

# Jacksonville Sheltie Rescue

## Happy Holidays 2010

### A Great Vet and a New Technique Makes A Difference

Rachel wasn't that unusual. She was a stray turned over to Sheltie Rescue, so it was no surprise to discover she had malnutrition, brown patches in her black coat from sunburn and/or lack of good food. Her coat was thin and sparse, she was itchy. She walked slowly, with her head hanging down and her eyes were dull and sad, her teeth cried "take me to a dentist", and Rachel was heartworm positive. Fairly normal Sheltie Rescue intake, except for her ear problems. Her ears were in terrifically bad shape - one ear canal was nearly sealed shut at the top. "Here we go again", we thought. A second sheltie is going to require a Total Ear Canal Ablation; and we sighed sadly. Before giving up and scheduling surgery, we took her to Dr. Coral Turman who had recently purchased a video otoscope. This device is essentially an ear scope with a camera attached. The camera sends photos to a computer, so the vet can see right down into the bottom of the ear - quite an advantage in treating long standing ear problems. The scope also allows for a tiny pair of tongs or tweezers to be inserted through it, so impacted gunk at the bottom of the ear can be removed.

As I said, one ear was nearly sealed shut and the other ear opening was extremely narrow; that would prevent us from using the video otoscope. However, Dr. Turman believed there was a small chance that antibiotics, steroids and medication for yeast, combined with an ear fluid with Synotic & Batril in it could get the canal to reopen enough to use the otoscope. It certainly was worth a try!

Dr Turman sent Rachel home with Cephalexin, Prednisone and Ketoconazole plus Malacetic ear fluid- an extremely potent mix. We made up a medication chart and ear cleaning directions, set timers so we wouldn't miss "pill time" and for the next 3 weeks, we medicated and cleansed with downright fanaticism. Since the left ear canal had such a tiny opening, we used a thin syringe to get the Malacetic directly into the ear canals. Things seemed to improve, Rachel looked happier (on-going pain from an ear infection definitely affects one's outlook on life!) and the ear openings seemed to be larger. We held our breath, hoping we weren't just imagining improvements because we wanted to see them so badly.

With great hope and anticipation, Rachel was once again driven to see Dr. Turman. She was put under anesthesia, and - hurrah!! - we had improved the ear canals enough that the scope could be inserted. Here's what Dr. Turman reported when we picked up Rachel that afternoon:

1. The left ear (the worst one) was done first. All the vet techs were observing, since this was a special case and a new technique was being used for the first time. The techs said the image of the ear interior looked like clouds or popcorn - all white and billowy. Using special tiny tongs through the scope, they were able to scrape out LOTS of gunk - probably some yeast, definitely dirt, some impacted hair, all sorts of stuff that had been aggravating that ear canal. They were able to clean down to the eardrum - and Dr Turman said "We could have flushed that ear out until the cows came home, but we would never have been able to get the impacted stuff to move!". A very tiny hole in the eardrum was found. Nothing too bad, but it was a crucial find!! Dr Turman now knew she couldn't use anything in the ear that was ototoxic (causing death to ear tissues). As they cleansed the ear canal, it kept collapsing every time it wasn't full of fluid. Hopefully the new procedure would help strengthen the ear canal as well as clearing up the long term infection.

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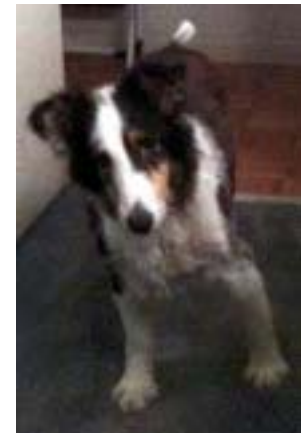
**DECEMBER 2010**  
pPp  
2010

Your Editors:  
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**Rachel**

## Rachel's story continued

2. After cleaning out the left ear thoroughly, Dr Coral began the new procedure - insertion of an ear wick (like a tiny tampon) that would be used to hold medication in the bottom of the ear for a two week treatment period. All of the crew stared at the tiny piece of tightly packed material rather dubiously - would that actually be able to accomplish anything? The ear wick went in, medication was dripped into the ear and, according to the 'book', the ear wick would swell up - holding the medication against the walls of the ear canal and hopefully strengthening the walls so they wouldn't collapse again.

3. They then cleaned the right ear which wasn't too bad, certainly better the left! There wasn't as much debris in the bottom of that ear and the eardrum looked fine.

4. Back to the left ear again: Because this was the first time Dr. Turman, had used ear wicks, she wanted to be sure she could get the wick out again. She couldn't see the tiny little string with the normal ear scope, but using the special one, she was able to pull out the ear wick with tongs. Just like the picture in the book, the wick had swollen up from absorbing the medication - AND - the interior of the ear canal actually showed an improvement in just the 20 minutes or so it had had the wick in. Relief was felt in the clinic operating room and another wick re-inserted.

5. GOOD NEWS: There was no sign of middle ear disease. If it HAD started, we halted it in its tracks with all the medicines and ear fluids we have been using. Once middle ear disease gets a good hold, it cannot be corrected, so we were lucky there. A delay of even a few weeks might have made it impossible to widen the ear canals enough to have done the procedure.

Rachel went back home with a refill of all the medications, except the ear fluid was changed to a special mixture personally concocted by Dr Turman. This was necessary due to the little hole in the one ear drum, since we couldn't use anything ototoxic anymore. A two week wait and Rachel returned to Dr. Turman again for the moment of truth.

The news after the ear wicks were removed was good!! The tiny hole in the one eardrum was completely healed. The ear canals were not only wider, but stronger and didn't collapse inward any more. Rachel's long term outlook is good as long as her ears are cleaned several times a week and her food allergies are kept under control. To help with that, we had a blood draw done last week so allergy tests could be run. We already know she is allergic to beef and Missing Link (a supplement Sam uses) because when we took those things out of her diet, her itchiness improved.

Rachel, initially the most BORING sheltie Sam has ever known, has made huge strides. She is now active, alert, and so happy. Rachel walked with crouched back legs initially. We think that was because she had been heavily matted while she was a stray and it hurt to walk upright because the hair on her tummy pulled when she tried to stand straight. We have gradually been increasing the length of her daily walks and now she stands upright again, as those muscles had probably atrophied a bit from the days she was a stray.

We are filled with glee to see her like this!! We sometimes forget how much constant pain reduces quality of life, how much good food and a safe, loving home can do. Rachel is one of our senior rescues who is hoping someone will appreciate how much a senior can bring to their lives - they are active without being hyper; house trained, looking for just a warm place to sleep and a little love. In return, they give loyalty and so much gratitude! Rachel is well socialized, friendly to everyone - human or dog and she sure is looking a lot prettier now that her hair is growing back!

Samantha

pPp

## Bragging Rights Page/Letters from our Readers (or the dogs!!)

Please send us stories about your sheltie(s) (or even the collie, border collie, newfie or mix you adopted from us) and their accomplishments or just something rather unique or

9-22-2010 Elizabeth sent us pictures of she, Rob and Petey fishing last summer in Alaska.



10-22-2010

Hi Darla,

We wanted you to see how Nicki is doing after all these years. She will be twelve this year and like us, she walks a little slower. But, she does get fired up when she wants a treat. We have to let you know that her heartworms have been gone for years now and she is very healthy.

The main thing that makes Nicki so special is how she communicates with us. When we ask if she wants to go outside she is all over us until we get up and take her. If she does not want to go, she sits down on the rug. She expects a treat when she does well and she usually gets it. She will sit down and stare at one of us until she gets the treat. She is really the light in our eyes and we hope she will still for many years to come. And, even though we know how special she is, she will never be replaced in our hearts. We thank you for letting her choose us.

We also wanted to know if you have a young female in your menagerie. We expect to be back in Florida from the 10th of January 2011 and we will be coming home some time the following weekend. If you have a sheltie we would definitely be interested. We are in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and we, and Nicki, love it.

With much thanks,

Mike and Kathy Dotson



9-7-2010

Hi Darla, I thought you might enjoy how one of your adopted dogs has brought love into the life of two little girls who are now in high school.

The first photo was in 1997, Nellie, the sheltie had just been adopted two weeks before when the girls came to live with us for several months. The girls were 4 years and 2 years.

The second photo was taken yesterday, Labor Day. Nellie is now 14, and the girls are 17 and 15 and all three are very happy and healthy.

Regards, Dewey Porter



**Jacksonville Sheltie Rescue thanks our vets for their care of all of our animals.  
We truly appreciate their kindness and professionalism.**

**Mandarin**

**Dwight Nash, DVM &  
Grant McMillian, DVM  
San Jose Beauclerc Animal Clinic  
9319 San Jose Blvd  
Jacksonville FL 32257  
Phone: 904-733-5022**

**Fleming Island**

**Coral Turman, DVM  
Creekside Animal Clinic  
14 Swimming Pen Drive  
Middleburg FL 32068  
Phone: 904-541-0110  
Conventional services.  
Certified acupuncturist**

Teaching

The greatest teachers in the world,  
are those we name "dog"  
There is much Man's Best Friend will teach us  
if only given a chance

They teach us how to laugh,  
at the smallest of jests  
And the joy of being a puppy,  
simply for the sake of silly  
They show us the wonder we take for granted  
that exists in the world all around us

They teach us that love  
can heal all wounds  
And simply being near another  
is the greatest gift  
They love us no matter what we are  
and forgive us no matter what we do

They teach us about play  
and how any time, any place is game  
And how a simple object  
can create hours of entertainment  
They free us from the mundane  
and introduce us to the world of innocence

And when they've taught us everything they can  
imparted all the wisdom they were sent to share  
Our Soul's Other Half has one final lesson  
painful as it must be, they know we need to learn  
They teach us how to say goodbye.

**Northside:**

**P.C. ("Skip") Hightman, DVM, Cva, AP  
Dr. Lynn Sattesahn DVM  
4606 Brentwood Ave  
Jacksonville FL 32206  
Phone: 904-354-0547  
Conventional & alternative medicines. Certified  
acupuncturist. Certified Chinese Herbalist,  
Chiropractic**

**Near NAS-JAX**

**Thomas Cox, DVM  
5273 Timuquana Rd  
Jacksonville FL 32210  
Phone: 904-779-0311**



**TEN COMMANDMENTS OF A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER**

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me- it is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up for my punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment. I have only you!
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I'll NEVER forget it.
7. Before you hit me, remember that I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart may be getting old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old. You, too, will grow old.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch it" or, "Let it happen on my absence." Everything is easier for ME if you are there. Remember, I love you.

## DONATIONS

**Thank you to all our contributors. All the kids in Rescue thank you too—for helping pay for their food, their medications, their vet visits. They send you their sheltie smiles! We send you our human ones, too. ;0**

**Monthly Donations (so faithfully month after month) Thank you, thank you!**

**Peter & Velma Stuart (Pace, FL) Skip, from JSR, Callie (rescued from an abusive home in Pensacola, B-Ray and Cricket (two of the Pennsylvania rescues through JSR) and Boo, found on the run in southeast Alabama.**

**Judge Peter & Norma Dearing (Jacksonville) Owned by Gus, Dana and Honey**

**Carrie Andolina who has 2 of our rescue kids.**

**Dave & Marilyn Dahl now owned by “Monsty” the monster.**

**Noni Willard & Margaret Jones owned by Piper & Annie**

### **Other Donations**

**IBM Corporation**

**Kara Johnson**

**Mr & Mrs Paul Irwin owned by Bucky & Lisa**

**Lee Campbell owned by “Hampton”**

**Pamela Gillespie Two wonderful Shelties not gone, just gone ahead.**

**John & Dottie Jensen in memory of Skip**

**Charles Woods owned by Ian McGregor**

Jacksonville Sheltie Rescue is a 501 c 3 Charity. This means if you donate to help our Shelties the amount can be taken off your taxes as a donation. We will send you a Letter of Donation for your records.

If you'd like to make a donation in Remembrance of a beloved dog who has passed, we will note that on the Jax Sheltie Rescue web page as well as in future newsletters.

We accept checks and “Paypal”. The paypal account is [dduffey@aol.com](mailto:dduffey@aol.com), the same as my email address.

### **Help us pay our vet bills for our rescued Shelties by: We got a check this year for \$40.**

Searching the Internet at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) -- powered by Yahoo, or “[www.Goodshop.com](http://www.Goodshop.com)” Type in ‘Jacksonville Sheltie Rescue’(Jacksonville, FL)

Goodsearch donates to charities like us every time you search thru “Goodsearch”

or a portion of your purchases at online stores are donated back to us.

Here is a short list of Online stores that participate:

Amazon

Flowers.com

Home Depot

Kohls

Sears

Staples

Target

Wal-Mart

Drugstore.com

Flowers.com

Gap

Banana Republic

Barnes & Noble

Best Buy

Dell

Best Buy

Dell

Drugstore.com

E-Bay

Expedia

L.L. Bean

Lands' End

Macy's

Office Depot

Old Navy

Overstock.com

Pet Smart

Quill

QVC

### **U.S. Bones**

Another fantastic place to purchase dog stuff, not just bones...we buy vitamins from there. They donate 25% of your order to the charity of your choice (Jacksonville Sheltie Rescue) :-)

**[www.usbones.com](http://www.usbones.com)**

We have received a total of \$122.00 to date. Mainly the Vits we have purchased. If others found some of their needs there wouldn't that be wonderful.



## More email from satisfied “adoptors”

Darla, it is so wonderful that you do this newsletter. I love to hear all the stories, and you never know when one will just be the "Right " dog for someone!!!

Nike is just doing fantastic. I tell everyone, I finally have **another** once in a lifetime dog!!! I will say without a doubt, she is the smartest dog I have ever owned, and has a rock solid temperament. We have started training and I couldn't be more pleased. I think she was a performance dog in her last life. She still barks way too much and tries to pull on her leash, but we are working on those issues. We are starting our first formal obedience class next week, and although we have started training, it will give me lots of opportunity to work her with alot of distraction. I am really looking forward to it. I'll be sure and keep you posted as she progresses. Thanks again for all you do!!!!

Randi Cohen



Sassy aka “Nike”



This is little **Cricket** from Pace, Fl. He was one of the 10 Shelties we brought back to Florida from a confiscation in PA. He sure has a rough life, huh?



Sophie

Today is Sophie's 3-month anniversary with us. We are as enamored as the first day we met her! The article in the newsletter really touched my heart about being rescued. You see, ever since Sophie came into our lives, our jobs of 34 & 21 years were placed in jeopardy and ended yesterday. Sophie has rescued us with her walks, her ball playing, her cuddling, and just loving to play. She continually brings laughter into our lives and just won't stop helping us to learn to play again. We took her on a road trip to Ocala last week. While Bob went to check something out at Lowes, I took her for her first trip to Petsmart. She walked up and down the aisles like such a lady. Several people engaged us in conversation and again she was a perfect lady. An older woman with a cane told Sophie that she was a nice person and could I pet you. Sophie went over and let the lad pet her. With the work she has done calming down on walks with cars, I'm seeing that after some more work, I think she'll make a wonderful therapy dog. She is very friendly and appropriately outgoing. So, she'll begin some "intermediate" training at Petco in a couple of weeks and we'll see where that takes us. She was invited in to a friends home a few weeks ago and again was the perfect lady.

Thank you so much for entrusting her into our care. We have been abundantly blessed by her presence in our lives! We have been amazed whenever we tell someone that she was rescued. People immediately become even more interested in her and want to talk. That, too, has been a wonderful experience.

Peace,  
Anne Funkhouser

## CHRISTMAS AT RAINBOW BRIDGE

(by Terri Onorato)

As the midnight hour approaches on Christmas Eve, a tremendous celebration begins. If you listen closely you will hear the exuberant sound of Bridgekids preparing for the remarkable moment that comes but once a year. Puppies romp through the tall green grass, chasing butterflies and rolling over and over until fits of giggles bring them to a tumbling stop. The volume increases as kittens, cats, tigers and lions purr in pure delight while the wings of snow white doves gently caress the air. The babbling brook that runs beneath Rainbow Bridge overflows onto the edge of mossy banks and fins of treasured aquatic life quiver in anticipation of this most joyous event.

Nestled in the midst of this happy choir of Bridgekids are the littlest angel tots staring in awe at the majestic Christmas tree adorned with flowing strands of angel hair. Effervescent, twinkling stars see-saw elegantly from the sky and land in glorious harmony upon the stoic limbs of Heaven's most perfect Christmas tree. Swaying to and fro in nearby rocking chairs are grandmothers, grandfathers, parents, aunts, uncles and loved ones. The sound of their whispered lullabies permeate the air as they sing to tiny angel babies resting quietly in their arms.

Like magic the clock approaches midnight and a great stirring is heard in the distance. Each Bridgekid stops and listens, knowing the time is near, and they choose a fleecy cloud on which to snuggle. The roar of purrs drops to barely an audible hum, the babbling brook ripples hypnotically and the flutter of downy feathered wings fall silent. Heaven's spirited toddlers climb expectantly upon the laps of angels while babies coo in tranquil unison.

Amidst the warm glow of candle light which rises from the earth below, the arms of the Bridge Keeper envelop the heavens and into the precious hands of each child and in front of each animal a holy gift is placed. With grand exuberance the ribbons are removed and left to fly on a tender breeze where they dissolve into showers of angel dust. As the golden lids of these heavenly gifts are raised, an amazing aura fills the sky, reaching down to the very core of the earth. Ascending from each and every box is the greatest gift of all...unending, unconditional, all-encompassing love. This blessed love gently wraps itself around the cherished souls of heaven, warming their hearts with beacons of radiant light and bringing forth from angels an exquisite chorus. As the clock strikes midnight the distance between heaven and earth is vanished. It is at this very moment on Christmas Eve that the Bridge Keeper, His children, angels and Bridgekids send a message to their earthly loved ones on the wings of this unbridled love.

Listening carefully with an open heart we will hear the familiar voice of our own angel whisper softly into our ear their Christmas message..."Let me share with you this love of mine, always and forever. When you need me know that I am here. I have not left you for I am in your heart where I belong. Our love is eternal as is the brilliant glow of candlelight which illuminates the path to the heavens and Rainbow Bridge. I wait patiently as do you for our inevitable and glorious reunion.

I love you, I love you, I love you."

**The House is still full of Shelties needing a fur-ever home.**

**Scarlett** is here on 3 legs. One was amputated in order to save her life on October 12. She has mast cell cancer and this was the only way to stop the cancer from growing and spreading to other parts of her body.

**Cody** is a little 14 year old who came to us when his Daddy moved and couldn't take Cody with him.

**Pippi** our thunder-phobic 12 year old.

**Pumba** our 10 year old with immune disorder.

**Ginger** our 10 year old chunky butt. She is dieting and possibly if we get some weight off, her arthritis wouldn't be so bad.

**Maryann** our 8 year old chunky butt, who has severe arthritis, weight loss might help but it's doubtful.

**Ben** our 13 year old who's Mom passed away unexpectedly. Ben is also immune compromised.

**Rachel** who's story begins this newsletter. She is doing great now with her foster parents, but looking for that right home.

**Skip** our 5 year old who was found by a JSO Officer and his wife in a ditch with a teenager beating him with a club. He broke with grand-mal seizures 3 weeks after coming to us.

**Duffy** who is 11 and immune compromised.

**Tyler** who is 13 immune compromised.

**Minnie & Cooper** who are youngsters maybe 3 years old but completely untouchable.. They are sisters, but will go separately. We are working hard to gain their trust and we have made some inroads with them, but they are no way near ready to go to a home. They're tremendous flight risks. But someday.....



Minnie



Cooper



Tyler



Skip



Duffy



Rachel



Ben



Maryann



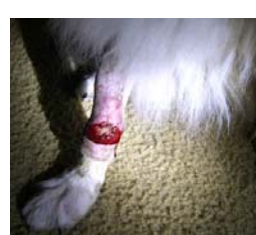
Ginger



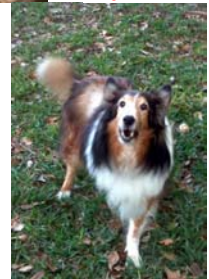
Cody



Pumba



Scarlett's leg before amput



Scarlett today