



Austin Sheltie Rescue Adoption Application

Austin Sheltie Rescue
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Description and Instructions ***Please Read Carefully and Save***

Austin Sheltie Rescue Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization comprised of volunteers who give their time, talents, and homes to help save and place abandoned and abused Shelties where they will be well cared for and loved. We also take in Shelties from owners who can no longer care for their dogs. Our main goals are the protection of Shelties already here, the prevention of further over-breeding, and the education of any Sheltie owner who requests it.

Austin Sheltie Rescue feels that the responsibility of caring for lost, neglected, and abused Shelties must rest with those who know and love the breed. The volunteers in our program have many years of experience with this breed and understand the needs of the dogs. There are few better rewards than knowing that hundreds of beautiful Shelties which otherwise might have been put to sleep, left out to starve or to run loose in the streets to become sick, crippled, or killed in traffic, are instead now safe and adored in loving homes.

All *Austin Sheltie Rescue* Shelties have received necessary medical/surgical treatment, have been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, treated for heartworms/hookworms, fleas and other parasites, and have been tagged with our own ID Tag, recorded by name and rescue number in our files. Because of the often deplorable conditions they have come from; their intelligent, sensitive dispositions; double coats; and the Texas heat and humidity, we require that our rescued Shelties be indoor dogs, except for exercise and pleasant days outside with their families. Upon the dog's adoption, we recommend keeping our tag on the collar, and to further protect your beloved new Sheltie we urge you to make another tag with your name and phone number as well as have your Vet./Clinic tattoo and/or microchip him or her. Be sure to keep collar and tags on your Sheltie at all times. Always keep your Sheltie indoors or behind a locked gate in a fenced yard when exercising, and on leash with a light choke or greyhound collar when walking. And for increased pleasure in your Sheltie's company, we strongly recommend obedience training soon after adoption, especially in classes where you both receive the guidance of professionals and the opportunity for the dog's continuing socialization. Most Shelties are outstanding obedience dogs and are also excellent in agility: working in these sports with your Sheltie can provide years of fun together and help your Sheltie to be in top form as well as become the enjoyable, well-behaved dog he or she is meant to be.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. **Potential Adopters:** Must be 18 years of age, have verifiable identification (Driver's License or other picture ID), provide written proof of authorization to have a pet if you rent your home or apartment.
2. **Fees:** The only fee involved is to help cover our medical expenses. A minimum of \$300.00 for adults ages 1-9; \$350.00 for puppies under 1 year; \$150 for dogs age 10+ is

required when you adopt a Sheltie and due immediately upon transfer of our dog to the new owner. **No adoption is final until the paper work and fee are tendered, and no ASR dog will be left with the adopter until these requirements are met.** Some of our dogs require extra medical care or special rehabilitation, which will entail much greater expense; we do not require, but would appreciate an extra donation to help cover these extra expenses. The adoption fee may be paid by cash, check, or money order made out to *Austin Sheltie Rescue*.

3. **Spaying/Neutering:** Any dog or puppy adopted from *Austin Sheltie Rescue* will have been spayed or neutered prior to release.
4. **Contract:** All adopters of Rescue Dogs will be asked to sign a Final Adoption Agreement on the day of adoption.
5. **Health and Protection of Your Sheltie:** We require you to follow a regular inoculation program established by your veterinarian to guarantee your dog stays healthy, as well as monthly heartworm and flea preventative. You will receive a complete medical history on your Sheltie, as can be determined or documented. If your Sheltie went through heartworm treatment in our program or tested negative initially, still have a re-test done in 4-6 months to be on the safe side. You must also have the dog licensed in accordance with the laws where you live, keep your dog indoors or on leash when being walked. To help protect against the dog's loss, the adopter also agrees to keep our ASR tag on the dog's collar and to provide a personal ID tag. We strongly recommend tattooing or micro-chipping your new Sheltie.
6. **Adoption Process:** Since we do not know you personally, the information from the Adoption Request Questionnaire (which is requested of anyone seeking a rescued Sheltie) will help us to match the right Sheltie for your family. The adoption application puts the adoptive home in the 'hat' for one of our rescues, but since our first concern is a good match between family and dog, we do not adopt on a 'first come' basis, but on the best match for all concerned. If your application is not selected for the Sheltie of your choice, rest assured there will be more rescues in our program for you to consider, and upon request we will also refer you to our sister rescue organizations around the state. Please remember that we are a group of busy volunteers who depend on our adoptive homes to bookmark the web site and let us know which Shelties they are interested in adopting. Families who actively pursue a particular Sheltie through the application, home visit, and phone calls/e-mail are most successful in getting their first choice, given the appropriateness of the adoption for both family and dog.
7. **Additional Adoption Requirements:** If at any time in the life of the dog the match does not work, or if for any reason the family must relinquish the dog, then the adoptive home returns the Sheltie to *Austin Sheltie Rescue*. Under no circumstances is our dog to be transferred to another party. If the family plans to move after adoption, the family must let us know the new address, telephone number, and e-mail if available. If one of our adopted Shelties is being considered for euthanization by the family and their vet for any reason, *Austin Sheltie Rescue* must be contacted about the dog's condition: see further explanation on the description page. If the adoptive home violates ANY section of the Program Description, the Adoption Application, or the Final Adoption Agreement, *Austin Sheltie Rescue* will take legal steps to reclaim the dog.