



Hello everyone,

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2016 and a belated Happy New Year to you all.

Despite a very wet and windy start to the year and during a month which traditionally is very poor for rehoming, we truly have got off to a flying start. We have rehomed nearly 50 dogs already over England and Wales all thanks to the sheer hard work of the volunteers, which is absolutely fantastic. We are starting to rehome some of the dogs that have been in kennels over the festive period and we hope that some of the long term kennel dwellers will soon be on their way to their new homes too.

This month also saw delivery of the NE dog transporter van, purchased with a grant from Support Adoption for Pets for which we are most thankful. This will make an enormous difference for our NE team and make life much easier for our dog co-ordinator Julie who has been running herself ragged having to make several trips instead of one, because of inadequate transport.

Fundraising has reached new heights and all the teams are working very hard to raise more funds so that we can help even more dogs.

A very special thank you goes to the relative of the late Brian Smith who chose to make GSDR a major beneficiary of his estate. Brian loved his dogs and had four GSD's during his life but he had a very special big boy called Bruce. Brian died very suddenly but his relative knew that his wish would be to help the breed in some way after his death. We hope that he and Bruce are looking down on us with approval, knowing that all of his legacy will be used to help needy dogs and not pay fat cat salaries and expenses.

It's nice that we as a voluntary organisation have been recognised for what we have achieved all thanks to the hard work and dedication of volunteers who do this simply because they care. When it comes to GSD rescue, we lead the way - imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

I am so proud of all my volunteers and I thank you all once again for making GSDR what it is. I have a feeling that 2016 is going to be a very good year for GSDR and for all those dogs that come into our care.

**We will receive not what we idly wish for but what we justly earn. Our rewards will always be in exact proportion to our service. Earl Nightingale**

Best Wishes,

*Jayne*



Thanks to a grant from Support Adoption for Pets, the North East team have their very own, professionally fitted dog transporter.



Now they're able to transport multiple dogs safely in one vehicle, which will save the one thing we all have very little of – time!

The van was provided and kitted out by Simon Harder, a GSD owner, click [here](#) to visit his website. A number of our volunteers have his vehicles and he always looks after his GSDR customers.

Support Adoption for Pets have a mission: We are an animal charity with a single, passionate aim. We exist to help give abandoned and homeless pets a second chance of happiness. You can visit their website by clicking [here](#)

We are very grateful for the ongoing support this wonderful organisation offers us, a huge heartfelt Thank You goes to them.



Look closely there's someone in there, trying out a kennel for size!



The Santa Paws appeal raised £600 for GSDR. The cheque was presented by Chris, manager of the Pets at Home store in Idle, Bradford. Thanks to Chris & his wonderful team for their support.





Our dear old gentleman Bertie has passed over Rainbow Bridge on the 15th January.

He brought in the crowds who dug deep into their pockets to donate when out fundraising with Team Fat Blokes.

Bert was picked up straying in Bradford in 2012, Si took him in to foster care and Bertie decided he liked it so much he'd stay.

He's pictured here at his last fundraising event, doing what he did best, being happy and smiling for sausages from Uncle Ray.

Gone but never forgotten.



New to the fundraising team is Enzo, previously a Romanian street dog now adopted by Si.

This big fella adores people but sadly Enzo is blind.

He's incredibly clever though, it took him no time at all to work out how many steps there are at home and where the food is kept! We were all hopeful that Enzo's sight might be saved, he's a very young dog with a life of fun ahead of him so he deserved the chance to see. Si arranged for him to see an eye specialist and an auction page was set up to help raise money to cover the surgery to restore his sight.

Then came the news. Enzo's sight couldn't be restored, our hopes had been dashed. Si offered to return all funds raised or suggested we find another blind dog in need of our help, the group decided to help another dog and the lovely Ash was nominated.

Ash was adopted a few years ago by the Coulson family. Being a typical GSD he was a bit feisty around other dogs but they saw past that, they loved him at first sight. He's pictured below on his first night at home, sometimes these dog just know that they're home.



Ash's mum Tanya was overwhelmed by the support offered and was encouraged to take her vet up on the offer of a referral to a specialist. Off the family went (in the tiniest car possible!) to see Mr Jones the specialist for a consultation.

Ash was diagnosed with moderately advanced cataracts with some vision remaining, just a very small triangle and around the edge of the eyes which still allows him to be able to have some level of sight.

His recommendation was to have another consultation in six weeks and if the cataracts have stayed the same then to allow him to carry on his life as he is. If the cataracts have got severely worse during

this time then they'll discuss the options further then.

Ash behaved impeccably during his consultation despite being poked and prodded with lights and cameras in his eyes.



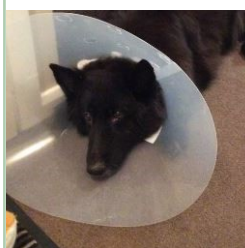
The fundraising auction page on Facebook can be found by clicking [here](#) or searching on Facebook for :

Auction for Enzo's friend Ash, give him a chance of sight

The auction will run until 28th February so there's still time to place a bid and grab yourself a bargain or donate an item.

If in six weeks the decision is made that Ash doesn't need further treatment then any funds remaining following the settlement of his account will be used to help another blind dog in need.

Enzo is continuing with the fundraising, following in the footsteps of his big brother Bertie.



Our little old lady Callie had been quite poorly for a few days, her foster parents contacted our Eastern region Area Co-ordinator Mandi Wilks who authorised a visit to the vets, just in the nick of time. Our special girl needed an emergency spay to save her life, she had ten very large cysts and a further three which had burst causing the life threatening infection. The vet checked her over before surgery declaring her heart strong and at 34 kilos she's a healthy weight. That's 20 kilos more than the skeletal waif who arrived at Norfolk Strays. Mandi authorised the surgery, Callie had fought to survive for so long that we weren't going to let her down now. She recovered well from the surgery and is back to her cheeky ways and bouncing around now she feels great again.



Feeling better after her op now that she doesn't have to wear the cone of shame anymore!



Spike the Collie who arrived with Callie is doing equally well in his foster home. He's a really healthy weight now, almost double the emaciated 9 kilos he weighed when he arrived.

The wound on his sore leg is healed and long forgotten and he's back to doing what Collie's do best—running around like crazy!

Both dogs are doing great, we love a happy ending and this pair really deserve it.



You might have seen the Christmas Appeal, asking for help with kennel fees for the influx of dogs 'dumped' at that time of year. Buddy appeared on our website as an example of our Christmas victims. He was one of the poster boys for the GSDR appeal.

This is his story written by Ann Leigh, Eastern region Dog Co-ordinator.



Buddy was 'surplus' when the family moved home and there was no longer any room for him. He was a guard dog and had lived outside for the nine years of his life. He had never been in a house or left the three acre small holding, even to go to a vet or be walked. He had experienced nothing and had never even seen another dog! The most heartbreaking part of his story is that you see him pictured on the house step and, I learned later, that this was where he chose to sleep every night. I spoke to his owner and he was mystified as to why this might be. He told me that Buddy had a kennel which he chose to ignore and went no further in his thinking than to say, 'Well, it was his own choice to sleep there'.

Buddy came to us as an emergency. The family had tried to find another home for him but had failed and he was due to be PTS within twelve hours. And this was just before Christmas! We kennelled him and then he had to stay there over the entire Christmas period as all the dogs moved to Kent for the holiday.

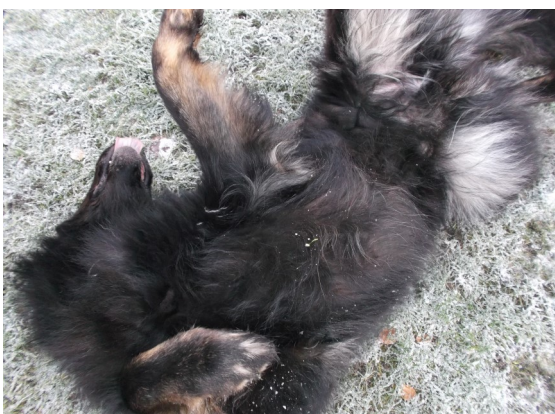
I fell in love with this boy the moment that I saw his picture, but I was trying to be professional about things. Ha! Mandi and I were discussing options for him in the new year and people who might foster him. We did not even know whether he would be able to adjust to a home. He had continued to be an outdoor dog in the kennels as well and we felt that he had to be fostered first, before any adoption, as he was such an unknown quantity. We had received the strongest advice that he would not be able to adapt to a home environment.

We were just discussing whether a certain person would be able to handle him and I found that I could not bear the prospect of him going anywhere else. Mandi jokingly suggested that I could take over if she could not manage to cope with him and then I suddenly burst out, 'You know what, let's skip that stage and have him come straight to me'. I think Mandi knew that he always would!

It seemed as though the process would be doomed, as he was said to be such an 'outdoor dog'. It was not until he came to me that I discovered why this had been so in the kennels as well. TISSUE ALERT! He had slept on the step as he yearned for the human contact of his owners and he stayed out of his kennel over Christmas, as he felt lonely shut in there. This boy is just the sweetest most human oriented dog in the world and true Velcro fellow.

He has managed to adapt to luxury very well. Now he sleeps on an orthopaedic bed (kindly donated) inches away from me all night and whenever we all sit down together in the sitting room. He could not be happier than to have found an indoor 'mummy'. He loves to go out for walks but, if I suggest a 'comfort break' in bad weather these days, I have to turf him out physically and he skuttles back as soon as he can. He is like a teenage boy about his beloved bed!

I continually wonder at the character and spirit of our dogs. His owner told me that Buddy did get and loved to have cuddles. And how! He spent the first twenty four hours trying to climb into my arms. He has learned that there is a time and a place but he remains somewhat more than demonstrative. He is adorable! And then, when you think that he has never seen a dog before, imagine his stress to come to house (not a kennel) where he has to live cheek by jowl with five others. He is so submissive he spent the first day or two trying to climb into my arms or hiding behind my legs. Now he weaves his way amongst the pack with a cleverness and submissiveness that makes 'no waves'.



Happy at last, playing in the snow

One of the most delightful aspects of having him join the family is taking him for walks. He has seen nothing before and it is like taking a child to a 'Christmas grotto'. He is interested in and delighted by everything. And he shows this by skipping around and having mad moments like a puppy, which in some ways is still his emotional level.

I had more or less forgotten what an uncomplicated dog is like. My others are all traumatised street dogs with one exception and he had quite serious issues. I expected the more of the same from Buddy. What a life of unpleasantness and loneliness he must have endured. But he seems to have been unmarked by this. He is truly a joy to know and a perfect boy.

I have adopted him and he now has a 'forever home' with me.

He is no longer 'surplus': he is the love of my life.

## And down in the South East....an update from Christine Merrit Area Co-ordinator

Oh boy what a busy month, nobody told me it would be like this! Despite the crazy times everyone in the region pulled their weight in bucketfuls. The number of dogs we provided homes for this month was a staggering 21! Eight of these dogs came from out of our area which is great, as long as we help home dogs what could be better? Nancy Cannell our Dog Co-ordinator worked herself to a frazzle (she is being let off the lead again) with all the dogs coming in, the screeners and all the vollies worked very hard to help our dogs and a big thank you to them all.

We also have a very good team of people walking the dogs in kennels, they now have a rota system which is a great help to Brian & Julie who were doing it on their own twice a week. In fact one lady is enjoying it so much she is going to foster with a view to adopt one of the kennel dogs she walks.



We took in a puppy called Eddison on the 30th December. He has epilepsy and was taken to a vets in Colchester by his owner to be PTS. He'd started to fit after his first vaccination but fortunately the vets rang me to see if GSDR could help and of course we did. Little Ed had a very rough time and we thought we might lose him, our biggest fear was brain damage. But with the wonderful help of Your Vets who I use and following a short stay in hospital he has started to be a proper puppy again. He has been clear of fits for three weeks now and although he has what I call "odd moments" he is doing well. Nosodes from now, no more vaccinations!

Our fingers are firmly crossed that he'll grow out of it. In fact he has become quite a celebrity at the vets and is being featured on their Facebook page later this month.

Our two walk groups in Hockley and Chelmsford raised the funds for all his treatment, what a very caring group of walkers we have. They do dig deep when needed and it's most appreciated.

Little Ed is now quite a little tinker and plays very well with Stevey Wonder – my blind puppy – he's another story!

Of course we still need to keep our feet on the ground and try and get the kennel dogs out and into homes so we will be doing our utmost to do this.

I have realised since taking over this role of area coordinator that you can read some would be adopters like a book, those that give you a list of many dogs they wish to consider having (largest list of dogs was a lady who she was interested in 17, another was 13 and one 12) don't usually adopt one because when you match one to them, they think that another is more suitable and so on and so forth. But we will get there in the end.....



Eddison with Stevey Wonder, both special boys

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**The South East team are focussed on getting their kennel dogs into homes, can you help?**



Benji was a street dog who narrowly escaped euthanasia. He was given a second chance at life, and thanks to the kind, patient training from the kennel staff and our volunteers he's come a long way.

Benji really deserves a home to call his own, to view his profile click [here](#).



This is Kassie—what can we say? She's pretty damn perfect!

She's a friendly girl who walks well on her lead and has a good recall, she's being rehomed due to a family break up.

To view her profile click [here](#).



Meet Meg. At just 18 months old, Meg is going through her terrible teens and loving it! She needs an experienced owner who can put her back on the right track, with time to invest in her training and socialisation.

Taken back to basics with her training she has the potential to be a fabulous dog with the right owner.

To view Meg's profile click [here](#).

**These three dogs are urgent, please can you help with finding them a forever home?**

GSDR 2016 Calendar proved very popular with 200 calendars sold. Janine posted them all over the country with two going to Denmark and one to America!

The calendars raised over £1000 for GSDR, a fabulous amount. A massive thank you goes to everyone who supported us in buying the calendar and also to everyone who sent photos and stories in that goes to make the calendar.

And a huge thank you goes to Janine Kerr for again taking on the mammoth task of organising the whole calendar project. Now that's done and dusted, to keep out of mischief she's organising the North East region Spring Party night – not to be missed, while training for the Leeds half marathon which she's running in aid of GSDR. Where does she get her energy from????



## News from the North West and Central regions by Irene Culverwell

Many thanks to June Reed at Sutton Hall Farm for collecting £200 from her dog training club and donating to GSDR, very much appreciated.

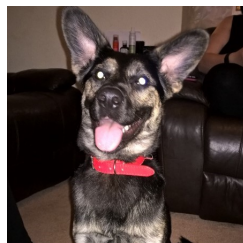
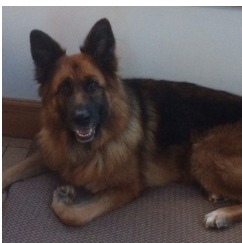
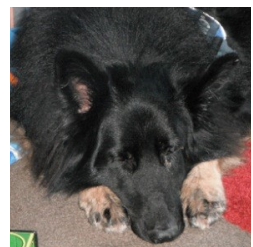
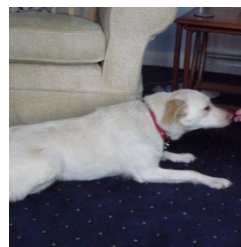
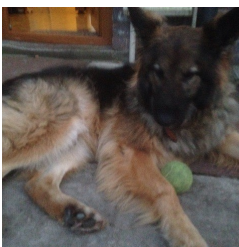
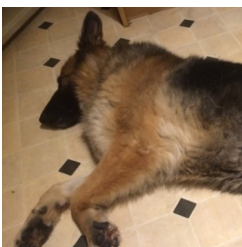
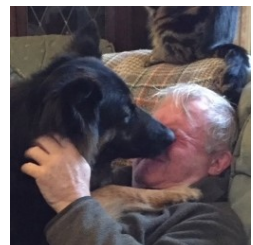
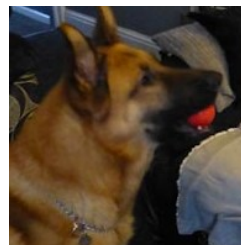
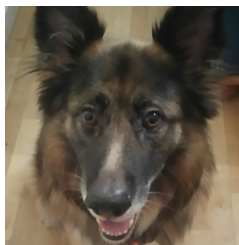
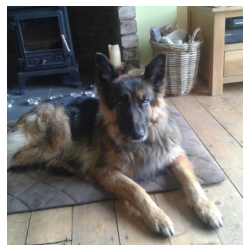
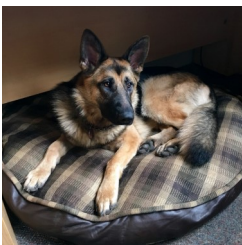


It is always brilliant when a kennel dweller finds a fantastic new home - 5 year old Henry was lucky enough to find an understanding and caring new mum and dad in Sue and Kevin Griffiths and from day one they have looked after this boy seeing him through visits to the vets, putting on weight, getting lots of walks and attention. So nice to see him go from kennel to couch and this boy definitely going from strength to strength.

Back in November we took in Lilly and her eight gorgeous pups at just one week old. Huge thanks go to Laura Jones for all her help in collecting Lilly and transporting her safely into the care of Chris Marriot and his family who set up a fantastic nursery at their kennels over in the stable block where Lilly and her brood were very snug and well looked after. Lilly was a fantastic mum and a wonderfully natured dog, thankfully she has a great new mum to look after her now plus all the little polar pups have found wonderful new homes too.



**THANK YOU** to all our North West and Central volunteers for all their help in completing home checks and dog assessments and indeed the meets for all the shepherds in need, here we have some of the follow up photographs that show all our sheps well settled in their new homes ...



Happy in their new homes we have: Sheba, Jessie, Toby, Henry, Lottie, Karma, Monty, Paddy, Lottie, Shadow, Ziggy and Bertie



*Date: Saturday  
2nd April 2016*

*Time: 19:00 hrs*

*Venue: Claret Jug  
Oulton Hall*



## *GSDR North East Spring Party Night*

*You are invited to come and spend a night with GSDR NE*

*Leave your walking boots at home, put on your dancing shoes*

*and come and join us for a Party*

*Tickets £30 per person and includes:*

*Complimentary drink on arrival*

*3 Course Meal*

*DJ & disco until 1am*

*Everyone welcome. Attire: Party Wear*

Vennue address:

Claret Jug

Oulton Hall

Rothwell Lane

Oulton

Leeds LS26 8HN

*Tickets available from:*

*Janine Kerr and Julie Wilkinson*

For enquires and bookings please

contact: Janine Kerr

E-mail: [janinekerr@sky.com](mailto:janinekerr@sky.com)

Tel: 07974 781938



All money raised will go to help Rescue and Rehome NE dogs

## 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](mailto:info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk)

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220 [mandyj22@live.co.uk](mailto:mandyj22@live.co.uk)

### South East

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

Area Dog Co-ordinator: Christine Merritt 01702 544974 [Christine.merrittgsd@gmail.com](mailto:Christine.merrittgsd@gmail.com)

Dog Co-ordinator: Nancy Cannell 01702 551213 /0794 9047139 [nancy\\_c@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nancy_c@hotmail.co.uk)

Enquiries: Nancy Cannell 0794 9047139 [gsdrsoutheast@gmail.com](mailto:gsdrsoutheast@gmail.com)

### Eastern

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

Area Co-ordinator: Mandi Wilks 01692 584772 / 07810 568862 [mandigsdr@gmail.com](mailto:mandigsdr@gmail.com)

Dog Co-ordinator: Anne Leigh 01263 860864 [ajpleighgsdr@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleighgsdr@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](mailto:iculverwell21@hotmail.com)

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

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Andy Peake [Razanne99@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:iculverwell21@hotmail.com)

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

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Andy Peake [Razanne99@aol.com](mailto:Razanne99@aol.com)

### North East

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

Area Co-ordinator: Angela Hargreaves 0113 225 5848 [angelagsdr@gmail.com](mailto:angelagsdr@gmail.com)

Dog Co-ordinator: Julie Wilkinson 07736 815430 [julie\\_wilki@o2.co.uk](mailto:julie_wilki@o2.co.uk)

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Gillian Marsden [Gillian.l.marsden@ntlworld.com](mailto:Gillian.l.marsden@ntlworld.com)

Enquiries: Sharon Coates 01751 417197

### Wales

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 [info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk](mailto:info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk)

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220 [mandyj22@live.co.uk](mailto:mandyj22@live.co.uk)

