

# Trixie, puppy mill survivor, needs your help

It's hard to resist the charms of a cute puppy, even for those who identify themselves as dog non-lovers. Trixie, a Shetland Sheep Dog or "Sheltie," probably qualifies as one of those cute puppies that just might make you fork over a few bucks. Bred at a puppy mill in Altavista where genetic problems are suspected, her owners — er, Pet Parents, sorry — are now trying to raise \$4,000 for surgery that Trixie needs to lead a better life.

A non-profit called the Orthodoxes' Silver Lining Foundation (OSLF.org), "created to serve as a place of hope for owners and/or caretakers of orthopedically challenged dogs," per the web site, is providing access to fundraising resources in Trixie's case. This is verbiage from the



Editor's  
Notebook  
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flyer that Tracy and Darlene Neff are circulating in Vinton, where the couple lives, and elsewhere: A Crippled Sheltie Puppy needs your help to walk! We rescued and adopted this little girl with severe elbow deformities to give her some quality of life and Virginia Tech has organized a surgical team to do corrective surgery. The cost is overwhelming, estimated at two thousand dollars per front



**Trixie**  
of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia. By the grace of God if there are any

leg. We are soliciting the community for donations and all funds are to be used by The Virginia - Maryland School

excess funds they will be used by the Animal League at Virginia Tech to help other needy and suffering pets in the community. If you are able to help please send donations to the Trixie Surgical Fund at the Bank of Botetourt, c/o Tracy Neff, P.O. Box 175, Daleville, VA 24083.

Two veterinarians have told the Neffs 'that they really haven't seen anything like it before,' says Tracy Neff. "If this is genetic, her mother should have not had any more litters."

The American Kennel Club is looking into the matter.

"She was just a cute little dog we just couldn't leave her behind."

Shelties were used to help herd sheep in the British Isles and do

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well in agility competitions. Neff isn't out to shut down the breeder but believes the situation is being taken care of. His main concern is Trixie, and Neff has already put his tax return toward the money needed for her operation. In effect one of her front legs is upside down, with the paw turned the wrong way.

"Other than that she's in good health, I think," says Neff.

He doesn't make a lot of money and his

wife is disabled, so the couple needs help. The second front leg is not as severely deformed but will require surgery also.

"So far at the Bank of Botetourt we've raised just over \$1,000 and the OSL Foundation has set aside \$2,000 for Trixie," says Neff. "As stated on the flyer if there are any excess funds when Trixie is all fixed up the balance will be donated to the Animal League at Virginia Tech. The Veterinary Teaching

Hospital at Tech is cutting their fee and has agreed to work with the OSLF."

The Neffs are still short about \$1,000 for her surgeries and will continue to rally for Trixie — hoping she will live a normal happy life. "Perhaps she'll become somewhat of an advocate for other dogs with health problems in the community," says Tracy Neff, who can also be reached at their Halliahurst Avenue home by calling 874-7056.