



www.norcalsheltierescue.org

Fall Newsletter 2019

Director's Message

Dear Rescue Friends,

Our **annual Sheltie Rescue celebration** took place this year on June 8, after having to be postponed due to inclement weather. As usual, it was a huge success, as verified by some of the photos you'll see in this issue. Our raffle surpassed our expectations, with many beautiful and practical gifts, and we generated quite a bit of funding for our veterinary expenses. Thanks to all who participated!

With each newsletter I like to provide you with some statistics on our rescue program. **To date this year, we have taken in ten (10) Shelties**; most of these dogs were surrendered by their owners. For comparison, in 2018 we took in thirty-two (32) dogs and in 2017 we took in twenty-two (22). Our Special Needs program currently cares for eight (8) dogs in permanent foster homes.

In this issue's letter I'd like to focus attention on a common health issue in Shelties – **bladder and urinary tract health**. Since bladder cancer is not uncommon in Shetland Sheepdogs, it's important that owners maintain good bladder health in their dogs. Over the years I've fostered many Shelties with urinary tract issues and I've had recent very personal experience with my own two Shelties, Bailey and Sierra.

Bailey was about three years old when I noticed blood in his urine. We went in for a sterile urine draw, guided by my vet's ultrasound machine. Stones were seen in the ultrasound, and these were not the common kind called "*struvites*," which can sometimes be dissolved via a special prescription diet. Nothing so simple for my boy! Bailey underwent surgery to remove the stones, which were shipped off to the University of Minnesota for biopsy. Bailey's stones were "*silica*" stones, which are jaggedly shaped something like the star-shaped jacks in the kids' game. These are caused by certain minerals, commonly found in root vegetables, which cause crystals and stones to form. Finding healthy dog food without potatoes, carrots, beets, etc. was not easy. I've settled on *NutriSource* (sold by independent pet stores, not online), since it's the closest to meeting Bailey's requirements. He's healthy again and retests have all come back negative for infection and for stones.

Sierra, my seven-year-old barking and herding maniac came into rescue with a very bad bladder infection. Upon examination, more than thirty (30) polyps were found in her bladder. Surgery was performed to resection her bladder, removing the parts where the polyps were congregated. She's been retested multiple times, with no regrown polyps and no infections.

I realized that the key to optimal bladder health in my dogs involves ensuring that they drink enough water/fluids throughout the day to keep their bladders flushed. Most Shelties I have known don't drink enough water; many have had previously undiagnosed bladder infections, usually found in females, but occasionally in males. To improve their fluid intake, I add a minimum of one-half cup water to their breakfast and dinner food and then give another one-half cup or so each after they eat. The broth is water mixed with a little canned food for flavor. Midafternoon they get another one-half cup of this "soup." It's working for my two and might help your Shelties too if they don't usually drink much water.

Sadly, bladder cancer is fairly common in our breed, so anything we can do to promote a healthy urinary tract system is a good idea. Check with your veterinarian to make sure there aren't any mitigating health issues that might be compromised by increasing daily fluid intake.

Wishing you and your Shelties a lovely autumn and a warm holiday season!

Gale Ann



Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. **To date, AmazonSmile has donated a total of \$1,790.95 to NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc. Please consider designating us as your charity. Thanks to Gale Ann and Kathie for launching this program.**

Board of Directors

Terry Gary, President
tgarycool@gmail.com

Liliane Morin, Secretary
morinlil@aol.com

Gale Ann Morris, Treasurer
sheltieroses@outlook.com

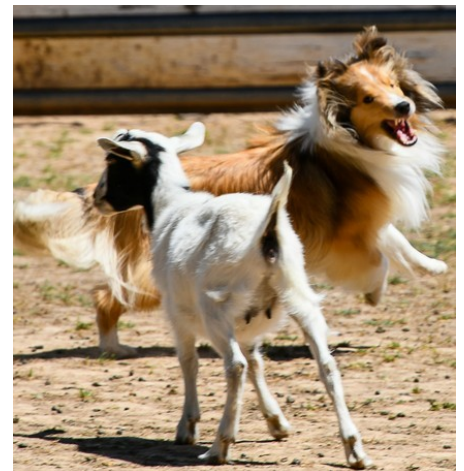
1-888-296-9350 message line

Annual Sheltie Rescue Celebration 6/8/19

Thanks to John Poimiroo for these photos!



**Next year's Sheltie Rescue Celebration
Saturday, May 16, 2020
Pleasant Grove (near Roseville)**



July 4th Rescue Mission

This holiday is a happy one for all Americans but a troubling one for dogs. As their humans, we worry about the loud bangs, bright lights, unusual activities, and constant noisy celebrations which can be terrifying for them. One dog in particular, a Sheltie, wound up alone and frightened on the streets around the place he was staying while his family was out of town. A gentleman on vacation in the area saw him, stopped his vehicle, and managed to capture him. The dog had no visible identification, so the finder took him to a local vet, where he was scanned for a microchip; none was found. He then notified local animal services, including vet offices. Over the next few days, no owner was forthcoming and the shelters were full. So he packed up the dog and took him home. Unfortunately, he couldn't keep him long because he already had two other dogs, the maximum his condominium rules allowed. A friend advised him to call NorCal Sheltie Rescue, and the rest is history!

We contacted volunteers John and Nancy (see the wedding photo on the gallery page), who offered their immediate help. The very next day they welcomed the dog into their home. In the meantime, Danny, the finder, was successful in locating the owner, who was out of town for a couple of weeks, having left Quinn in the care of a friend. Details were quickly worked out for Quinn to be returned to another friend until the owners returned.

Quinn is one lucky boy to have found his home again, thanks to Danny's diligent rescue efforts.

Just a reminder: please be sure your dogs wear an identification tag with your current phone number at all times and that they are microchipped and registered with your current information.

Preparing for Your Dog's Euthanasia

In Memory of Blue

Saying goodbye to one's pet is never an easy decision. Once you have made that decision, you assume things will go well, but you may not have weighed the importance of preparing yourself for the actual procedure of euthanizing your dog. Listed below are a few facts to consider, questions you should ask, and a link to a reliable source of information.



- Make sure it is the veterinarian who administers the injection (not a vet tech or vet assistant). In California, it is the law that a veterinarian performs the euthanasia; however, a loophole allows that a vet needs only to be present, not necessarily in the same room or nearby. If the procedure is going poorly and/or the pet is suffering, the vet could be unaware, otherwise occupied and unavailable.
- You do NOT have to wait in the waiting room. You can first go in, without your pet, to see if there will be any delays prior to your scheduled time. You can ask that a receptionist come get you, while you wait in your car with your pet. Some offices even have a side door that you can enter to get to the exam room, so that you can avoid the waiting room altogether. You can ask all this when you make your appointment. You may even request that you be the last appointment of the day.
- Many vets give the pet a sedative before the euthanasia drug. Some do not. Please ask that the pet be sedated first. When your pet passes, he/she may vocalize, twitch, or gasp. This can be startling to watch, and the use of a sedative will avoid this.
- The euthanasia solution is specially made to act quickly and painlessly but it must be administered intravenously. Some vets will administer it directly into a vein of one of your pet's legs, while others will want to start an IV first. Having witnessed a bad process without first starting an IV, I would recommend that an IV be started first, followed by the administration of the sedative, and then the euthanasia solution. Some pets may need to receive the sedative before the IV is started, if he/she is afraid or uncooperative at the time. In that way, the dog is at peace throughout the process, with no distress due to repeated efforts to get all the solution into the vein.
- You ARE allowed to stay with your pet, and hold your pet, during the sedation and euthanasia process. Many vets will want to start the IV in their procedure room and then bring your pet back to you in the exam room for the actual sedation and euthanasia process. You can always ask to be with your pet during the insertion of the IV, but understand that your request may not be granted.

If you would like to learn more, you can find more information at:

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/care/evr dg euthanasia what to expect>

Liliane Morin



Kirby (Herbie)

Loved by Dennis & family



Casey

Loved by Jackie



Pendragon

Loved by Pat



Matteo

Loved by Sam & Eileen



Chance

Loved by Susan



Brianna

Loved by Tina & Gary



Chip

Loved by Roger & family



Nikki

Loved by Elizabeth & Peter



Buddy

Loved by Ann & Joe & Claudia



Bear

Loved by Pat & Shantel



Gracie (no photo)

Loved by Sandy & Fred



Sparky

Loved by Christina & Andy



Heartwarming Rescue Story

Daisy came to me as an owner surrender. When she first arrived, she was scared and nervous but seemed to have a gentle soul. She quickly accepted my dogs and they accepted her. Not long after, I began looking at prospective adopters. One special couple, Anita and Bob, had recently euthanized their older Sheltie; their younger dog, Robbie, was lonely and they thought another companion would be good for him. They came out to meet Daisy and brought Robbie along. When they walked in the front door, it struck us how much Daisy looked like Robbie. They fell for her right away and adopted her.



The story could have ended there, but it gets better. When Anita found out Daisy's birthday, she laughed and said "Wow, that's Robbie's birthday, just a few years different." When she checked Robbie's paperwork, she realized she was off by two years and that the two dogs actually shared their birthday. So she asked me about the odds of the two dogs being siblings. She knew where she got Robbie, but we didn't know where Daisy came from. I was able to connect with the daughter of the previous owner, who confirmed the location of the breeder and said there were at least six or seven puppies in Daisy's litter. Robbie was purchased from this same breeder, but not until he was 18 months old. He had lived his entire life in a crate and was only allowed out to potty and then was put straight back into his crate. Anita and Bob have worked wonders with him and, though still a very shy Sheltie, he has come a long way.

Now the story gets even better since Jack, the person who came out to do the home check for Anita and Bob, was himself fostering two, two-year-old, heartworm-positive Shelties that had been turned in to the shelter by a local breeder along with two other dogs, one a brother and the other the dad to the puppies. So it turns out that the dad (Toby) is also Robbie and Daisy's brother. We just couldn't believe we had figured it all out and that they are truly siblings. Robbie and Daisy are enjoying life under the care of their wonderful adopters who have had Shelties for about 35 years. And the true icing on the cake is that their very first Sheltie was named... you guessed it, "Daisy"! Sometimes the stars and planets align, and I'm just happy I was able to be a part of this magical coincidence.

Karen Porter

Grain-Free Foods + DCM

In July 2018, the FDA announced that it had begun investigating reports of canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs eating certain pet foods, many labeled as "grain-free," which contained a high proportion of peas, lentils, other legume seeds, and/or potatoes in various forms (whole, flour, protein, etc.) as main ingredients (listed within the first 10 ingredients in the ingredient list, before vitamins and minerals). W. Jean Dodds, DVM, weighed in on this topic, as follows:

Diets in cases reported to the FDA frequently list potatoes or multiple legumes such as peas, lentils, other "pulses" (seeds of legumes), and their protein, starch and fiber derivatives early in the ingredient list, indicating that they are main ingredients. Early reports from the veterinary cardiology community indicate that the dogs consistently ate these foods as their primary source of nutrition for time periods ranging from months to years. High levels of legumes or potatoes appear to be more common in diets labeled as "grain-free," but it is not yet known how these ingredients are linked to cases of DCM. Changes in diet, especially for dogs with DCM, should be made in consultation with a licensed veterinarian.

*The FDA is simply stating a trend. These types of trends lead to much needed research. The FDA is **not** dismissing the prior research as invalid. As the FDA puts it, "The underlying cause of DCM is not truly known, but is thought to have a genetic component." The FDA is also **not** saying you should stop feeding grain-free foods.*

NorCal Sheltie Rescue staff are receiving many inquiries surrounding this issue. It's important to recognize that this research is ongoing and no definitive conclusions have been reached. We recommend following the investigations and reports from reliable sources, such as the two listed below.

<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/news-events/fda-investigation-potential-link-between-certain-diets-and-canine-dilated-cardiomyopathy>

[https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/blog/please-don't-panic-about-the-\"grain-free-thing\"/](https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/blog/please-don't-panic-about-the-\)

Adopted



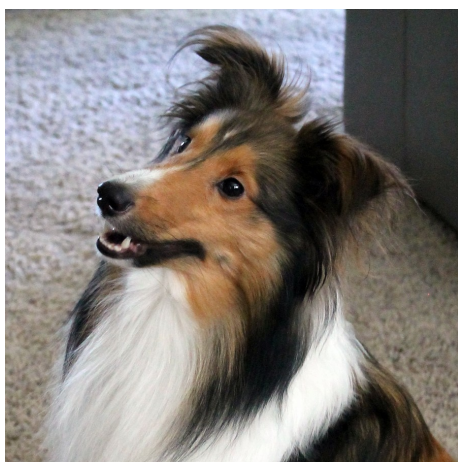
Skye (Tabby)

Adopted by Timmi & Lennie



Maddie

Adopted by Nancy



Coltrane (Tug)

Adopted by Nick & Michelle



Bella (left) with Oscar
Adopted by Devora & Richard



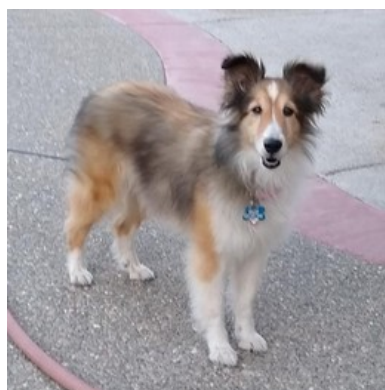
Denny

Adopted by Ann & Jerry



Dresden

Adopted by Claudia

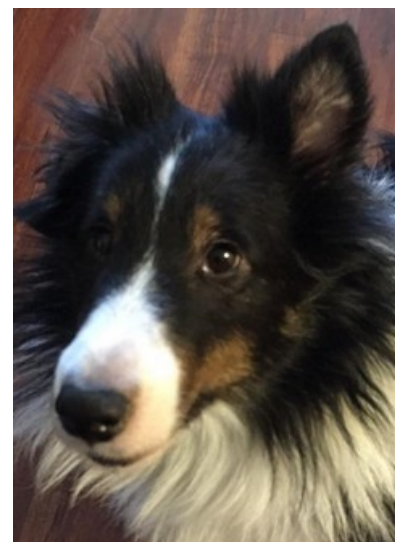


Honey

Adopted by Rosa & Daryl



Marshall with Skipper
Adopted by Roger & family



Charlie (Rey)
Adopted by Susan



Toby

Adopted by Steve & Eileen

Photo Gallery



Bella (CoCo)



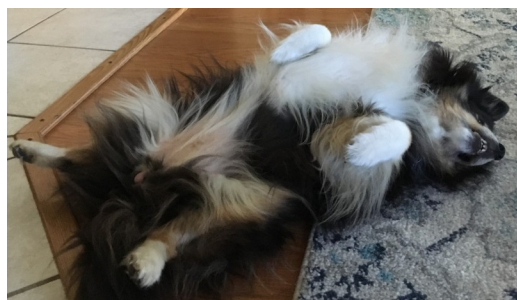
Skipper riding in VIP vehicle
Los Altos Hills pet parade



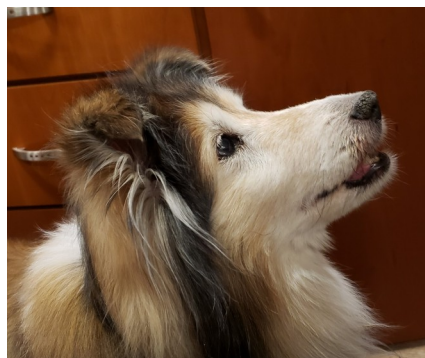
John & Nancy, daughter Meghan
Buster, ringbearer



Harley



Zoey



Penny



Morgan



Kory



Paige



3 Collies + 5 Shelties on vacation

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
Adobe Animal Hospital	Los Altos
Airport Pet Clinic	Cameron Park
Animal Hospital of Sebastopol	Sebastopol
Auburn Animal Hospital	Bakersfield
Bayside Animal Hospital	Granite Bay
Brighton Greens Veterinary Hospital	Grass Valley
Carson Valley Veterinary Hospital	Minden NV
Companion Animal Hospital	Santa Cruz
Cool Animal Hospital	Cool

Devotion Animal Hospital	Santa Rosa
Franklin Ranch Pet Hospital	Elk Grove
Mid-Peninsula Animal Hospital	Menlo Park
Muir Oaks Veterinary Hospital	Martinez
Orangevale Veterinary Hospital	Orangevale
Peninsula Animal Dermatology	San Carlos
Richmond Veterinary Hospital	Richmond
SF SPCA Mission	San Francisco
VCA Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic	Elk Grove
Yolo Veterinary Clinic	Woodland

NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.

P.O. Box 581934

Elk Grove, CA 95758



first class mail

address correction and
forwarding requested