



# SHELTIE WISE

The monthly newsletter of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of No. NJ

MAY 2008

Club website: [www.sscnj.org](http://www.sscnj.org)

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## Meeting Notice – June 13, 2008

### PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE

The next meeting of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of No. NJ will be held on Friday, June 13, 7:30 pm at the Westfield Community Center. This is our last meeting until September. We hope everyone will join us.



This evening will start with a presentation by the **Essex County Puppy Club "The Eyes of Hope"**. Please invite your friends that might be interested in learning about this wonderful organization.

*"As wonderful as modern technology is, no invention comes close to the incredible accomplishments of a bright, willing, well-trained guide dog."*

The Seeing Eye, Inc. is the oldest guide dog school in the United States having been established in 1929. In 1942 it joined forces with 4-H Youth Development program, placing puppies in 4-H homes in Morris County to be raised until they were old enough to begin their formal training as guide dogs for the blind.

The Essex County club was started in 1970 and now has 40 to 50 members raising puppies each year. The members are both children and adults from Essex County and nearby Union County.

Seeing Eye breeds German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and a cross



between a Labrador and a Golden. Once the puppies are seven weeks old they are placed with the puppy raiser and live with them until they are about 16 to 18 months old. Learn the history of Seeing Eye, how it started, how the pups are trained and how they are prepared for a lifetime of service as guide dogs for the visually impaired. There will

also be a special puppy presentation. See the love, attention and discipline that goes into training these very special dogs.

## Braggs...

**From Buddy and Ursula** -- 9 month old "Wildoak Heart of Fire" (Kendra) went Winners Bitch and Best of Winners on Sunday, May 11th for 2 points at the Lancaster Kennel Club show.

**Elaine's Abigail** was at the Ladies Dog Show (Sat., May 17<sup>th</sup>) today and got her fourth RAE leg.

## Attention club members – Re: our show equipment

As many of you know, our Show Equipment (mats, jumps, baby gates, placement signs and table) has been stored in my garage for many years. I can no longer store it.

Do we have a member that can store this equipment? If not, should we discuss whether or not to keep this equipment? I have asked Herb to add this to the June meeting agenda. If you have the space, please let Herb or Donna.

If the club decides that we don't need it, do you know of any one or any club that could?

Thank you,  
Pat

## Subject: Customer inquiry: Registration - name change

Hi Good Morning;

Thank you for contacting the American Kennel Club (AKC(r)).

The name of an AKC registered dog may be changed provided the dog was whelped in the United States.

Further, in cases where the litter owner(s) first individually registered the dog, the litter owner(s) written consent shall be required. A dog name containing a Registered Kennel Name cannot be changed without the written consent of the owner(s) of that Registered Kennel Name.

However, no change in name will be recorded by the American Kennel Club after the dog has produced or sired an AKC registered litter or has received an award at an AKC-licensed or member event.

Any name change must comply with all AKC requirements. The fee for changing a dog's name is \$25.00

A dog name change may be requested in one of three ways:

- Download a Dog Name Change Authorization application from our Web site at <https://www.akc.org/pdfs/ADCG01.pdf>
- Call AKC Customer Service at 919-233-9767.
- Email AKC Customer Service at [info@AKC.org](mailto:info@AKC.org)

(Note: I haven't read what was in a recent Gazette, but I understand that you can "buy" additional letter spaces. I understand the total number spaces with these additional ones can be 30.)

## Smiles Story



Hello, below is the story of our puppy mill sheltie SMILES from the pet detective who helped catch her along with Christine Cooper and the Family whose

home was taken over to help catch smiles.

I want to add my own part which was not included below but that plays a huge part in Smiles and her story. Smiles and her 11 other family members were being given up from a Lancaster Puppy mill.

Laura Flynn made the contact with these puppy mills and she went out with Camille M. (rawhide rescue) to get the 12 shelties from the puppy mill. Two males got into fight and one who lost a lot of teeth was kept in PA and taken by a rescue out there after he was treated at a local vet. So we got 11 of them. We had them taken to a kennel owned by Diane O'Donnell (People for animals) to figure out our next plan.

Donna Colletti and I went through all the dogs, gave them names, and took account of what medical issues they had. Three went to a local vet because their teeth were horrible and the rest went through PFA for altering. We started putting them in our foster homes and looking for foster homes for the rest. A family came along that wanted to foster Smiles. She had a bond with the man in the family and off she went to her foster home. That was 3 days before she got lost. I was down at their house that night and set up our safe traps to try to catch her if she came back. It was not long before the family asked us to leave their property, it is sad but they did not want any part of helping to find her. We put up flyers, posters, etc and because of one flyer on a Shop rite door, I got a call from Christine Cooper. Who said she would do anything I needed to help find Smiles, it was her mission to help us. She is and will always be Smiles guardian angel. We worked frantically doing the traps, redoing signs and making sure all knew our girl was out there. We did this for several months when I got an email about a pet detective. We were referred to Steve and Christine and I decided we were so tired and we did not have the means to get cameras, special traps and any other equipment that we needed so we called in help. Christine and her parents were there from the beginning with me helping and we all kept each other going. We had many a good cry about our Girl. We posted on our NJ sheltie rescue foster mom webpage asking for donations and we got them from a lot of great people who cared. We could not have done this without Steve, Christine and her whole family, my entire NJ rescue people, and all the volunteers who helped along the way.

Let me also say that the entire area where she was in Belle Mead, NJ had some wonderful people who kept telling us where she was, which at least we knew she was ok. We could not have caught her or knew where she was without all the wonderful people of Belle Mead. The township was not as nice and often asked us to take down signs and did not allow our detective to use his cameras but we got our girl even with their working against us. If I have forgotten anyone please add your story to this email and forward it on to people who knew her story and prayed for her. Linda please add Steve and my parts to her webpage and any other stories from those involved.

Aneita  
NJ Sheltie Rescue

### Let the Celebration Begin!

On March 30, 2008, in Belle Mead, NJ, the dog known as Smiles, a Shetland sheepdog too clever for her greater good but blessed and graced with a few guardian angels, was finally recovered. The triumphant conclusion to the five month monumental recovery effort sparked elation in the hearts of all those that believed they could overcome difficult circumstances and bring this precious girl to a safe home. Tears of heartache were replaced with tears of joy.

On October 10, 2007, a very long five months ago, Smiles started her own inspired journey that would touch individual hearts, unite a whole community, and generate support from all over the country. That was the day Smiles escaped from her harness on a routine walk, learned about freedom, and displayed her God given talents of survival, which proved to humble and frustrate so many people that tried their very best to catch this wayward Sheltie.

Why over five months? Why did it take so long? How does one catch a dog that has sight, hearing, an acute sense of smell, reflexes, agility, speed, intuition to sense danger, and the ability to catalog changes in the environment far better than humans? How does one catch a dog that is too crafty to enter a trap, that avoids any new object placed in the environment, that detects and shies away from foreign odors, that avoids all contact with people, that has the ability to find and hunt its own food, and that has complete freedom to roam anywhere anytime? These are talents difficult to beat.

The answer came in the form of an existing structure; a structure Smiles was accustomed to seeing on a daily basis and which could serve as a method of containment for her capture. The Dimegliofamily veget able garden was a 20' x 40' rectangular area already fenced to keep deer out. With a few modifications it became the solution for catching Smiles. First, a six foot opening was created for Smiles to freely enter and exit the fenced area without suspicion. Secondly, a net was positioned and rigged with ropes, pulleys and a weighted bag of sand that could quickly and effectively close the opening after Smiles entered the enclosed area. Lastly, the fence height was raised from four feet to six feet to prevent any possibility of Smiles jumping out over the fence.

Even with having the existing structure in place, it took three full weeks to desensitize Smiles to enter the fenced area for food and to accept those subtle but necessary changes that were needed to make the capture possible. Her wariness and hypersensitivity to minute changes was just incredible to observe.

It's important to recognize those individuals that made this recovery possible. First and foremost, Christine Cooper dedicated five months of her life to the Smiles recovery effort and made tremendous personal sacrifices to save a soul; a soul that many thought of as lost - literally and figuratively. Christine's parents, Angie and Joe, worked tirelessly along with Christine, driving the steeds every morning, walking Smile's haunts, and putting food out for the Sheltie. The slim possibility of spying a fleeting glimpse of Smiles and the knowledge that she was alive for another day was all the reward they asked for this tremendous effort. These three people could rightfully be called Smiles' guardian angels. Many other people also contributed time and loving energy to the recovery of the little lost Sheltie. Smiles will never know just how many people were sending her love and hoping to lead her to a

happier life but it is with deep gratitude that all are remembered and appreciated.

As a befitting gesture, Smiles has been given a new name. She is now known as Zena the Princess Warrior for her courage of the heart, strength to battle the odds, and her victorious homecoming

## Food for thought: Lessons learned....

*At this year's National, the building was evacuated due to a possible fire...all dogs, exhibitors, spectators had to leave the building. If anyone has attended the national you know how many dogs, we are talking about.*

*There was a lot of discussion on the ASSA yahoo group since this happened. Some people offering experiences that they have had throughout their show lives and gave me permission to share these with you. I hope this gets us all thinking.*

*I believe the conversation started with this one...*

Obviously, we avoided a catastrophe at this year's national when we experienced an evacuation due to a fire. I know that it took the cooperation and cool heads of everyone involved to safely evacuate the building without losing a dog. Before we congratulate ourselves too loudly, I would like to point out that this was The Fire that WASN'T. We had the luxury of time and the ability to exit out of doors on 3 sides of the building simultaneously. If we'd been dealing with real smoke and a real fire consuming the building, we would have been fighting time, panic and limited exits.

I know for myself, I only had two dogs to gather together. As I headed towards the door, I stopped to help a handler and multiple dog owner that were set up together. I handed my two off to a total stranger in order to help. Precious minutes flew by as we were gathering dogs, finding their fine chain collars buried in the neck hair and trying to attach the tiny toy hook onto the right ring of the collar.

This is the 2nd "Emergency" I've experienced in my dog showing years. The first occurred a couple of years ago when Tornados touched down near a show site. Thankfully, the fairgrounds had concrete block buildings for us to take shelter.

In the case of a fire, tornado or other emergency, time is of the essence. I would like to suggest that anyone that travels to shows with a number of dogs consider taking a lesson from a suggestion I read on the RV-Dog Show list a few years ago. Typically, their emergency gear includes a package of nylon slip leads that are either attached to the dog crates or in a clearly marked emergency packet at the RV exit. An emergency contact number is written in indelible ink on each leash. This way, the dogs can be leashed quickly. As a secondary suggestion, it was further

suggested that a tether could be included so that all the dogs could be tethered to a tree.

Just food for thought!

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*HI, In my Motorhome I have emergency lead that I had made for me. What made me do it is we did have a fire in the Motorhome ( it was small but what if it was big, I dont want to think about that.) I had 9 dogs at the time. LIke you said they all had the collars that were small and could hardly find the end. I did have leads attached to the crates but to attach them to the dogs was something else. I had all the dogs attached and ready to go out the door in just a few min. Someone had stopped to help us and when I started out the door someone took some of the leads. What happened was the leads were so twisted we could hardly get them out and into safety.*

*This made me think if it would happen again.*

*My lead is one long lead with 8 leads 2-3 ft long attached to it. Therefore all dogs are on lead and you only have one lead to work with.*

*It does work as we were in Montana a few years ago and there was a tornado warning, we were told to get all of the dogs inside. My husband was all ready inside so therefore I had no help. I attached 5 dogs and away we went. It was so much easier than fighting individual leads.*

*Also when traveling they have slip collars that have larger rings on them. For awhile I was so paranoid that I had tabs on each collar, this made it easier to grab and attach the leads. My lesson I learned.*

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Crates on dollies is one effective way to move larger numbers of dogs, but in emergency situations, exits may be limited. If the only available exits have stairs, those with dollies are going to be stuck. Slip leads are quick and easy to put on. You may get fewer dogs at a time, but you can get up or down stairs and are less likely to clog narrow doorways or hallways.

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If the handlers don't have enough wheels to move all the dogs they have ... maybe they had better start thinking about situations that may arise. When I talked about putting dogs into crate I meant that the crates would STILL be securely attached to dollies ... all day every day. Grabbing dogs and putting them in crates and then just wheeling the

whole thing away SHOULD be very fast ... even if you need to put 2 dogs per crate. At BEST a person can CARRY 2 dogs. A dolly racked up with 6 crates can move 12 dogs out in one trip.... 2 dollies 24 dogs etc. I'm glad to hear that the evac went well at the NATs ... but ... I'm guessing that not many folks have seriously thought about this before ... it was a fortunate occurrence ... turns out that there was no REAL fire ... but the fact that there was the scare brings up the good point for pre-planning on EVERYONES part.

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### **CPR ...**

At our shows this past weekend, I was reminded we needed someone who knew how to do CPR, on humans and I said that would be me.

That reminded that I also was involved in CPR on the sheltie at the national. I was a bystander who just happened to be there when someone called for help. Throughout the process I thought that maybe there could have been a little better plan for the medical supplies needed and tried. Maybe a kit of things that would be kept together in a bigger plastic file box, similar to the idea of a crash cart we would use at the hospital. Just some IV solution, tape, drugs, and so forth put together for the days of the shows and then taken down so nothing would be outdated and so forth. Such a kit would also work for a human with the talented people we have at our shows if the supplies were there to get started with until emergency personal would arrive. I was wondering if the facility had a defibrillator available? There are those all over the place these days where it is hard to go wrong in using them if really necessary. Just some medical thoughts for the day.



*We hope to see everyone at the June meeting. If not, have a wonderful, fun, and safe summer.*

*Watch for the next issue of the newsletter in late August!*