



Newsletter

Fall 2021

Dear Sheltie Rescue Friends,

What a joyous reunion we had at our annual Sheltie Rescue Celebration in May this year! It was so nice to see all of you again and watch the beautiful dogs in action! We appreciate very much your support of our annual raffle, too, which goes into our veterinary fund. Please save the date of May 21st for the 2022 celebration, to be confirmed on our website.

Our intake numbers continue to be lower than in years past. So far this year, we have taken in 12 dogs and we currently have only one in foster care. Despite having limited numbers of available Shelties, we recently reactivated the Applications page on our website to refresh our applicant pool. It is always helpful to have a good mix of applicants, since we match the specific needs of each Sheltie with the environment and preferences of the adopter.

In this issue you'll see the stories of two young Shelties in serious need of behavior modification. We thank our foster families and adopters for their patience and commitment to training, resulting in two companion Shelties able to channel their energy and drive into appropriate public and household activities.

Now that the heat of summer is behind us, I hope you're like me, enjoying the cooler days with dog walks and play time. The photo at right is of my two Shelties, Sierra and Bailey, focused on the ball and enjoying our daily sojourns through the parks near my home.

Happy holidays! Please think of us with your holiday giving. We are very fortunate to have generous supporters who keep our veterinary fund and all our rescue Shelties healthy!

Warmest wishes for health and happiness,

Gale Ann



Nor Cal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.

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"Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend."

Albert Camus



Shelby's Journey

Shelby came into our rescue program in December of 2020 at nine months old, surrendered by her original owners, who struggled with her obsessive behaviors, barking, and occasional aggression toward their other Sheltie. She did well in her early training but soon became increasingly anxious and reactive. She was difficult to walk or take for rides due to her severe reactions to noises, movements, and objects, including people and dogs; exercise, which she desperately needed, was hard to incorporate into her daily routines. Medication to "take the edge off" was prescribed by her vet; although it helped, it didn't allow her to focus consistently on training. Reluctantly, her owners surrendered her to NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.

We placed her in an exceptional foster home with experienced trainers and participants in many dog sports and activities. Shelby excelled at Nose Work (see photo, right) and made good progress there, overall, but had trouble adjusting to daily routines and caused friction with one of the male Shelties in the home. When highly aroused, she lashed out at the nearest person or dog or object, and it became clear that she needed another home.



The next step in her journey involved placing her at Performance Dogs in Action, where the owner/trainer Nola has a special gift for assessing dogs in general and herding dogs in particular. She agreed to foster Shelby and give us her recommendations. She took her off medication, taught her to herd, and gave her plenty of hard exercise, training, and attention. While there, Shelby met a couple who participate in herding with their Shelties. They began to work with her and after a few weeks, agreed to foster her for us.

After almost five months in foster care with Cathy and John, Shelby has been adopted! She's well-supervised and getting lots of exercise, which generally makes her tired and cooperative. She's able to walk on leash in her neighborhood, seeing pedestrians, dogs, and vehicles without outbursts. She has even gone to a local coffee house, lying down on her side and relaxing. She will soon be participating regularly in competitive herding events, which she loves. And she'll be getting all the training, attention, and love she needs to thrive. Congratulations, Shelby and family — may you have many joyful adventures together!

These high-energy, high-drive, anxious Shelties are a challenge for most people. Fortunately, we have experienced and dedicated volunteers who welcomed Shelby into their homes and helped her develop into a well-behaved companion dog. Many thanks to Mary & Paul, Dianne & Tom, Nola, Cathy & John, and Julie (transport) for their contributions to this rewarding rescue!



Photo by Greg Hughes



Daisy

Adopted by Don & Cindy



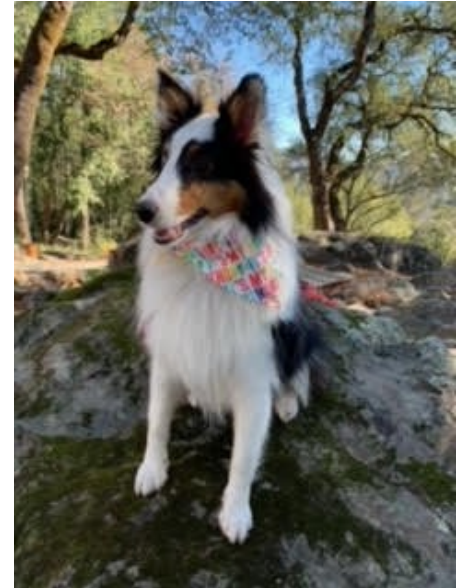
Cassie

Adopted by Wendy & Bill



Finn

Adopted by Marte & Charles



Shelby

Adopted by Cathy & John



Pandora

Adopted by Yvone



Jasper

Adopted by Marie & family



Skylar

Adopted by Tina & Gary



Sophie

Adopted by Steve & Eileen

HERE IN THIS HOUSE . . .

I will never know the loneliness I hear in the barks of the other dogs 'out there'.

I can sleep soundly, assured that when I wake my world will not have changed.

I will never know hunger, or the fear of not knowing if I'll eat.

I will not shiver in the cold, or grow weary from the heat.

I will feel the sun's heat, and the rain's coolness,
and be allowed to smell all that can reach my nose.

My fur will shine, and never be dirty or matted.

Here in this house...

There will be an effort to communicate with me on my level.

I will be talked to and, even if I don't understand, I can enjoy the warmth of the words.

I will be given a name so that I may know who I am among many.

My name will be used in joy, and I will love the sound of it!

Here in this house...

I will never be a substitute for anything I am not.

I will never be used to improve peoples' images of themselves.

I will be loved because I am who I am, not someone's idea of who I should be.

I will never suffer for someone's anger, impatience, or stupidity.

I will be taught all the things I need to know to be loved by all.

If I do not learn my lessons well, they will look to my teacher for blame.

Here in this house...

I can trust arms that hold, hands that touch...

knowing that, no matter what they do, they do it for the good of me.

If I am ill, I will be doctored.

If scared, I will be calmed.

If sad, I will be cheered.

No matter what I look like, I will be considered beautiful and thought to be of value.

I will never be cast out because I am too old, too ill, too unruly, or not cute enough.

My life is a responsibility, and not an afterthought.

I will learn that humans can almost, sometimes, be as kind and as fair as dogs.

Here in this house...I will belong.

I will be home.

~ Author unknown ~

Fostering Finn

Finn is a 2-year-old neutered tricolor male joining our rescue program in early June, 2021. He needed a new home because the toddler in his household was starting to get physical with him and he was responding by growling and snapping. His owners had given him a solid foundation — he's housetrained, crate-trained, walks well on leash, and seeks affection. But in their busy lives, they had little time to exercise him and continue his training.

We placed him in a foster home with Marte and Charles, who had fostered several Shelties for us and worked with a variety of temperaments. As he gained confidence in his new home, he began to exhibit some troubling behaviors. Through regular communication with us, and through lots of patience, understanding, and exercise, they helped Finn develop into a lovely companion. Here are a few of his "issues" and their comments along the way.

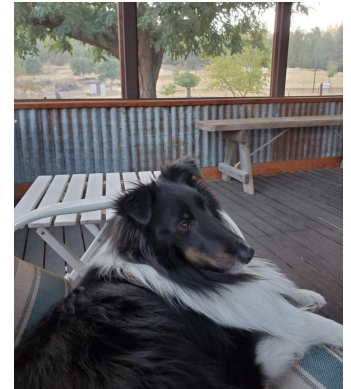
Reactivity to other dogs: When out for a walk, Finn growled and snapped when other dogs approached him. Marte joined a neighborhood group of people who walked their dogs at the marina and practiced effective walking techniques and default positions for Finn (sit, down, stay). Finn adjusted well to dogs he got to know. Marte texted: "Today Finn extended his nose to sniff/greet Emma (a German Shorthair). Emma had missed the last few walks and rejoined the group just today. He even ran a little bit dragging a leash while the others played off-leash at the end of our walk."

Growling, curling lip at strangers in the house: Finn wasn't used to having people come to his house regularly. When family members were expected, Marte would crate him in another room or have him drag a leash, where she could easily manage his behavior. She recognized when he would be overwhelmed and protected him from strangers. Gradually, he is adjusting to other people on his turf; he's become especially fond of their 5-year-old grandson and lights up when the boy comes into view.

Eliminating in only one place: Finn had a tough time initially with elimination, choosing only one spot to do his "business." It took quite a while for him to feel comfortable eliminating while on walks or at another residence. Recently, Marte reported: "Finn finally peed in an "irregular" (outdoor) elimination spot. He was sniffing a "foreign" elimination on our ranch driveway and I gave the "dog pee" command and he did! I was ecstatic and he gave me the "whatever" look."

Plays too rough: Finn is a big boy at 37 pounds and can be intimidating when playing with other dogs. He needs supervision and intervention. Marte is careful to monitor his play sessions vigilantly. She's also got him on a weight loss program with diet kibble and green beans.

Here's the latest message from Marte: "Finn is sharing the glider with me as we watch the sunset. He is a veteran car passenger now and enjoys looking out his window (even over the mountain!). He goes to work with Charles sometimes and is not so cranky with other dogs now. He likes sleeping in his crate at home, but hardly ever goes in his crate in the ranch house and sleeps on the carpet in our bedroom at night. Finn also decided it's okay to eliminate anywhere in his ranch yard but still prefers just the one area in our main yard. Wish he could tell me why he has different behaviors for each house! I hope his former family knows how much we love him and that he will always be well cared for."



Many thanks to Marte and Charles for their efforts with this young, active Sheltie, who now waits near the front door for Charles to get home from work, tap dancing and wiggling until petted.



Photo Gallery



Oscar & Bella

Best Friends Forever



Shadow 727 goes camping



Stanley with BIG sister Sarah



Jasper says hello



Pandora napping with her toys



Foxy after spay surgery



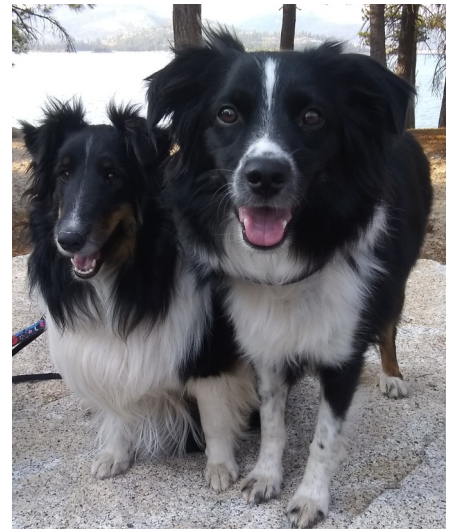
Photo by Greg Hughes

Wager herding goats at Nola's



Luna

Fostered by Roger & family



Daisy & Cruz

Sheltie/Aussie combo



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.

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first class mail

address correction and
forwarding requested