

rescue REVIEW

Rescue Review is a newsletter published by Golden State German Shepherd Rescue. GSGSR is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity and donations are tax deductible.



one in a million

Rudy is a 14 month old male that came to us from a Northern California shelter. He won the hearts of the entire shelter staff with his fabulous temperament. He was quickly transported to us and went into foster care. Rudy is one of those truly wonderful dogs that has every feature we want to see in the breed—confidant, healthy, noble, protective, and yet good with people of all ages. He is also good with other animals, including cats.

Everyone who met Rudy wondered “how did a dog like this wind up in a shelter?” We will never know except that Rudy did not have a very easy life before coming to GSGSR. He had scratches all over his face and neck (most likely from another dog), he had several broken teeth in the front of his mouth and he had not been fed well as he was underweight. What he needed was a few weeks of good food, foster care, dental care, and some much needed rest from the stress of his journey.

Despite his rough start, Rudy remained a happy dog in search of a new home. We quickly found him a family whose dog has passed away whose small dog was very lonely. They also needed a dog that could go jogging for several miles each day and who could live with children. Rudy certainly fit the bill. He is now in his new home with a loving, active family.

We depend on many people to help us save dogs like Rudy. It starts with the shelter staff who contact us and tell us a little bit about each dog. The the shelter volunteers give us valuable input on their personalities. Then our own volunteers evaluate, transport, bathe, foster and help walk the dogs and make it possible to match these dogs with their new families. We also need veterinarians who help us along with way with the medical care that most of these dogs need. So while it starts with one call, it certainly “takes a village” to save a dog.

—Dez Murray



FALL FUNDRAISER SPECIAL GUESTS:

Meghan Miller & Oberon

Antioch Police Department

Chris Valliere & Sirt (*below*)

Antioch Police Department

Joshua Moore & Agbar

Brentwood Police Department

Todd Nunn & Dantest

Concord Police Department

from the president

2009 has been a year of firsts: the first year of forming Golden State German Shepherd Rescue, our first annual fund raiser and now our first rescued German Shepherd Dog! It has been a tremendous amount of work and we have dealt with many challenges but we have reached our main goal of being able to rescue our first dog before the end of 2009.

GSGSR plans to work in conjunction with other rescue groups in hopes of maximizing the number of dogs that can be saved. In addition, we will be putting together strategies and ideas on how to educate the public about dog ownership and responsibility. Education about our breed is extremely important and a potential adopter should have this knowledge before making the decision to adopt a German Shepherd, not after. We are looking forward to many new and exciting things for next year. We wish you a Happy Holiday Season, and may the New Year bring peace to all.

—Joan Cannelli



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Our fundraiser was held on September 26 and was a huge success. Support came from many directions. First and foremost, our sponsors, without whom there would be no event. We also owe thanks to our donors who contributed many items for both our silent and live auctions; plus the venue, wine, ice cream, clean up crew and security were all donated. An outstanding job was done by NBC anchor Diane Dwyer as our live auctioneer. Special thanks also go to the police officers and their canine partners who were definitely a huge hit for the evening. Our dedicated fund raising committee worked diligently to put this event together in just six months. I wish to thank all of you for your help and support.

above: Diane Dwyer works the live auction, right: shoppers in the well-stocked silent auction room



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REVIEW

I wanted a Collie. Collie and Sheltie Rescue didn't have any dogs but would put you on a waiting list if you wanted. So I moved on. Next I wanted a Newfie or a Bernese; my husband nixed these ideas. We both wanted a large dog but were living in a small duplex at the time and couldn't have a dog and we hadn't really discussed exactly what we would get. Then one day after watching some dog show on tv, I decided that I *needed* two 100 lb German Shepherds. Ha! I had no clue as to what I was getting into (I'd never had a Shepherd before).

I found German Shepherd Rescue online and they always had lots of dogs. One day I went to an adoption day just to go look at all the dogs. Someone asked me if I'd want to volunteer and it just took off from there.

After we bought a small house (with an equally small yard), I started fostering. From 2001 to 2006 we had 22 foster dogs. The longest stay was three and half months and the shortest 24 hours. Fostering was both a challenge and a joy. Since I had no kids, cats or other dogs and was home most of the time, I often got some more challenging dogs, but I often got a "marshmallows" too.

Fostering is a wonderful experience and I hope to foster again some day. People often asked "how can you give them up after you've fostered them?" I always replied that I knew they were going to a good home and that there were so many more waiting to be fostered.

We adopted foster dog #16, who was everything we were not looking for as our first dog. We wanted a 3 year old female, classic color, short coated

dog (just like our first foster dog). Instead we got Klaus. He came to us as a five month old, long coat puppy who could barely walk. His matted coat took five days to brush out, he was full of huge ticks and foxtails buried under his skin and he had undiagnosed neurological problems. We had not intended do adopt one

two collies



left: Klaus, right: Liesel

of our foster dogs, but Klaus picked us and no one else wanted him so he stayed and we can't imagine our lives without him. We adopted our second Shepherd Liesel in March of 2008 so I now have two 75 lb long coat Shepherds and no Collie.

My two fluff-monsters provide unconditional love, loyalty and endless hours of entertainment. How could I not want to pass that experience on to others? The joy I found with my rescued dogs is my motivation to keep working to find homes for other unwanted GSDs and help more people share the same happiness.

—Michelle Palmer

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foster volunteer adopt

GOLDEN STATE GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE



BUY OUR SHIRTS AND HELP OUR DOGS

GSGSR now has a cafepress shop for merchandise sales! All proceeds go directly to helping our rescued dogs.

<http://www.cafepress.com/GSGSRRescue>

We have long and short sleeve t-shirts in many colors (including black, brown, natural, light pink, light blue, light green) plus sweat-shirts in white and grey. Women's style shirts are available too. Shirts have our logo on the front or back with the opposite side featuring a GSD painting and our website.

We'll be adding more products in the coming months so remember to check back.

GOLDEN STATE German Shepherd Rescue

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