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ANIMALS

Reunion makes happy dog tale

Santa Cruz woman's pet returned after sightseeing trip through Indiana

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MER NEWS

A Santa Cruz woman was reunited with her dog, Shadow, this week after the collie was found wandering northern Indiana.

Diane Gunn lost the dog near Angola in northeastern Indiana on a trip east in early May. The dog somehow made its way 53 miles west to Elkhart, where Cornelius and June Stoutenour found the dog behind their home on May 13.

It took June Stoutenour two weeks to reach Gunn, who had continued her travels. On Wednesday, the Elkhart woman put Shadow on

an airplane, and the dog was reunited with his owner in San Francisco late Wednesday night.

"She was thrilled when I called her," Stoutenour said.

When the Stoutenours found Shadow, it looked as if he had been through the mill. An eight-inch piece of chicken wire was entangled in his hair and had to be cut out. Elkhart veterinarian Thomas McNeill took care of the dog until he could be returned home.

Gunn's name and address was found on the dog's tags, but June Stoutenour was unable to reach her until May 26.

Gunn, 77, told Stoutenour that she had been traveling with Shadow and two smaller dogs in a camper when a motorist flagged her down May 12 near Angola. Gunn stopped and discovered that the camper door had come open and Shadow had jumped out.

Gunn continued her travels after notifying several police and humane societies but told Stoutenour her trip had been ruined. Shadow's return provided a happier ending.

The two women talked again by telephone Thursday morning.

"All she could talk about was the dog," Stoutenour said.