
Proud Tradition

THE STORY BEHIND THE SELECTION OF REVEILLE VIII



Russell Dyke, Julie Hinrichsen, Felicia Van Cleave, John Busch, and Reveille VIII on Saturday, August 30, 2008, before the Texas A&M versus Arkansas State football game where Reveille VIII was officially introduced

Russell Dyke &

Julie Hinrichsen

Juell's

as Interviewed by

Collie Expressions

Please tell us about the background of your line. How long have you been involved in Collies?

Julie had a bad experience as a child with a large dog and grew up deathly afraid of dogs. When we got married, I did not expect we would ever have a dog. It was very surprising when she said she wanted a Collie. We had just finished watching a news report where a Collie saved a young two-year-old that had wandered into a horse corral and spooked the horses. Julie was recovering from torn ACL surgery and thought walking a Collie would be good therapy. I liked the idea, but asked Julie, "Who are you and what did you do with my wife?"

Our first contact in Collies was with Jane Clymer in early 1999, who at the time was the CCA District Director for Kansas. I still remember the grilling from her. We must have done OK, because she sent us to Helen Cornio of Milen Collies. Helen had an eight-month-old sable merle with one blue eye, Milen's Politically Incorrect, that she decided needed to go to a pet home, and "Charlie" became our first Collie. Interestingly enough, he now lives with Julie's sister and their family. Once we started showing, he stayed with them



REVEILLE VIII (FORMERLY TAPESTRY TENACIOUS JUELL)

- Ch. Tartanside Th' Critic's Choice, ROM
- Ch. Countryview Golden Starr
 - Starr's Dark Crystal, ROM
- Ch. Tartanside Vanguard
 - Ch. Starr's Tailor-Made, ROM
 - Tartanside Tantalize
 - Ch. Tartanside Anticipation
- Ch. Tapestry Tartanside Image
 - Raptorvale Mariner Ice Storm
- Ch. Tartanside Illumination
 - Ch. Tartanside Imagination, ROM
- Ch. Tapestry Stich In Thyme
 - Ch. Sealore's Grand Applause
- Ch. Tartanside Tenacious
 - Tartanside Charisma
- Ch. Tartanside Th' Critic's Choice, ROM
- Ch. Tartanside Shillelagh
 - Ch. Tartanside Ballerina, ROM
- Ch. Tapestry Shenanigan
 - Tartanside Absolute
 - Tapestry Absolute N'Thyme
 - Ch. Tapestry Stich In Thyme
- Tapestry Tamoshanter
 - Ch. Hi Vu The Enchanter
 - Tartanside Preview, ROM
 - Tartanside Inspiration
- Tapestry Shenstone Chapeau
 - Ch. Tartanside Th' Critic's Choice, ROM
 - Shenstone Sunbeam
 - Intrigue's Special Blessing

show weekends, and their youngest boy called Julie and asked, "Aunt Julie, can Charlie stay a little bit longer?" He never came home to us, as he had found a home with kids to herd.

Helen Cornio is our mentor and dear friend. She gave us our first start with a show-quality female puppy and the foundation of our kennel. Although she herself never finished, she provided our first homebred champion by Champion Tapestry Tartanside Image. Our first champion was a puppy from Steve and Lisa Finken, Champion Tapestry Deacon Blues - "Nick" (Ch. Tapestry Heir Jordan x Ch. Tapestry Silver Spring). Steve and Lisa have taken the time to work with us and help us along the way. It was Lisa who told us when we got Nick, "We just want to make sure you get something nice."

We have in the last few years started working with Michelle Struble of Valley Park Collies. When Helen Cornio said she was breeding a female we had leased for our first

litter to Champion Tartanside Allegiance, ROM, we made sure we were first in line behind her for selection of a puppy. Since this was an outcross for Helen, she was not sure which one she wanted, so she told us when we arrived, "Oh, just pick one." This was surprising to say the least. Our pick turned out to be Champion Juell's Promise Of Milen. If it was possible for a puppy to glow, he did. At seven months old he had his first Group placement, and he finished with specialty majors under judges Tom Coen and Fran McNamee. He was special as he was the first champion we finished ourselves. If all goes as expected, he should have his second litter on the ground in November.

Reveille VIII, formerly Tapestry Tenacious Juell, was a puppy we received from a litter we whelped for Steve and Lisa Finken. Reveille was one of two out of the litter that always went to investigate new noises while her littermates headed for the hills. She grew up to show very well in

Continued on Page 10

the show ring, to include a first place finish in an Open Juniors class in a large group of Junior Handlers. She did not end up pointed, as she had the luck to always be in the same class as a Collie that took Best of Variety at the North Texas Collie Club in the few showings she had.

What do you stress, physically and mentally, in your breeding program?

Most of our puppies go to pet homes, so we focus on health, temperament, and do our best to match personalities to what the person is seeking. One of the things Texas A&M learned from us is that each puppy in a litter has its own personality. While that is obvious to those of us that breed Collies, it was an epiphany to them. They always assumed that “a dog is a dog,” and were amazed to learn that the reason Kelly matched up so well with what they needed was because her personality fit the environment. We work to have our pet puppies house-trained and socialized before they go to their new owners, as this helps with their transition. We only breed every 18 months to two years or so, and supplement this with a puppy from another breeder if the quality and pedigree is exceptional based on our needs.

How did you hear about the search for a new Reveille? Who encouraged you to participate?

Emily Berkley, the CCA District Director for Kansas, contacted us when she was notified of the search by the representative from Texas A&M. Emily was intimately aware of the litter Kelly came from. Emily is a huge supporter of the sire, Champion Tapestry Tartanside Image. She spent a lot of time evaluating the litter with us, and as a result selected one of the males out of the litter. Emily is also one of the biggest supporters of Felicia Van Cleave (our niece and Junior Handler). Felicia was the primary trainer for Kelly and the only one who showed her, both in Juniors and conformation. The knowledge of the litter, Kelly’s personality, training, and performance along with her looks led Emily to contact us to see if we were interested in allowing her to serve as Reveille for Texas A&M.

What particular traits made you feel as if Kelly were right for the job?

We knew Kelly possessed the correct personality, temperament, and looks to qualify her for consideration. One of the reasons she was not shown more than a limited amount was that she was so solid in the ring, and we were just waiting for her to mature. We knew loud noises did not bother her, as we live within a half of a mile from where they fire off the Fourth of July fireworks for the county. When she was just six weeks old, she and the boy

Emily selected were the two that always went to investigate new sounds or toys. She was also very attentive and loved to play fetch. She would always go find a toy and bring it to me when I came into the backyard. This combined with her full white collar and Shenstone red coat painted a pretty picture of what many people would associate with the traditional look of a Collie.

Tell us about the selection process. How did you have to prove Kelly to Texas A&M - and how did they have to prove themselves to you?

Julie described the selection process as grueling, not in a negative way, just that it left you emotionally worn out. Honored, thrilled beyond measure, but worn out. Our contact started with Becky McClintock, a Texas A&M grad and certified service dog trainer. We put together a “resume” and pictures of Kelly and sent it to Becky, who then interviewed us over the phone. It was during this interview, along with the initial research, that we determined Kelly would receive the love and care we wanted for her should she go to Texas A&M. Following this, Becky then passed our information on with her recommendation to Kevin Jackson, who was heading up the search for Reveille. We had several phone interviews with Kevin, who then asked to have a pair of veterinarians from our area who graduated from Texas A&M come by our house to evaluate Kelly, our kennel, and I am sure, us as well. It turned out that one of the vets was the Scientific Spokesperson for Hills Pet Nutrition, which is headquartered in Topeka. We were fairly confident that the interview went well, as they wanted to make sure they got a picture of themselves with Kelly before they left. This was on the 29th of July, and we did not hear anything for a week or so. Kevin Jackson called us for another phone interview, and then let us know the next day that they wanted to bring us down for an official visit, which is when it got real interesting.

We knew at this point she was under serious consideration, but did not know until afterwards she was the only one they paid to bring down for an official visit. We spent a lot of time researching anything we could find about past Reveilles and the search for Reveille VIII. From this, we knew they were keeping the results of the search process very quiet. Other than Emily, no other Collie people were told what was going on, even as we headed to Texas A&M for her evaluation. This was fortunate, as Texas A&M treated the process almost like a covert operation. For those that are familiar with how revered Reveille is by Aggies everywhere, you can imagine how much attention the search process was getting. They initially were going to have us stay at a hotel in town, but changed their minds



Mascot Corporal John Busch and Kelly get to know each other at the President's residence on Friday, August 8th

when the President offered up the President's residence on campus. Just to put this in context, the most recent president before her is now Secretary of Defense. We were more than a little awestruck.

We arrived at College Station late afternoon on Thursday, August 7th. After we arrived, we were escorted to the President's residence on campus and were not allowed out of our car until we were safely tucked away in the garage. Kevin Jackson told us he had spent the morning dodging the press, as he was afraid they had gotten a whiff of what was going on. As it turned out, they were just looking for an update. Whew! Once we were inside safely tucked away from view, the President could not keep away from Kelly any longer, and the feeling was mutual from Kelly's reaction. She and Kelly hit it off like long-lost buddies. We joked that Kelly knew who to suck up to.

The residence had a privacy fence around what they had us use for a pet exercise area, and they required us to send someone out first to make sure no one was around before we took her outside. Fortunately, it was about 10 days before school started, so there was not much activity to avoid.

Friday morning marked the start of the mutual evaluation process. The morning started with an escorted tour of the campus while Colonel "Shady" Groves, a retired fighter pilot and assistant to the Commandant, got to know Kelly. We learned that Reveille actually belongs to the Aggie Corps and more specifically the Office of the Commandant, in this case Lieutenant General (Retired) John Van Alstyne. Upon our return, Dr. Bonnie Beaver, DVM, head of the Veterinary Medicine School at Texas A&M, met us as her part of Kelly's evaluation, which

included evaluating her temperament with us in another part of the house. From what we could tell, Dr. Beaver, if she had her way, would have the mascot be a student in a dog suit. To say she is a little protective of Reveille is to say the Pope is a little bit Catholic. She made it clear, and was later echoed by General Van Alstyne, that Reveille VIII would be brought along slowly and would not be subjected to as many appearances as past Reveilles. The two of them are working hard to improve the Reveille program, and remove some of the issues they have experienced in the past, some of which were a result of the environment.

We probably spent the most time with Shady and the Mascot Corporals from the Mascot Company. This is where we really got to know the kids who are responsible for Reveille's daily care. One change the General made with this year's Mascot Corporal selection was to ensure they had experience with caring for dogs. In the past, the primary concern was the cadets' ability to handle the workload while maintaining their grades. It was just assumed Reveille would be loved and cared for as we would expect from a puppy we placed in a pet home. While it is an honor to be selected as the Mascot Corporal, as Reveille is a major celebrity around Texas A&M, this is a double-edged sword. Since it is required that Reveille go everywhere on campus with the cadet, it is impossible to go anywhere without drawing a crowd. After a while, this can get old if you don't absolutely love the dog. Hence the change, and it appears to be a good one. John Busch, from everything we have observed and have been told, truly loves Reveille VIII. He spent a lot of time with us, even after everyone left following the official selection

Continued on Page 12



General Van Alstyne and Corporal John Busch share a quiet moment with Kelly in the exercise yard of the President's residence before she is selected as Reveille



Kelly waits to fetch her Bevo toy at the BBQ dinner Saturday, August 9th

announcement, asking questions. He is genuinely a nice kid. We were fortunate enough to meet his parents on a later visit, and it is easy to tell why he is such a nice young man.

As it turns out, Saturday was the big day. We did not know, but guessed that we had Dr. Beaver's approval from her comments. We knew the President just loved her, but also knew she would take the advice of her advisors, so there we were. We toured the Corps Center and Museum where they have a special section on past Reveilles. The history and traditions at Texas A&M left Julie saying, "I thought the Catholic Church had a lot of traditions, until we visited Texas A&M." We met Becky McClintock when we got back to the President's residence, followed by our first meeting with General Van Alstyne. He came over in his exercise gear, as he had just left from his morning workout. It is likely he chose to do this so that the cadets could relax. In this form, he came across to us like a favorite grandfather, a real kind genuine person. However, when he talked, people listened.

Dr. Bonnie Beaver is extremely knowledgeable in the field of human-to-animal relationships. She has authored many books and articles on the subject and is a charter member of the College of Veterinary Behaviorists as well. To say she is an expert in the field is possibly an

understatement. All you have to do is go to the AVMA website and search for Dr. Bonnie Beaver and you will begin to understand her accomplishments. Her input was essential to Kelly's selection, as she is one of the primary experts providing counsel to General Van Alstyne and President Murano.

The General spent a lot of time asking questions and really listening. We talked for over an hour between the General, Becky, Shady, and us. He was searching for advice not only about Kelly, but about what improvements he could make in the Reveille program. One of the recommendations we agreed with is *do not start with a puppy in the hands of a cadet*. The puppy as Reveille outranks the cadet, and in a military environment that results in a very spoiled and poorly behaved dog. Starting with a two-year-old such as they have with Kelly allows for her to be already trained and to better understand her personality and temperament.

One of the special moments for us followed a discussion about what we wanted out of this process. "The worst thing that could happen," we told General Van Alstyne, "was for Texas A&M to take her and not love her they way we do. If you were to take her and not absolutely love her then we don't want you to take her just because she fits the basic needs." Not long after that he asked if Kelly was selected, what would we want in exchange for her. That was when we told him we did not want to be directly compensated - we would rather any money they would offer for her go to the Collie Health Foundation in conjunction with a gift from us. It was not long after that when the General turned to us and said, "You know, one of the best things about getting old is you can say whatever you want. I am a pretty good judge of character, and I just want to tell you that I like you people." That still feels good.

We went on to discuss that there were only two places Kelly was going to end up, "Texas A&M or our backyard." Only the honor and reassurance of how she would be cared for allowed us to offer her to Texas A&M. General Van Alstyne told us should she be selected we could request to have her back when she was retired, but we already knew the care for Reveille extended to her retirement. When they are ready to retire Reveille, they form a counsel to evaluate the many Aggie homes that apply for the honor to host the retired Reveille. The Corps maintain ownership and the host family must agree to annual visits/inspections from the Vet school. In the end you could not ask for a better retirement home. Reveille is truly treated like a queen.

For those of us who can only imagine such an honor, can you describe the moment you received the news that Kelly had been chosen?

Saturday evening was the main event of the trip. Everything had gone well. We felt as if we had found a new family. President Murano is just a nice person and her husband has a wonderful sense of humor. They treated us like we had been friends forever.

The evening consisted of a BBQ dinner at the President's residence with around 30+ people, including President Murano, her husband, General Van Alstyne, his wife, several key members of the Corps, Kevin Jackson, Jason Cook (the school's press secretary), and many key contributors to Texas A&M. At the time we did not realize this was the final test. We thought it was just a dinner where they would either select Kelly as the next Reveille or say thank you, but no thanks. This is when the nerves kicked in. Kelly started the evening cuddling with President Murano, some could say sucking up, which she did well. Kelly had free run of the residence throughout the weekend and made herself quite at home. Kelly greeted everyone as they arrived for the dinner hardly ever barking. Over the whole weekend, she barked three times, which is typical. She is a lover, not a barker. After everyone had arrived and Kelly had made the rounds greeting everyone, General Van Alstyne called us over and said, "This is exactly what we need. This is typical of the appearances for Reveille. An informal gathering of people. The fact that she does not need to be on a lead, and goes around the room spending time greeting everyone is exactly what we want out of Reveille." The most common comment we received was, "She is so calm, it is amazing." It occurred to us she worked the room like a fine Southern lady.

Prior to eating, I noticed that Kelly kept slipping off to the other room and coming back with a dog biscuit, so I followed her to the source and found General Van Alstyne pulling a biscuit out of his pocket and giving it to her. General Van Alstyne refers to himself as "Reveille's Lawyer." He is in charge of making sure she is well cared for as well as closely monitoring her appearances. He told John Busch, the Mascot Corporal, "You need to go slow with her, and underline slow three times."

John said, "I understand, sir."

"No you don't," General Van Alstyne replied. "You have never done anything slow in your life, or you would not be where you are at right now."

At some point in the evening, President Murano asked if Kelly would fetch, and produced a beanbag longhorn steer made to represent the Texas University mascot Bevo.

Knowing that Kelly loves to fetch, we told her to give it a try, and sure enough, she chased after Bevo and fetched him back, much to the delight of everyone in attendance. This continued for awhile as the photographer shot pictures, and everyone clapped. We still did not know if she would be selected, but she sure was popular.

Finally, President Murano pulled her advisors together and headed off to another part of the house to determine if they would want Kelly to be the next Reveille. We don't know how long they met, but it seemed like forever. We both sat at the table and fidgeted. I could just feel the grey hairs sprouting. Really, we were a young couple before that evening. They sent Kevin Jackson out to get us and you could not read anything from his demeanor. We came into the room and General Van Alstyne had his head down looking at the floor, and our hearts sank.

President Murano opened up with, "It is no secret we have fallen in love with Kelly." Deep breath, check for a pulse. I am sure she said something after this, but my heart was beating too loud to hear. "...We would like to work out the details of her becoming the next Reveille." We had to pinch each other to make sure we were not dreaming at this point. It was really going to happen! Wow!

President Murano left the room to announce the decision to the other guests while Kevin Jackson, General

Continued on Page 14



Mascot Corporal John Busch and University President Murano with Reville VIII before the football game where she was officially introduced

Van Alstyne, and Jason Cook worked through the details with us. Kevin started by saying, "You told us from the beginning you were not looking to sell Kelly, and there was some concern you might change your mind." We explained, "We would not have made the trip if we were not emotionally prepared to let Kelly come to Texas A&M as the next Reveille."

General Van Alstyne took over and asked us officially what we wanted as compensation for Kelly, and we told them we did not want to be compensated directly, rather we would like any money they would offer for her to go along with a donation from us as a joint donation to the Collie Health Foundation. Then the General asked, "Would \$5,000 be sufficient?"

OK, at this point I have to admit I lost consciousness, as I could not believe what he just said. You could have knocked us over with a feather. I didn't catch it, but Julie was watching Kevin Jackson, and his eyes showed this was even a surprise to him. After several breaths, we were able to say something like, "Yes, that would be more than sufficient." Wow again! The meeting ended with the announcement that they want to bring us down to Texas A&M twice a year, and we had to bring "that young lady" with us, referring to Felicia.

We broke from the room to be met by congratulations, thanks, handshakes, and hugs. A blur of pictures and a discussion with the Jason Cook, the Press Secretary, wrapped up the event. We ended the evening sitting on the couch talking at length with John Busch about Kelly and their pending relationship.

What was your niece's role in the story?

Steve and Lisa Finken asked us to whelp the litter Kelly came from. What no one expected was Tapestry Tamoshanter ("Tammy") delivered almost a week early. Kelly was typical of the litter, weighing in under 5 ounces. Julie said they were about the size of a chicken

Felicia Van Cleave and Mascot Corporal John Busch on Saturday, August 30th, just before the Texas A&M versus Arkansas State football game where Reveille VIII was announced

strip. Felicia had just finished the last day of school and was ready for summer break. Instead, she came over and lived with the litter at our house for the first two weeks, making sure everyone got hooked up and nursed well. We only lost one puppy, and that was one of the smallest that was rejected by her mother. In the end, the remainder all ended up healthy thanks to Felicia's constant vigilance.

Felicia trained Kelly and was the only one who showed her in either conformation or Junior Handling. Felicia was instrumental in getting Kelly through her puppy stages and into the right frame of mind to be successful as a Junior's show dog.

Felicia and her mother are excellent trainers. Several people have sent their Collies to Camp Van Cleave for training and all have come away very pleased. Michelle Struble (Valley Park Collies) worked out a co-ownership with us on one of her females so that Felicia can show her until she is bred to Champion Juell's Promise Of Milen. Emily Berkley (Liege Collies) sent her current special, Champion Liege's Standing In The Rainbow, to Camp Van Cleave when she was a puppy. She told us recently that Cara would not be where she is at if not for Felicia. Felicia has a very gentle touch with Collies and equally enjoys training as well as playing with them. While it is hard to win in Juniors with a Collie, she has done well. She finished in the Top 20 in Juniors in 2005 and is working hard to return to the Top 20 this year.

From what we understand, giving up Kelly was a little



bittersweet for your family. Had you originally envisioned a different future for her?

We had big plans for Kelly. We had already worked out to have her spend October through December this year with Steve and Lisa Finken in Iowa so she would grow a really nice heavy coat. Everyone pretty much agreed she had the potential of finishing next year. Kelly possessed several attributes we wanted to reinforce in our line. We love her Shenstone red coat, and while you don't pick for coat color or markings specifically, it was still tough to let her go without getting even one litter out of her. However, in the end, we really do believe, "If it does not hurt a little bit to give her up, then Texas A&M is not getting the Collie they deserve." It is important that as Collie Club of America members, we ensure the public faces of our Collies are excellent examples of the breed. This includes staying involved after they are placed. We would not have let her go if we did not establish an open channel to General Van Alstyne, President Murano, and the Mascot Corporal through Colonel "Shady" Groves. They have committed to paying for us to come back twice a year to help make sure things are going well. Besides that, we have maintained email contact as appropriate. It was hard, but in the end she is revered by all of Aggieland and is treated like a queen. How do you tell your child she cannot grow up and be a queen? It was the right thing to do for her.

One of the most wonderful things about this story is the joint donation made by Texas A&M and Juell's Collies to the CHF in lieu of payment for Kelly. Can you put into words why you made your decision?

When you ask why we made this decision, it is difficult to explain. It is just the way we operate. It never was on our radar to accept money or to profit from her placement. It was never about the money, notoriety, or accolades, it was what was best for the breed we love.

After we reviewed some of the challenges Texas A&M has had with past Reveilles, we were determined to help make sure they were happy with their next selection. One of the things that stood out was they were seriously considering different breeds. What was important was to ensure the next Collie that served as Reveille did not have health issues in its pedigree. What better way to show our concern for the health of the breed than to have a joint donation in lieu of payment given to the Collie Health Foundation?

You have mentioned some improvements that Texas A&M will be making to the Reveille program as they come to better understand our breed. Can you tell us what they are doing differently with Reveille VIII than in the past?

We spent a long time talking to General Van Alstyne, and when he says he is Reveille's Lawyer, he means it. We talked at length with him about how the Reveille program is run now and how it can be improved. From our discussions, it is obvious he is an excellent listener and a very intelligent person with a good heart. This is high praise, but deserved. He has significantly cut back authorized Reveille appearances. One thing stands out above all the rest: they are taking it S-L-O-W-L-Y when it comes to her assuming her new duties. Only on-campus events sponsored by Texas A&M will be considered for Reveille appearances, and then not all will be approved. Her initial on-field appearances at football games will be limited to short appearances as she is slowly desensitized to the crowd, cannon, and on-field action. They do not plan to have her make appearances for basketball games, as there is not enough distance from the crowd and it is potentially too intense for any dog to endure.

We have had discussions about the next selection and how to improve upon what they experienced with the sudden need to retire Reveille VII and search for Reveille VIII, which left them in a tough situation where they had to move forward with a search for Reveille VIII before they expected. They have come to realize that bringing a puppy into their environment is not a good move.

In order to avoid being caught off guard in the future, we suggested, and the General agreed, that they needed to start the selection process earlier and combine it with a training program for the Reveille-in-waiting. This will allow them to have a trained adult Collie take over when they retire Reveille VIII. The details for this process are to be determined, but the rough plan has begun to take shape and we expect to be part of the discussion group.

What is the latest news on Kelly, now Reveille VIII? How is she adapting to her new role?

General Van Alstyne recently emailed us to tell us she is by far exceeding their expectations. If you understand how the military operates, then you would understand generals do not use adjectives in their compliments often. We were on the field when she was introduced to the crowd at Kyle Field for the first game. She never showed any sign of being nervous - quite the opposite. She was escorted on the field and commanded to sit next to John Busch. When she was introduced, she stood up, shoved out her chest, and brought her ears forward, pulling them tight on top of her head as if to say, "They are cheering for me!" Which of course they were. She has since been spayed and is doing well.

We visited her after the game in the room she shares with John Busch and another cadet. She greeted us with lots

Continued on Page 16

of enthusiastic wagging and kisses. She has her own bed, custom-made blanket with her name and rank, and the Bevo toy she fetched the day she was selected. Felicia was also given some private time to help John with his handling and presentation of Reveille VIII. He is very intent on learning and holds Felicia in high esteem.

How often do you expect to see her in the future?

We will see her twice a year at a minimum, but I expect we will travel down from time to time at our own expense. We also keep in touch by email and phone as applicable.

Is there anything else that we haven't directly asked about that you would like to mention?

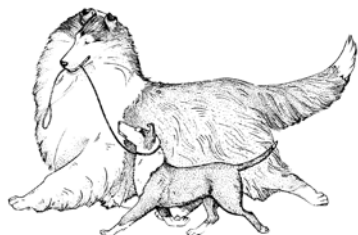
This has been a whirlwind event in our lives so far. While our second trip to Texas A&M was not cloak-and-dagger, it was still somewhat daunting. Our luncheon before the game was at a large 300+ gathering that included Governor Rick Perry of Texas. We were seated at General Van Alstyne's table, sitting next to an active-duty four-star general. During the luncheon, we were introduced and asked to come to the podium by President Murano, where they presented us with a copy of Reveille VIII's student ID card! While we were there we were also personally

introduced to the Governor, as if that was just something you do everyday.

We owe special thanks to Steve and Lisa Finken for trusting us to whelp a litter for them on top of everything else they have done for us. While we whelped and raised Kelly, it was their breeding that produced Kelly (which is why we placed the ad on ColliesOnline.com to thank them formally). They are special people and need to be acknowledged.

We would also like to formally thank Emily Berkley, the Kansas District Director for the CCA. She has been one of the strongest supporters of Felicia besides us. Kelly would not be at Texas A&M as Reveille VIII if it were not for her support and help in getting us started down this path. She is a dear friend and active advocate for what she believes in.

We have tried to communicate the amazing journey from a small kennel in Kansas to the national stage provided by Texas A&M. Aggies everywhere have a special place in their heart for Reveille. We are thrilled and honored to be part of their tradition. We are also thankful for being part of the on-going process of ensuring future success of their program and our little girl.



COLLIE HEALTH FOUNDATION

THE COLLIE HEALTH FOUNDATION AND TEXAS A&M:

A TRADITION OF PARTNERSHIP

For more than a decade, the CHF has helped fund investigations by Texas A&M researchers, providing tens of thousands of dollars for projects that will benefit our breed and dogs in general.

1996: Drs. Rees and Boothe • Pentoxifyllin (Dermatomyositis drug) - \$5,000.00
1997: Drs. Rees and Boothe • Pentoxifyllin (DM treatment drug) - \$5,500.00
1998: Dr. C.W. Dewey • Seizure disorders (epilepsy) - \$9,100.00
1999: Drs. Rees and Boothe • Pentoxifyllin - \$3,000.00
2001: Dr. Christine Rees • Isolation of DNA from blood samples in normal Collies and Collies with Dermatomyositis - \$6,500
2004: With AKC CHF • Background information study for future development of a molecular genetics study in Collies and Shetland Sheepdogs with Dermatomyositis - \$1,749

2005: Gene expression profile of Dermatomyositis in the Shetland Sheepdog - \$20,700
2006: Dr. Keith Murphy • Analysis for Linkage Disequilibrium with Dermatomyositis of the Collie - \$20,000

And with the AKC CHF, Grant #792: Dermatomyositis in the Collie, Dr. Leigh Anne Clark. Propose to collect DNA from affected Collies and family members for use in linkage studies. Our goal is to identify a marker, or markers, that can be used by breeders to identify dogs that are predisposed to develop DM. We also aim to identify the gene(s) that may be causative for DM.

Our contribution: \$45,000 from AKC CHF donor advised fund, matched 100% by AKC CHF