

Border collie credited with helping save dog hit by car



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Julien Marit gets a kiss from Monty — the border collie credited with helping save her dog Airlie's life — while Monty's caregiver, Ann Adam, looks on.

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

While dogs are usually considered man's best friend, a local pooch may beg to differ after her life was saved by Monty, a fellow courageous canine, last week.

The three-year-old border collie was going for his morning walk, half an hour earlier than usual, February 7 when he forced Miltonian Ann Adam off their usual path and pulled her through a Hawthorne Village park over to where Airlie, a two-year-old female Weimaraner, was lying.

She'd been involved in a hit-and-run accident on Fourth Line and, although badly injured, managed to venture about half a mile away to the park.

"Monty is quite strong, and he absolutely pulled and pulled me," said Ms Adam, noting the hero dog actually belongs to her son, Paul. "Then I realized, my goodness, there's a dog here. At first, she didn't look injured, but she wasn't moving. I think even our dog sensed something was wrong."

What Ms Adam didn't know, but vets later confirmed, was that Airlie was actually on the brink of death and her owners had

been searching for her for three hours.

"It was the most terrifying feeling in the world," owner Julien Marit said.

The horrible ordeal began for Ms Marit and her fiancé, Mike Travis, at 7 a.m. when they let Airlie and her brother, six-month-old Weimaraner Madden, outside to go to the bathroom.

Ms Marit said she watched the dogs while they wandered around their 80-acre Fourth Line property. Airlie then went into her pen, and Ms Marit went to get her a cookie.

But when she came back a few seconds later, Airlie was gone. She quickly ran around to the front of the house to look for her beloved canine and was horrified at what she heard.

"We could hear her (Airlie) screaming from our house," Ms Marit said.

She ran inside to get Mr. Travis and both took off down their long driveway, Mr. Travis on foot and Ms Marit driving. But to their dismay, Airlie was nowhere to be found.

"We couldn't find her, so we knew something was up," she said, adding they thought maybe the person who'd hit Airlie had scooped her up to drive her to an animal hospital.

The couple then spent agonizing hours looking for her at local vet clinics, Milton District Hospital, their own property and the surrounding neighbourhood.

"I even called a psychic — that's how desperate I was," Ms Marit said. "We knew that either she's dying somewhere or... we didn't know what the hell to think."

In their search, they discovered a bag of garbage someone had thrown on the side of the road that was surrounded by paw prints, which Ms Marit suspects is what lured Airlie away from the property.

As Ms Marit was continuing her search by phone, Mr. Travis then came flying into their driveway, madly honking the horn. Airlie had been found.

Ms Adam said after coming upon Airlie, she called the humane society and then she and her friend Martha McKay kept the injured dog company while they waited for help.

"When they (the humane society) pulled up, I noticed a young woman literally flying across the park. I've never seen anything like it," Ms Adam said.

That woman was Ms Marit, who said she even surprised herself at the speed she summoned to get to Airlie.

"I bent down to her but she didn't lift her head. She just curled up into a ball," Ms Marit said. "She was lying on a little tiny piece of grass surrounded by snow."

The couple then loaded her into the back of their SUV and rushed her down to see their veterinarian, Dr. Matt Croskery, at Oakpark Pet Hospital.

Ms Marit said although Dr. Croskery was at home at the time, he rushed into the clinic as soon as he heard what happened.

Airlie had sustained multiple injuries, • see DOG on page 11



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