



Adopting a Rescue Sheltie

NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc – A Non Profit Charitable Organization

Why adopt a rescue Sheltie?

Each year NorCal Sheltie Rescue places 55 to 65 Shelties. There is a need for both adoptive families and foster homes for beautiful purebred Shelties that have become displaced through no fault of their own. Shelties lose their homes due to owner relocation, illness, divorce and a variety of other reasons. There are almost always Shelties available to a good home. Shelties ready for adoption have all been spayed or neutered, are current on their shots, heartworm tested and come with all medical attention cared for. These Shelties are all fostered in our homes and evaluated for temperament so that they can be matched with the ideal new family. It is very rewarding to know that there are great homes waiting for Shelties which might otherwise be put to sleep, abandoned at an animal shelter or left to run loose in the streets to be crippled or killed in traffic.

What are the requirements for adopting?

The main requirements for adopting a Sheltie are simple. We ask that you have a fenced yard, that you keep the dog as an indoor pet, and that you will treat the dog lovingly – as a full fledged member of the family. These are basic needs that all dogs deserve. The Shelties that we rescue may not have been lucky enough to have had a secure home in the past. When a rescue dog is treated with kindness and respect, it usually becomes more loyal and devoted than a dog raised in the same home from a puppy-hood.

How do I apply to adopt a rescue Sheltie?

We have provided an online application for adoption or fostering which you can fill out and send in via e-mail or U.S. mail. Go to www.norcalsheltierescue.org for the application. We may want to send a volunteer over to do a home check and we may check with your current vet for references.

What does it cost?

The *adoption donation* varies with the age of the Sheltie. Shelties under 3 years old are \$400-\$450, with adult Shelties usually about \$350. Senior dogs have a suggested donation of \$150. Sometimes we may ask more depending upon individual circumstances. Rescue funds are kept in a separate checking account. Donations received apply only to the care and successful placement of our rescues. All of our volunteers are not compensated for their rescue work.

What kind of dog will I get?

All Shelties are evaluated prior to adoption. The foster home will have a very good idea of the type of home in which each dog would be most suitably placed. Shelties can come in many colors, sizes and personalities, so our application asks a number of questions designed to give us an idea of your lifestyle, and what you are looking for in a pet. Most of our rescued Shelties are purebred adults, but on the rare occasion we will have a purebred puppy or a Sheltie mix.

How do I start?

When your application has been completed and sent to our Rescue Coordinator, you will be called or emailed when a possible match is available. You can then visit the foster home to meet the dog and decide if it is the dog for you. You should keep in mind that Shelties are often reserved with strangers, and until you and your new dog have created a bond, it may act shy and distant. A good way to decide if you like the dog's personality is to watch how it interacts with the foster owner. This is a good indication of how the Sheltie

will be with you, once it has "adopted" you!

What do I do when I find the dog I want?

When you find the dog that is right for you, you will be asked to sign an *Adoption Contract*. This contract basically states that you will make the dog a member of your family for the rest of its life. It also requires that if you are unable to keep the dog, that you will contact Sheltie Rescue for our assistance in placing the dog in a new home. We require that you immediately put an identification tag on your new Sheltie with all your contact numbers on it. We will often place the dog with a temporary ID with our contact numbers on it too.

What do I do if it doesn't work out?

The adoption contract offers a *two week grace period* during which you may return the adopted dog for a full refund, if you are unable to keep the dog for any reason. Sheltie Rescue will accept the dog for relocation at any time afterwards if needed.

Fostering a Sheltie for Sheltie Rescue

What is a foster home? When a Sheltie loses their home or is rescued from a shelter, an interim home is required while the dog is evaluated for health, temperament, and behavior. The foster home keeps the dog until it is adopted. Foster homes are the backbone of any rescue group. Without people who are willing to open their hearts and their homes to these homeless Shelties we would be unable to keep saving lives. We are in desperate need of foster homes.

What are the requirements for fostering a dog? To foster a dog until it is adopted you need to keep the dog in your home, as your own, until it is ready to be placed. Complete an Adoption/Foster Application found on our website and send it in. You will sign a *Foster Contract* legally allowing you to care for the Sheltie while staying with you. You will probably need to take it to the vet to be spayed/neutered and for shots and an exam. You may need to have the dog groomed if it has been neglected. Sheltie Rescue will reimburse you for all these types of expenses. Often the Sheltie is frightened and confused. This behavior will fade as he/she becomes more comfortable in its new surroundings. It is a wonderful feeling when your rescue dog shows you how grateful they are that you saved them! When you feel the dog is ready to be placed we will send screened applicants to visit the dog. Your evaluation of the dog is very important to fit the dog with the right family. The foster home experience is very rewarding. Please consider helping!

Other ways to help homeless Shelties

*Can I make a **tax deductible** donation to "Sheltie Rescue?"* Yes! Sheltie Rescue welcomes donations of all kinds. Indeed, we need them to keep helping homeless Shelties.

Make checks payable to "**NorCal Sheltie Rescue.**" Mail to NorCal Sheltie Rescue, P.O. Box 581934, Elk Grove, CA 95758-0033. Veterinary care is always our highest expense, even with the discounts we receive. We are a charitable rescue and a 501(c) (3) non profit. **Donations are tax deductible.**

I can't keep a dog for long periods of time, but I'd still like to help ... What can I do? Short-term rescue volunteers are always valued. These volunteers travel to pick up dogs from homes and shelters, and keep them for a few days until a foster home is open. You do not need to commit to the dog for the entire foster period, but you may be saving the life of a homeless Sheltie just the same! Call a rescue coordinator if you feel you may be able to assist in short term foster care.

**For more information contact the NorCal Sheltie Rescue Director Gale Ann Morris, at sheltieroses@frontiernet.net
Visit our website at www.norcalsheltierescue.org
NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc. & Shetland Sheepdog Companions Rescue of No. California – a 501c3 non profit**