

## BRAVE OSCAR

Found as a stray on September 22, Oscar wound up in the Stanislaus shelter and was on death row for over a month. Golden State GSR was notified about him and 14 other GSDs also in the shelter (see story on page 7).

While in foster care, Oscar was evaluated by trainer Julia Priest, owner of Coach for Canines. During her time with him she thought he might have been trained in German. After just a few minutes Julia was convinced.

Oscar was biddable and sensible and responded instantly when Julia first gave the command Platz. Then she tried Fuss and he was right there. Someone had obviously spent a lot of time and effort training him, and Oscar had known love and kindness. Sadly he was not microchipped nor tattooed. Oscar clearly wanted to be someone's companion and protector. He was once someone's beloved dog and we think his owners had a white SUV because whenever he saw a white car he got very excited.

One day while on a walk, he and his foster mom were ambushed by three loose dogs. Throughout the entire ordeal Oscar never fought, never came unglued and never lost his composure but he did stand his ground and got in front of his foster mom, keeping the perceived threats at bay.

After a couple of minutes, all Oscar wanted was to go home and get some pets and attention from the nice deputy who came by to take report of the dogs-at-large. His foster mom was worried Oscar would shed all over his uniform.

Thankfully the Deputy was very accommodating and understanding and praised Oscar for his bravery!

Oscar is a true and wonderful GSD with a sterling temperament and has been adopted to a new forever home. ■





“We are so happy that Beata has joined our family! She is so much fun to play with and my kids adore her. Her calm and gentle nature have been so refreshing, and her energy has helped us be more active. She enjoys going on our morning walks and chewing on her buffalo horn. She especially likes taking hikes on the weekends and the occasional jog down the mountain. We waited to rescue just the right GSD for our family, and Beata could not be a more perfect fit and was worth the wait!”

— Nicole O.

# ADOPTION FAIR IN

On Sunday November 5th, GSGSR participated in the Pawtrero Dog Adoption Street Fair put on by Pawtrero Bathhouse & Feed Company in San Francisco. Pawtrero was founded in 2002 as a resource for pet owners to find higher quality food for their pets and they sell locally sourced dog food and treats from around the Bay Area.

They started the Pawtrero event so that they could help give back to local rescues. All the proceeds and donations were split amongst the 20 dog and cat rescue groups. Pawtrero raised over \$6,000 that afternoon; GSGSR's share came to \$380.

The event was quite a spectacle. People brought their animals (usually dressed up in costumes) and bid on items during the live auction. They purchased PawBucks for the cleaning stations, costume contest entry, and caricatures of their pets. Music was provided by a live DJ and Brannan Street at the Embarcadero was closed off to traffic. BBQ

lunch was provided by Delancey Street, a restaurant and charity that helps provide jobs to former prison inmates.

Volunteers this year were Samantha, Max, Jennifer, Terri, Mike and Billy. As usual, our dogs were a huge hit. We had Kaia and Rue available for adoption and alumni guests Leia and Kylo, plus Boba Rexx to help keep the ladies in line!

People were amazed at how well behaved all of our dogs were. Over and over we heard stories of how GSDs are their favorite breed and that many people grew up with them. It was great to see people bring their kids up to the dogs so we could teach them how to approach a dog and pet them gently. We did get adoption, volunteer and foster applications in after the event, so it definitely was a success.

At times it was pure pandemonium, with all the different breeds walking around and whose owners sometimes let their little dogs a bit too close to the



(left to right) Volunteers: Samantha, Jennifer, Mike and Max; dogs: Rue, Rexx, Kylo and Kaia

# SAN FRANCISCO

GSD booth! Luckily, all of our dogs were on their best behavior, although by the end Boba Rexx had enough. I think he thought he was up for adoption so we had to put him back in his car. It was a five hour event, so our dogs were officially pooped by the end of the day.

That afternoon, Kaia met up again with her potential adopter, Theresa, so that we could walk on leash around all the other dogs. Kaia is a very special and quiet girl, so I wanted to make sure that her adopter was 100% comfortable walking her in this kind of setting. They both did excellent and it was a perfect match. We had already done the home visit and Kaia met her new brother Jake, a lab-collie mix, so that evening after the event, Kaia went to her new home where she is being loved on daily. ■

*mike clausen*



Kylo meeting with the public.

## from the president

It takes an untold amount of effort from volunteers to keep a rescue organization going. There are many vital positions that need to be covered. Our growth and successes are results of teamwork, technology, bookkeeping, fundraising, etc. When the needs of individual dogs have called for joint efforts, we have worked with other rescue groups in order to help as many dogs as possible.

Over the past few months we have experienced “burn out” in some of our key people and I have continually been amazed how our volunteers have joined together to cover these vacancies. However, without additional volunteers and foster homes, these volunteers will also suffer burn out. GSGSR needs help so we can continue to operate and keep our organization moving forward.

To those of you who are active volunteers – my thanks to each one of you for all you do. To those of you not involved, please consider signing up as a volunteer as we can use your help in many areas. The dogs need your help!

We also want to extend our thanks to Jean and Dick Zukin who sponsored Dino’s medical care and Rich Robbins and Ruby and Gerry Hertz who donated the \$3500 for Bosco’s surgery and care. Our dogs do have some “Guardian Angels”.

The Board has met several times and has decided that to minimize stress on our volunteers and maximize our efforts, we are closing the Adoption Days in Napa and San Francisco. We will maintain our adoption days in Lodi, Sacramento and Danville. This will enable our volunteers to have a weekend off during the month to enjoy something other than Rescue.

In closing all of us at GSGSR wish you a Happy Holiday Season and may the New Year bring peace to all. ■

*joan cannelli*

## MONTHLY ADOPTION DAYS

**1st Saturday of the Month**  
Robinsons Feed Store  
1150 East Victor Road  
Lodi  
10 am to 1 pm

**3rd Saturday of the Month**  
PetSmart  
1738 Watt Ave. (at Arden)  
Sacramento  
10 am to 1 pm

**4th Saturday of the Month**  
Pet Food Express  
609 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  
Danville  
11 am to 1 pm

## dax

I don't know how I wound up in the Stockton shelter. One day I was at home in my backyard and the next moment I found myself living on a cement floor behind some metal bars. It was very noisy and I didn't like the smell of my new "crate."

The people there seemed nice. They gave me food and made sure I had lots of water and they would talk to me. I heard one lady say, "He has demodex." I wasn't sure what she was talking about. All I knew was that I was always itchy and I smelled bad. While I was here I got lots of baths and the nice people kept giving me treats filled with these funny little pills. I didn't particularly like the taste of the pills but I sure liked the treats!

After a couple of days, I started feeling better and I think I didn't stink as much, so more people would come by my crate to say "hi." I really liked the attention so I would jump up on



Dax with his foster mom Jayne.

the door. I wanted everyone to see me and to pet me.

And then one day it happened. A family decided to adopt me. I was so happy. They filled out some papers and I was on my way home, one that didn't have a cement floor and metal bars.

My new family was nice to me. They gave me food and water but I wished they would come out and play with me more than they did. After a while I started to itch again. Then my family said they could no longer keep me because of someone's allergy" so they took me to another place, one with cement floors and metal bars...again.

My family filled out some paperwork and turned to walk away, without me. I was sad to see them leave and wanted so badly to go with them but some lady in blue clothes had a hold on me. My family just walked out the door without looking back to say good-bye.

The people at the new place liked me immediately and I was put up for adoption but because this place was filled with a lot of existing residents, I didn't have much time to be adopted.

Thankfully some nice people from Golden State German Shepherd Rescue came out and evaluated me and felt I was a great candidate for their program. They felt I deserved a second chance at a better life.

After some time with a wonderful foster mom, I was adopted to my now forever home. I don't stink anymore or live on a cement floor and am so happy with my new life. ■

## FIREWORKS

New Year's Eve is quickly approaching and with this celebration comes noise. A dog's hearing is far superior to that of a human; noises that we find acceptable, can be most uncomfortable and stressful to a dog. Dogs that have never exhibited stress from loud noises suddenly might. And as a dog's age, they may become more sensitive to noises and reverberations.

Here are some ideas to help you prepare for the upcoming noisy bangs and booms of New Year's Eve:

- If you're able to stay home, this is the best. Your doggies will be happy to have their people home. Allow your dogs to be a part of what you're doing.
- Play music or the tv loud enough to help drown out celebratory noise outside.

## maxwell

Hi, I'm Maxwell. I'm not your typical German Shepherd; I'm just kind of a goof. I don't take life too seriously. I'm happy all the time. And I'm just super sweet. I'm a homebody, love my foster family, and I love all the dogs I get to meet here. Life is good, now that I'm in Rescue.

About ten months ago, my family let me out of their house and left me on my own; it was very scary. For a month, the people in the Maxwell Park area of Oakland tried to help me; they tried to feed me, they tried to catch me, they tried to get me to a safe place. They called me Maxwell. After a month of being on the run, without regular meals, without a safe place to lay my head, being afraid of everything and everyone around me, I was tired; I couldn't run any more, and my Maxwell Park friends finally caught me.

They took me to the Oakland Shelter where I got two meals a day and a warm bed. Dogs of all kinds shared my space, and volunteers visited me and gave me treats every single day. I also went to the veterinarian because I was very sick. But even though I was sick, I was still a very sweet guy.

One day, two ladies from Golden State German Shepherd Rescue came to visit me – twice! The second time they saw me, they said they just had to take me home so I could get the medical care I needed.

The last nine months have been filled with pain and comfort; pain because of my substantial ear infections, cleanings, medicated infusions, and such, but comfort because I'm so loved by the many people who are helping me. I really couldn't have a better life. Well, I could if I were healthy...

My latest veterinarian, Dr. Dunn at Grand Lake Vet, is researching a new type of autoimmune system disease. All the medications, procedures and foods have not gotten me healthy, so we continue to try to identify my medical condition. In the meantime – and big thanks to my people at Golden State – I sleep on a big cushy bed, eat every bit of food I can get a hold of, play in my yard with my dog pals, get to meet lots of people, and I'm very happy. Life is good. I feel the love. ■



- Make a soft cozy bed for your pooch to retreat to; this may be a familiar crate, a closet or even the bathtub. If you allow your pooch on the bed, well, that's a great place to retreat.
- Do not leave your pup outside; time potty breaks before and after you expect the noise to be bothersome.
- Pheromones are a side-effect-free way to calm pets that are anxious. You can search the internet for commercial products, check with your local pet stores or discuss with your veterinarian.
- Practice and use calming strategies. Massaging the muscles in the face, on the top of the head, down the neck and onto the shoulders can make a dog very relaxed. A few commercial products are the Calming Cap and Thunder Shirt. You can ask your local pet store, or check online, to purchase.
- Discuss medications with your veterinarian, well before New Year's Eve, if your dog has displayed stress in the past.

If you have New Year's Eve plans that don't include your dog, please consider the previous suggestions, as well as...

- Do not leave your dog outside.
- Make sure your dog is microchipped and registered with the microchip company.
- Leave your dog in a safe place in the house, not in the garage. Play music or the tv, and prepare a soft bed.
- Consider hiring a dog sitter for the evening.
- Consider asking your dog's friends if your pooch can do a sleep over. Better to spend the night playing with a friend, than alone and afraid.

We don't have to wait for a noisy outdoor celebration to exercise these ideas; any time we can make our dogs more comfortable, shouldn't we do it? We wish all of you, and your dogs, a safe and happy Holiday Season. ■



Once again our Sponsors were very generous enabling us to continue our work another year.

**Wareham Development**  
\$12,500 (Robbins Foundation)

**Ann Taylor**  
\$10,000

**Tim & Cindy Condon**  
\$5,000

**Dick & Jean Zukin**  
\$5,000

**William H. Donner Foundation**  
\$5,000

**Diakadi Body LLC**  
\$2,500

**Seagate Properties**  
\$1,000

**Mary Severson**  
\$1,000

**Coyote Hills Kennel Club**  
\$ 1,000  
(Ruby & Gerry Hertz)

GSGSR's Gala was filled with great energy, good food and wine, several alumni dogs, two K-9 units and a Search and Rescue dog with her handler. We had 117 attendees plus over 300 silent auction items and several great live auction items as well. The Gala committee was able to set up the auction tables beginning at 10 a.m. and finished up at 12:30 and so they had a chance to relax a little before the event.

This year's Gala was dedicated to the memory of Pam Moffett who loved our breed and was a volunteer for many years. She will be missed.

October 7 not only was the date of our Gala but we were also celebrating long time donor Dick Zukin's 95th birthday!

Thanks to David Goad for another outstanding job as our emcee resulting in a successful live auction and fun event. Those police ride-alongs really got the crowd bidding! Our thanks go out to Officer Pablo Rojas and his dog

Troll from the Emeryville Police Department, Officer James Woehrman and his dog Castor from the Pleasant Hill Police Department and Shay Cook with her Search and Rescue Dog Zinka (this year Zinka stayed on the floor and not on the table)! Shay and Zinka also helped out on the Santa Rosa wild fires this summer.

Alumni dogs, below, attending this year were Bosco, Gunner and Nana (right to left).

Our 2017 Gala raised \$62,700; \$13,200 over last year's total! This combined with a balance from the previous year will get us through 2018. We are so grateful for all our sponsors, donors and our great volunteers. Special thanks to the members of the Gala committee: Andrea Bishop, Joan Cannelli, Debbi Hankins, Tina Hannon, JJ Jacobson, Michelle Palmer and Kay Springer. It's a lot of work but it was a huge success again by this great team. ■



# EVALUATION DAY IN MODESTO

*Editor's note: Evaluating dogs at the shelter and choosing which ones to rescue is one of the hardest things our volunteers have to do. There are so many dogs and we know we can not save them all. It can be heart-breaking to leave them behind to uncertain fates. We try to find dogs that we feel will make good family pets. We want all of our dogs to go to foster homes before being adopted and we currently lack enough foster homes to pull more good dogs. If you are interested in fostering, please contact us at foster@gsgsrescue.com and we can give you more information.*

Through a social media post, we learned that Stanislaus Animal Services (SAS) had 15 GSDs. Luckily, some of our foster homes had opened up after recent adoptions. On October 25, Jennifer, Mike, Samantha and I went to SAS and met Liz, a shelter volunteer who works mostly with their GSDs. Mavis, one of the Adoption Coordinators for the shelter also met us at the front door. She made us feel welcome and was very happy to see us. She printed a list of the dogs and gave us a quick tour. When we opened the door to the dog kennels we experienced barking dogs and the pungent smell of the after effects of breakfast. The shelter itself was clean, new and an extremely nice facility but is often overlooked by rescue groups.

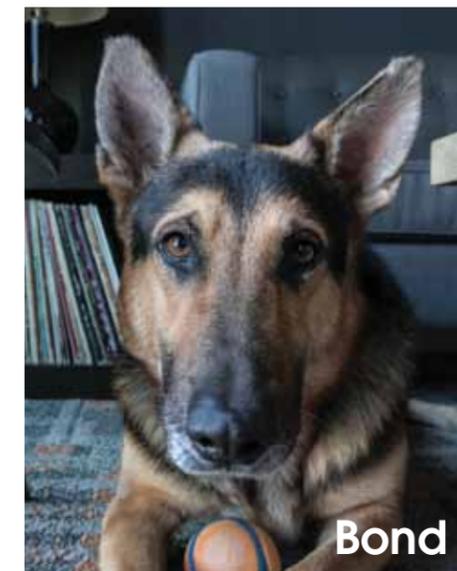
We started our tour down the rows of kennels, some with two or more dogs. There were happy barks, vicious barks, some growls and some too sad to make a sound. When we saw a GSD we would stop at their kennel to see how they would greet us. Some came right up with bright eyes, wagging tails and a happy kiss. Others were too shy to come to the door, one dog laid on his cot and when we knelt down he got up and moved away. A couple of them had the whites of their eyes showing, so scared they did not know what to do.

The main reason we headed to Modesto was because of Oscar (see story page 1). Jayne Nielsen had received a message about this senior boy who had been at the shelter so long that his days were numbered. When Oscar was not in his kennel, we thought we were too late. Much to our relief he was outside in one of the play yards. He was prancing around looking strong and noble; with a day at the spa he would look even better. He passed our evaluation with flying colors, though we noticed a little limping on his rear right leg. Since he had been at the shelter for so long and didn't get a ton of exercise, we thought that maybe he just needed a good warm-up. He was more than happy to play fetch.



The next dog on our list was Bond. He passed our evaluation as well. Since we knew we wanted to save these two boys, we put them back in their kennels and proceeded with our list. With reservations I agreed to evaluate a dog that Liz highly recommended. Earlier, Mike and I had walked by his kennel and the dog rushed up with a threatening bark. Liz brought him out and there was a bit of a struggle getting him into the leash. In the yard we allowed him to get his wiggles out. He was big, gorgeous and had a mind

of his own. He did pretty well with our eval until it came time to walk and be led around. He did not want to behave on a leash at all (imagine a bucking bronco). When we were trying to get him out of the yard and back to his kennel he tried to bite and I informed Liz we would not be able to take him.



We continued our evaluations and found a beautiful soft female who had a broken ear. That did not take away from her beauty and charm. She allowed us to touch her all over and begged to come home with us. So now we had three.

We found another small black and red female. She was happy to be out in the yard trotting around. She allowed us to evaluate her all over and when she rolled to her side we noticed a small infection which we let Annette Patton, the Director of the Shelter, know about. She brought in Dr. Wallace, their veterinarian who informed us that the infection seemed to be a fox-tail trail and they would take care of it during the spay surgery.

Our list finally came to an end so Mike, Jennifer, Samantha, and I went to the volunteer room to decide which dogs we could bring into the program, where they would be fostered and who might be potential adopters. We agreed to take Oscar, Kaia, Bond and

*continued on page 8*





Money Penny

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Money Penny, the little girl with the infection. Still there was one other girl we had been told about who was not in a kennel. She was actually being spayed that day and having her "happy tail" worked on. Mavis escorted us to sick bay and Dr. Wallace brought her out for us to meet. She was sweet, very undernourished due to whipworm and quite groggy coming out of surgery. She only weighed in at 38 pounds that afternoon!

We contacted foster Jill Alchorn who said yes to taking on Rue. Jill is wonderful at taking in GSDs who need a little more care and attention. We left Oscar, Bond and Money Penny to be neutered and spayed at the shelter. Rue and our broken-eared girl, Kaia would leave with us that day. We finished the paperwork and then went for a cocktail and some dinner, having worked through lunch.

**M**y first rule in evaluating is to leave my heart in the car. Evaluators have to make hard decisions. We may have to leave some dogs behind, because they are too vicious, or too shut down. It is heartbreaking to see the dogs that are too scared to move, knowing that in the wrong hands, they could lead to a bite and that those fearful dogs probably don't stand a chance. We know that we can't save every dog. We do our best, but with limited resources and limited foster homes, we take the dogs we feel can integrate into a family. With lots of time and consistent training from the right handler, these could be wonderful dogs.

A very dear friend and trainer told me when it comes to the choice to pull or to leave you ask yourself "would you want this dog in your home for the next 10-15 years?" Does it make the decision making any easier? Not always, but it does help most of the time. Have I failed,? Yes. Have I had to return a dog? Yes. Have I and my family been part of a lot of dogs finding their forever homes? YES, and that is the best part!



Kaia

# WHO SAVED WHO?

It was 3:00 a.m. on October 8th when Atticus woke me with his persistent whining and pawing. When we went to bed, the winds had been blowing 72 mph. I thought it was the wind that was bothering him. I told him to be quiet and go back to sleep, but he was relentless, and very soon got me up. I looked out the window and saw flames 10-12 feet high roaring up the mountain straight toward my house. Atticus and I were out of the house within moments, leaving everything behind.

The sky was glowing red and orange and the air full of smoke as Atticus and I jumped into the truck, and headed for the barn and my five horses. By now, the horses were getting excited and I knew I could not get a halters on them, much less load them into a trailer by myself. I could hear the crackle of the fire coming and could see the eerie red glow in the sky. Atticus stayed very close to me. I said a prayer and set the horses free.

Trinity Road is a narrow and winding road through the Mayacamas Mountains that connect Napa Valley and Sonoma Valley. My ranch is located about 1.5 miles up on the Sonoma side. With Atticus by my side, we drove down Trinity Road past flames, burning homes and trees on both sides of the road. I know that having Atticus by my side gave me the confidence I needed get us both off the burning mountain.

According to Cal Fire, more than 54,000 acres burned and 1,300 structures in this area were eventually destroyed. Atticus and I stayed with my sister in Sonoma for two plus weeks until we were allowed to return to our ranch.

from page 8

**L**uckily we were able to save five dogs that day. In one of our subsequent Facebook posts, we said that while we pulled five from SAS, they still had many more in need. Over the weekend a number of those GSDs were either rescued or adopted. Yet the next day five more came in; including a dog with a gunshot. We do know that he was taken into a rescue as well as the big bucking bronco boy. For every dog that is saved another one, or more, will enter a shelter. That is why rescue is so important and a never ending battle.

Please say a prayer tonight for the dogs in the shelters and for the many people who work and volunteer in shelters. It is a hard job and often a thankless one. Thank you to our sponsors, our fosters and all of our volunteers who work to find homes for these amazing creatures that become our lives. ■

marsha beatie, foster coordinator

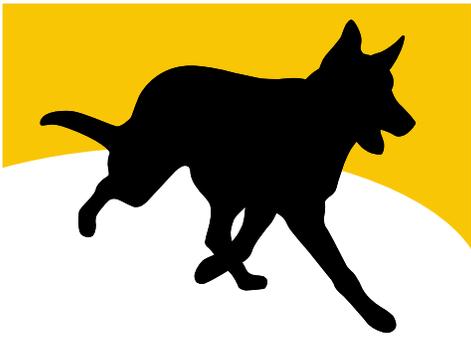
**We are very happy to report that Kaia, Oscar and Money Penny have all been adopted. Bond and Rue are doing well in their foster homes. At press time, GSGSR was making another trip to the Stanislaus shelter to check on more GSDs there.**



On the second day, a fire fighter called to tell me that all my horses were back and were hungry, so he was going to feed them. Sonoma County Animal Control also came and fed the horses until Atticus and I could return.

Now to answer Who saved Who: I rescued Atticus from Golden State German Shepherd Rescue three years ago, and Atticus rescued me this fall during the fires. I guess the answer is we rescued each other. ■

doni bird



## **Golden State** GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE

GOLDEN STATE GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE  
Post Office Box 2956, Alameda, CA 94501  
877-447-4717 (toll free)  
info@gsgsrescue.org  
[gsgsrescue.org](http://gsgsrescue.org)

# FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

## ALL EXPENSES PAID!

Can you open your heart and home to saving a dog's life? A short term commitment can make a lasting difference. We desperately need foster homes for our rescued dogs. Without foster homes we have no place for the dogs to transition to their forever homes. Fostering can be as little as one week or as long as three months. We pay for all medical needs, food and other supplies

**Please contact us if you can help.  
Foster homes are our greatest need.**

**[foster@gsgsrescue.org](mailto:foster@gsgsrescue.org)**

