

NorCal Sheltie Rescue

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<http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org>
<http://www.norcalshelties.org>

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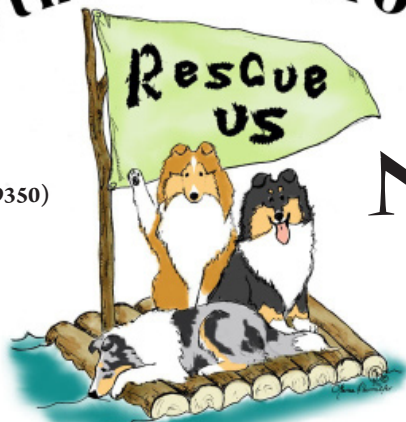
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Northern California



Newsletter September 2009

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 Parade and Raffle are Coming Saturday, October 17, 2009 Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA

Every October, in conjunction with the Sheltie specialty at the big Del Valle Dog Club's all-breed dog shows, obedience, rally, and agility trials held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, the NorCal Shetland Sheepdog Club (<http://www.norcalshelties.org>) puts on a huge raffle to benefit NorCal Sheltie Rescue. 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, usually around 3:00 PM. Please come enjoy the shows at Del Valle and bring your Sheltie to meet others and walk in our parade. We would appreciate it if you would RSVP to me (Gale Ann Morris, sheltieroses@frontiernet.net or 916-684-8615) before October 15 so that we know how many paraders we may expect.

One hundred percent of the raffle proceeds go into our NorCal Sheltie Rescue Veterinary Fund. Last year's generous raffle prize donations and raffle ticket sales resulted in excellent and much needed, much appreciated support for that Fund! If you have something you would like to donate for the raffle (new, almost unused, and nicely doggy/Sheltie related), please let me know before the Del Valle weekend so we can get the item and have it ready for the raffle. Though we will always gladly accept any Sheltie-related gift, it's almost impossible to add items to the raffle on the day of the parade, so please let us know in advance if you have something to donate.

There are thousands—millions—of ways to support rescue, and NorCal Sheltie Rescue is no exception. Our most reliable and necessary support most often comes from our volunteers and foster homes, but every little bit of time, effort, educational and financial input empowers us to help both Shelties in need and the people who share our love of this wonderful breed. Each new year we publish a list of the wonderful veterinarians, individuals, groups, and corporations who have contributed support to NorCal Sheltie Rescue in the previous year. In addition to the sale of our t-shirts and other logo merchandise (email Nancy Berry at nberry@citlink.net for prices, sizes, and varieties of clothing and logo merchandise available and to place an order) we now have the new "Sheltie Angel" ornament, ideal as a commemorative gift or holiday decoration. If you have any questions about the Sheltie Angel ornament—or anything else Norcal Sheltie Rescue related—please don't hesitate to contact me. —Gale Ann

"Sheltie Angel" is a 3-inch diameter, Incolay stone ornament exclusively designed for the American Shetland Sheepdog Association and its endorsed Rescue Groups—of which NorCal Sheltie Rescue is one: 100 percent of the profit from the sale of each ornament goes directly to National Sheltie Rescue and NorCal Sheltie Rescue. Sheltie Angels sell for \$24.95 each and come in blue, green, garnet, onyx, sardonyx and rose quartz Incolay Stone. Each ornament is handcrafted and has a unique stone color formation; no two pieces are identical. You can order a Sheltie Angel directly from our PayPal-linked webpage <http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org/Ornament.html> or download an order form with shipping costs and color choices from that page and mail it along with your check (payable to: NorCal Sheltie Rescue) to: NorCal Sheltie Rescue, P.O. Box 581934, Elk Grove, CA 95758.



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.aspcaproapc.org> 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!

Vaccination schedules:

The current protocol recommended by the American Association Veterinary Hospital Association is that rabies and Distemper/Parvo are to be given every THREE years, not annually and that these two vaccination types should not be given at the same time, but spaced 3-4 weeks apart. This is to avoid adverse reactions called “vaccinosis” which usually presents within two weeks after the vaccine is administered. Symptoms can range from a hard, sore knot at the injection site; facial swelling (this is anaphylactic shock—get back to the vet immediately or at least give benedryl (1 mg. per lb.) ASAP. Vomiting and/or diarrhea can occur within a week or two. The vaccine for kennel cough, “Bordetella” is given every 6 to 12 months depending upon the frequency of boarding, visiting grooming shops or any other venue where a lot of dogs are congregated. Bordetella takes 4-5 days to be effective so plan accordingly. An excellent reference by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Canine Vaccine Task Force) can be found at <http://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/VaccineGuidelines06Revised.pdf>.

The Art of Living with Shelties

The Well-mannered Dog

Are you proud to take your Sheltie out in public? Does your Sheltie pay close attention to you, minding your every word and ignoring all the interesting distractions that may cause sniffing, barking, lunging, whining, hiding, drooling, or other undesirable behaviors? Want the perfect Sheltie, the dog that everyone admires as not only beautiful but a great companion? Teach him to be a Canine Good Citizen. The American Kennel Club has established the Canine Good Citizen program in an effort to encourage owners to teach their dogs basic manners. Dogs who meet these standards are awarded a CGC certificate. The CGC Test consists of ten skills needed by all well-mannered dogs. All of the exercises are done on a leash.

Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger: The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.

Test 2: Sitting politely for petting: The dog will allow a friendly stranger to pet it while it is out with its handler.

Test 3: Appearance and grooming: The dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so.



- Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead): The handler/dog team will take a short “walk” to show that the dog is in control while walking on a leash.
- Test 5: Walking through a crowd: The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three) to demonstrate that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.
- Test 6: Sit and down on command and Staying in place: The dog will respond to the handler’s commands to 1) sit, 2) down and will 3) remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).
- Test 7: Coming when called: The dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog.
- Test 8: Reaction to another dog: To demonstrate that the dog can behave politely around other dogs, two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet.
- Test 9: Reaction to distraction: To demonstrate the dog is confident when faced with common distracting situations, the evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane.
- Test 10: Supervised separation: This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, “Would you like me to watch your dog?” and then take hold of the dog’s leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes.

You’ll need to bring your dog’s brush or comb to the CGC test. In the CGC test, dogs must wear a buckle collar or slip collar. For details regarding equipment, expanded descriptions of the exercises above, and how the CGC Test is administered, see: http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm

—Terry Gary

Like a Tiger on the End of a String!

Until Shelby moved into our household in April of 2008, we put all dogs into one of two categories – good ones and not so good ones. Words like reactivity, fear-based aggression, hypervigilance, and displacement behavior were certainly not part of our vocabulary when discussing our dogs. But after our first walk, when I found myself transformed into a frantic, frenzied, hysterical woman with what looked like a wild tiger on the end of a string, I realized immediately some serious help was needed. Shelby, who was quite well-mannered at home with our

other Sheltie, Basie, and had been equally pleasant with her foster family and their three canine furkids, turned into a lunging, snarling, barking, four-legged terror when walking on-leash and confronted with other dogs.

We quickly, but carefully identified an experienced trainer in our community who diagnosed Shelby’s “on-leash dog-dog aggression,” and our work to turn these very stressful walks into something more reasonable began immediately.

We enrolled in a basic obedience class; and, because Shelby had had no prior training, she progressed rapidly using a reward-based behavior modification program. For Shelby we chose a group situation with other dogs that had similar leash-aggression behavior problems. While this might seem frightening, the right instructor can cultivate a very positive environment, offering students the opportunity to share their experiences, their successes and yes, the inevitable set-back.

We began by working on a technique called AUTO-WATCH, teaching Shelby to maintain eye contact with us without using a command, so she would begin to feel safe focusing on us rather than worrying about other dogs or her surroundings. Training is not just for the dogs! We learned that our own attitudes, voices, postures, leash handling skills and even the way we breathe can have a huge impact on our dog’s behavior. A good instructor should be training you as well as your dog; helping you to be aware of how YOU react when another dog is present.

After Shelby demonstrated her proficiency with basic obedience skills, we began to concentrate on her “on-leash dog-dog aggression.” Our plan included several components; each taught using high-value rewards (super yummy treats or even a favorite toy used only for this purpose). Shelby’s aggression is ‘fear’ based, so we relied heavily on the AUTOWATCH technique, encouraging Shelby to look at us whenever another dog came into view and her level of fear became heightened. Each time she performed this AUTOWATCH, a reward was presented. High-value rewards—don’t leave home without them!

Dogs have three choices—fight, flight or freeze! So, next we began to teach Shelby that a good offense is not the best defense, and that flight in the form of arcs, L-turns, U-turns, switching



Basie (left) and Shelby (once known as “The Tiger on a String”)

sides, or even moving behind us were all choices she could make when loose-leash walking. Instead of desperately trying to meet her fears head-on, now she leads us away from an on-coming dog, just far enough away until she feels safe, where she sits and waits until the 'danger' has passed; then she receives her reward and on we go! We still have the occasional outburst, usually if the other dog is allowed to get too close. But our walks are far more civilized and our goal of a normal loose-leash walk is closer than ever.

And what will a normal dog walk for us look like? Anyone caring for a leash-aggressive dog can say good-bye to leisurely strolls while chatting casually with a friend or on a cell phone. Your feisty canine companion, regardless of where you are in your training program, will forever require your complete attention and all three new sets of eyes that you've grown on the sides and back of your head! You'll always need to stay alert and prepared, reading your own dog's body language and the subtle language of other dogs you'll meet along the way, ready to make that little correction before the small problem becomes a huge crisis. You'll learn to spot the dogs that make your dog uncomfortable and move out of their path. You'll learn ways to stand or squat with your dog in front of your legs so you can give your primary attention to your dog and still see who and what is going on all around you. You'll learn to carry on a conversation with your friends without making eye contact with them and they'll understand and admire you because they love you and your furry friend!

If you're working with any kind of leash-aggression don't give up! There are lots of skilled people out there to help you – and several outstanding trainers right here within the NorCal Sheltie Rescue network, including Terry Gary and Vicki Doyle Jones. Our trainer, Joellen Burton of Diamonds In The Ruff, offers special rates to Sheltie rescues for their first visit! But by all means, find an instructor who has successfully dealt with leash-aggression behavioral problems and develop a step-by-step plan to begin making the changes you want to see in your dog. Consistency and persistence are required, but the rewards are substantial if you stay with your program.

There are many, many wonderful written references where you can find help, but I keep a copy of *Feisty Fido* by Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D. and Karen B. London, Ph.D. on my desk and refer to it often—it's more like a brochure really, but it's been my best training tool (with the exception of grilled chicken and hot dogs). A more advanced resource is the book *Control Unleashed* by Leslie McDivitt, MLA, CDBC, and CPDT. This book deals with the world of agility, but it's a guide for owners of excitable, hypervigilant, or unfocused dogs. Both can be purchased through Amazon, or email me and I'll gladly loan you my copies.

My favorite piece of advice, gleaned from Maureen Lyons (Agility Acres in Santa Rosa) owner and trainer of Finn, a super

hypervigilant Border Collie, rescued by Maureen and who now competes quite successfully in agility events and guest stars in television programs and advertising commercials, is that after you have an uncomfortable and difficult outburst learn to make your correction once, quickly and effectively, then move on. Don't hold a grudge, your dog doesn't.

Good luck! Stay with it!

—Dianne Garcia (and Shelby)

Editor's note (I just had to share): Dianne Garcia ended an email to me thusly: "Gotta go—we rented Agility Acres for a half hour this morning—it's dry and that teeter is calling Basie's name! Shelby's celebrating her one-year anniversary with us this weekend. We're planning a small, intimate celebration on Sunday and will take photos! Was it only a year ago that my pockets were clean, and I was reading historical novels instead of agility training manuals?"

Funny thing about pockets: I just looked at my pockets this morning as I hung a coat out of reach of closet-surfing critters (it's one of the few coats I have left that still has all its pockets intact), and realized that the cheese stains have soaked completely through from the inside out. Wonder if that helps waterproofing...? I also wonder how many rolls of string cheese Dianne will discover in her purse. Sometimes I forget I am transporting cheese; it gets intermixed with the Muttmitts and the muzzles and the bags of Zukes and Yummy Chummies. Wallet? Glasses? Keys?? Aren't those supposed to be in my purse somewhere...? Why can't I find them??

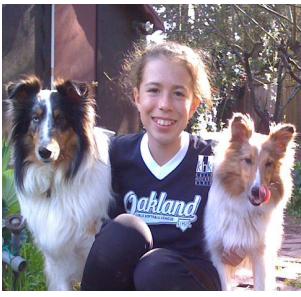
Adopted 2009

Olivia and Carly

Carly came into Sheltie Rescue through the kindness of a woman who first noticed her for sale in the local pet store. She checked on her regularly, hoping that she would be adopted; however, several weeks passed and she was still there, pacing and panting in her kennel. The woman contacted us, described the situation, and said she wasn't able to provide a home for the dog but would contribute to her care. Naturally, we jumped at the chance to save this lovely 5-month-old pup.

After three months in foster care, Carly was ready for adoption. We found the perfect home for her with Olivia, an 11-year-old girl and her family, which included a former rescue Sheltie named Wrigley. Olivia immediately began her training, teaching her to use the doggie door, completing her





housebreaking, and perfecting her sit, stay, come, and “settle” cues. She enrolled Carly in an obedience class to further her education. When Carly gulped her food, Olivia came up with the idea of putting a tennis ball in her bowl to slow her down. Next in line for both Carly and Wrigley is earning a Canine Good Citizen certificate. Life is not all work for Carly, however; she frequently accompanies her humans to Crissy Field, where she romps and plays with other dogs, as well as to the Sonoma Valley. Carly has a best human friend in Olivia and a best canine friend in Wrigley—a great life for this happy youngster who just turned one year old.



Note: On the weekend of Carly’s adoption, Olivia celebrated her 11th birthday with several of her friends. Instead of gifts, she asked for donations to NorCal Sheltie Rescue. When she and her parents came to pick up Carly, she handed me an envelope with the contributions of her friends. What a generous young lady!

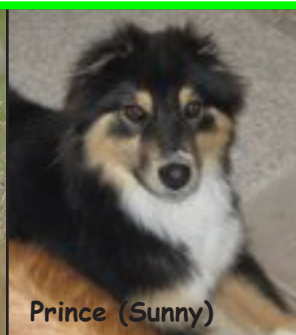
—Terry Gary



Jake



Tessa



Prince (Sunny)



Wellington



“...and they call it 'Puppy Love'...”

Left: Manchester (on the right), adopted in Sept 2007, needed a playmate. Then came Gracie in Feb 2008 (on his left) who needed a big brother and at 44 lbs, also needed to lose weight. It was a match made in Heaven (well, really, Fresno). So here they are on New Year's Day 2009 - Manchester looks content, and Gracie is svelte 32 lbs. ”



Cinderella (left) and Snow White



Matteo



Duchess (left) with her new friend, Katie



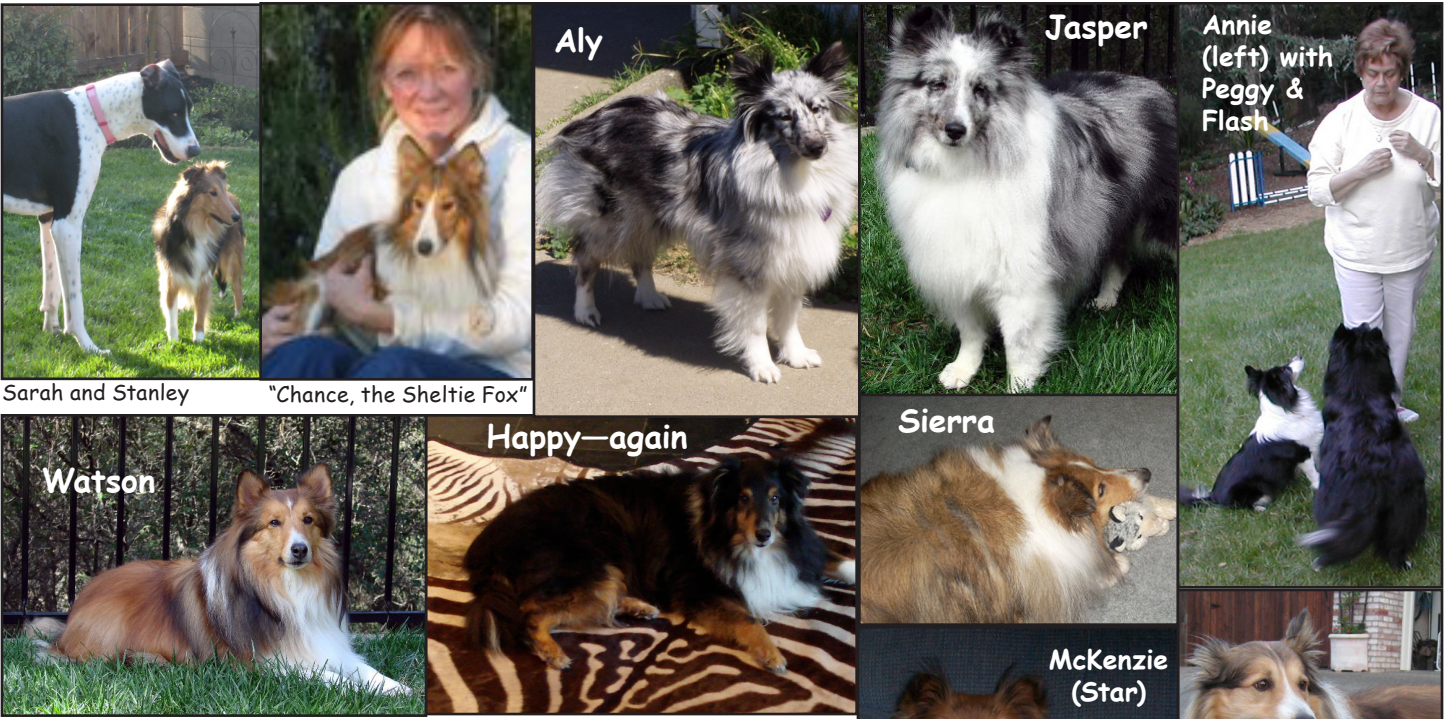
Buddy with Pete and Ellen



Judy with Mischa, backpacking Sheltie



Double-take on a Sheltie 2009: Teddy, now known as “Charlie Brown” in his forever home, was a Sheltie/Pom cross (“Pomtie”?) at the Silicon Valley shelter who was too sweet to resist!

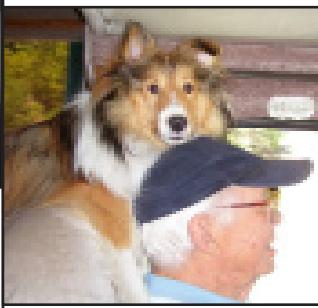


Rainbow Bridge 2009

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



John and Joan's adorable little old Kyrie (above, left), Astrid's beloved Casey (above, right), and Susan's sweet, one-eyed Zoe (left) are all gone now, but their memories have helped inspire us to work to find carefully selected "replacements" to keep their human families company while they wait to be reunited with them at the Bridge.

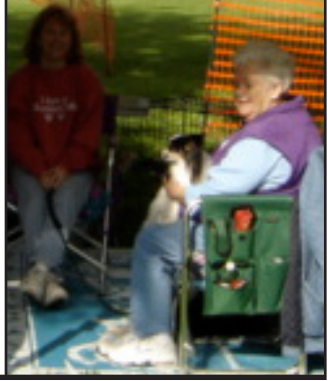


The photo "Bob and Cheyenne, his co-pilot" won our "Best Rescue Photo" contest last year. Bob went to the Bridge before the painting he won was finished; but his wife, Jo, now has a painting in memory of her beloved husband.



Gale Ann Morris's beloved soul mate, Rudy (4/28/95—7/12/09) is now waiting for her at the Rainbow Bridge as well. Rudy was a Certified Pet Assisted Therapy Dog and Canine Good Citizen, but, more than that, Rudy's calm, obedient intelligence rescued all of us who knew him and helped keep Gale Ann on track through all the trials, tribulations, and angst that running a rescue organization so often engenders. Rudy truly was a once-in-a-lifetime dog.

Nancy (left) and her Mom, Thelma (right, holding her dog, Vito) at one of our Rescue events. Thelma was one of those wonderful behind-the-scenes rescue supporters who all too often go unheralded. Thelma is now waiting at the Bridge to greet Nancy and her "Boys" when their time comes to join her there.



Sheltie Rescue Events 2009

Sacramento Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club's annual SHELTYE PICNIC, Saturday, July 18, 2009, at Performance Dogs in Action, Pleasant Grove



Heat? What heat?? Some of us were having too much fun to notice the temperature (100+)—that was until we saw Peggy's purple face.... Heat or no heat, it really was a fun party. The only complaints—aside from the heat—that any of us heard about the picnic were that there were so many dogs/so little time, so much tasty food/too many calories, and so many faces and names we never had a chance to match up. Thank you all for your efforts, for participating, and to the Sacto Club for hosting the event. Thanks to Nancy and Gale Ann most of all because this editor (and sometimes event organizer) knows how much work it takes to put on an event like that. There was a wonderful raffle, herding instinct testing offered by Nola Jones, CGC tests offered by Sharon Persey (fourteen Shelties earned a CGC title, their first obedience title and AKC certificate), agility practice, and grooming workshops, not to mention lots of off leash and random romping.

Our next event is the Sheltie Rescue Parade and Raffle following the Best of Breed competition at the Del Valle Dog show on Saturday, October 17 in Pleasanton. See details on the first page of this newsletter and please join us for the Parade.

Coming in May 2010: another fabulous Collie Family Artistry Weekend at Willowside Ranch in Pescadero (date and details will be printed in the next issue and posted on our website soon).

Special Friends of the Veterinary Variety

Anna Worth, DVM, President of the American Animal Hospital Association, points out that veterinarians offer valuable input to those looking for a new pet. Vets have trained perspectives on pets that might be a good fit for our households, vets can provide insights into the personalities and medical and genetic characteristics of various breeds. They all play a critical role in helping our pets and in understanding their roles in our family life. But not all vets are created equal and not all vets are equally well versed in the specialized genetic health and care issues related to the white-tipped-tail dog breeds. Below is a list of vets who we have found to be expert in every aspect of Sheltie (and Collie Family) care, vets who have helped us in special ways or who have gone beyond the call in caring for the creatures we love. If you have a wonderful vet to recommend to your fellow Sheltie family members, please share their contact information with us.

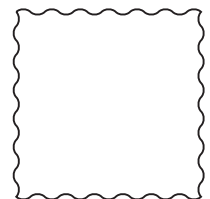
The Animal Doctors, Palo Alto
Adobe Animal Hospital, Los Altos
Animal Clinic of Benecia
Animal Wellness Center, Davis
Blue Ravine Animal Hospital, Folsom
Bradshaw Animal Clinic, Elk Grove
Standiford Veterinary Clinic, Modesto

Coastside Veterinary Clinic, Half Moon Bay
Cool Animal Hospital, Auburn/Cool
Cirby Ridge Animal Hospital, Roseville
Granberg Training Center (Judy Granberg, CPDT), Georgetown
Lawrence Veterinary Hospital, Santa Clara
Missouri Flat Pet Clinic, Placerville

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>). — Gale Ann Morris (sheltieroses@frontiernet.net)



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California
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FIRST CLASS MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION AND
FORWARDING REQUESTED