



Hello everyone,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2014, we hope you will continue to follow us over the year for regular updates on how the rescue is doing and how many dogs we are helping as well as news on our many other activities.

Towards the end of December, as usual there was a bit of a lull for the rescue but January has seen us get off to an unexpected flying start. We certainly have received a large number of requests from owners asking us to rehome their dogs, but we have also seen a larger than expected number of dogs finding new homes. This is despite the atrocious stormy wet weather and the continuing decline in the economic situation.

We have also managed to rehome several of our long stay dogs that have spent many months in kennels. Hopefully it will be Choppers turn next as he so deserves to find his forever home now.

I do believe that 2014 will present us with an even greater challenge than ever before predominantly because of societies attitude in treating animals as disposable commodities, but more worryingly because of the worsening global financial situation. One of the main reasons for people having to rehome their pets right now is the loss of the family home and having to move into rented accommodation where pets are not allowed. This is a very sad situation indeed for all concerned.

I am confident though that when challenges arise, GSDR volunteers will rise to those challenges as they always have done in the past.

Once again I would like to thank Pets at Home Support Adoption For Pets team for their generous support of £13,460 which was given to fund drainage, new kennels and rat proof food storage. Most of the work has been completed now apart from running an electricity supply for heating and lighting. The kennels though are already being utilised to help dogs in need.

On a very sad note we lost our beautiful boy King who had been treated so appallingly by his previous owners. I had the privilege of meeting this lovely dog on my visit to the North East last year. His passing has saddened all especially his new mum but I do know that thanks to GSDR, King enjoyed the best year of his life when at last he knew what it was like to be loved and cared for. King, you will be very much missed.

We do live in very strange times and I suspect most people now know that something is very wrong with society, but don't quite know what to do about it.

As usual, I leave you with a quote:-

Every person has free choice. Free to obey or disobey the Natural Laws. Your choice determines the consequences. Nobody ever did, or ever will, escape the consequences of his choices. Alfred A. Montapert

Best Wishes

Jayne



Our New Years Resolution is to find Chopper a home.

Chopper has now spent half his life in kennels unwanted and unloved.

Sadly our Chopper, a beautiful big and handsome GSD cross who is 6 years old and neutered, has just spent his **THIRD** Christmas in kennels!

We don't understand why because our volunteers and the kennel staff have found him to be very friendly and he is a great favourite with all of them. He just loves to play with his toys, especially his football and would happily play fetch all day long. He also adores swimming. The kennels staff say '**a very friendly dog loves everyone and very affectionate with us all and gentle with toys, food and bones.**'

He can be choosy with other dogs initially but he just needs to work out who is boss first and doing it on the lead does not work with Chopper, it needs to be off the lead. If you are playing ball with him when another dog is there he often isn't interested as he is more interested in having fun.



He is good with his food, loves tasty pig's ears and shows no aggression if you approach him when eating. He also loves being in the car and on long journeys, he will just lie down and go to sleep.

Chopper is a big, solid dog who enjoys ball games, swimming and will be a fantastic, good fun companion for someone with experience with a big dog that can be protective of the home.

In return Chopper will reward his owners with complete love and loyalty.

We must find Chopper a home, he has simply spent far too long living in kennels and deserves a loving home of his own.

Chopper is currently in Essex patiently waiting for his new family.....



'Thank You' to everyone who bought one of our 2014 Calendars. Over 230 were sold raising over £1700 for GSDR including Gift Aid.

Special thanks has to go to all that took the time to submit photos and stories of their wonderful rescued GSD's, some sadly, who are now no longer with us.

Janine would personally like to thank the staff at [Kershaw Print](#) who are a local firm, for their professional service, but mainly for their friendly, helpful service that allowed her to bring the idea for a calendar to life.

But the biggest thanks must go to Janine Kerr herself who not only undertook the huge task of managing the project from designing through to posting each and every one. She's already working on ideas for 2015 so watch this space!

**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**

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Caring for your dog is a year round job, but in the cold weather we need to pay extra attention to the health and wellbeing of our four legged friends.

Here's our top tips on keeping your dog in tip top condition during the winter months:



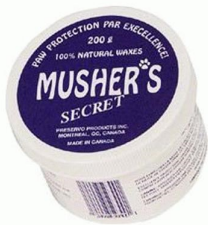
Grab your coat and walk off the winter blues. Although you may not feel like going for a walk on dark wintry mornings and evenings, try to maintain a regular routine as the exercise will keep you both, happy, healthy and fit.

Be seen. Always wear reflective clothing to make yourself visible in the dark. The same applies to your dog; invest in a reflective dog coat available by

clicking [here](#), collar or lead.



Prevent sore paws. Rock salt is used to melt ice on footpaths and may irritate the paw pads, always rinse and dry your dog's feet when you get home to avoid cracked, sore pads.



Stop snow balls. The fur between the toes should be kept short to avoid uncomfortable snow balls forming when out on a wintery walk. You might find using a paw wax useful.

Wrap up warm. Older dogs or those with short, fine coats will especially feel the cold; consider keeping them warm in a cosy dog coat. Here Dexter models the snug fleece lined, waterproof and windproof Repelz it Nano Black Aspen Parker dog coat.



Feeling thirsty? Don't let your dog drink from puddles; they could contain traces of Antifreeze which is poisonous. It smells and tastes good to your dog, but it can be lethal.



It's cold outside. Don't leave your dog out in the garden for long periods of time in cold weather, if it's too cold for you to sit outside then it's too cold for them.

Be safe not sorry. Always consult your Vet if you are concerned about your dog's health.



28th & 29th June 2014



COPMANTHORPE SHEPFEST 2014

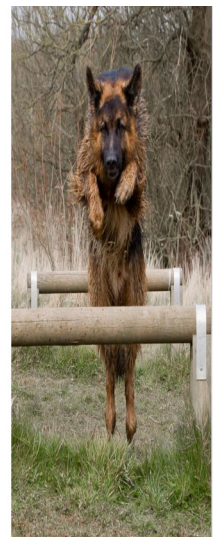


FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF OUR FIRST EVENT LAST YEAR WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN EVENTS ON 28TH JUNE & A RELAXING WALK ON THE 29TH. OR RESERVE KENNEL SPACE AND TAKE A FEW HOURS OUT SIGHTSEEING IN NEARBY YORK. CAMPING ON SITE AND LIMITED KENNEL AVAILABILITY WHICH MUST BE RESERVED. A WEEKEND NOT TO BE MISSED!

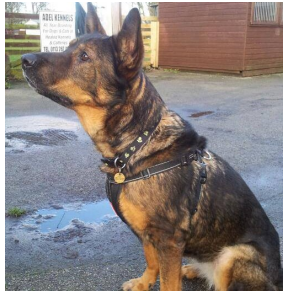
WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS FOR OUR RAFFLE & TOMBOLA, ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!

For more information contact Angie_avaughan1966@gmail.com



Look at her now!

Yes this is the same dog, this is Hope. She was collected from the pound in October by Julie Wilkinson in a sorry state, suffering from juvenile Demodectic Mange. After some time in foster care receiving treatment and lots of TLC she was waved off to her forever home. She surprised Angela Hargreaves & Julie Wilkinson by popping in to say hello and I think you'll agree she looks fantastic.



The First Few Days by Courtney Opie

I have just reviewed my notes that I have taken with regards to the phone calls that I have received over the last 12 months seeking assistance with dogs' behaviour. It has quite amazed me just how many of these calls have come from people who have had the dog a matter of days, or, even, in some cases, hours!



The nature of the problems have gone from the sublime to the ridiculous, but the underlying trend that I have seen in a large percentage of cases, is that the problem could have been greatly reduced, or even avoided completely had the introduction to the home been done correctly.

I usually get a stunned silence when I ask the caller what the rush is, when introducing the dog to the extended family, or friends, and neighbours. One poor dog that had spent several months in kennels arrived at his new home to find that there was a reception committee waiting to greet him in the house! The new owner was both amazed and hugely disappointed at the reaction of the dog, which was to show aggression towards the well wishers.

So, how should it be done? Well, personally, I have minimal contact and interaction with any dog that comes into my home for the first 48 hours. This gives them time to take in what's going on with no pressure, and gives us both the opportunity to observe each other. Whether you are adopting or long term fostering, the chances are the dog is going to be with you for some time, so why rush everything, possibly set the dog up to fail, and cause yourself unnecessary anxiety by attempting to force the settling in period?

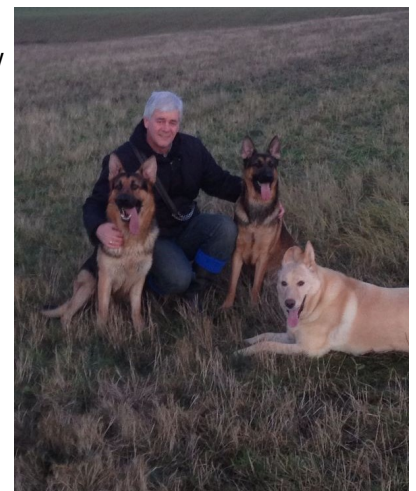
My own experience is that a patient initial approach will reap massive rewards in that, when left alone to come round in their own time to both you and the new surroundings, dogs actually settle better, and in a quicker time than they would with a full on approach.

If the dog comes for a reassuring pat, then give him exactly that. No need to give him non-stop cuddles as soon as they arrive home, which may be attempting to reassure them, but in reality is quite likely to have completely the opposite effect. There will be plenty of time for full on affection, after the dog has settled in and is comfortable in your company.

Something to consider the next time you are bringing one of our very special creatures home for the first time.....

Courtney provides post adoption training and support for GSDR.

You can visit his website by clicking [here](#).





Thank You to the lovely, kind-hearted Issabelle Pugh who celebrated her birthday in December. She wanted to brighten up the Christmas of our kennel dogs so Issabelle and her little friends made up these tasty treats with beautifully decorated labels. Janine Kerr's kind husband Ian collected them and off they went on Christmas day to make a special delivery to the dogs in kennels. One such dog was little Ronnie, recently arrived from Romania. He was a bit timid at first so Janine and Si (of Team Fat Blokes fame) spent some quiet time with him and he soon began to relax and come out of his shell.

He's pictured here on Christmas Day taking a treat off Si.

Issabelle, from all of the dogs thank you so much for your presents. I hope you enjoyed your birthday.



Asda are running the Green Token Scheme in their stores. You can nominate your chosen charity and if selected they can benefit from shoppers placing their Green Token in the slot. Alex Rayworth nominated GSDR and was delighted to receive a cheque for £50 when we came second in the token count up. To nominate GSDR you can either visit your local store to complete an application form or visit www.your.asda.com where you can find your local store. Visit



their page and take a look at their Community Life section on the right hand side. Here you can submit your nomination (as many times as you like). Every time you shop ask for a token and pop it in the slot.



Christmas Photo Comp Winner Announced

The Facebook Christmas Photo Comp raised over £200 for our Xmas Kennel Bill appeal. Judging was very tough, but the overall winner pictured here is the handsome Diesel entered by Suzanne Davis.

I think you'll all agree he's a very worthy winner.

Thank You to everyone for taking part.

Want to get fit in 2014 & raise money for GSDR?

Then join the GSDRunners! On Sunday 11th May the Leeds half marathon will take place and yet again we'll have a team of brave (or insane) volunteers taking part. Janine Kerr said "same as last year some of us will be running, jogging or basically dragging ourselves around!" If you would like to get involved you can join the GSDRunners Facebook page or email janinekerr@sky.com

We are hoping to also have a corporate team entered again, so if you can't manage 13.1 miles but could do 2 miles, please get in touch. Last year the GSDRunners raised over £3,500 from taking part.

But don't worry, if you can't run but you still want to support us, keep the day free and come and join team GSDR and the crowds to cheer us on.

For further information on the race and to enter go to www.runforall.com



Looking back at 2013 with Team Fat Blokes

2013 kicked off at Pets at Home Harrogate, the first of fifty events we managed through the year. We missed just two weekends, one due to Si recovering from surgery, the second was the wedding anniversary of Ray and Mrs L. Off they went for a break at the lovely Pier Hotel, Rhyl enjoying the hospitality of Wayne and Will and made two super new friends.

Supermarkets were profitable, raising £2,597 from six events.

A few new P@H stores were attended; they proved to be not as productive for us so they were dropped from future events.

In July Ray was called by the lovely Stella from P@H Birstall, "Ray she said, when can you come and collect a cheque? We've been doing a bit of fundraising and nominated you guys to receive a donation of £1,140.55."

There was another cheque for £500 from Crown Point for us later in the year too. And then came the nomination for the P@H Support Adoption for Pets fundraiser in October by the very lovely Emma at Harrogate store, we received yet another cheque for a massive £2,063.55. Fantastic!

We did a little bit to help with the GSDR application for grant funding from P@H, as you all know that worked out quite well with £13,460 being donated for three specific projects.

The TFB total for the year was £15,477 to help save dogs lives!

We mostly enjoy what we do, we are proud to say we never have and never will take any expenses from the rescue.

We believe we have built a strong relationship with Pets at Home who appreciate what we do; taking the staff chocolate chip cookies probably helps too!

In 2014 TFB have some new stores to try and this year we will be joining up with the GSDR girls at the Kirkstall Festival too.

So any of you out there thinking 'I don't know if I could do fundraising' if you can stand, smile and speak - you can do it! Please have a go, look at what Alan Thompson is getting up to! We need a few more teams please so we can save even more of our furry friends, it's going to be a tough year but we're always up for a challenge.

And remember we don't rattle the collection bucket, we simply readjust the contents!

Ray & Si, Team Fat Blokes.

During the year both Ray & Si both sadly lost their lovely dogs Brian & Ollie. I would like to dedicate the success of 2013 to The Boys, gone but not forgotten.



Getting 2014, off to a cracking start





We were successful in securing a grant for £13,460 through the Support Adoption for Pets Scheme. Set up as an independent charitable organisation their mission is to secure the future of vulnerable pets in need. They provide a financial lifeline to rescues like ours so that we can continue with our rehoming work. In the past year alone they have raised £2.1 million, and through their grant process we were able to apply

for support to complete three specific projects:

- * Drainage
- * Additional Kennelling
- * Vermin proof food storage area



During 2012 & 2013 we were deluged with rain, we're located at the bottom of a hill so water also flowed in from neighbouring fields which further exacerbated the problem. The dog exercise runs were flooded and at best were a mud bath. This limited the number of dogs we could have on site as our facilities were un-useable. The solution was to dig a drainage channel 3 feet deep and fill with hard-core. This drainage channel runs right around the kennels and exercise runs, out into the lane where it feeds into a council maintained drainage ditch and from there into the river.



A new thermal lined kennel block with individual runs was purchased; these kennels stay warm in winter and cool in summer. Each have a sliding hatch; two are operated by pulleys in order to open the hatch without entering the kennel, necessary for dogs who are nervous or protective when they first arrive. Our original three kennels were repaired, they already contained light and heat and we'll feed the power over to the new block from here.



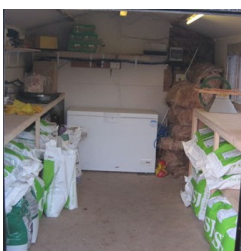
The dog exercise runs were raised by around twelve inches to minimise the risk of future flooding. We brought soil in from our field to raise the height, laid membrane and close to one hundred tonnes of paw friendly pebbles.



We originally planned to replace our old shed with a metal vermin proof one so that we could bulk buy food to keep costs down. We were advised a better solution would be to upgrade our existing shed which meant: removing the floor and replacing with a rat proof one, the walls were treated with a vermin proof substance to prevent them nibbling on the wood. The floor, walls and doors were insulated and the windows replaced with double glazing in order to maintain a regular temperature – essential when storing dry foods to avoid mould. A new roof and a lick of paint later and the project is complete.



We did go over budget due to needing more stones than estimated and making the additional repairs to our existing kennels. However, I'm sure you'll agree that it was money well spent.



Alice & Jayne receive the cheque from Henry at the Hereford Pets at Home store.



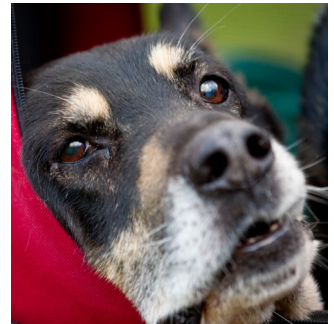
The New Start for Kennel Dogs Facebook auction is underway. You can still add new items which you wish to donate and place bids up until 23rd February. Please support this fundraiser by visiting the Facebook page by clicking [here](#)



Calling All VOLUNTEERS

In some areas we are short of volunteers, this can quite simply make the difference in being able to rehome a dog or not. If there isn't a home checker locally to a potential home then the process slows down whilst we track down a volunteer willing to go the extra (sometimes many) miles. So we need you to spread the word to people who might be interested in joining our team. There's a flyer attached to your email, pass it on and get recruiting now!

Our dear boy King who came into our care on the 8th February 2013 weighing just 18 kilo's, peacefully slipped away to sleep in the loving arms of his mum Angie Vaughan on the 2nd January 2014. King was everyone's favourite old boy, he adored the attention he got at the group walks, everyone wanted to take a turn pushing him in his pram. He attended fundraising events too where he loved the fusses and cuddles. Despite the neglect that this poor dog had suffered he still found the courage to trust in people and absolutely adored Angie, vollies who met him have told of the love you could see in his eyes when he looked at her. Angie did an incredible job of caring for his every needs, nursing an elderly dog is difficult and exhausting at times but no one could have looked after him as well as she did. He left this world almost double the weight he was when he was he arrived in 2013, he knew what it was to be happy, loved and always have full tummy. Undoubtedly they were the best months of his life.



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

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

Eastern

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

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

Dog Co-ordinator: Ann Opie 01400 262708 anngsdr@gmail.com

General enquiries: Ann Opie 01400 262708 anngsdr@gmail.com

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

General Enquiries: Peter Hopkins – 01904 784030

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

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Sian Jones jones-sian3@sky.com

