



The Sheltie Spin

Newsletter of Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue
"Giving Shelties a New Leash on Life"
Winter 2017



Happy Howlidays!

Laci wishes you a 2018 filled with joyful noise!!



*Happy Holidays
from Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue*

2018 is our 19th year rescuing needy Shelties in Virginia and the surrounding states! We are very proud that over the years we have always been able to provide "our" Shelties with the best possible care along with lots of love and then found each of them just the right home. We did that with the help of hundreds of generous donors.

Please think of us as you decide about year-end (or anytime) donations to worthy charities. We are in pretty good shape financially, but if we get a few very needy dogs (read about Fluffy and Casper in this issue), those dogs could cost us a great deal more than the average intake. We have never had to decide not to give needed treatment to a dog because of money. These days we are getting fewer young dogs, those that we charge higher adoption fees for and that require less expenditure for vet care. Therefore, every mid-age and older dog we get now costs us on average three to four times more than we receive for the adoption fee. Surgery to save a dog's life can easily cost several thousand dollars.

Another nice way to remember us is by directing donations to NVSR when someone close to you passes away. You can also include us in your will. Those are sad things to think about, but we often get donations these ways. And the Shelties are so grateful to be remembered.

Just one more thought for helping the Shelties when you shop. If you use Amazon (is there anyone who does not??), access their site through Amazon Smile, and a donation comes to us every time you buy something - at NO cost to you!! Shop for everyone on your gift list at smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1961547 and Amazon donates to NVSR. And remember that IGIVE.com (igive.com) has more than 1,825 stores listed, which give about 1-4% of each sale to your selected organization (that would be NVSR!).

Our calendar for 2018 is newly redesigned and just gorgeous. Do you have yours? We still have some available, so contact shop@nvsr.org and order one, two, or more. Our Sheltie Shop on the website also has many items you may be interested in.

We have an interesting issue of the Sheltie Spin for you, and we hope you enjoy it. If you have ideas for future issues, let us know at SheltieSpin@nvsr.org.

**Happy Holidays
and have
a memorable
2018!!**





'Twas The Night Before Christmas

By Anne Burke

"'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring not even a mouse." Well, our Shelties are stirring, and here are a few stories to illustrate that.

Linda Hill's young daughter placed her new Christmas dress and beautiful little black shoes with bows by the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. "She couldn't take a chance on losing even one minute of unwrapping gifts before church. Well, sometime between the time that Santa made his delivery and 5am, Jesse, our Sheltie pup, apparently made a visit downstairs as well. Little Black Shoes



with Bows were no more! Darn good thing Santa delivered on her 'good list,' because she wouldn't have survived the loss of her 'favorite shoes EVER.'

I wish I could remember what she wore on her feet that Christmas morning!!"

Here is a memory involving our Sheltie Suzie Q and a Siamese cat named El Stupido (that's a story for another time) on Christmas Eve. Our family was gathered around the Christmas tree to open presents. Suzie Q and El Stupido were there, the dozing cat having pre-empted Suzie's favorite rug. Suzie Q was lying at my mother's feet. Suddenly she sprang up, took her favorite rug in her teeth, and pulled it from under the sleeping cat. El Stupido was flung off and onto Dad's foot. Suzie Q started to chase El Stupido, who made a run for it into the pile of presents under the tree, Suzie Q in hot pursuit. Mayhem ensued. The tree shook, presents were



scattered and trampled, some by Suzie Q and Stupido, most by us as we tried to catch the warring duo. Humans yelled, Sheltie barked, cat yowled.

When the dueling duo had been rounded up, the living room looked as if a tornado had gone through. Presents everywhere, water from the tree

on the floor, our little manger figurines broken. Everyone survived the evening, but El Stupido never again dared to snooze on Suzie Q's favorite rug.

My second story is about Cubby, remembered fondly as "His Cubbiness." I adopted Cubby, NVSR alumni, at age 12 in 2014. Sadly, he passed away in 2016, but he left behind many wonderful memories.

Despite severe arthritis, Cubby loved to walk, especially in the snow. I worried the cold might hurt his paws, so for Christmas I found handsome dog boots, silver with black stripes. On Christmas Eve, I enthusiastically showed Cubby the boots, which he allowed me to put on him. He looked stunning. I led him to the door, but as I opened it, Cubby lay down. In spite of cajoling and outright bribery, he refused to get up. Disappointed, I removed the boots, whereupon Cubby stood up and went out. I resolved to try again the next day and take a photo of Cubby in his new boots, so I put them under the tree and went to bed.



The next morning Cubby's boots had disappeared. Puzzled, I looked around, thinking I had not put them under the tree or the cats had found new toys. Then I saw them, scattered around the living room, chewed in pieces. Two of the chewed boots were by my favorite chair where Cubby was lying. Though he was nearly blind, I detected a distinct twinkle in his eye. I got the message!

Here's a final thought from Lisa Fox about buying gifts for our fur children. "Yep, I certainly buy Christmas gifts for my Shelties. Some women spend money on clothes and furniture. Not me--I spend money on dog toys. I've spent a fortune on dog puzzles and sophisticated kibble dispensers in search of ones that will challenge my master puzzle-solver Luca. He spends hours on them every day and gets extremely excited when he gets a new one."

*"Merry Christmas to all [Shelties!],
and to all a good night."*



From Rags to Riches The Story of an NVSR Miracle Dog as told by “Fluffy” (a/k/a “Foula”)

I don't know how I ended up on the streets, starving, parasites inside and out, and in terrible pain. My mouth was so sore I snapped at anyone who touched my head. My nearly naked body was getting



I arrive at my foster home.

sunburned. Weak and discouraged by my failure to find those who once loved and protected me, I had given up hope. Suddenly, a stranger swept me off my feet. I woke up in a noisy shelter, among many lost, frightened, and unwanted animals. Kind humans there gave me medicine, a cozy blanket ... and pity. They named me “Fluffy,” maybe in the hope I might have a real Sheltie coat someday. Imagine my embarrassment when they sent a nude photo of me to NVSR and said they weren't even sure I was a Sheltie! They hoped I was, because they knew what magic NVSR does for lucky Shelties.

Foster Mom came to get me that same day and brought me to a big, much quieter place. The two resident dogs were happy, not frightened like the ones in the shelter. That was encouraging. Then I had to endure more medicated BATHS than any dog should ever have to tolerate! The food was amazing, so I put up with it. I got pills for pain, pills for thyroid, pills for the many parasites in and on me, and a cute little T-shirt to hide my embarrassment. I even had my own room. (Thank goodness, because those resident pups could be a nuisance.) I thought it was worth trying to communicate my appreciation

Here's my cute T-shirt



to Foster Mom, who to my great surprise understood what I was saying! She must have been raised by wolves because she used the signals I learned as a pup! I

showed her all the things I already knew how to do: “sit,” “come,” “wait.” After a new diet got my failing kidneys back in shape, I was able to see the doggie dentist (Eeeyew!) who finally got rid of all my painful rotten teeth. They left a few front teeth so I can still say “cheese” with confidence. After 12 weeks of intensive care, I was ready to meet Gracie—as great and noble a Lady as I am.

Gracie is so smart. She must have known there is no other dog in the world as special as I am because she drove over 300 miles to meet me! She took me to her faraway land, a place that should be called “Merry Land” because I'm so happy here. It's even better than my foster home because it's not so big that I need nap breaks before I can finish examining every corner every day. Best of all, there are no pesky youngsters, so I can even get playful now and then without worrying about being knocked over by disrespectful pups! I love being an only dog.

Five months later, I've settled in (and taken over) quite nicely. Gracie treats me like the noble Lady I am by waiting on me hand and paw. She even arranges for a sunbeam on the floor so I can work on my tan and grow more fur. She's a great Treat Dispenser, too. We take daily walks together around a big lake, where I greet all the people and ignore all the dogs. With Gracie, I've gotten my confidence back. Most dogs must learn to obey; but Gracie and I negotiate. I can't hear a thing, but she knows ASL (American Sign Language) and I am a quick learner, so we have many meaningful conversations. The clever woman has even invented a signal for my new name— Foula. It's the name of the most remote of all the inhabited Shetland Islands. It's a fitting name for a wee lassie who once had only a remote chance of survival; one who instead, miraculously, went from rags to riches, thanks to NVSR.

Foula is “Miss August”, napping in a sunbeam on our 2018 calendar. Check it out in the website Sheltie Shop!



The “new” me



Casper: "The Back Story..."

by Roger Conrad



Casper has a dark and mysterious past before NVSR. By "dark" I mean miserable, and by "mysterious", mystifying. I can only speculate about how such a wonderful dog

could have fallen on such hard times. Casper speaks only with his eyes, and he gives me a mournful look if I mention his past. So, dark and mysterious sounds so much better for a dog with a unique Sheltie talent.

Casper was a stray, wandering around in rural Amelia County in January 2008. The county shelter fortunately had NVSR on speed dial. He was in rough shape. An NVSR volunteer coordinated with our daughter, Christine, to pick him up. In spite of cold weather, they had to keep the car windows open because his matted dreadlocks reeked. He was quite a sight, but cleaning and grooming revealed a handsome bi-blue Sheltie. Casper was afraid of everything. Outdoors he cowered and trembled, head down and tail tucked. Unfamiliar with living in a house, he marked bedskirts, refused to climb stairs, and resisted a leash. I often wondered how such a uniquely beautiful dog ended up unsocialized and untrained. My guess is that he was a puppy mill victim where an intact male bi-blue would certainly breed interesting offspring. But why would a potentially valuable breeding male be abandoned to the wild?

The answer came when Caring Hands vets diagnosed him with every intestinal and blood-borne parasite, including a severe case of heartworm. He was one sick puppy, and the breeder likely wanted nothing to do with costly treatment. We weren't sure this young dog would be strong enough to survive the long series of painful injections needed to kill off the large heartworms in his bloodstream, so we named him Casper after the friendly ghost.

We fostered Casper during six months of treatment

while the folks at Caring Hands supported us and NVSR picked up the vet bills. By the time he was neutered and ready for placement, we had fallen in love with him and couldn't let him go.

Like the cartoon ghost, Casper is a nonconformist. He makes friends with people and dogs and has no interest in scaring anyone. He rarely barks and is bemused when he sees other Shelties barking and spinning. He is the gentlest, most loving Sheltie we have known. He visits a nursing home with Fairfax County's Pets On Wheels, where the residents are eager to pet him and tell him how much they love his visits. It's how he gives back.

Casper is now about 13 years old and getting to be an old man. He no longer responds to the doorbell and startles when awakened, so we know he is losing his hearing. He sleeps more these days and we walk behind when he climbs the stairs in case he needs a boost. His naturally gray hair hides signs of age, so you might think he's younger than he is. But he still jumps excitedly when his blue NVSR leash comes out for a pre-dinner walk.

Casper has gotten more affectionate in his old age. He sidles up to our armchairs as we watch TV, letting us know our attention is focused in the wrong place. We're grateful for our aging furry friend. He has taught us much about life, its curve balls, and how to enjoy a slow neighborhood walk. Did I mention he has a unique Sheltie talent? He is mellow, defined as, "matured by age and experience, relaxed, and good natured." Casper is all of that and more.

Casper is "Mr. March" on our 2018 calendar. Check it out in the website Sheltie Shop!

★ All Star Team ★

Casper

AGE : 9
 WEIGHT : 32
 BREED : Sheltie
 TALENT : Mellow
 COACH : Kathe
 TEAM : Leewood
 LEAGUE : FAIRFAX PETS ON WHEELS
 SEASON: SUMMER 2015

Fairfax
 2015
 Pets on Wheels

Fairfax Pets on Wheels
 www.fpow.org



Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.)

By Janie Robertson



Bonnie



Gracie (top) and Savannah



Murphy

“My Sheltie is a R.E.A.D. dog.” “What did you say? Your dog can read?”

We get strange looks and comments when we tell people that four of our Shelties are R.E.A.D. dogs – registered Reading Education Assistance Dogs. Gracie, Savannah, Murphy (NVSr), and Bonnie (NVSr), as well as my husband Al and I, have completed the requirements to be registered teams. Last school year, we participated in an elementary school program where we each took one of our R.E.A.D. dogs to listen to second and third graders read to them. Teachers selected the students who would read to our Shelties, the same 12 children for the entire school year. We have a new group of 12 for the current school year.

(Note: all students' faces are blurred in photos to protect their privacy.)

It was amazing to see the difference in the reading abilities of these children after reading to our Shelties for nine months. Children who were very hesitant at the beginning of the year went from just reading words on a page to reading with more expression and improved comprehension. Here are the children gathered around our Shelties. Can you find all four dogs?





Learning to read is difficult for many children and without reading fundamentals, life is challenging. So, how do dogs listening to them read help? The dogs do not laugh or criticize when a child makes a mistake. They help the children relax and proceed at their own pace. The dogs are less intimidating than peers; they listen without judging and let the child be the tutor. R.E.A.D. dogs go to libraries, preschools, childcare facilities, before- and after-school programs, healthcare facilities, boys' and girls' clubs, and youth-detention facilities.



At the elementary school, we each sat at a table with a Sheltie: Savannah or Bonnie with Al at one and Gracie or Murphy with me at another. The child sat facing the dog. This worked better than sitting on the floor because (1) the dog's face wasn't on the same level with the child, and (2) Al and I might not be able to get up after sitting on the floor for two hours. Sometimes our pups drifted off to sleep and the child asked if she/he were listening. I said, "Sure. Haven't you been read to and closed your eyes while you were enjoying the story?" I crossed my fingers that my Sheltie wouldn't start snoring.

We once participated in a library. The plan was that the children would be directed one at a time to Al or me, and each could read for a few minutes. Then the next child would be sent over. At the appointed time, it was like the Kentucky Derby. All the children came pouring in at once. Half gathered around Al and Savannah and the other half around Gracie and me. All of them wanted to read at once. It was like herding cats. (Where were those organizers?) But we had so much fun, seeing the children's excitement about reading to and petting our Shelties. The only downside was getting our own "downsides" up off the floor.

We also participated at a P.T.A. meeting. Once again, we were swarmed with children who wanted to read to the Shelties. It was chaotic and total fun. These events are a nice diversion, but we prefer the structured classroom setting.



There has been much interest and research about the benefits of programs like R.E.A.D., which has been praised in national broadcasts, magazines, newspapers, and TV shows. Not only are individual reading scores soaring, but scientific studies verify the results. Educational journals are also enthusiastic.

Interested? Do you have a pup that likes children and can be still long enough to hear a story read? Is your dog a registered therapy dog? R.E.A.D. dogs must first be therapy dogs, but there are other reading programs that may not require that. The R.E.A.D. training is really for the human end of the leash—how to help a child build reading skills. Thousands of registered R.E.A.D. teams work throughout the U.S.,

Canada, and countries around the world, from Italy and Spain to Slovenia and South Africa.

The R.E.A.D. program was started through Intermountain Therapy Animals (TherapyAnimals.org). ITA is a Utah nonprofit organization, founded in 1993, whose mission is to enhance quality of life through the human-animal bond.



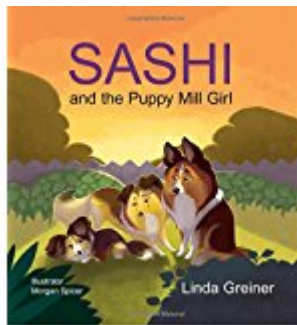
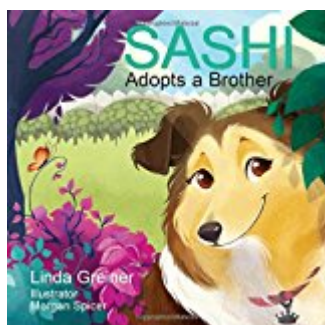
Al and I recently participated in two local TV station segments about the reading program. See me in action on a local TV station in one segment about reading to dogs (<http://wtvr.com/2017/04/12/building-better-minds-caring-canines/>). That's Gracie with her Spring headband.



Here is the local news anchor putting a microphone on the student so she can be recorded as she reads to Gracie. Gracie had already been on one news program so you can see how excited she is about being taped again. At least her eyes are still open.

As the camera person is recording and the news anchor is taking some still shots, Savannah is making sure they get her good side. She wasn't on the first newscast with Gracie because she was not at school that day, so she is making the most of this opportunity. She's willing to give a pawtograph!

If you'd like to ask Janie for more specific information, let us know at SheltieSpin@nvsr.org, and we'll connect you with her.



Our Shelties' Favorite Books.
Find these on the NVSR.org
"Sheltie Shop" page.

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful."

Ann Landers



Thank you

Many Thanks to Our Picnic Sponsors!

Our 2017 NVSR Picnic was lots of fun! A "sea" of beautiful Shelties attended along with their humans. Highlights of this annual get-together were the raffle and silent auction ...we collect amazing items that friends of NVSR have generously donated. The goodie bags that attendees receive are also provided by donors. Here are all the donors. Please patronize the businesses and tell them you appreciate their donation to NVSR!

360 Farm and Pet, Fredericksburg VA

360FarmAndPetFredericksburgVA.blogspot.com

Teresa Ahmad, Woodbridge VA

TLCIllustration.com

Chateau Morrisette, Floyd VA

TheDogs.com

Doggie Walk Bags

DoggieWalkBags.com

Foxden Equine, Stuarts Draft VA

FoxDenEquine.com

Gower's Feed and Pet, MD and WV Locations

GowersFeed.com

Graphics and Marketing, Sterling VA

GraphicsAndMarketing.com

Kriser's Natural Pet, Vienna VA

Krisers.com

LevelBest Embroidery, Hilton Head SC

LevelBestEmbroidery.com

Loudoun Golf and Country Club Purcellville VA

LoudounGolf.com

Luray Caverns, Luray VA

LurayCaverns.com

Pet Supplies Plus, Fairfax VA

PetSuppliesPlus.com

PetValu, Locations in MD

PetValu.com

ReMax/100, Candy Myers and Lisa Wills

White Plains MD

ReMax.com

River's Run Boat Tours/Brian Marks

Deltaville VA

RiversRun.net

Rucci's Italian Deli, White Plains MD

RuccisDeli.com

Squishy Face Studio

SquishyFaceStudio.com

Weber's Pet Supermarket, Locations: Fairfax,

Herndon, Chantilly, McLean

WeberPetSupermarket.com

Wild Birds Unlimited, Winchester VA

Winchester.WBU.com

These generous folks also donated items:

Sue Beckerdite

Nancy Bender

Nancy Hansbrough

Joe Heisel

John Hornbaker

Mary Ellen Jones

Joanne Richcreek

Janie Robertson

Carol Sautters

Earl Smith

Judy Westerlage

Barbara Zechman



Grab & Go Kit—Planning to Keep Your Pets Safe

By Kathy Kelly

If one good thing comes from recent extreme weather and environmental emergencies—hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, toxic spills—maybe we'll stop putting off preparations to keep our family safe, including pets. Right now is the time to put together your emergency plans including "Grab & Go" kits—when storm clouds are beyond the horizon and flooding from ice-blocked rivers is months away.

Several websites have versions of a Grab & Go kit—HSUS, ASPCA, ready.gov, and others. Everything you and your pets need for a few days should be ready to go at a moment's notice. Collect and store supplies in waterproof containers, duffels or packs that can be carried easily, and put them with an unused crate you would take with you. Don't count on being able to grab dog food and bowls, and round up vaccination records and medications—along with your own important documents and keepsakes—on your way to your car. Be ready ... just in case.

Your emergency plan should include the following research (then put the details into your plan):

1. What emergencies might occur in your region? Anticipate how such situations could take unexpected turns (Ready.gov/be-informed). Contact local agencies to find out the potential hazards in your area.

2. How you will find out what's happening in your area before, during, and after an emergency? If you don't have an area emergency communication system, you might organize a phone or text tree in your neighborhood.

3. What safe places could you stay in with your pets in different types of emergencies? Family or friends? Pet-friendly motels or other lodging? Boarding facilities? Don't assume you can take your pet to a disaster shelter. Add the location of your Grab & Go kit to the instructions you typically leave for your petsitter. Make sure your dog's microchip registration is current.

4. Who would care for or evacuate your pets if you cannot? Put "Pets Inside" stickers on your doors or windows. Include number and types of pets and where in the house they might be to alert rescue workers. If you take your pets with you when you evacuate, note that on the stickers or another obvious place.

5. Does everyone in your family know your plan and what to do? Make sure the contents of your kits have not been borrowed or moved or that food and medications are not near their expiration dates.

Contents of Your Pets' Grab & Go Kit

Food. At least a 3-5 day supply of your pets' regular food in an airtight, waterproof container; bowls; manual can opener (if you need it).

Water. At least 3-5 days of water specifically for your pets. An extra gallon in case your pet has been exposed to chemicals or flood waters and needs to be rinsed.

Medicines. Original prescription bottle to identify the drug. Check expiration date.

Records. Document packet for each animal: license, adoption papers, vaccination records, photo of you and your pet, microchip ID, care and contact information in case you have to leave your animals



in someone's care (pets' feeding amount and schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, name and number of your vet). Package records in labeled waterproof bags.

First aid kit. Supplies specifically for pets: rolled bandage, tape, vet wrap, scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, saline solution. Add a small pet first aid book. Add herbal calming, cleansing, or healing remedies that you use.

Collar or harness with ID tag with your cell phone number, rabies tag, and a leash. Pack an extra leash and tag with your cell phone number.

Crate or pet carrier. A sturdy, safe crate or carrier large enough for your pet to stand, turn around, and lie down. Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time. Include blanket or towels that would also keep your pets warm.

Sanitation. Poop bags, cat litter and box, paper towels, plastic trash bags, household chlorine bleach. You can use plain bleach as a disinfectant (dilute 9:1 water to bleach), or use it to purify water in an emergency (16 drops of a medicine dropper per gallon of water).

Familiar items. Treats, toys, and bedding can help reduce your pets' stress.

Resources:

ASPCA (ASPCA.org) has a printable PDF brochure listing everything you need to plan.

The Humane Society of the United States (HumaneSociety.org) has a detailed website and links that cover what to do before, during, and after emergencies. It includes links to dog-friendly accommodations and has a good section for protecting farm animals.

Ready.gov has very good information to help you prepare for, respond to, and manage the effects of

emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters. (800-BE-READY)



There is a LOT to think about if you ever need to evacuate or shelter in place. Start now to plan a safe future for you and your pets.

YOU CAN'T BUY
LOVE
BUT YOU CAN
RESCUE IT



**GAM Printers of Sterling, Virginia,
and the Grant Family dedicate the
printing of the Sheltie Spin
in memory of
Cookie, Spirit and Lynus.**

