

# Lizzy Talk



A Newsletter From Lizzy

Fall 2024



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## Lizzy is celebrating!



November is cause for celebration at Lizzy's Fund! The entire month is Senior Pet Month and we could not be happier. Not only does this event create awareness about the awesomeness of owning a senior pet but due to the generosity of a group of loving benefactors, we are happy to announce all donations during the month will be 100% matched. This will make your donation go **doubly** far, helping us with our mission to provide care for senior dogs in shelters and rescues.

**Follow the link below to donate**

<https://www.lizzysfund.org/donate>

## Lizzy's Fund is on TV

**Lizzy's Fund** was interviewed in October by NCTV17's own Jane Wernette and will be on NCTV17's Spotlight segment airing beginning on October 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. We are thrilled to share our story with viewers and get the word out about the wonderfulness of owning a senior dog. Watch for the segment on our Facebook page!





## *Why we adopt or rescue*

Currently, and post COVID, shelters and rescue groups are experiencing a large population of housed dogs. This is most likely due to families returning to work in person rather than the work at home environment that existed during the long COVID lock-down. For a senior dog, this transition can be extremely traumatic.

Although returning to in-person work and school might be good for our mental health, it created an unfortunate situation for dogs adopted while we were at home most days. Many dogs adopted during the pandemic have been returned; a very sad thing indeed for the unfortunate animals who do not understand the drastic changes that have occurred. Imagine the scariness that a homeless animal experienced. First, being surrendered to a shelter or rescue, then being rehomed, only to be returned to a shelter or rescue again.

Another reason for the uptick in the shelter overpopulation is “The economy right now is really challenging for a lot of families,” said Kim Alboum of the Bissell Pet Foundation, a national animal welfare organization. “And with the housing crisis, people are losing their homes and are having to downsize or move in with others. And this is a recipe for disaster for people that have dogs.”



We would like to visit the reasons why the next generation of adopters are stepping forward to consider the benefits of welcoming a senior dog into their home; a noble endeavor indeed.



**Companionship:** All of us enjoy being cared for and loved. Having company in our home provides us with comfort and love combined with a genuine feeling of family

**Company for another pet:** Sometimes we have an existing dog (or cat) who could benefit having a companion buddy. Not only could another dog provide comfort to them, sometimes providing a canine companion to your dog or cat provides much needed exercise and distraction.

This can have the additional benefit of eliminating bad behaviors.

**Providing a societal benefit:** Some adopters realize that, by adopting a homeless dog, they are providing a valuable community service. Not only are they doing something wonderful for the dog, but it also eliminates the financial burden on the shelter or rescue and makes space for another dog that needs help.

Saving a life? That would make anyone feel good!

**In closing, it does not matter why you adopt,  
it only matters that you do and we are grateful for you!**



## *Update on Successes of Brody's Memorial Fund*

July 1st came and went again this year. For the Diedrichsen this day brings bittersweet memories marking the anniversary of their collie Brody's passing. As they say, time heals all wounds. They have been able to put their sad memories aside and focus on the good. Remembering Brody today, after 3 years, puts smiles on their faces.



Gail shares, "Everybody claims their dog is special. In fact, that is the way we should ALL feel about our lucky dogs. Brody truly was an exceptional dog. His life was devoted to service. Whether Brody was in a classroom lying next to a reluctant reader, listening or sitting next to a patient's wheelchair enjoying scratches behind his ear, he showed his goodness. Brody was an amazing therapy dog. I do believe he knew he was a rescued dog and paid it forward every day. When he was abandoned at a rural county shelter, his life was spared. I truly believe from the day he settled into the backseat of my car so I could bring him home, his life's goal became to show his gratitude. He loved everyone. He volunteered at four local humane societies, a long list of local schools and libraries, and several nursing homes. He shared his love and affection with countless people who needed him. He reminded older people of a collie they once knew from their younger years back on the farm. He also looked a lot like Lassie, a popular movie star from back in the day and this brought smiles. Working with struggling young readers was his without a doubt his specialty. As a former reading teacher, I can honestly say I never saw students work harder to succeed than when Brody was playing learning games with them."

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The Brody Memorial, (a restricted fund within *Lizzy's Fund*) a fund launched on July 1, 2021, not only honors Brody, but it makes it possible for his kind acts can continue. Gail says, "Turning the grief we were feeling inside outward was not only healing to us, but it gave us purpose - a goal. To think Brody, although no longer at our side, continues accomplishing so much good is very satisfying. It has kept his spirit alive. Knowing senior collies continue to thrive because of him is a wonderful feeling."

The Brody Memorial Fund assists the Lizzy's Fund organization financially with veterinarian care and grooming needs. This extra care often is exactly what a dog needs in order to be seen as adoptable. However, sometimes a dog needs to be placed in a fostering home permanently. When Lizzy Care (the hospice component of Lizzy's Fund) steps up for a senior Collie the funds are provided by Brody's Memorial Fund. This year we have had two such senior collies in hospice.

We are delighted to share two of our celebrated success stories as a way of thanking you, our generous supporters.

## Princess & Melody's Stories

**Princess's** given name suited her well. As pretty a sable collie as anyone has seen, her underlying health problems at her age made her less likely to be adopted. Princess's previous owner found comfort in knowing her pet would be safe when she was no longer able to care for her due to her own consequential life changes.



Princess lived out her full life loved by Debbie Dombrowski, her fosterer. Her sweet disposition was a joy and her quirky personality gave Debbie laughs every day. Princess suffered from arthritis, kidney issues, and limited vision. She also needed abscessed teeth removed. But she was still happy. As Debbie describes, "She barked with joy, loved to spin with excitement at mealtime, and especially enjoyed her morning sniffers in the yard." Princess passed away recently. Although we were sad to learn of Princess's passing, we found comfort in knowing we had made sure her care was never a financial burden for Debbie.

**Melody** thrived in her fostering home with Joyce Janu. Melody, like Princess, was in our Lizzy Care hospice program. Joyce and her family had grown very attached to their fostered girl, Mel. Upon arrival her appearance was somewhat of a shock. Our hearts broke with the realization she was relinquished by her owner who could no longer care for her. Melody had one missing eye. She was in dire need of a good grooming, her teeth were rotting in her mouth, and her urinary tract infection was significant. It's hard to believe, but these problems were easier to fix than that of her life threatening cancerous lump. It had been allowed to grow the size of a large grapefruit. It was located on her rump and needed removal. Giving Melody a chance, *Lizzy's Fund* made sure she was taken care of. Due to her age and the likelihood that her cancer would return, Melody became a candidate for Lizzy Care.



She was well loved by her fostering family and was happy. She played with the dogs she lived with and her personality bloomed. We kept a close watch on her but unfortunately her cancer eventually returned.

Reflecting over the past three years, and realizing how many senior collies, whether through traditional vet care and alternative enrichment or through loving hospice care, Brody's Memorial Fund has helped is a testament to the fund's success. Some of these dogs have passed away of old age. But, what's wonderful is knowing these fortunate dogs lived their final days well loved.

**This is success.  
Our success is truly your success.**

*During the month of November Lizzy is paying for the adoption fees for senior dogs that are adopted from participating local shelters and rescues?  
There is not a better time to consider adding a senior dog to your family!*



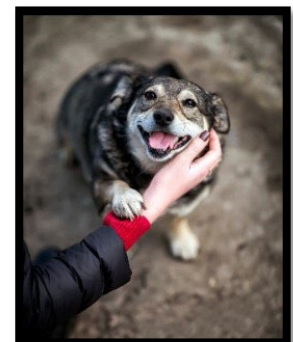
## Definition of Love

We often think about what having a senior dog in our life means to us. We have pondered why these wonderful seniors enrich our lives so much and will describe each word that comes to mind in each of the next several newsletters. This newsletter's word is...

**devotion** /di-vō-shən/

loyalty & love or care for someone or something,  
faithful & loyal

One only needs to look into the soulful eyes, albeit sometimes cloudy, of a senior dog to understand what true love and loyalty feels like. In our life, it's not often that we are fortunate enough to be worshipped with an unwavering **devotion**.



*We are grateful...*

Last month, Lizzy hosted a BINGO event. This was a first for us and was a tremendous undertaking. Due to a LOT of work by an amazing group of volunteers, we are happy to report that the event was a huge success! A fun time was had by all and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of games, prizes, amazing raffle items as well as some delicious food. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers; Gail Diedrichsen, Joyce Janu, Pam Folk, Miranda Folk, Brandon Folk, Art Diedrichsen, Ted Slupik, and Wendy Marx. But most of all, thanks to all that attended. Stay tuned for another Bingo event next year!



*Lizzy's Fund*®

is an IRS approved not-for-profit charity that provides financial support to senior canines, aged 7 and older.

**Donations are gratefully accepted, please consider helping a senior dog today!**

*Lizzy's Fund*®

1700 Park Street, Suite 202, Naperville, IL 60563

(630) 364-2204

[www.lizzysfund.org/donate](http://www.lizzysfund.org/donate)



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**Our mailing address is:**

1700 Park Street, #202

Naperville, IL 60563

(630) 364-2204

