

## Norcal Sheltie Rescue

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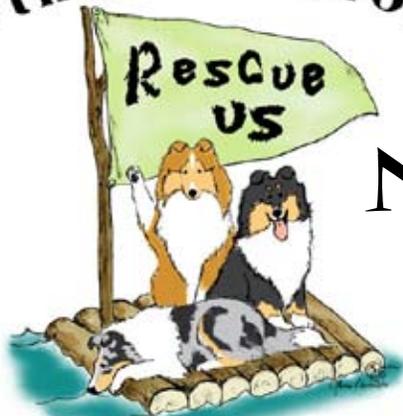
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# Northern California



# Newsletter

## December 2008

Norcal Sheltie Rescue Newsletters in a less costly, black-and-white version (along with an enclosed, self-addressed donation envelope) are mailed out via US mail to everybody on our mailing list. The Newsletter is also available in a glorious, four-color version on line at <http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org>. Please share the Newsletter with other Sheltie lovers and tell them to contact us if they would like us to include them on either our e-mail and/or snail-mail mailing lists.

## Sheltie Rescue

Shetland Sheepdog Companions of Northern California Rescue, Inc.  
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable rescue organization  
NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.

### Sheltie Rescue Logo Merchandise

Email your order to Nancy Berry at [nberry@citlink.net](mailto:nberry@citlink.net). Payment is expected upon receipt. Shipping will run about \$5 for one item (added to total). Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Indicate logo size and placement: Large or Small, Front or Back. THANK YOU!

**T-Shirts #PC61 \$20.00 S-6XL:** White, Aquatic Blue, Ash, Daffodil, Lt. Blue, Lime, Natural, Orange Sherbert, Pale Pink, Sand, Stonewash Green and Blue, Violet, Yellow, Athletic Heather, Maroon, Black, Cardinal, Charcoal, Colonial Blue, Dark Green, Gold, Kelly, Navy, Olive, Orange, Purple, Red, Royal, Sangria, Spruce, Steel Blue

**Pique Polos #3800 \$25.00 S-3XL:** White, Ash, Sport Grey, Black, Cardinal Red, Carolina Blue, Charcoal, Forest, Gold, Lt. Blue, Maroon, Navy, Purple, Red, Royal, Sand, Tangerine, Yellow Haze

**Pique Polos Long Sleeve \$27.50 S-3XL:** White, Black, Burgundy, Navy, Red, Royal, White

**Jersey Polos #8800 \$20.00 S-3XL:** White, Ash, Sport Grey, Black, Forest, Maroon, Navy, Purple, Red, Royal

**Crewneck Sweatshirts #18000 \$20.00:** White, Ash, Sport Grey, Black, Forest, Lt. Pink, Maroon, Navy, Orange, Purple, Red, Royal

**Hooded Sweatshirts #18500 \$30.00:** White, Ash, Sport Grey, Black, Dark Chocolate, Dark Heather, Forest, Irish Green, Lt. Blue, Lt. Pink, Maroon, Navy, Orange, Purple, Red, Royal, Sand

**Zip Hooded Sweatshirt #993M \$35.00:** White, Birch, Oxford, Black, Navy, Pink, Red, Royal

**Short Sleeve Denim Shirt #SL11 \$27.50**

**Long Sleeve Denim Shirt #SL10 \$30.00**

**Blankets with strap #BP10 \$25.00:** Gold, Purple, Lt. Pink, Black, Midnight Heather, Dk. Green, Navy, Red, Royal, Maroon

**Vests #JP79 \$35.00:** Grey Heather, Red, Midnight Heather, Navy, Royal, Dk. Green, Black

**Ladies Vests #LP79 \$35.00:** Pink, Light Blue, Raspberry as well as colors above



Dear Sheltie Adopters, Family, and Friends,

With 2008 drawing to a close, I am happy to report that so far this year we have been able to rescue 56 Shelties. All are safe either in their forever homes or in foster homes where they are healing and getting ready to go on to a wonderful new life.

As in previous years, many of our rescues came to us from owners who could no longer manage to care for them due to a life-changing event. We suspect that foreclosures have been behind at least a half dozen of these relinquishments. Surrendering owners are often reticent about fully disclosing why their pet no longer has a home with them. We accept that. To us it doesn't really matter why these Shelties need new homes. What is important to all of us is that we provide a safety net for rehabilitating them physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Shelties rescued from shelters were usually surrendered because they were sick, elderly, unsocialized, or were picked up as strays. Many Shelties come to us with health issues and signs of neglect. Cooperation with other state and nationwide breed rescue groups generally brings us about 3 percent of the number of dogs we have rehomed. We also work closely with

	Owner Surrendered	Shelter	Other	Total	Note
2008	35	15	6	56*	
2007	35	16	2	53	
2006	39	22	2	62	
2005	25	8	1	34	
2004	19	1	1	21	
2003	7	3	4	14	
TOTAL	160 (67%)	65	16	240	*as of 11/15/08

the American Shetland Sheepdog Association Rescue and with our “family” of organizations: Northern and Southern Nevada Sheltie Rescues, Southland Sheltie Rescue, and Norcal Collie Rescue, as well as with other rescue groups and individuals in California and nearby states.

Our organization has been effective due to the love and labor our dedicated volunteers give and to the financial donations received throughout the year. Our primary sources of income are the adoption fees and individual contributions. One supporter remembered us in her will, another donates through the United Way. All contributions are greatly appreciated, as they go directly to the veterinary care of our homeless Shelties. With that in mind, a self-addressed envelope is included with the mailed version this newsletter, and we are hoping you will remember your friends in the Shetland Sheepdog Companions of Northern California Rescue for year-end gift giving in 2008. Our mailing address for those who would like make tax deductible donations is NorCal Sheltie Rescue, P.O. Box 581934, Elk Grove, CA 95758-0033. You can also go to our website, <http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org/> to make a donation through PayPal. We will happily send you a receipt for your tax records.

I hope you will find this Newsletter’s heartwarming stories and helpful information on care for your beloved Sheltie enjoyable and informative. Please stay in touch. We welcome any and all news about “our” rescue Shelties. Those of us who foster forge a special love for each and every one of these precious creatures while in our care.

Heartfelt thanks to Vicki Doyle-Jones, our newsletter editor, for her persistent efforts to create this labor of love, and to get me to sit still long enough to contribute. too. We wish you a loving and warm holiday time and a year of delight with your family and friends, especially the four legged ones!

## About Shetland Sheepdog Companions of Northern California Rescue

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, our current “staff” consists of seven volunteers who have come forward to prove themselves willing to be experts in some or many aspects of the nurturing, feeding, handling, and training of Shelties. These people bear the brunt of our intakes, fostering, and the medical and recuperative care and training of compromised Shelties. Each has something unique he or she brings to NorCal Sheltie Rescue. In addition to our primary volunteers, there are literally scores of adopters,



Norcal Sheltie Rescue “staff,” left to right: Gale, Terry, Peggy, Vicki, and Nancy (seated in front) at the Adoption Options Seminar in Berkeley.

friends, and fans of Shelties who help us in countless ways from pulling rescuees from shelters, short- and long-term fostering, and transporting to financial and moral support of our day-to-day operations.

In this current economic climate, we need the support of our extended Sheltie Rescue family more than ever. Finally, my thanks to all of our volunteers for a very successful year!

—Gale Ann

## Fostering, Anyone?

Our foster experience began in the summer of 2004, shortly after I retired. I had adopted a rescue Sheltie from NorCal Sheltie Rescue the previous December and had attended the annual Sheltie Rescue Picnic in Elk Grove. I was impressed with the organization, primarily through my contacts with Gale Ann Morris, Director. I volunteered my services as a foster mom, but was not needed at the time. Not long afterwards, however, Gale Ann called me and asked if I would foster a young, undersocialized, very shy tricolor. From that point on, fostering has been relatively constant, with a few short breaks in between dogs.

My husband Clif and I have now fostered 27 rescue Shelties: sables, tricolors, blue merles, and sable merles (our adopted Sheltie is a bi-black); Shelties as small as 8 pounds and as large as 73 pounds; Shelties as young as 3 weeks and as old as 9 years; Shelties with issues of biting, nipping, reactivity on leash, pulling on leash, resource guarding, barking, separation anxiety, excessive shyness, excessive activity (high herding drive), urinating or defecating in the house, medical issues, and assorted other problems; and we’ve even fostered a Sheltie mix, a handsome young Sheltie/Doxie who was hit by a car while wandering the streets.

With each dog comes a different set of issues – just like people, no two are identical. Each one has made me a better dog owner and trainer, and each has taught me to listen to its story. Every few weeks I have to face the sorrow that comes with giving up a dog I’ve accepted as a loving member of my household, but I also get to meet another wonderful adopter who then joins our extended Sheltie family network. My sadness is shortlived, as the next phone call or email arrives, asking “Can you please take Marty?”

Here are just a few of the reasons we enjoy fostering:

- The joy of welcoming a new dog several times a year
- The satisfaction that comes with finding a great home for a deserving dog
- The opportunities to teach young and old dogs basic manners, plus a few tricks
- The challenges of rehabilitating difficult dogs
- The euphoria of saving a dog from euthanasia
- The commitment to make a better life for a dog
- The fitness that comes with regularly exercising a dog

- The partnership that evolves as the relationship progresses
  - The love of many, many wonderful dogs
- Care to join us?

—Terry Gary

Terry with Aiden, who was adopted by Nancy



## Adoption Story of the Year

I adopted Chief in October 2004. Since then we have had several adventures. Some fun and one scary. We were walking on a bike path near Elverta when three young males approached us. At first they were very interested in the dog, and we were talking in a friendly manner. Then one of them asked if I had any money with me. When I said no, his tone of voice turned very menacing. Chief had been sitting beside me and enjoying the attention. The moment he heard the menace in that voice, he began snarling, growling and lunging. When I threatened to let go of the leash, they took off running. I looked down at Chief and he was wagging his tail, and I swear he was smiling at me. I have had many dogs in my life, but never one to whom I felt such a connection.

—Marie Salvas



## Adopter of the Year

This Newsletter editor has nominated Lucie and Frank Hock for “Rescue Adopters of the Year.” The Hocks have taken in about 40 shelties and one Rescue Collie (a personal favorite of mine) over the last 17 years. They “specialize” in the ones that were neglected or very old—basically, the ones that nobody else wants—and they dedicate themselves to making the quality of these lives as good as it can possibly be, including daily walks along the lake shore at their beautiful home up in Napa.



The Hocks currently have nine rescue Shelties: Echo, Bailey, Mr. Chips, Katie, Lacey, Andy, Tula, BeBe plus this editor’s special friend, Tara the Collie, who was “dying” when I helped rescue her from a home near Bakersfield three years ago. All canines in the Hock Family, including Tara, are between the ages of 11 and 14-1/2. May we all find a place like the Hock’s home to spend our “last days” when we are old, sick, and feeble.



## Picture of the Year



Bob and Cheyenne, his co-pilot

Those chosen as the best picture, best story, and adopter of the year will each receive a portrait (value \$200) of the critter of their choice from Family Tails Photography (familytails@yahoo.com, <http://www.familytails.com>) or Critterpics (vicki.doylejones@gmail.com)

# Sheltie Health and Safety

Shetland Sheepdogs can be consummate, lightning-fast counter (and gutter) surfers. Be aware of what your Sheltie may find and snarf down when your back is turned, and keep your vet's and the poison control hotline numbers handy. Above all, do not give your Sheltie any human medications without first consulting your veterinarian. Some commonly used human medications (e.g., certain pain killers) can be lethal to all dogs and cats, some to only cats or dogs, and some only to members of the White-tipped Tail Dog Family who carry the MDR1 genetic mutation. (The Norcal Collie Rescue site, <http://www.calcollierescue.org/drug.htm> has some excellent in-depth information that adopters and their veterinarians can use to learn more about this mutation.)

## Animal Poison Control Hotline

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is the best resource for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: [http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=aspcaproapc\\_landing](http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=aspcaproapc_landing) The toll-free number is: 888-426-4435 (a consultation fee may apply).

APCC experts have a wide range of information specific to animal poisoning. They also have an extensive collection of individual cases—more than one million—involving pesticide, drug, plant, metal, and other exposures in food-producing, wildlife, zoo and companion animals. Annually, the APCC handles over 130,000 cases. We have no idea how many of these are “resourceful” Shelties!

## Heartworm/Flea/Tick Prevention

We want to remind all of you of the dangers of heartworm infection in areas where mosquitoes are present. We have taken in several heartworm-positive Shelties this year. Luckily all have survived the terrible (and expensive) immiticide treatment required to rid their bodies of adult worms. It takes six months for the adult worms to die and clear the dog's system, and it is always touch and go as to whether a dog will even survive the treatment and its aftermath as dead worms circulate throughout its bloodstream. Heartworm is easy to prevent with a monthly tablet. Make certain to avoid giving your Sheltie ivermectin-bearing heartworm prevention medicines like Heartguard. Ivermectin and other medications can kill members of the Collie family who bear the MDR1 gene mutation that causes a basic defect in the blood-brain barrier (see <http://www.calcollierescue.org/drug.htm>). It is important that white-tipped-tail dog veterinarians be aware of the so-called “ivermectin” sensitivity as it is actually sensitivity to a broad class of compounds found in lots of common medications both for canine and human use. This is one reason that we stress that you should never give your Sheltie human medications.

Remember, too, that you shouldn't just decide to begin a heartworm-prevention program for your Sheltie without first seeing your veterinarian: it is critical to have the dog tested and proven heartworm negative before you start a heartworm preventative program. The monthly tablets only prevent colonization of the heart by the tiny larval heartworm “microfilaria” that mosquito bites can inject into the animal; none of these prophylactic medicines can touch the adult worms, each of which can live up to three years and attain the approximate size of a strand of angel hair pasta.

There has been an unusual spate of flea dermatitis and food allergies in our rescued Shelties this year. It's often difficult even for a veterinarian to deduce what is bothering a scratching dog, but it's relatively easy to prevent fleas and ticks. Often allergy problems can be alleviated by feeding your Sheltie a high-quality food, free of wheat. Our recommendations come from the Whole Dog Journal, which is respected for its up-to-date research on the best dog foods in the country.

## Identifying Your Sheltie

We've had quite a few cases of lost (and happily re-found) Shelties this year. We would like to remind all of you to have plenty of identification on your Sheltie at all times. Collars and tags, microchips, and tattoos are some of the best options. Microchips are the most reliable method of identifying your Sheltie, but don't assume that your Sheltie doesn't need additional identification just because he or she has a chip. Your dog could be lost sometime, someplace where Animal Control and vet offices are not available to locate a microchip scanner. And there are many places and whole areas of the country that do not check for chips. To make matters even more complex, there are different microchip providers (e.g., AVID and Home Again) and scanners. Home Again and Avid don't necessarily talk to each other though one can cross register for a fee of around \$18/dog. And sadly, even though universal microchip scanners are now on the market, not all the shelters and very few of the vets check for a microchip as a matter of course. Norcal Sheltie Rescue owns a scanner, and we routinely check Shelties that come into Rescue.

Remember to update your Sheltie's microchip records whenever there is a change in your address or life arrangements

and double check that the information in the provider's database is current. We have seen several Shelties come in microchipped with outdated information that renders the chip almost useless.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) keeps records with chip numbers of all dogs that are registered with them. Many of our rescue Shelties were not AKC registered, but you actually can register any pure-bred dog without a pedigree under the AKC's "ILP" (Indefinite Listing Privilege) program. The most important thing is to have your Sheltie wear ID tags—including its rabies tag, which is linked to the vet who gave the vaccination—at all times both inside and outside of the house. It's all too easy for a Sheltie to slip out a door and get lost when you aren't looking.

## The Art of Living with Shelties

Buddy's adopter, Gwen, sent us her list of helpful tips for the art of living with the flurry of fur that is Buddy.

1. Place a towel or light blanket on top of your Sheltie's bed. It makes it easy to shake off the hair and/or laundry.
2. Brush your Sheltie all the way down to the skin. A slicker brush is great for shedding hair, but doesn't seem to get all the way down. You also need to be careful on sensitive skin with a slicker brush. You can get all the way down to the skin with a wire pin brush.
3. Any dust mop works great on hardwood floors. All the hair gathers and sticks together. It's better than using a broom because the hair doesn't fly around as you are sweeping.
4. Get a good vacuum without a rotating brush so that hair doesn't get caught in the brush.
5. Keep a pet hair tape roller in every room in your house ... or at the very least, keep one handy on your way out the door and one in your car.
6. When your Sheltie is shedding, go visit a friend with a Labrador Retriever. You will be amazed at how much a short-haired dog sheds. When you get home, you will be so thankful that your Sheltie's hair gathers in balls and is so easy to pick up!
7. Remember that heavy shedding is only twice a year.
8. Kids detangling spray works great on static and tangles.

### Walking with your Sheltie:

1. Choose a side that you prefer your sheltie to walk on and be consistent. You can walk without your dog crisscrossing in front of you.
2. Keep a clip with your leash. A U-shaped clip or a double sided clip. Any hardware store will have them. It comes in handy when you need to be hands free (i.e. you stop for lunch/coffee and you need to secure your dog next to you).

The clip will make it easy to wrap the leash around any object. You can also clip the leash directly onto things. It will be much easier and more secure than tying the leash.

3. Teach your dog a command such as "sit" or "heel." When your dog comes across a stressful situation, give him/her the command. He/she will find comfort in having a command to follow.

### Housebreaking a new Rescue dog:

*How to Housebreak Your Dog in 7 Days*, by Shirlee Kalstone, is the best book out there on this subject. I like it because it not only explains things to you, but gives you sample schedules. Of course, every dog is a living, breathing individual. If you expect everything to go according to clockwork, you shouldn't have a dog! However, I have house trained two dogs using this book. One was a puppy and one was an adult. I think both dogs actually did get it in 7 days. The key is to be really consistent the first week (and month) after you get your dog home. It's a small price to pay in exchange for having a well behaved dog the next ten years!

—Gwen Chan

## How do I love thee? Let me count the ways ...



**I love thee agreeably** -- enough to let your stinky dog hide on the bed after a run through damp leaves, mud and slug-infested gardens.

**I love thee steadfastly** -- enough to devote a year to raising you from a wobbly speck into a strong healthy adult (who promptly attempts to seize control).

**I love thee passionately** -- despite your repeated efforts to probe my ears, eyes and mouth with the same tongue you use for various other atrocities.

**I love thee well** -- despite the amazing odors you produce.

**I love thee deeply** -- though you use me as a napkin at every opportunity.

**I love thee madly** -- despite the various bodily functions you have performed at inappropriate moments and in inappropriate places.

**I love thee constantly** -- despite the dog "bladder curfew" I have lived by for many years.

**I love thee truly** -- despite the "doggie land mines" hidden in the grass.

**I love thee absolutely** -- because you never (well, hardly ever) hog the remote control.

**I love thee gratefully** -- because you stay by my side (or on my side).

**I love thee devotedly** -- more than clean carpeting, clothing, furniture, floors or walls.

**I love thee bravely** -- enough to battle the indomitable flea on your behalf.

**I love thee monetarily** -- enough to put the vet's children through college.

**I love thee openly** -- I will bear any embarrassment for your furry sake.

**I love thee totally** -- more than free time, excess cash or a predictable life.

—Author Unknown

## From Mongrel to Show Dog

A Brief History of the Shetland Sheepdog by Peggy Prater

*Editor's Note: NorCal "staff" member, Peggy Prater, Uistean Shelties, is an experienced herding, obedience, and conformation trainer. She has bred and raised Shelties for over 20 years.*

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THE SHETLAND SHEEPDOG



Ch. Eltham Park Petite



Int. Ch. Eltham Park Esme

Pictures of Shelties ca. 1927-29 from *The Shetland Sheepdog*, by Catherine E. Coleman, 1943, Mail & Express Printing Co., New York, NY

The Shetland Islands lie about 50 miles off the northern coast of Scotland on the same northern latitude as Norway. Approximately 100 islands make up the Shetland Islands although only about a quarter of them are inhabited; the others are used to pasture the ponies, cattle, and sheep. The largest island, Mainland, is about 60 miles long and at no part is it over three miles from the sea. The land is rugged, barren, and wind swept. The winds build to 140 miles an hour during coastal storms. Winter days are short, cold and damp; summers brief with the sun visible 24 hours a day. Due to the conditions on the island, every living thing produced grows to a diminutive size. The cattle, sheep and, of course, the Shetland pony all grow smaller than their counterparts on the mainland where food is plentiful and weather conditions less severe. To help the farmer or crofter with his livestock and to keep the stock out of the crofter's garden, the local dog was domesticated. The dogs were called "toonie" (town) dogs, because they lived in the town with the crofter, or "peerie" (fairy) dogs, because they were small, like the pixies that, due to folktales about the Picts, were thought to live on the islands. The islands had a reputation of being the populated by "pixies."

As in most dog histories, it is difficult to pinpoint the exact origin of the breed. Like most breeds, the Sheltie started out as a mongrel. The Picts, a small, dark warrior race, first inhabited the Shetland Islands. Later came the Norsemen and the Scots. With each invasion of the island, new dogs came to mingle with the island dogs. Thus, the beginning of the breed was most likely established through the inbreeding of native island dogs and dogs brought to the Shetland Islands by the invaders who raped and pillaged the islands. The yakki dog generally accompanied the sailors during the raids. The dog was called "yakki" because the dogs were used by the Yaks of Iceland for hunting and sled dogs. These dogs possessed a dense, thick coat and tails curled up over their backs. They stood somewhere in height at about 17 inches at the shoulder. When coming ashore with the raiders, they followed suit in breeding with the native inhabitants, thus creating one of the first known breed crosses on the island.

History tells us that the Viking raids took place on the Shetland Islands around 680 A.D. The Scots came later bringing other dogs; adding to the breed

For centuries, the chief occupation of the islanders was either fishing or raising sheep. The Shetland sheep produce long, soft wool that is in demand worldwide. However, few areas are suitable or fertile enough to grow crops. Pasturelands are on the uninhabited islands. The "toonie" was used to drive and keep the sheep and cattle away from the cultivated fields near the towns. During the summer the flocks of sheep were ferried over to the pasture islands and left, often in the sole care of one of the little dogs. In the fall, the dogs gathered up the sheep so that they could be ferried back to the mainland for the winter.

The breed has been influenced by many breeds, not only the Yakki, but the King Charles Spaniel and both the Welsh and Scotch working collie. His coat was thick and dense. The ears could be seen as being semi-erect like the Collie, prick from the Yakki or drooping ears of the Spaniel. Wavy coats were influenced by the Spaniel and tails that curled over the back, a trait for the Yakki, appeared frequently. The original Shelties were somewhat collie-like in appearance. The crofters selected small animals because it took less to feed them, and space in the cottages was limited.

However, it wasn't until the late 1880's that the Shetland Sheepdog was taken seriously when a group of collie fanciers decided to show the rough collie and a controversy between the breeds arose. The rough collie of the Victorian era were broad of skull with a moderate muzzle. The Sheltie was a similar, yet smaller version about 8 to 10 inches at the shoulder. The Sheltie

at this time was called the "Shetland Collie" as collie in Gaelic means, shepherd. This name was dropped because of the controversy with the other breed and the name was finally settled as the "Shetland Sheepdog," better known today as the "Sheltie."

Today the Sheltie is known and loved throughout the world. They are pampered show dogs, pets, therapy dogs, and working dogs. They come in several colors including black and white, blue merle, sable (from red to very dark browns) and all of these colors are combined with white collars (ruffs) some more than others. They come in many sizes ranging from small (under 13 inches) to large (over 16 inches). Each country has a show standard which is acceptable for their show ring. The AKC standard says from 13 inches to 16 at the shoulder. The English standard states "fourteen inches for females and fourteen and a half for males," and for either country size is a concern.

The first picture of Peggy Prater's first family Sheltie, Laddy, "was taken on my Great Grandfather's farm ca. 1917. Laddy would take the cows to pasture in the morning and get them at night. He did this alone as I guess my GGF had tied a rope to one of the gates so Laddy could open it to take the cows in and out.

"I am not sure where Laddy came from. Mom seemed to think they brought him over from Scotland, but how or by whom, I have no idea.

It couldn't have been one they brought over when they immigrated (which we guessed to be somewhere in the late 1890's), but it could have been that they brought a pair of dogs over with them when they came and Laddy was from that line. I just don't know, and of course at the time, it was of no consequence in the family. The dogs were there and did their job. No big deal."



### If I Didn't Have Dogs...

- I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.
- My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.
- All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of hair.
- When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like a kennel.
- When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through fuzzy bodies who beat me there.
- I could sit on the couch and my bed the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.
- I would have money ....and no guilt to go on a real vacation.
- I would not be on a first-name basis with six veterinarians, as I put their yet unborn grand kids through college.
- The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: out, sit, down, come, no, stay, and leave him/her/it ALONE.
- My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.
- My house would not look like a day care center, toys everywhere.
- My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, treats and an extra leash.
- I would no longer have to Spell the words W-A-L-K, T-R-E-A-T, B-I-K-E, G-O, R-I-D-E, B-A-L-L, F-R-I-S-B-E-E
- I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside.
- I would not look strangely at people who think having ONE dog/cat ties them down too much.
- I'd look forward to spring and the rainy season instead of dreading "mud" season.
- I would not have to answer the question "Why do you have so many animals?" from people who will never have the joy in their lives of knowing they are loved unconditionally by someone as close to an angel as they will ever get.



Cody gets his first bath from Nancy and Terry

—Author Unknown

# Official Sheltie Rescue Events 2008

## Collie Family Artistry Weekend, May 9-11, 2008



The Collie Family Artistry (“CFA”) weekend events took place at the Willowside Ranch in Pescadero on the Mother’s Day weekend this year. It was a true “dog and pony show” attended by more than 200 human guests with their furkids: Collies (rough, smooth, and bearded), Shelties, Border Collies, Aussies, and Kelpies.

There were AHBA-sanctioned herding tests and trials and AKC Canine Good Citizen (“CGC”) tests both days, plus obedience, rally, tracking, and agility seminars, a juried art show and a host of vendors and experts offering services and fun activities. Nor-Cal Sheltie and Norcal Collie rescues were both represented and together hosted a raffle and rescue parade with prizes.

The “Lassie Look-alike Contest,” in which both regular-sized and mini Lassie Look-alikes competed, was judged by none other than “Timmy” himself (Jon Provost of the Lassie TV series). The Mini-Lassie Look-alike went to a sable Sheltie named Tristan, and the most convincing “real” Lassie was “Jasper,” who came into Collie rescue as a stray from the Tracy area in 2007.



“Lassie” look-alike winners, Tristan and Jasper, with their owners and “Timmy” (Jon Provost) at the CFA weekend.



AHBA Judge (and Sheltie mom), Linda Rorem, instinct testing Diane’s “Allie” at the CFA Weekend.

Then, of course, there was the wonderful, priceless camaraderie of a true family reunion: old and new friends, organized hikes and disorganized romps in the corrals and in the wonderful, green fields and along the shores of the pond at Willowside Ranch. We hope to see lots of our Family members there again next year.



## Sheltie Picnic, Elk Grove, July 12, 2008



The annual Sheltie picnic was held at the Western Agility Group (WAG) dog-training center in Elk Grove on a warm (but not too hot) Saturday in July. About 75 humans and 70 Shelties were in attendance. We played games with our Shelties, swapped lots of Sheltie stories, had a yummy potluck lunch, and won a lot of great raffle prizes. The best part was seeing Shelties in all colors, ages, and sizes all getting along! What a mannerly breed we love!

Thanks to the generosity of many, our raffle made \$500 for our veterinary fund and a good time was had by all who came. Watch our website, because we will do it again next summer! A special thanks goes to the members of the Sacramento Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club (on the web at [www.sacsheltieclub.org](http://www.sacsheltieclub.org)) for hosting the picnic.

—Gale Ann

## Sheltie Rescue Parade, October 18, 2008 Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA



On the third Saturday afternoon of every October, the NorCal Shetland Sheepdog Club ([www.norcalshelties.org](http://www.norcalshelties.org)) puts on a huge raffle to benefit NorCal Sheltie Rescue in conjunction with their specialty Sheltie dog show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. After the Best of Breed award has been bestowed on the most beautiful show Sheltie, adopters of rescue Shelties are invited to parade with their Sheltie(s) in the Annual Sheltie Rescue Parade. This year we had a fabulous turnout, as attested to by the participants photo, above. We also were blessed with wonderful raffle prize donations and generous ticket buyers resulting in netting our veterinary fund \$1,500! We had a great time catching up with many of our adopters and seeing how their "second hand" Shelties are thriving in their new homes.

## Rescue Puppies????!



We Sheltie lovers boast that there's nothing cuter than a Sheltie puppy. Puppies don't often come into rescue, but so far in 2008 we have placed five little puppies in wonderful forever homes. The first three, siblings, came to us in February when their owner/breeder was unable to sell them prior to moving. The next one came in as half of a mother/son duo when the original owner's family circumstances changed, and the current one is a five-month-old female who was being neglected. Lots of families think they want a puppy; puppies are adorable fun and always easy to adopt out—provided their foster moms don't fall in love with them first—but they require socializing and training to become good household pets. One of the prime reasons why dogs come into rescue is lack of socialization. We want these youngsters to have the best start in life, so we make it policy to place them in foster care first to make sure they get evaluated, vaccinated, trained and socialized before they go to a forever home. Just like human babies, raising and training a puppy is A LOT OF WORK. Thanks to our foster families, all five of these puppies are now much-loved family members.



Double  
Take  
on a  
Sheltie...



We are a Shetland Sheepdog rescue group. Occasionally, though, a dog of undetermined heritage comes our way, and we find ourselves rallying to save him. Take Scotty, for example, a Sheltie/Doxie mix (or so we think) who was hit by a car and turned over to us by a Good Samaritan. Following surgery to repair his broken leg, he was placed in foster care, where he was lovingly nurtured back to health, taught a few basic manners, and adopted by a wonderful family.

# The Throw-away Shelties

Each year we find, rescue, and adopt out a Sheltie or two that somebody just plain threw away, discarded. More often than not, these discards turn out to be absolute gems. Some of our favorite NorCal throw-away Sheltie stories are given below. There is a rare niche in rescue for those who find special joy in caring for the old and decrepit of the animal world. Thankfully there are many of us across the nation who, by choice, will always take in, do our utmost to rehabilitate, and love the oldest and most compromised of critters. Trinette Kern, a Sheltie/Collie Rescue maven in western Pennsylvania, wrote the following to one of our national rescue lists on November 11, 2008. We wanted to share her thoughts...

“For those of us who take in rescue dogs, especially older ones, I guess we should expect that their time with us will be comparatively short, and that others will ask how and why we continue to do it, but I know that I would not trade one day, hour, minute of the love and joy these ‘throw-away’ dogs have given me for the assurance of a long life with a ‘normal, young’ dog.”

## Bonnie's Nine Lives and Countless Tennis Balls



Our first discard, Bonnie, got tossed out of a moving car into traffic on a busy Peninsula street. Somebody apparently viewed Bonnie as a matted, ugly, sickly, skinny old thing—no fun anymore—and she had a huge tumor on her face. A young man driving down

the Alameda saw the little golden form get tossed out a car door and land on the pavement. He stopped his own car, scooped her



up, and drove her to his mother's house nearby (his mother has several rescue animals of her own); they phoned the Peninsula Humane Society. The Peninsula Humane Society called us. We took Bonnie to the vet and

soon thereafter had the terrible looking, but non-malignant tumor removed from her face, along with 36 of her 42 teeth that were so badly infected. We bathed and brushed her for days on end until we got all the matts out of her lovely coat. We fed her and medicated



her, fattened her up, and loved her. She responded. Her dislocated jaw and neck injuries didn't show up on initial x-rays. They took some time to surface, but they, too were eventually fixed. Bonnie's repairs may have been costly, but Bonnie was worth it a thousand times over. In fact, she was absolutely priceless. Soon after adopting her, Roger wrote: “She continues to impress us all the time with her great, happy spirit. She sometimes sleeps with a smile. Her new nickname is ‘bouncie, bouncie.’ She bounces on her front feet like a rubber ball when she wants to play.” Bonnie just couldn't get enough of playing ball, even though she had only six teeth to catch and hold it.

*Editor's note: Bonnie went peacefully to the Rainbow Bridge this year after three wonderful years of pampering, spoiling, and ball tossings by Roger and Susan. Roger, Susan, our vet, Dr. Johnson, and I together held and stroked Bonnie as she fell asleep for the last time on that sad last day. Bonnie had finally and really had lost all her bounce. Rest in peace, beloved little Throw-away Dog.*

## A Prince from the Night Dropbox

Nancy's Prince Charming came from the Yolo County shelter. The tiny 12-year-old was left in the night drop box with pneumonia, a filthy matted coat, and a mouth full of rotten teeth. Prince settled in with Nancy, his foster mom, as soon as his pneumonia was cleared up and all his teeth were pulled. Despite his pitiful condition, Prince was a very sweet and exceedingly spunky little senior citizen. It didn't take long for his foster mom to fall in love with him and to decide that Prince had found his forever home with her. Prince is now 15 years old; he still enjoys playing tug, dancing and barking for his dinner, and running mini zoomies around the living room. Not bad for an old, throw-away Sheltie.



## And a Prince of a Different Color—Off the Streets of San Jose



**BEFORE** (March 2007 after he was shaved and more than 100 encysted foxtails were removed)

and **AFTER**  
(Christmas, 2007)



## But, try as we might, we just can't save them all...



Iris

Iris was to be our first candidate for "Throw-away Sheltie of 2008." Somebody—who apparently didn't want to deal with her arthritis and what one of our vets diagnosed as a severe (and at that point inoperable) umbilical hernia—dumped her at the shelter. Six months later, tiny little Maui arrived in the same shelter in such horrific health from advanced renal failure that the kindest thing we could do was send her gently to the Bridge.

We tried desperately to save Iris and Maui, but they were too far gone, and we had to let them go. They broke our hearts. At least they left this life knowing a little of the love and kindness they deserved. Had the people who abandoned them only known that their ailments were treatable years ago, they could have been saved.



Maui

Iris and Maui, may you wait at the Bridge, frisky and happy once again, for your true friends to join you there.

# Rainbow Bridge 2008

UC Davis Pet Loss Hotline (1-800-565-1526)

### I Never Said Goodbye

You died today. And I was gone,  
Away at work, away at play,  
Inside the house, upstairs  
somewhere.  
You died alone. I was not there.

I never said goodbye.

You lay down in your corner.  
And sleeping in the shade,  
You felt our love,  
Though we weren't here.  
You didn't want our grief  
To spoil Your Time to leave.

You slipped away into the light,  
Comforted by bonds of love  
That remain unbroken still,  
Heart to heart between us.  
You carried this love with you,  
As you chose to go alone.

I never said goodbye.

But, what is one goodbye  
When set against the thousands  
Of hello's that we have shared?  
What is one goodbye?

It is for people, this goodbye,  
not for dogs.

Dogs don't understand goodbye.  
They know a pat, a kiss, a hug  
As their loved one walks away.  
Dogs don't understand goodbye.

What they know is your return.  
They know you will come back,  
And so they wait with patience,  
Napping in the sun  
Until you walk back through the  
gate.  
They know you will return.  
Always.

Yes, dogs know hello.

They know the leaping bliss,  
The joyous bark,  
The happy kiss,  
The ecstasy of greeting.  
Oh yes, dogs know hello.

And what is one goodbye  
When set against the thousands  
of hello's that we have shared?

No, I never said goodbye.  
You taught me well.

I had no need.

And when my time has come at last  
To follow you into the light,  
To meet you waiting at the Bridge,  
My love, my heart, my perfect dog.  
You will be the first that I shall  
seek.

Yours will be the first hello.

—Anne Robinson



Scanner



Buddy



Superman



Dolly



Penny Lane



Skeeter



Riot (right)



Emma Lee (Molly)



Remy



Phoebe



Kelly



Spencer



Robbie (Bingo)

*We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own live within a fragile circle; easily and often breached. Unable to accept its awful gaps, we would still live no other way. We cherish memory as the only certain immortality, never fully understanding the necessary plan....*

— Irving Townsend  
"The Once Again Prince"

# Adopted 2008

## Shelby's Story (Dianne Garcia)

Dianne writes: "Shelby's is the story of an incredibly clever and loving animal who started out in the wrong environment. Shelby wasn't much to look at when we adopted her; she had chewed herself raw in several places and she smelled bad. But her difficulties were easily remedied with a simple change of diet and a consistent regime of medicated baths. What really caught our attention was that simple note in her rescue profile referring to her as a love sponge! In this regard she hasn't disappointed—not once.

She'd had absolutely no training when she first came to live with us, except that she was housebroken.



We've learned that adopting a dog with no training can be a positive thing; there's nothing to undo because essentially you're working with a blank slate. And of course with a Sheltie, you've got the advantage of having a clever and capable animal.

Exercise had not been a part of her routine either—that was easy to see. She quickly tired and didn't know how to play—not with us, our other Sheltie or even a simple fuzzy toy. For a Sheltie, she was clumsy and awkward to the point of being laughable. It was clear that her unusually long legs had rarely ever stretched out into a run, and we caught our breath as we watched her trip and fall when she ran up the back steps too quickly. It was amusing to watch her tiptoe on to the beach for the first time, desperately trying to keep her feet from sinking into the sand. So to help build up her confidence and skills, we've recently added some agility work to her daily training agenda. And as with everything else she's been confronted with, it's game on! She's a quick study and a willing learner.



It's sad that the first three years of Shelby's life were so desolately wasted, but her progress is exciting and gratifying. Sometimes it comes in small increments, sometimes in huge swells. Every day, every week, every month, we see the dog that she was and the vision of the Sheltie she can be grow closer together. Soon the two will become one and the past for her, will be just that.

Zoe came into rescue missing her right eye. She wasn't able to tell us why her eye was missing, but the loss of an eye doesn't slow Zoe down one bit or keep her from playing her favorite game: fetch



Mickey



Kaylee (Bobo)



Mickey and Bobo are pedigreed Shelties who came to us as an unrelated "sibling" pair. Their kind relinquishing owner is a single guy who truly loved them, but felt he just couldn't give them as much attention as they needed and deserved. He also told us he was afraid they would be heartbroken if they were separated. We, however, felt that these two,

young, very high-drive Shelties overpowered each other, so we placed them separately. Mickey, left, doesn't seem to be missing Bobo one bit in his new home. And Bobo, who has been renamed Kaylee, is too busy training to become a member of the World Team in Agility to even have time to miss her brother. Besides, Kaylee has a new Sheltie "brother" and even a new Mickey in her life. (Her new dad is named Mickey.) Coincidentally enough, from her birth date on her papers, it turns out that Kaylee was born on her human parent's wedding anniversary. Guess that match was meant to be.



Buffy



Tiny Misha & Myles



Kelly



Sidney with Diane and Joe



Zoe



Ace

## Happy's Story (Pat Mahoney)

Pat Mahoney, for many years a Sheltie Rescue maven in Norcal, moved to Nevada some years back. She continues to work with us through our sister organization, Northern Nevada Sheltie Rescue. Pat sent us the story of "Happy," who ended up living in Sacramento.

Pat wrote that Happy was an oversized, eight-year-old languishing in the Washoe Animal Services Shelter. Not only did he have periodic seizures, he was so obese he could barely walk—he weighed in at the shelter at 61 pounds! Nobody wanted this sweet, sweet dog.



The shelter contacted Sheltie Rescue and Happy was released to Pat. It took six months, but by June 2008, Happy was down to a svelte 32 pounds! Running around with his tail wagging, the new Happy was obviously having the time of his life—and the best news: his seizures were under control as well. So it was time to find Happy a forever home. Betty and her daughter living in Sacramento saw him listed on Petfinder, went to meet him, and fell in love with the big boy. They didn't care if he needed some special attention, they saw how very sweet he was and were willing to adopt him in spite of his medical issues. So Happy is living happily forever after in his new forever home in Sacramento.

## Buddy's Story (Gwen Chan)

Recently two things have happened that touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes about our rescue dog, Buddy.

The first thing begins with the fact that Buddy loves being clean. He enjoys his baths so much that he looks as if he is having a spa treatment. Once, I was on a walk in a wooded canyon with a friend of mine and her dog, Sumo. When we let the dogs off leash, Sumo ran into the bushes and down to the creek. Buddy ran after him, but where the path ended and the bushes began, Buddy came to quick stop. We couldn't help but laugh. His expression was "It's dirty in there!" Then, the other day, I happened to read the caption under his picture on the rescue web site. Buddy hadn't had a bath in the 4 years before he went to rescue. Tears came to my eyes as I realized why he loves being clean.

The next thing happened when we went to Italy for a few weeks. Buddy stayed with my Mom and Dad. For some reason, my Dad was acting very depressed. This was very unusual because he's normally a happy-go-lucky kind of guy. Buddy motivated my dad to go for twice daily walks. He was proud of taking extra good care of Buddy, brushing him and making sure my Mom didn't give him too many treats. While on our flight

back from Venice, we learned that my dad had a massive stroke. When the tests came back, we learned that it was his second stroke. Dad's doing fine now. We often think back on how Buddy was a great help. He was there for Dad's depression after a stroke that no one knew he had. He was there for my Mom after Dad's second stroke. Who knows, maybe the walks between the first and second stroke kept the brain's pathways open and allowed my dad to have the miraculous recovery he had after his second stroke. When I visited him in the hospital, my dad had lost his vision, but the first thing he said was, "Doesn't Buddy look great?" For the second time, I had tears in my eyes about our Buddy.

I can't say enough about this rescue organization. Terry Gary and Gale Ann do a wonderful job matching these Shelties to their new owners. I did not know what to expect when adopting an un-housetrained adult dog. The support they gave answering my various questions made all the difference.

These days, you can find Buddy under the kitchen table with five pairs of bare feet on him, soaking up the attention. He is not only thankful, but blissful. Are rescue dogs grateful? I think so.

*Editor's note: This statement started an amusing dialogue between Gwen and myself. After receiving Buddy's story and thanking her, I told her how surprised I was to hear that Buddy loved baths. "Most Shelties I know think they are water soluble," I told her. "Not Buddy," was Gwen's reply, "Buddy loves his baths. He goes limp. His mouth makes that smacking movement that dogs make when they are all comfy. He even takes a nap!" And she went on to tell me how he loves the water—including their swimming pool.*



Gwen and I also discussed an ongoing debate about whether dogs "do grateful" (we are both believers). Gwen wrote me: "Then there was the time that he got a new bed for Christmas. He lay fully stretched on that bed for hours and watched everyone else go about their Christmas excitement from his bed. It was as if he thought his gift was the best one. And what is the definition for grateful? Grateful: If you are grateful for something that you are given, you appreciate it and are thankful for it. Appreciate: To enjoy or value somebody or something. Thankful, interjection: An expression showing that you are grateful.

"I agree with you that dogs don't dwell on the past or future. He may not realize that it took someone's intervention to change his life. But he is definitely grateful for what he has now. As grateful as a dog can express without actually talking!"



## I rescued a human today...

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel, I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy, and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card, I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship.

A tear fell down her cheek, and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well. Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one. I rescued a human today.

—Author Unknown

# Adopted 2007, Pictured 2008

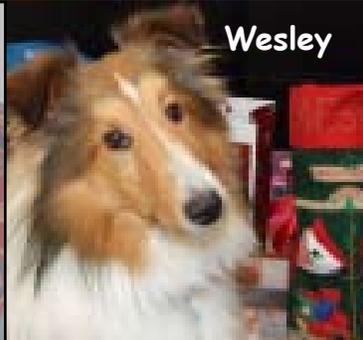
Below are some cute pictures of Shelties we rescued in 2007. There are lots more pictures on our Petfinder listing. Look under Happy Tails for our "shelter" at <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CA632.html>



Luke



Dakota



Wesley



Cole



Casey



Punky



Petey



Charlie



Sascha

(Above) Sally's first afternoon home. Her sister, Dolly, who went to the Bridge in 2008, is asleep under Mike's chair



Mischief



Chip

## Real Jobs for Rescue Shelties

Shelties excel in obedience, rally, agility, herding, tracking, frisbie, flyball, freestyle, and a host of other human/canine "team" sports, but some of our Shelties have landed themselves "real" jobs as assistance dogs, therapy dogs, or other working volunteer positions in the human world. If you would like to know more about therapy or assistance work, a good start is to visit various websites: Delta Society (<http://www.deltasociety.org>), Assistance Dogs International (<http://www.adionline.org/>), or Canine Companions for Independence, <http://www.cci.org/site/c.cdKGIRNqEmG/b.3978475/> or CCI's local South Bay Chapter, <http://sbchamps.org/>

Terry's Therapy Dog, Rocky, was donated to Sheltie Rescue by a breeder. Although raised with other dogs, he was not socialized with people and developed into a shy, withdrawn dog with no visible personality. When adopted, he went to doggie day care and agility classes, where he met many other dogs and their owners. Eventually, he earned his Canine Good Citizen certificate and went on to become a Certified Therapy Dog through Therapy Dogs International. He now holds a part-time job at a local health care facility, where he has many friends among the assisted living, dementia, and skilled nursing patients. He also serves as foster brother to many rescue Shelties who come into his home for rehabilitation prior to adoption.



Rocky



Heidi helping her Mom, Amy



Toby, "on duty" as a volunteer docent at the local Central Coast Veterans Museum, is sitting in front of some rifles of various historical eras.

## Special Friends

We are ever-grateful for the kindnesses and generosity that so many of you have shown to Shelties in need. At times your gifts might be only five minutes of precious time or five dollars out of pocket in support, yet we appreciate every little bit that helps our Shelties. Some—NorCal Sheltie Rescue's core volunteer "staff" in particular—have spent a great deal of time, effort, and money helping to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome needy Shelties. Others, like those listed below who have provided special financial support or donated gifts greater than \$100 in value in the past year, deserve special thanks and commendation for their gifts and contributions:

Rebecca & Wayne Carter  
 Karen Coombs  
 Family Tails Photography  
 Terry Gary  
 G. L. Hastings  
 Christine Hikido  
 Darlene Hiatt  
 Donna Hockensmith  
 Lauren Houde  
 Terri Jacopi (United Way)  
 Vicki & Bob Jones  
 Anne Lancaster  
 Robert P. Lee  
 Susan MacCulloch

Pam Miller (in memory of Buddy III)  
 Virginia Murphy  
 Barbara Norton  
 The Pedigree Foundation  
 Peggy Prater  
 Pet Food Express  
 Phelps "Sam" Robinson  
 Sacramento Valley Dog Fanciers  
 Bonnie & Clarence Semas  
 J. Russell Smith  
 Roger Sullivan (Fujitsu)  
 Diane Trumpp  
 Marsha Szander & Joe Verschleiss  
 Willowside Ranch

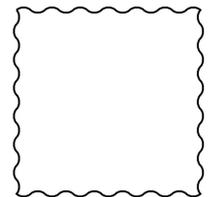
And special thanks to the following veterinary hospitals who have done everything they can to help us care for our rescue Shelties:

The Animal Doctors, Palo Alto  
 Adobe Animal Hospital, Los Altos  
 Animal Clinic of Benecia  
 Animal Wellness Center, Davis  
 Blue Ravine Animal Hospital, Folsom  
 Bradshaw Animal Clinic, Elk Grove  
 Coastside Veterinary Clinic, Half Moon Bay  
 Cool Animal Hospital, Auburn/Cool  
 Cirby Ridge Animal Hospital, Roseville  
 Lawrence Veterinary Hospital, Santa Clara  
 Standiford Veterinary Clinic, Modesto

Our mailing lists have lots of blanks and/or defunkt e-mail addresses from "older" adopters. Please make sure to update your e-mail and US mail addresses with us, and please ask other Sheltie families you encounter to do the same. Thank you for staying in touch with NorCal Sheltie Rescue ([http:// www.norcalsheltierescue.org](http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org)). — Gale Ann Morris ([sheltieroses@frontiernet.net](mailto:sheltieroses@frontiernet.net))



Sheltie Rescue of Northern  
 California  
 P. O. Box 581934  
 Elk Grove, CA 95758



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