

**Paddy**



Paddy is a wonderful, happy, bouncing boy. He has always been my perfect puppy. He loves people and other dogs more than anything, and as a puppy he used to calm scared little dogs, by laying down in front of them, melting their owners hearts.

Paddy started herding at 4 1/2 months and he is 5 years old now. When herding his focus would stray to outside the arena to look at the people and other dogs. He still got the job done with the sheep. As luck would have it I had to stop handling him for physical reasons and he loved his new handler. He kept an eye on me and made sure I was still sitting there watching. That handler left and his next handler wanted his full attention. When he got it, something strange started happening. Paddy would come out of the arena fine, but his back legs would buckle and he would end up on his side, dog paddling his legs. The first time I thought he ran into a fence.

We went home and he was fine and wanted to play and take his evening walk. The next time he went to herd, he came out fine, then fell over and did the same dog paddling for just a few seconds. It looked almost like a seizure, yet he recovered too quickly for that. The third time this happened, after coming out of the arena, he went to greet a Yorkie and I thought he was laying down to be small, but then he went over on his side, and started dog paddling. It was not a hot day nor was he over worked physically. His trainer was kind and never harsh with the boy. I finally realized what was happening.

The University of Minnesota has isolated the gene for Exercise Induced Collapse. We sent in his cheek swabs and they came back clear of the gene, so it was not EIC. They are studying Border Collie Collapse that is similar but without the gene. We entered his information in that study.

As long as Paddy does not work sheep, he is fine. He can do agility, jog with Paul, and play without incident. So we stopped herding and are turning our attention to agility and rally. They are not so intense to him. There could be something else going on, but for now, no more testing until warranted.



Darlene Foley