

This is the 4th of our official newsletters! It is being sent out for FREE to Sheltie fanciers who requested more up-to-date information about Shelties and their activities. Past newsletters are posted on our secure website (www.sheltie.com) under "The Telegram."

If you know of someone else who would like to begin receiving this e-mail newsletter, please send us his or her e-mail address. If you ever wish to stop receiving these free Sheltie notices and articles, let us know by sending an e-mail to s.pacesetter@sheltie.com.

E-mail us timely articles which you think should be shared among other Sheltie folks. We accept Specialty show dates and contact information, along with timely announcements...such as symposiums and teaching events.



Let There Be Light!

What a bright idea! It sheds light on a problem almost all of us have from time to time. It might be a good idea to get some of these just for this purpose and let them be just yard lights when they aren't otherwise needed. I wish I'd thought of it!

How many times have you and your family sat in the dark due to lost commercial power? The following is a short term (6-8 hours or less) solution!

I have a friend who used her solar lights inside at night when her current was off during the hurricane. She stuck them in a jar or bottle and said they gave off plenty of free light.

She put one in each room and would put them back outside in the daytime and bring them in at night as long as the current was off. They are safe to use and cheaper than batteries.

Bring in a solar light one night and test it.

Due to a thunderstorm, we lost power for about five hours. We were scrambling around in the darkness, looking for matches, candles, flashlights, etc. We looked outside, and noticed our solar lights shining brightly all around our patio, stairs, dock, etc. They were beautiful. My wife walked outside, and brought several of the solar lights inside.

We stuck the solar light pipes into plastic drink bottle containers and they made the nicest, brightest, safest, lighting you could ever imagine.

We put one in the bathroom, the kitchen, the living room, etc. There was plenty of light. There are all types of solar lights available. We bought ours at Harbor Freight. We put them all around our yard. They look nice and they do not attract flying bugs like the outdoor lights around our doorway.

Tax Breaks for Pet Foster Parents

If you are fostering stray animals for an animal-rescue group, you are now able to take deductions for expenses incurred for their care. In a landmark decision of Van Dusen vs. Commissioner, Judge Richard Morrison ruled that Jan Van Dusen, a volunteer who cared for 70 cats for Fix Our Ferals in her home, could deduct expenses for the care of these animals.

For more information, go to the *Wall Street Journal*, (<http://online.wsj.com>), ABC News (<http://abcnews.go.com/>) or check your favorite search engine.

The lights we have fit into the small (20 oz.) water bottles and they also fit into most of the larger liter bottles. If you need a weight in the plastic bottle to keep them from tipping over, you can put a few of the pretty colorful "flat marbles" that they put in aquariums, and vases. (You can also use sand, aquarium gravel, etc., whatever you have available).

The lights we have were perfect inside our home. They burn all night long if you need them.

The next day, you just take your solar lights back outside and they will instantly recharge and be ready for you to use again any time you need them.

Perfect for power outages, hurricanes, etc.

I never thought of it, and now you don't have to. □



We'll be attending the ASSA National Specialty in Florida. Keep your eyes open for Frank (my wonderful husband!) and myself as we'll be there and we want to meet you! When you see us...please introduce yourself.

—Nancy Lee

See you in Florida!

The 2012 SPRING magazines are being printed and will be in the mail soon!





Pet Friendly Car Rental —

What to Know When Renting a Car with Your Pet

Do your travel plans with your pet include renting a car? If so, be sure to plan ahead and take some necessary precautions to ensure your car rental experience is a good one. Most major car rental companies are pet friendly. That is, they allow pets to travel in their vehicles. However, all have restrictions and guidelines. Here are some common issues that people with pets face when renting a car.

Stinky Pet Smells

There is nothing worse than getting into a rental car that reeks of smoke, dirty diapers, a Big Mac and fries, or too much after shave! Well, getting into a car that has stinky pet odors isn't much fun either—even for us pet lovers. Cat urine and wet dog are the most common odors that linger after a pet and their person have rented a car.

Remnants and Hitchhikers

In addition to the smells, pet hair and dirt are among the presents left behind by pet passengers in rental cars. Pets also bring along unwelcome hitchhikers who decide to hop off inside the car rental! These hitchhikers are ticks and fleas. Car rental companies aren't too happy when they are left to clean up the mess your pooch or kitty made in the back seat—let alone de-flea and de-tick the rental car. And you are sure to be less happy because you will have to pay for the clean-up.

Damage—Inside and Out

Just as you are liable for any damage done to the outside of the car, you are also liable for any damage done to the inside of your rental car. Gnawed off seat corners, scratched fine Corinthian leather, or a stick shift used as a chew toy are among the interior damages that pets can cause.

We can't overlook damage that pets indirectly cause to the outside of the car. When a pet travels in a vehicle and is allowed to "roam

free" it's a recipe for disaster. Unsecured pets commonly distract the driver. Whether the driver turns around to pet their dog or their cat is scratching on the back of their seat, or their dog is bouncing around the car barking at the wind blowing—these are major distractions and they cause car accidents. If you have to stop fast or rear end someone while traveling, pets have been known to be projectiles—right through the windshield. In addition, if you are in an accident and emergency help comes, when they open your car door, an unsecured pet can dart off and either get lost or at worst get hit by a car.

Tips

Follow these common sense tips and suggestions to avoid an unnecessary charges by car rental companies and more importantly, to keep you and our pet safe when traveling.

1. Before your trip, give your pet a bath and trim their nails.
2. Be sure your pet is flea and tick free and is using a flea and tick preventative.
3. Wipe/dry your pet off (body and paws) before they get into the car.
4. Bring along a pet spray to squelch wet dog odor.
5. Brush your pet frequently to get rid of loose hair.
6. Cover the seats of the rental car.
7. Bring along a hair pick up brush to clean seats.
8. Don't leave your pet in the car unattended.
9. Properly restrain your pet in the vehicle by using either a pet seat belt/pet safety harness, travel kennel, vehicle pet barrier, or pet car seat.

Taking some common sense measures will help ensure that you and your pet have a safe road trip and a car rental experience free of strife. (These tips are may also be applied when you are staying at pet friendly hotels and accommodations!)

For more information go to www.tripswithpets.com. □

Upcoming Specialty Shows

ASSA National—March 3—10, 2012

Kissimmee, FL

Breed: Susan Christie
Dogs: Rick Thompson
Bitches: Carolyn Ing
Futurity: Yvonne Samuelson
Jr. Showmanship: Rick Thompson
See website for other judges—
www.assa.org

Cincinnati SSC— May 24, 2012

Hilton, OH

Breed: Linda Millman
Sweepstakes: Irene M. Latchford
Jr. Showmanship: Joe T. Caton
<http://cincinnati-sheltieclub.homestead.com/Index2html>



This photo needs a caption. Send all captions you'd like to submit to s.pacesetter@sheltie.com and win free business card inserts! We welcome all color digital photos for future Caption Contests.



SUMMER ISSUE

Ads due April 20



Evelyn Susin
(Crinan)



Terri Poirier
and
Anne Foreman
(Saranac)



Lynn and Tom Uram
(Castlegate)



Am/Can Ch Sunebank Caerleon Quest, ROM —
Wendy Mount (Sunebank)
& Carolyn Vack (Caerleon)



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LETTERS...

The following is an anonymous e-mail we received regarding an article in our December 2011 newsletter and (following that e-mail) our response...

Hi, Nancy,

Interesting concept with the newsletter, however, if you are going to post information please check it for accuracy. IF you go to the FDA website regarding Chicken Jerky, they have indicated they don't know of any particular source nor do they know what the nature of the problem is. They are investigating it! They do not have any documented deaths and the 70 dogs have merely gotten sick. ALSO it has nothing to do with Blue Buffalo products. I would urge you to check out the information and make corrections as you have just published incorrect and slanderous information.

The problem with your information aside from badmouthing two specific companies is that people that buy other brands of chicken jerky will feel safe in doing so even though the products might not be safe.

You should know better!

The above e-mail was received on 12/20/2011 6:08:05 P.M. Central Standard Time—from an unknown author.

And here is our response...

Thank you for your input regarding our newsletter. We value all suggestions and comments.

Several of your remarks deserve responses...

First, you complain we did not check for accuracy. We not only checked for accuracy, we added what we found in our research to the original warning. The original warning ended at "Please make sure all your doggie friends are aware of this!"

at the close of the first paragraph. All the information IN SUPPORT of Blue Buffalo that follows is a DIRECT RESULT of our research and fact checking and added by us to defend Blue Buffalo. So contrary to your statement that we are "badmouthing" these companies, we added the statement from Blue Buffalo's website defending itself.

Second, you say the allegations have nothing to do with Blue Buffalo products. Because the original warning already included Blue Buffalo foods in the recall and stated that Fox News reported on the story, we checked with Blue Buffalo to see how it responded to the accusations. Blue Buffalo's website posted a defense regarding the accusations, so WE included Blue Buffalo's OWN DEFENSE from its own website. This was a DIRECT RESULT of our checking for accuracy. Again, contrary to "badmouthing" the company, we included its own defense.

Third, we posted this warning to alert people that when they see the ORIGINAL warning (which again is only the first paragraph) already circulating on the Internet or on Fox News they will know that the accusations are not true, according to Blue Buffalo. We posted the original one-paragraph warning—which was already circulating—to defend Blue Buffalo AND to provide the link to Blue Buffalo's website AND to provide the link to the FDA, so readers can check themselves.

In conclusion, not only did we check the facts but we added Blue Buffalo's defense statement from its website, AND we provided the link to the FDA's site for readers to check this out themselves.

Perhaps you didn't read the second paragraph? Or the third paragraph?

Thanks again for your comments.

Sincerely,
Nancy Lee Cathcart
Sheltie Pacesetter