

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2025

Dear Friends of NCSR,

It's time to give you an update on our year-to-date intake of rescued Shelties. Since January we have brought 14 Shelties into our program, with an average age of six years. All of them came from surrendering owners, due to deaths in the family. Our Special Needs program currently has four dogs; Hershey, Sequin, Gabby, and Teddy. We are grateful for the foster parents who give them the best lives possible while dealing with a multitude of medical and behavioral issues: Rhonda (Hershey), Carole (Sequin), Lynn (Gabby) and Nancy (Teddy). These dogs are all seniors, with the exception of Teddy, who has a congenital, life-shortening heart condition.

In mid-May we enjoyed the last time hosting our annual Sheltie Celebration at Performance Dogs in Action in Pleasant Grove. Our gracious proprietor, Nola Jones, has since sold the property and moved on to the green pastures of retirement. We wish Nola well and thank her for the many years she has supported this important and fun event. We are looking to you, our Sheltie friends, to help find a new venue for next year's event and we still need raffle coordinators if we are to have another raffle.

In this issue, editor Terry, has included articles about Sheltie coat colors, a dog's sense of smell, and dog sociability. The most entertaining part is always the gorgeous Shelties in all their colors, sizes, antics, and poses. We love receiving updates and photos of your Shelties, so please keep them coming.

Our succession planning continues at a slow pace, with Chantal, Andy, and Lynn participating in Board meetings and taking on some of the responsibilities of our nonprofit organization. We would love to spread out more tasks with help from engaged supporters. We are always grateful, too, for our volunteers who pick up, transfer, foster, adopt, and donate to help a homeless Sheltie. Thank you!

Wishing you a happy holiday season full of Sheltie kisses and a healthy new year for you and your beloved Shelties.

Warmest regards,
Gale Ann



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Oakley & Sierra

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*Happy Holidays from all of us
at NorCal Sheltie Rescue*

The Six Sheltie Colors

Becky Casale, author of *The Complete Guide to Shelties*

Shelties come in six gorgeous colors: Pure Sable, Mahogany Sable, Tri Color, Blue Merle, Bi Black, and Bi Blue. These coats are more than just hues; they're masterpieces of genetics, shaped by the interplay of color distribution patterns like the Irish pattern and Piebald pattern (also known as white factoring). Let's dive into what each Sheltie coat looks like and the fascinating genes behind them.



Sheltie Colors (continued)

1. The Pure Sable Sheltie

The Pure Sable Sheltie sports the classic golden coat that instantly evokes images of a pint-sized Lassie. Their fur is a warm, honeyed gold, sometimes deepening into a rich caramel, and always contrasted with crisp white markings on the chest, neck, and legs.

Pure Sable puppies start out looking completely different from their adult selves. They're born with soft grayish fur that gradually deepens into that signature warm tan as they grow.

2. The Mahogany Sable Sheltie

The Mahogany Sable Sheltie carries a more dramatic coat, a deep and layered blend of chestnut and mahogany which is often tipped or heavily overlaid with black.

Also called Shaded Sable, this coat darkens with age.

3. The Tri Color Sheltie

Tri Color Shelties wear a striking black coat, dramatically punctuated by patches of warm tan and bright white in the Irish pattern. Their black fur is set off by fiery tan markings above the eyes and on the legs. While black is the most dominant color in many other dog breeds, Shelties break the mold. Their dominant color is Sable, which they share with Rough Collies, Corgis, and Pomeranians. That means the rich black coat of a Tri Color Sheltie is a recessive genetic expression—a hidden treasure brought to the surface only when two parents pass along the right combination.

4. The Blue Merle Sheltie

Is this Sheltie steely blue? Is he slate? Is he silver? Only he knows. The rest of us call him a Blue Merle, for his abundance of blue-gray fur, spiced up with a mottled pattern. The effect is known as merling (or dappling in other breeds) and ensures no two Blue Merles look exactly alike.

Genetically, Blue Merles are essentially Tri Colors with a twist. The Merle gene acts like a dilution filter, fading solid black into misty blues and grays. It's as if nature herself played around with the Instagram filter on these pups.

5. The Bi Black Sheltie

The Bi Black Sheltie is a bold contrast of jet-black fur and bright white markings. Their coat is velvety dark, untouched by any tan, making their crisp white patches stand out even more dramatically. This high-contrast look is where the “bi” in Bi Black comes from—meaning two colors, black and white.

6. The Bi Blue Sheltie

The Bi Blue Sheltie is one of the rarest Sheltie colors, a mesmerizing mix of cool-toned gray or blue with the bright white of the Irish pattern. Their coats are often brushed with varying degrees of merling, giving them an ethereal, almost frosted appearance. Genetically speaking, Bi Blues are Bi Blacks with a Merle makeover, their black fur diluted into silvered blue.

Spring Picnic

Our annual Sheltie Celebration was held on May 17, with beautiful weather and many fosters, adopters, supporters, and assorted Shelties in attendance. Thanks to Gale Ann for organizing the raffle and enlisting the help of Pam, Lynn, Linda, Kathy, and Syema on the scene. Kathy and David took photos and shared them (see the blue merle connection in the Photo Gallery). Herding instinct testing was fun, with a few natural herders and others not very interested in goats. Dogs and humans alike had a great afternoon! It's always rewarding to see the results of our rescue efforts and have the opportunity to thank many of you in person.

Note: Thanks to Tex and Linda for storing our raffle supplies in their big barn. Anyone interested in organizing next year's raffle?

Adopted



Lucy
Adopted by Frannie & Steve



Davey
Adopted by Luanne



Duffy
Adopted by Steve & Kathleen



Thor
Adopted by Lisa & Terry



Brad
Adopted by Kim & Todd



Serena
Adopted by Mark



TO MY RESCUE DOG

There's no need to flinch when I lift my hand
No need to cower each time I stand
No need to run when I come near
No need to tremble - I see your fear.

You can sleep with both eyes shut,
Don't need to jump when you wake up.
Your food is yours to eat in peace
No need to fight to keep your feast

You don't need to lie upon a hard floor
The beds and sofas are yours to explore
Don't need to sit out in the rain
The house is your shelter, your new domain.

I cannot erase the memories and fears
I can't compensate for the wasted years
All I have is what you see
But I give you it all and I give you me.

I give you these arms to comfort and hold
I give you this voice for the joys you'll be told
I give you my heart and abundance of love
I give you my soul and I hope its enough.

*author unknown

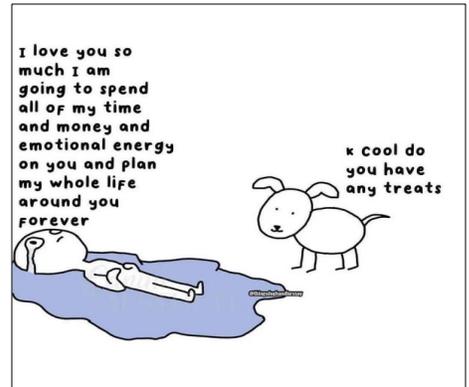
Dog Sociability is a Spectrum



“Dog selective” is normal!
(not every dog needs to be a social butterfly)



Huge thanks to Every Dog Behavior for communicating it so clearly! everydogaustrin.org



CIRCADIAN RHYTHMS

Like us, dogs have Circadian Rhythms - physical, mental / behavioural changes that follow a 24hr cycle which can tell time

These rhythms include environmental factors like temperature / light / hormone levels / neural activity / other physiological changes

I NOSE WHAT TIME IT IS

BESIDES THE OBVIOUS CUES, HOW DO DOGS KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS ?

A DOG'S AMAZING SENSE OF SMELL HELPS TO TELL THE TIME

TIME HAS A SCENT Different times of the day have a different scent

As air heats up in the day, air currents change / move around in space / carry molecules of scent

These changes become predictable patterns that help dogs understand the passing of time

INTENSITY If we leave for work, our scent gets weaker as each hour passes

Dogs notice the intensity of scent / learn that certain things happen when specific levels are reached

Dogs learn that when our scent gets to a certain level, it's time for us to return

The intensity of our scent predicts the time of our return

Dogs can also detect what / who has been in an area / how long ago they were there by the intensity of that scent

Dogs Disclosed

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Rainbow Bridge

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog, they take a piece of my heart with them, and every new dog that comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all of the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and as loving as they are." – Anonymous



Annie
Loved by Pat & Sean



Ditto & Murray
Loved by John & Joan



Snickers
Loved by Rhonda



Sammie
Loved by Pat & Jack
Keith & family



Newman
Loved by Dianne & Tom



Siobhan
Loved by Marty & Gail

Our condolences to the family of Jeanne Leap, who died recently. Jeanne was a long-time volunteer with NorCal Sheltie Rescue, having fostered and adopted several dogs and always raising her hand to welcome a Sheltie in need. We will miss her and so will Brad, her last Sheltie companion. Fortunately, Brad was adopted by his foster parents and is loved beyond measure. Before Brad, Jeanne adopted a senior Sheltie that came to us from a shelter; Q-tip was almost entirely white, with many health issues, and had been neglected for some time. Jeanne gave her a very good life.

Marty and Gail fostered and adopted Shelties from NorCal Sheltie Rescue. They had lost two Shelties over the past few years and were currently dogless. We received a request to take Siobhan into our program, since her owner had died. Out of the blue, in one short phone call, he and Gail agreed to adopt Siobhan, a senior with many health issues. They nurtured her with excellent vet care, exercise, and lots of love.

*Thank you,
foster parents, adopters, and
supporters! You're the best!*

Photo Gallery



Woody & Skipper



Blue merles at the May 17 picnic



Megan posing



Davey napping



Halloween criminal Donovan
Therapy dog parade



Finn in the field



Skylar, Savi, & Karoo

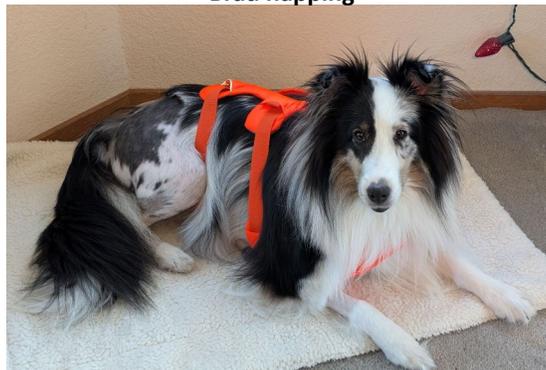


Brad napping



Duffy waits for foster mom

Many thanks to Jean, a former foster mom for senior shelties Bonnie and Buddy, for handling Lucy's adoption in the Pacific Northwest. She was organized, professional, and compassionate, from start to finish.



Lucy, 1 week after TPLO surgery



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 breed and a few give NCSR discounted services to Shelties in our foster program. We are grateful for their many contributions to our mission and to each and every Sheltie in their care.

Acorn Veterinary Clinic, Davis
Animal Medical Center, Auburn
Auburn Animal Hospital, Bakersfield
Bayside Animal Hospital, Granite Bay
Blue Ravine Animal Hospital, Folsom
Brighton Greens Veterinary Hospital, Grass Valley
Brink Veterinary Clinic, Shingletown
Carson Valley Veterinary Hospital, Gardnerville, NV

Franklin Ranch Pet Hospital, Elk Grove
Marina Pet Hospital, Marina
McKinleyville Animal Care Center, McKinleyville
Modern Animal, Berkeley
Muir Oaks Veterinary Hospital, Martinez
VCA Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic, Elk Grove
Yolo Veterinary Clinic, Woodland

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first class mail

address correction and
forwarding requested