

# What is a Sheltie?

Official name - Shetland Sheepdog

Mistakenly Called: Miniature Collie, Little "Lassie"  
dogs

These little dogs are from the Shetland Islands, off the coast of Scotland, and are shown in Conformation Shows (breed ring) under the "Herding" Group. (In Conformation shows, the Sheltie (standing 13-16 inches in height) is placed on a table so that the judge can go over every dog individually to determine physical structure. The Sheltie is then moved on the floor to determine correctness of movement. The dog closest to the breed standard (a written description of the ideal Sheltie) then wins the coveted Best in Breed Award.

They are extremely intelligent, excelling in popular "Dog Sports" such as Obedience, Rally, Agility, Fly Ball, Scent Hurdling, and Free Style Obedience, which is obedience put to music!

They have a long double coat that with practice is very easy to maintain. Colours range from various shades of brown (sable) to black with brown and/or white (tricolour or bicour) to blue (merle).

They are true "family" dogs- content to jog, play ball or relax with the family. They can range from high energy to couch potatoes all in one day! They are "companion" animals and are definitely "house dogs".

Shelties are very alert, often acting as "guard dogs" using their keen hearing, sharp eyes and often a big bark to alert owners to what is happening outside.

The **negative** aspects of a Sheltie are:

Shedding - Frequent grooming by the owner can take care of this problem

Barking - Consistent training while a puppy is beneficial.

Shyness- Socialization plays a HUGE part in the raising of a confident Sheltie. It is helpful to take your puppy to classes at an appropriate age.

Subsequent obedience or fun classes after that are always a good idea.

## Sheltie Events

### Spring & Fall Canine Eye/Health Clinic

All Breeds of dogs are welcome. Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) examination done by a certified veterinary ophthalmologist and occasionally heart exams are done by certified veterinary cardiologists.

### Specialty Conformation Show (usually first weekend in June)

Held in conjunction with Northern Alberta Canine Association (NACA) Dog Show at the Ottewell Curling Club in Edmonton

**Classes-** Due to the lovely temperament and intelligence of the Sheltie we offer conformation handling, rally and obedience classes which everyone enjoys!

**Member Events-** We're always open to planning events of interest to the group such as meet & greets at a variety of parks, social events, etc.

**SSFC General Meetings** - held via Zoom at this time (approximately 5 times a year).



Established in 1968

web page info:

[www.essfc.com](http://www.essfc.com)

## Club Information

SSFC was established in Edmonton in 1968, with a group of seventeen fanciers. Near the end of 1970, the club became a registered Canadian Kennel Club member club.

Any person residing in Alberta may become a member. Application forms can be obtained from our web page [www.essfc.com](http://www.essfc.com)

Annual Membership dues are \$35.00 for a family and \$25.00 for an individual.

All members receive a free subscription to TOONIE TEMPO the club's newsletter which is emailed to all members.

Our social activities include monthly meet and greets (weather permitting) at various locations. These are great times for socializing, getting some advice, exchanging training tips and just plain enjoying our dogs!

For years the SSFC has held an eye clinic for all breeds of dogs. This is a major fundraiser and fits our mandate of certifying the eye health of our breeding Shelties.

SSFC will collaborate and liaison with the Humane Society in supporting the rescue of Shelties.

Due to the lovely temperament and intelligence of the Sheltie, we continue to offer rally and obedience classes which everyone enjoys. The emphasis is on FUN and bonding with your Sheltie. We are a very supportive and encouraging group!

## Looking for a Sheltie? What to look for in a Good Breeder

- Someone who health tests their breeding dogs.
- Someone who shows their dogs to prove that they are worthy of breeding. Obedience, rally, agility and other dog sports also offer proof.
- Someone who does NOT sell to brokers or pet stores.
- Someone who invites you into their home, especially to watch the puppies as they grow and change. Is it a clean, healthy environment?
- Someone who will show you the mom of a puppy who is less than 7 weeks old, and possibly other relatives.
- Someone who wants "first right of refusal" to have the dog returned to them if the purchaser can no longer care for the puppy.
- Someone who will "interrogate" you for the good of their puppies and have as many questions for you as you do for them!
- Someone who will tell you the negatives of the breed as well as the positives.
- Someone who has shouldered the cost of producing and raising puppies that far outweighs the price of a well-bred puppy.
- Someone who is "honest" with you.
- Someone who becomes your friend, helping you to raise a well-adjusted, welcome addition to your community. They are there to answer your questions and concerns. This is a relationship that could last 15 years, so choose the breeder of a four-legged member of your family wisely.

These points are just a sample of the many that you should think about before taking home that puppy.

## 100 Reasons to Love a Sheltie!

- Big enough to meet the world on their own four paws.
- Small enough that you can pick them up!
- You can create needle-felt treasures or knit wonderful garments from their clean "shed out" hair.
- Wonderful watchdogs.
- Love their families. From children to seniors, Shelties love them all!
- Incredibly smart. They learn so quickly.
- Very pleasing to look at.
- Come in a variety of colours and markings, sizes and personalities.
- Very alert.
- Make excellent couch potatoes.
- Can play ball, or catch a disc all day.
- Make wonderful companions.
- They give you something to get up for in the morning.
- Allow us to more easily meet other people.
- Great fun to exercise with☺
- When you pet them, your stress and blood pressure are reduced.
- Shelties LOVE their owners unconditionally!!
- ...and the list goes on!

### **PLEASE REMEMBER:**

***NEVER buy a Shetland Sheepdog from a pet store or backyard breeder.***

***Go to a recognized breeder!!***