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May 2011

"The Ones that Need Us Most"

A Tribute to General Sherman

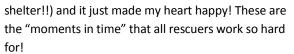
"I spend quite a bit of time walking the kennel aisles at my local shelter and it sure is a mix of emotions. I see quite a few happy jumpy smiling faces...the cute puppies and the "nothin' gets me down" dogs that shelter life does not affect. But then I also see HW positive dogs, shy/scared dogs, sick dogs, and even senior dogs...these are the guys that need us most. We are lucky enough to have a local shelter that focuses on adoptions. This means the cute, "easy" dogs will probably get adopted straight from the shelter. So, this allows us to focus on the dogs that need us most. I was walking the aisles about a month ago and came across one such guy, General. Here is his story (WARNING: you may need a Kleenex).



General was a ~10 year old GSD boy with a dirty matted coat and stiff aching bones. He just looked like a dog that had been

someone's "yard dog" until it was time to move away and it wasn't worth trying to take him along...so off to the shelter he went. He was confused by the concrete floors and the barking dogs and such a drastic change in environment, but when you called him and extended a hand, he was content to come over and just lean in for a nice pat on the head. At that point, I KNEW we had to help him! So the plea went out and GSRA came through. Before he even knew what happened, we scooped him

up and he was off to his foster home.
When I picked him up and placed him in the back of my car, he had the biggest smile on his face (one I never saw in the



As General gained a foster home, he also gained a new name...General Sherman, or Sherman for short! Sherman came into a home with 5 dogs, 6 cats, and 2 teenage humans with friends who come and go all the time. No problemo though....he adjusted like a champ! We knew Sherman was HW positive, but what we didn't know was that he had also contracted a severe case of kennel cough, but after 3 weeks of meds and love from his foster mommy, Cory, and family he was well on his way to recovery. He started to feel better and his true personality started to shine. He had all the GSD personality traits we love so much. And, some of the ones we don't. He LOVED to herd the cats. Drove his foster mom and her cats Crazy! Despite his name, he was a Southern Gentleman. Every time his foster mom got up, he would get up too and escort her wherever she was going. A Velcro dog for sure! He filled and surpassed all the expectations we could have ever had for him!

(Continued on page 2)



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(continued from page 1)

Then, as quickly as he had come into our lives, he was unfortunately taken from us. As a result of his kennel cough and HWs, he developed bloat. He died peacefully in his foster mom's arms. As much as we miss him, we take comfort in knowing that for the short time he was with us, he finally got to know what it's like to be a housedog and a true member of a family. His last days were probably the best days that he ever had.



Sometimes we don't know why the world works as is does, but we must find faith that there is a rhyme and reason for all things. It was simply time for Sherman's happy ending. Happy endings come in all forms even though they may not seem so happy for us. Sherman is now in a place where he feels no pains and aches of this world.

It is important that we continue to help the dogs the "need us the most". I wanted to share Sherman's story with all of you so you could know him like we knew him. He was only with us for a short time, but he will always be remembered. I encourage you to open your home to a dog that "needs you the most". They might take a little more work and there's no guarantee of their outcomes, but there is no doubt that you will make a difference in their life and they will certainly make a difference in yours. I will continue to walk the kennel aisles looking for the ones that need us the most, knowing that you are out there to guide them to their happy ending!"



If General Sherman's story touched you and you would like to become a foster home for a GSD in need, please visit our website today and fill out a foster home application.

The more fosters we have, the more dogs we can help!

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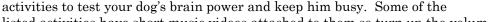


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Busy Day Activities for Your Dog

Are you looking for some new activities for your dog to challenge their thinking prowess or just some games to

burn off some steam? We've all seen clips on the news that feature local zoos/habitats giving the animals special treats and things to do to enhance their daily lives....the gorillas and elephants are given watermelons and pumpkins to investigate and eat....the polar bears are given fish frozen in blocks of ice....the wolves are given balls and boxes to play with.....why not take this idea of "enriching" and shake up your dog's daily routine with something new and interesting to investigate and explore? A dog that is kept mentally challenged and stimulated is a much happier, healthier dog. Below are some tried and true



listed activities have short music videos attached to them so turn up the volume and enjoy!

<u>Jug puzzle</u> - hang a tea jug in a tree with a little kibble inside - your dog has to figure out how to get the kibble out of the jug. http://gallery.me.com/ahearnwoodworks#100198

<u>Flirtpole</u> - get a lunge whip (readily available at Tractor Supply or any equine supply store), tie a flat (stuffless) toy to the end and let your dog chase around the yard. Great way to teach "catch" and "leave it" once the toy is caught. http://gallery.me.com/ahearnwoodworks#100185

<u>Blow bubbles</u> - they now make meat scented bubble soap for added interest to this game <u>Enrichment box</u> - take any cardboard box, make sure it has no metal shipping staples in it, smear some peanut butter in a couple of places inside and outside, put a handful of kibble in the box along with a new chewie, tape the box shut and toss in the yard for your dog to check out, tear into and explore. Pick up the cardboard shreds after.

<u>Long sheets of wrapping paper</u> - my dogs totally get into running around with 5ft long streamers of wrapping paper - they chase each other, tear the paper, shred the paper, lots of good crinkly fun. Of course, pick up the paper shreds after...or if they are the brown biodegradable paper - just mow over them on the next lawnmower day

<u>Pasta hang</u> - boil up a pot of spaghetti and hang the strands around in the yard for your dog to find and eat (provided it's ok for your dog to eat carbs!)

Frozen ice cubes of chicken or beef broth for your dog to play with and munch.

Frozen Kong - fill with peanut butter and freeze

<u>Scents</u> - so many interesting things you could smear on logs, grass, an old quilt laid out in the yard - vanilla, cinnamon, coconut, mustard etc. even the perfume samples from magazines make for some good scent rolling - and your dog will smell pretty afterwards to boot!

<u>Dog puzzles</u> - lots of store bought puzzles available in all price ranges. Check out Kela solving a puzzle that is our take on an old classic. http://gallery.me.com/ahearnwoodworks#100189

These are just a few ideas for you to try out. There are many enrichment sites on the web with more great activities listed. If you have some neat things that you do to keep your dogs entertained, please feel free to pass them back to us! We are always looking for new "stuff" for our dogs to do!

I read about a lady who had landscaped her whole yard with "enrichment stations" for her dogs. She had landscape boulders for them to climb and lay on, a digging sand pit, a bungee rope for them to tug at, an inground splash pond, a raised platform for them to hang out on and so forth. You might not want to get that complex but enlivening your dog's daily routine could be as simple as tossing an apple out in the yard for them to play with and eat. **Happy Enrichment!** ~Lesa A., GSRA Volunteer



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AKC Canine Good Citizen Program: Help Your Dog Become a Good Community Member

By Tom Steinbacher, CDT

As a professional dog trainer, I often hear the same response from first time clients when I ask what they would like to achieve with their training. None express expectations of a perfect dog, but all would really like to have one that is under control at home and in public. Most are not familiar with the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program, which is the perfect way for most owners to get that controlled dog they are looking for.

So what exactly is the CGC program? Canine Good Citizen is a designation that dogs can attain through a test administered by an AKC authorized evaluator. Successful completion of the test requires the dog and its owner to receive a passing grade in ten areas of behavior. These ten areas are designed to simulate everyday situations that a dog would encounter. They include:

- Accepting a friendly stranger
- Sitting politely for petting
- Accepting grooming and examination
- Walking on a loose leash
- Walking through a crowd of people
- Sit and Down on command and Stay in Place
- Coming when called
- Acting politely around other dogs
- Confidence in the face of distractions
- Accepting supervised separation

The AKC provides a participant's handbook that describes the expected behavior in each of these ten areas along with training tips to achieve them. Most owners will master some of the areas on their own but look to professional training to reach them all. Down, stay, and come are typically the most difficult commands, but can be mastered with consistent effort.

By far, the most common problem I see is dogs that lack the social skills to be around other dogs and people.

Almost always this is a result of the dog's lack of contact at an early age with dogs and people outside the immediate family. Early socialization is the key to preventing of this type of behavior.

If it is not done early, dogs will have not learned the appropriate social skills and will often react badly when placed in social settings. Because the dog reacts badly, the owner becomes uncomfortable putting the dog in social settings, which only makes the behavior worse. Group training classes are an easy way to get your dog accustomed to being around other people and dogs in a controlled environment with a professional trainer that can assist you in easing your dog into the social environment.

Letting your trainer know that you are interested in taking the CGC test will allow your trainer to work specifically with you to prepare your dog in the ten test areas. Certified CGC evaluators in your area can be found on the AKC website www.akc.com.

Currently, over 39 states have adopted proclamations recognizing the AKC's Canine Good Citizen Program. It is quickly becoming the standard in evaluating appropriate dog behavior and is readily available in most communities.

Finally, once CGC certified, consider participating in Therapy Dog International certification. This program builds on the ten key CGC areas and adds five additional area specific to therapy dog work. Therapy dogs visit places such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and specialty care programs in your community, providing therapeutic friendship like only "man's best friend" can do. For more information, check out www.tdi-dog.org.

***Editor's note: Tom generously offers a free private training session to owners of newly adopted GSRA dogs and a 50% discount on CGC classes and testing. The free training offer must be redeemed within 30 days of finalizing the adoption, while the CGC offer can be

redeemed anytime within the first year. Tom lives and trains in Bahama, NC, a few miles north of Durham.

www.obeyandprotect.com



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Q. How did you first find out about GSRA?

A: Originally my mom wanted to foster a dog for the Rescue about seven years ago but GSRA is such an amazing match maker that five minutes after receiving our foster dog, Sammie, we knew that she was never leaving our house! This was our first encounter with the



German Shepherd Rescue and we kept in touch with Andrea (Sammie's foster Mom) for all that time and have had such an amazing experience with everyone involved!

Q. When did you start volunteering/fostering for GSRA?

A: My first act of volunteering with the Rescue was to foster a dog, actually! I have always had a passion for caring for and, particularly, training dogs so Andrea decided that being a foster parent would be my best contribution to the Rescue. My first foster dog was a puppy named Ace who was hit by a car and, in the nicest terms that I can use, left to die by his owner (who hit him with the car in the first place!). He was a wonderful dog and I still love him to pieces even though he has been living with his forever family for almost a year now! However, I think they like to make sure that you are serious about your job as a foster by giving you a puppy as the first one because, man, was he work! :) Fostering takes some time and energy but the feeling at the end when he or she has transformed into a well mannered, healthy, happy dog and they are moving on with their new life with a family and you know that it is all because of the hard work that you put into it, that makes everything worth it twenty times over! **** Editor's note: We need to mention here that this first foster that Erika took on had had bilateral hip surgery and needed a significant amount of physical therapy in order to learn to walk and run like a healthy dog. Erika has a pool and she bought Lil' Ace his

own life jacket and taught him to swim as a way of strengthening his back leg muscles. Likewise, she made sure he got to every vet appointment for his regular check ups, even though she didn't have a license at the time. She employed the help of her sister, her mom...whoever was available to make sure that Ace got the care he needed. To see Ace today you would never know of his traumatic past. That is largely due to the amazing work Erika did in rehabbing him!

Q. What were some of the questions or concerns you had before volunteering to foster?

A: I really didn't know what to expect when my first foster was about to arrive! I had trained dogs before and watch just about every dog training show on the planet so, in theory, I knew what to do but it all changes when you are standing there with a puppy in your arms and a confused look on your face! :) Thankfully I had a good instinct and a strong support system within the Rescue! I think my biggest questions before hand, though, were things like when and how should I introduce the new foster dog to my dog, and when can I trust the dog to have free roam during the day? Or, during his first couple

of weeks, why won't he stop barking at night when I put him in the crate? And, how

many times does such a small dog need to pee in one night?!:) But all joking aside, it is easier than expected in some ways and harder in other ways but when it comes down to it, I always had the support of the other Rescue members if I ever needed anything which made it an enjoyable experience all around! I recently did my first home visit check and I knew briefly what I was supposed

to do but I was a bit unsure as to what questions to ask or what to look for. I had no

idea what to do if I didn't think it was a suitable home for one of our dogs but thankfully I was matched up with another volunteer and we went through the process together, learning as we went! I am sure that each time I go I will learn something new but I never fear that I won't be able to do something because there is always back-up!

Q. How many foster dogs have you had?

A: I am on my 5th foster dog!

(CONTINED ON PAGE 6)



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(continued from page 5)

Q. How accurate has GSRA been in matching you up with dogs to foster? (Be totally honest!)

A: GSRA has done an amazing job matching my dog Sammie and myself with the perfect foster dogs! Each one has a unique story and journey. They have all had their own individual quirks and personalities! They have also all had some kind of issue that I had to work through with them and it has been a learning experience throughout and a great opportunity to work on my training skills with different types of dogs! Each and every dog with which I have worked has touched me in a certain way and has left an imprint on my heart that will follow me forever! I have had all kinds of dogs from puppies to 12yr olds and shy dogs to outgoing peopleloving dogs and squirrel-chasers to treat-lovers and everything in between. As I continue to foster I know that I will have the opportunity to live with dogs with all different personalities and no two dogs will ever be alike! So far the Rescue has been 5 for 5 in the match-up department and I'm sure they will continue to pick the right foster dog for my situation!

Q. How would you describe the first week with a new foster dog?

A: Complete chaos! That's all I can say! I receive the dog rough and unpolished and the first week certainly shows it! The dogs simply need time to adjust to living in a house with rules and a routine but once they learn the routine and you train them, they blend perfectly with your family. Until then, it is complete insanity but joyful and wonderful insanity at that! It is definitely hard work but the progress is highly visible and quickly fulfilling so it is very

hard to get discouraged throughout the process. I always take comfort in the knowledge that the first week is the hardest and if you can make it past that time, it can only get better!

Q. How do you decide who is going to adopt your foster dog?

A: It's very hard to describe the process of working with a family and choosing the right home because there is no formula or guideline on how to find the perfect home. When you spend every day with a dog for a couple of months, you get to know how they work and what kind of family would fit them the best. At any one event I talk to a vast majority of people looking to adopt a dog and some people I just know would not work with my foster and others I think would be a great match. The first thing I look for is enthusiasm. If a family takes the initiative to fill out a form and ask about my dog then I know that they are serious about adopting a dog. After that it's hard to explain my process but it mainly consists of

observing the interaction between my foster dog and the future family. If they both seem to work well together and have a connection, then that is a good sign. For the most part I just have a feeling about a family that tells me they are the right one but, in the end, my foster dog makes the final decision!

Q. Have you found it hard to send a foster dog on its way to its new home?

A: Surprisingly I have found it quite easy to bring a foster dog to its new home! The hardest part for me is the week before I bring him but I know that he is about to get adopted. The anticipation of a dog leaving me forever is challenging but once I see the look on both the new family's faces and on the dog's face when we arrive, all my sadness completely vanishes! The sheer joy that I create in adopting out a dog makes giving him up totally worth it! Out of the entire process of fostering a dog, my absolute favorite part is the adoption process because that happy ending completes my objective from the beginning. All the work that I did throughout my time with the dog was in order for him to find his forever home and start a new life with a loving family so accomplishing that is more powerful than any longing that I might have in leaving a foster.

Q. Do you keep in touch with the people who adopted your foster dogs?

A: I have kept in touch with the majority of the people who adopted dogs from me! Little Ace, my first foster, attends almost every event so I am able to see him quite often and it is wonderful to see him blossom with his family! I've also gotten emails or cards from a couple of them and recently received a picture of my latest foster dog relaxing on his new back porch! I love it when the family sends pictures

or keeps in touch in any way so that I can be a part of their happy ending! We in the German Shepherd Rescue work very hard to insure that our adopters have a good experience with our rescue and we do not stop working with them after they adopt a dog. They all know that five years later they could come to me for help and I would be right there because once you join the GSRA family, you are in for life! I can certainly attest to this because we adopted our first dog and kept in touch and I didn't start volunteering until seven years later!

Q. What would you say to someone who is interested in fostering, but isn't quite sure it is something they or their family can handle?

A: I will warn you that you should be aware that once you start fostering you cannot stop its so addicting! Each time I adopt out a foster, the period in between foster dogs has gotten smaller and smaller because I can't stand not having a foster dog in the house! (Continued on page 7)





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(continued from page 6)

Before you start fostering, though, you want to thoroughly think it through and assure that you have the time and energy to take on this project. Plan out who will do the feeding, walking, etc. and when in your daily routine will these things be accomplished. It takes a lot of patience, time,

and effort but every single thing you do is rewarded by progress and doggy kisses! If you know that you are willing to do the work than I would highly recommend fostering a dog with us! It's a highly entertaining venture as well as a satisfying job! No matter what you do with GSRA you will be accepted and loved by this family and you will enjoy every minute of it!

~Eríca G. Proud GSRA Foster





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Hot Spots

"After living with a Shepherd for 5 years who gets lick sores and hot spots on his legs, I was at the end of my rope with no resolution in sight. I bandaged his legs, he ate the bandage. I put medicine, gauze and surgical tape on his leg, he ate that too. I put the ugly collar on him, he got mad and deliberately banged it into my legs along with everyone else's. While wearing the collar his sores would heal but as soon as I would take the collar off, he would go right back to licking his legs.

I happened to stop at a feed and tack store one day and was just looking around and asking a lot of questions about various remedies. I finally purchased one and took it home hoping it would work on Toby's legs...and did it ever!

It is called Sulfodene First Aid Skin Medication. It is without doubt the nastiness smelling stuff I have ever smelled!! I put it on Toby's legs and he had a fit. It stung and it stunk to the high heavens. Within 4 days the sores were healed with no more licking though!

Sulfodene is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (NADA #5-236) and is formulated to be effective as an aid in the treatment of certain skin inflammations in dogs. It is recommended specifically as an aid for hot spots and moist dermatitis. Also Sulfodene is an effective first aid for scrapes, itching, hair loss, redness and abrasions. It is fairly inexpensive and can be purchased on-line at varies pet product sites, as well as Amazon."

Sincerely,

Joan H. GSRA Volunteer



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GSRA is pleased to announce its participation in the H.E.A.L. Program (Helping Every Animal Live Better) with *The Pet Pantry* located in Apex, NC. The Pet Pantry is a local company that provides 100% Natural, Holistic dog and cat foods. Every product is all-natural and made with the superior quality of human-grade meats, vitamin-rich grains, vegetables and fruits. They do not use by-products, fillers, sugars, soy, chemicals, wheat or corn gluten and their food is free of chemical preservatives, artificial flavors, pesticides, antibiotics and hormones.

Too often we hear about pet food recalls from brands that use imported ingredients from China or cheaper, unhealthy ingredients.
Unfortunately, much of the commercial pet food found in stores compromise true nutritional value for higher profits. These cheaper foods claim to be of "high quality" without regard to the ingredients in their food. Pet foods that merely meet the minimum government requirements are not the best you can provide for your pet.

Each ingredient selected for use in The Pet Pantry foods are chosen to promote the overall health and well being of your dog or cat. If all that isn't enough to make you try it, they offer FREE delivery (to a large part of the Triangle and the Triad) and their prices are better than most of the comparable food found in retail stores.

When you buy your dog or cat food from The Pet Pantry, choose German Shepherd Rescue and Adoptions as your rescue organization and we will receive 7% of every \$1 you spend for as long as you are a customer. Now THAT's food for thought!

The Pet Pantry has been delivering premium pet foods to tens of thousands of satisfied customers (and pets) for over 6 years. Please visit www.feedyourpets.com for more information on The Pet Pantry's products and to get a free sample delivered right to your front door. Why not support a great local company that is supporting GSRA?!

******Many thanks to Jodie D for setting
GSRA up as a beneficiary to this
program!******

The Pet Pantry

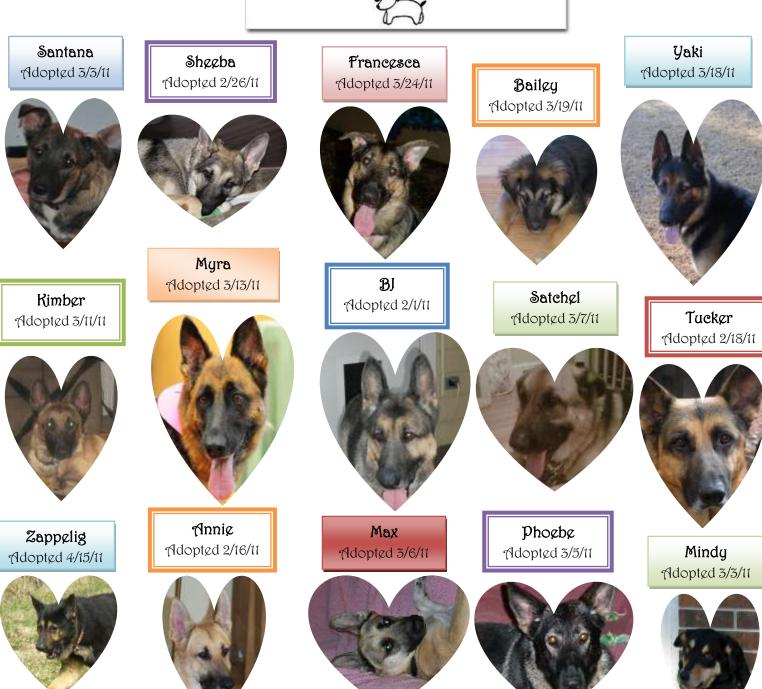
Cats CRAVE it. Dogs DEVOUR it.
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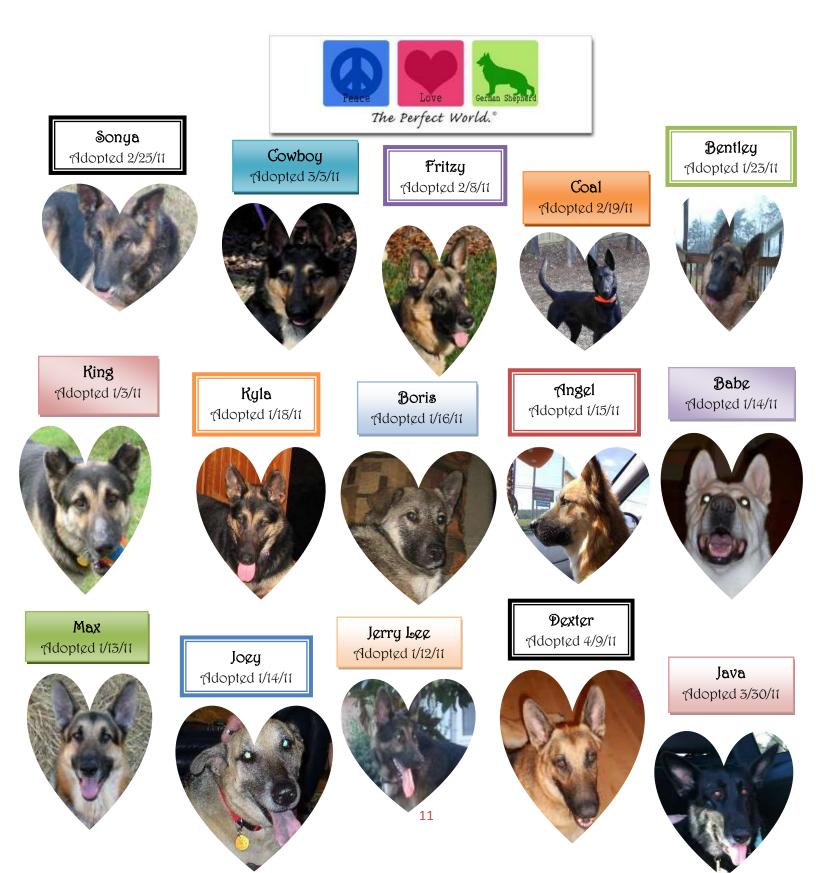
True Love Is Rescued



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Nicholas Adopted 2-22-11



Rocky
Adopted 2-7-11



Ranger Adopted 2/8/11



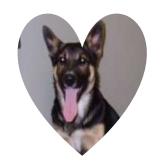
Caesar Adopted 1-21-11



Pelgado Adopted 2/11/11



Zeva Adopted 3/19/11



As you can see, 2011 is off to a great start! With your help we can make this the best year yet for GSRA! New volunteers are always welcomed and there are many different ways you can help us make a difference. Go online now and fill out our volunteer app... We'd love to have you on our team!!

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BUSINESS

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With over 37 years of experience, K9 Solutions builds lasting, empowering relationships the canine way for mutual understanding and communications resulting in well-mannered canines and happy owners. K9 Solutions offers group classes, private training at your home, and in-home training at their home to save you time. And we do specialize in aggression.

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If you have an ad you'd like to place in the next classified section, or a story you'd like to share for a future issue, please feel free to email the editor, Amy, at myshepherdsrock@yahoo.com.

I am always open to suggestions of articles you would like to see in future editions as well...

Remember, it is **YOUR** newsletter!! Hope you have enjoyed this edition. ©



BUSINESS

Shop to stop Pet Overpopulation!

100 % of ReTails net profits support AnimalKind's program THE \$20 Fix and the SpayNC Helpline. Both programs support the prevention of unwanted liters of kittens and puppies that end up in area shelters. THE \$20 Fix provides low income families in Wake, Durham, Orange, Person and Caswell counties the opportunity to get their pet altered for just \$20. The SpayNC helpline provides information for other statewide spay/neuter options.

The thrift shop, ReTails is open for shopping Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM and 1-5 PM on Sunday. Tax deductible donations of new or gently used items are accepted up until one hour before shopping hours. ReTails sales calendar is available at our website animalkind.org. ReTails hold a Clean Sweep Sale the last Sunday of every month when everything in the shop is at half price.

The next Clean Sweep is scheduled for May 29.

FREE 100% Home Financing Workshop!

Thursday, May 19th, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM 900 Ridgefield Drive, Suite 90 Raleigh, NC 27609

100% Financing Lives! Know your options in financing! You can still get into a home with no money down.

- Come & join us for an eye opening session on recent changes in the real estate/financing world
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- Learn about the Pros and Cons of buying a home & the steps involved to take advantage of this excellent market
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Call today, seating is limited!

Classified

IN OTHER RESCUE NEWS....



The Coalition to Unchain Dogs is a local, non-profit, volunteer based organization dedicated to improving the welfare of dogs living outdoors on chains by building free fences and providing free veterinary care to chained dogs in our community. To continue our efforts we will be hosting our 2nd annual Fashion Unchained fundraising event on **Saturday, May 21st from 7pm until 10pm** at Artspace in downtown Raleigh. So put on your best cocktail attire and join us! This charity event has something for everyone.....

- A silent auction with items donated by premier Triangle area restaurants, boutiques, spas and more!
 - Delicious food and drink from local Triangle restaurants and breweries!
- A fabulous full runway show featuring local celebrities wearing designer fashions from the poshest area boutiques!

Tickets are available online at www.unchaindogs.net/fashion2011 for \$20 and will be available at the door on the day of the event for \$25. Last year's event was a great success and a lot of fun and we're very excited about this year's event! We hope you can make it!



Wildlife Welfare, Inc. Giving wildlife a second chance.

Anniversacid

A non-profit dedicated to rehabilitating our injured and orphaned local wildlife





Visit our web site to learn more about our efforts, what to do if you find an animal that needs help, and how to become a wildlife rehabilitator.

www.wildlifewelfare.org