



Hello everyone,

Well here we are again, summer has raced by and the school holidays are already over, autumn is here.

What a washout this summer has been though and I was worried that it would affect rehoming.

We certainly did have a few quiet weeks in July where nothing seemed to be moving but despite bad weather through most of August, we are on a roll again.

Throughout August we received 234 adoption applications which was way up on the 184 in July. It's fair to say that many people applied to adopt in July but wanted to put off taking a dog until their annual holiday was out of the way.

We received 84 rehoming applications in August and 92 in July which is still too high given the number of dogs we have sitting in kennels waiting for their forever homes. Spare a thought for those poor dogs facing their second Christmas in kennels.

Still lots of activity on the fundraising front across the country - no matter what the weather. We have also had several very successful online auctions across social media which has helped raise several thousand pounds to help pay our kennelling bills.

Well now it's September, I'm allowed to use the C word - yes Christmas is on it's way and here's an easy way for you to help raise money for GSDR whilst sitting in the comfort of your own home shopping online. If you join Easyfundraising and search for your shops and buy that way, we receive a small percentage of the sale from the retailer. Those small percentages really add up and since we started with Easyfundraising, a total of £8,942.78 has been raised putting us at the top of the leader board in our group. Here's the link, so happy shopping - www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/germanshepherdrescue/?t=Easyfundraising-li&v=a&u=160SCU

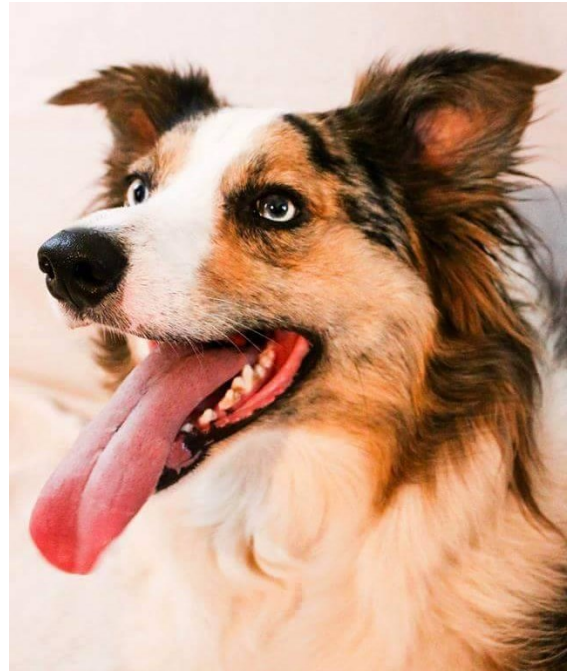
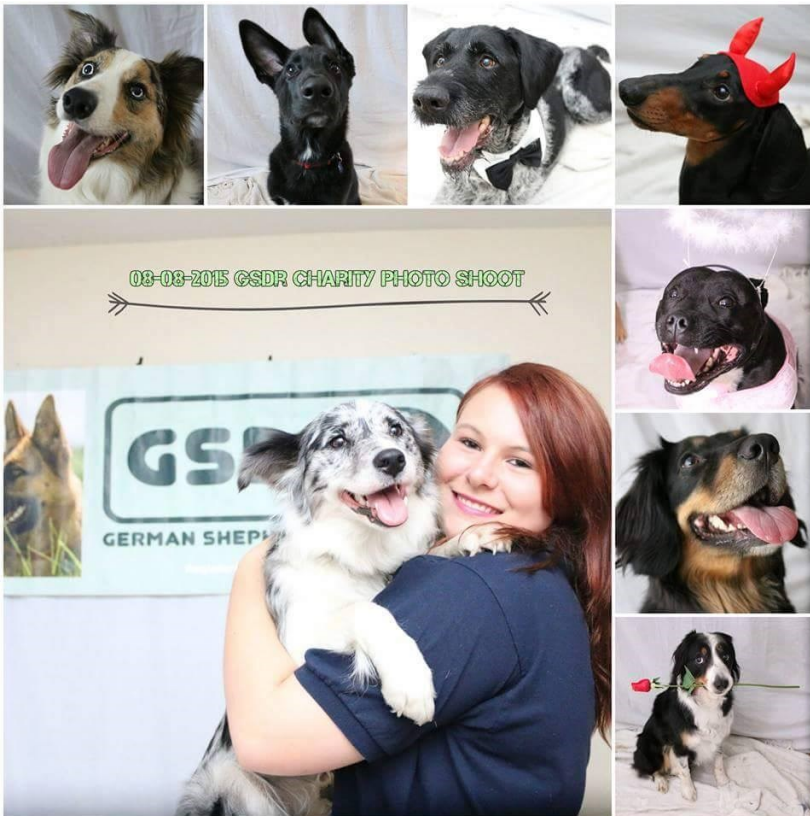
Once again I thank all the dedicated volunteers and our supporters who make GSDR the success that it is.

'There can be no justification for causing suffering to animals simply to serve man's pleasure or simply to enhance man's lifestyle.'

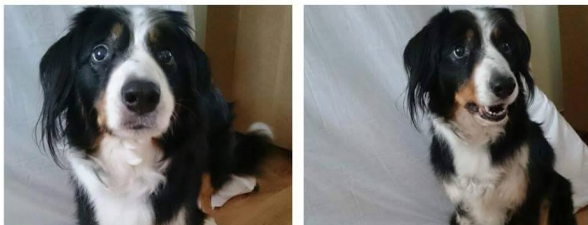
-- The Dean of York

Best Wishes

Jayne



Huge thanks go to Zia Clarke from ZAC Photography for hosting a photo shoot with volunteer Victoria Whicher . The ladies raised £170 and Zia captured some beautiful shots providing lasting memories for owners.



Each posing pooch received a goody bag, so everyone went home happy.



August saw Team Fat Blokes celebrate their third anniversary.

Week in week out you'll find them fundraising, Ray in his shorts no matter what the weather.

Over the past three years they've both been heartbroken by the loss of their dogs and both fostered and adopted more.

And over the past three years, they have raised a staggering £46,301.

What a team, you guys are amazing!

The North East Dog Festival

The day the North East team had been waiting for dawned, thankfully someone had remembered to book good weather! Dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes arrived for a fun packed day organised by Susan Gilbert and Lyndsey Rutherford—our friends from Central Bark. An event of this scale is a massive undertaking to organise, it takes a huge amount of time and effort and our thanks go to the ladies and their team for making our rescue guests of honour and providing a free pitch for our stand.

The GSDR team received a great reception from the crowds, with interest in our work and the dogs available for adoption. They did of course have a secret weapon, little Leyna pulled in the crowds!



Pictured left is my niece Jenny Craggs with Wheaten Terrier Rory. He proved to be a natural when taking part in his first 'Have a Go' agility session.



The team raised £233 on the day, but more importantly raised the profile of our rescue and the breed.

Pictured below is Ailsa Thomas with Ben Collie. Ben was holding the fort whilst little Leyna went out to meet her public. And in his usual style, he's taking the job very seriously and looking handsome as ever!



Thank you to all volunteers who supported us on the day .

**Vet and Kennel Fees
Sick and Abandoned GSD's**

Text KFEE08 £2 / £5 / £10 to 70070 to donate now eg KFEE08 £5

JustTextGiving
by **vodafone**

A Bleak Day in Eastern region by Ann Leigh

It was a rainy and bleak Bank Holiday here in Norfolk.

George, my poor boy from Romania, took one look at the weather and decided that going outside today was not for him. I manhandled him out far enough for him to relieve himself and then he scuttled back indoors saying, 'I've found a home with four walls, a roof and comfy beds, why would I ever want to go outside again'. The others were hardly more inspired and so, sadly, no leisurely rambles in the pouring rain, by public demand ...

It seems that this is time to be spent with my computer (the beloved Timewaster) and a day for ruminating on the highs and lows of life and dog rescue. I am working hard not to be invaded by random thoughts, as dark as the day outside. We have experienced some appalling tragedies lately. They haunt my idle thoughts, until I pull myself together and concentrate resolutely upon doing something positive and useful. That is the key, I tell myself, do something useful!

Only yesterday, I was speaking to a volunteer who was desperate at what he had seen in a home of 'pond life' the day before. He was assessing the dog, a lovely mature lady who had been completely untrained and would be hard to rehome, as she is immensely enthusiastic and difficult to control. His assessment on the family was that there was 'not a brain between them'. He was devastated then but, the very next day, his spirits lifted. He had just visited an inspiring couple, who had rescued and rehabilitated a dog from desperate circumstances. She had been abandoned and had been roaming free and in bad condition, for weeks. When they adopted her she had lost the will to live and this was only coaxed back to her slowly with their love and care and another companion, adopted especially to keep her company. They now seek another companion for her and their example inspired both of us and lifted both our spirits.

I keep saying to myself that this is what it is all about. There is no joy to equal looking at the tally of 'Dogs Homed' at the end of each month and saying, 'I did a quarter of that, and that, and so on...' My old acquaintances, whom I now neglect, have actually made enquiries as to my wellbeing, worried that I might be in some sort of terminal decline. It is just that I am now wedded to my computer and the adoption logs and the like.

At last, I have the perfect life. I get to do voluntary work, so that I feel good about myself. It is about dogs and so it all seems more worthwhile than anything else I have done. And I get to gossip with lots of people about my favourite subject. Best of all, I do all of this without having to leave my pack. I am the one, of all of us, who suffers most from separation anxiety.

Now, as I write, they are all in my office languorously supervising my efforts.

This is all wonderful - apart from when I am on the phone and trying to sound businesslike (and as though I know a modicum about dogs). What do they do then? Well, they embark upon their favourite pastime – winding mum up! They love to take advantage of me, when I am tied to the wall by the phone. First of all, the JRT kicks off at some provocation. Maybe a leaf fell in the garden? Then my vocal bitch gives voice, followed by my excitable husky cross. George, the Romanian, remains aloof, happy with his four walls and a roof over his head. And the pack leader comes to me to hide, despairing of the rebellion of the rabble! It is their ritual humiliation of me! Hey ho, I can live with the ignominy.

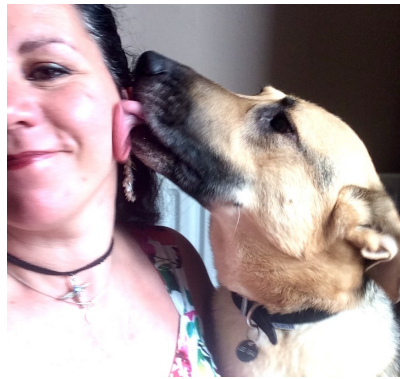
Despite these moments, I love not having to leave them. I had come to realize that, on a cost-benefit analysis, the satisfaction of any other voluntary work was outweighed by the cost to me (and them) of my leaving the pack at home.

There is another cost benefit analysis. I need to remember that the joy from the good that we do far outweighs the legacy of the sadness and tragedy. I say to others frequently, 'We do what we can: we each play our small part. And all our efforts add up to a great contribution. We need to celebrate to keep our equilibrium and raise our spirits'.

And this month we did celebrate—big time. Dave, who rehabilitates our most abused dogs, asked me to check up on a couple of his past challenges:



This happy boy is Dexter, who spent months with Dave, in kennels here in Norfolk, until his special home was ready for him. He was found in a barn, where he lived all the time. He was being fed nothing but horse pellets and was otherwise completely ignored. His owner had severe dementia and was quite incapable of caring for any animal, much less such a beautiful creature as him. Despite this, he remained a sweet natured loving boy, whose will to live and confidence was restored gradually, over the months. Now he is a perfectly happy boy in his forever home.



And then, there is Cody, rescued from a house of druggies. His rescuer said that, when he was in the car, he licked the back of her neck, as though to thank her for his release from hell. She was in tears. He too received the love and care that he needed with Dave.

Now he has a forever home that he thinks is doggie heaven.

But more than any other, here is the famous Bonio. He came to Mandy in Wales, from a life of hell in Spain, having lived entirely confined to a crate. He was so constrained that his bone development was affected, and he was crippled by his imprisonment. One cannot imagine his torment. He too, remained a sweet and loving boy, who quickly found a foster home here in Eastern region.

Bonio clearly thought that he had found himself a 'mummy' – the thing for which he longed most of all. After all the suffering and heartbreak that he had endured, how could he be denied this?

And so his foster mum and family joined the illustrious ranks of the Failed Foster club.



We need the good news and to ponder on this ... especially on bleak days such as this when it pours in Norfolk on a Bank Holiday!

Chelmsford GSDR Walk Group

Inspired by the Hockley group walk and realising that we didn't have anything regular for people over on this side of Essex or nearby Hertfordshire, my partner Dave & I scouted round and came up with this little gem of a venue, sitting conveniently near to junction 18 of the A12.

We gave it a test run with our GSD Zak, who immediately voted it a hit for mud, woods, an open meadow and - woowee, woof! woof! .. a clean lake he was allowed to swim in!

We voted it a hit for all of the above, the lovely scenery, a wonderful, doggie friendly Park Warden plus the many doggy poo bins throughout the park. It's not the biggest venue around but its diverse grounds make it a safe and real play pleasure for our dogs.



So we set up a Facebook page, posted the walk details and on 18 May 2014 our very first group walk took place. And here we are, the original 'Intrepid Explorers'.

None of us knew our way around and set off into the woods, wondering if we would ever be seen again!

Since then we have grown in membership, dogs and people joining from all sources. We are pretty child friendly too!

Some of our dogs are adopted from our own rescue, some are rescues

from other places and some are not rescues at all but have owners who want to join to help socialise their dog.

Aren't we all too familiar with the story "we can't walk our GSD locally with other walkers as they are scared my dog will attack their non-GS dog".

In our walk group, we all help each other along, sharing our experiences and stories, achieving some great results and having a lot of fun along the way.

A truly great bunch of people (albeit just a little crazy sometimes!)

Walks are organised by Linda Wood and posted on the group Facebook page, search for GSDR Chelmsford Walk or click [here](#)



Huge congratulations go to Maiya for achieving her Kennel Club Good Citizen Bronze award. When she first arrived this little girl didn't even know how to walk on a lead.

Well done Linda for turning your beautiful failed foster baby into such a good girl!

How to Contact your Area Co-ordinators

South West

Cornwall / Devon / Somerset / Dorset / Wiltshire & Gloucester

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220 mandyj22@live.co.uk

South East

Kent / Hertfordshire / Essex / London / Surrey / East & West Sussex / IOW / Hampshire / Berkshire / Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

Area Dog Co-ordinator: Tracy North 01189 745387 crystalsheps@gmail.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Nancy Cannell 01702 551213 /0794 9047139 nancy_c@hotmail.co.uk

Enquiries: Nancy Cannell 0794 9047139 gsdrsoutheast@gmail.com

Eastern

Norfolk / Suffolk / Cambridgeshire / Bedfordshire / Northants / Lincolnshire & Leicestershire

Area Co-ordinator: Mandi Wilks 01692 584772 / 07810 568862 mandigsdr@gmail.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Howard Keeling 07917 025461 howardgsdr@gmail.com

Enquiries: Sarah Carrs 01603 270044

Central

Nottinghamshire / Derbys / Staffordshire / Shropshire / Worcestershire / Herefordshire / West Midlands & Warwickshire

Area and Dog Co-ordinator: Irene Culverwell 0161 282 3594 / 07778 150561 iculverwell21@hotmail.com

General enquiries: Bill Kitchen 01524 784953 / Melanie Fairbrother 0161 494 7728

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Andy Peake Razanne99@aol.com

North West

Cheshire / Manchester / Merseyside / Cumbria & Lancashire

Area and Dog Co-ordinator: Irene Culverwell 0161 282 3594 / 07778 150561 iculverwell21@hotmail.com

General enquiries: Bill Kitchen 01524 784953 / Melanie Fairbrother 0161 494 7728

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Andy Peake Razanne99@aol.com

North East

Northumberland / Durham / Yorkshire / Tyneside / Teesside & North Humberside

Area Co-ordinator: Angela Hargreaves 0113 225 5848 muddycat13@sky.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Julie Wilkinson 07736 815430 julie_wilki@o2.co.uk

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Gillian Marsden Gillian.l.marsden@ntlworld.com

Wales

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220 mandyj22@live.co.uk

