

German Shepherd Rescue & Adoptions

www.gsdrescue.org

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 2012

GSRA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!!

It's been 8 years now since I took in my first GSRA foster dog, Mooky, and started on a fabulous journey with this wonderful organization. I've seen our 15th anniversary come and go and it's hard to believe that this year we are celebrating our 20th year of rescue.

GSRA is more than just a rescue group to me. It is my extended family. I have friends in this rescue that have stayed tried and true while other childhood, school, and work friends have come and gone. My rescue friends and adopters have shared countless stories of happy endings with me, but we've also shared in each other's pain as our beloved GSD family members pass away. I cannot express how grateful I am for the support and advice that you all have given me through the years. Many of you guys have even watched my daughter grow up...watching her get just a little bigger with each passing adoption event that we attend. Before you know it, we'll be sending her off to college!

Not only have the people in this rescue had a huge impact on my life, but the many dogs I have encountered over the years have touched me in so many ways. They've taught me how to be compassionate, patient and understanding while I work through their fears and teach them how to just "be a dog". They've taught me how to live in the moment and not to get caught up with the little things....they don't seem to worry with petty things. They've taught me to never take for granted all the wonderful things that I've been blessed with....many of them struggled just to find food and water. They've taught me how

to be a strong leader and to never give up hope....more than one of them have put my leadership skills to the test! Aaah, the foster dogs I've had...I've laughed at them, I've cried for them, and Lord knows I've screamed at more than one of them, but each of them has made me the person that I am today.

The people and dogs in this rescue have influenced me so much that earlier this year I took the plunge and quit my corporate job. In the grand scheme of things, the job just seemed so unimportant (except for the income of course!). But sometimes...it just isn't worth the money! I felt like my job was getting in the way of what I really feel passionate about...dogs. I am currently enrolled in K9 Solutions Academy and on my way to becoming professionally certified as a dog trainer and loving every minute of it. Sure, there will be hard times as I find my way into the field, but I know that things will fall into place. I'm currently doing some dog sitting and consulting on the side to help pay the bills and look forward to working as a trainer with Sylvie and Donnie at K9 Solutions later this year. As we progress through our 20th year of rescue, be sure to take some time to reflect on the impact that you are making in the rescue as well as the impact that this rescue is making in your life. You will be amazed, as I was, at how much we can grow and learn from each other!

Happy Anniversary GSRA!

~Shannon N.

GSRA Board Member



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The Reunion Recap

Another year in the record books and yet another successful reunion!

As in fine GSRA fashion, we received an overwhelming response to our request for help. GSRA really came through and made this the best reunion ever (we say that every year, but it really is true). We just love the reunion and we had so much fun planning it. Now that we have a year or two under our belts, we feel pretty good about organizing it and look forward to the upcoming reunions. There is a little stress involved, but it is WELL worth it. Especially when we see all the happy families with their GSRA pups. We had an overwhelming number of adoptive families attend this year. I don't know about you, but we love to see how adoptions have worked out and to see how happy the families are with their new furever family



member. It just warms your heart and



reminds us all of the great work GSRA does every day.

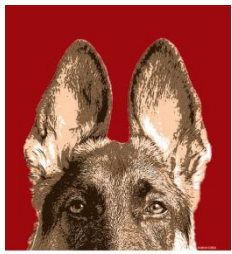
Once again, the attendance was huge with over 225 people and 150 dogs. Biggest showing EVER!

GSRA held its second Annual Silent Auction this year. The volunteer base exploded once again with donations of gorgeous baskets, dog items, and gift certificates. The Silent Auction alone raised \$900. Thanks Shannon N. for getting everything together and working so hard on this every year.

We had some great merchandise this year that sold like hotcakes and were so happy that Buster was able to be our model for the T-Shirt. We think it is truly fitting that his legacy lives on "very fashionably" and we can see his beautiful face every time we don one of those cool tie dye shirts. We love you Buster!!!!

(continued on pg 3)





German Shepherd Rescue & Adoptions

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(continued from page 2)

Thank you Lesa A. for designing the shirts and all the merchandise we sell. The raffle team did a great job and kudos to the hard working volunteers that beg and plead with businesses to give us merchandise. It is amazing how generous our community is and the love that corporations and small businesses have for animals. We had some very generous donors and we cannot thank you enough! Food Committee, two words, **“OUTSTANDING JOB”**, just absolutely phenomenal and YUMMY! Registration was organized to the hilt. How you check everyone in, give them goodie bags, make them feel welcome, that’s what it’s all about! Your smiling faces make coming to our event so very welcoming! **WELL DONE!!!!**



So the final tally for a brisk but beautiful day.....drum roll please.....\$8,000 minus a few expenses. That’s a lot of bucks that will save a lot of pups!!! Our sincere thanks to **EVERYONE** who had a hand in planning this event! This was truly a team effort! Thank you to everyone for all you do all year long. The fosters that take these wonderful animals in and give them shelter, love, and food ; the applicant screeners for getting to know the people searching for a new family member and standing by their side until they do; the people that assess our dogs, pull them from shelters, nurse them back to health,

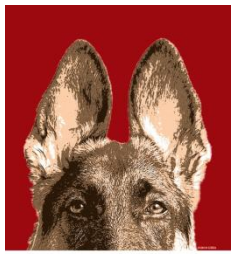
do home visits, transports, and aid at the adoption events; the team that keeps us in the loop with newsletter, facebook, and media coverage; the webmaster who keeps our webpage current and looking fabulous; and to the Board for keeping GSRA running smoothly and for giving us the encouragement and support we all need.



Special thanks to all our sponsors who made this event a huge success. Without your support, we wouldn’t be able to do what we do. As a thank you, we have listed our sponsors on our main web page under Sponsors and Friends. Please check them out. They have helped GSRA tremendously and are very faithful in giving each year. Let’s do what we can to support their businesses by purchasing items or services from them and referring them to friends and other rescue buddies.

We look forward to next year and welcome your comments and ideas at heatherobx@gmail.com and goerica@gmail.com

*~Heather A. & Erica D.~
2011 GSRA Reunion Co-Chairs*



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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES FOR TAX DEDUCTIONS

It's that time of year that every one dreads - tax season! But did you know that if you volunteer for a qualified organization, some of the expenses that you incur in your volunteer activities including mileage MAY be deductible on your Federal Income tax returns?! A qualified organization is classified as an organization that can receive tax deductible donations. GSRA is a qualified 501c3 organization.

Here are some of the things that you might be able to claim:

- * mileage - the standard deduction is 14 cents per mile
- * dog food for a foster dog if you didn't claim a reimbursement with GSRA
- * vet expenses for a foster dog if you didn't claim a reimbursement with GSRA
- * other supplies for a foster dog if you didn't claim a reimbursement with GSRA

Like everything else related to taxes, you need to keep careful records. For mileage, indicate the date the mileage occurred, who the org was and the actual mileage. Save your receipts for purchases, vet bills etc. and indicate the org for whom the services or purchases were provided. For more information - check out IRS Publication 526/Out-of-Pocket Expenses in Giving Services

http://www.irs.gov/publications/p526/ar02.html#en_US_2011_publink1000229674



It's always rewarding to rescue GSDs in need - make it pay in deductions too!

DISCLAIMER

****GSRA does not purport to give out any professional tax advice. As always, consult with a professional tax advisor before claiming any expenses for your volunteer activities on your income tax returns.****



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A Volunteer's View

I raised, bred and showed German Shepherds for almost 30 years and dearly loved all my dogs. There was one dog though who was beyond special and I absolutely adored him. His name was CH. Covy-Tucker Hill's Ajax Flyer aka "Jackie". He unexpectedly died in late 2008 at the age of 12 of a ruptured aorta. I had saved him from bloat, an almost ruptured spleen, had DM under control using hydrotherapy and PT but I could not save him this time. I was crushed and could not stop crying for weeks on end. I knew I had to do something and I had to do something in Jackie's memory.

I had never been involved in rescue; I was afraid what I'd find and was worried I would not be able to handle the fact I could not save them all. But after Jackie's death I knew I had to get involved. I had to do something and wanted to get involved in shepherd rescue.

I worked with a rescue group up north and with other GSD groups across the country. In 2011 I left that area and headed south to North Carolina. I wanted to join another GSD rescue and came upon GSRA. I had some philosophical differences with my rescue up north and was concerned I would run into the same issues down here but I soon realized that the GSRA folks were different. They had the passion, drive and dedication to save shepherds and moved mountains to make it happen. It didn't matter if the dogs were old, had medical issues, had only three legs or were cases no else wanted...GSRA was going to save them and find them a loving home. It was all about the shepherds and I knew then this was the group I wanted to join.

I started doing adoption events and home visits but quickly found my niche as one of the Facebook admins. In April 2011 our page had ~350 members and I knew we had to grow fast if

we were to place hundreds of GSDs each year especially in today's economy. We also needed the ability to raise large sums of money quickly as in the case of the Fab Five. I'm proud to say that as of today, less than 12 months from when I started we are at 3000+ members. My goal is 6,000+ by the end of 2012.

I, along with my Facebook partner Alex, create energy and get the word out to our members about what's happening in the rescue. We highlight transports, rescues, pending adoptions, adoptions, events and our foster and adopter families. We inter-mix our status at times with fun photos just to make people smile. You can say we are the GSRA Internet cheerleaders. The real drive behind everything we do is to raise our Facebook membership and hopefully increase our foster and adopter universe.

I'm passionate about saving shepherds and hope my small contribution helps GSRA save more shepherds each year. I created COL Jackson Shep (named after Jackie) and the Doggle Brigade so I could weave a story of GSRA sheppies saving other sheppies as well as the folks who work so hard to make it all happen. I know with every shepherd we save, Jackie looks down from the Rainbow Bridge and lets out a big Jackie bark.



~Nike D.~

Volunteering to make a difference



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Heartworm Disease in Winter?? Let's ask the expert...



“Skiing, sledding, snowboarding, and drinking hot chocolate by a roaring open fire – all wonderful things to do in the winter. Unless you live in the Triangle.... Yes, we have once again had a warm ‘winter’ as we tend to have seemingly every other year. This also brings out the inevitable question with my clients – should I continue heartworm prevention year-round? Can it be stopped in the winter?”

My first answer is to ask a question – when is winter in North Carolina? I truly don't know! Looking at the high temperatures in February for the last few years in Durham (78°, 70°, 62°, 78°) I certainly have no clue. We just can't predict when it will get cold, and stay cold. The temperature must be below 57° F to stop mosquito activity (yes, heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes). All it takes is a few warm days for them to come back out!

My second answer to the original question is not based on science, but based on human nature. And by that, I mean **my** behavior. I remember to do things when I do them consistently and usually with a few reminders to boot. If I stop for a few months, I have a high tendency to forget to restart. I know my clients are the same way, as I get several dozen folks every summer (yes, several months into mosquito season) that come in with a pale look on their faces and tell me they forgot to restart their heartworm prevention.

So what do I recommend? Monthly heartworm prevention every month, no question. It is always easier to prevent disease than to treat it!”

Dr. Lapham
Southpoint Animal Hospital
5601 Fayetteville Road
Durham NC 27713

Here are a few tools and information to help:

Email reminders (works for any medication, not just heartworm prevention):

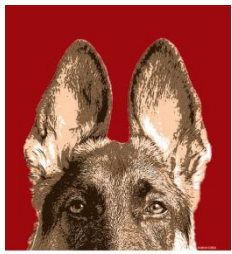
www.Remindmypet.com

Information on heartworm disease:

www.heartwormsociety.org

iPhone app:
Remindmypet (free)

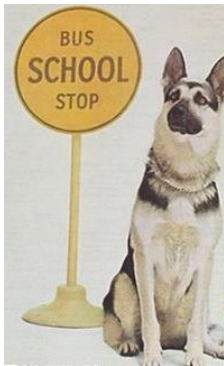
Android phone app:
Med Minder (free)



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SCHOOL IS IN SESSION



K9 Solutions (www.nck9solutions.com) is a group that GSRA has worked with over the years and has a big focus on helping out the rescue community. Their foster education program is geared toward helping foster dogs become more adoptable as well as educating foster homes so that they are more equipped to handle the inherent struggles that accompany fostering and working with rescue dogs. GSRA is excited to be a part of their foster education program this year and have been offered an opportunity to get our foster homes involved in the following classes **FREE** of charge:

1. **Foster Workshops:** This is a workshop for foster homes to bring their foster dogs to for a little "extra work". During the session, foster homes can get specific advice that will aid in making their dog more adoptable. It is also a good spot to bring foster dogs that just simply need to work on their manners. The workshop will also address techniques for improving handling skills as well as address "foster home related" issues and concerns. Offered once a month.
2. **How to Achieve a Well-Mannered Canine Seminar:** Informative seminar on how to be a good pack leader and properly teach your dog to listen to commands, etc. No dogs are brought to this seminar. Offered once a month.
3. **Basic Manners Class:** Build your foundation with the basics! Class involves working on listening to you, not jumping, self-control, off your stuff and guests, not pulling on a leash, sit, stay, wait rather than lunge out of doors unsafely, proper greetings, and settling down. This class has an "on-going" format with no start and end dates. SO, foster homes can start attending classes at any time. The 3 hr class progresses through exercises, so pop in during the exercises that your dog needs help with. Offered weekly.

To register for any of these classes or workshops, please contact Shannon N. at skliles@gmail.com.



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"As long as I can remember, I have always wanted a German Shepherd but my parents got us a Cocker Spaniel instead.

Not quite the same, but still good. 😊

When my husband and I relocated to NC and got our first house in 2007, we went to the local shelter to find our first furry love. Of course this was before we even knew GSRA existed. We fell in love with an absolutely adorable little female Dalmatian/Pit mix that reminded us of Petey from Little Rascals. (Boy am I dating myself here!) We named her Sally, and let me tell you it is because of Sally that I am the strong Pack Leader I am today. Shortly after bringing Sally home, we immediately realized why she ended up at the shelter. I had never met a more unruly and completely out of control dog in my life.

Lucky for Sally I am far more stubborn than she is. I rolled up my sleeves and began working with her and, after a few weeks, it was paying off big time.

A year later we finally got our first GSD. A female plush coated black and tan beauty we named Hiro. Training Hiro was a cake walk, and I think it was mostly because I felt comfortable as a Pack Leader but also my training assistant Sally showed Hiro what I wanted with each command. Around 2008 was when I first heard about GSRA, I would peek at the website on occasion to see what dogs they had available, and finally in 2009 decided to take the plunge and become a foster. I wanted to help rescue my all time favorite breed, and after years of talking about it, I decided to take action. Soon I was wondering why on earth did I wait so long to do this??

Our first foster was a beautiful petite black female German Shepherd we named Isis. After 3 months we found her a wonderful loving forever home, and before we even had a chance to

breathe we got a call about potential foster #2 who was

located at the very shelter we got Sally from. A handsome white male German Shepherd they called Harold. We took him in and Harold became Ozzie. Ozzie turned out to be a sweet, wonderful, loving, adorable, funny, affectionate goofball and, as you may be thinking, this fella had 'foster failure' written all over him. (Sorry to disappoint any single female sheppies out there, but Ozzie is in a relationship with Desdemona. Sorry!)

Now that we have 3 dogs in our pack I offered my services to do more behind the scenes things.

I took on being one of the Facebook administrators where I regularly peek around, comment on posts, answer questions and point people in the right direction. I love, love, love when forever homes post pics of our GSRA Alumnae...so wonderful to see their happy faces, human and canine. I also took on the task of posting Courtesy Listings on the GSRA website.

This is a great way to help even more dogs find new homes, by increasing their visibility.

Long story short, I love volunteering with GSRA.

If you have ever thought about fostering, go for it! It is such a wonderful feeling knowing you helped save a sheppie!!!"



~Alex P.~
Proud GSRA
Volunteer



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Please meet Dawn C.

“A long time employee with a local shelter, Dawn has always been passionate about helping animals...with a certain soft spot for shepherds. I was a ‘regular’ at the shelter where Dawn worked...always scoping out the kennels for shepherds for GSRA to help. I’m sure we’d crossed paths before, but I had never really met Dawn. It wasn’t until a special GSD named Grace came along in 2008 that we crossed paths.

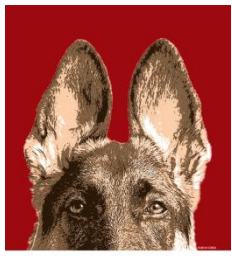
Grace was so storm-phobic that she had busted through the front glass storm door of her owners house and had to be taken to the emergency vet. This was the last straw for the owners and off to the shelter she went. Dawn decided to foster Grace through the shelter’s foster program. After getting to know Grace, Dawn realized that Grace needed more than your typical dog owner to get over her anxieties so she reached out to GSRA to help.

So, I went to Dawn’s house to meet her and Ms. Grace and the rest is history. It was apparent that Dawn was an excellent foster mom and had created a well balanced pack of dogs and cats of her own to help mold foster dogs into great doggy citizens. Dawn worked tirelessly for nearly a year to help Grace over her storm phobia and other issues and Ms. Grace was finally adopted out to a wonderful GSD-experienced family where she continues to thrive!



Since then, Dawn has fostered countless dogs for GSRA...typically having at least 2 or 3 at a time. Even though she has a tough schedule and 5 dogs of her own, Dawn puts her heart and soul into each foster that she has...spending time getting to know what makes each one tick while searching for just that perfect person for each one. GSRA is extremely lucky to have such a good foster mommy in our family and look forward to many many more years of saving dogs together!”

~Shannon N.



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The Doggle Brigade needs YOU.

Every day hundreds of German Shepherds are abused, abandoned and neglected in the Carolinas and Virginia. That compounded with the economic downturn, has created a dire situation for many Shepherds. Many end up in high-kill shelters or wander as strays not knowing what happened. Some are old, some are young. Many are sick, pregnant, hurt, and in need of medical attention. Many are lost or shut down... but they all are forgotten shepherds.

WE NEED YOU! Will you help save them and give them a chance?

Please consider fostering or adopting a German Shepherd. Be the hand that leads them to hope and freedom. It will change your life!



**I need YOU
foster or adopt a GSRA shepherd!**

NCSU Vet College Open House

Saturday March 31st, 2012

9:00 AM until 03:00 PM

Location: [NCSU College of Vet Medicine Campus](#)

Map: [1060 William Moore Dr Raleigh NC 27607](#)

Bark in the Park

Saturday April 14th, 2012

12:00 PM until 04:00 PM

Location: [Milbrook Exchange Park](#)

Map: [1905 Spring Forest Road Raleigh NC](#)

GSRA's Annual Reunion Picnic

Sunday October 7th, 2012

12:00 PM until 04:00 PM

Location: Montague's Lake

Map: [10305 Penny Road Cary NC](#)

GSR&A

2011 TO DO LIST:

1. Rescue **161** GSDs ✓
2. Find fabulous Adopters ✓
3. Have many successful Adoption Events. ✓
4. Find forever homes for **147** GSDs ✓

We couldn't have saved so many wonderful GSDs without the loving fosters who took them in and the fabulous adopters who gave them a future!

THANK YOU!!!

Happy New Year from our pack at GSR&A to yours!!!!

Cheers to a fabulous 2012!!!!

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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.

The next Clean Sweep (everything in the store half off) is scheduled for April 25 from 12 Noon -6 PM

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P.S. German Shepherds love to hear the violin played!!!

Wanted

Wanted: **Wedding Stuff!**

Got anything you want to get rid of from your wedding? Table decorations, dresses, tablecloth, decorations, etc? My daughter is getting married later this year...

Contact Marcia C. at waterstork@yahoo.com

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. ☺