



South
Hills
Pet
Rescue

Saving all breeds with all needs

PUPDATES!

NEWS FROM THE KENNEL:

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SHPR KENNEL MANAGER, CHERYL MCCLEARN

A Day in the Life of SHPR Kennel Manager, Cheryl McClearn starts with dogs, of course!

"I moved back here from Florida after spending 10 years working with dogs and living on-site, and I wanted to line up something similar before I even got back. My oldest daughter connected me with SHPR founder Ashley Rittle, and we talked for about two months before I made the move. Ashley was looking for someone with dog experience to help out, and that's how my journey with SHPR began, 13 years ago.

My mornings usually start with opening the dog doors and checking runs, cleaning anything that needs attention, and feeding each of the kennel dogs. Usually by 8:30 or 9:00 a.m., I head over to the puppy building, where I spend the next two to three hours cleaning and caring for the puppies.



Once the cleaning is done and we're open to the public, my focus shifts to the office. I greet and help visitors, schedule vet appointments, and make sure every dog is up to date on vaccines, deworming, and flea, tick, and heartworm prevention. I also place medical orders and keep track of operating supplies to make sure we have what we need.

If the office is slow, you'll find me back in the kennel helping with cleaning. Laundry runs pretty much nonstop throughout the day, and in the evenings, I help with feeding as well. During the winter, I lock the dogs in for the night, which is usually around 10 or 11 p.m. Living on-site means I'm always checking on the dogs in the evenings, even during the summer. What I love most about being at SHPR is the family atmosphere. You're truly treated like family here, and getting to care for dogs every day just makes it even better."

VIPup OF THE MONTH

Hi, I'm Thor!

I love my friends at SHPR, but I'd be *over the moon* to finally have a family of my own. I'm a strong guy with a big heart, and I take protecting the people I love very seriously, so I'd do best in a calm, low-key home. Don't let that fool you though! I'm also goofy and fun, and I'll happily greet you with one of my favorite stuffed toys.

I'm working on my leash manners with my buddy Nick so I can be the perfect walking partner for my future best friend. I love tennis balls, running around the yard, and spending time with my person. I've been waiting a long time for my forever home, and my past has taught me to be loyal and protective, but once you're my person, I'm all in. Could that be you? Come meet me!



NICK'S TIPS

“In the beginning stages of training your dog, it’s best to start off in a quiet area with no distractions so you have the full attention and focus of your dog. When you begin to see a consistent response to your commands, you can add distractions, i.e., random toys and background noise. When you achieve your desired result in that context, it’s time to test your dog out in the real world.”

Also - with this shivery winter weather, don’t forget about your dog’s paws. Dog’s paws can get really irritated from the frigid temps and road salt! You can use protective dog booties to help when walking. To cut down on paw irritation, be sure to wash your furbaby’s paws after walking anywhere that has been salted.



SHPR UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 19, 2026:

Bingo at Giant Oaks Winery, Finleyville. Join SHPR for great games, great friends, and great times! Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Games begin at 6 p.m. Cash bar and cash menu available.

Stay in the loop on all upcoming SHPR Events by following us on Facebook or under “Events” on our website <https://southhillspetrescue.org>



IN THEIR OWN WORDS: SHPR ALUMNI ODIE AND SAMMY

Dogs have always been a part of my life. So when my last Min. Schnauzer passed away two years ago, I started looking for a dog to rescue. At the time, I was 90 yrs. old so I wanted a small dog but not a puppy. I contacted about a dozen shelters and never got a response. A friend suggested that I go to a shelter so they could see that I could care for a dog. I picked out four pictures from South Hills Pet Rescue and made an appointment to view them. The first dog that was brought from the kennel was a black and white Shih Tzu, all covered up in a towel because he didn't like to be touched or picked up. But, he was 7 years old and beautiful! So, he sat beside me for awhile shaking like a leaf. Gradually, I moved my hand so it touched him and then slowly began to pet him. He calmed down and I began to ask about adopting him. I never did see the other three dogs. End of that part of the story.

When I went to pick him up to put him in my car, he bit my hand so I grabbed my jacket, covered him with it and lifted him into the car. Most of the way home he kept shaking. When we got home, my grandson named him Sammy. I live in a split entry house, so I soon learned that he couldn't go up or down steps. When I put him outside in the grass, he wouldn't budge. He still didn't like to be touched or picked up and he didn't bark for months. He wasn't at all house trained. So, I started out with tiny strips of boiled chicken breast as treats. He responded really well to that and over a period of a few months, he became a very different dog. He races up and down the steps, is about 99% house trained, and loves all people and dogs. He walks on a leash very well, never getting ahead of me. He's not a lap dog but does consent to sit with me for about five minutes. Sammy has become very vocal, letting me know when he needs to go out or wants something to eat.

I couldn't be happier with my little friend and it's so nice that he seems to be happy.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

SHPR receives no government funding and relies on the generosity of people like you to help fund our critical mission to SAVE ALL BREEDS WITH ALL NEEDS! If you are interested in helping, SHPR always welcomes:

ADOPTIONS: Find your perfect furbaby today. Visit [our website](#) to see what dogs we have available for adoption. If there is a particular size, age, breed, or temperament that you're looking for, please contact Cheryl McClearn at dogs@southhillspetrescue.org to learn about what dogs may not yet be ready for adoption, but soon will be as well as put your name on a waiting list. SHPR honors our waitlist clients and will call you before putting the dogs up for adoption on our website and [Adopt-a-pet.com](#). SHPR recommends filling out an adoption application online to get the process started. Since we are a Rescue rather than a shelter, we are careful to ensure that every dog in our care goes to a loving home. It may take a bit of time to get approved, so start the process soon! Visit <https://southhillspetrescue.org/adoptable-dogs> and scroll down to access the downloadable and editable Adoption Application or email dogs@southhillspetrescue.org

CASH DONATIONS: Cash donations go toward feeding, facilities, veterinarian care (both routine and emergency), required cleaning supplies so that our kennels are spotless for our canine residents, microchipping, spaying/neutering, and other necessary supplies to keep operations running smoothly. Checks can be mailed to: SHPR, PO Box 224, Monaca, PA 15061, or cash/checks can be dropped off at our kennel address during open hours. You can also donate through **Paypal!**

FOSTERING: If you can't adopt yet but want to offer a temporary home to one of SHPR's dogs until they can be adopted, consider fostering! To learn about fostering, please email dogs@southhillspetrescue.org.

IN-KIND DONATIONS: *Imagine this:* A fuzzy dog vs. a fluffy blanket – who will win? You got it -- the dogs always win at SHPR! Our dogs love to play tug-of-war, roll around in, and chew blankets all the while our kennel staff is trying to replace soiled blankets with clean ones. It's always a play-match made in heaven, and with in-kind donations, SHPR can offer dogs comfy blankets, chew toys, dog-friendly plushies, food, and treats. We have wish lists on both **Chewy.com** and **Amazon.com**. Check them out here:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2D380HHW3I39G/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1
https://www.chewy.com/g/south-hills-pet-rescue_b74871338

VOLUNTEER: SHPR always welcomes new volunteers! Whether it's taking one of our dogs out for a walk and playtime around the grounds, transporting dogs to and from vet appointments, or helping with our many special events, SHPR needs YOU! Fill out an application on our website and send it to our volunteer coordinator, Marji Dickson at atmdickson@southhillspetrescue.org. Consider becoming a member of the SHPR's family of volunteers today!