



www.norcalsheltierescue.org

Spring Newsletter 2019

Director's Message

Dear Rescue Friends,

We're moving into my favorite time of year. Spring is beautiful in the Sacramento area. Trees are blooming and the brown landscape is replaced by fresh green. Spring also means our Annual Sheltie Celebration Picnic, Saturday, May 18th hosted by Nola Jones at her great location, Performance Dogs in Action in north Sacramento. Herding Instinct testing (\$25) will find Nola in the ring that morning with her livestock so that our picnic participants can watch their Shelties in action. It's a fun test for dogs and owners alike. We're going to have a fabulous raffle, including a brand new Apple iPad Air, and tons of really great items. Start saving now so you can purchase lots of tickets!

Throughout 2018 we took in 32 Shelties, 10 more than in 2017. A half dozen or so were seniors who found their retirement homes with adopters who didn't let their double-digit ages keep them from opening their hearts and homes to these precious oldsters. Our Special Needs program continues to care for the seniors with major health issues that make them less appealing to adopters. Our generous and loving foster homes treat them as their own and give them quality of life until their natural end. I work closely with our Special Needs foster moms/dads and their veterinarians to make sure their care is appropriate and productive. Your donations help with the cost of their veterinary care.

This year to date we are experiencing an unusual slowdown in the number of Shelties coming into our program. Consequently, we have a long waiting list of potential adopters and not enough Shelties to go around. This is good news for all of us — that fewer Shelties are in need. But it's bad news for those wanting a new Sheltie companion.

I hope to see you in May. In the meantime, love your Shelties and stay in touch!



Protect Your Sheltie Against Heartworms

From the Companion Animal Parasite Council: "Many pet owners mistakenly think their dog or cat isn't at risk for heartworm because they don't live in what has been historically considered a heartworm endemic region of the country," said CAPC board member, Cassan Pulaski, DVM, MPH. "This is no longer the case. While southern regions of the country have historically been associated with heartworm, we now know pets all over the country are potentially at risk for heartworm disease throughout the year." ***CAPC recommends monthly heartworm protection and annual testing for both heartworm antigens and microfilariae, regardless of where pets live or travel.***

Annual Rescue Picnic

Raffle Fundraiser

May 18, 2019

Performance Dogs in Action

Pleasant Grove, CA

<http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org/Events.html>

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Don't Shave Your Double-Coated Sheltie!

Double-coated dogs refer to the animals that, like Huskies, have two layers of fur. The first, or undercoat, are the fine, fluffy hairs that are short and crimp (closest to the skin). It's the fur that sheds; light and soft. This layer is excellent at trapping air and insulating the dog. Essentially it keeps them warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

The topcoat is made up of tougher guard hairs that don't shed, and protect your pet from the sun's harmful rays and bug bites. It actually insulates them from the heat. What this means is: do not shave your double-coated dog. It's a mistake to think you're helping your animal stay cool, particularly in summer, when evolution has provided them exactly what they need to survive. By stripping them of their natural ability to heat and cool themselves, you could be doing more harm than good.

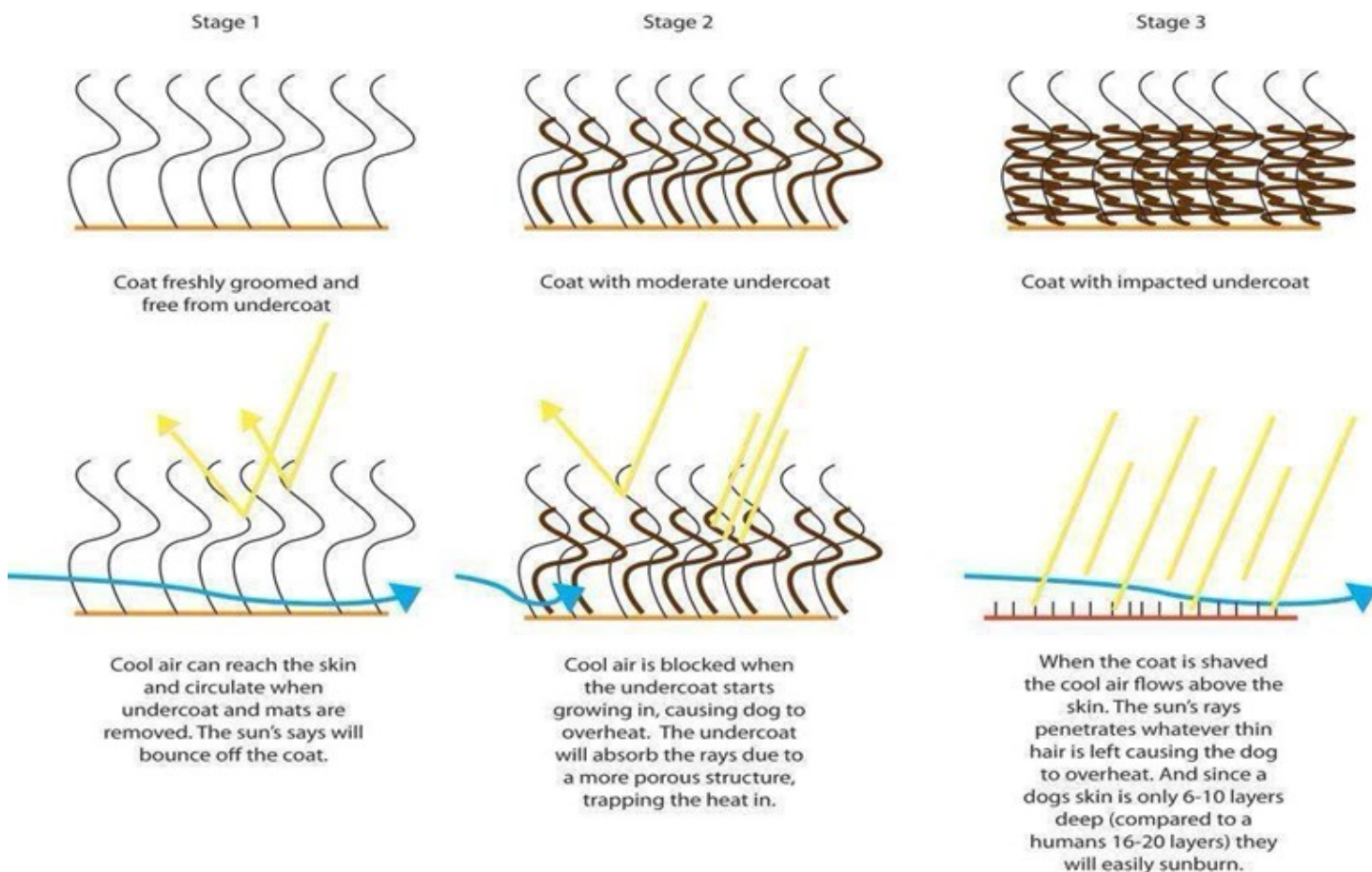
A key piece of understanding in this matter is that, unlike humans, dogs do not cool themselves through their skin. At most, it is only the pads of their paws that sweat. Their main mode of cooling comes from panting.

Some other common reasons folks shave their doubled-coated dogs are the thinking that the animal will stop shedding. Pooches with undercoats shed, no two ways about it. But even after a shave, while the hair may be shorter, it can still shed.

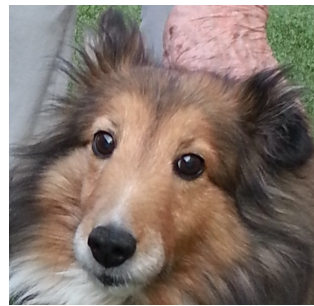
Another is, "it'll always grow back." Sometimes it will, other times it won't. The older the pooch is, the less likely it is that the topcoat of guard hairs will grow back. This leaves them with the undercoat, giving them a patchy, scruffy look. It can alter their coat for the rest of the dog's life. Not only does it look bad, but you can end up having to shave the hair continuously from then on and once again, you strip them of their natural ability to protect themselves.

In conclusion, when you shave a double-coated dog, you may irreparably impair their ability to properly heat/cool themselves and protect their skin. The best way to keep this kind of dog cool and comfortable is to regularly bathe and brush them. The only reason a person might need to shave their double-coated dog is if the hair is so matted, it's the only option.

Kaitlin Krhounek
Seattle Dog Health Examiner



Permanent Foster Shelties



Shelties and Their Thyroids

Since we take in a lot of middle-aged and senior Shelties, we see many with low functioning thyroids, "hypothyroidism." I have seen it in Shelties as young as three years old, but it is more common in mature and senior Shelties. W. Jean Dodds, DVM, author of The Canine Thyroid Epidemic: Answers You Need for Your Dog, 2011 says that about 70% of the thyroid function is gone by the time symptoms appear.

Indicators of hypothyroidism include some of the following:

- Ear and skin infections
- Pyoderma, seborrhea or greasy skin, chronic offensive skin odor (rancid butter smell)
- Dry scaly skin and dandruff, "rat" tail
- Thin coat, bilaterally symmetrical hair loss, coarse dull coat
- Gastrointestinal disorders
- Lethargy, mental dullness, cold and exercise intolerance
- Hyper excitability, aggression (I personally witnessed a spayed female Sheltie change from an aggressive Cujo-type to a sweet-as-pie girl after going on thyroid supplementation.)
- Weight gain
- Seizures

We normally request the abbreviated thyroid test called the T4 on our fosters if they exhibit any symptoms.

Low: Under 1.0

Normal: 1.0-4.0

High: Greater than 4.0

Anecdotal evidence nationwide through the National Sheltie Rescue Network shows that optimally **Shelties should be in the 2.5-4.0 range**. Thyroid meds are not expensive. They are usually given twice daily. Periodic retesting, usually annually, is recommended to ensure correct dosage.

Questions about this article or thyroid issues in Shelties should be addressed to Gale Ann.



Shilah
Loved by Bev & Ken



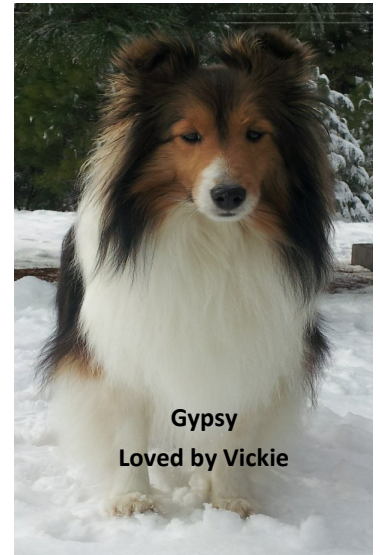
Dawson
Loved by Kathy & Joe



Mimi, loved by
Melanie, Mark, & Cody



Mikka
Loved by Tom & family



Gypsy
Loved by Vickie



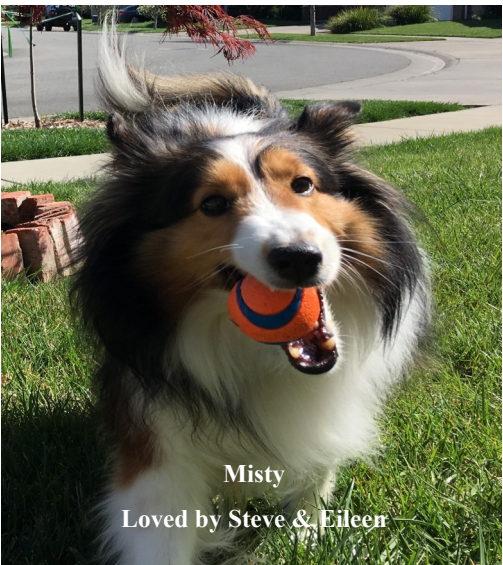
Lassie
Loved by Sandi



Riley
Loved by Charlotte



Gracie (no photo)
Loved by Sandy & Fred



Misty
Loved by Steve & Eileen



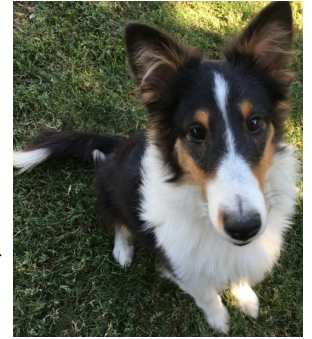
Fancy Pants
Loved by Gail & Marty



Penny
Loved by Liliane & Kathie

Diabetes Alert Dog in Training

My name is Erica and I am a service dog trainer, specializing in training shelter/rescue dogs as Diabetic Alert Service Dogs. These amazing canines are trained to detect and alert their handler to the biochemical scent a diabetic emits when blood sugar levels are too high or too low. This in turn avoids drastic blood glucose fluctuations which can cause a myriad of symptoms with the worst being coma, seizures or even death if the number is too low. As a professional dog trainer for 10 years and a Type 1 Diabetic for 22 years, I am uniquely qualified to provide these highly trained dogs for other people with diabetes. Yet up until now I didn't have an alert dog of my own. I wanted my dog to be special, but most of all I wanted my dog to be a rescue. Last fall I agreed to foster a young, shy, under-socialized male rescue Sheltie, not knowing that the sweetest little guy was waiting for me!



Hershey Skye (Skye for short) still has a long way to go. He is wary and afraid of new things and unsure of new people. Ideally, I would love for him to become a Full Access Service Dog, competent to handle accompanying me in all public places. It's still too early to tell as it generally takes 1-2 years to fully train a service dog. He definitely possesses the core traits to make a great Diabetic Alert Dog: he's responsive, treat motivated, quick, intelligent, and loves a good game of "find it," which makes him a great candidate to "find" the biochemical smell that I emit when my blood sugar is out of range. We are just now starting the work on the Diabetic Alert Dog aspects of his training, as we've been working on basic obedience and manners to date. I have no doubt in my mind this quick little squirt has what it takes to be just the dog for me! If you'd like to follow Skye's progress, follow us on instagram at @t1dogs or facebook at t1dogs .

Shasta Sheltie Roundup — Thank You!

Vicki Jones, our Bay Area Coordinator for many years, and her husband, Bob, moved to a retirement home in Ashland, Oregon, at the beginning of this year. Vicki writes: *In mid October, my Ashland Sheltie friends insisted that we join them for the annual Sheltie Roundup at the home of Pat and Denny Sbarbaro down near Lake Shastina (and I once had a Sheltie named Shastina—how could I resist?). Pat Sbarbaro tells me that Sally Batchelder started this years ago, then Wes and Jennie George hosted, and then the Sbarbaros took it over. This event has been going on for ~20 years! The northernmost NorCal Sheltie and the Southern Oregon Sheltie families all get together for this wonderful day of romping, delicious food, great company, and a raffle that has traditionally been held to support NorCal Sheltie Rescue. Jennie George and Joanie Kintscher have been sending the money down to NorCal Sheltie Rescue for years.*



Dilly Comes to the Rescue

A massive thunderstorm hit the Performance Dogs in Action ranch and the sheep were on the edge of panic. Panicked sheep will blindly run into fencing, often resulting in a fatal injury. Unfortunately, because of the lightning and thunder claps, all of the border collies refused to leave their safe shelter during this intense rain squall. Only the NorCal Rescue Sheltie stepped up and followed Nola into the dark, a brave decision for a Sheltie that otherwise hates water and needs to be on a lead to get rained on in his backyard. It was then a real challenge to run down each of the evasive sheep despite the muddy and slippery footing. The sheep having all been herded into their shelter, Dilly happily enjoyed his hearty and especially generous dinner, having proven not only his herding ability but his willingness to defy the elements and go where no Border Collie would venture.

Ray

Adopted

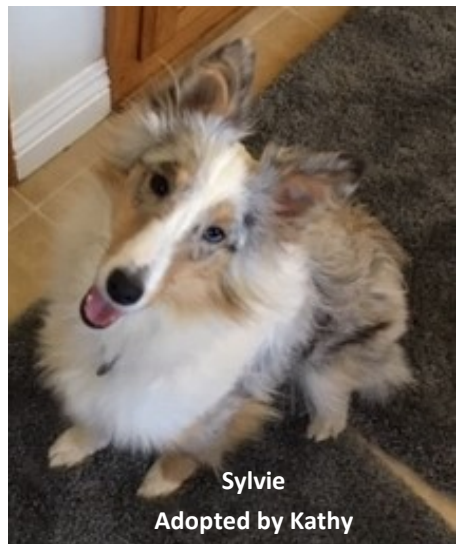


Photo Gallery



Buzz



Sierra



After grooming, Cayman was chosen by PetSmart as a cover photo



Bentley & Zoey



Houston



Tyler



Jack



Wager



Banter



Lulu



Journey



Cooper

Our veterinarians

Below is a list of veterinarians and clinics around Northern California that our rescue team and foster homes have used to care for our Shelties. All are knowledgeable about the Sheltie and Collie breeds and some offer discounted rates for our 501c3 nonprofit organization. We are grateful for their many contributions to our mission and to each and every Sheltie in their care.

Abby Pet Hospital	Clovis	Devotion Animal Hospital	Santa Rosa
Adobe Animal Hospital	Los Altos	Franklin Ranch Pet Hospital	Elk Grove
Airport Pet Clinic	Cameron Park	Mid-Peninsula Animal Hospital	Menlo Park
Animal Hospital of Sebastopol	Sebastopol	Muir Oaks Veterinary Hospital	Martinez
Auburn Animal Hospital	Bakersfield	Orangevale Veterinary Hospital	Orangevale
Bayside Animal Hospital	Granite Bay	Peninsula Animal Dermatology	San Carlos
Brighton Greens Veterinary Hospital	Grass Valley	Richmond Veterinary Hospital	Richmond
Carson Valley Veterinary Hospital	Minden NV	SF SPCA Mission	San Francisco
Companion Animal Hospital	Santa Cruz	VCA Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic	Elk Grove
Cool Animal Hospital	Cool	Yolo Veterinary Clinic	Woodland

NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.

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first class mail

address correction and
forwarding requested