. Hometown Blues delivers worldwide.

Butter Braids

Once again we are selling Butter Braids. These are a very popular pastry and this fundraiser has done well in the past. We will provide details soon.

NBCR Store

Take a look at our STORE—just click the NBCR STORE button on our web site: <http://www.nebraskabordercollierescue.com>. We have some really nice t-shirts for sale. Note that the site shows a ring on the shirts, but that does not show on the actual shirt.

Featured Rescue Adoption of the Month: Cait

Cait adopted by the Leslie Hogberg RN of Omaha, NE



I adopted Cait in Oct of '04, specifically to train her to do crisis therapy work. I am an RN and disaster volunteer, and emotional recovery from crisis is my special interest. I was very interested in using a dog to facilitate my crisis work, and am partial to Aussies and Border Collies. I put out a search to both rescue groups, and Cait (used to be Ceit) was recommended to me by several people. Since I got her 16 months ago, Cait has achieved her Canine Good Citizen, is a Therapy dog, a reading dog and a member of AACR Animal Assisted Crisis Response. The picture is of her performing her magic in a disaster drill last summer.

She has been a great addition to our family as well, as kisses are her specialty.

Thank you NCBR for helping me find a great dog!

If you adopted an NCBR dog that you would like to be featured, email Karen at maeseck@cox.net.

Pet Health Alert: No Sweets for the Sweet on Valentine's Day, February 14

For many people, overindulging in Valentine's Day goodies may result in a few extra pounds, but the consequences for our animal companions are much greater if they accidentally ingest cookies, candy or baked goods containing chocolate. In any form ranging from one-ounce baking squares to hand-dipped truffles, chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine, both methylxanthines that can cause stimulation of the central nervous system, an increase in heart rate and tremors. Clinical signs of vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, hyperactivity, and increased thirst, urination and heart rate can be seen with the ingestion of as little as two ounces of baking chocolate by a 10-pound dog.

And while sugar-free sweets may be a healthier choice for you, gum or candies made with xylitol can make your pets ill. Dogs who have ingested significant amounts may develop a sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination and seizures. Data from the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center also appears to point to a link between xylitol ingestion and liver failure in dogs.

Please take care this upcoming Valentine's Day to keep all candy out of your pets' reach and don't let them in the kitchen unsupervised if you are baking with chocolate. If you suspect your pet may have eaten chocolate or candies containing xylitol or any other potentially poisonous substance, call your veterinarian or the APCC's emergency hotline at (888) 426-4435 for round-the-clock telephone assistance. For more information on poison prevention, visit APCC online.

Pet Safety: Escaping Dogs

Does your dog's ability to escape from the back yard have you convinced that he's nothing less than a hairy Houdini? Your never-ending attempts to keep your pet confined to your yard may seem comical at times, but every escape opens up the possibility of tragic consequences. If your dog is running loose, he's in danger of being hit by a car, injured in a fight with another dog, or hurt in any number of other ways. You're also liable for any damage or injury your dog may cause, and you may be required to pay a fine if he's picked up by an animal control agency. To prevent escapes, you'll need to find out how your dog is getting out of the yard, and more importantly, *why* he's so determined to get out.

Why Dogs Escape

Social Isolation/Frustration

Your dog may be escaping because he's bored and lonely, especially if...

- He is left alone for long periods of time without opportunities for interaction with you.
- His environment is relatively barren, without playmates or toys.
- He is a puppy or adolescent (under three years old) and doesn't have other outlets for his energy.
- He is a particularly active type of dog (like the herding or sporting breeds) who needs an active "job" in order to be happy.
- He visits places after each escape that provide him with interaction and fun things to do. For example, he may go play with a neighbor's dog or visit the local school yard to play with the children.

Recommendations:

We recommend expanding your dog's world and increasing his "people time" in the following ways:

- Walk your dog daily. It's good exercise, both mentally and physically (for both of you!).
- Teach your dog to fetch a ball or Frisbee™ and practice with him as often as possible.
- Teach your dog a few commands or tricks. Try to hold a lesson every day for five to ten minutes.
- Take an obedience class with your dog and practice what you've learned every day.
- Provide interesting toys (Kong™-type toys filled with treats or busy-box toys) to keep your dog busy when you're not home.
- Rotate your dog's toys to make them seem new and interesting.
- Keep your dog inside when you're unable to supervise him. (This will also keep him safe and prevent any possibility of his being stolen from your yard.)
- If you must be away from home for extended periods of time, take your dog to work with you or to a "doggie day care center," or ask a friend or neighbor to walk your dog.

Sexual Roaming

Dogs become sexually mature at around six months of age. Like a teenager first feeling the surge of hormones, an intact male dog has a strong, natural drive to seek out females. As you can imagine, it can be difficult to prevent an intact dog from escaping when his motivation to do so is very high.

Recommendations:

- Have your male dog neutered. Studies show that neutering will decrease sexual roaming in about 90% of cases. If an intact male has established a pattern of escaping, he may continue to do so even after he's neutered, which is even more reason to have him neutered as soon as possible.
- Have your female dog spayed. If your intact female dog escapes your yard while she's in heat, she'll probably get pregnant (and she could be impregnated even if she stays *in* your yard). Millions of unwanted pets are euthanized every year. Please don't contribute to the pet overpopulation problem by allowing your female dog to breed indiscriminately.

Fears and Phobias

Your dog may be escaping out of fear, especially if he's exposed to loud noises, such as thunderstorms, firecrackers, or construction sounds.

Recommendations:

- Identify what is frightening your dog and desensitize him to it. You may need to seek out the help of a professional trainer, or talk to your veterinarian about anti-anxiety medications that might help your dog while you work on behavior modification.
- Keep your dog indoors if there's any chance he may encounter the fear stimulus outside. You can even mute outside noises by creating a comfortable spot in a basement or windowless bathroom and turning on a television, radio, or loud fan.
- Provide a "safe place" for your dog. Observe where he likes to go when he feels anxious, then allow access to that space, or create a similar space for him to use when the fear stimulus is present.

Separation Anxiety

Your dog may be trying to escape due to “separation anxiety” if:

- He escapes as soon as, or shortly after, you leave.
- He displays other behaviors that reflect a strong attachment to you, such as following you around, greeting you wildly, or reacting anxiously to your preparations to leave.
- He remains near your home after he's escaped.

Factors that can precipitate a separation anxiety problem:

- Your family's schedule has changed, and that has resulted in your dog being left alone more often.
- Your family has recently moved to a new house.
- Your family has experienced the death or loss of a family member or another family pet.
- Your dog has recently spent time at an animal shelter or boarding kennel.

Recommendations:

Assuming your dog has been correctly diagnosed as suffering from separation anxiety, the problem can be resolved using counter-conditioning and desensitization techniques.

How Dogs Escape

Some dogs jump fences, but most actually climb them, using some part of the fence to push off from. A dog may also dig under the fence, chew through the fence, learn to open a gate, or use any combination of these methods to get out of the yard. Knowing how your dog gets out will help you to modify your yard. But until you know why your dog wants to escape, and you can decrease his motivation for doing so, the recommendations below won't be nearly as effective.

Recommendations for Preventing Escape:

- *For climbing/jumping dogs:* Add an extension to your fence. It's not so important that the extension make the fence much higher, as long as it tilts inward at about a 45-degree angle. Be certain there are no structures placed near the fence, such as a table or chair or dog house, that your dog could use as a springboard to jump over the fence.
- *For digging dogs:* Bury chicken wire at the base of your fence (with the sharp edges rolled inward), place large rocks at the base, or lay chain-link fencing on the ground.
- *Never* chain or otherwise tether your dog to a stationary object as a means of keeping him confined. Tethering is not only cruel, but it leads to aggressive behavior in dogs.

Corrections

- Never correct your dog after he's already left the yard. Dogs associate punishment with what they're doing *at the time they're punished*. Punishing your dog after the fact won't eliminate the escaping behavior, but will probably make him afraid to come to you.

- Never correct your dog if the escaping is related to fear or is due to separation anxiety. Punishing a fearful response will only make your dog more afraid, and make the problem worse. In addition, avoid inadvertently *reinforcing* a fearful behavior—such as petting a frightened dog and saying, "It's okay."
- Only correct your dog if you can administer correction at the moment your dog is escaping, and only if he doesn't associate the correction with you. If you can squirt him with a hose or make a loud noise as he is going over, under, or through the fence, it might be unpleasant enough that he won't want to do it again. If he realizes that you made the noise or squirted the water, however, he'll simply refrain from escaping when you're around. This type of correction is difficult to administer effectively, and won't resolve the problem if used by itself.

You must also give your dog less reason to escape and make it more difficult for him to do so. Ultimately, that is how you'll put a permanent stop to that "Hairy Houdini" act.

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Taking Care of Business: January Business Meeting Report

NBCR meeting On January 28, 2006 at Club Pet.

Attendees:

Karen B., Paula and Paul M., Mike and Cindy N., Phil and Faith H., Laurie W., Missi H., Jessica N., Scott H., Tammy H.

Financials:

- Missi will send out official Treasurer's report in the next few weeks. Karen opened 2 CD's- \$1,000.00/ea (Dec & Jan). Approx \$2000.00 in checking account.

Fundraising and Donations:

- We've sold over \$100 in T-shirt sales already! If you haven't seen our new design, check out the NBCR storefront on our website!
- There is a Dog Aggression Clinic at NHS 2/25 and 2/26/06, 9a-4pm. The cost is \$125/2 days for the general public, \$100/2 days for shelter workers. Info is listed on the NHS website, www.nehumanesociety.org. This will be an awesome clinic and it is highly recommended!
- Karen: Need adult prizes for Wheel. Mike looking at catalogs. Tammy and Paula to take inventory of kids prizes and let you know what is needed SOON!
- Phil H. took a donation box to Sam and Louie's at 156th & Dodge. He will get me their logo to add to our sponsor page. Way to go Phil! Thank You Sam & Louie's!

Upcoming Events:

- We will have a table at the Horse Expo in Lincoln 3/10-3/12/06. It's at the Lancaster Event Center. We still have a few shifts to be filled, specifically:

Friday 3/10, 5-9p -

Saturday 3/11, 9a-1p -

Saturday 3/11, 5-9p -

Sunday 3/12, 10a-1:30p -

Please respond to the yahoo groups email list if you can cover one of these shifts. We will have four passes to get in, so we will need to call the person covering shift before us to get the pass. Please log in to yahoo groups.com NBCR list, click on DATABASE on the left hand side, click on CONTACT LIST and add your info.

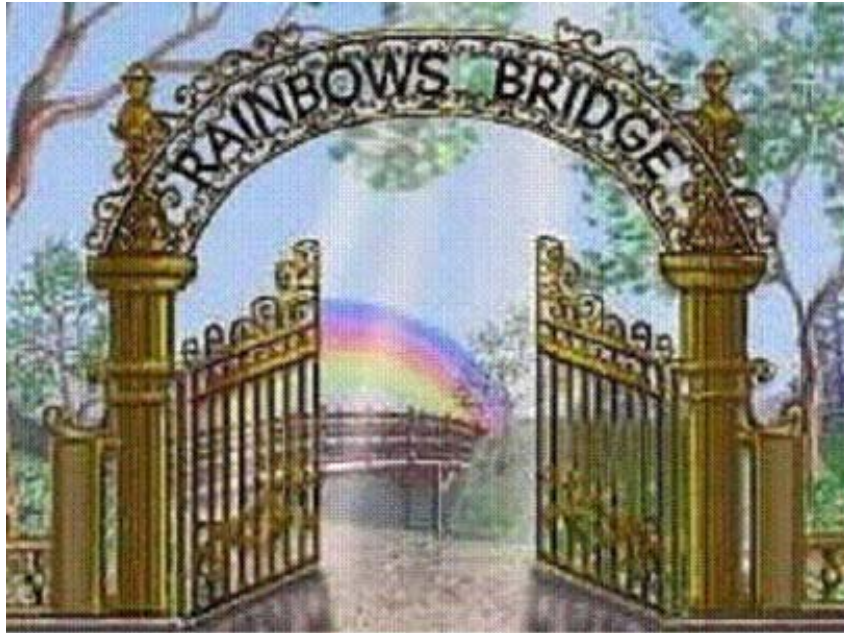
- Butter Braids - Karen has the blank order form sheets. All orders must be in to Karen by March 11. Faith already raked in \$224 in sales! Way To Go Faith! The competition begins! Butter Braids will be delivered April 1 at 2pm and can be picked up at USA Tae Kwon Do, 4734 S. 97th St. (just southwest of 96th & L Sts-take the frontage road which is "M" street - look for the HUGE high in the sky sign!). If you need Karen to keep your BB's at her house, please make arrangements with her privately.
- Paula will talk to Rosemary Strasser regarding Agility Trials and volunteers needed.
- NE Stock Dog Herding Clinic 3/25/06. If enough interested volunteers, we may sell lunches & T-shirts there. Contact Karen if interested.

Next Meeting:

Our next NBCR meeting will be March 4 at CLUB PET, Noon, potluck as usual. It was totally awesome to see all the foster dogs together, as well as our personal dogs too! A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Rainbow Bridge

Hawk Loved by Missi Hebert
Buck Loved by Karen Battreall
Kira Loved by Pam Feser



Thanks to Hilary Lane for editing and producing this newsletter
www.rockymountainbcrescue.org