



New England
Border Collie Rescue, Inc.
Newsletter & Journal

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Please send your content and pictures to us at
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Deadline for next issue: July 4th, 2022

HEALTH: LEPTOSPIROSIS
by Barbara Swartzlander

ZepherJoe, my 7-year-old Border Collie, was a fantastic agility athlete. He loved the game. He died on November 1, 2021, just weeks after the photo of him, (below left) was taken, of kidney failure secondary to Leptospirosis. He was not vaccinated.

Many of my friends were shocked at Zeph’s death because they were unaware that Leptospirosis is moving north due to, among other things, climate change, dogs coming up from the south, wet conditions, and urban wildlife. It is present virtually worldwide. They had not vaccinated their dogs either because many veterinarians, including mine, had not mentioned a Leptospirosis vaccination to them.

Lepto is a very dangerous zoonotic disease. It can be trans-mitted from animals to humans, and vice versa.

I now understand that, since 2018, there are less-reactive vaccines available for protection against four common Leptospirosis serovars: Zoetis Vanguard L4 and Nobivac L4. Neither is a guarantee against the disease because there are so many serovars, but the vaccines may help prevent disease. Even if a dog recovers from Leptospirosis, there is still a risk of permanent residual kidney or liver damage.

I am heartbroken over the loss of my good buddy Zeph. I hope this never happens to anyone else.

For more information see links to Tufts Cummings Veterinary Medical Center Leptospirosis Alert and AVMA Leptospirosis on the last page.



ZephyrJoe at the Paws Agility Trial 9/21
(photo by Donna Kelliher)



Bea Curtis Hamm with Paisley, Jaz, and Kotie in the front

MEET NEBCR'S CO-PRESIDENT, BEA CURTIS HAMM

Over 20 years ago, ready for a change in the breed of dog I owned, I did my research, making a list of possibilities, and narrowing it down to Border Collies. Little did I know the journey on which this fun, quirky, but demanding breed would take me. In search of a job for them, I was of the mindset to try it all and see what stuck.

All my life I had felt like I wanted to give back, make a difference. I stumbled upon a rewarding way to do that: volunteer for NEBCR. My husband, Ralph, and I live in southern Maine on 9 acres on a dead-end street. We both work from home. I found this an ideal situation for fostering. Through the years, those fosters have taught me more than any classroom could. To take in a dog that is a huge flight risk, that doesn't want the human touch, and then to have them a few months later doing agility and off-leash romps on the beach is very rewarding. My motto became "Every dog comes with a lesson to learn and one to teach."

Through the years with NEBCR I have been very involved, and I love grabbing any opportunity to educate the public about Border Collies. My involvement has gotten me to the top of the heap, now serving as Co-President. I find it very challenging keeping up with the daily business of rescue, yet I try my best to keep the rescue running smoothly and make some improvements as well from time to time.

I have two grown daughters and four granddaughters that waiver between being proud of me and thinking I am a little crazy investing so much of myself. As for me, it's given me a feeling of fulfillment I hadn't experienced before. My paycheck comes in smiles and wagging tails.

LIVING WITH AN OLD DOG **by Analese Peters**

Living with an old dog means feeling your heart speed up each time you see them a little more still than usual.

Living with an old dog means thinking "this is their last summer, their last morning, their last night."

Living with an old dog means you have to lift them into the car, onto the couch, up the stairs.

Living with an old dog means putting off commitments because it's important to be with them.

Living with an old dog means tripping over them because they are sound asleep and don't hear you approaching.

Living with an old dog means accidents in the house, but that's OK because they don't mean to.

Living with an old dog means feeling guilty because you know you could have done more, more runs, more hugs, more everything.

Living with an old dog means facing your own mortality, your own fragility, your own vulnerability.

Living with an old dog means experiencing one of the best joys on earth!



The Editor's old dog Seumas

FLICKA by Lynn Dunster

I had a dog that I truly loved, but I was not a “dog person”. I thought a dog was a pet and that one was enough. My dog BJ and I were taking agility classes when one day a student in the class before ours brought a Border Collie foster dog and her puppies to class for socialization and for possible adopters to see. She asked me if I was interested in a puppy and I said no, one dog was enough.

All through our class I would peek over at the mother dog and she always seem to be looking at me. I couldn’t get her out of my thoughts and 2 weeks later I asked if she was up for adoption.

Next thing I knew I had Flicka, my first Border Collie! She was smart, trainable, and we adored each other. Now I was a “Border Collie person”.

I soon became a volunteer for NEBCR and everything changed. Now I was consumed with training and dog behavior. There was so much to learn! I felt surrounded by new friends, the NEBCR volunteers, who were so kind and welcoming, like family. I started fostering and realized you could have more than one dog. The foster dogs that have been in my care and then gone on to forever homes each took a piece of my heart with them, true for all who foster.

My friend who introduced me to Border Collies worked for a veterinarian. I was dissatisfied with my career choice, and she encouraged me to apply for an open job where she worked. I did another huge life change. It has been almost 14 years and every day I go to work excited about what the new day will bring.



Flicka

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH NEBCR AND WAYS YOU CAN HELP

NEBCR has many ways to get involved and help. There is fostering, our biggest need; but this may not be your cup of tea. We need people to drive, do home visits, dog evaluations, and so on.

NEBCR is a network of volunteers spread across the Northeast, and much of our work is done on the internet. Anyone who is computer savvy can help in some way right from your home. There is always a project of some type going on, that you can get involved in. You can contribute stories and photos for our Facebook pages, our website, or our *Newsletter & Journal*. Proofreading and thank-you cards are also one of the things you can do at home. We have fundraisers, reunions, and other ways to donate your talents.

So, don't be shy. Volunteer with us today. You won't be sorry, and you will be doing a great service to the breed we all have come to love. Visit our website and sign up today NEBCR.org

[AVMA —Leptospirosis](#)

Tufts Cummings Veterinary Medical Center [Leptospirosis Alert](#)

TRUE OR FALSE: *If a sheepdog looks like a Border Collie but does not have a tail, is it always an Australian Shepherd?*

FALSE: *Some stockdog handlers dock their dogs' tails no matter what the breed. However, in New England a sheepdog with a docked tail is more likely to be an Australian Shepherd.*