

NorCal Sheltie Rescue

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Northern California



Newsletter Spring 2010

Sheltie Rescue
Shetland Sheepdog Companions of Northern California Rescue, Inc.
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable rescue organization
NorCal Sheltie Rescue, Inc.

NorCal Sheltie Rescue Newsletters in a black-and-white version are mailed out via US mail to our donors, veterinary offices, and special friends like Norcal Collie Rescue. We will also mail copies to those who request them, and we hand newsletters out at public events to those who are interested in learning about our mission. Newsletters are available on-line (<http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org/Newsletters.html>) in a glorious, four-color version that can be downloaded and shared. Please share the Newsletter with other Sheltie lovers and tell them to contact us if they would like us to include them on either our e-mail and/or snail-mail mailing lists.

Sheltie Rescue's 2009

Last year was another busy year for NorCal Sheltie Rescue. We took in 66 Shelties in 2009: 52 were surrendered by their owners who could no longer keep their shelties for various reasons; 13 came from animal shelters; and 1 was a stray without any identification. The NorCal Sheltie Rescue Core Volunteer team members manned booths at public events around Northern California last year including the Scottish Games in Sacramento and Livermore, the Dog Days of Hollister (May 30), Responsible Dog Owner's Day in Palo Alto (Sept. 26), and the HSSV Walk 'n Wag event (October 3) in Milpitas. There are pictures and details on the gallery and events pages of our website, but some of our activity highlights for 2009 were:

January: Several of our volunteers worked the Sheltie Rescue table each day for the weekend at the Golden Gate Kennel Club Dog Show at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. This widely advertised dog show is an excellent opportunity for the general public to see the finest examples of our breed and talk with Sheltie experts. Thanks to Roger Sullivan, Julie Guttman, Vicki Doyle-Jones and Peggy Prater for adding their rescue expertise and their help to make this event so successful.

March: Rescue volunteers, including Terry Gary, supported the Sacramento Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club's two-day Specialty in Dixon by working the Obedience and Rally-O events.

April: We had lots of volunteer helpers and a great turnout for the Woodland Celtic games the last weekend in April. This is an excellent venue for getting the word out about the Celtic herding breeds and about Shelties and our rescue organization in particular.

May: NorCal Sheltie Rescue was invited to set up a booth at the Dog Days of Hollister, where despite a windy day, a super turnout by the general public gave us the opportunity to spread the word about Sheltie Rescue and shelties in general.

July: Our annual Sheltie picnic hosted by the Sacramento Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club drew the largest crowd yet at our new venue hosted by Nola Jones at her Performance Dogs in Action training and event site (www.performancedogsinaction.com). The day was a scorcher, but we had well over 100 attendees with at least that many shelties who all had a wonderful time despite the heat.

September: The NorCal Sheltie Club and NorCal Sheltie Rescue hosted a table at the Palo Alto Responsible Dog Owners Day at Palo Alto Animal Control.

October: The NorCal Sheltie Club came through once again with their wonderful donations for the annual raffle in support of Sheltie rescue. This year's eye-popping display of goodies raised a generous amount of money to benefit Rescue's veterinary fund. More than 30 rescue Sheltie adopters and their adoptees paraded in the show ring following the Sheltie Specialty.

November: Some of our rescue volunteers gave their time to help support to the Sacramento Valley Sheltie Club's AKC agility trial over the Thanksgiving weekend. Our core





L-R, Core volunteers Peggy, Gale Ann, Terry and Nancy with their Shelties at the retreat. (Photo by Liliane Morin)

volunteer team spent time at a weekend retreat in early November at the lovely Willowside Ranch in Pescadero. The retreat included a one-and-a-half day business meeting. We ironed out policies, roles and responsibilities, clarified why we do things the way we do, and

covered a lot of ground. Since we rescue Shelties throughout Northern California, our core volunteers live in varied locations in Northern California and don't often get together. This was an opportunity for some of us to put a face with the names on our core volunteer list and to enjoy getting to really know each other and our shelties.

Core Volunteers

NorCal Sheltie Rescue has 17 "core volunteers," almost all of whom are active foster parents. Beyond the core group is a larger group of foster families, adopters, breeders, Sheltie experts and fans around Northern CA who we can call upon to help as

needed. All of the core volunteers are Sheltie specialists/dog experts in one way or another. Core volunteers give generously of their time and talent, helping with adoptions and follow-ups, offering resources and support to the Sheltie community, and meeting the general public at rescue events around Northern California. The core volunteers work to develop relationships with their local shelters, they visit the shelters both online and in person and also check the internet to find listings of Shelties in need of new homes. They are the ones who pull Shelties out of shelters and pitch in to transport rescued Shelties from one location to another in the quest to find them the best resources and homes. Most of the core volunteer group has come from our adopter list, and we added some wonderful new volunteers from that list in 2009: Teri Johnson rescued her Sheltie Missy—and we adopted Teri as our bookkeeper/accountant. Teri owns her own business: www.bookkeepingandmore.com in Vacaville. Nancy Furay, who also joined us officially in 2009, has adopted more than one Sheltie from NorCal Sheltie Rescue and, despite a house now full of Shelties, continues to foster for us. Her mantra has become: "While I can't adopt them all, I can help them all to be adopted." Maureen O'Keefe and her husband, John, who live in the Tahoe area, had been helping rescue Shelties in eastern Nevada, joined us officially late in 2009.

—Gale Ann

NorCal Sheltie Rescue Events 2010

We hope to see you at some or all of our events in 2010:

April 17th (Saturday) UC Davis Picnic Day: Visit us at the annual UC Davis Picnic and campus open house. We will be set up on the East Field on A Street between 1st & 2nd in Davis.

April 24th (Saturday) Woodland Celtic Games: Join us at the Woodland Celtic Games the weekend of April 24th & 25th. You will find us with our Shelties in the Animal Den. Sorry, pets are not allowed into this event—only those pre-approved to exhibit breeds of Scottish origin are allowed.

May 1st (Saturday) Annual Sheltie Picnic: Hosted by the Sacramento Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, the picnic will be held at Performance Dogs in Action in north Sacramento. This year we moved the date for our annual picnic to avoid the summer heat. This public event is open to all Shelties and the people who love them. Activities will include Canine Good Citizen testing, Herding Instinct testing, a huge raffle to benefit the Sheltie Rescue Veterinary Fund, a potluck lunch, plus more fun and games for you and your sheltie(s).

October 23rd (Saturday) Annual Sheltie Rescue Parade and Rescue Raffle: The annual Parade and Raffle will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The Parade honors the adopters of rescued Shelties and, thanks to the extravagant bounty of donations from the NorCal Sheltie Club, the raffle is one of our biggest fund raisers.

Sheltie Health and Safety

Mushrooms

Amanita phalloides (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanita_phalloides), the death cap, a nondescript little white mushroom, has come out in full force since the rains started. These mushrooms have a sweet odor (like honey) and are attractive to some dogs (whose owners report they actually seek them out to eat them). This, coupled with the delay in the appearance of symptoms—during which time internal organs are being severely, sometimes irreparably, damaged—makes it particularly dangerous. Initially, symptoms are gastrointestinal in nature and include colicky abdominal pain with watery diarrhea and vomiting. The toxic effects

appear about 6-36 hours after the mushrooms are eaten, and once signs are seen the toxicity is poorly responsive to treatment (we try a lot of things to support the animal, but if enough mushrooms were eaten it will be fatal despite the treatment). If someone suspects their dog may have eaten a mushroom, the best treatment is to take the dog immediately to a vet or emergency clinic and have them induce vomiting and give activated charcoal. The mushroom toxin is absorbed fairly rapidly, but the damage to the liver can take hours before it is clinically apparent. Don't waste time trying to figure out if the mushroom is toxic as speed in removing the mushroom from the digestive system is the most important thing.

Animal Poison Control Hotline, the best resource for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: <http://www.aspcaproapc.com> The toll-free number is: 888-426-4435 (a consultation fee may apply). APCC experts have a wide range of information specific to animal poisoning. They also have an extensive collection of individual cases—more than one million—involving pesticide, drug, plant, metal, and other exposures in food-producing, wildlife, zoo and companion animals. Annually, the APCC handles over 130,000 cases. We have no idea how many of these are “resourceful” Shelties! Shetland Sheepdogs can be consummate, lightning-fast counter (and gutter) surfers. Be aware of what your Sheltie may find and snarf down when your back is turned, and keep your vet's and the poison control hotline numbers handy. Above all, do not give your Sheltie any human medications without first consulting your veterinarian. Some commonly used human medications (e.g., certain pain killers) can be lethal to all dogs and cats, some to only cats or dogs, and some only to members of the White-tipped Tail Dog Family who carry the MDR1 genetic mutation. (The Norcal Collie Rescue site, <http://www.calcollierescue.org/drug.htm> has some excellent in-depth information that adopters and their veterinarians can use to learn more about this mutation.)

Heartworm and Flea/Tick Prevention

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all of you of the dangers of Heartworm infection in areas where mosquitoes are present. We took in several heartworm-positive Shelties in 2009, and because of all the rain and the increase in standing water, mosquito season could be extremely long and severe in 2010. Luckily the Shelties survived the terrible (and expensive) immiticide treatment required to rid their bodies of adult worms. It takes six months for the adult worms to die and clear from the dog's system, and it is always touch and go as to whether a dog will even survive the treatment and its aftermath as dead worms circulate throughout its bloodstream. Heartworm is easy to prevent with a monthly tablet. Make certain to avoid giving your Sheltie ivermectin-bearing heartworm preventative medicines like Heartguard. Ivermectin can be lethal to members of the Collie family who bear the MDR1 gene mutation due to a basic defect in the blood-brain barrier. It is important that white-tipped-tail dog veterinarians be aware of the so-called “ivermectin” sensitivity as it is actually sensitivity to a broad class of compounds found in lots of common medications both for canine and human use (see <http://www.calcollierescue.org/drug.htm>). This is the reason that we stress that you should never give your Sheltie human medications.

Remember, too, that you shouldn't just decide to begin a heartworm prevention program for your Sheltie without first seeing your veterinarian: it is critical to have the dog tested and proven heartworm negative before you start a heartworm preventative program. The monthly tablets only prevent colonization of the heart by the tiny larval heartworm “microfilaria” that mosquito bites inject into the animal; none of these prophylactic medicines can touch the adult worms, each of which can live up to three years and attain the approximate size of a strand of angel hair pasta.

We have had an unusual spate of flea dermatitis and food allergies in our rescued Shelties this year. It's often difficult even for a veterinarian to deduce what is bothering a scratching dog, but it's relatively easy to prevent fleas and ticks and that should be the first step in attacking dermatitis problems. Secondly, remember to feed your Sheltie a high-quality food, free of wheat and other grains and meat by-products. Our recommendations come from the *Whole Dog Journal*, which is respected for its up-to-date research on the best dog foods in the country. The site <http://drydogfood.bravehost.com/brandlist/> linked to our website, lists all the commercial dry dog foods and lists the good and bad things in each providing reasons why ingredients are beneficial or harmful to our pets. Dianne Garcia writes: “Another interesting and informative link to determine if your pet food is/has been on a recall list. Very good source sent to me by my friend and trainer, Joellen Burton: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/newpetfoodrecalls/>

On-going Canine Health Debates:

Some useful information on canine vaccine schedule can be found at <http://www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/VaccineGuidelines06Revised.pdf>. A clear view of the Spay/Neuter debate can be found at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2010/04/06/petscol040610.DTL&type=printable>

Canine epilepsy

Some of our Shelties have had seizing problems, and the exchange of information shared among our core volunteers might be helpful if any of you ever encounter this problem. Over the years several of our adopters and core volunteers (Angela, Laura, Gale Ann, Peggy, Denise and Greg, and most recently Pat) have all had dogs with varying degrees of epilepsy. Peggy found out (while doing research on epilepsy to help her Sheltie, Laird) that studies show that 48-50 percent of all mixed and purebred dogs can seizure. With this scary statistic, the likelihood is that half of us will a some point have a dog that experiences seizures. Peggy recommends observing and learning as much as you can about the disease and working very closely with your vet to find the right combination of medications. Gale Ann recommends visiting www.canine-epilepsy.com, reading up on idiopathic epilepsy (idiopathic = no known cause), and joining the k9 Epil List accessible from that site. "It's a Yahoo group and very supportive and very helpful. You'll learn all about the medications used for treating/preventing seizures; what to do when they come out of a seizure, etc." Angela recommends checking out YouTube for helpful videos as well. Greg wrote us: "Just thought I'd let you know we've had success with zonisamide in helping to manage canine seizure. Kiska's max'd out on phenobarbitol and we added zonisamide. (Tell others to get it at Costco—cheapest around.) We've gone up and down and up again on the zonisamide, the game now being that we try to suppress the seizures, but we can't medicate them entirely away due to side-effects—ataxia. When too high on the meds, his hind legs get weak. We've very fond of our vet, Eric Christensen, as he has been accessible and responsive in fine-tuning medication in Kiska's best interest. Eric is at the Holly Street Pet Hospital [San Mateo]."

The Art of Living with Shelties

Lounge Lizards, Couch Potatoes and Bed Hogs



"After a month of 'battle of the bed,' we have finally lost. Although Annabelle [center left] technically keeps her toes on the padded bench at the end of our bed, she made some sort of deal with one of the twin kitties...who thinks she (Annabelle) is the best thing that has ever happened; and of course Rocky, our other Sheltie is Annabelle's constant companion...."



Gracie



Shelby



McKenzie



Happy and Shelly

Dog Nail Clipper Poem

Upstairs in momma's secret drawer
She keeps a monster thing of horror,
It bites and tries to eat our toes,
Why it does that no one knows!
We bark and fuss and wiggle and squirm,
But our dad and momma hold us firm.
This thing of horror makes a noise,
Although it's squeaky - it's not like toys,
It's a squeaky, snippy, clippy thing,
It has sharp teeth and a big strong spring
Sometimes, after it eats our feet,
We get something good to eat.
But one day, when no one else is home
And we are left here all alone,
We'll sneak it out, and none will know
We sent it where the odd socks go.
—Author unknown



Dakota, Willow and Gracie

K9 Nose Work - This Sport Just Makes Scents!



I'll admit I was skeptical when our agility trainer suggested that I enroll Shelby in a training session for a new dog sport called K9 Nose Work, but after she carefully explained that this sport was played one-on-one, in a very safe environment so even Shelby (leash aggressive and highly reactive) could play and excel, I agreed to give it a try. Now, six months later we're hooked, and Shelby has recently passed her first test (Odor Recognition) qualifying her to compete in the sport at a very beginning level!

While the training starts with the dogs learning to find their favorite toy or treat hidden within a group of cardboard boxes, the object of the game is for them to eventually learn how to find a small amount of scent (birch, anise or clove) placed on a cotton swab. There are four criteria for the 'hides'—boxes, interior searches, exterior searches and vehicle searches and teams learn how to compete in each of the four.

So what might this new sport that's based on professional search and detection training have to offer a Shetland Sheepdog? Consider this: our herding dogs need a job and not all of them excel at performance sports like flyball or agility. Why not let them

cultivate and develop their most acute sense—their sense of smell? And if you think Shelties are not well known for their tracking skills, try to remember the last time your Sheltie turned down a tasty morsel of chicken or a chunk of smelly salmon? Here's another way to put all their clever, cunning counter-surfing skills to work. And finally, Shelties are notorious game players, and this game is easy to teach and quick to learn.

From a practical standpoint, the thing that makes this sport so much fun for handlers and dogs is that the dogs always get to succeed. Whether or not the search takes a few seconds or lasts for several minutes, dog and handler work together until the dog finds the item and gets the reward. K9 Nose Work is an obedience-free zone and there is never a negative word spoken—in fact it takes a bit of practice to remove some of those expletives like "uh-oh", "no", and "leave it" from your vocabulary. In this sport you use phrases like "Go to work!" or "Go seek!" and the rewards always include tasty treats, favorite toys and lots of gushy praise.

This type of exercise helps to build confidence and develop strong and trusting relationships between dog and handler—in essence it's a fabulous teamwork activity. My two resident Shelties are both learning to 'play' the game, and I've also introduced K9 Nose Work to several of my foster dogs. It's been a remarkable training tool for the shy, timid and skittish Sheltie who has difficulty with other types of organized exercise activities.

The sport was developed by three Southern California dog trainers - Ron Gaunt, Amy Herot and Jill-Marie O'Brien. Trainers from their organization make frequent sojourns to the Bay Area hosting seminars in all levels of the sport. In our area, dozens of enthusiasts have formed practice groups and meet regularly to work on their skills and prepare for their next level of training; a few trainers from our group have recently been authorized to teach introduction and beginning classes. If you're interested you can find out more by visiting the K9 Nose Work websites, www.k9nosework.com or www.nacsw.net.

Now, "Go to work!"

—Dianne Garcia

Recent Adoptions



Mojo/Marco/Mr. Magoo, "Before" and "After"

Dear Dianne, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet and adopt Mr Magoo, once known as the rescue Mojo and then Marco when he came to your home. Since my sister and I landed on your doorstep late on Jan. 1st, we didn't realize what we had in store in the coming months. Magoo quickly settled into his new urban life, as well as sharing the weekends at 'the grandparents' four-acre farm...he's become accustomed to urban life, 'walking on a leash.' First thing when we come out the door, he starts barking as if to say, 'Hello everyone! Look at me! I'm outside and happy to be alive!' You'd never know he was 10 years old—he easily keeps up and can out-pace my Aussie. Magoo loves his people—he gets spoiled and loved by all,

including my boyfriend, also in the construction business. We've had many volunteers that'd love to take him off our hands... NO WAY! He's too much a part of the family. He's a real hit with the men—they love the fact he can 'speak,' roll-over and play dead. They also like the fact he loves to ride in the work van as if he used to have a construction owner. He loves to stand on the console and look

out the windshield. His coat has become full & shiny—the fish oil and good food have allowed his ‘true colors’ to shine thru! He is a real lovable, cuddle-bear of a dog. He loves to get on your lap, snuggle up in the crook of your arm have his belly rubbed until he sleeps. He gives bear hugs while you lie on the ground.

He has become friends with my very easy & low key, ‘mostly sheltie’ Roscoe, who is about 8-10 years (another rescue who has finally overcome his ear infection and whose hair is starting to fill in due food & flea allergies). They comfortably share the front passenger seat dog pillow and sleep close to each other on my bed at night. My almost 4-year-old mini Aussie, Ms Muffit, and Magoo are slowly learning to tolerate each other. She loves to play and harrass Roscoe (they are pals), and Magoo starts to bark when they play wrestle each other. She’s still a puppy at heart and Magoo’s tolerance for younger dogs isn’t like that of humans.

Thanks to Northern CA rescue & Dianne Garcia for letting me have the opportunity to help one more dog. I think I’m the lucky one!

—Karen K., Seattle

A dog of many towns—and names (“Buyer’s Remorse,” “Puppy Boy,” “Connor,” and finally, “Boyzie”)—wins himself a wonderful forever home with Carmen and Ron.

Connor (aka “Buyer’s Remorse”)



Puppy Boy and his foster dad



Carmen and Ron with Boyzie



“Casey, Watch Me!”

Casey & Jackie



“Casey, Watch Me!”



Stormy



Tartan



Tanner II



Wellington



Henny Penny



Rusty



Ginger



Bella (Bleu)



Bella (Bleu) on a hike with her new family, Eric and Christina



Boo



Lani and Jack



Happy



Willow and Dakota



Dakota and Willow with Juanita and Michael →



Classy



Dynamo



Sammie



Jazz & Shelby



Trixie



Joey



Cuddles & Ranger



Scooby Doo



Rusty



Annabelle and friend



Blondie



Meadow



Ace



Kona

Kelly's Story

Kelly just might be the sweetest dog who ever lived. Though we sometimes claim that Shelties aren't always the best breed to place with children, when Kelly came into Rescue, we knew she needed to have a little girl all of her very own to love. We went through our prospective adopter list until we found the right little girl. Living with her single mom and recently widowed grandmother, Ashley was losing direction and not doing well in school—that was until Kelly arrived in her life. Ashley started volunteering in a local veterinarian's office so she could help pay for vet checks for her new best friend. Ashley is now doing well in school because she plans to become a vet! You can see for yourself that it was love at first sight between those two.



Lucy's Story



Jerry and Ileen wrote us, "Having lost our beloved Sheltie, Casey, in March of this year (2009), my wife and I were not ready for another dog. But two months later, we changed our minds. We contacted our vet, who gave us the name and number of NorCal Sheltie Rescue. We received a phone call and, after discussing the application process, we heard that a three-year-old sable female was in need of a foster home. We agreed to try "fostering-to-adopt", a program in which we would foster the dog, provide the necessary veterinary care, assess it for temperament, and then help with the adoption process. If it turned out that the dog was a good match for us, we would have first opportunity to adopt it ourselves. That sounded like the perfect situation to us! Terry did a home check, we signed the foster

contract, and not too long afterwards she brought Lucy Brown, the biggest Sheltie I had ever seen, to our home. She was absolutely beautiful, and it was love at first sight.

Part of the foster agreement is that we would take her to our vet for a complete exam, heartworm test, and vaccinations. To our utter dismay, we found out that Lucy was heartworm positive! I called Terry with the news and she was equally disappointed. NorCal Sheltie Rescue agreed to pay for the costly treatment, and our vet laid out a series of shots at certain intervals. While the shots were painful, the worst part of the treatment was that we had to sequester Lucy in a crate 24/7 (except for potty breaks) for two months, then another shot and sequester her another month! An older dog may not have minded, but Lucy is very active and just loves to run and play in our yard, and it was difficult to keep her from running and playing with our "Grand Dogs" that share the same property. Unfortunately, running and playing can be fatal to dogs with heartworm disease until they are cured, so we kept Lucy in her crate for three months! When we took her in to have her tested to see if the treatment had been successful, it showed that she was still slightly positive, but we could let her out of her prison, and let her run! And did she ever! We took her back for a retest in late September and she is 100% negative! The treatment was a complete success.

We learned prior to fostering Lucy that she had been neglected and ignored for most of her life, and as a result, she was basically untrained and very strong willed, but we are working on her bad habits and she is responding well. We have a way to go before she is "perfect", but with love and patience she is learning respect and obedience. Oh, by the way, we adopted Lucy as soon as we found out that she was heartworm negative. (We would have sooner, but NorCal wouldn't let us adopt her until she was cured.)

We are so grateful to NorCal Sheltie Rescue for giving us the opportunity to add Lucy to our family. We just love her to pieces! "

Agility Dogs from Rescue

Frequently within our foster network, we have foster dogs who we identify as potential performance animals destined for the agility ring or the flyball field. Cindy (pictured left with Kaylee) who has Kaylee and Jagger (both rescue Shelties) would concur that many of our fosters are quite remarkable. But it was the match that to us was pure magic.



Once in a while we are witness to and collaborators in the most poignant sacrifice – those in which an owner loves an animal enough to give it up because they know in their hearts it’s what’s best for the animal. Kaylee is a product of just such a story; loved and cherished by a very kind gentleman who realized he did not have the time to devote to her - time he knew she so needed and deserved. Giving her away was a very thoughtful and unselfish act; one that would benefit both Kaylee, and her new owners, Cindy and Mickey.

Kaylee had been in foster care for a short while and had met various potential adopters with polite disinterest. But when Cindy and Kaylee were introduced, Kaylee immediately transferred 200% of her attention to her potential new Mom. It was as if she were saying “Where have you been all my life? I’ve been waiting and waiting for you.” Then when Cindy went out to the car to get a leash, Kaylee cried pitifully at the door—a noise she’d never been heard to utter before!

To Cindy, who’s had lots of experience with training Shelties to compete in the sport of Agility, it was obvious that Kaylee had tremendous energy and drive; she needed an outlet in which to channel these behaviors. So her agility training began in earnest and Kaylee excelled at every aspect of it. She started competing in July of 2009 at 3-1/2 years old; she’s fast and very focused, seldom missing a queue. And the rapport that Cindy and Kaylee have developed is astonishing. According to Cindy, there’s really no secret to Kaylee’s early success,

she just loves the sport and seems to be a natural. They now compete in agility events throughout Northern California. We’re all very excited about Kaylee’s accomplishments and will be watching this little rising star as she moves through the classes, racing to reach her full potential.

—Dianne Garcia

What Makes a Great Agility Prospect??

Some of the NorCal Sheltie Rescue agility-fancier (i.e., “agility addicted”) core volunteers have been hotly debating the subject of what makes a great “agility prospect.” After working with and placing a particularly “drivey” girl for us in an agility home, we asked Ann McQuillen, one of our foster moms (who just happens to be an AKC agility judge and a rescue maven in her own right [“Performance ResQ,” www.petfinder.com/shelters/CA1567.html]), for her expert opinion of what makes a good agility dog. Her answer:

1. I look for the ability to learn (smart)
2. I look for a dog that is willing to learn. One that wants to please.
3. I look for Drive. That can manifest itself in a dog that’s always busy playing, one that romps and runs non-stop or one that is just very focused (think B.C.)
4. I look for physical soundness... good angulation, balance, weight to height ratio, etc.
5. I look for a dog that is usually under 3... it takes 2 years to get a dog ring ready. Depending on the breed if they are 3 they could compete until well into their teens (most shelties do) or retire at 8 or 9 (labs, etc).
6. I look for a people-oriented dog who is not clingy.
7. I look for attitude. How fearless are they? Do they push back when stressed? You need a dog who is well socialized and a bit in your face to do this sport.
8. I look at the breed because stock dogs have a leg up in the sport as do some of the working and toy breeds.”



Truly Scrumptious (left) and her brother, Aiden (right), came into rescue as puppies and were reunited at an agility trial this March.

Rainbow Bridge 2009

UC Davis Pet Loss Hotline (1-800-565-1526)

IN MEMORIAM

When God calls our pets
To dwell with Him above
We mortals always question
The wisdom of His love.

For no heartache compares
With the death of man's best friend
Who does so much to make this world
Seem bright until the end.

Perhaps God tires calling
Only humans to His fold
And so He chooses innocence
Instead of us, grown old.

God knows how much we need them
And so He takes them too
To make the land of Heaven
More beautiful to view.

Believing this is difficult
Still somehow we must try
The saddest word that mankind knows
Will always be good-bye.

And so, when our friends depart,
We who are left behind
Must realize how much God loves our pets
For angels are hard to find.

—Liliane Morin



Wes and Chloe on a hike at Castle Lake. Chloe died of cancer in early 2010.

Music, with the wide white blaze, was inseparable from Annie, so Jeanne adopted them both. Annie is still going strong, and now Jeanne has taken in another senior rescue girl, Kelli, to keep her company



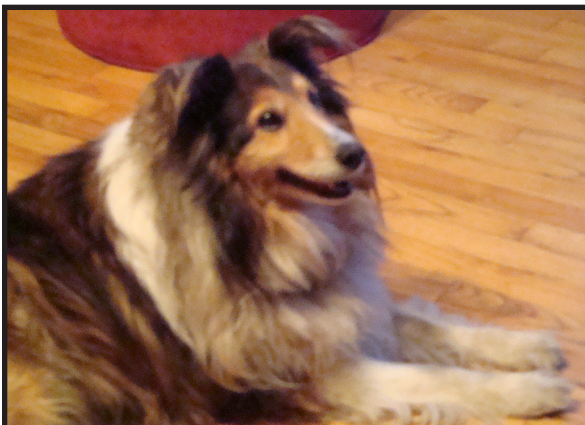
Music, Sept 09



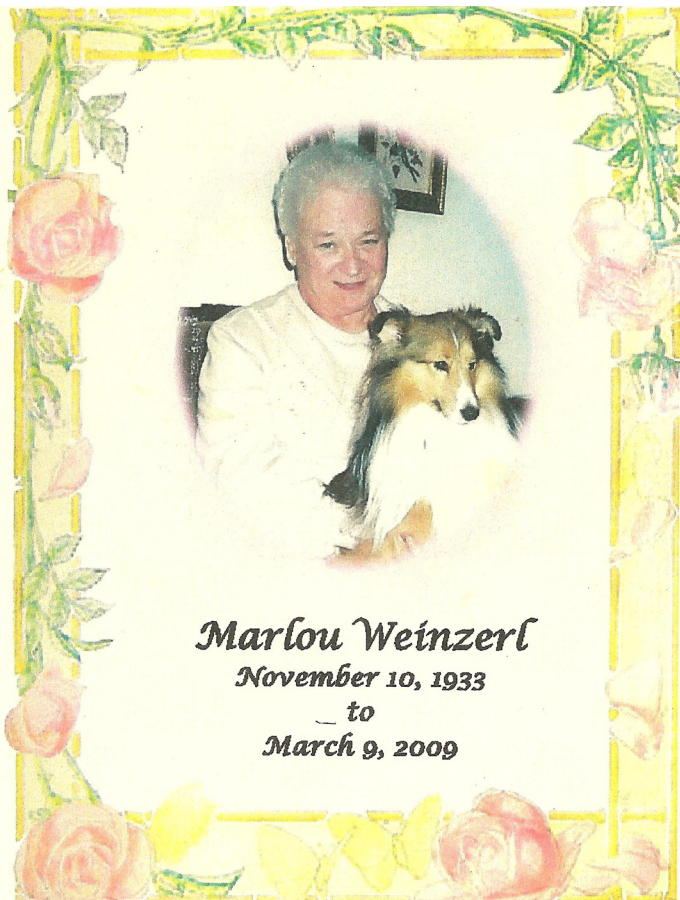
Toby went to the Bridge in July 2009, having been lovingly cared for by Robert & Colleen.



Mike's "little darlin," Sally, joined her sister, Dolly, at the Bridge, December 21, 2009



← Persnickety Pete ("Petey") was pampered and adored by John and Marta. He went to the Bridge on February 21, 2010. Marta writes: "I thought I rescued Petey, but actually he rescued me. He was my beautiful boy for three years. I'll love and remember him always: Persnickety Pete, my little man, my brave little soldier, my sweet Petey Pie."



Marlou grew up in San Jose as a single child. She remained single until she passed away last March. That may sound sad. If you were blessed to have known her, you know that her life was far from sad and she lived every single day to its fullest. I could share with you what Marlou meant to me but I prefer to tell you who she was and why her contributions while living and in passing are so memorable.

Marlou graduated from San Jose State College and began her career as a teacher. She worked for 30 years in the Alum Rock School District teaching 2nd and 3rd grades. Her fellow teachers have told me of the pranks she would play on them, and yet her classes were the most well mannered students. She was a life member of the PTA. In college she was the president of the Jr. Music Study Club and member of AOTT. She was a gifted writer and accomplished vocalist; having published writings, performing in the a cappella choir and as a soloist in the Methodist church for over 30 years. Her voice grabbed your heart and moved your soul. Her activities included three-time alumnae president of AOTT, president and secretary of Northern California Council, ADK president along with various other offices, and she belonged to DAR. Upon retirement Marlou worked with the school chair and continued her involvement in the school district along with volunteering her time to Books Aloud.

When she wasn't golfing, gambling, writing or playing bridge, she liked to travel. She would plan driving trips with her best friend, Joan. I once said that they were like "Thelma and Louise" (they never saw that movie, so *they* didn't get it). Some

trips were several weeks long, but every day she seemed to be going somewhere, mostly to play bridge. She attended many Sheltie Specialties where she could enjoy her favorite breed and visit with long-time friends. I have no idea how she did so much.

Her heart was gigantic. She bought several Shelties and took in many rescues as well. I have the pedigrees of all of her purchased dogs. The first was in 1975 from Karen Jacks, then in 1988 from Kathy Peterson. In 1996 she bought Sabrina, who is now 14 and still in good health, from Cathy Dupree. Sabrina resides here with AP whom she bought from me in 2002.

Her rescue dogs were never the easy ones. I recall her telling me that it took her years (four I think) to get one of them to walk on a leash. She had a soft hand and incredible patience. She authored several published articles on rescue dogs, and her advice was "spot on" as they say. When her Shelties passed away, she placed their collars in a box she kept; each collar with their name tag: Shelli, Annie, Tuffy, Widget, Arthur, and Sydney, (her personal favorite). I now have that box, and when the time comes, I will add the collars of her two her last two Shelties. Marlou

I personally witnessed that Marlou loved life. She loved to learn new things. I taught her to Instant Message and then made the mistake of showing her how to change fonts, colors and so on. For a long time I would get IM's (the key word is instant) that took forever because she was making each letter a different color or size. At some point she learned that there were abbreviations! For many years she thought that I was calling her a little old lady. She never complained to me about that but she was happy to find out that I was laughing with her. Her generosity did not have rules or strings and she gave to everyone emotionally, with total support; physically if you needed her, she would be there for you; and financially she was gracious. She earned her money by working hard. She lived well but not lavishly. Many of her dinners were Stouffer's or Banquet. She really loved Christmas time where she would spend days decorating for a special bridge game. Her home and dogs were well cared for and her dogs never went without.

Although she did not have any living relatives she had the foresight ten years ago to make sure that when she passed away she would provide for her God Daughter and for the animals that needed it the most. She loved Shelties and each donation made in her name honors her love of the breed. Her personal donation is the best thing that she could do for Shelties, a breed above the rest. This donation commemorates her way of loving and living a good life.

—Michelle Hughes
(Friend, Sister, Daughter, and sometimes Mom)

Note: We extend our deepest gratitude to Marlou for establishing in her estate a generous contribution to NorCal Sheltie Rescue, a cause in which she so profoundly believed.

Special Friends of the Veterinary Variety

Anna Worth, DVM, President of the American Animal Hospital Association, points out that veterinarians offer valuable input to those looking for a new pet. Vets have trained perspectives on pets that might be a good fit for our households, vets can provide insights into the personalities and medical and genetic characteristics of various breeds. They all play a critical role in helping our pets and in understanding their roles in our family life. But not all vets are created equal and not all vets are equally well versed in the specialized genetic health and care issues related to the white-tipped-tail dog breeds. Below is a list of vets who we have found to be expert in every aspect of Sheltie (and Collie Family) care, vets who have helped us in special ways or who have gone beyond the call in caring for the creatures we love. If you have a wonderful vet to recommend to your fellow Sheltie family members, please share their contact information with us.

Acacia Pet Clinic, San Jose
Adobe Animal Hospital, Los Altos
Animal Clinic of Benecia
The Animal Doctors, Palo Alto
Animal Wellness Center, Davis
Blue Oak Veterinary Hospital, Jackson
Blue Ravine Animal Hospital, Folsom
Bradshaw Animal Clinic, Elk Grove

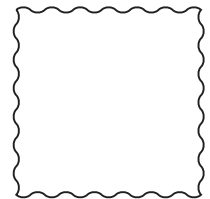
Coastside Veterinary Clinic, Half Moon Bay
Cool Animal Hospital, Auburn/Cool
Cirby Ridge Animal Hospital, Roseville
Citter Care Mobile Veterinary Clinic, Truckee
Lawrence Veterinary Hospital, Santa Clara
Missouri Flat Pet Clinic, Placerville
Standiford Veterinary Clinic, Modesto

Special thanks as well to Judy Granberg (CPDT, Granberg Training Center), Joellen Burton (CPDT, Diamonds in the Ruff), and Ann McQuillen (Performance ResQ) for donating training and boarding services to rescue Shelties in need.

Our mailing lists have lots of blanks and/or defunct e-mail addresses from “older” adopters. Please make sure to update your e-mail and US mail addresses with us, and please ask other Sheltie families you encounter to do the same. Thank you for staying in touch with NorCal Sheltie Rescue (<http://www.norcalsheltierescue.org>). — Gale Ann Morris (sheltieroses@frontiernet.net)



Sheltie Rescue of Northern
California
P. O. Box 581934
Elk Grove, CA 95758



FIRST CLASS MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION AND
FORWARDING REQUESTED