

2009: A BANNER YEAR FOR WBCR!

What a year it's been!

Full of ups, downs, and lots of waggy tails and doggy kisses, WBCR has already rescued **70** more BCs than in all of 2008 – with another month of 2009 still to go.

An increased awareness of WBCR means we're being called on to help BCs in need in a rapidly expanding area. This year, WBCR rescued dogs from WY, CO, UT, MT, ID, the Dakotas, NE, KS, NM, OR and OK...that is a 12 state area!! We also attended more events than ever before as well.

Our incredible success is only possible thanks to our ever increasing number of volunteers and fosters – a heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you!! Surely

the most devoted group on the planet, when the pleas for help go out – our volunteers answer!!

It is thanks to them that BCs who were in living in misery, on death row, or otherwise in trouble, are now living as beloved family members in fabulous homes...

that some frightened little girls from Oklahoma can now trust again...

that a silly black pup's eyes now sparkle with glee...

and that a spunky little girl with a bum liver is now happily playing in the snow.



OUR MISSION

Western Border Collie Rescue is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming Border Collies and Border Collie mixes, as well as educating the public on the characteristics and needs of this breed.

VOLUNTEER

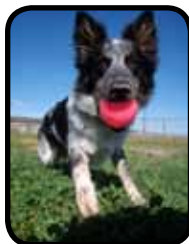
Our network of volunteers is growing and more people are always needed & welcome. It takes "a village" of BC lovers to care for the many dogs we rescue every year. WBCR is an all volunteer non profit organization, and we can always use your help!! Volunteers do reference checks and home visits, shelter visits, transport dogs, help at events, help with online networking, and more. We also always need foster homes!! For more about fostering, see page 2.

DONATE

WBCR is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit that relies entirely on donations from BC lovers to help save lives. All donations are tax deductible! This year we have rescued dogs who have had serious medical problems including Distemper, Heartworm, Parvo, and less serious medical problems that nonetheless have stressed our resources. We need your support to continue to save lives. You can even donate online via Paypal on our website: www.wbcrescue.org.

ADOPT

Please don't buy from a breeder or pet store when you can adopt a great dog AND save a life! U.S. shelters are filled with wonderful, loving animals waiting for a fair chance at life, and WBCR has many adoptable dogs living in foster homes who are anxiously awaiting their forever families to come and find them as well.



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FOSTERING: THE LIFEBLOOD OF RESCUE

There are many ways to help WBCR, fostering being the most critical. Fostering is the heart of our organization and our most pressing need – the number of dogs we can save directly correlates to the number of foster homes available.

Unlike shelters or larger rescues, WBCR has no facility; instead, all WBCR dogs live in foster homes with families while awaiting adoption. This enables each dog to learn the skills necessary to live as a wonderful companion, and helps WBCR get to know the dog as an individual, helping us to appropriately match dogs with prospective adopters. It is solely thanks to WBCR's volunteer foster homes that we have saved the lives of so many BCs in danger, and every additional foster home means more lives saved. If you love unwrapping presents, watching a flower bloom or polishing tarnished silver, you will LOVE fostering!!



How do I become a foster?

WBCR's foster application is on the forms page at www.wbcrescue.org.

What is fostering like? Each foster experience is unique but every one is extremely rewarding.



What kind of time commitment is required? This varies from dog to dog. Some dogs will only be in foster care for two weeks, others may be with us longer. The average stay is around 2 months. Older or special needs dogs are sometimes with us longer than that. However, if you have a limited time frame in which to foster, WBCR is happy to work with you!

What I am responsible for providing? All of our fosters provide safety, shelter, love, exercise and guidance to their fostered dogs. Most of our fosters also provide food, but we're happy

to provide that if needed. WBCR pays for all medical expenses, such as vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery or any other necessary vet care. WBCR can also provide crates and other doggy gear if necessary.

Is a fenced yard required? No.

What if I can only foster a certain type of dog? WBCR works hard to match dogs with the needs of foster homes. We take in dogs of all kinds from different backgrounds, so there is a wide variety of dogs needing a foster home.

Can I set restrictions on the kind of dog I am willing to foster or the time of year I foster? Absolutely.

I have a full, busy life with dogs of my own...can I really foster?

Even on our worst days (10-12 hours at work, bad weather and no walk that day), we realize that a little time with a dog, providing a place to play, potty and get out of the elements, good food, a safe place to sleep and a few hugs and kisses, beats any day in even the best shelter! We don't have to do much to provide a better alternative to the stress and unhappiness they feel in those places, **IF** they're lucky enough to be spared euthanasia.

What if I need help with my foster? WBCR is a very supportive, all-volunteer group, and you will be able to find help and advice from fellow BC lovers throughout your fostering experience.

Who will adopt my foster dog? WBCR requires an application and extensive adoption process prior to approving someone to adopt. Then WBCR does its best to match dog and adopter. The foster parent(s) plays a critical role in deciding which home is best for their foster dog. Then they can then enjoy their new role in the dog's life – watching them become a beloved member of a family and blossom into the wonderful dog he/she was meant to be!

Isn't it hard to let a foster go? It absolutely is. But no one ever said the best things in life are easy, and the truth is, there are few things as rewarding as watching a formerly homeless & hopeless dog fall in love with its new forever family.

"Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way." John Muir

For more info on fostering, or to download a foster application, visit wbcrescue.org



MEET SOME OF 2009's SPECIAL NEEDS DOGS

Our OK dogs:

When word of a dog hoarding situation in Ada, Oklahoma first hit WBCR, it was clear there was an immediate crisis. When the full reality came to light, it was mindboggling. Over 120 dogs – many of them Border Collies – were found living on a small property of an elderly woman recently admitted to a nursing home, leaving no one to feed/care for the dogs. By the time law enforcement moved in, many of the dogs were ill, malnourished and fearful; many were starving. The Humane Society of the US stepped in to help, and WBCR stepped up to take in some of the most needy of these dogs. We were their last chance. All of the Ada dogs that arrived at WBCR were very comfortable in the company of other dogs and loved being outside. However, most were extremely undersocialized, and some very sick. All were deemed special needs dogs..and all 6, we are happy to report, are now well on their way to recovery and new lives. We are so happy to introduce you to the Ada Dogs!



The Very Shy Girls:

Three girls under a year old – red Mercy, classic Nuala, and freckled Callie – would all take a bit of extra TLC, but all 3 made great progress and proved to be sweet as pie goofballs once their fears of people lessened. Mercy and Nuala have been adopted and as of today, Callie has her forever home, too.



The Miraculous Male: It was Merritt's photo that kept WBCR's director awake at night. This big red and white fella was indeed the poster boy for misery and suffering. Blind in one eye and losing sight in the other, diagnosed with a tick-borne illness, nearly toothless, and the most emaciated dog we have ever seen, it was extremely unlikely he would make it. One of the HSUS crew who arrived at the Ada site later told us it was only by pure luck he was found, lying out in a field, too weak to stand or walk, and she didn't think he would last another day.



The Very Sick Girls: Guinnie and Ruby came to WBCR with flea & worm infestation, heartworms, and treatment required them to be strictly confined for the first 45 days after rescue. They have just completed this. Both these girls are very shy and undersocialized as well, and are now ready to begin learning that the world can be a safe and enjoyable place after all. As you can see, 1 year old Guinnie is a mix, likely with Shepherd and is becoming quite the silly little girlie. Ruby seems to be purebred BC, about 4 years old, and we suspect she is Nuala's mother. Both are available for adoption.



Merritt arrived at WBCR and with his zest for life, was soon wolfing down food and putting on weight. He recovered from erlichia, and has maintained the vision in one eye. The vets determined he is likely 12-13 years old! Despite his "senior" status, Merritt is not interested in retirement as he takes his new job as Master Squeaky Toy Tester very seriously! Upon reaching the goal of 60 pounds, it was clear Merritt was quite happy with his new lot in life...and thanks to his inspiring outlook and determination, he has, in fact, captured the hearts of everyone he meets, including his foster family. Merritt will live out his golden years in – you guessed it! – the home of our fearless leader, WBCR director Tonya, and her husband Tim. Congratulations to our favorite foster failures of the year...and to Merritt, the big red guy from Ada.



MORE SPECIAL NEEDS DOGS

Paddy - Beating the Odds...Twice!

Little 6-month-old BC mix Paddy Clarke was sitting in an east Idaho shelter with not much time left. The shelter was an overcrowded one, and Paddy was an energetic little black pup in a high-kill shelter with many other energetic little black pups. At the 11th hour, Paddy's heartwarming gaze won him a ticket out and into WBCR. He was thrilled to be alive and came into foster care full of enthusiasm and excitement!



His curiosity, intelligence, and delightful nature were clear right away. But within 48 hours, Paddy fell ill, and quickly became one very sick little fellow. He went to the vet, and the diagnosis was grave: Parvo.

This virus is extremely life-threatening to young, unvaccinated dogs...which, of course, is exactly what Paddy was. Paddy spent 5 days in intensive care at the vet on an IV drip, with hopeful days and not so hopeful days. On day six, the vet was optimistic, and Paddy returned to his foster home. He began recovering by leaps and bounds. A week later, it was hard to tell that this little livewire was ever sick!! Paddy is now healthy, happy, and ready to find his forever home.

For a full bio on Paddy, visit our available dogs page at www.wbcrescue.org.



Banjo – A Dog with an Irrepressible Spirit

Picked up by a Good Samaritan on a rural Idaho highway, Banjo came to WBCR when she went unclaimed. This chocolate eyed, baby faced cutie with an impish grin has one obviously irrepressible spirit!

After just a few weeks in foster care full of good days (when she felt great and was full of play and fun) and bad days (when she was lethargic, restless, uncomfortable), it was clear Banjo was not well. Yet another visit to the vet determined that her liver was failing and she didn't have long to live. But Banjo didn't give up... so neither did WBCR. We got a second opinion, and this time, she was diagnosed with a congenital - but operable - liver defect. This spunky little girl was soon whisked away to Colorado State University, where she underwent liver surgery by an internal specialist. The defect proved more complicated than suspected, but she came out of the surgery raring to go and thrilled to be feeling quite a bit better.

Although her long term prognosis is still unclear, Banjo is not daunted in the least by her uncertain future... she's been too busy kicking up her heels in foster care with -- you guessed it! -- two veterinarians. (Thank you, Felix & Colleen!) Banjo continues to be a happy, sparkly little thing with zest for life to spare. She is now off all medications and went for her first ski trip during the great Colorado snowstorm in late October. We will keep you posted on Banjo's status on our available dogs page at www.wbcrescue.org



The Dash Fund

WBCR is committed to helping all kinds of BCs in need. Our expansion has brought an increase in rescues, and that increase in rescues means an increase in dogs with a variety of special needs. To address this, the Dash Fund was established this year, named in honor of a very special BC boy who arrived at WBCR in early 2009 and shortly after, contracted distemper. Despite his best efforts, the finest in veterinary care, and the incredible love and care of his foster and adoptive families, Dash did not survive. However, his memorable delight for life remains with us, and the Dash Fund was created so that WBCR can offer the same level of care to other incoming rescues needing extra special attention and/or extraordinary vet care to ensure the best chance at a new life. If you have a soft spot in your heart for those who need a little extra help, consider donating to the Dash Fund. We'll be setting up a special Dash Fund page on our website in the near future; in the meantime, we'd welcome you to donate via PayPal or check and mark your donation "Dash Fund". Remember, all donations are 100% tax-deductible.

From Sitting in a Shelter To Setting Records

A STAR IS BORN!

Kipp came to WBCR from an overcrowded Wyoming shelter at the ripe old age of 12 weeks. He had been surrendered by his previous family because they "had too many dogs", and just sat in the shelter looking oh so dejected, so we had to spring him!

It was clear from the moment he arrived that this gangly, smooth coated pup with the fabulous ears had some serious potential: he was extremely athletic, driven, and talented, and showed a special affinity for Frisbee while still losing his puppy teeth! It just so happened that Amy, a WBCR volunteer, was looking for a pup for discdog competition. She offered to foster Kipp, and the rest, including Amy's adoption of Kipp shortly thereafter, is history.

Amy and Kipp were soon off and running, and began competing only 5 months after Kipp's adoption. They quickly moved up in competition, winning many trophies as they went. They won Colorado DiscDogs Rookie of the Year in 2008, their very first year of competing! This year, Kipp and Amy took home top honors and 1st place in the Women's division of The



Quadruped - the largest US long distance discdog competition that brings in teams from all over the US!! They also took home the longest catch of the day in his division at 62 yards - which puts him in 4th place of the top 10 teams of all time!

Hard to believe this superstar ran off the field in his first Frisbee competition, afraid of the applause from the cheering fans!!! Way to go, Amy and Kipp! We can't wait to see what you do next year!

For more on Amy and Kipp, visit:

<http://www.thequadruped.com/Den09.htm>



WBCR's Best Shots!



The WBCR 2010 Calendar is hot off the presses and available for sale TODAY! It's a wonderful 12x12 calendar chock full of gorgeous photos of BCs either adopted through or being fostered by WBCR. All proceeds from calendar sales go to - of course - helping us rescue more dogs! Buy one for yourself, and it also makes a great gift...we're happy to ship them wherever you'd like, making your Holiday shopping oh, so easy! Calendars can be ordered on our website at www.wbcrescue.org

Speaking of Gifts...

Are you looking for the perfect gift for the animal lovers on your list who have everything - including enough pets of their own?? Give the gift of life this holiday season. Donations to WBCR can be made in the name of a friend - human or canine! For more information, contact Tonya at wbcrcr@hughes.net.

OUR HOLIDAY WISH LIST



- Digital cameras
- Microchip scanner (new or gently used)
- More foster homes
- Dog beds
- More foster homes
- Copy machine
- More foster homes
- Crates and x-pens
- More foster homes
- Toys and Chewies
- More foster homes
- Collars and Leashes
- More foster homes
- Volunteer Events Coordinator
- More foster homes
- Puppy Piddle Pads
- Tech Savvy Volunteers for website help
- Gasoline gift cards (to help with transportation expenses)
- Donated items that we can sell/auction to raise funds

and did we mention more foster homes?

OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER

The Time of Plenty brings the Week of Twenty

Mid November: the weather is getting colder, kids are back in school, and the holidays are nearly upon us. And regional shelters are overflowing with abandoned animals. By November 19th, WBCR's director sat staring at an inbox full of requests for help with BCs in need...over **TWENTY**, most of them in immediate danger of euthanasia in shelters throughout the region. Never before had this many dogs needed help at once, and it seemed hopeless that we could save this unprecedented number of BCs.

Undaunted, WBCR's director put out an urgent SOS, and its devoted volunteers answered. Within 24 hours, almost 20 foster spots had been offered, and a frantic few days of planning ensued. When the dust settles, WBCR will have completed its grandest intake ever. In just 5 days ending 11/29, we welcomed Clover, Azure, Boone (all from WY), Dugan, Zip, Turk, Ella, Mia (all from UT) Logan, Archer, Flash and Suki (all from CO) into rescue, and are lining up transport for the remaining dogs in need in ID, UT, CO, WY and NM.



So as WBCR foster families sat down November 26th to give thanks, many had a new furry houseguest, likely lying under the table also giving thanks for a new chance at life. Now that all of these dogs' safety is assured, we'll be using most of our finances to get their vetting taken care of prior to their adoptions. If you can help by sponsoring one of these new arrivals, please contact us at wbcrc@hughes.net.

How Your Donation Helps

Our \$175 adoption fee rarely covers the total expenses on any individual rescued BC, so we rely heavily on donations to help our rescue stay afloat.

Here are the minimal costs we incur on each dog rescued:

\$150-175.00 - the average cost of basic vetting (spay/neuter, vaccs, deworming, microchipping only) for one rescued BC

\$45 - the cost of feeding one rescued BC high quality food for one month

\$200 - average amount spent on transportation costs per month, moving dogs from shelters to foster homes, vet appointments, etc.

Gone But Not Forgotten...

As mentioned earlier, 2009 was a year of many ups and downs, and we had some tragic losses this year with dogs who came into rescue with illnesses that, even with our help, they could not overcome.

We will never forget these dogs, and will proudly continue our mission in their honor.

Dash, Tuck, Isis and Indy: We consider ourselves blessed to have known and loved you.



THE HISTORY OF WBCR

It was fall, 2002 when the idea first hit Tonya Cain of starting a rescue for the breed she most adored, and by March, 2003, WBCR (then Wyoming Border Collie Rescue) was born. Tonya, her oh-so-devoted husband Tim, and a few friends comprised the entire rescue for its first years, doing everything from setting up a website to pulling dogs to fostering dogs to processing applications and matching dogs with potential adopters.



My, how times have changed! As other rescues around the region closed up shop, WBCR worked hard to "pick up the slack", and expand its reach to more than just WY and CO. Along the way, we have changed our name to Western Border Collie Rescue

to more accurately describe our scope, have been blessed with 50+ volunteers who help with everything from staffing booths to evaluating shelter dogs to driving countless hours to save dogs in need. We also currently have approx 20 foster homes throughout WY, CO and the eastern parts of ID and UT, but could literally use twice that number...as we have expanded, so has the need; the economy is definitely taking its toll on pets too as record numbers of animals are landing in shelters due to their families' financial difficulties.

Now in its 6th year, WBCR has saved over 550 BCs in need, and have placed ~500 of them in loving forever homes! 2009 was a record-breaking year for saving BCs in need, and we hope that 2010 will be even

better. Will you join us in our mission? We'd love to have your help, in whatever form you'd like to give it!

WHEN I GOT MY DOG...

*I asked for strength that I might rear him perfectly;
I was given weakness that I might feed him more treats.*

*I asked for good health that I might rest easy;
I was given a "special needs" dog that I might know
nurturing.*

*I asked for an obedient dog that I might feel proud;
I was given stubbornness that I might feel humble.*

*I asked for compliance that I might feel masterful;
I was given a clown that I might laugh.*

*I asked for a companion that I might not feel lonely;
I was given a best friend that I would feel loved.*

*I got nothing I asked for,
But everything I need.*

-- Unknown

ABOUT WBCR

Western Border Collie Rescue (formerly known as Wyoming Border Collie Rescue) was founded in 2003. WBCR is a 501(c)3 non-profit all volunteer organization. We have no staff – all the work is done by volunteers – people who love Border Collies and give of their time and talents to help dogs in need. We rescue and rehome Border Collies throughout Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Montana, New Mexico, Idaho, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and beyond.

Find us online at Facebook!

Western Border Collie Rescue has its own Facebook page!

We welcome you to become a fan, check out photos of fosters & adopted dogs and learn about upcoming WBCR events.



Website - www.wbcrescue.org

Email: wbcrc@hughes.net

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