



Pam Huson of Beamsville is looking for a "forever home" for a Shetland Sheepdog named Sasha. The dog, which is about 8 or 10 years old, had been living in the basement of a home elsewhere in Niagara for years, and suffered a lot of physical abuse before being rescued and brought to Beamsville.

## Sheltie rescued from years of abuse

BY TERRY McNAMEE  
Staff Reporter

Sasha the Sheltie seems to have dim memories of being loved, but her recent experiences are far from loving.

This week, the little dog was rescued from an abusive home after years of confinement in a basement where she endured beatings and torture. She was never allowed outside, and was often left alone for up to two weeks at a time.

Over the weekend, a neighbour agreed to take the dog, and on Monday brought Sasha to Beamsville resident Pam Huson.

Ms. Huson already has three elderly pets and can't keep Sasha, so the dog is now at the Small Breed Animal Shelter in Niagara Falls to await adoption.

She said it took about two hours for Sasha to trust her enough to come over for a cuddle. But once that trust was

established, Sasha's true nature was revealed.

"She loves to be loved," Ms. Huson said.

Sasha is probably between 8 and 10 years old and is either a purebred or near-purebred Shetland Sheepdog.

Sasha clearly was cared for by someone at some time in her life. She responds to her name, can shake a paw and, once she's sure you aren't a threat, will roll over for a tummy rub or cuddle up to be petted, as long as you are sitting or kneeling. Anyone standing over her sends her jumping back and barking.

She seems to like children, but she is afraid of men, since the man who owned her before abused her repeatedly.

Sasha has burned whiskers, severe bruises on her body, a badly inflamed ear and possible broken ribs from being repeatedly kicked and beaten.

"She has cigarette burns on the

belly," Ms. Huson said.

Until recently, the neighbours was unaware the man even had a dog. The dog was rescued after the owner threatened to kill her.

"He said he was going to shoot it for Mother's Day," Mr. Huson said. At that point, a neighbour stepped in and offered to take the dog. The next morning, Sasha was found tied outside, and she was quickly taken to Beamsville before she could come to more harm.

Until Monday, Sasha had not been outside in years, and her eyes are very sensitive to sunlight. But aside from her injuries and a slight case of fleas, she appears to be in fairly good health. She will be examined and treated by a veterinarian while at the shelter.

If you interested in giving Sasha a loving home, call Pam Huson at 905-563-6592, email her at [phuson@sympatico.ca](mailto:phuson@sympatico.ca) or call the shelter at 905-356-7857.