



# The Sheltie Spin

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

## Oh! You Are the People with the Shelties!

By Theresa Jackson



Allen and I have been antiques dealers for more than 25 years. In 2007, we adopted from our local shelter a toothless, deaf 16-year-old Sheltie, Bobby-Robert. Worried about leaving him home, we brought him with us to the antique shows. So began our venture of being the "Sheltie antique people." We had Bobby-Robert for 3½ wonderful years. After he departed, people asked about him and we realized that we missed having a buddy with us at the antique shows.

In January 2012, Jilly, our first NVSR Sheltie joined us. A week after we adopted her, she was with us at an auction and sat down in front of an oil copy of "The Shepherd's Call." Of course we had to buy it. I knew at that moment that she would be the perfect show Sheltie for us. She quickly became the main attraction at every antique show, lying in the middle of the booth until her beauty and sweetness were adequately acknowledged by our customers.

In 2013, Pepper joined our troop. Being a blue merle, everyone remarked on his coloring but Jill would always demand equal time. Were our customers coming for our merchandise or for our Shelties? Jilly, my heart girl, left us in 2019. I was heartbroken.

During the summer of 2020, I felt that maybe I could start looking for another Sheltie to travel with us. I had in mind another small sweet female, but ... In August we met a very sweet large male Sheltie, Jeter, and his personality is perfect for shows. You see, all of our show Shelties have been relatively quiet, sweet-tempered, and while they might be reserved, they were friendly. They were all good with other dogs and good with children.



Jilly and Pepper



Over the years we have perfected our show Sheltie routines. We have two soft-sided crates with zip open sky roofs. The Shelties travel in their crates and stay there while we setup or take down our displays. They watch us work through their sky roofs, greet dealer friends or take a nap. For the show opening, the crates are under the table so that the doors are open and facing each other. We have folding fencing between the two crates so that the babes can visit each other or enjoy their own space. For outdoor shows on hot days, we have a small electric generator to plug a fan into it – just for the dogs!



In the afternoons as the show crowds thin, the boys come out on leash to visit with us and the customers. Pepper is not always eager to spend time with customers so we leave the fencing under the table open. That way Pepper can decide for himself if he wants to visit or not.

We eat either at outdoor restaurants or have take-out in our room. We make sure that the babes are walked several times a day. Pepper loves to play fetch so Allen takes him out to a quiet area near the show to play a short toss-fetch for at least 20 minutes.



Our Shelties travel at least once a month and have traveled from South Carolina to Kentucky to upstate New York. For their fan club, we post new pictures of them on our antique pages in Facebook and Instagram. But best of all, we have our special buddies with us all the time.



Pepper and Jeter



### Welcome to our Summer 2021 Sheltie Spin!

We're happy to present our summer issue of *The Sheltie Spin*. We love to keep in touch with our adopters, volunteers, friends and donors with heartwarming stories about happy Shelties and their families who have found one another. We hope you enjoy reading about the adventures these lucky dogs and humans have together. We also include memories of two of our much-loved volunteers. And don't miss Wes's article about opening up his charter boat tours. He is captain of the Pamlico when he's not doing NVSR director stuff. How about taking your Sheltie on a cruise!

As things begin to open up this year, NVSR is looking forward to attending more in-person "doggie" events. We love to show off our Shelties and meet Sheltie-lover friends. Most of the events we attended in past summers are still off the calendar, but we are hoping to attend some in the fall. The Scottish Walk parade in Alexandria will be held on Saturday, December 4th, and we will definitely be there. Our Shelties are the most popular dogs in the parade, bar none!! (Yes, we are biased.) Check our website and Facebook page for news about where we will be and when. Then, come and say "hello" and bring your Sheltie, of course.



## Rethinking Loyalty

by Ellen Lamm

We're human. We think we know what love and loyalty are. But for those of us lucky enough to share our lives with a dog, what we would describe is nothing less than effervescence.

As I vacated my apartment in late December 2019, all I knew was my mom was not well in Florida and my life needed a major makeover. As a co-dependent dog mom, I told Bayle that as long as he was with me, I could do this.



*Bayle and Ellen  
at St. Augustine  
Beach*

Here I am, 18 months later; six months with my parents, six months at a Marriott long-term stay in Tampa Bay, my old stomping grounds, and back in Northern Virginia at another Marriott long-term stay. Nothing seems like it was pre-pandemic. Some long-time friends have dropped off the radar while my career aspirations are nothing like they were before. The only thing that is real, and is my constant, is my dog.

Bayle is known and loved at all our stops along the way. While people don't necessarily know who I am, they know me as Bayle's mom; and that's fine by me. Our things remain in storage, and I'm starving for a place to call home. Yet, I know that Bayle has his place with me, and I remain positive and optimistic because of this dog by my side.

There are many days when I wake up too anxious to get out of bed, Bayle pulls the covers off me and makes sure we get fresh morning air. When I'm too deep in concentration and worry, he either rolls on his back for a belly rub or throws his favorite toy so I'll catch it.

While people closest to me say that I am one of the strongest women they know, I smile and say that I owe my backbone to my dog. He is teaching me courage ... courage to reenter the world on my terms and his, courage to go places I would never go on my own, and most of all, the strength and optimism to keep going and not give up. With this dog, as my other wonderful dogs who came before him, I learn that I really can be Hercules. Most of all, I learn that there is a higher power, way bigger than we, and I feel like it's encapsulated in the heart and soul of my dog.



*Happy  
Independence Day  
from Emma*

## You Can't Judge a Dog by Its Cover

by Joan McGregor and Christine Tessier



You've heard the saying "You can't judge a book by its cover"? Well, I say, "You can't judge a DOG by its cover."

It was Spring 2016 and I had just received a call from Lisa Fox, NVSR foster coordinator, asking if I could pick up a Sheltie that Collie Rescue had taken in from a Maryland shelter. NVSR had agreed to take in and foster "Skylar," so he was transported to Manassas Animal Hospital for pickup. The shelter and Collie Rescue had warned Lisa that Skylar was considered "vicious" as he had been unruly and thrashed around when they used the head snare to move him.

On a rainy Sunday morning, I gathered my dog crate and leashes and headed to Manassas Animal Hospital. I was more than a little apprehensive as I drove through the rain, many thoughts going through my mind ... What was I getting myself into? What was this dog's story? What if he is "vicious"? What if he got away from me? Needless to say, I was on edge.

I backed into the parking space closest to the door, grabbed my double leashes and in I went. I waited for the staff to collect Skylar and bring him out. While waiting, I learned Skylar's story. He had been ripped from his family due to a divorce and given up out of spite. Poor baby. No wonder he thrashed around when they put the head snare on him. Maybe he wasn't "vicious" after all. Maybe his heart was breaking. But what happened next put the "You can't judge a dog by its cover" to shame. In pranced the most beautiful, rather large Sheltie with perfect manners. He walked up and looked me dead in the eye. The expression on his face was pure relief and he seemed to say, "Get me out of here!" Skylar and I walked out together, he jumped in the crate, and off we went.



What a treasure this boy turned out to be. A gentle giant. A love muffin. We even took him camping with us during his foster stay. But I had plans for him. NVSR had a lovely family looking for their forever pup. I contacted them – and the rest is history. He joined the Tessier family and it was a perfect fit. They send me a yearly Christmas card, and there's Skylar, always smiling. He continues to be the gentle giant that I knew he was the very first time I met him. He is a true southern gentleman.

What I learned from that experience was not to "judge a dog nor human by its cover," to look beyond the behavior and actions to find out their real story. More than likely you will find a gem.



### And ... the Tessiers' side of the story ...

We were actively searching for a Sheltie, and meeting up with Joan has been a Godsend. She was fostering Skylar, graciously welcomed our visits, and helped us every step of the adoption. Skylar is a larger Sheltie with that much more to love. His great disposition easily fits into different situations. He has Sheltie traits like guarding us from every mail or UPS truck. I am also safe from my hair dryer every morning.



Skylar is always near us. He asks – no, demands – to be an equal family member, and we are happy to accommodate. During a family board or card game, we sit on the floor just so he can see what we are doing; otherwise we are told it is unacceptable. During Zoom virtual meetings, he jumps on a lap to be front and center.

Skylar's greatest love is walks: any trail, anywhere. Skylar's other great love is the pillow. No ordinary pillow or dog bed will do. It has to be a people or sofa pillow. We have tried multiple dog beds – not as good. He demands to be an equal! We oblige because he is too cute and adorable not to do otherwise. Skylar always has a happy smile on his face. Happy to be with anyone. Happy to love. We love our Skylar!



### Send in your Photos for the 2022 NVSR Calendar

We're forming a team now to look at all the great photos YOU will send us for consideration for the 2022 NVSR calendar. Our annual calendar is always stunningly beautiful. We're looking for photos of Shelties doing all the things Shelties love to do—running, jumping, snoozing, barking, swimming (well, some like this), sitting in the sun, playing with a toy, and much more.

We are looking for high quality photos, each of which should include at least one rescued Sheltie. (Sorry, no humans). Our calendar pages are big, so we need photos that are sharp and into the MB sized area. You might want to include scenery behind or around your Sheltie, or garden plants, or a comfy sofa or dog bed. Get down to the dog's level so that his or her features are in proportion. If your Sheltie is mostly black, try reflecting light onto the dog to bring out the facial features better. Holiday themed photos are most welcome, too.

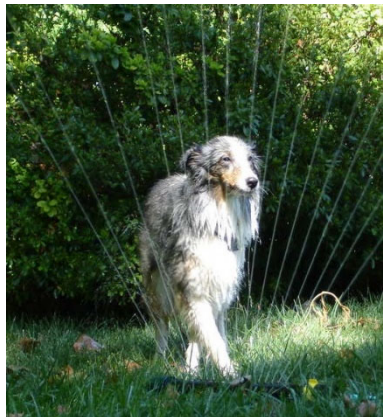
Your dear little "Buddy" could be Mr. September or your "Lassie" could be Miss April!



Send your photos to [calendar2022@nvsr.org](mailto:calendar2022@nvsr.org) by July 15 so that our team will have time to put the calendar together and get it to our printer. We will have calendars for sale in mid- to late-September.

## Keep Your Sheltie Cool this Summer

by Joyce Malcolm



With summer temperatures soaring, it is time for a refresher on how to keep our dogs safe and cool. We need to be particularly cautious with puppies and senior dogs who are the most vulnerable, especially overweight seniors. Most dogs are used to living in air-conditioned homes and need careful exposure to heat. Here are a few suggestions.

While dogs should never be left in a car in the heat, it is also a good idea to cool the car down before getting your dog into it and setting off. Take water along for necessary stops, both riding and walking, and on long walks take frequent stops. Dogs cool off through their pads and by panting. Time your walks for the coolest parts of the day, early morning and evening and seek out the shady sides of the street. Road surfaces and metal plates can be very hot and burn pads. Test the ground surfaces the dog will walk on with the back of your hand. If it is too hot for your hand, it is too hot for your dog's feet.

On the go or at home, a small bottle for misting the dog, especially spraying his chest and arm pits will help him cool down. Finding a place where the dog can swim will cool him off quickly as will lawn sprinklers. You can look for special cool pads and cooling vests for dogs. A kiddie pool in a shady spot will provide relief from the heat. You might have to help your Sheltie get in there and lie down. Some Shelties will jump right in. That sounds like fun! And for a special treat, ice cubes made with broth or other dog favorites and frozen-filled Kongs will be much appreciated. Happy trails and stay cool.





## How's Life? "It's Great!" Says "Julie" Bradford

I turned 4 years old recently and I've been with my new human for a year. We had kind of a tough "get acquainted" period, but we're a team now (and I'm the team leader[!] but don't tell her). I made it very clear that some things are required and some are not acceptable, and my human did the same thing. We each made compromises and there's a lot that we negotiate – she gets something she wants and I get something I want (like frozen green beans and baby carrots, though regular dog treats and rawhide are also yummy.)

A lot of things used to upset me – other dogs, people, squirrels, rabbits, and even alpacas -- but we see them all the time (well, not the alpacas) and nothing horrible happens, so now I just ignore them or pretend I don't see them.

My home has a big front window with a chair next to it so I can get up and see my territory. There are two big sliding doors out to a balcony – again, good for keeping an eye on my turf. When I see invaders (mostly squirrels), I let my human know.



One of my problems was throwing up in the car, but my human gives me something before we go, so that doesn't happen anymore. We also gradually took longer drives. Now I like car rides, looking out the window and watching everything we pass. Someday I'll be the driver.



I don't have a yard to run in, so we go on long walks near our lake. (I've gotten better on a leash, so I always know where my human is.) And I'm allowed to run around loose in the fenced pool area as long as my human and I are the only ones there. I love running full out doing laps around the area. (My human has no prayer of being able to keep up with me.) Sometimes we play ball, and we do that inside, too.

I'm still hesitant around people, so I reliably enforce "social distancing." However, when someone takes the time to sit with me and give me lots of treats, I decide they're pretty OK. (Actually, I really like them, but I don't want to give too much away.) It's a tough job – but somebody's got to do it, and there are some perks! The service is pretty good here and I like my recliner.



Thanks to NVSR for getting me out of that horrible shelter and thanks to my Foster Mom Maureen for taking good care of me before I found my very own human.

## Zoey Settles in With Her New Family

*by Janet and Buddy Gritz*

We adore Zoey. She is very happy living with us and we are with her, too. She settled in nicely within the first 24 hours of bringing her home. She gives us kisses and tail wags and loves going for walks in the neighborhood and also being outside in our fenced-in backyard.



Zoey absolutely LOVES playing catch and fetch with her tennis balls. She has one of her three balls (2 yellow, 1 pink) in her mouth very often! She even barks with a ball in her mouth! Very funny! She takes a ball outside with her and retrieves it many times, then settles down to rest on the grass, ball still in her mouth.

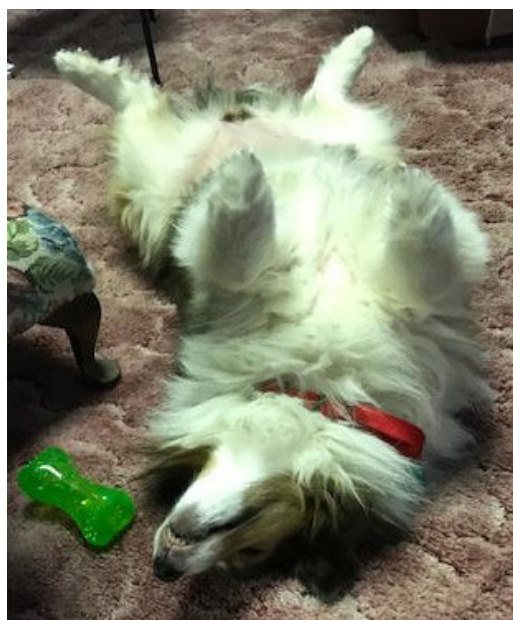
Generally Zoey is quiet, lying down close to us or following us from room to room. She usually sleeps on our sofa or on the carpet in our family room.



Here she is on MY side of the sofa! She has never placed a paw on the round bed that came with her, but she occasionally sleeps on her new rectangular dog bed.



Sometimes she sleeps on a fake bearskin rug that our beloved “Stacie” (our second Sheltie) loved! That warms our hearts and memories.



We think it is so funny when she sleeps on her back and with her feet in the air! Our previous three Shelties did not do this quite like Zoey does!

As we were warned, Zoey barks excitedly at loud noises like door bells. It happens daily but she calms down quickly. And she barks like crazy when Buddy sneezes loudly. That is pretty hilarious.

Zoey has us trained! When she wants something, she stares at us intently and quietly whines or softly barks, which eventually escalates to a full bark. What she wants is: (1) to eat, (2) to go out or (3) to play ball. She’s not very interested in toys, except for those balls!





Zoey loves to eat, but we are very careful to maintain the dietary restrictions that she needs in order to lose her extra weight. She is very smart and understands many words, even though she wasn't taught many other than "sit" and maybe "come." She seems to know "wait", and she definitely understands "Zoey", "ball" (of course!), "eat", "no", "out" and "walk"! We're looking forward to giving her the opportunity to learn new things.

We are very grateful to Foster Mom Jenni and to NVSR for giving us the opportunity to provide a loving forever home to this beautiful, charming, sweet 11-year old senior Sheltie girl! Zoey is a delight! We think that this is a match made in heaven!

## A Dog's Last Will & Testament

Before humans die, they write their last will and testament, giving their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely stray, I'd give my happy home;  
my bowl and cozy bed, soft pillow and all my toys; the lap,  
which I loved so much; the hand that stroked my fur;  
and the sweet voice that spoke my name.

I'd will to the sad, scared, shelter dog the place I had  
in my human's loving heart,  
of which there seemed no bounds.

So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a  
pet again, for the loss and the pain  
is more than I can stand."

Instead, go find an unloved dog,  
one whose life has held no joy or hope,  
and give my place to him.

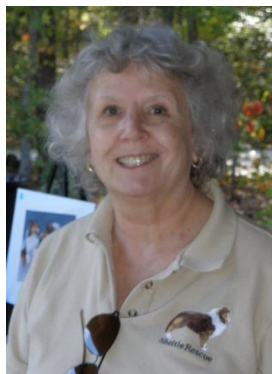
This is the only thing I can give...

The love I left behind.

—*Author Unknown*

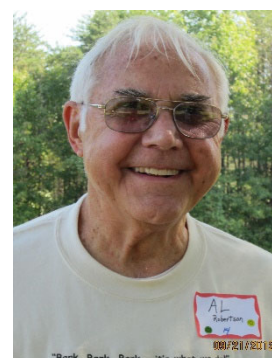


## Remembrances of NVSR Volunteers: Susan Bailey and Al Robertson



Many NVSR volunteers are sharing memories of Susan Bailey, who passed away in April. One of the early directors of NVSR, Susan not only dedicated years to the group, but she brought many others into the effort by encouraging new volunteers with her experience, tireless assistance, warmth, and sense of humor. Susan spent her professional life helping people as a patients' advocate, and she continued that for NVSR shepherding new volunteers. One winter, she drove all the way to South Boston on her day off to search the snowy woods for missing white Sheltie, Bliss. Susan and her husband, Bill, loved taking their Shelties RV camping to see the country. After they moved to North Carolina, she stayed in touch and continued to help Shelties and NVSR volunteers, often adding her thoughts to group communications. Susan will be very much missed.

Al Robertson, who passed away in January, was a “non-reformed” adopter of several of the dogs he and his wife, Janie, fostered for NVSR. Janie wrote, “Al loved NVSR and would have adopted every one we fostered if I had not put my foot down.” They wrote often of their adventures for the *Sheltie Spin*, articles about volunteering at hospitals with their certified therapy dogs and at schools with their reading assistance dogs. They also wrote about doing freestyle, managing a multidog household, fostering and more. For wonderful stories from Janie and Al and their Sheltie READ team, see the *Sheltie Spin* on NVSR's website “News and Events” page: Summer 2015, Winter 2017, Winter 2018, and others. We will surely miss Al's wonderful smile and non-stop storytelling.



### Planning for an Emergency

Life can deliver unwelcome and unexpected events. Of course, we never want something dire to happen that we can't get home when expected, but it is important to have a plan for our dear pets to be cared for if that happens. Put together a list of “first things to do” for the person who can enter your home first. Include what pets you have, brief description of each, where the food, vet information, leashes, etc., are located and who can take them immediately. (In the case of Shelties adopted from NVSR, be sure to add our contact information. We can pick up a dog within hours, if needed. If you want your Sheltie to go to a certain person, put that on the document.) In this “If I don't come home” envelope include feeding instructions for each pet.

This envelope should also include where to find your personal documents: birth certificate, will, etc. These are important, but not as immediately important as caring for pets that might otherwise be left alone for undetermined periods of time. Carry in your wallet and in your vehicle's glove compartment instructions for locating the person who can enter your house first. (Make sure this person has a key to your house.) Also, on your phone include “1-Emergency” first on your contacts list that will call that person, so he or she can be contacted as soon as possible.





## “The Light at the End of the Tunnel” – At Last!

by “Captain” Wes Marks

Last year was a great year for the dogs for sure. Quarantines, travel restrictions and business closures impacted a lot of industries, and eco-tourism suffered dearly. But there is always a silver lining to the cloud. We all spent lots and lots of time with our dogs. For us, Bonnie the Collie was spoiled rotten with us at home most of the time, and she loved it. But things have opened up and May 21, 2021 was a banner day for Delaware and small business tourism:



COVID-19 capacity limits were lifted for most activities and venues. My charter boat service, Rivers Run Boat Tours, is finally open again for business.

After a lean but oddly relaxing summer of 2020, summer 2021 looks to be a great one for us. Soon after Gov. Carney announced loosening Delaware’s COVID-19 restrictions, the Rivers Run phones started ringing off the hook. We love this pent-up demand for recreation! We are so glad to be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel from this pandemic and can't wait to have a "normal" summer. I think Bonnie agrees; she's probably tired of us by now ...

Consider booking my charter boat, “Pamlico,” for a lovely tour of the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean and Indian River Bay in the Delaware Beach region. Our home marina is in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where there are lots of interesting things to do before or after your boat trip. To celebrate a return to normalcy, any NVSR volunteer, friend and adopter can take a 25% discount for trips. We'll also donate



an additional 10% of the trip to NVSR in your name. Of course, your well-behaved Sheltie or other furry friend is welcome aboard. We follow and exceed all COVID-19 cleaning rules plus the captain and crew are proudly fully vaccinated so you can relax and enjoy a day on the water.



Read more and book your trip at [www.riversrun.net](http://www.riversrun.net). Also, check out the marina and other things to do on your Delaware vacation at <https://destateparks.com/MarinaLife/IndianRiverMarina>.

*Wes served 21 years in the United States Coast Guard before retiring and beginning a second career in municipal government. He has volunteered with NVSR since 2009 when he adopted Ruffian. His wife Danielle and Collie Bonnie are enjoying the semi-retired life at the beach in Delaware. He enjoys cruising the beautiful waters off the Delaware coast with folks on his Rivers Run tours.*

**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.**



### Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue Directors and Coordinators

Directors .....Martha Heisel, Wes Marks, Nancy Tisdale  
 Treasurer ..... Wes Marks  
 Intakes, Foster Care Assignments & Adoptions .....Lisa Fox  
 Transport Coordinator.....Chris Sokol  
 Shepherd Team ..... Donna Martin, Karin Trice, Marta Miranda,  
 Louise Kenny, Sharon Daussin, Anne Burke,  
 Jessica Baggarley, Magdalena Kowalewska  
 2022 Calendar Design..... TBD  
 Calendar Distribution ..... Cindy Foreso,  
 Melinda McKenzie Hall  
 Events ..... Kathy Kelly  
 Newsletter ..... Martha Heisel  
 Facebook Pages..... Theresa Jackson, Kathy Coffelt,  
 Joan McGregor  
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 Foster & Adoption Supplies.....Chris Sokol  
 Vet Committee.....Sharon Daussin, Dana Greenwood,  
 Mary Ellen Jones, Nancy Tisdale  
 Website ..... Martha Heisel

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 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.