

# Shining Star Award 2017

Every year the Collie Club of America selects the Shining Star Ambassador Collie. The award is open to any Collie that works as a Service Dog, Therapy Dog, Education/Library Assistance Dog or has done any good deed for his family or the community.

This year the CCA received 17 applications for the Shining Star program. While only one Collie-human team is selected as the Ambassador, all the applicants receive a certificate designating the Collie/human team as a "Shining Star."

Collie Club Of America  
Shining Star Ambassador Team 2017

## **Ace Mask and his partner Kane (Stonepoint Raising Kane OA OAJ AXP AJP THDD CGCA)**

Rough Collie - Male, Sable & White  
D.O.B.: 07/03/08 AKC#: DN22507004  
Breeder: *Gwen Medlin & Rick Medlin & Robert Berfield & Joan Berfield*



## **Certifications/Accomplishments**

- Certified Therapy Dog - Pet Prescription Team, La Habra, CA
- Canine Ambassador – Orange County Animal Care
- AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished Title
- AKC Advanced Canine Good Citizens Title
- Excellence in Volunteerism Award Presented by Todd Spitzer, Chairman Orange County Board of Supervisors
- Pet Prescription Team Therapy Dog of the Year Award
- Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Human Trafficking Bureau and Correctional Facility Therapy Dog Volunteer
- Children's Advocacy Center Therapy Dog Volunteer

With over six years of volunteerism, Kane well represents the characteristics of the noble Collie breed, and as a certified therapy dog has touched many lives. Kane has provided comfort and calm to children who suffer from brain injury, hospitalized children in the ICU and those receiving cancer treatment, those who have been victims of abuse, young students preparing for stressful academic tests, and young library readers. Kane has spent an equal amount of time with seniors in assisted care facilities (including Alzheimer's patients) and has been called upon by families to be present during the final stages of an elderly loved one's life.

Kane has spread cheer and relieved stress throughout terminals at Ontario International Airport in Ontario, California, providing a pleasant experience for travelers awaiting flights.

In 2015 Kane was selected as the first therapy dog to assist at the Children's Advocacy Center in Covina, California. The Center provides a supportive environment for child victims of physical or sexual abuse or those who have witnessed violence and are to be interviewed by detectives, attorneys, and children's services. Kane sits with the children and his presence aids them in feeling comfortable enough to relate their experiences to a trained specialist. As a result of this work, Kane has also been called upon to accompany young victims to court. In one such instance, he was commended by the prosecuting attorney, who said that Kane's presence at the court made a big difference by helping a young female victim of abuse find the courage to testify, resulting in the successful prosecution of the offender.

Last summer Kane was one of the first two dogs selected to assist the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department in the interview of young victims who are brought to Human Trafficking Bureau Headquarters. That has led to additional work for the Sheriff's Department including visits to Juvenile Halls and other correctional facilities including the Twin Towers in Los Angeles.

For over five years, as canine ambassador for the Orange County Animal Care, Kane has worked extensively with volunteers in a program designed to teach responsible pet ownership to preschoolers through 6th grade throughout Orange County. Kane provides “hands on” experience to children, who learn about all aspects of caring for a pet. He has received commendations for this work from various county representatives, including the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

In addition to his volunteer work, Kane has made professional appearances in ads and videos for Ralph Lauren and Milk Bone and promotional material for Ontario International Airport.

We have a greater appreciation for Kane’s accomplishments when we remember that at the age of five months Kane was stricken with a serious illness that veterinarians determined was either a viral brain infection or a reaction to a rabies vaccination. For several months he was subject to seizures and his coordination and equilibrium were severely

restricted. Despite a gloomy prognosis for his recovery, he eventually regained his normal health completely and was well enough to earn second and third place ribbons in his very first AKC Agility trial at the CCA National in 2010. He subsequently reached the Excellent Preferred category before retiring from agility competition.

Kane has set an example for Ace Mask’s other two Collies, Heather (Meridel’s Butter Won’t Melt) and Reign (Overland Summer Solstice), who have followed in his footsteps as therapy dogs. Together, all three dogs comprise The Collies of Heather Circle and have enjoyed considerable popularity on social media. Both Ace Mask and Kane look forward to representing the goals of the CCA Shining Star program for years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Corinne Boon and Deborah Gates,  
Co-Chairs, Shining Star Committee  
Committee Members:

Ann Boles, Susie DeLorenzo, Celia Van Voorhis ❖

