



## **Border Collie Bugle Call**

The Newsletter of the Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue  
Volume 9 Issue 1

2020 has been a very interesting and busy year for BRBCR. As of the middle of October, our volunteers have fostered 60 dogs, including two who have become permanent foster dogs. 48 of those dogs found their forever homes. 10 dogs are still in foster care and available for adoption. Happily, Lucy, who has been with BRBCR since 2016, found her forever family.

The pandemic created challenging situations for many people, including BRBCR. Many of the dogs that came into our care were owner surrenders due to the pandemic. We were happy to help this often sad situation and create hopeful outcomes for the dogs that came to us. The pandemic also affected our ability to participate in many of the normal fundraising activities we usually undertake. Your support has been especially important in allowing us to continue the work of fostering and placing as many dogs as we did. It will remain a significant part of continuing this important work.

*As most of you know, we rely on foster homes to get the dogs in care ready for their new homes. We hope that some of you will consider fostering a dog in need. If you would like information about fostering, please contact us at [brbcdogs@gmail.com](mailto:brbcdogs@gmail.com).*

BRBCR is dedicated to finding good homes for deserving Border Collies, giving them another chance at a good life. We promote public awareness of the working breed, encourage owner involvement in dog sports through public demonstrations and events, and provide foster care and rehabilitation to those who are endangered.

**With Warm Regards and Happy Holidays,  
Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue Board of Directors**



Finding wonderful homes for homeless Border Collies  
and Border Collie mixes

We are a tax exempt 501c3: CFC# 60377

Phone: 571-766-0980

[www.brbcrr.org](http://www.brbcrr.org)

## Tippy – Sometimes things just work out!

When Tippy was about 5 months old, he was surrendered by an Amish family who lives a few miles from BRBCR volunteer, Kay Sander. He was so shy and unsocialized that the husband and wife had to chase and corner him in a fenced pasture to get him.

Kay immediately drove Tippy to a prearranged halfway point to hand him over to another volunteer, who would be his foster mom. Both Volunteers were worried that he might escape during the transfer, never to be seen again.

Tippy's foster mom, Brittney Waranius, did a wonderful job socializing him, which included having the adopter's little girl sit next to his crate and read to him.

Tippy was adopted in 2018 by MJ Foulks, and has truly made a remarkable impact on her life, as you will see when you read her letter to BRBCR:

*"A few years ago, my family and I went through some pretty serious trauma. I was diagnosed with severe PTSD, and had been seeing a psychiatrist about my struggle with feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness. It was like I had forgotten how to be happy, or how to feel like I mattered at all.*

*"Have you considered getting a dog?" she asked me. The honest answer was no; I had never seen myself as a dog person and had never owned a dog before. Regardless, we discussed the pros of adopting a dog for people like me. After a brief discussion with my husband, we contacted the Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue. Just a few short weeks later, Tippy came home on March 1st, 2018.*

*The bond was immediate. I looked into his eyes and felt nothing but love. My heart swelled and I smiled, tears of joy streaming down my face, for the first time in years.*

*I'm crying as I write this, because I know there are no words in the world that could convey how amazing Tippy is and how much he means to me.*



*Tippy is now my certified therapy dog and has been for a little over a year. He absolutely has to be wherever I am at all times and will follow me everywhere, and he goes with me wherever I go no matter what. Over the past two years, Tippy hasn't been my dog. He's been my best friend and my lifeline. He knows me inside and out, and when I'm struggling he can just...tell. If I cry, he comes right up to me and puts his head in my lap. Then all of those feelings that I'm not worth the air I breathe just melt away. I am Tippy's whole world, and he loves me unconditionally. I may feel like I'm not worth much to the rest of the world, but I know how important I am to Tippy. He reminds me of that whenever I need it most. In my absolute darkest hours, it was Tippy who kept me holding on. He has literally saved my life.*

*I can finally say I have my PTSD under control, and in no small part thanks to Tippy. And whenever I have those bad days, he's still there for me to remind me that I matter.*

*Thank you to Brittney and the Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue for helping me find my best friend. I'd truly be lost without him."*

*Thank you so very much,  
MJ Foulks*

## Giving Tuesday – A chance to support BRBCR's mission

December 1, 2020 is Giving Tuesday. It is often stylized as #GivingTuesday for the purposes of hashtag activism, and refers to the Tuesday after U.S. Thanksgiving. It is a movement founded as a way to promote an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season.

Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that not only rescues and rehomes Border Collies and mixes in need, but also supports good families who may not otherwise be able to provide veterinary care and medicines for their beloved pets. BRBCR relies on its supporters for the financial assistance it needs to continue this support and the ability to save these wonderful dogs and find them wonderful homes.

*As part of Giving Tuesday, donations made through Facebook or PayPal via the donate button on our webpage will be eligible for a match from these two organizations.*

## The Cost of Fostering – How we use your donations

This year we thought we would tell you about how BRBCR spends the funds we receive from adoption fees, fundraising campaigns, and your donations.

BRBCR has been rescuing Border Collies and Border Collie mixes for 19 years. We have never been able to cover all the costs of bringing a dog into foster care through our adoption fees alone. We have purposefully kept adoption fees as low as possible so that they are affordable in all the areas we place our dogs. We have been able to do this because so many of you donate generously. Our adoption fees are far less than the cost of providing care for the dogs who are being fostered.

Each year, we look at the average direct cost for the dogs placed during that year, using only expenses for dog supplies, services and veterinary care, divided by the number of dogs. In 2019, the cost was \$429 per dog. This does not include administrative costs like fundraising overhead, insurance, office supplies, and maintenance of our website.

As you might know, our foster dogs are not placed until they are completely up to date on vaccines, all medical tests are checked, and they are sterilized. Every year we have dogs with special healthcare needs like being heartworm positive, needing dental care, or perhaps having seizure disorders. Mickey was one of those dogs, and his story is on the following page. In the past couple of years we have provided medical support to two dogs whose families could not afford to pay the necessary veterinary and medical bills.

All of us at BRBCR appreciate your generosity, especially in this difficult year. You allow us to continue helping dogs in need and finding them wonderful homes to live out their lives.

Fostering is a very rewarding experience.

To volunteer, or if you would like more information, contact us at:

[brbcdogs@gmail.com](mailto:brbcdogs@gmail.com).

### What Do Adoption Fees Cover?

#### From The Petfinder Blog

(<https://www.petfinder.com/blog/>)

A report by the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP) shows that [adoption] is a bargain when you consider that “free pet” you got a from a friend or relative can cost from \$450 to \$800 in the initial months. Here are some typical costs for the basic treatments:

- Spay/neuter \$150-300
- Distemper vaccination \$ 20-30 x 2
- Rabies vaccination \$ 15-25
- Heartworm test \$ 15-35
- Flea/tick treatment \$ 50-200
- Microchip \$ 50

## Remembering Mickey



Many of you may remember the story of Mickey, an elderly gentleman who, at the age of 14, found himself at the Cobb County, GA Animal Control facility in July 2017. Alerted to his plight, BRBCR contacted the shelter to get some information.

Mickey's family had fallen on hard times and could not take him with them when they were forced to move. Mickey also had offers of financial assistance and a wonderful foster family willing to take him in.

Mickey's foster family, Havi Shalit, her husband, and three elderly siblings, were able to provide basic needs and a warm home environment. BRBCR offered to cover the medical bills that would surely come as Mickey got older.

Georgia's laws regarding who can adopt came into play, so local volunteers from Dirt Road Dog Rescue (DRDR) made arrangements to pull Mickey from the shelter. Havi picked him up and he began the journey into his last happy years.

Mickey crossed the Rainbow Bridge recently, at the age of 17. In the last years of his life, Mickey and Havi had great times together. He loved to walk slowly, smell around, meet people, and eat. Havi said his only bad habit was using his alligator jaws to grab treats. Ouch! In the summer of 2018, they took a car trip to Virginia to meet the folks at BRBCR.

Havi's experience with older dogs, and with hospice care for dogs, made Mickey's life comfortable and happy as he aged. All of us at BRBCR send our heartfelt thanks and sympathy to Havi; and, we wish Mickey a chance, once again, to run free.

The story of Mickey, a much beloved Border Collie, is worth noting in one other important way. It took a village to save Mickey. Havi Shalit (Mickey's foster mom), Dirt Road Dog Rescue in Georgia, and Blue Ridge Border Collie Rescue in Virginia worked together to help Mickey spend the rest of his life in the comfort of a loving home. This is what rescue is all about.

## Buddy the Bionic Dog

Buddy came to his foster home with a number of wounds that appeared to be dog bites. With medication and time most of the wounds healed nicely. However there was one on the inside of his left hind leg that wasn't healing well. The vet put him on a different antibiotic and that seemed to do the trick. Unfortunately, in a short period of time, the wound opened again. This time the vet decided to stitch it to give it time to heal. After a couple weeks it appeared to be fine.

Within a few weeks, the wound opened up again. Poor Buddy, whose favorite thing in life was to fetch his ball, was back on restricted activity again. While putting a topical antibiotic on the wound his foster mom saw something that looked metallic. Afraid that he had somehow cut himself she took him back to the vet. This time they decided to do an x-ray.





When she went to pick him up the vet tech came out smiling and said that they had discovered that Buddy was a bionic dog. Much to everyone's surprise Buddy had a six inch long metal plate in his leg with six screws in it. One of the screws was causing the wound to recur.

Buddy had to go to a veterinary orthopedic specialist to have the plate removed from his leg. Again he had a long recovery period with a cone on his neck and restricted activity. No one knows how long he had the plate in his leg or why he ended up in rescue.

After months of restriction he was finally allowed to play with his beloved ball! He has been adopted by a wonderful family who loves to play ball with him. The story of Buddy the Bionic Dog finally has a happy ending!

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## JoJo and Rachel

BRBCR rescued two dogs from shelters this year that were extreme neglect cases. JoJo had sarcoptic mange and Rachel had severe flea dermatitis. Both are sweet dogs who were very frightened in the shelter and needed a soft place to land so they could recover.

Their transformation has been amazing! Vet care and secure foster homes allowed them to recover and relax and to show their loving personalities. They're both beautiful! JoJo now has a wonderful forever home with a great family and a doggy buddy. Rachel is back from a road trip to the beach in Florida with her foster mom and has also found her forever home.

### JoJo - before and after



### Rachel - before and after



## Have Some Fun Together!

Take a class, find a club, or train at home. Here are some helpful links.



**Dog Agility** is a popular sport that has you guiding your dog nimbly and quickly through tunnels, around weave poles, and through tires!

AKC: <https://www.akc.org/sports/agility/>

US Dog Agility Association (USDAA): <https://www.usdaa.com/>

North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC):

<https://www.nadac.com/>

UK Agility International (UKI): <https://ukagilityinternational.com/>

**Canine K9 Nose or Scent Work** was created to mimic professional detection dog tasks.

National Association of Canine Scent Work:

<https://www.nacsw.net/>

AKC Scent Work:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-scent-work/>

### Obedience

AKC Dog Obedience:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/obedience/getting-started/>

United Kennel Club: <https://www.ukcdogs.com/obedience>

**Coursing Ability Test** is a timed 100-yard dash where dogs run one at a time, chasing a lure.

AKC: <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/coursing-ability-test/>

**Trick Dog** is the perfect sport for keeping your dog engaged. No matter what the weather is or where you are, you and your pup can practice skills. Try having your dog do a trick before each meal. Make it fun!

AKC <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>

**Disc Dog** (also called Frisbee Dog) is another team building sport. The following link provides links to Disc Dog organizations by state. <https://flyingcanines.com/2017/05/23/list-of-disc-dog-clubs/>



**Dock Diving** is a sport for dogs who love water and enjoy retrieving a ball or toy

North America Diving Dogs: <https://northamericadivingdogs.com/>

Dock Dogs - <https://dockdogs.com/>

### Nose work at home - Try hiding your dog's treats in the house or yard.

You can play this game almost anywhere. Hide treats and let your pup use their nose to sniff them out. You can put food in Kongs and hide them. You can also use homemade pouches and plastic containers. Some of the containers can be easy for your dog to open, but it adds another dynamic to the game if they have to bring their found treasure back to you for their reward.

## Dixieanna and her pups – how fostering makes all the difference



Dixianna came to BRBCR in mid-May, a young, pregnant stray from the shelter in Buckingham Co, VA. She was timid, underweight, covered in fleas and ticks, and battling erlichia and giardia, but she was very sweet and loving. On May 31 the first of nine puppies made her appearance. After the first five puppies were born, Dixianna got up and left the whelping box, and went to a corner of the room to deliver the sixth puppy. Then she returned to her whelping box. Foster mom quickly cleaned up the rejected puppy and returned him to the litter, but Dixianna removed him from the whelping box two more times. At that point, foster mom became surrogate mom. For the following two days, the rejected puppy lived inside her shirt and got fed with a syringe every three hours. On the morning of his third day of life this puppy blew a milk bubble out of his nose, and upon examination, foster mom discovered a hole in the roof of his mouth.

The BRBCR volunteers flew into action and contacted another rescue group who specializes in cases like this. By the end of that same day, the sixth puppy was in the expert hands of Sanctuary Rescue.

The honour of naming the puppies went to the foster granddaughters, who chose the theme of ‘Shades of Blue’. The five girls were named Sapphire, Turquoise, Azure, Maya, and Tiffany. The four boys were named Electric, Cobalt, Steel, and Navy (the sixth puppy). Dixianna continued to fight health issues, and the foster granddaughters learned how to bottle feed the puppies during those critical times.



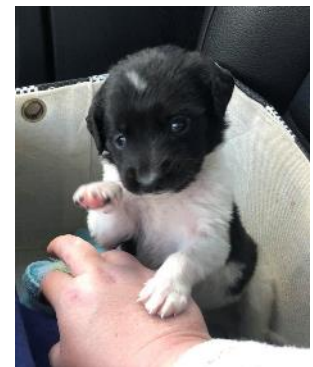
The rest of the puppies grew quickly, but also battled giardia, which they had acquired from their mom. They became very good at gulping down their medicine and taking baths twice a day! By this time, the puppies already had their forever families waiting for them to reach the age when they could leave the litter. These wonderful families knew that they would have to continue to treat any recurrence of giardia, but that didn't change their dedication to the puppies they had fallen in love with!

Dixianna's foster mom sends a special thank you to BRBCR volunteers Felicity Lien for making the 6-hour trip to save Navy, to Sue Weis, Cathy Kinzie and Teresa Louro for additional foster support, and again to Sue and Cathy for their guidance through the exciting journey of raising puppies.

**Navy Update:** Navy (now Deacon) joined his new family, including BRBCR Alum Bishop, on August 2. He passed the meet-and-greet with his future family, including his soon-to-be older brother Bishop.



The tiny pup has become a happy 25-lb ball of energy who never leaves his big brother's side. Bishop has been teaching Deacon how to be a dog, filling the role that Deacon's siblings would have played in his development had he been able to stay with his litter.



His family thanks BRBCR and Sanctuary Rescue for all their hard work in bringing Deacon home.