



# Newsletter

Fall 2020

Dear Sheltie Rescue Friends,

With each newsletter I like to provide you with some statistics on our rescue program. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, the total number of intakes is ten (10), with the average age of 8.2 years, most often surrendered by their owners. For comparison purposes, in all of 2019 we took in eighteen (18) dogs. Our Special Needs program currently cares for nine (9) dogs in permanent foster homes.

It is with regret that we've put a hold on accepting any new applications. We have a long list of waiting applicants, and with only ten (10) Shelties coming in this year, we don't want folks thinking that they will be able to get a dog from us anytime soon. Apparently, there's a shortage of Shelties everywhere so we are not unique.

In this issue you'll find articles on the importance of collars and I.D. tags, safe transport, warm memories of volunteers, an adoption story in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, and lots of photos of Shelties!

The following are my thoughts on the problems that retractable leashes cause, including injury to people with the cord/tape wrapping around limbs creating a tripping hazard and causing soft tissue injuries, let alone harm to the attached dog. No one has their dog under control if it's away by 12 – 30 feet at the end of a flexi leash. If the handle slips out of the owner's grip, it can bang into the dog, startling it and causing it to bolt. **We recommend 4- to 6- foot leashes** attached to the martingale-type collar that each adopted/fostered Sheltie wears to their new home. This way your dog walks near you so you can more easily protect it from unfriendly dogs and the dangers busy streets and parking lots, greenbelts and trails can pose. Since I value any Sheltie's safety in my care over all else, they'll never be on the end of a retractable leash.

I hope you are healthy and are enjoying this time with your Shelties to further the wonderful bond we share with them. We're still working through the pandemic issues, but I'm feeling very fortunate that I'm retired, enjoy my home, and live next to a greenbelt with easy access for dog walking. Sheltie Rescue keeps me connected, too, because I manage our Special Needs Shelties veterinary care with their wonderful foster moms. Many of you have been loyal and generous with your donations to our veterinary fund, for which we are very grateful! Acknowledgment letters will be sent out in January for 2020 donations. Please stay well and stay safe!

With warmest regards,

*Gale Ann*



## NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc. Board of Directors

Terry Gary, President  
tgarycool@gmail.com

Liliane Morin, Secretary  
morinlil@aol.com

Gale Ann Morris, Treasurer  
sheltieroses@outlook.com

Website:  
[www.norcalsheltierescue.org](http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org)

1-888-296-9350 message line

## 2020 Sheltie Celebration Canceled

Our Sheltie celebration this year had to be cancelled due to the risks posed by the pandemic. We hope to reschedule it for sometime in 2021, most likely in May. We greatly miss this opportunity to get together with our Sheltie friends and hope you are all well.

# Adoption During the Pandemic

## The Story of Darrell and Dexter

In early 2015, Darrell and Myril adopted a Sheltie named Lady from NorCal Sheltie Rescue. She became Darrell's constant companion, accompanying him on his many volunteer missions working for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Darrell served in the Vietnam war, initially trained as a radio communications technician and later as a helicopter gunner.

After Lady passed away, Darrell was lonely and wanted another Sheltie. When a stray Sheltie came into a shelter in Sonoma County, Darrell agreed to foster her and we hoped he would want to adopt her. But she was almost feral, hiding in the shrubs and refusing human contact. We decided to rehome her to Lisa and Lou, volunteers in Bakersfield, who drove up to Santa Rosa to get her. Poppy was soon surrounded by several other dogs, which were instrumental in helping her relax and adjust to new routines.

In 2018, after the devastating Camp Fire in Santa Rosa, Darrell decided to relocate to Utah to be closer to his daughter Hannah. He bought a new house there and prepared the yard for his next Sheltie companion. During this time he kept in contact with us, letting us know about his progress; in September of 2019 he notified me that he was ready, sending photos of his house and yard.

On March 13, 2020, we received word about a Sheltie in the Merced shelter, a stray sable male. Our volunteers Rhonda and Tom were able to get him from the shelter, keep him overnight, and then transport him to our new volunteer Theresa, who then met up with our director Gale Ann, who then met up with me. I delivered him to Wanda and John, new foster parents, and got him safely established. Dexter had experienced some kind of serious injury to his hindquarters, resulting in limited mobility in his back legs. Fortunately, he was able to run, jump, and play — just not for extended periods of time. After careful vetting, no surgery was recommended and he was determined healthy and adoptable. Dexter was one happy, carefree dog, content to carry his toys around, play tug, and seek affection.

I contacted Darrell and told him about Dexter. The rest is history. Darrell and Myril drove out from Utah to adopt Dexter on May 14, 2020. Wanda and John had carefully arranged for the adoption to take place in their back yard, with masks and social distancing; however, it was raining that morning, so we had to move indoors. Dexter was a true host that day, welcoming newcomers as old friends and bringing toys to all who would play. He charmed his adopters instantly and the following day he was safely home in Utah, where he spends his days with Darrell and it's hard to tell who's the Master of the House.



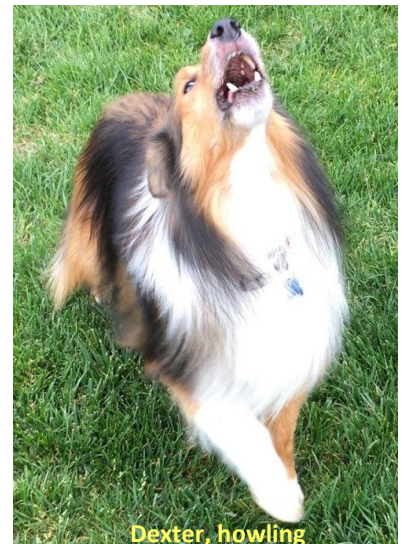
Darrell in the service



Poppy, on pillows



Myril, Darrell, & Dexter  
Adoption Day



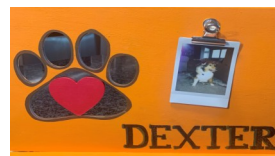
Dexter, howling



Lady



Dexter



I wrote this story for two reasons: 1) to focus attention on one of our veterans and Sheltie adopters and 2) to show the steps our volunteers take, with every task from applications, home checks, foster agreements, adoption contracts, networking with shelters, pulling from shelters, transporting, working with foster parents, working with veterinarians and staff, setting up adoptions, working at public events, and FOSTERING! We are very grateful to all our volunteers, who step up when needed and ensure that these rescued Shelties get the care they need.

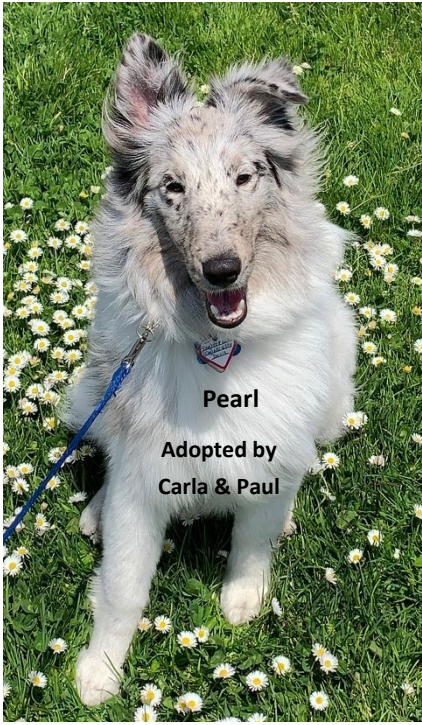
*Terry Gary*



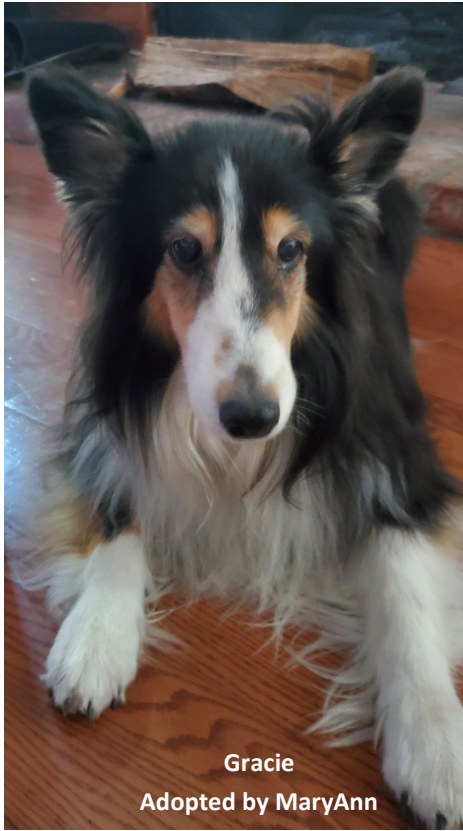
# Adopted



Buddy  
Adopted by Scott & family



Pearl  
Adopted by  
Carla & Paul



Gracie  
Adopted by MaryAnn



Jake & Sallie in foster care



Jake  
Adopted by Michele



Freida  
Adopted by MaryAnn



Sarah  
Adopted by Wanda & John

*Many thanks to our NorCal Sheltie Rescue team, plus our foster families, without whose help these rescues and adoptions could not take place.*



Turbo  
Adopted by Lorraine



# Identification for your Sheltie

In our rescue work we occasionally receive phone calls from people who have found one of our adopted Shelties. Here are just two recent examples:

- A leashed dog broke loose from his owner and was found by a stranger. Fortunately, he was wearing our NorCal Sheltie Rescue I.D. tag with our contact information. We received the call and were able to track down and contact the owner.
- A loose dog was found wandering in the streets. Two vacationers captured him, but he had no collar or identification. Local shelters were full. Finders couldn't keep him and called our rescue group (they went online and got our contact information) and we took him into our program. The owners were eventually located and the dog was returned.

Collars and I.D. tags are essential to your dog's finding his way back to you if he gets lost or escapes. The first place people look when they find a dog is the collar, which should bear the owner's current telephone number. We recommend listing at least one alternative phone number, that of a relative or neighbor or your vet. If your dog is a Sheltie, please include our contact numbers: 888-296-9350 (message line on our website); 916-804-2791 (Gale Ann — Director); 530-613-5006 (Terry — President).

If there's no collar, people typically take the dog to a shelter or local veterinarian to see if the dog has a microchip. Our adoption contract requires microchipping for all our adopted Shelties and we recommend adding the NorCal Sheltie Rescue contact information to your dog's registration.

**Just a reminder: Please be sure your dog is protected by keeping I.D. tags and microchip information current. Thank you!**

## Safe Transport

In addition to wearing current and reliable identification, dogs should be restrained when riding in cars. Dogs riding loose run the risk of:

- Interfering with the driver's concentration, driver's body, parts of the car (gear shift, steering wheel, windows, brake or accelerator pedals);
- With head out the window, getting hit by flying objects or objects very close to the car;
- Falling out of an open window;
- Being injured due to a sudden stop;
- Being thrown out of the car in case of accident;
- Running loose after an accident and being hit by another vehicle;
- Getting lost in a strange area.

As a dog rescue organization, our process for safe transport involves securing the dog in some way in the vehicle. We recommend the following, in order:

- A sturdy wire crate or plastic airline crate that's attached to the vehicle so that it doesn't move around and won't be thrown out of the car in case of an accident.
- A seat belt harness, buckled into the seat belts in the back seat of the vehicle.
- If it's an emergency and neither of the above options is available, loop the dog's leash into the seatbelt.

Make sure the dog has pottied before you leave. Since most dogs can sleep through the night without urinating, they can usually travel for several hours without a potty break. From our experience, it's a huge risk to take a dog out of its crate for a break, in a strange area, with people he doesn't know, when he may be stressed in new territory.

Water or food breaks are not necessary, although water may be offered in the crate. It's helpful to have the water attached to the crate ahead of time; if not, be sure to block the crate entrance while holding onto the dog's leash. Stretch and move breaks are not necessary, either, unless the trip is very long.

Best wishes for safe travels!

**Thank you,  
volunteers!**

**Roger & Susan Sullivan  
Steve & Cheri Heilmann  
Rick & Chris Anderson**

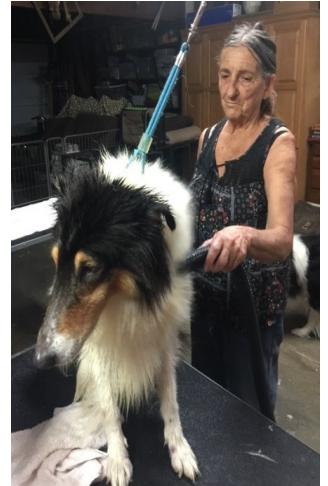
We thank you for your years of dedication to NorCal Sheltie Rescue, which included fostering, pickup from shelters, transport, donations, setup and cleanup at public events, and many other tasks — always with a smile and helping hands. We'll miss you! And welcome back, **Vicki & Bob Jones** — so glad you're here with us!

# In Memoriam

**Jean Roberts** passed away on April 29, 2020, a huge loss to NorCal Collie Rescue but also felt by our NorCal Sheltie Rescue team. Jean fostered several Shelties for us, two of which came into our program through a confiscation in Lassen County. Whenever we needed an extra foster home, Jean offered to help. Our Director commented that “she had “so much knowledge and so much heart!” The following tribute by **Karen Boselly**, former NorCal Collie Rescue President, recognizes the impact Jean had on all those who knew her.

*Jean first came into my life back in 1998. She did my home check and interview to see if I was a worthy candidate to foster collies for CCRC (California Collie Rescue Coalition), our name before NCR. During the following 22 years Jean spent countless hours teaching me and others about rescue, health, genetics, coats and colors; her knowledge was vast and endless.*

*Jean was tiny but mighty, generous and kind, but outspoken and fierce when challenged. She taught me when not to give up and when to let go; how not to allow guilt or failure to consume; how to trudge forward to save the next one. I've cried many tears on her shoulders and celebrated many wins with her. Jean never once declined when we asked for help. No matter what major behavior or health issues the dogs had, it never mattered to her. She faced every challenge with no complaints.*



Peggy with her beloved Flash, painted by Vicki Doyle Jones

**Peggy Prater** was a member of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern California for many years and a long-time supporter of NorCal Sheltie Rescue, volunteering at public events and fostering. She was very active in dog shows and dog training in the Bay Area. In recent years, she moved out of state and we recently learned of her passing in November, 2019.



**Amy Brastad** spent much of her adult life working with dogs: breeding, training, showing, trialing, and rescuing. She is well known for her many contributions to the early rescue operations of Shetland Sheepdogs in the greater Bay Area. Her beloved Sheltie, Joy was her constant companion in her later years and she continued to participate in agility trials well into her 90's.

# Sallie's Transformation

Sallie and Jake spent most of their lives in the same household, loved and cared for by their family. When their Dad became ill, we were asked to take them into our program. Both dogs were twelve years old and in need of serious vet care. Sallie, in particular, was extremely thin, with a very dry coat. Both had dental problems; both had tumors which needed to be removed. And both needed vaccinations, bloodwork, and regular monitoring. Jake was a social and playful boy, but Sallie was quite aloof and “quirky,” uninterested in humans, other dogs, or her surroundings.

Marte and Charles picked up the dogs and fostered them for several months, nurturing them back to health. We wondered if we'd be able to find the right homes for them, but no worries: Jake has been adopted by Michelle and Sallie is in permanent foster care with Tina and Gary. Not only has Sallie gained weight and a healthy coat — she's Queen of the Household. She loves cuddling, often winding up on the chair reserved with her blanket. Or with her head in Tina's lap. Or upside down, stretched out, and unrecognizable! Life is good for these seniors, thanks to their wonderful foster parents and adopters!







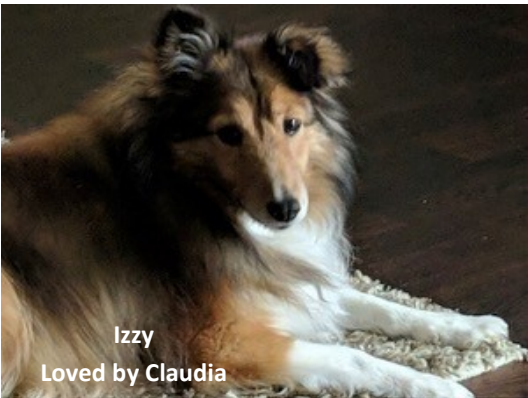
Flash  
Loved by Roger & family



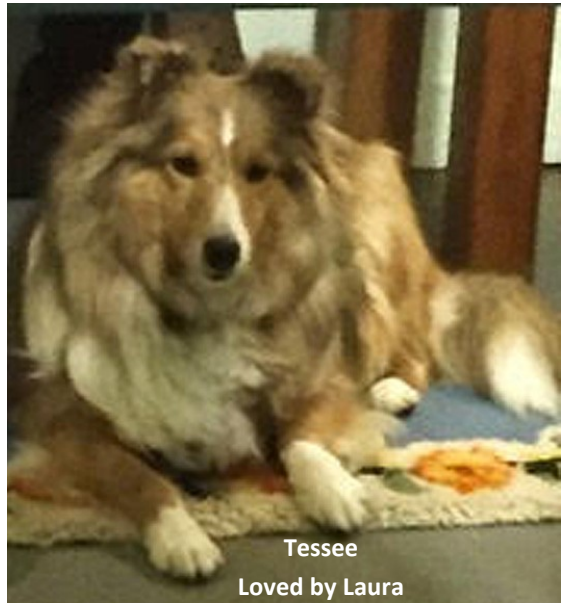
Toby & Chase  
Loved by Teena & Tom



Panda  
Loved by Sandi & Alfie



Izzy  
Loved by Claudia



Tessee  
Loved by Laura



Mia  
Loved by Sandy & Keith



Bernie  
Loved by Audrey

# Rainbow Bridges





# Photo Gallery



# 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.

Acorn Veterinary Clinic, Davis

Adobe Animal Hospital, Los Altos

Airport Pet Clinic, Cameron Park

Auburn Animal Hospital, Bakersfield

Bayside Animal Hospital, Granite Bay

Blue Ravine Animal Hospital, Folsom

Brighton Greens Veterinary Hospital, Grass Valley

Carson Valley Veterinary Hospital, Minden NV

Companion Animal Hospital, Santa Cruz

Devotion Animal Hospital, Santa Rosa

Franklin Ranch Pet Hospital, Elk Grove

Jackson Creek Veterinary Clinic, Jackson

Mid-Peninsula Animal Hospital, Menlo Park

Muir Oaks Veterinary Hospital, Martinez

VCA Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic, Elk Grove

Walnut Creek Veterinary Hospital, Walnut Creek

**NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 581934**

**Elk Grove, CA 95758**



first class mail

address correction and  
forwarding requested