

German Shepherd rescue adoptions



www.gsdrescue.org

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Hi Guys,

Boy! How time flies when you're having fun! So much has happened since our last newsletter we're not even sure where to begin! I guess a good place would be our adventures with Lil Ace!

Lil Ace came to our attention in late April. We were told he was a very young pup who had been brought into an animal shelter after being run over by his owner. Screaming in pain, a decision had to be made fast as to what could be done to help the little guy. A number of rescue organizations sprung into action and within 24 hrs GSRA had offered to take Ace's case on and give him the medical care he needed, as well as the love and foster care that would eventually result in a forever home. We started a fundraising campaign called "**\$1200 in 7 days for Lil Ace.**" The thought was that if we begged and pleaded with our volunteers to donate just \$10 each we could cover the \$1200 needed for the surgery that could put him back together again. We were pretty confident we could raise the money in a week....turns out, we TOTALLY under estimated the compassion and generosity of GSRA fans and volunteers. We actually raised the \$1200 in less than 36 hrs!!! **And still people gave!**

We ended up raising close to \$3000 by the end of the week-long campaign and so now have more than enough money to send Ace through the rigorous physical therapy that he will require in order to grow up to be a healthy, happy and fully mobile young man. It was an incredibly humbling and exciting experience. We will have an update on the 'Adventures of Ace' in our next newsletter, but for now, rest assured that he is living the life of a king - spoiled beyond belief by his foster Mom Erika and loved to pieces by everyone who meets him!



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Aside from raising money for Ace we have also been extremely busy with GSRA events. We had 2 events in April: a 'Fill The Truck' event in Burlington and 'Bark Around the Park' in Raleigh; as well as 3 events in May: a 'Fill The Truck' event in Kernersville, a community outreach event at the Whitewater Center in Charlotte and the Durham APS Walk for the Dogs this coming weekend where a team of volunteers will represent GSRA in the walk.

Both 'Fill the Truck' events were incredibly successful - we received lots of wonderful donations and have enough food now to keep our foster dogs happy for a couple of months at least! Bark and the Whitewater Center event were just fun...fun, fun, fun!!!! We talked to anyone who would stand still long enough to listen and we had a heap of fun hanging out and chatting with volunteers we haven't seen in a while.

One more thing that we got up and running in the last month is a series of educational out-reach programs. Two of our volunteers, Jan Morgan and Amy Bonis, are really taking the helm on this new facet of GSRA and we are so grateful and excited for their efforts. Jan set up a booth and display at Relay for Life in Granville Co. in honor of one of our dearest volunteers, Joan, who is fighting the battle of her life against cancer. Jan's booth

contained information on GSRA as well as the work that she and her GSRA-adopted therapy dog Eika do to help kids learn to read better. This coming week, both Jan and Amy will be presenting to a group of Boy Scouts - spreading the word about responsible pet ownership, what rescues do to help the animals and people in our community and trying to encourage the next generation of dog owners to be more thoughtful and caring when it comes to animals of all shapes and sizes. Look for reports on these events in the next newsletter!

So, as you can see, GSRA has been really, really busy over the last couple of months. And we haven't even gone into the number of dogs brought in or adopted out!!!! Never a dull moment, that's for sure! And always lots of room for new (and established) volunteers to step in and join the party!!! Enjoy reading the latest in GSRA news and please feel free to give us feedback on what you would like to see included in future newsletters!

*Take Care,
Andrea, Jen & The GSRA Board*

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Let's take a moment to learn a little more about our GSRA Board members. This is the group behind the group that makes all of this possible!

GSRA Vice President: Marcia Cleveland

My adventure with the Rescue started when we lost our last Golden to old age. I boldly stated NO MORE DOGS. It didn't take long before we surely missed a dog in our home. . Kristin, my youngest daughter was a junior in high school. She said, "why don't we foster a dog?" I agreed, feeling no one would give a foster to a high school student. Well the GSRA did! Of course, only after they interviewed Mom and Dad, who would be the back-up foster parents. This would be the beginning of what has become a 7-8 year relationship with the GSRA.

Mike, my husband, and I have been foster parents to many dogs. We could not let go of Anna, Cheyenne, and our newest Apollo. I have served on the board as Vice-President and Treasurer, and most importantly as an experienced RN to help with medical management of the dogs that come to the Rescue.

I work in Greensboro, scheduling with Dr. Komich at Greensboro Vet Hospital and with Forsyth County Shelter to assess and pull dogs. I also collaborate with Andrea to work out medical issues like diabetes, seizures and heartworm treatment that many of our dogs have from owner neglect.

Mike and I have put many miles on the cars transporting dogs to their new fosters. Kristin has grown and is finishing up with her Masters in Animal Science at NC State. (We were hoping to get our own vet but I think she will follow in Andrea's footsteps and become a scientist.) I have seen our rescue grow over the years and people come and go, but I feel very confident with the board I serve with today.



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CATHIE, GSRA SECRETARY

I have loved German Shepherd Dogs all my life. I grew up with a large male, "Mike." For thirteen years he played with us and took good care of us, and he even let us use him as a foot stool, or pillow.

On Sept. 11, 2001, before planes began flying into the Twin Towers in New York City (where I was born) and changed the world forever... I checked the website for GSRA. This is something I did almost every day, sometimes more than once. I had been approved to adopt a dog and had planned to adopt a young female. But that day when I saw Ivan (aka Tonto) on the available page I fell in love at once.

I was impressed with the approval process, the events I attended, the volunteers and the over-all atmosphere of GSRA. I had never been involved with a rescue group, being an empty-nester I

decided to fill up some of my free time working with this group. I am so very happy I did!

I've learned a lot and met a lot of really nice and interesting people with a shared interest. I fostered my first girl, Sasha in the spring of 2003. It was a wonderful experience and I cried the whole weekend when she went on trial. But I finally convinced myself if I help one homeless dog find a home, then I would have room in my home to help one more. One at a time.

I am currently a member of the Board of Directors for the rescue and hold the position of Secretary. I am very involved with application



screening, which means taking each applicant through a strict approval process. We do not adopt our dogs to "just anyone." We want to be sure we can keep our promise to our dogs to find them a forever home where they will be loved, fed, played with, and all the other great things that come with being a family dog; not tied to a tree, not left outside day and night, not to be used solely as a protection dog, etc.

As Secretary, I send a handwritten thank you for each donation we receive via US Mail. Getting a dog from A to B can be very complicated, as well, so I help out with transport. My newest

assignment in the last months has been distribution of the doggie meds. Dena Walker (who has been a God-send) handles that job at the events and I take care of mailing all needed items to foster homes, or meeting a foster parent when need be, especially in an emergency situation. I am affectionately known as the

"Drug Lord for GSRA". Let's not forget though "other duties as assigned" - that's when things can get very interesting!

For instance: meeting the transport bringing Lil Ace in from the coast, on May 8th and get him settled in his new foster home. That was very exciting and fun. Veronica, his chauffeur stayed with us for the day. It was certainly one of many highlights of being involved with GSRA.

I been around for a while and plan to stick around for a while more. If I have not met you, please stop and say hello if you see me at one of the events, I'd love to meet you!

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, LESA

Hello - Dutch here. I am the canine leader of Lesa's pack and as such, I have been duly nominated to tell you a little bit about Lesa.

Lesla has been a rescuer from the tender age of 8 when she begged her Dad to please pull over and help a dog that had been hit by a car. He did and they nursed, what became their first foster dog, back to good health. Over the years, Lesla has rescued many cats and dogs - she can't stand the thought of homeless pets and wishes she could give them all homes. Of course, she rescued me! She had always had big dogs but I was her first German Shepherd. Someone dumped me in a field behind her house and she took me in. Lesla says it is because I am such a wonderful boy that she fell so in love with GSDs.

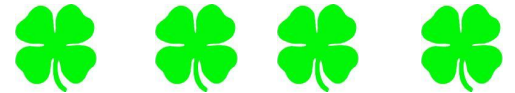
Lesla found the GSRA website back in 2007 and adopted a silly girl, Kela, in 2008. Lesla was so impressed with the people at GSRA that she decided she wanted to volunteer. Boy, that Andrea can be a real sweet talker and the next thing you know, we are a foster home for the Rescue. Perhaps Lesla has gotten a little carried away with the GSD fixation because now there are a couple more GSDs living with us and a Rottweiler who thinks she's a shepherd, as well as a foster dog or two. Good thing Lesla's husband, Pat, is such a kind and patient person. He loves dogs as much as Lesla and doesn't mind all the tumblefluff that collects along the baseboards too much. Since Lesla can't keep them all, the Rescue is a good outlet for her to help as many shepherds as possible. She hopes that someday there will be no more shepherds in need but until then, she will do all she can to help. So let's get busy and get back to work!



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Hi Guys!
 As you can see from all the pictures, our St. Patty's Day Parade was a BLAST!! We had a small, yet well balanced group of GSDs and GSD mixes...about 7 dogs and 10-15 people. Jill's grandsons did a splendid job of holding the GSRA banner and the dogs were perfect stars! Bentley, a little fluff ball of a puppy, was too cute and pulled the crowd in during the parade! Heidi did great on the outing and took the whole thing in stride! Way to go girl! It was awesome to see Arthur again; he's got a special place in our hearts! Neitzsche settled in like a champ and did great on her first public outing. She pulled in quite a few fans in the crowd too. Duke and Duchess marched one foot in front of the other and sparked a ton of conversations of "I used to have a dog just like that...." And last but not least, Molly...who strutted her stuff like the princess that she is!



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And now, let's go behind the scenes and learn from one of our volunteers what it's like being a volunteer/ foster home for German Shepherd Rescue and Adoptions:

“One night I was cruising the internet looking for the German Shepherd rescues and came across GSRA. For several months I had been tossing the idea around about getting involved with a rescue group. I turned in an application and attended an event in Burlington to get an idea of the organization. I knew immediately I wanted to commit my time to this rescue. I had a feeling that this organization wanted to make a true difference in dogs' lives.

My intent was not to be a foster parent, however, an opportunity arose, so I took it. It was extremely challenging at first (and can still be at times). I quickly learned that I needed to listen to the seasoned volunteers and take heed of their advice. If they recommended moving a wood pile because it would assist a foster in jumping the fence, then it needed to be done and done quickly. I have had over ten fosters over the past two years now, but my greatest joy has been fostering seniors.

It is one of the greatest gifts to foster a senior. They are appreciative, loving, joyful, mischievous, and more my speed. Fostering in general has allowed me the opportunity to watch dog's personalities emerge and the joy return to their eyes. It's a really nice feeling to know that you are making a difference in a dog's life.

Volunteering with GSRA has been extremely educational as well. Learning the in's and out's of the breed has been beneficial not only when I foster but with my own dogs. I have really enjoyed meeting and getting to know like minded people. But my favorite part of being a volunteer has been the opportunity to watch a loving animal emerge from the most horrendous of situations, finding the perfect furever home, and watching the dog exude love in their new homes.

The most challenging part about being a volunteer has been retraining myself so that I can better handle the breed and meeting the needs of the foster dog. My advice to new foster parents is that in the beginning there is always chaos. However, just relax and enjoy the ride and remember to ask for help! The volunteers of GSRA have always been there and I have never felt alone in this adventure. I would like to say a BIG thank you to GSRA for all the support and guidance that has been given and for their constant support.”

Sandy Norris
GSRA volunteer
and Foster Home



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Spotlight on Seniors: A Moment In Time



Who among us can't recount a number of very special moments we have shared with a special pet? For me, one of those moments occurred when my beloved Cassie wandered off on her own while I paused for a picnic lunch during a hike along the New River in West Virginia. Turns out she was bored with the pause and had taken herself off to the river to paddle in large circles, waiting patiently for a stick to be thrown—but also just enjoying the day, and the place, and the fact



that swimming feels good. A simple memory of a perfect day, carried with me for years...

That concept of special moments in time standing out in our memories is the premise behind GSRA's senior dog program, titled "A Moment in Time." The program's title comes from the

idea that every moment counts, and special moments are far more important than the total quantity of time we might share with a loved one—whether that loved one be human, canine, or other. The brainchild of Andrea Portbury and Leslie Goodykoontz, the program launched in May of last year with a generous grant from The Grey Muzzle Organization, a nonprofit group dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk senior dogs. The grant funding allows us to set aside special funds specifically for the care of our senior foster dogs and to promote the special joys of adopting a senior dog. What defines a senior dog? Well, that's debatable. In general, large breeds are shorter-lived than small breeds. In German Shepherds, 8 years is considered

senior, although that varies—a lot—by the dog. Since we "guestimate" the age of most of our dogs at intake anyway, any dog judged to be probably 8 years or older enters the senior program. Practically, this means simply that we track their expenses separately. Eventually (see below) it means that we will feature them on a separate page of the GSRA website. A Moment in Time has been remarkably successful so far. In 2009, nine senior dogs were taken in as a direct result of the program, representing 6% of the total 2009 GSRA dogs (but note the program only got underway in May). All of these dogs have been adopted. So far in 2010, ten dogs have entered the program (15% of our year-to-date total), several of whom have been adopted or are on trial for adoption. Sadly, we lost our lovely lady Nanna, a 14-year old who found herself dumped at a shelter, with a large, untreated tumor, by her former owner. As part of A Moment in Time, Nanna received palliative medical care and lived out her final months in comfort (thank you so much Sandy Norris and Asheley Cooper...) Although not a typical adoption success story, Nanna's story fits well within the spirit of A Moment in Time and can be embraced by many in the rescue community.

Interestingly, and perhaps surprisingly, the people who adopt our senior dogs don't look all that different from the families that adopt any of our dogs. Of our recent adopters of seniors, several have been young couples living in townhouses who

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recognized that a lower energy dog would suit their lifestyle better than a young pup who needed a large yard to romp; several have previously loved senior dogs and felt strongly about easing the life of an older dog who had fallen on hard times; at least one has needed a dog to happily coexist with a veritable herd of kitties; and several have had family situations that required a calm, "bomb-proof" dog. All of these adopters have gone forward fully understanding that they probably couldn't look forward to 10+ years with their new family member, and accepted that as part-and-parcel of the way their senior will enrich their lives.

We feel especially fortunate that the grant from Grey Muzzle is renewable on an annual basis, assuming we continue to show favorable progress in achieving the program's goals. The overall program goals are three-fold:



- increase the rescue of senior GSDs and GSD mixes
- increase education and awareness of the medical and nutritional needs of senior dogs
- promote senior dog success stories, thereby promoting senior dog adoption

We have made progress in all of these areas. Accomplishments to date include sponsoring two educational seminars by Dr. Brian Lapham, DVM; developing a portable display promoting the program (rolled out at the 2009 reunion picnic); and, as described earlier in this article, increasing the number

of senior dogs we rescue and place in forever homes. As we continue to work toward the program's broad goals, we've also established specific goals for 2010. These include increasing the number of

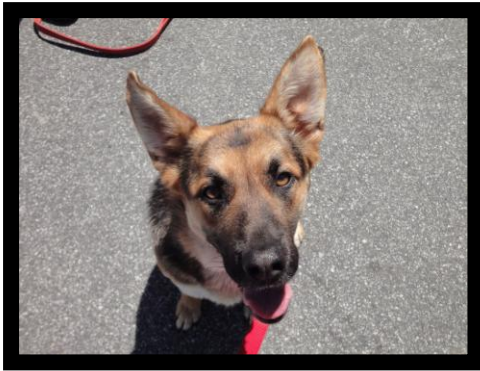


dedicated senior foster homes and expanding the program's web presence from its current summary text to a fully functioning web page that features our senior foster dogs and acts as a resource for senior dog owners. As with all GSRA initiatives, volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

If you would like to learn more or help with any of these efforts, please contact Andrea at alportbury@yahoo.com.

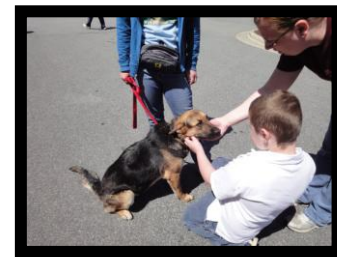
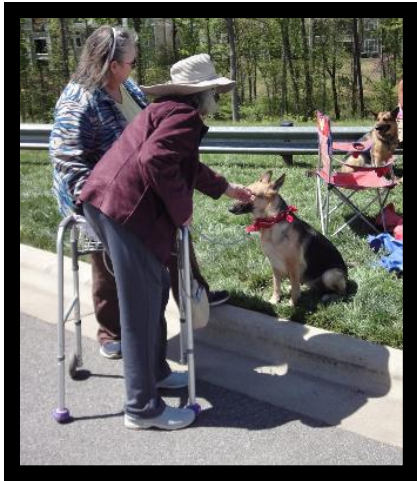


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Here are some photos of our two "Fill The Truck" events. At the Burlington event we collected 29 bags of food!! The Kernersville event brought in 7 bags of food and close to \$250 in donations/merchandise sales!

Not only are these events a TON of fun, it's a great way to educate people on the breed we all know and love!



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One of our fellow volunteers, Clare Reece-Glore, is starting a business focused on dog socialization. Clare writes: "I have been with German Shepherds most of my life; I have volunteered with our rescue for several years and for the last 30 years all my dogs have been rescued dogs. I have worked as a management consultant and people trainer with my own business for 15+ years. I will coach you and your dog to help you live "happily every after.""

The following is an article from Clare about choosing the right dog to fit your lifestyle.

Choosing a dog----

Your eyes meet across a crowded, noisy room----- you know this dog could be *the one*; you greet each other, and stroll off to a happy life together. "Cut, CUT, CUT," the director is yelling----in this case the director is either me or your rational thought processes. Either way, you need to listen to us. Choosing a dog by "love at first sight" can mean years of tension, heartache, expense, problems for you and the dog and sometimes the reality of giving up the animal you love so much. So, to choose a dog, please gather facts, think about your life, think about the ideal dog for you, and proceed slowly.

One of the great services of effective rescue groups is that you can work with volunteers who know the breed (such as our magnificent shepherds). You will first fill out the rather lengthy form; these questions give you a chance to pause and think about the many aspects of living with a dog including breed or type, age, gender, size and energy level.

Today I want to talk a bit about energy level. In my experience, you can find a German Shepherd Dog of any every energy level. So think about you

and your ideal life for about the next ten years or more.

How high is your personal energy level? Do you love to watch TV and think that hoisting your evening cocktail is an arm exercise? Do you bound of bed each day to go for a walk or run or bicycle ride? Do you love team sports? Do you love to go to the gym but hate the vagaries of that crazy world called "Nature"?

So, consider about your energy level, what you like to do, and how a German Shepherd can fit into your ideal situation. Imagine the activities you want to do with your German Shepherd.

Every one of these dogs needs daily physical and mental stimulation; the levels of each vary. Almost every one of these dogs needs to be walked daily, or played with, or have supervised group play with other dogs; some of them need "all of the above"! German Shepherds also need mental exercise. They are intelligent working dogs and they need interaction, consistent rules or sometimes they will find their own job. (What, you didn't think eating a couch was a *real* job?) What is your living situation? Do you have active children, or is the nest empty? Do you entertain a good bit? Do you travel a lot? Do you have a small space or a large house and grounds or a farm?

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A German Shepherd Dog of low to mid- energy levels can live in an apartment or small space with proper care, attention and exercise. Well-trained dogs can travel with you. For example, I know that for me and my family a mid- to lower level dog is best. I like to take a dog out and about and socialize it for a variety of situations and people. I like to get out in the woods or have the dog go camping with us. I love to spend time with a dog, including little bits of daily training and short games in the house. I also make sure I have a fenced in yard for a dog and I like to have two compatible dogs together. I like to ‘rev up’ or run around outside, but I want the lamps, cat, and elderly dog intact in the house. And, I promise to do better with my next younger Shepherd, but I don’t walk a dog every day.

German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California has a great scale on their website, and I will paraphrase it a bit:

1. **“Fireplace dog”**, aka couch potato; low to moderate energy, super easy. Can do well with an owner of any experience level and live in almost any space situation.
2. **“Average pet”** low to moderate energy level, in some cases high energy but highly trainable. Dog could be shy or outgoing, but is an easy dog with minor issues.

3. **“Experienced ownership required”** moderate, high or very high energy and drive; may have severe behavioral issues including dog aggression or strong anxiety; may need to be an only pet in the home. Definitely needs a dog savvy owner capable of working with a powerful dog; needs lots of daily exercise.
4. **“Competitive or working dog”** intensely focused dog; could be pushy or dominant with very strong energy level; needs competition like as agility and or a job such as search and rescue. Law enforcement agencies love these dogs and can provide a professional job and handler for them. (www.savegsd.org)

The good news is that German Shepherds are usually quite trainable and they want to please. You may see two adolescents in the rescue who are quite bouncy, but our volunteers can explain why they think one will be bouncy all his/her life and the other one will be a happy ‘average pet’ or ‘fireplace dog’ within in a few months. By being honest with yourself and including family members in a good discussion you can figure out the energy level that is right for you.



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Upcoming Events

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Rice Toyota Annual Pet Adopt-A-Thon
Monday May 31, 2010
7:30 am - 2:00 pm
Rice Toyota
2630 Battleground Ave
Greensboro, NC

There will be food, music, and lots of sweet pups from local shelters and rescue groups. GSRA will have a small group there representing our beautiful Shepherds.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Barking Bubbles Adoption Event and Fundraiser

June 26th 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Adoption Event 12:00-2:00pm
Barking Bubbles Grooming and Self Service Dog Wash
Burlington, NC



Website:
Barking Bubbles: Dog Grooming and Self Service Dog Wash

Breed Rescue Benefit Agility Trial Hosted by Teamworks Dog Training

Midnight Madness Trial
Friday June 18, 2010
6:00 pm- 1:00 am
Teamworks Agility Field
195 Robbins Rd
Youngsville, NC 27596

There will be a small group from GSRA doing a raffle fundraiser. For more information or to volunteer at this event, please contact Amy at: myshepherdsrock@yahoo.com.





More Upcoming Events

Something to Wine About

What: Fundraiser, Silent Auction and Social Event
Where: 3933 White Level Rd
 Mebane, NC 27302
When: July 31, 2010
 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
 Silent Auction at 6 pm
Cost: \$15 per ticket which includes:
 Wine Tasting, Hors d'oeuvres AND
 Souvenir Glass
Contact: Lesha Allison
 919-304-0098 OR leshastokes@hotmail.com



July 10

Adoption Event
 AniMall Pet Adoption And
 Outreach Center
 Cary Towne Center
 12:00pm-2:00pm

Directions on the web at
www.gsdrrescue.org



*GSRA is now on Facebook! Become a fan today!!
 Post albums, share success stories, training tips,
 stay in touch with volunteers from all over, and
 keep up with the latest GSD news. What a great
 way for us all to connect and keep in touch!!*

I'm a fan... are you?

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/German-Shepherd-Rescue-and-Adoptions/118468098192163?ref=ts>



GSRA always welcomes new volunteers and foster homes. If you'd like to become a member of a group that is dedicated to saving lives, please visit our website and fill out an application today!

www.gsdrrescue.org