

# *Highland Glenn English Shepherds*

## **PUPPY YEARBOOK**

### **Highland Glenn's Fahey x Highland Glenn's Fawn Meadow Siobhan Pearl**

**Born:** August 4, 2018; their litter names are Irish (in parenthesis).

#### **BURLEY** (Hugh)

"It is very hard to imagine my life without Burley in it now. When he joined my home at 11 weeks old, he fit in right from the start. I'd had a very close doggy companion years ago, as well as showing and breeding several Labradors, but after my last one passed, life circumstances related to work and housing did not permit having a dog in my life for years. Finally my situation changed to allow that possibility again.



Knowing I wasn't really interested in another Labrador, I spent months researching what breed would have the best chance of fitting well into my life. In reading about various dogs, I first encountered the English Shepherd breed in the blog of another small homesteader who raved about them being the perfect dogs for their home. After reading and watching everything I could get my hands on about the breed, I was pretty sure they would be a generally good fit for everything I do. So I started searching for breeders. While natural rearing and many other aspects of nutrition and health were not something I had been aware of with my dogs when I was younger, having learned volumes about my own health in the intervening years strongly motivated me to change my thinking on how all those things relate to dogs as well. So when my search turned up Highland Glenn, I really liked everything I read. Several months later, I was very excited to hear that Burley's litter was born and to get to see the first puppy photos!

Watching them each grow and change a bit every week through the Pupdates was fascinating. As the puppies got older, waiting for the results of matching their personalities and traits to each of our waiting homes was a bit nerve wracking. In the past, I'd always done my own puppy selection so leaving that all up to someone else was a bit stressful for me. I have to say the Beers do an excellent job of this and I would still be excited but not stressed in the future if I get another puppy.

Eleven weeks after they were born, a friend joined me for the more than 10 hour each way drive to pick up my new companion. Heading home after meeting Tom and Krystal to pick him up, including an overnight spent sleeping in the van, Burley was great the whole way. Only whining once in the night when he needed to pee. Otherwise he never cried at all which I was fully expecting with a new puppy away from his mother and litter mates for the first time. I think that being able to stay with his parents and siblings till 11 weeks old, rather than 7 or 8 weeks as many breeders do, really made a huge difference in his mental and emotional maturity in adjusting to a new home. Though I was a bit sad to miss a few weeks of those really little baby puppy moments I think it's well worth it.



Burley did get car sick every single time we drove a mile or more for the first few months. And we drove a few miles every day as he's always accompanied everything I do and most of my jobs are only a few miles from our home so there was no lack of



opportunities for him to get used to vehicle travel. Even on a totally empty stomach he'd still heave, poor guy. I learned that those puppy pee pads make excellent crate liners that can be neatly rolled up in a bag to toss once a puppy has puked, so we went through a bunch of them. And one day, that just stopped, and he's been fine with vehicle travel ever since.

House training was super simple. Probably partially because we live in a tiny house so it's a bit like permanent crate training and he literally can't be out of my sight. Our whole home is only 160 square feet and he never had a single accident here. When very young, he did have one each at two different friend's houses, but in all fairness, they were in parts of the house much further from the main living area than he normally has to go outside to get to his chosen potty location at the far edge of the woods around our clearing. I'm sure in his little puppy head and given his normal living situation, he thought "surely this can't still be the house over here!" We've also had no issues with other common puppy problems. He never chewed on anything other than his bones and antlers, never messed with or destroyed anything in the house, never gotten into garbage, or tried to take food off the counter.





We live in the woods surrounded by lots of wildlife of all sizes. No moose, elk, or deer chasing of any kind has been a rule enforced from day one as wildlife harassing can get a dog shot here, and moose will kill dogs. He's been great with this and will stand calmly beside me while watching a bull moose cross the trail a few dozen yards in front of us. Horse, cow, and mule chasing are off limits for similar reasons though the one time a somewhat bratty and bullying horse tried to charge toward me, Burley went right at him, turning him and running him to the far side of the pasture. Otherwise,

he walks through pastures calmly but very alert at my side. As we hope to have our own poultry in the future chasing ducks and grouse, which look just like chickens, is also off limits and he's good with this. Large birds in the sky are another thing. From a tiny little baby, he's patrolled the sky and any magpie, raven, hawk, eagle, etc. is not allowed to cross our air space. I've never discouraged this at all, and am sure he would protect a flock if we had one from any raptor predation. He has an overdrive gear in his running reserved just for running those big birds out of the area, and man he's fast! If he could just fly, I am sure he would tackle them in the air. He hunts mice and voles with increasing success and skill and keeps the squirrels all in the trees.

He does have a very strong retrieving drive. When he was really little, he seemed to have no interest in chasing or fetching things. But a couple months later, decided it's one of his favorite activities. He doesn't seem to have any stopping point when chasing down and bringing back sticks, balls, or disks, and will keep going unless I hide or "lose" the thing he's retrieving to make him quit and catch his breath and get a drink. Even when I am working in the garden or splitting wood, he'll find or make his own fetching stick and repeatedly drop it on my feet or hands begging for me to take a break and throw it for him. On this note, he really enjoys "finding" games. Like if I tell him to sit and stay and then go hide his stick or whatever where he can't see it. Once released, he'll always sniff it out eventually, casting back and forth. If he thinks he can't find it and comes back to me for help, I just have to shrug with my hands in the air and he'll turn around and keep searching. I think if I spent any more time teaching a skill related to nose skills or search and rescue, he would excel.



Burley is a very talkative dog. Not a lot of barking, which he mostly reserves for strangers pulling in the drive, a very rare occurrence where we live, big birds flying over, or anything that startles him. Three times he's woken me in the night with a volley of aggressive barking. Each time was to tell me about something on our porch- a bear, a fox, and a porcupine. This I'm totally fine with this as all of those things just traveling through our yard at night bring no alert and



happens all the time. Scaring them off the porch is great however. But most of his talking is with a variety of other sounds. Very easily understood as he'll mutter in disgust when he doesn't want to do something, groan in protest at having to stay when he wants to run, ask to go out with a breathy question sound, and so on.

He is not really a guard dog, though I do think he would try to protect me if he thought necessary. But he is a watch dog. Nothing happens anywhere within his sight, hearing, or smell without him being very aware of it. And he's very alert to any changes in what is normal, like when horses came back from their winter feed lot to enjoy the summer pasture it took him a while to decide this new state of affairs was acceptable. He is not automatically trusting of new people. Greeting strangers from a bit of a distance at full alert until I've assured him that the person is ok. And even then he'll hang back for a bit as he makes his own judgment. People he knows however get unlimited affection and he's had to work on being patient enough to let them get out of their



car before wiggling his whole body into their arms and covering them with kisses. His reactions to other dogs are similar. Dogs he knows are all friends while new ones are always suspicious and he's always the dominant dog in any interaction. While I've made an effort to have him meet both strange dogs and people, our lifestyle and location mean that's not a frequent occurrence. I suspect if we lived in a town and walked past strangers every day, he'd be much less sensitive to such things.

Training has been super simple overall as he's so intelligent and wants to please, that all I have to do is figure out how to show him what I want, and he gets it right away. He's not a food motivated dog at all, so that was very different for me as every other dog I've had was. I've almost never gotten him to eat a "treat" of any kind. He's very praise and affection motivated though so that's been no problem. Though he's almost never been on a leash, we've practiced that a handful of times and he can walk on one if needed. He's had a few fears that he's worked through, and one that he hasn't. Though due to our lifestyle and location he's encountered many, many things the average domestic dog is never aware of with no issues at all. When first encountering water, he was sure he couldn't walk through the few inch deep trickle despite having just seen me, a friend, and another dog do just that. He sat on the far edge and bawled like he was being abandoned forever. I had to go back, pick him up, carry him part way across, and set him down in the water so he had no option but to walk to one side of the other. He ran through and by the time we were coming back along the same trail, he waded right on in as if he'd





never been scared of anything like that. This same pattern has repeated with a few things. Swimming was very scary, till after much coaxing, I tossed him in a few times and he suddenly looked around and decided this is fun and not scary after all! Crossing holes or open gaps had been another point of some fear. When backpacking this summer, we learned he has a similar issue with crossing boulder fields that require jumping from rock to rock (a boulder in the Rockies means anything from chair to bus-sized rock scattered over a slope) with open air between. While he otherwise loves clambering over rocks in general,

this was another fear point I initially had to carry him part way through after he sat down and bawled loudly enough for the entire mountain range to hear, about being "abandoned." The only fear he hasn't worked through yet is gunshots. Despite having been around them his entire life, as they are a regular part of ranch and mountain life, and you can regularly hear other hunters and target shooters in the mountains from our house, he's still fearful of them. He hides in the back of the house, under a car, or something similar and takes an hour or so to decide it's ok to go back to normal life after hearing one.

In general, he has a cautious approach to new things which is good for his safety in our wild location with new and potentially dangerous things on a regular basis. Like when he first met a skunk, he was sure it was a problem and circled it barking furiously, but was cautious enough that somehow he managed to stay far enough back to avoid being sprayed. Ice on creeks or lakes he has similar caution with. Gingerly testing the edges and steering far clear of anything at all fragile. A similar reaction came to the first mountain lion killed elk carcass we encountered together. Circling it sniffing, growling, and looking from a great distance before deciding if I could touch it, maybe it was safe for him to come closer. In general, I'd say this cautious approach and taking time to consider new things is a defining characteristic of his personality.

He's continued with the raw diet and is still vaccine free and intact. At 16 months old, he's just shy of 21 inches at the shoulder and 47 pounds of very lean muscle. He's remained at that height and weight for 7 or more months now. Raw feeding has not been hard at all here. Wild elk provide the majority of my meat through the year and he now eats every bit that people don't consume- head, tail, ribs, hooves, all organs, etc. I'm also able to source all the beef heart and liver he can eat for free from a local butcher who normally throws them away. To supplement this and add variety we buy grocery store chicken quarters or legs when they're on sale, beef kidney and a very occasional pork cut which I can also get at the grocery, and whole suckers, whitefish, or trout heads/remains a few local fishermen friends will save in their



freezers for me... as well as random whole eggs. And then when it's really cold in the winter so everything doesn't defrost while shipping, I order a big box of frozen chicken feet, green tripe, and whole smelt sold for dog food, as I can't source any of those locally. That gets spread through his meals over the year. As I said, he's not a food motivated dog at all. While he seems to enjoy any of those foods when hungry, he's not a frequent eater. As a little puppy, I tried for several months to feed him three times a day as recommended for his age. He'd only ever eat a single meal a day and even skips days entirely. So I finally gave up and tried to feed him twice a day. He'd still only eat a single meal. So that's just what we do now. And he still chooses to self-fast for a day or two at a time pretty regularly. I just put the food back in the freezer and he gets the same meal offered the next day till he decides he wants to eat again. He does seem to enjoy eating everything mentioned frozen solid.



Burley's coat is constantly shiny and glowing and truly fits the descriptions I'd read of being "Teflon" like. If he's been through the dirt or mud before coming inside and laying down, when he stands up, he's clean and there is a neat doggy shaped pile of dirt left on the floor. The only grooming he's had in his life is an occasional brushing every month or so just to keep him in practice or sometimes to help if he's wagged his tail through a particularly dense bur bush, though he's pretty good at picking them out on his own. And the only bathing has been wading, swimming, or bounding through snow. He has no normal doggy body odor and if you bury your nose in his fur he smells like a clean stuffed animal. He also has yet to really shed at all. I don't know if this is due to his particular quirks, his diet, or our very cold location (summers here are rarely above 70F for a high and near freezing or below every night), but when I clean there's more of my hair on the floor than his. His teeth are also shiny brilliant white.

He is very affectionate and loves to cuddle. True to the ES stereotype, he is pretty much my shadow and if we are in the house, is usually laying somewhere that allows him to be touching some part of my body. He's sleeping on my feet as I type this. At night, I lift him into the loft where the bed is and he sleeps at my side. Even outside, where there's plenty of room to roam as we live on a corner of a 800-ish acre ranch surrounded by a few million acres of national forest and wilderness, he explores but never far from my side. And as with his first stream and boulder crossings, he's not about to get left behind and will cry and howl if he thinks that's happening, so there's no chance I could accidentally lose him! When walking through the woods, he loves to investigate everything, but pops up every few







seconds to be sure he still knows where I am or waits patiently as I climb hills slower than he does. Being out of sight is not an option, and though our whole house is so small that at most you could get about 19 feet apart, he still follows me into the bathroom every time. If I'm working at the computer or something ignoring him, he occasionally interrupts me with a very insistent nose letting me know he wants some petting and attention for a minute, but most of the time he's just happy to be at my side. He's similarly affectionate with everyone he knows. Loving to cuddle, share kisses, and doesn't want them to get out of sight either. If a friend runs over to their car to grab a jacket while we are hanging around a campfire outside on a summer evening for instance, when they reappear 20 seconds later they need greeted all over again with wiggles and kisses as if they were lost for months in his opinion.

He's now been at my side almost 24/7 since the day I picked him up. I've occasionally had to leave him for 4-5 hour stretch, but that's only been a handful of times total. Thankfully my lifestyle and work all involve things he can join me for. Our activities vary with the season, and include gardening for myself and others, firewood collection and splitting, backpacking or day hiking, wildlife photography, snow shoveling for our place and others (he's been on roofs with me when shoveling!), cooking/canning/fermenting/dehydrating food, long talks with good friends, reading or photo editing, trail clearing, hay making (he loves riding in tractors!), stock care, fencing, house cleaning for others, foraging for wild foods, videography for others, and more. And he's at my side for all of it.

One of the major summer activities that's a bit out of our normal routine, if our lives can be said to have much of a routine at all, is backpacking. While going on long day walks is the norm year round, ranging from 1-10 miles depending on the weather and how much time we have, we also went on 3 longer backpacking trips this summer. With 36, 48, and 30 miles of up and down steep mountainous terrain covered respectively. He did a wonderful job on all of these trips, staying right with me even though off leash all the time unless we were very near a trail head or saw people/dogs approaching on the trail when he would be leashed. I wasn't sure how an exuberant and energetic one-year-old would handle sleeping in a tiny, ultralite, and fragile backpacking tent, but he was wonderful. Waiting patiently at the door till I got all settled into my sleeping bag and then carefully stepping inside, curling up in the tiny space beside me, and quietly going to sleep for the night. The ultralite tent,



easily destroyed in a single trip by a careless human, is still intact and in immaculate condition. We covered mountains, peaks, passes, snowfields, lakes, creeks of all sizes, wildlife, and more. And Burley is a wonderful backpacking companion.

All in all, Burley is really the perfect companion to my life. Fitting into everything that goes on, and having or easily learning any skills needed for what we do. I'm hoping for as long and healthy a life for him as possible, as I know whenever he leaves this world, there will be a huge hole left for me. It's very hard to imagine life without him, and I am very thankful for all the time, effort, and dedication that Tom and Krystal put into breeding and raising healthy sound dogs and making sure they are wonderful fits for each home they go to. The gift they've given me in the form of such a wonderful and amazing dog in my life is huge, and I'm very thankful for every moment we have together!" – *Ariel McGlothin, Wyoming.*





## **TORIN** (Euston)

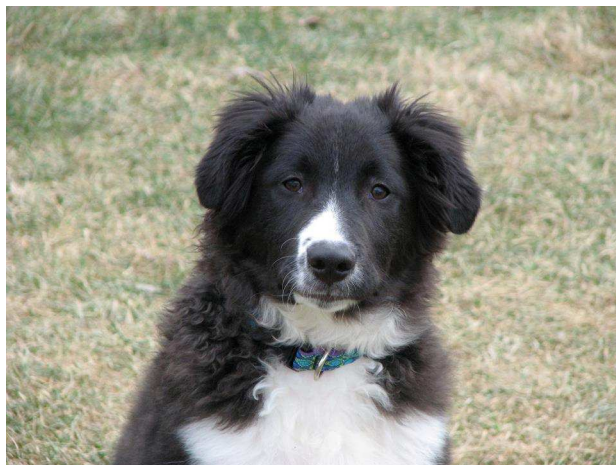
“In early 2018, my then 12 year old English Shepherd Riley was fighting cancer, and I knew what the outcome would be. He was my “heart dog,” my canine soul mate and I knew that when he passed, I would want another of these special dogs. So I began a search for natural rearing ES breeders. Not many showed up in my search, and even though we lived in Pennsylvania, I knew that Krystal and Tom were the right breeders. So I contacted Krystal and we had a couple of conversations via phone and many via email. We talked about the fact that I did not want to bring a puppy into the house while my Riley was sick. She did have a litter in February of that year, but it was too soon. In



June, shortly after my Riley passed, I contacted Krystal and she told me that Siobhan had been bred in the beginning of June. We completed the application process and we were on the list!

It was both a sad and exciting time for me, waiting for the birth of the puppies, but still grieving the loss of my heart dog, but it was mostly exciting! I decided I wanted to try some different training techniques with this new pup, so my time waiting was spent watching a lot training videos. Finally, the puppies arrived on August 4<sup>th</sup> and it was so so exciting getting those emails with pictures every week! When Krystal told me that Euston, now Torin, was her pick for us, I was elated, since he had been my favorite the whole time! Then finally, October 22, 2018, “Gotcha Day” was here and he flew from Washington to Philadelphia. We were able to watch his plane fly over each state and it was just so exciting!! He arrived totally unscathed and just came out of his crate as if to say, “Hey, are you my new mom and dad?”

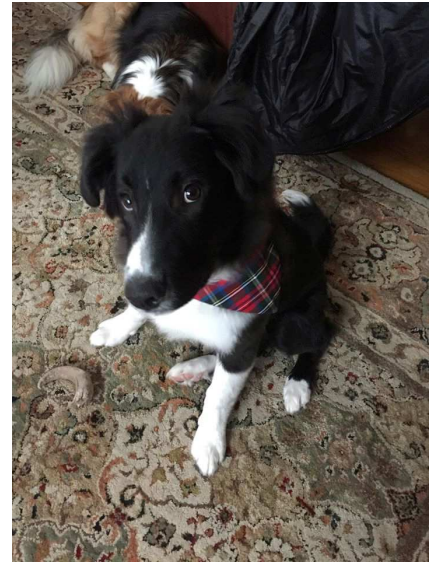
Potty training was very easy and I believe it was because Krystal started the pups with housetraining, so there was hardly any effort on our part. He also arrived essentially crate trained and I never had an issue with that ever—he was and still is always good in his crate. I started training him right



away, clicker training the day after he arrived and this smart little puppy learned very quickly and stole our hearts very quickly as well. I was already a raw feeder and in favor of no vaccines, so there was no learning curve for me there and Torin just dove right into his raw meaty bones. My husband said it was his favorite part of his day watching this little puppy munching on a large chunk of whatever raw meaty bone I was feeding him. He went through a bit of a picky time at one point and I actually started feeding

him once a day a bit earlier than I would have. A few of his other siblings were similar.

As for training challenges, I wanted to take him to training classes right away, but the place where I usually went would not let him come without either a parvo shot or a parvo titer. I tried doing short exposures at the dog park (which is a way to gently expose pups to parvo from shots that other dogs get) and I got a titer, but it was still too low. Even after talking with a holistic vet who actually recommended that I do NOT get a parvo shot for him and her offering to send a letter and talk to my trainer, my trainer still would not let him come to classes. So I found another place, but by that time, Torin was just a bit over 6 months old. When he started his first class, he was extremely reactive with the other dogs/pups during the whole 6-week class. We dealt with the reactivity for quite a while and he is definitely less reactive, but he still reacts to certain dogs while in dog class. So, that has been a considerable challenge, but he is definitely better.



pulls like crazy. So, we are working on it with our current trainer who has a Golden Retriever who is similar. So those have been the two challenges that we have had with Torin—we tease him and tell him he's about 98% good!

But boy is he smart and fast!! This boy can run when we get him out in a large area. And smart, just like my Riley, Torin is like having a small boy in the house. He learns extremely fast and almost needs to be learning it seems. These dogs are not for people who are not involved with their dogs. Some dogs are fine just lying around, but not these guys. Torin wakes up in the morning eager to start his day, looking from me to my husband as if to say, "Well, what are we going to do? I'm up and ready." He is nuts for his ball—something I think we developed and we also developed drive for toys. We use them in training as rewards and he loves them. Certain toys only come out either when we train or just when we want to play. These dogs can be very very

My Riley had a history of not always being friendly to strangers and being a bit growly, so I wanted to make sure Torin liked people. So right away when he was a puppy, we took him to many different places and asked people to pet him and often people made a fuss over him because he was so cute and well behaved. But, that seemed to be a mistake because now when he sees people, he really can't contain himself—to the point where he is absolutely nuts and wants to go see them and he







demanding! Our Torin is also a growly dog, but he growls for joy! The first time he did this was when it snowed when he was a puppy and he was just running around the yard growling for the joy of it. I don't know if any of his siblings do that, but he does. He's also a howler! He's a fairly vocal boy, like his father Fahey. Torin is a lot of dog, he is still intact and I plan to keep him that way, but he is just an interactive, nutty, silly, smart dog of action! If an English Shepherd doesn't live on a farm, he needs to be with people who are fairly active and who will include him in their lives. They require a

decent amount of exercise, play or some kind of activity where they use their minds and bodies. We live in a more urban area and have a nice sized yard, but we still need to take him to a nearby park where he can run in the field and chase his ball hard and fast. I also have him in continual dog classes and he recently just competed in his first Rally Obedience Trial. He's going to do agility as well—he will start that soon. I also plan to do scent work or nose work classes with him and I have no doubt that he will do well with that. So, for us, we need to just keep him active and learning. He knows a lot of commands and tricks—some he's been doing since the first week he was with us. Thankfully I work from home, so I am able to take breaks in the day and either play some quick ball or do some quick play-training. We actually fixed our basement up and installed a padded floor just for training and playing with Torin, so if the weather is bad or it's at night, at least we have a place to play and train. And he requires it—especially at night after his dinner, he comes flying in the house, jumping and growling because he wants to play or do something. Oh, one more thing at least Torin does, he loves to throw his toys! And I mean throw them!! We actually got him to throw his toys down the basement steps and then he runs down and gets them—that keeps him busy for a little while! But anything he plays with, he throws and he's actually done a little damage to the walls in my office the nutty boy!! English Shepherds will keep

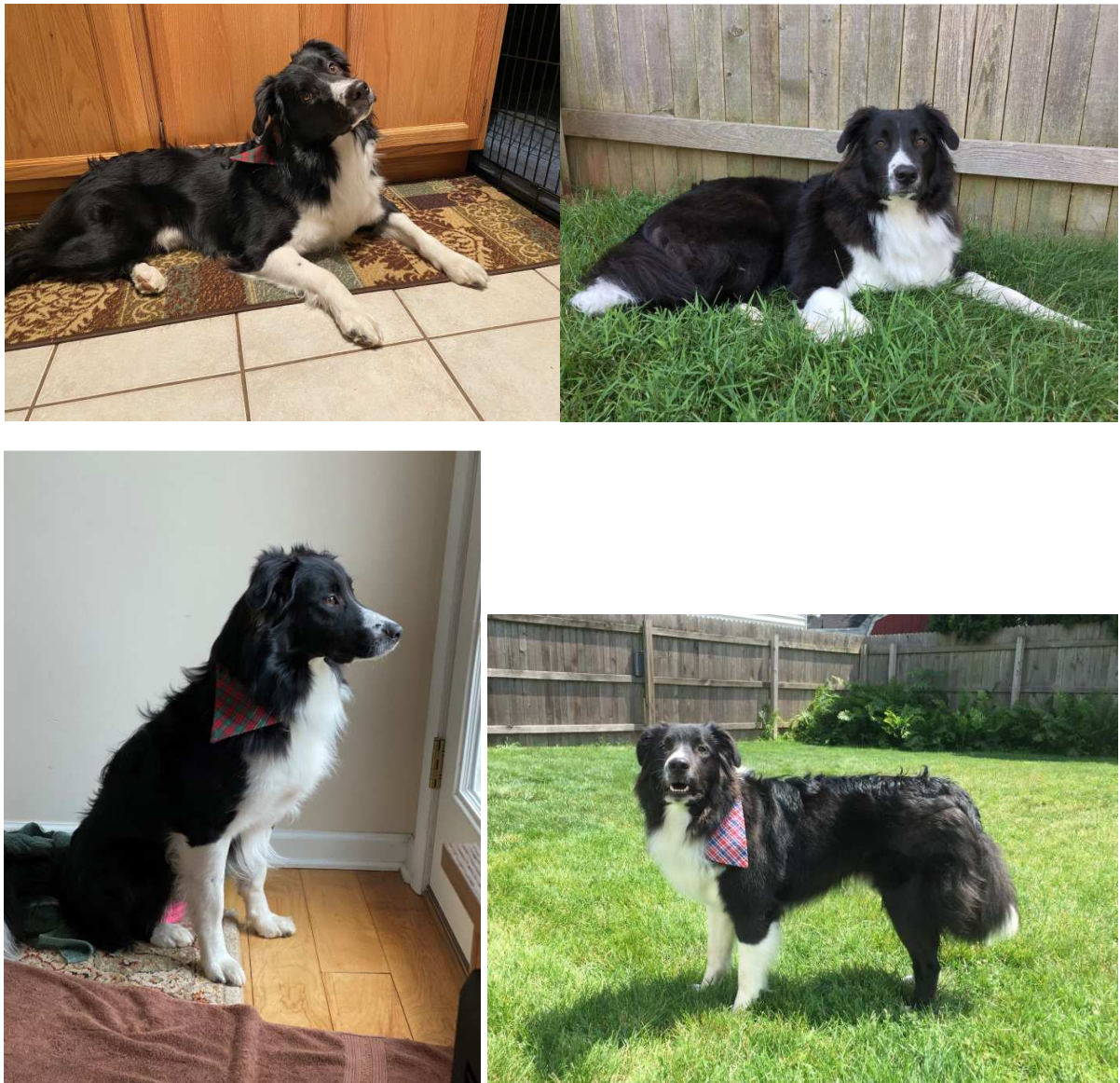


you entertained, that's for sure. There have been many nights where my husband and I just sit and watch him play by himself, throwing his toys or squeaking the heck out of a toy, then he bugs us to throw it for him or play with him. It's like watching a fireplace sometimes. Not to mention that he's incredibly handsome, so we're always looking at him!! Oh, one last thing people need to know about English



Shepherds—it's the ES pose. Yep, they like to sleep sort of half on their side and half on their back. The front half is on the side, and the back half, well, let's just say they are not modest at all!! I don't know what it is, but it seems to be an ES trait and it's pretty comical. Torin also likes lying in the "frog" position with his back legs out like a frog and when his front legs are out as well, he's over 5 feet long!! As I said, he's pretty comical and entertaining in many ways! We really love this boy that's for sure and we love having him in our lives!!!

One last thing I do need to mention—Krystal and Tom really are special, caring breeders and what they do with the puppies while in their care, to prepare them to be well adjusted dogs, is incredible. There truly are no other English Shepherd breeders out there like them!"— *Susan Roth, Pennsylvania.*





## LUCA (Gareth)

“Luca Brasi Pelkie named after the loyal but fierce character in the movie “The Godfather”, was introduced to the family in October of 2018. We chose this name for two reasons: 1. (Loyalty) we are an Italian family with roots in Italy. The character, Luca Brasi, was Veto Corleon’s most loyal and dedicated friend. He was honored to be around Vito and cherished every moment he could be around his Godfather. Our Luca, since the moment we finally found Tom and Krystal’s meeting place, is that same way. A very common trait in the



English Shepherds, Luca cherishes his time with the entire family. He is a dog who loves his people. We have a large house and he makes sure he is visiting all the children. However, his loyalty belongs to his mom and dad, Caroline and Rick; 2. (Fierceness) the second reason for naming Luca after such a character is his ability to determine when he needs to be fierce and protective. He protects our house and our yard from strangers, especially the birds high in the tree. :) A funny story to share was his ability to

protect his Caroline on the very first night we had him in our home. Caroline took him outside for his first “potty” training around midnight. My 21-year-old son wanted to meet the little guy, came over to visit at this strange hour. He followed the two outside just minutes after they were in the back yard. Our Luca Brasi, on day one, turned to protect his Caroline with a loud bark and a fierce snarl. It was great to hear about our 6-foot 1-inch son

backtracking because of a 12-week old puppy. Luca is not going to let a stranger sneak up on his new mamma. The best part about Luca is his ability to determine friend or foe based on our actions. Caroline quickly greeted Ethan that night and just as quick Luca calmed and greeted him too with a wagging tail and a few licks to the face.

Luca is the ultimate family dog. He knows he can play rough with dad, but is gentle with the kids and mom. With aging grandparents in the house as well, he knows to be extremely gentle with them for their balance is not the best. He will give every member of the family attention and with busy teenager schedules, he welcomes everyone home with a smile, a toy, and some love. There is no barking at a doorbell but he is always the first to greet and make sure the person at the door is safe.



Feeding him a raw food diet has been the best experience for Luca. He is a long-haired shepherd which we believed would shed a tremendous amount. By teaming up with local ranchers, hunters, and a meat market, we are finding that feeding him raw meat is not a bank buster. More importantly, we find his coat shiny, soft, and non-shedding. Luca is extremely healthy and it shows with his muscle definition. I wish I could be as toned. He is a strong and active dog but also calms when he finds me watching my beloved Seahawks.



Like most English Shepherds, Luca is very easily trained. Potty training took no time at all as did learning to walk on his leash. Luca makes us look like official dog trainers with his ability to stay, sit and of course when the girls taught him to “high five.” He wants to learn new things and I hope soon I will have the time to work with him more to fine-tune his skills.

Luca has been the ideal dog for our teenager filled family. He is very active and loves to be in the yard. He enjoys his toys, the neighbor dogs, and time with his people. He is genuine and caring but we have seen a worker’s instinct. When the nieces and nephews come to visit or have large family gatherings (we are Italians and it happens often) we find Luca wanting to be under everyone’s feet and trying to

gently herd his people into one room. The keyword gently. We have been blessed with an infant in the family. Luca instinctively knew his role and how to interact with our new baby. He is as gentle as ever and makes sure the little one is tucked in, warm and safe.



Finally, Luca is a talker. This is not barking. This is talking. He voices his excitement through many different sounds. Some happy growling, some happy whining, and the best of all is when he tries to do both at the same time. Luca is the ultimate communicator. Sometimes, I think he is trying to train me. :) But all the sounds come when he is happy and excited.

Highland Glenn English Shepherds, Krystal and Tom, and all the attention they put into their dogs have made Luca a valuable addition to our family. The training, the philosophy, and the guidance after we have taken Luca home are so reassuring. I would recommend Highland Glenn and their dogs to every and all people



looking for an English Shepherd or any type of dog. Luca Brasi Pelkie, a valuable member of the Pelkie family.” – *Rick Pelkie, Washington.*





## IVAN (Fearghus)

“These are a few things we learned about English Shepherds, and learned about Ivan in particular.

We knew ES's were an emotionally sensitive breed, but living with one is quite different from reading about this trait. Sensitivity does not mean fearful, or cowardly. It meant, for Ivan, a strong sense of justice. And, a strong need to make amends if we were sharp in our tone with him. If he had been scolded by one of us, the other would know-Ivan's demeanor would be pathetically forlorn until we all made up.

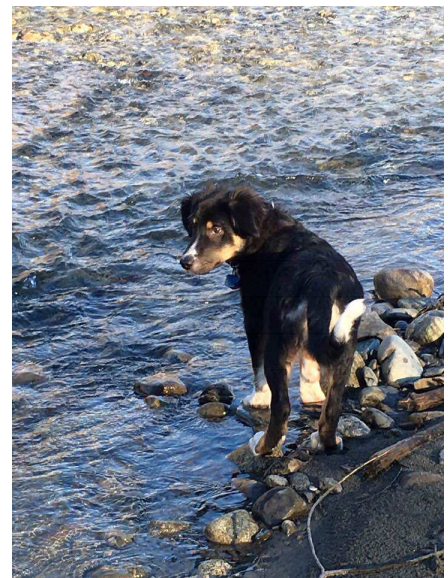


Another trait that Ivan had is the need for ongoing interaction with his people. When folks say a dog “needs more attention” this is actually a different need from that, in our experience anyway. Ivan didn't need just attention. He needed attentiveness—and for us to be emotionally present. If my husband was playing fetch with him and talking on the phone at the same time, Ivan would pester him until he was given undivided attentiveness. Ivan wanted to be emotionally connected. He wanted eye contact. He would position himself to peer into the windows or doors to keep me in his sight if I were indoors while he was outside. This trait was one that pulled at my heartstrings. And it still does.

I've heard that ES's bond more closely with one person in a family, but for us it seemed he had a great capacity to love each of us equally. Merlin was more of the rough-housing buddy and I was the consistency and rule enforcer. Most of the time Ivan wanted to mind, no matter who asked him to. Sometimes he chose not to... but overall he was very willing to try to please.

Ivan wasn't a wanderer. He liked being home and around his people. He was incredibly affectionate and gave lovely hugs. Seriously. ES dogs lean into you and bury their heads under your arms or around your neck. It's delicious...he was insistent that he received belly rubs as payback however. Ivan wasn't a martyr. 😊

Ivan would argue. Literally. His mouth would contort in a talking motion and he would let out a funny yodeling sort of protest when I told him no. It was hilarious to see. It wasn't







loud...but it was his way of talking back like a kid would when they didn't get their way.

As far as feeding, we had never tried raw-feeding but since Krystal and Tom suggested it and gave us good solid reasons as to why it was best, we did so. And frankly we would never feed a dog any other way now. It's better for them by far, less waste, less cleanup from poop, and Ivan was satisfied- so he never begged for handouts. Absolutely the best way to feed a dog.

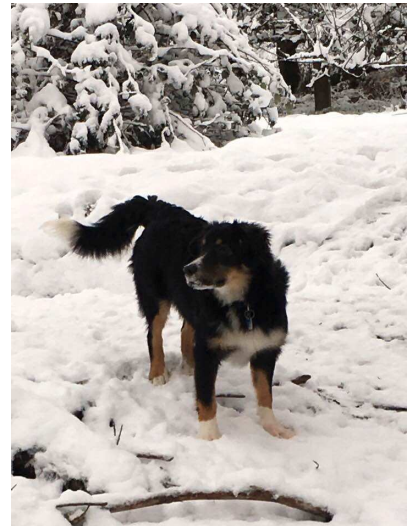
As far as breeders go, you may notice my writing about Ivan is presented in past-tense. We made the difficult decision to pursue another home for Ivan after we had him over a year. Our reasons were due to a high-risk medical condition one of our smallest grandchildren was diagnosed with. We had to keep Ivan put away

every time the children arrived, which Ivan did not understand... nor did the children. It was terribly stressful for everyone. We dreaded the thought of having to re-home Ivan and were also worried about what Tom and Krystal might think because, even though we had tried desperately, we felt we had failed at providing what Ivan needed. But it didn't go that way. The sincere guidance we were shown by them when we were first learning about the breed became sincere guidance to help find a good home for our Ivan- and a sympathetic understanding of how difficult it was for us to do so. Tom and Krystal are incredibly knowledgeable breeders, but more importantly they are incredibly kind human beings.

In closing, we will probably never own another English Shepherd. Not because they aren't wonderful dogs, but because they ARE. They will own a person and insist on loving them with their whole being. Ivan was a once in a lifetime dog for us. We know we

could never replace him and a special place in our hearts will continue to hold our love for him. With some things, that is enough."

- Andrea Halverson, Washington.









## BEVIN (Bevin)

“Bevin is simply an extraordinary individual. Her training is going well, she loves learning and working. She is not a timid dog and really enjoys learning new things. I have to come up with things to teach her and how to teach her. She is off leash and she is working on some stuff responding to the whistle. We are working on “come bye” and “away”, it’s coming along.

I am fortunate there is a raw dog food processor a few miles away and she is doing real well on her food.

It’s almost been a year since I picked Bevin up; she is remarkable companion. We have not been apart at all, not one day apart. Here are some photos of Bevin. It’s always easy to take good photos of her.” – Arto Djerdjerian, Canada.







## TIKA (Cadhla)

“So bringing home our new puppy Tika from Highland Glenn Ranch was quite an experience in and of itself. It was an amazing drive to get there (SF Bay Area to WA near the border of Canada), and it was the coldest camping we have ever done in our Vanagon. It was great to see Kayla [from the Fahey/Ailagh 2013 litter] our first English Shepherd, get to see her mom and siblings again at the ranch; it was like seeing a cute little family reunion.

When we got Tika home from the trip, the two dogs didn't really get along. Krystal told us sometimes it takes a few weeks. As if on schedule, we had a road trip planned to go to

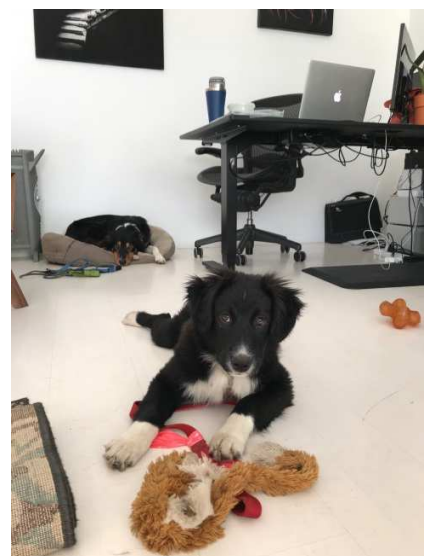


Southern California with the family and dogs. It was on this trip that our two English Shepherds learned to play with each other. It was a huge relief to me, as I was worried that we were going to have two dogs that didn't get along with each other.

So now that Tika was integrated into the family it really made us appreciate the work we had done with Kayla. We noticed how well she behaved when compared to this silly new puppy full of enthusiasm that ran amuck and barked at new dogs and people she met.

Kayla has been fetching Frisbee's and balls since we got her, so we thought we would train Tika to do the same. The only thing she was interested in was herding Kayla as she fetched various things. She would run after her barking, herding with her body, and making a huge racket, then running back to us with a huge smile on her face like she did exactly what she was supposed to do. Kayla wasn't sure what to make of it, and learned to fetch and be herded at the same time. So over time I have been working with both of them and finally got Tika to love fetching a ball, while I kept Kayla with the Frisbee's. Now I can get Tika focused on the ball fetching, and then Kayla can run off catching her Frisbee's. It's a great way to get them both all worn out.

Tika is a little love bug. While Kayla is more aloof and doesn't show any physical affection except by being close to you, Tika will lick your face and almost sit on your lap if you let her. She is the one I can count on to always be at my side while I do the farm chores. Kayla will check-in and make sure everything is ok, while Tika will stay by my side the entire time. She also does this





when I am just walking around the house, always at my side, never wanting to miss out on anything.

I bring both of the dogs to my office with me on most days, other days they stay at home and play with the preschoolers we have at our home during the afternoons. The kids love to throw Tika balls, and she fetches them with eagerness, always bringing it back and dropping it in their laps, full of slobber. They love it!

Both dogs also do a lot of camping and hiking with the family and can't get enough of the outdoors. Tika is hilarious, as she will run up ahead, but won't go out of vocal range, and comes back frequently to check on her "pack". Both of them are super silly together now and love playing and wrestling with each other. They are both very "mouthy" and to the untrained eye seem to be very aggressive with their mouthing and teeth-baring and growling. But we know it's all in the name of love and they never hurt each other.

Tika still has some things she is working on, like being calm when greeting both humans and dogs (she gets so excited!), and recall when she sees other dogs and is off-leash. But she is a quick learner and we love her very much. We can't imagine our family without her and look forward to many more adventures with her.” – *Walker Family, California.*







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