



The Sheltie Spin

Newsletter of Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue
"Giving Shelties a New Leash on Life"
Winter 2021



Happy Holidays to You and Your Shelties!!

Welcome to our Winter edition of *The Sheltie Spin*. We hope you enjoy reading about some of our memorable Shelties and their families, as well as tips for taking care of your own Sheltie. Have a wonderful, warm and safe holiday season.

Murphy and Hannah: "OK, that's enough of this strange guy hugging us. Let's go take a walk!"



Three Desperately Ill Shelties Get New Leases on Life

by Lisa Fox

When NVSR learned that three Shelties had been languishing in a shelter in southern Virginia, we offered to take them into our rescue, provide the medical care they needed, and find them loving forever homes. However, they were involved in a complicated lawsuit, so the shelter could not immediately release them to us.

The shelter coordinator warned us the dogs had so many health problems that they might not survive until the suit was settled. Nearly nine months after they were brought to the shelter, NVSR finally picked up the three Shelties and placed them in our foster homes. Their health issues were horrific.



Mick enjoys an outing with his human "pusher"

The oldest Sheltie, 15-year-old Mick, had a mouthful of rotten teeth that prevented him from eating properly, a filthy, matted coat with significant hair loss, and severe arthritis that hindered his mobility. We didn't expect Mick to live long, so we placed

him as a permanent foster with volunteer Sandy Kemp. Sandy gave him his medicated baths, nourishing food, lots of love, and frequent outings in a dog stroller. Her vet removed all Mick's infected teeth, updated his tests and vaccinations, treated the skin infections, and put him on arthritis medication. Happily, the elderly dog responded strongly. Sandy fell in love with his very loyal, affectionate nature and adopted him. "We are very happy that Mick, now 17, is part of our family. On November 10, we celebrated his one year anniversary with us."

12-year-old Jina arrived with her own mouthful of badly infected teeth and a poor coat that told a story of malnutrition and infection. She also had a grapefruit-sized growth hanging from her neck and many mammary and uterine tumors. Her foster mom, Anna Thoreson, saw through these ailments to



Jina leads the walk with Bailey and Molly and friends James and Holt



a sweet, perky dog that constantly sought affection. Anna nursed Jina through her extensive surgeries and multiple tooth extractions. When Anna left Jina briefly with volunteer Karin Trice, she returned to find that Karin and her family had become deeply attached to this confident little “Velcro” dog and decided to adopt her. A year later, Karin writes, “Jina continues to be a super sweet and gentle sweetheart! She follows me wherever I go, leads our walks with lots of barking, and snuggles up nicely.”

Finn, at 7 years old, appeared to be in better health than Jina and Mick, despite the same diseased teeth



Finn ponders what might be going on down stairs

that prevented proper nutrition. But Finn was heartworm positive, requiring a grueling six-month protocol in addition to extensive dental surgery. Unlike the other two dogs, Finn had been kept outdoors by his previous owner and had little contact with humans. His foster

mom, Chris Sokol, worked to socialize shy Finn and teach him how to be a house dog. When his difficult heartworm treatment was completed, we found him a quiet home in the North Carolina mountains where Finn enjoys long walks and lots of love. His forever family recently wrote, “Finn is still VERY tentative with new people, but he does fine with visiting dogs. He’s a great pup and we are very glad to have him!”

It's amazing what excellent care and lots of love can do, isn't it?

Winterizing Your Sheltie

by Janet Knotts

Every season brings special opportunities for fun activities with our Shelties. The harsh times of winter present challenges to be aware of to protect our furry friend's well-being. Here are tips to keep our companions safe and warm this winter.

Cars overheat in the summer, and they can be very cold in winter. Dogs left in the car for too long can

experience hypothermia. Don't leave pets in the car.

Watch out on walks for buildup of or irritation from snow, ice, salt and melt chemicals on your Sheltie's paws. Booties can provide protection – and some comedy while they get used to them. Check for ice or packed snow between toes and soothe cracked or reddened paws with petroleum jelly.

Dog's skin may get drier and flakier in the winter. Don't bathe your Sheltie as often as you do in the summer and, if you do bathe, use a moisturizing shampoo. Be sure they are completely dry before they venture outside.

Recheck that your pet's collar is secure, and tags and microchip are up to date. Snow and ice can cover familiar scents dogs might normally use to find their way back home if they become lost.

Older Shelties, puppies, and those with medical conditions (e.g., arthritis, diabetes, hypothyroidism, heart disease, and hip dysplasia) are especially sensitive to the cold. Be sure that groomers do not over-groom pets and, if your pet is sensitive to cold, you may want to consider a doggie coat. Watch for signs of distress like shivering, lethargy, disorientation, or whining. Just like you, your dog can suffer from hypothermia and frostbite.

Make sure your Sheltie stays well-hydrated. Indoor settings are drier because of heat. Keep the water bowl full and clean to eliminate bacterial growth.

Do a safety check of your home for potential hazards to pets. Some of these are: holiday plants and yummy human treats that can be poisonous, sparks and flames from fireplaces, and chemicals that may be within reach. We also tend to catch colds or the flu more often so make sure all medications are safely stored.

Wishing you and your furry friends a joyous, safe and warm holiday season!



Schmitty



My Letter to Santa

by Darby Fox

Dear Santa,

Tess, Luca, and I have been very good dogs this year, and we are sure that Mom agrees. Here is what we hope you will bring us for Christmas:



Spunky Pup Variety Pack (Treat Stuffers). I already have the “green bean” and I love it. Mom fills it with kibble, popcorn, and other treats in the three openings and it takes me a while to get everything out. But I don’t like to share it with Tess and Luca, so could you bring us the pack of three? The banana looks really cool.

Outward Hound Multipuzzle. My brother Luca loves puzzles, and he really wants this one. I do, too! It has some simple parts that even Tess could do. (She doesn’t like to work too hard.) But I bet Luca and I can figure out the harder parts if Mom helps us a little.



Dave’s Sweet Potato Treats. This is our favorite treat, and we hope you will bring the **BIG** bag. They have only one ingredient with no preservatives. Mom says they are a very healthy treat. She breaks them into smaller pieces so the bag lasts longer. We like that they are crunchy and tasty.

Kong Quest. This is one of our favorite toys, but we need one or two more so we don’t have to share. Mom stuffs the various openings with kibble, popcorn, bits of cheese, green beans, or other treats. So far, none of us managed to destroy it although we’ve been trying for two years.



The Big Book of Tricks for the Best Dog Ever by Kay and Perondi. Mom got this book at the library. It has photos and instructions for 118 tricks! So far, Mom has taught me ten of them. It was such fun!! But we need our own copy so we can learn more new tricks on rainy days.

Slow Bowl. Luca and I each have one of these in different designs. Mom puts kibble, Honest Kitchen dehydrated food, veggies, and some cooked turkey in them for our dinner. She often pours ¼ cup of water over the bowl to make it harder to get the food out and because she thinks we don’t drink enough. It used to take us 20 seconds to wolf our dinner out of regular bowls. But now it takes about 20 minutes, especially when Mom gets creative. Please bring one for lazy Tess who has decided she was missing out on all the fun at dinnertime.



Please, please bring us all these wonderful things. Here’s our picture so you remember us. That’s me in the front with Tess and Luca in the back.

Your Friend (who is an Extremely Good Dog),

Darby

P.S.: Mom says I bark way too much, but there are so many threats inside and outside of this house!



Our friend Patches says don’t forget that her Mom makes snuffle mats available from shop@nvsr.org.





The Teddy Chronicles

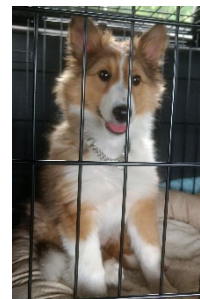
by “Teddy” with Carol Carr and Elaine Taylor

We asked Teddy, the 11-week old NVSR puppy who came in early this summer, if we could share his fun journals in *The Sheltie Spin*. He replied:

“Wow, oh wow! Who would believe that a little rescue like me, born on a West Virginia farm, would get a chance to tell about his life ... all 8+ months of it. I’d love to share my happy story with all my NVSR friends. And what better time than Christmas!”

Teddy asked Elaine to include the story about how he came to NVSR, one of his favorite bedtime stories. Here’s the tale ...

“Teddy, three dog-wise women (Louise and her friends) took care of you when you were only nine weeks old. They helped you find a new home because you were too much for your first mom. She had grown older and forgotten what a puppy needs. They did a really good thing! And remember that nice Jenni, who brought you to me on your arrival day? You were so good in both our cars that we knew you were a special dog.



“At my house, you found a big furry grandfather figure, my collie, Moses, who knows all about puppies and let you crawl all over him and snuggle up beside him for your naps. Meanwhile, Lisa Fox, who finds just the right homes for our dogs, had a home in mind for you with Jay and Carol Carr. They drove a long way to meet you, fell in love, and drove you back to your new home the same day.

“The next day, your new mom, Carol, wrote, ‘We are so in love with our puppy. Teddy made himself right at home. Our friends knew how much we wanted a dog or puppy and were blown away to have us appear with such a perfect one. He is so much fun, and smart! We have to relearn what you need to know when you have a puppy!’”

(A few weeks later Teddy began writing his own notes)

[June 20] Hi, Foster Mom! I am doing fine. My mom says I am settling in and learning so much. Potty training - done! My first Puppy Kindergarten class was last Wednesday and I aced it. I romp with friends before class, too.

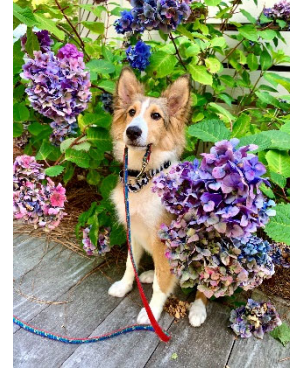
I walk with my pals to town every morning and I lie down under the table while the humans drink their coffee and eat things. I love being with all the people and dogs. I still have trouble in the evening when I get a little crazy and naughty. I just can’t help it. My teacher said that maybe I wasn’t getting enough rest so Mom makes sure I get to bed early. And I sleep all night!! During the day, I nap next to my mom or dad ... it feels secure. Love and Licks, Teddy

[June 29] Hi, Foster Mom!! My mom’s 17-year-old grandson is here with his cousin and they are THE BEST!!! They love to play and so do I. (I LOVE using capital letters!!) I have another Puppy Kindergarten class coming up, but we haven’t practiced enough. We are just SO busy: long walks,



playing, chasing the ball on the beach, lovely naps. I am very curious about EVERYTHING. My BEST kid friend Jane and her brother Luke went back home and I miss them. I found out I REALLY like kids. Plus they LOVE me, and who can resist that? LOVE, Teddy

[July 18] Dear Foster Mom, A big “Hi” from me. You wouldn’t believe how big I am. Lots of people we meet think I look like a fox, which I think is a very nice compliment. Foxes are very handsome animals. My whole family was here for a couple of weeks and I loved them and they loved me! Sending cuddles and licks, Teddy



[August 26] Hi, Foster Mom! Happy National Dog Day!! ♡ I am GREAT. See how I’m growing into my long legs. You would be proud of me at dog school. I am learning to listen and keep my eyes on my mom. Last week we went to Puppy Fun Night at Mom’s dog training club’s “agility camp.” I LOVED it. Mom says I did great. Near the end, I was plum tired from listening and thinking but I wasn’t ready to leave the ring. I had so much fun just running all around the ring. Mom fooled me and started to walk away. I was worried she would leave without me, so I came running. (But I know she would never do that!) Love and kisses!! Teddy

[October 12] Hi, Elaine, [from Teddy’s mom] ... Teddy asked me to write this time. Always wonderful, he is developing into a really special dog. He got his AKC S.T.A.R. and his CGC (Canine Good Citizen) titles. He has such a sweet personality, but so much spunk and fun. I have to admit there have been moments when we wondered, “What have we done?” But they pass quickly. He is so bright, busy and cuddly at night. In the morning, he jumps on the bed to give Jay kisses. He is awesome with people, children and other dogs.

His current class is “FUN-damentals,” a little agility, obedience, rally, etc., to see what your puppy would like to pursue. So far Teddy loves it ALL! We cannot remember when he wasn’t a part of our lives. Teddy sends kisses and lots of love. Love, Carol



[November 24] Hello from me, Teddy, at the Beach, Foster Mom! We are all settled in and it is awesome to be back with my beach friends. We take long walks, cuddle by the fire at night and visit friends’ homes. I am embarrassed to admit that I forgot my listening ears because I was SO excited to be here. Today we had a REALLY special time reading my Teddy Chronicles and remembering when I came to live in my furever home. Not many dogs have fun like I do writing and getting mail. I am a LUCKY dog and I am so thankful for you and my family. Love and licks from your ever-loving, occasionally crazy, always sweet, Teddy





Thoughts on Fostering

by John Marlette

No two dogs that come to NVSR are the same. We see them all: sables, tri-colors, blue merles, bi-blacks, pure Sheltie, mostly Sheltie, sort of Sheltie and more. Little dogs, bigger dogs and many in-between.

Each of them also embodies a unique combination of virtues and vices, quirks and inclinations rooted in their history. True, there are characteristics typically associated with Shelties but even those vary widely among individuals – barkers, non-barkers (common as unicorns), outgoing or introverted Shelties, those who love to fetch and those who wonder, “Why did you throw the ball away if it was that important to you?”

Each dog is an individual. This has profound implications for how we approach fostering and, in many cases, rehabilitating our foster dogs. Before we choose a technique or try approaches recommended by good books and trainers, we take time to understand the Sheltie in front of us.

With this in mind, the first week or two of fosterhood is for observation and orientation. We watch the new dog and try to see the world as they see it – what is scary, what is fun, what is off limits (“don’t touch my tail!”), etc. Those first days are not for imposing a training plan but for learning what, for this dog, has value and what doesn’t. For many of our foster dogs, food is a great motivator – for others not so much. Some love their toys or physical affection, while others could take it or leave it. Learning this about the foster dog is key to getting started with any behavior modification. What kind of currency will get what we want later in the process?

We – and the dog – need this “getting to know you” period. Our job is to observe and learn; theirs is to figure out the new environment and its occupants. Mealschedules, bathroom etiquette and relationships with humans and animals in the foster home will take time, trial and error before becoming part of the new dog’s routine. This, especially for those who come to us from dysfunctional circumstances, is a huge deal.

This is also the time that we begin to build trust. Anything we hope to accomplish with our foster dog relies on a bond of trust. In these early days of fosterhood, every interaction with us should be as positive as possible in the dog’s eyes. Sometimes that means positive rewards such as the occasional treat, a gentle rub or a game. Sometimes, especially for the timid foster, the most effective way to win their trust is to withdraw and let the dog approach as we drop a treat and continue to withdraw, inviting him or her to fill in the space between us. Remember, each dog is an individual and the best approach is the one that this particular foster responds to.

Once we share that trust, we can begin to work on any undesirable behaviors such as barking, aggression, jumping, fear, etc. Behavior that we see as “undesirable” in our dogs is inherently rewarding to them in some way. A dog that barks incessantly has learned that something good results from the effort. A jumping dog continues to jump because that is somehow rewarded by the “jumpee.” There are multiple positive reinforcement techniques for dealing with unwanted behavior, but before embarking on any one of them, it is essential to know what the dog finds rewarding about it.

Does he bark at meal time to make you hurry to put food in his bowl? This is easy to understand from the dog’s point of view. *“It’s time to eat and she’s getting the food. If I bark loud and long she’ll hurry up and put the food in the bowl or at least she’ll toss me a few morsels hoping that I’ll shut up for a minute.”* We can correct the behavior by abruptly stopping the food prep activity, turning our back and waiting for the barking to stop. The second it stops, we resume preparing the dog’s food. Dog barks again ... we stop again. This time we wait for a few more seconds of silence before resuming the preparations. The dog will quickly associate the collapse of meal preparations with the bark. Before putting the bowl in front of the dog, we wait for silence again. It’s a gradual process but most dogs figure out in a few meals that barking stops the food from arriving.



This approach is based on a simple but reliable perspective ... look at the behavior from the dog's point of view. Ask yourself what he's getting out of it and then figure out how to reward a different behavior. ("Do this; not that.") In this example the "different" behavior is holding the barking, and the reward is expedited cuisine.

It is important to remember that we can't train a dog to STOP doing something. We can, however, teach them that the offending behavior doesn't get rewarded but an alternative behavior does. They are clever little guys and figure out quickly what works in their own best interest. They will test us from time to time, but consistent rewards for good behavior almost always result in that good behavior becoming the norm.

There are books full of effective positive techniques for behavioral work with dogs. Additionally, there are professionals skilled in positive training who can help us through the tough times. If we remember to look at our shared environment through our foster dogs' eyes and work to earn their trust, we can make a huge difference in our Sheltie's future.



THE 2022 NORTHERN VIRGINIA SHELTYE RESCUE CALENDAR

is on sale NOW!

Price is \$22 which includes shipping.
All proceeds go to support the Shelties!

Email: shop@nvsr.org
to purchase your copy today!
Order yours Today!!!!

Salmon or Mackerel Treats

1-15 oz. can of salmon or mackerel
(don't remove the bones)
2 cups whole wheat or white flour
2 eggs

Put fish and its juices into large bowl. Add eggs, then flour and mix well. Add a little oil, if needed. The mixture will be wet and sticky. Put fish mixture onto greased cookie sheet. Sprinkle a little flour on the mixture and put some flour on your hands. Press dough out to about 1/4" thickness. Thinner makes the treats crispier. Bake for 25-35 minutes at 350°. Remove from the cookie sheet right away, or it will stick. Cool for 10-15 minutes, then cut or break into small pieces. Store in freezer; take out when needed.



GAM Printers of Sterling, Virginia, and the Grant Family dedicate the printing of the Sheltie Spin in memory of their Shelties and Honorary Shelties: Cody, Cookie, D.O.G., Dutchess, Duncan, Heidi, Hunny, Lynus, Rocky, Sassy, Spirit, Shelby, & Tigger and in honor of Ace, Cady, Joe, Maddie and Rose.



A Circle of Love, Trust and Hope - A Tribute to Sadie Mae

by Mary Klein and Mike LaMont

Mary, Sadie Mae's first Foster Mom begins the story ... This season of sharing and joy – the perfect time to remember the sweetest dog I ever fostered. Sadie Mae came to NVSR and my foster care eight years ago. I still think about her. She was the center of the circle of many who loved her, mutually sharing trust and hope.

Sadie Mae came from a breeder who no longer wanted her. She was 8 years old and very unsocialized. During her foster period, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had all her mammary glands removed. She was very needy and the humans in her life also needed her. I related to her suffering and need for love and comfort after her mastectomy because I had just recovered from my own cancer journey. We came to trust each other as she began eating from a bowl, healing from her surgeries, wearing a collar and leash, and moving from her “safe spots” to explore the house. We wanted her to find a forever home and live joyfully for the rest of her life.

Sadie Mae found a wonderful forever home with adopter Darcy Tannehill. Over many years, Darcy and her husband Norm lovingly welcomed to her home near Pittsburgh several of our older and compromised Shelties. After Norm died, Darcy continued to adopt needy dogs from us, including Sadie Mae. She was also undergoing treatment for a major illness, amyloidosis, and Sadie Mae provided her comfort. Darcy and I kept in touch during the four years Sadie lived with her, and she always told me about their joy. We were very sad when Darcy died in April 2018 and Sadie was left once again without a home.

Mike, Heart's Promise Sheltie Rescue, picks up the story ... Early in 2018 I received a call from NVSR about one of their adopted dogs in need here in the Pittsburgh area. Sadie Mae's adopted mommy had passed away and her family could not care for this precious pup. When I met with Darcy's daughter and family at their home to pick up Sadie, they were

in shock. Sadie Mae was huddled in a corner of a bedroom, very frightened. I brought her home to stay with me for the remainder of her life.

Even after her loving homes with NVSR and then with Darcy, Sadie Mae was still fearful. She was also a flight risk, so she had to be carefully protected. The day she came to my home, she right away found her safe spot on her bed in my kitchen. She was very fearful about being outdoors, having rarely been walked or even on grass.

After a rocky start, Sadie Mae gained enough trust to relax. Most of the time, she stayed in her safe spots – her beds in the kitchen and dining room. When she felt confident enough to explore, I loved to hear her paws on the floor. With time, Sadie learned to LOVE exploring the backyard and being a dominant female in my home with other Shelties and foster dogs. She couldn't manage steps so I carried her in and out. I miss that to this day.

Once again and for the rest of her life, she was in a loving home – and she knew JOY. I loved that for Sadie. Holding her in my arms the morning she took her last breath, I knew I was blessed to care for her in her winter of life. Sadie Mae crossed the Rainbow Bridge in July 2021 when she was almost 16 years old. This sweet girl will always be remembered.





Ode to Sadie Mae

by Mary Klein

Sweet Sadie Mae with your big brown eyes;
We were so blessed to have you enter our lives.
You've been through so much, we are so glad
NVSR rescued you from a kennel that was bad.

Hoping you'll find a forever home soon;
With a good companion,
and yard with lots of room!

Well, Sadie Mae, you found your forever home;
Enjoying life with Darcy and a yard to roam.
For four years love, trust, and hope were shared;
You blossomed into a faithful companion
to one who cared.

Then dear Darcy could not fight
the illness that she had;
You were alone in the world
feeling fearful and sad.

But along came Mike who understood
Shelties like you;
He provided more love and trust
so you could have hope, too.
Another four years of life with
Mike at a great home to live
Helping with fosters, enjoying the yard,
and sharing all you had to give.
Sweet Sadie Mae with your big brown eyes;
We were blessed to have you enter our lives.



Apple Cinnamon Delights

4 cups unbleached white flour
1/2 c. applesauce, no sugar
added
1/2 c. vegetable oil
1/4 c. honey
3/4 c. water
2 eggs
1/4 c. wheat germ
1 Tbsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. baking soda

Mix all ingredients in large bowl.
Knead on a floured surface. Roll
out to 1/2-inch thickness, and
cut out shapes with a cookie
cutter. (NOTE: Somewhat sticky
so do circles with a glass). Put
the cookies on a baking sheet, 1
inch apart. Bake at 400° for 8-10
minutes. The cookies should
be firm to the touch. Turn the
oven off, and leave the cookies
in there for 1-2 hours to harden.

*Cady says this
recipe looks
yummy!
She hopes
her mommy
or sisters will
make it for her!*





Cheers for Good Customer Service!

by Mary Klein

Have you ordered or bought a pet product, opened it and found something wrong with it? I recommend you contact the company and use these tips. Here's my experience with two companies.



Jax and Cali - I really like Jax and Cali's Toothbrush Wipes for Farrah and Dakota. The mitten type pockets fit well on my fingers so I can massage their gums and wipe their teeth. I order these from Chewy.com and had a problem with my last order. They didn't work correctly. **Tip #1** - Look for a manufacturing date or lot number on the package. (There might not be any!) **Tip #2** - Contact the manufacturer directly. On the Jax and Cali website, I used "Contact Us" to explain the problem and mention I purchased the product from Chewy.com. Here's their quick reply:

"Thank you for reaching out to us about the defective Toothbrush Wipes bag from Chewy. Can you tell me when you purchased the Toothbrush Wipes from Chewy? We will send you a new bag of Toothbrush Wipes and some complimentary Paw and Body Wipes. Our new packaging includes identifying lot numbers and there should not be any issues."

Within a week, I received a package of Toothbrush Wipes as well as a full-size package and sample packages of Paw and Body Wipes. The new package had identifying manufacturing numbers on it. Kudos to Jax and Cali for great customer service!

Chewy.com – From Chewy, I purchase a dental water additive which contains glucosamine. I had ordered two bottles along with other items. The bottles are usually packed in a plastic bag and wrapped so they do not shift during delivery. This time they were free and leaked on the other products. I contacted Chewy's Customer Service about the poor packing. **Tip #3** - Include pictures with your complaint. Within a week Chewy sent another two bottles of dental rinse and didn't want the leaking ones returned. Farrah, Dakota, and I have happy smiles with the extra product and the great customer service from Chewy.com!

Peanut Butter Biscuits

2 c. whole wheat flour
1 Tbsp. Baking powder
1 c. chunky peanut butter
1 c. milk

Mix flour and baking powder in bowl, then add milk and peanut butter. Mix into dough. Roll out to ¼" thick. Cut into shapes with cookie cutter or squares with pizza cutter. Bake at 375° for 20 minutes.





Seven Things Pet Owners Do That Drive Veterinarians Crazy

by Patty Khuly, DVM

This is a tough subject to tackle. Veterinarians do annoying things, too. But this article is all about you — the annoying yous among you. So, here are the most annoying things pet owners do.

1. Answer Their Cell Phones

Need I say more? It's really annoying and disrespectful to answer a phone call while your vet is delivering her state-of-your-pet's-health address? OK, it might be worse if you dug out your phone to initiate a call mid-exam, but only by a smidge. They're both just rude.

2. Bring Their Kids

I dearly love children (mine mostly), but very young or misbehaving children are a liability in a veterinary environment. It's hard enough to keep pets safe. Unless your children are old or chill enough to hang out, they should stay home. However, if your pet has an emergency and no one can care for your kids, you are excused. Call ahead so we can assign an employee to keep tabs on them so you can concentrate on what's wrong with your pet.

3. Let Their Dogs Run Amok

This is not the dog park. Retractable leashes should remain in the shortest, locked position for the duration of your visit. I saw an innocent human get taken down in the lobby by a retractable line, so there should be a rule against these in vet hospitals!

4. Carry Their Cat

I can't believe that some owners bring their cats in without carriers. And harnesses! These won't help when challenged by a truly motivated dog. Actually, I'd never blame a dog for attacking a cat in a veterinary hospital environment. Cats are probably giving off cornered prey vibes that some dogs can't ignore.

5. Deny, Deny, Deny

It drives us crazy. These clients employ us to be their experts, then it is ... "No, my pet is *not* fat." "No, her teeth are *not* rotting." "No, his claws are *not* too long." You might (and should!) question your veterinarian about health care issues that are important to you, but why come to the vet if you can't have an open dialogue about what your pet needs and doesn't need?

6. Refuse to Pay

It happens more often than you'd think. Some pet owners agree to hospitalization and procedures – and later refuse to pay. Sometimes they "forgot their checkbooks." Other times they say they misunderstood the payment policy, even though the sign in the clinic says, "Payment is expected when services are rendered."

7. Don't Follow Through

There's no shame if you can't medicate your difficult cat or trim your unruly dog's nails. We understand why you might not be able to manage these not-so-simple tasks. But you must let us know if you can't, don't or won't do what we say. We have way to help you.

Want to give your veterinarian the best holiday gift ever? Resolve to be a more honest, open, conscientious, cat box-carrying, child care-finding, cell phone-shirking client.





Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue Directors and Coordinators

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Special thanks to the many volunteers who foster, transport, and contribute their time and talents to help the Shelties who are brought to or found by NVSR.

Newsletter submissions to sheltiespin@nvsr.org
 Website www.nvsr.org • E-Mail: shelties@nvsr.org

Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue
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\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue. Mail to Treasurer, NVSR, 977 Seminole Trail, PMB 314, Charlottesville VA 22901

Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue, Inc., is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), tax-exempt corporation. A financial statement is available upon request from the Commonwealth of Virginia Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218-1163.

NVSR MISSION STATEMENT

NVSR will take in any Sheltie in need regardless of age, except those with histories of repeated, unprovoked biting. Dogs accepted into rescue will be evaluated in foster homes, receive veterinary care and necessary resocialization, and ultimately be placed in homes where they will be loved, protected, and well cared for. We support efforts to reduce pet overpopulation; all of our Shelties will be spayed or neutered prior to adoption or, if not yet at a safe age to be neutered, placed on a spay/neuter contract at the time of adoption. NVSR is a 501(c)(3) organization.