



The Sheltie Spin

Newsletter of Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue
 "Giving Shelties a New Leash on Life"
 Summer 2013

10 Shelties ... at once!!

By Carol Finerty and Marta Miranda

NVSR takes pride in rescuing and rehabilitating Shelties who are in need of new homes. This is the core of what we do. On May 22, a Virginia county shelter called for help with 14 Shelties ranging in age from 1-8 years old turned in from an ailing breeder who could no longer care for them. We acted quickly to save these purebred Shelties in trouble.

Martha Heisel, intake coordinator, contacted two other Sheltie rescues to take four of the dogs. Thanks go to Collie and Sheltie Rescue of Southeastern Virginia and Northern Chesapeake Sheltie Rescue for their help. That left 10 for NVSR. Martha appealed to NVSR volunteers to transport and foster. With little more than names and pictures of the dogs, Martha and Lisa Fox, foster coordinator, came up with a plan for Annie, Barbara, Bella, Colleen, Danny, Katie, Kelly, McDougal, Paddy, and Sonny. Then, several volunteers picked up one or more dogs and delivered them to their foster homes. The shelter was surprised and very pleased that the dogs were on their way within two days.



Barbara



Annie



Bella



Colleen



Danny

Foster families were surprised by the condition of these Shelties. While their dogs were gentle and sweet, they were also very smelly and covered with hundreds of ticks. Bathing cut the smell, but each foster Mom and Pop had to dedicate their Memorial Day weekend to picking off ticks. Foster homes compared the numbers of ticks found on each Sheltie ... 200, 235, 310! Vets were consulted to determine whether the dogs are anemic, needed antibiotics, etc.

Leash training, housetraining, and socialization began right away for each dog, and the experienced NVSR foster

providers are taking their time with these disoriented dogs. Each one will get individualized observation, healthcare, love, and training. They are already blossoming as they feel better and more secure. Sharon Daussin, foster mom to Katie, exclaimed, "We are thrilled with our foster! I hope everyone else is having as much fun. Katie is progressing so well!"



Katie



Kelly

It is good news that all these dogs are heartworm negative and have "soft" temperaments. Foster providers are exchanging messages about the characteristics of their charges, and how they have made inroads into their hearts. It will be fun and instructive to hear about how these Shelties gain strength and confidence, learn, and take the steps to find their forever homes. As Martha put it, "We will find each one a wonderful forever home perfect for him or her."



McDougal

It takes a lot of hard work and love to take in and care for a large number of dogs at once. (So far this year, we've taken in more than 40!) It takes



Paddy

money, too. That's where YOU come in. We give our foster dogs all the medical care they need. We spend **three times** more in vet costs than we receive in adoption fees. Can you help

with a donation? You can send a check to our address (on the back of this newsletter) or use PayPal on our website home page: www.nvsr.org. Every penny we receive goes to help all our Shelties on their way to new adventures.



Sonny



Looking Back at NVSR's Roots

By Carol Finerty

In 1994 I wanted to rescue a Sheltie. There was no NVSR, so I adopted little tricolor Mick from another state. He was a joy and my constant companion. I realize now how fortunate I was to stumble upon a Sheltie perfect for me because I didn't know much about dogs, and NVSR didn't exist. There was no experienced foster family to test Mick's temperament and make sure we were a good match. There was no one to teach me about Sheltie temperament, grooming, and training.

I thought at the time that it was too bad there wasn't a rescue in the area, but it never occurred to me to try to start one. Had it occurred to me, I probably would have set the thought aside because I didn't know other people who liked Shelties, I didn't know how to set up a website, and I had little interest in dealing with the necessary legal issues. Besides, I was working on carving out quality time for my new "Velcro" puppy.

Today, if you want to adopt or need to surrender a Sheltie, there is an experienced non-profit organization in Northern Virginia comprised of knowledgeable, caring Sheltie owners and experts ready to help. NVSR has evolved into a vibrant rescue serving Sheltie novices, owners, and enthusiasts alike. NVSR serves those wanting to adopt their first – or their tenth – Sheltie, and it provides a network for experienced owners to share best practices and news on canine health and activities.

Next year, NVSR will reach a landmark 15th anniversary, so lets look back to see who had the vision and did the tough start-up work. Founder Lynn Neumann had dogs growing up, but not purebred. However, she fondly remembered that her grandmother raised collies. She was drawn to Shelties and got her first one from a breeder member of the Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club. Once she learned that Shelties aren't compact collies, her love of the breed grew.

In 1999, Lynn learned that a stray Sheltie was scheduled to be euthanized in a Nelson County shelter. She planned to take leave from work to adopt the dog. Unfortunately, she didn't get there in time. Lynn was so disappointed that she reached out on a Yahoo list asking if anyone knew how to start a rescue in Northern Virginia. Founder Elaine Wymer got in touch. Though Lynn and Elaine had never



Lynn Neumann

met, and neither knew how to start up a nonprofit, they were determined to save the Shelties that they both loved.



With no lawyer, no website designer, and no start-up funding, Lynn and Elaine initially talked a lot by phone. Eventually they decided to meet face-to-face. They bought a how-to book, met at a Manassas Bob Evans, and, as Lynn says, "stumbled through" the process of forming a nonprofit with articles of incorporation and bylaws. Once the articles of incorporation were approved, they were on their way.

Next, they reached out to other rescues for examples of adoption contracts, relinquishment forms, and foster agreement forms. By June of 1999, they had pieced together a starter website and were getting out word to shelters that NVSR was open for business. Sonny, their first rescue Sheltie was a ten-year-old owner surrender due to divorce. He came to NVSR in October 1999, and Elaine quickly became the first NVSR "foster flunkie," adopting Sonny, who happily lived out his life with her.



Elaine Wymer



Pat Wilson, Susan Bailey, Julie Henderson, Elaine Wymer, Debbie Kerns in 2002

Finding their first volunteers was a challenge. They heard that Susan Bailey might be interested in rescue, so they shared their vision for saving Shelties, and Susan signed up. After that they asked new adopters to help, and the NVSR network started to grow. After health issues caused Lynn to step back, Elaine kept the group together. Lynn is thankful for those who have helped, especially at the beginning, and she is amazed at how NVSR has grown.

Over the past 14 years, NVSR has developed a network of nearly 100 volunteers who have successfully rehomed more than 1,000 shelties in Virginia and the surrounding states. Founder Lynn Neumann said, "We always wondered if we could do it - and we did! Everyone should be proud of the work they are doing."

My beautiful little sable Fallon is an NVSR rescue skillfully fostered by Louise Cortwright. I salute the vision of NVSR's founders and the determination to get NVSR up and running. I also want to thank NVSR board members and coordinators for their hours of service and leadership, and extend a special thanks to those who foster and rehabilitate "our" dogs. NVSR truly gives Shelties a "new leash on life."





Volunteer Spotlight:

Mike and Ginny O'Shea

At every NVSR picnic, the agility demonstration is one of the highlights. The jumps, tunnels, and weave poles draw Sheltie lovers' attention, bringing volunteers, adopters, and Shelties (!) to watch the incredibly fast Dixie Doodle (NVSR 2008) expertly navigate all the obstacles on the course with her handler, Mike O'Shea. This pair makes



Mike and Dixie showing off their agility talent

the challenge look effortless, but try to do the course on your own. You will discover just how much work goes into training the handler and dog team in this remarkable sport.

Sheltie Spin "correspondent," Marta Miranda, caught up with Mike and Ginny O'Shea to talk about

NVSR, dog sports, and all things Sheltie. Mike and Ginny have four Shelties.

NVSR: You help foster NVSR Shelties. How many have you fostered over the years?

Mike: Since 2002, we've fostered 28 Shelties and adopted three of them: Dougan, Dixie Doodle, and Mr. Lightning Mike. Dixie Doodle, our agility dog, is now five and joined us as a five month old pup. She is very fast and nimble. Mr. Lightning Mike loves sheep herding, which has helped build his confidence.

NVSR: Tell me about your first Sheltie.

Ginny: O'Shea's Irish Rogue, son of Diamond's Robert Bruce, a well-known West Coast champion. We got him in the 70s when we lived in California. Back then, there were fewer opportunities for training, so we trained him only in obedience. We found out by accident that Rogue was good at herding. Out for a walk one day, Mike met a shepherd who encouraged Rogue to run with his main dog. Rogue took off after the sheep and helped herd them. It was incredible. He wasn't trained; he just knew how to do it!



O'Shea kids and dogs in 1974

NVSR: What makes a good sports dog?

Mike: It depends on the sport. Sheep herding requires that the dog work farther away from the handler. In agility and rally, dogs work close to the handler. In all dog sports, the dog must pay attention to the handler, but a sheep herding dog has to pay very close attention to what the handler wants rather than where the dog wants to go. In high level agility, it's usually the handler and not the dog who makes a mistake, and the mistakes can be really minor. A lot of times, you don't even really know you've made a mistake because the dog is so good at reading the handler's body language. Once you make one mistake, it's all over, because

it throws them off and the mistakes start to cascade.

NVSR: So, the handler has to be really aware of every slight movement he or she makes.

Ginny: It's true! People will talk to the handler outside of the ring about small things they did: "You lifted your shoulder a little." A friend working with a Belgian Malinois in agility moved her foot a little too far to the left. So, the dog turned left, too – the wrong direction.

NVSR: What other sports are your dogs involved in?

Ginny: Our second oldest, Autumn (11 years old), has retired from agility, rally, and sheep herding and now does nose work. She loves it! It's amazing what you learn from the dogs doing nose work. They start with treats hidden in open boxes and progress to finding hidden objects. Autumn, however, follows the trainer's eyes to find the object. She doesn't just sniff to find the treat, she learned to look where



Autumn clearing a hurdle

he was looking!

NVSR: What do you do when you're not training dogs and traveling to competitions?

Ginny: Try to keep the house clean! Chase after those Sheltie dust bunnies ...

Mike: I still work part-time to afford the dog thing. It's expensive! I train a couple times a week and compete at least twice a month.

Ginny: And then there are the grandchildren ... but I also work for a veterinarian and Mike works for Lockheed Martin.

End note: Mike is president of the Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club (potomacvalleyssc.com) and a strong supporter of rescue of all kinds. He and Ginny are currently fostering "McDougal" for NVSR. Mike and Ginny never miss a Scottish Christmas Walk in Alexandria every year, dressed in full regalia. Ginny helps to set up the agility course (she follows directions well), cheers on Mike in competitions, and manages the foster dog/grandchildren interactions. You can read about Mike's adventure rescuing a rescued dog in our Winter 2011 *Sheltie Spin* – look on our website (nvsr.org), "Events and News" page.



Mike in Santa Claus disguise

Here are Mike's and Ginny's dogs with their official names and accomplishments:

- JimJan's Summer Intrigue HSAs AX MXJ MJB RA XF CGC
- JimJan's Autumn Breeze HSAs NA NAJ RN CGC
- Dixie Doodle HSAs OA AXJ XF RN CGC (NVSR 2008)
- Mr. Lightning Mike HT (NVSR 2012)



Mayday....Mayday.....Mayday!

By John Marlette

The call came one morning early in May. “Sheltie found wandering the busy streets of one a tough suburban Maryland neighborhood, and she’s at the county shelter!” That shelter holds dogs and cats temporarily and, due to the tremendous number of animals that come to it, those who aren’t claimed or adopted in a few days are euthanized. There was no time to lose!

After what seemed like endless hours of phone calls and e-mails, shelter personnel decided NVSR could claim the lost Sheltie. Nobody had reported losing such a dog; there was no collar, tag, or microchip to identify an owner. Time was ticking ... the shelter needed to make room for other arriving animals. Even a Sheltie would have to join those whose time had run out.

I offered to pick up the dog and hold her for a couple of days while we found a foster home. At the shelter, I was ushered into an office where the “pick-up” was waiting for me. Fully expecting a street-worn, matted, and fearful little creature, I was amazed at what greeted me – a gorgeous, blue-eyed sable merle Sheltie with the “I’m so glad you’re finally here” look. She and I left the shelter behind, each feeling relief.

Days passed and the little Sheltie settled into my “temporary holding home.” Before long I asked to foster this gentle, loving and oh, so appreciative little girl. May – her new name – got to stay right where she was, and we scheduled the usual NVSR veterinary exam. At the estimated age of three, May could look forward to years of love and attention with a family of her own. That’s when the big news hit ...

May’s initial medical exam revealed a life-threatening congenital heart condition, soon confirmed by the veterinary

cardiologist. May needed open-heart surgery to correct the defect or her life would be very short. That was so hard to believe, looking at this beautiful, affectionate, and now happy little girl. Could this be the reason that her former owners never surfaced during May’s days at the shelter? We’ll never know, but she’s safe with NVSR now.

NVSR will underwrite the considerable cost of the operation, probably nearly \$5,000 including post-surgery rehabilitation. I will care for May through her recovery and make sure her new life is launched from a base of love and support. She is a truly wonderful dog, and so lucky to have landed in the arms of NVSR. She is, in every sense of the word, a real lady with impeccable manners. She loves to learn; we’re up to “stay,” “wait,” “shake hands,” and “go to your room”. She is a delight to work with. The staff at both veterinary practices fell in love with her soft, tolerant personality and her physical beauty.

You don’t think we’d end this report there without asking for your help, did you? Once in a while, we get a dog that needs extraordinary and very expensive care. We carefully think through what treatment is best for the dog, and we don’t let money decisions stand in the way. A dog like May can have a long happy life with our – and your – help. Thank you!



Mark your calendar now for the 2013 Annual NVSR Picnic, **Saturday, September 21**, at Curtis Memorial Park, Hartwood VA. Noon to 4pm. Free lunch, demonstrations, games, silent auction, Sheltie FUN! Join us for a “barkin’ good time.”



GAM Printers of Sterling, Virginia, and the Grant Family dedicate this issue of the Sheltie Spin in honor of Spirit who passed away on March 2, 2013 and the other Shelties who passed away this year.



NVSR Calendar Pictures Submission Rules

Attention, calling all shutterbugs. Does your Rescued Sheltie have Star Potential? Does your Foster Sheltie exude charm? It's time to start getting next year's calendar ready for publication and we need your help making it another success. We're inviting all volunteers and adopters to submit their precious sheltie photos for the NVSR Sheltie Rescue Calendar.

Deadlines and Addresses for Submission

Deadline for submittal is June 30 for the following year's edition.

Questions/digital submittals should be directed to: calendar@NVSR.org

Photographs should be mailed to:

Julianne Henderson
9821 Lakepointe Dr
Burke, VA 22015

The Rules for Photo Submission

1. The focal point of the picture must be of a Rescued Sheltie, adopted or fostered (after all this is a rescue organization.) However, it does not have to be an NVSR dog. ***Dogs obtained from breeders, pet shops or purchased from individuals do not qualify unless they're pictured with a Rescued Sheltie. Other critters & non-shelties are also welcome as long as they're pictured with a Rescued Sheltie.***
2. Please do not include any humans in the photographs.
3. You may submit either regular or digital photos. However, no photos will be returned as they will become the property of NVSR and may be used in future calendars, publications and/or other related media.
4. If submitting hard copies, ***landscape*** orientation should be a 5X7 and ***portrait*** orientation should be a 4X6 size.
5. No Professional/Studio Photos from third parties, this can cause copyright issues.
6. Please include a brief bio of your Rescued/Foster Sheltie; this information will be included on the calendar if your photo is selected.
7. Color Photos only.
8. Themed Pictures are encouraged. I.e., Halloween, Xmas, Valentines, Winter, Spring, Beach...
9. All submissions should be in focus (not fuzzy), and not exceptionally dark. The images will need to be enlarged significantly and will show any imperfections. Please keep in mind that the quality of the photos used will affect the overall quality of the calendar. We ask that only good quality photos be submitted.
10. Digital photos should be at least 4.0 Mega pixels to be considered for a Cover or full page layout.
11. Glossy finished photographs are preferred if submitting hard copies. (Matte finish reduces the quality of the scan).
12. If you will be submitting a copy of a photograph, please make sure the copy is made from a negative. Copies made from the self-service reproduction machines are of poorer quality.
13. Please identify your photo(s) on the back with the name of the dogs(s), your name, e-mail address, complete mailing address and home phone number starting with the area code. It's best to use a label so as not to damage the picture. Do not use a ball point or felt tipped marker, as it might bleed through and damage the picture. If submitting digitally please include the information in your email.
14. The back of the calendar is dedicated to Shelties that have crossed the bridge in the past year. These ***do not*** have to be a rescued sheltie



Plants That Can Harm Your Canine Companions

Summer is here, and we want to get out and work in the yard. Ah, the smell of freshly cut grass and the aroma of roses and honeysuckle! Avid gardeners thrive on planting and expanding their gardens. You have heard about foods that can pose a danger to our pets, but we don't always think about what we plant in our garden or yard. Being in tune with your pets' behavior, whether they are prone to dig around or chew on plants, will save you some heartache and vet care expense, too.

BAD PLANTS For Pets



Ingesting some of the following plants can cause mild to serious reactions in a pet.

With many plants, the bulb of the plant is the most dangerous part because they are difficult for dogs to digest.

- Aloe – Level of toxicity: generally mild to moderate. This plant is great for burns. Common symptoms of ingestion can include: vomiting, depression, diarrhea, anorexia, tremors, or a change in urine color.
 - Amaryllis – Level of toxicity: generally mild to moderate. Many varieties of the lily can be dangerous: Peace lily, calla lily, amaryllis, lily of the valley, autumn crocus. Ingesting lilies can cause gastrointestinal upset, depression, anorexia, and tremors. Just a small amount can cause serious issues.
 - Apple and Crabapple – Stems, leaves, and seeds (which contain cyanide). Ingesting can display the following symptoms: red mucous, dilated pupils, difficult breathing, excessive panting, shock.
- Azalea – Level of toxicity: generally mild to severe, depending on the amount ingested. Ingestion of just a few leaves can cause serious issues like digestive upset, drooling, loss of appetite, weakness, and paralysis.
- Begonia – The tubers are the most toxic part. Symptoms can include: oral irritation, intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue, and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, difficulty in swallowing.
- Carnation – although not the most poisonous plant commonly found, symptoms can include: mild gastrointestinal signs, mild dermatitis.
- Chysanthemum/Mum/Daisy – symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, excessive salivation, loss of coordination, dermatitis.
- Cyclamen – the root of this plant is the most toxic part. Symptoms include: excessive salivation, diarrhea, heart arrhythmias, gastrointestinal irritation, and intense vomiting.
- Daffodil/Narcissus/Jonquil/Paper White – A favorite in spring. Bulbs are the most dangerous part of the plant. Daffodils contain a poisonous alkaloid that can cause vomiting, excessive salivation, diarrhea, convulsions, low blood pressure, tremors, and heart problems.
- Gladioli and Iris varieties – Another item where the bulb is the most toxic part. Symptoms include: vomiting, salivation, drooling, lethargy, and diarrhea.





- Hosta – these common shade plants can be dangerous if your pet takes an interest in them. Symptoms include: vomiting, diarrhea, and depression.
 - Hyacinth – another plant where the bulbs are the most dangerous part. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, tremors.
 - Hydrangea – leaves and buds are most toxic. Symptoms include: irritation and inflammation of the digestive tract, diarrhea, and bloody stool.
 - Morning Glory – Providing eye appeal to a trellis or arbor, the seeds from these are quite harmful. Symptoms include gastrointestinal upset, agitation, tremors, disorientation, anorexia, and hallucinations which may cause the pet to harm itself or others.
- Tulip – The bulb is the most toxic part of this plant for dogs. Symptoms include intense gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, depression of the central nervous system, convulsions, and cardiac abnormalities.



What should you do if your pet ingests something dangerous?

1. Immediately remove your pet from the area, and make sure no other pets are exposed to this area. Safely remove any remaining poisonous material from their reach.
2. Check to make sure your pet is breathing and acting normally.
3. **Collect a sample** of the material, along with the packaging, vial, or container, and save it – you will need all that information when you talk to your veterinarian or to a Pet Poison Helpline expert (see contact information below).
4. **Do NOT** give your dog any milk, food, salt, oil, or any other home remedies! Also, never induce vomiting without talking to your vet or Pet Poison Helpline – it may actually be very harmful to induce vomiting!
5. **Do NOT** give hydrogen peroxide without checking with a vet or with Pet Poison Helpline first.
6. **Get help!!** Program into your phone your vet's phone number, along with a Local Emergency Vet Hospital, Pet Poison Helpline or ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center phone numbers. Post these numbers near your home phone or on your refrigerator. We do not always think clearly when our pets are in crisis, so do this now.
7. Keep in mind that the prognosis is better when toxicity is reported immediately. *Don't wait to see if your pet becomes symptomatic before calling for help.* It's always safer for your pet – and less expensive – to call immediately. Remember, there's a narrow window of time to perform the crucial steps to decontaminate (induce vomiting or pump the stomach) in the case of a poisoning!



Here is more information:

- ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center **888-426-4435**, web address: <http://www.aspcare/poison-control/plants/>
- Cornell University – Department of Animal Science has a searchable database, web address: <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/dogs/>
- Pet Poison Help Line: **800-213-6680** <http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons/>
- Chart at a glance: http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/pets/poisonous_plants.pdf

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**Thanks also to the many volunteers who help transport,
 foster, and contribute their time 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

Note our new address

Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue
 977 Seminole Trail, PMB 314
 Charlottesville VA 22901
 703-912-4002

Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue
 977 Seminole Trail, PMB 314
 Charlottesville VA 22901



I would like to make a donation to the Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Donation Amount:

\$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.