



New England
Border Collie Rescue, Inc.
Newsletter & Journal

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MEET YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND!

Zep is looking for someone to share adventures with, **could it be you?**
Check out his bio and video [here](#)

Deadline for next issue: June 5th, 2023

**MEET THE SECRETARY OF NEBCR
EMILY WU**



Emily with Foster Ava (now Ice)

Hello! While I've been silent these past few years, I joined NEBCR in 2006 as a volunteer and foster home in order to do a bit of good, and to gain direct experience with border collies to see if the breed was truly a fit for me and my lifestyle. With the dozens of fosters who have come and gone through the years, it turns out I have a soft spot for the slightly more deranged and/or fearful ones...and

subsequently ended up with NEBCR alums Speck, Meara and Moss.

While Speck and Meara have since passed, Moss and I are spending his golden years in Upstate NY with 9 other canine companions. (I work at a veterinary hospital and have also fostered for a rescue focusing on sighthounds, and clearly can't say 'no' very well...).

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday August 12, 2023
for the NEBCR REUNION**

**IT'S ALL ABOUT A CHANCE
By Donna Ciarlante**

Until we began fostering Finnegan, a special needs pup, I didn't put much thought into what it takes to fulfill NEBCR's commitment to helping border collies in need regardless of medical condition or age. It's been more than a year since

Finnegan came to us at 9 months old with new onset seizures and suspected idiopathic epilepsy. I was asked to share my experiences caring for Finnegan over this past year, but I am finding that a bit overwhelming at this time. What I would like to share is a video that I put together of some of the alums who, like Finnegan, may not have had a chance to find their special people if not for NEBCR.

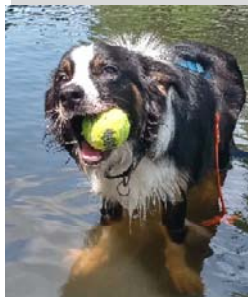
It's All About A Chance, continued...

The [video](#) was created with information from the archives, volunteer's memories and photos taken by volunteers and adopters. I wasn't able to include every special needs/ senior dog helped by NEBCR nor the behavioral special needs alums, who may not need as much financial support, but often require extended time in rescue and whose needs can be very challenging. I think that might require an entire movie! With the exception of a few seniors who intentionally lived the remainder of their lives with their special foster homes, all of the dogs featured in the video were adopted into loving homes.

The video is dedicated to all the supporters, volunteers and adopters who do what it takes to make NEBCR's commitment to border collies in need possible. Finnegan has made some progress recently and research studies are generating non medication treatment options that we hope will help him live better with epilepsy. While we don't know how Finnegan's story will end, we do know that he's been given a chance.

And that's what this NEBCR community gives best - **A Chance**.

Video: <https://youtu.be/AZlriwjRLoY>



Above, Finnegan playing ball

ASK THE VET:

Controlling Parasites while Owning a Border Collie by Dr Sarah Hepburn

As a pet parent, you want to ensure that your Border Collie is healthy and happy, and one way to do that is by preventing flea and tick infestations. Flea and tick preventives can help protect your dog from these pesky parasites that can cause a variety of health issues, including tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and ehrlichiosis. Tick-borne diseases can cause symptoms such as fever, lethargy, joint pain, and even neurological issues.

Flea and tick preventives come in various forms, including spot-on treatments, collars, shampoos, and oral medications. These products work in different ways to either repel or kill fleas and ticks, preventing them from biting and transmitting diseases. Spot-on treatments, such as Frontline and Advantix,

are topical treatments that are applied directly to your dog's skin. They work by repelling fleas and ticks, preventing them from biting your Border Collie, however in recent years they have become less effective as fleas and ticks in certain areas of New England are becoming resistant to them. The Seresto collar is effective at repelling fleas and ticks and can provide protection for up to eight months. In the past year there has been an increase in the number of counterfeit collars sold online which have caused a number of severe health issues. It is important to only purchase the collars from your veterinarian to ensure they are coming from a reputable distributor.

Finally, oral medications, such as Nexgard and Bravecto, are ingested by your dog and work by killing fleas and ticks within hours.

It's important to note that some flea and tick preventives can be harmful to dogs with the MDR1 mutation. The MDR1 gene is responsible for producing a protein that helps remove certain drugs and toxins from the body.



Above, Daisy enjoying life after adoption

Ask the Vet, continued...

Dogs with the MDR1 mutation may not produce enough of this protein, which can lead to a build-up of drugs in their system, causing toxicity.

Some flea and tick preventives, such as Ivermectin can be toxic to dogs with the MDR1 mutation, and these products should be avoided in Border Collies since they have a high risk of carrying the mutation. Bravecto and Nexguard are effective at killing fleas and ticks and safe for dogs with the MDR1 mutation.

Flea and tick preventives help protect your dog from the discomfort of flea and tick infestations and prevent the transmission of diseases. However, it's important to be aware of the MDR1 mutation and the potential risks associated with some flea and tick preventives.

Note: Heartworm preventives also fall into this same category. Interceptor and Sentinel are safe for Border Collies. Also, Simparica trio will cover heartworm, fleas and ticks.

THE "BUSINESS" OF RESCUE by Bea Hamm

Funny how this "business" of rescue comes full circle in so many ways. Yes, everyone gets what a difference it makes in the life of the dog. Many times, the dog goes from neglect at best to a loving family with a full life of adventure.



Above: Erich Steffensen with Gumball (NEBCR alum), at Reunion 2022. Photo by Ian Kerr

However, what doesn't get anywhere near the credit it deserves is how this dog that was cast away as disposable in so many cases now has somehow made a new family feel complete with his unconditional love.

This dog has brought purpose to their lives; a reason to learn something new, a reason to explore new places or revisit old favorites. Oftentimes they end up soothing the pain from the loss of their last dog as the family's heart grows a little more to hold the memories of the last dog and make room for the new. Many times you'll find yourself with a whole new circle of friends.

I know I for one have forged life-long relationships with people because I had a dog in my life, and I met people while taking a class, or competing at or attending a dog event. So many of my friends today I never would have met if not through my dog.

Another angle that often gets overlooked is the feeling of accomplishment this dog has left on the rescue itself, especially the foster homes. Each case is different but each touches so many lives making its way through the process. To take an unwanted dog and transform it into a cherished family member is nothing short of a miracle, and rescues make it happen over and over again.

When you look at a bio photo in a list of available dogs, there is a past, present and future there. A path was traveled bringing them to this point and a door will be opening to what will be the best part of their lives.

**TRAINER'S CORNER:
REAL LIFE TRAINING & BEHAVIOR SOLUTIONS:
Walking a Reactive Dog**

**by Elise Gouge, CPDT, CABC Certified Behavior
Consultant & Trainer**

With the warmer temperatures and people starting to be outside more, I thought I would share these tips for walking your reactive dog. Keep in mind, in order to be successful, you need to have a training foundation already.

1. Walk him when he's hungry and take super high value food for rewards and redirecting.

If he has a belly full of kibble and you're carrying around milkbones from 2002, you are missing out on potential leverage you could have. You want to stack the odds in your favor so your dog has the best chance of succeeding. HUNGRY dog. HIGH VALUE treats. If he's doing a super job, you want to reinforce that with something awesome. If he's struggling a little, that pungent liverwurst might sway the balance in your favor and help your dog to get back on track.

2. Walk him on a Gentle Leader or Halti head-collar.

Have the right equipment. Again, this should be something your dog has already gotten used to – don't just throw on a head-collar and hope for the best. Have a strong, light leash 4 feet long. You want one you can wrap up quickly and hold in your hand (so nothing too bulky) but also strong enough to hold your dog. No retractables.

3. Before heading out, do some focus and collar hold warm up in the house – don't take him out if he's already amped up.

Leaving the comfort of your familiar home and entering the Technicolor explosion of stimuli is a huge transition for your dog. Prepare him. Think of it like you're going for a run. You need to stretch and warm-up first. Help him by practicing some commands, making sure he's grounded and connected with you before hitting the pavement.

4. Pick times of day and routes that are as quiet as possible.

Your goal is a successful, quiet walk. So, you need to be strategic about when you can go and, yes, this is inconvenient. Google "3am dog walker's club" and you'll be surprised with all the stuff about reactive dogs. You might have to get up

earlier or drive to a quiet spot. But you can't overestimate the importance of location, location, location.



5. Quality is more important than quantity – better to successfully walk 50 feet than to have a nightmare 2-mile walk.

Sometimes we get so focused on "but he has to get his walk in" that common sense goes out the door. There are a lot of ways to meet your dog's physical needs that don't include spinning on the end of a leash as he barks

and lunges at whatever it is that's making him nuts. And you don't need that type of workout either! So, if you are walking up and down the driveway fifty times and he's not ready for the street, that's OK! Quality over quantity.

6. Do not walk him with your other dog.

I know you only have so much time and I know it feels unfair to leave one dog behind. But the simple, undeniable truth is that you cannot train and manage your reactive dog well if you have another dog with you.

Holding treats, clicker, leash and a potential Tasmanian devil is plenty. Leave your other dog(s) at home.

7. Be sensitive to trigger stacking. That's when his stress builds because he is dealing with trigger after trigger after trigger. His ability to listen and do well will fall apart if multiple triggers get stacked.

Did he go to the vet yesterday? Did he flip out earlier that morning when UPS came? Did he hide last night during the thunderstorm? He can't tell you that he's had a helluva week and might be too frazzled for a walk. So you need to pay attention to what's going on for him. When you grab the leash, he's still going to wag his tail and act like a walk is the best possible thing in the world. But he might be pretty fried on the inside, which means he's going to have a shorter fuse and less ability to tolerate triggers in the environment. You are his advocate and protector so pay attention.

8. Walk with purpose and direction. Keep one eye on him and one on the environment. You will do much better if you are seeing things before he does.

Us, reactive dog owners know all about the term 'hypervigilance.' The more you know about the environment, the better prepared you will be for managing whatever comes up and keeping things successful. Manage the environment so your dog doesn't have to.

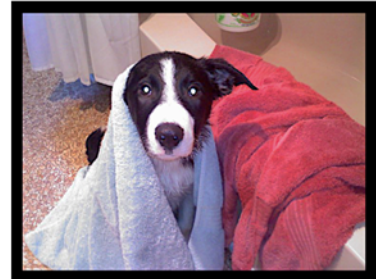
9. Regard walks as a training exercise.

I know we all wish we had Lassie and could run through the fields without a care in the world. Maybe you'll help your dog to reach Lassie status at some point and maybe that will never be an option. Accepting where your dog is RIGHT NOW is what you need to do. If you're mentally checked out, he's going to take matters into his own paws, and we all know how that goes. So, be all business and work that walk!

The last tip I have is to be kind to yourself and your dog. Dealing with reactivity is hard. It's stressful. It changes your life. Sometimes it holds you hostage and sometimes it feels insurmountable. It does get better with training and management, I promise! Take a deep breath, remind yourself of all the awesome snuggles and good times, and keep on truckin'.

Happy spring, everyone!

PEW!



It's that time of year when your day can go from great to well, stinky in a heartbeat. Dogs are notorious for getting sprayed outside, and then coming into the house. Should your dog have an encounter with a skunk here is a homemade recipe to eliminate the odor. You may want to keep the ingredients on hand.

The formula is:

- 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide (fresh bottle)
- 1/4 cup of baking soda
- 2 teaspoons of Dawn dish soap

Ingredients must be mixed in an open container and used immediately. Never mix the ingredients in advance because oxygen released from the solution may cause a closed container to explode. The solution can be used on people or pets; avoid splashing in the eyes or mouth. Allow the solution to remain in the hair for five minutes before rinsing thoroughly with water. Repeat if needed.

NOTE: Do not rinse the dog first. Avoid your first instinct to hose them down, water seals the skunk oil secretions into the hair follicle, and your pet will smell for weeks or even months especially when wet.