# Newsletter

**Fall/Winter 2026**

Dear friends of NCSR,

This has been a slow year to date with just 8 new intakes; 5 have been adopted. Our newest Shelties are a 2-y.o. intact sable male and two 6-y.o. spayed sable females, all in foster care. In our Special Needs program, we still have 3 dogs, 13-year-olds Gabby and Hershey and 5-y.o. Teddy (congenital heart condition).

Fortunately, it's been slow because Terry and I are moving into full retirement, ideally by the end of this year. From the financial and veterinary care side of the organization, we're in good shape, thanks largely to Andy Finlayson, our new treasurer. But we're still looking for help for the Intake/Adoption Coordinator position. If you can help with any of the tasks in that area, please contact us. It's probably the most fun part of our rescue work, since we get to meet or talk to surrendering owners, foster parents, adopters, and volunteers, plus see many Shelties and get updates on their transformations. Check out the two stories in this issue, both of which show the rewards of our efforts.

You'll notice that our Board positions have changed. Terry is the new secretary, Andy is the new treasurer, and I plan to stay on the board as president. I should clarify that the only board position that has hands-on tasks is the treasurer, due to approving and paying for veterinary services and other fiscal responsibilities. Andy is taking over my day-to-day tasks for foster care oversight. The Intake and Adoption coordinator work that Terry has been doing for over 20 years is not tied to a board position. Please note that our emails now reflect our corporate addresses rather than private. See the box on the right of this letter.

On a personal note, I lost my 14-year-old, Sierra, due to mobility issues a few months ago. She was such a good girl despite chronic kidney disease and advanced osteoarthritis. She is included on the Rainbow Bridge page in this issue.

On our Photo Gallery page, we mention consideration of a donation to NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc. Thanks to your generosity over the years, we've been able to rescue **824** Shelties. We're grateful, beyond words! Happy holidays!

*Gale Ann*



Oakley

**NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.**

**Board of Directors**

Gale Ann Morris, President
admin@norcalsheltierescue.org
Andy Finlayson, Treasurer
treasurer@norcalsheltierescue.org
Teresa Gary, Secretary
info@norcalsheltierescue.org

NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.
501(C)(3) not-for-profit dog breed rescue
TIN: 20-4107630
www.norcalsheltierescue.org

*Happy Holidays from all of us at NCSR!*

# NCSR Succession Planning -- update

**Board of Directors**

| **Treasurer** | **President** | **Secretary** |
|---|---|---|
| Andy Finlayson | Gale Ann Morris | Teresa Gary |

**Intake/Adoption Coordinator**
Teresa Gary

**Core volunteers**
**Area Resources**

## SHELTIE HEALTH MONDAY

# GALLBLADDER MUCOCELE

*A Sheltie Health Risk You May Not Know About*



Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue

### WHAT IS A GALLBLADDER MUCOCELE?

A gallbladder mucocele occurs when the gallbladder fills with thick, sticky mucoid (mucus-like) material. It can partially or completely block the gallbladder and affect liver function.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Shetland Sheepdogs have a documented increased risk for gallbladder mucoceles and other gallbladder disorders. Some Shelties may show few or no obvious signs when the disease is present.

### SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

- Decreased appetite or refusal to eat
- Lethargy or weakness
- Vomiting (sometimes bile)
- Abdominal discomfort or bloating
- Diarrhea (occasionally)
- Yellowing of gums, skin or eyes (jaundice)
- Weight loss

*Signs can be intermittent or subtle.*

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Mucocele can range from mild to life-threatening.
- It may rupture, causing bile leakage into the abdomen, which is a medical emergency.
- Blood tests and imaging (ultrasound) help with diagnosis.
- Treatment often involves surgery to remove the gallbladder.
- Early detection leads to better outcomes.
- Because Shelties are at higher risk, regular wellness exams are important.

*Some Shelties show no signs until the disease is advanced.*

### WHEN TO CALL YOUR VET

- Any sudden change in appetite or energy
- Repeated vomiting
- Jaundice (yellow gums, skin or eyes)
- Abdominal pain or bloating
- If your Sheltie seems "just not right"

*Don't wait—early attention can save lives.*

### AT RISK? YES.

Gallbladder mucocele occurs more frequently in Shetland Sheepdogs than in many other breeds. **Know the signs and talk with your veterinarian about your Sheltie's individual risk.**

### YOUR SHELTIE COUNTS ON YOU.

Stay informed. Ask questions. Advocate early. Your awareness today can make all the difference tomorrow.

*Healthy dogs. Informed owners. Stronger futures.*

# Jax's Story

You may remember Jax, a 9-y.o. tricolor male Sheltie, from his posting on the NorCal Sheltie Rescue website. He had a bite history in his family, as a result of trying to herd the young children. He was surrendered to us on October 31, 2025, and went to live with Juliene.

Here are a few of his behavior issues upon arrival:

- Leash reactive to other dogs
- Sound and motion sensitive
- Uncomfortable with grooming

On the plus side, he was good with cats, housetrained, crate-trained, leash-trained, playful with toys, and affectionate.

We wanted to be especially careful in placing him in foster care, due to his inclination to bite when threatened. Fortunately, Juliene accepted him readily, eager to go to work with him. With her experience as a dog trainer, plus her familiarity with Shelties, she knew exactly what steps to take. Her knowledge, patience, and positive attitude were instrumental in helping him make good decisions, resulting in a fun-loving, well-behaved dog. After six months in foster care, we finally found the perfect home for him with Brenda. Jax has lots of room to run and play fetch with his companion dogs, including fellow Sheltie Jellybean.

Our thanks to Juliene and Brenda for all they've done to give Jax a great life. He's now 10 years old and catching treats with his paws, transformed by loving human hands.





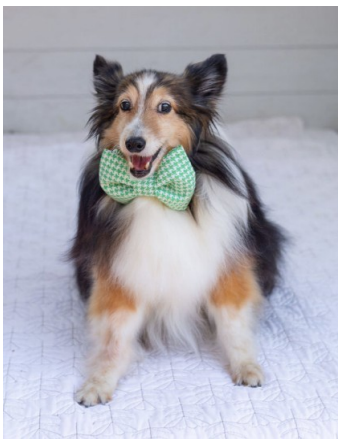
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# Teddy's Story



Kern Animal Services picked up Teddy from the small town of Taft, roaming the K-Mart parking lot. Lisa and Lou, volunteers with NorCal Sheltie Rescue, went to get him right away. When the staff carried him out, it was "love at first sight." In Lisa's words, "he was an adorable small Sheltie. They estimated him to be 10 years old. We had him for 10 years! I don't think he was 20, but probably 15-17 when he died. He was such an amazing guy: no real heath issues and a prefect pup. He had never done anything naughty (digging, chewing, barking). We thank NorCal Sheltie Rescue for allowing us to be his guardians. We loved him dearly."

Lisa & Lou



*This is yet another example of our stellar volunteers stepping up to rescue Shelties in need. The transformation in the lives of these dogs is incredible, thanks to the commitment of our foster parents and adopters.*

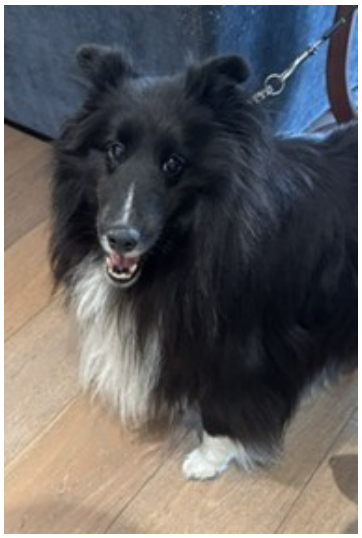
# Adopted



**Brogan**
**Adopted by Tove**



**Can you tell them apart?**



**Collin**
**Adopted by Tove**



**Teddy**
**Loved by Lisa & Lou**

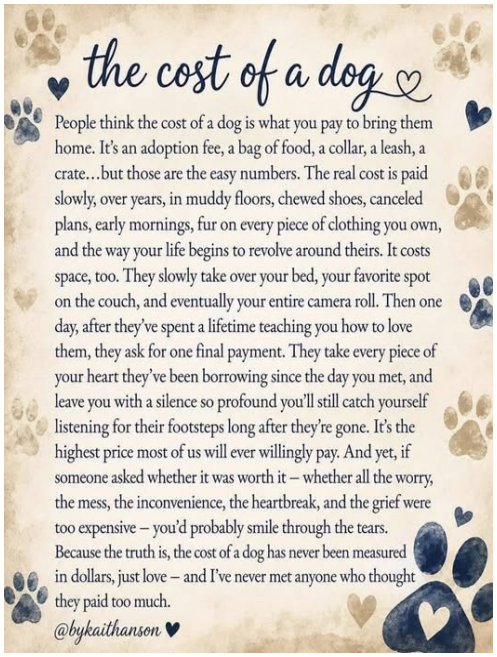




**Skylar**
**Loved by Tina & Gary**

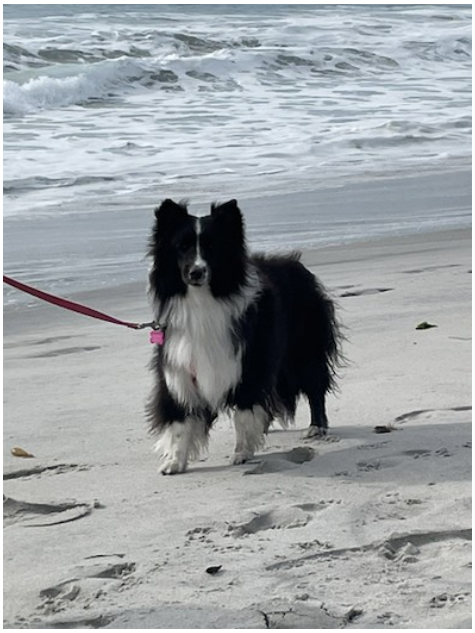


**Sierra**
**Loved by Gale Ann**






# Photo Gallery



**Sophie at the beach**



**Lindsey Rae, 5th birthday**



**Jack**
**Cushing's disease, thriving at age 11**



**Duffy**
**1-year adoption annversary**

The holidays are just around the corner and we would welcome your support for NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Any kind of support is appreciated, from $5 to five minutes of somebody's time, to material goods, corporate support, grants and estate legacies.

All financial donations are used for veterinary expenses and other costs incurred in caring for rescue Shelties. You may donate one time or on a monthly subscription basis using any of the Donation Methods on our website at www.norcalsheltierescue.org. If you prefer, you can make donation checks payable to NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc. and send them to Gale Ann Morris, 9386 Forest Vista Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758. All donations to NCSR are considered unrestricted for accounting purposes.

If you are interested in fostering or doing other volunteer work for Sheltie Rescue, please do not hesitate to contact us online or via our toll-free message line, 888-296-9350.

Thanks very much for your help. Our volunteers and supporters are the heart of our team!



**Newcomer Dot**
**In foster care**



**Hershey celebrates Christmas**



**Newcomer Winkie**
**In foster care**

# 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

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

Yolo Veterinary Clinic, Woodland

**NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.**
**9386 Forest Vista Way**
**Elk Grove, CA 95758**

Northern California Rescue US Sheltie Rescue

first class mail

address correction and
forwarding requested