



Hello everyone,

A belated Happy New Year to you all and welcome to our first GSDR newsletter for 2015. So grab a cuppa, put those feet up and enjoy this feature packed edition.

We have just been through one of the busiest festive seasons ever, the number of dogs coming at us was frightening. It has been a difficult time as traditionally this is a quiet time of year for adoptions.

As I have said before, it seems that the more rescues there are, the more dogs there are that need rehoming. Rest assured that no dog was turned away, we managed to find spaces for all the really urgent dogs. It does mean though that we have had some pretty hefty kennel bills to pay for this period.

The number of adoption applications has risen dramatically since the first week in January which is a good sign and means we can hopefully get some of our kennel dwellers into their forever homes. We do have a number of dogs that have been in kennels for nearly a year, one has just spent her second Christmas in kennels which is not good. We are going to do our very best to find suitable homes for these dogs in particular as it's not good for dogs to spend so much time in a kennel environment.

Whilst there are many genuine reasons for rehoming a dog, it's sad to see so many people give up on their dogs for trivial reasons. I get very angry when I read lame excuses such as the dog is to be rehomed because a new baby is on the way for instance, especially since most GSD owners know that they make wonderful family pets. My own daughter grew up in a house full of GSD's, never fewer than three.

Our volunteers work very hard and given our limited resources we will continue to make a difference for as many dogs as we can, we can't unfortunately help them all.

I know the regions have many events planned for 2015 so hopefully I can escape from Hereford and get to meet more of you.

Again, I thank all our volunteers and all our supporters for making GSDR the success that it is.

I would prefer even to fail with honor than win by cheating.
Sophocles

Best Wishes

Jayne

Team Fat Blokes Review of 2014

After getting off to a rather disappointing start for January and February we managed to get the first of the years supermarkets for March under our belts, which is always a good lift for donations.

April at Pets at Home Meanwood store saw the arrival of a very special team member 'Lord Nelson'! This sorry looking emaciated and very smelly old boy was brought to the store to meet us by Julie Wilkinson to go into foster with Simon.

Nelson walked in and said hello to everyone with a lick and basically said I'm here!

Lord Nelson got a wash and blow dry the next day and came fundraising the very next Saturday at Jollyes Halifax, where he won many hearts, such a lovely temperament this old chap has.

Despite having Nelson on board donations still carried on at a disappointing level until June, then with a Sainsbury's done and Support Adoption For Pets cheques for us we raised £3,374.09 that month!

July saw a fantastic day for Team North at Kirkstall Festival with over a dozen of us out there for the dogs had a great day in the summer sun and raised £673! Some of our fantastic Team North volunteers had travelled a great distance to be with us.

We plodded on through August and then September we had our first visit to Clifton Moor, York, Pets at Home. Not only did we receive a very helpful £378 donations but met some of 'our lot' from over that way.

October proved to be another good month for TFB with another visit to York and more nominations for Support Adoption for Pets cheques we had a £2,361.24 total!

The following Saturday we were booked for Morrisons in Harrogate. We were supported by two great girls we only met on the day, Tracey Shuffley, Debbie Johnson and Ollie dog who came all the way from Stockton to help us raise £425 that day.

In December we did two events each with Pets at Home Idle and Guiseley who had nominated GSDR to receive 'Santa Paws' donations.

So we managed forty-nine events and at time of writing raised £16,038 an average of £327 per event!

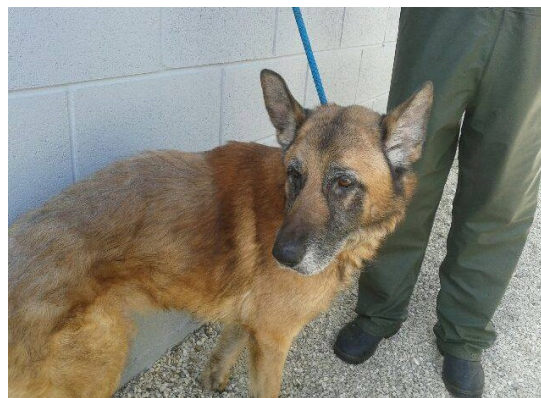
And we are expecting around another £1,000 or so from Support Adoption For Pets 'Santa Paws' drive.

Si and I would like to thank Pets at Home and Support Adoption For Pets for their continued support, it really is greatly appreciated and invaluable to helping the dogs.

A massive thank you to all of the Team North volunteers who have supported us and the great turn out as a Team for Kirkstall (will be booking again this year).

Please Volunteers, have a go at fundraising you will enjoy it and maybe even get hooked like Si and myself!

Ray Lambert – half of Team Fat Blokes.





Nelson. Saved from the pound and now out fundraising to save dogs just like himself. Without the efforts of our fundraisers we simply couldn't save the number of dogs which we do. Every penny counts.



Christmas seems like a distant memory now but we need to congratulate our Bob, pictured here with Santa at the Animal Ark Aid Christmas Party. Bob took along his mum Gillian Marsden and raised £33.

As supporters of GSDR, [Animal Ark Aid](#) donated £100 of the proceeds to their total.



Many Thanks go to colleagues of Elaine Whiting, member of the GSDR Hockley Woods, Essex walk group. Elaine very kindly took a collection box into work at BNY Mellon where anyone unfortunate enough to pass her desk and linger for a moment too long was forced to empty their pockets of change! The final count up including GiftAid came to £62.50 and Elaine is pictured here in Hockley Woods fulfilling her job as 'the treat lady'.



**You might remember in the November/December newsletter we heard from Poppy, who travelled from Romania for a new life in the UK with 'The Funny Lady'.
Brace yourselves for part two!**

JULY TO NOVEMBER - the Funny Lady's Version

I must be mad I thought, when I read on a GSDR Facebook page that foster homes were needed for some Romanian dogs coming to England. I thought to myself, well there is room for one more, BUT only to foster, little did I know what I was letting myself in for. So I signed up to foster, or so I convinced myself.

On a soaking wet Saturday in November 2013 I found myself driving down the A13 to Thurrock with my future daughter-in-law Gemma to collect this dog from Romania. We arrived just as two vans full of dogs pulled up, now to say it was raining is an understatement - it was hissing down cats & dogs! We parked just three cars away from the vans and by the time we get to them we are soaked.

Now the first rule when you pick up a dog like this is to take it for a walk. No chance I thought, this dog was petrified and if it could have shrunk further it would. So I ruled out the walk and dashed to the car. By now all three of us were soaking wet through, so I dried off the terrified dog, whose name I was told was July.

I wrapped her in a blanket, if you could have seen the fear in her eyes you would have forgiven her everything, as it happened, we had to, as she promptly peed in the blanket. Driving with all the windows open (she did pong) Gemma said "I think this dog has lodgers"....never mind I say, we will stop at the vets on the way home and get some treatment for them. We duly arrived at vets, would this dog walk? No way, she had to be carried. The vets saw her straight away, yes lodgers she had of the flea variety, they kindly checked her over and we were once more on our way home.

Arriving home she had to be carried from the car, once inside the house we introduced her to my two GSD's they sniffed and walked away (not surprised). Come feed time she thought all three bowls of grub were for her, it took some time for this to sink in, but we got there in the end. So after a stressful day it was finally time to go to bed. The dog gate was put up to prevent July from coming upstairs, and I placed her in her bed with a teddy. My two GSD's followed me upstairs as usual, then we woke up about an hour later to a noise at bedroom door. Burglars, I thought and picked up a truncheon before opening the door. Yes you have guessed it; July is outside the door she had jumped the dog gate! Back downstairs we go and I fixed a pasting board to top of dog gate. Did that stop her? No, she is back up the stairs before I have got into bed again. I gave up.

I tell everyone she is a cross between a kangaroo, mountain goat, and dog. She could and can escape from anywhere, although not from the house. The first time I used the Hoover after she came, I put her and the other two out in the garden. I started hovering then I felt something touch the back of my leg, the little devil had climbed back in through the dining room window. Yes I did tell her off, but she did the usual - rolled on her back for her tummy to be tickled.

Even now if she gets told off she grins at you, wags her tail and rolls over. How do you cope with that??

It has been a steep learning curve for me, but she has trained me well. It took three months to get her used to her new name Poppy, chosen because of her November arrival.

And today for the first time she gave me her paw. Visits to the vets are an event on their own, everyone there makes such a fuss of her and she laps it up, she's a real attention seeker.

Now why after all this time is she still with me?

Because I am a FAILED FOSTERER.

Anyway, my granddaughter would hate me to give her to someone else. That's my excuse and I'm sticking to it.

By Christine Merritt aka The Funny Lady





GSDR Hockley Woods Walk in Essex.

The group meets every Sunday morning at 11am for a walk.

About four times a year they organise something to raise funds for GSDR through the infamous Naff Raffles, in summer it's a picnic and in winter it's in the pub garden.

On Sunday 21st December, after a very muddy and wet walk instead of their usual coffee and bacon butty at the mobile café the group adjourned to the Pub (this pleased the men). This enabled the group to flog as many raffle tickets as possible for our infamous Naff Raffle. As alcohol and wine were some of the prizes, the tickets sold well. A grand total of £163.76 was raised, roll on spring for the groups next venture.

Hold onto your hearts, here's little Inkey.

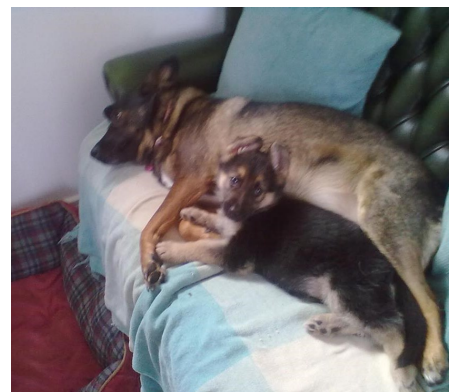
Abandoned in a cardboard box, weighing just under 2 kilos with his eyes barely open, little Inkey landed firmly on all four paws when he was delivered into the care of our very own funny lady – Christine Merritt. This little fella is growing daily and the vets are pleased with his progress. He's found a foster mum in Romanian Poppy who has taken him under her paw.



Inkey arrives not much bigger than a slipper



There's nothing wrong with being ambitious!



Sofa snuggles with Poppy

Maria Hamilton has launched a Facebook auction to help raise funds to help beautiful Cara, currently in GSDR care. This auction will run until 15th Feb at 8pm, so there's still plenty of time to donate items and place bids!

Cara came into our care before Christmas, she'd been found at the side of the road after being hit by a car. She was taken to the vets where her severe head wound was patched up and from there was handed into the local kennels. After no one came forward to collect her, Julie Wilkinson stepped in and had her signed over to GSDR. An appeal was launched for a foster home where this beautiful girl could recover and thankfully Debbie Sharpe volunteered. This little girl was so frightened that they couldn't get her into the house, so she went into an outside kennel until Debbie could gain her trust. Cara was taken to the vets for vaccination, wormer and general check up – when the devastating bomb was dropped. After further investigations blood tests and X-rays revealed two mammary masses and a splenic tumour. A routine visit has led to her having her spleen removed and an emergency spay as a mass was also found in her uterus. She stayed at the vets following surgery for a few days as her post-op recovery was hampered by an erratic heartbeat. However, she made it; she's back home with Debbie and is thriving. Although Cara tires easily, a cheeky, playful dog who likes to pinch the toys and hide them in her crate has emerged. Once fully recovered Cara will have to go back into surgery for the mammary masses to be removed but the good news is that the histology report from the spleen and uterus has come back benign. Cara has shown us just what a tough dog she is, she fought hard to stay with us after surgery and is getting stronger every day. She's only around seven years old so has so much life ahead of her and we'll make sure she gets everything she needs to make her happy and healthy.

You can join Cara's Facebook auction by clicking [here](#).



We have a number of kennel dwellers in the South East waiting for their forever home....

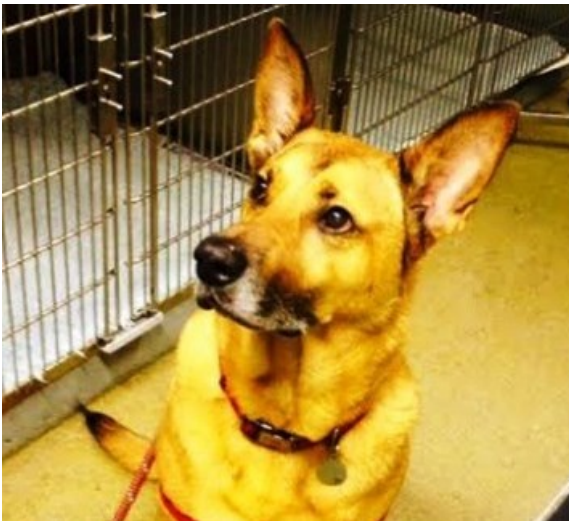


Zoe is a very frightened young lady and needs an experienced home with someone who can slowly show her that humans and life isn't as bad as she thinks.

She is so scared that she will search for a place to hide and would benefit from a quiet environment where she can be given time to come out of her shell.

Kennels isn't the right place for this frightened girl and needs a foster or forever home asap.

You can view her profile by clicking [here](#).



Poor Twig was saved literally hours before being put to sleep after our volunteer frantically drove from London to Brighton and back to Essex to save this boys life.

Twig is a very friendly, if bewildered boy and is looking for a home as the only dog, he's a lovely lad who deserves a home where he will be loved and looked after.

You can view his profile by clicking [here](#).



Benji seems to love everyone he meets, he's one of the kennel staff's favourite residents.

An older gent of 8 years old, he has lots of energy and love to give and is looking for his forever home.

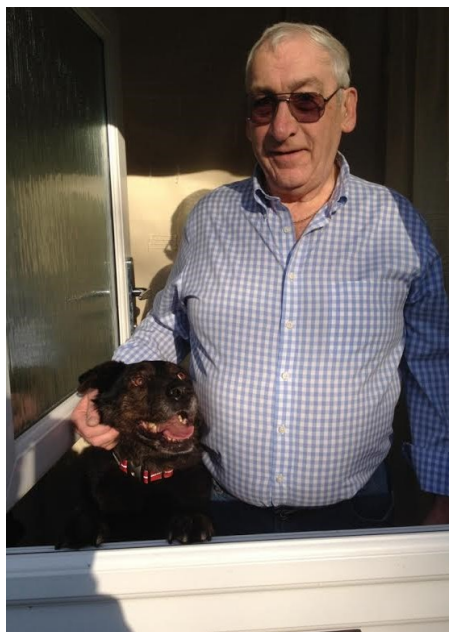
You can view his profile by clicking [here](#).

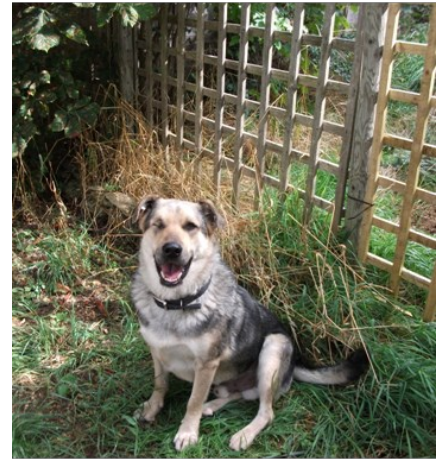


Why does Tom look so happy?

Because he's moved out of kennels and into his forever home.

Pictured here with his Dad, he's one very happy dog!





GSDR 2015 Calendar

“Thank you” to everyone who bought one of this years GSDR Calendars. 180 were sold raising over £1400 (including Gift Aid) for GSDR.

A special thanks goes to all that took the time to submit photos and stories of their wonderful rescued GSDs.

A few tears were definitely shed reading through them.

With only 12 months to fill not all photos submitted could be used. Here are the one's who unfortunately didn't make it.

Thanks again to their mums and dads who nominated them.

I would like to say a massive “thank you” to Doug, Margaret and Anthony from [Kershaw Print](#), who pulled out all the stops and again helped me make this Calendar possible.

Don't forget to make a note for November to get your orders in for 2016!

Janine Kerr



The Joy of Adopting an Older Dog – Buster's story

Ann Leigh starts the story....I will never forget the day that I was able at last, to say, 'I have a secret to tell you'. And then, when all was revealed, the shriek of incredulity and joy that I heard down the phone. I had just told Pam that her longed for Buster was sitting with me at my feet as I spoke, and that, if she still wanted him, she could come to my house to pick him up whenever she liked. She came the next morning and the rest is history!

Coming to that point makes a fantastical tale though. It all started on Facebook, where so many things originate these days. A member of the Eastern region team was idly scrolling through conversations of friends of friends when a reference to a GSD caught her attention. She realized that someone was describing a crisis with her dog and so, being a brave frontline rescuer herself, she intervened and asked for more details. The dog's owner was contacted on her behalf and the full story emerged. Buster had been with his family from a two year old, when rehomed from apparently uncaring previous owners. He had been a wonderful family dog and had been nothing but a source of joy and emotional support. The early death of the father followed by the children growing up and leaving home changed Buster's world completely. His mum had to work and he was left for hours alone. He became stressed and then, spooked by certain events, he began to vandalize the house. He was given a luxurious kennel with a run, but this did not give him what he now lacked, the love and attention of his beloved family. There was no way that his owner could satisfy his need for this any longer and so, broken heartedly, she sought to re-home him. She housed him, whilst doing so, in kennels which she believed that he enjoyed. But she could not afford to keep him there for a prolonged period and so she searched for a rescue. She was beyond hope that one would be able to help her, when she shared her predicament on Facebook. She had reached the point of considering taking him to Battersea Dogs Home, as her last desperate resort.

It was at this point that GSDR intervened, through the personal initiative of our volunteer, supported by the Eastern region co-ordinators. She fast tracked the adoption request and dog assessment and GSDR took responsibility for him. He was then transferred to our local kennels and appeared on the website.

It was at this point that Pam saw him and knew that he had to be 'her boy'. When we contacted her for an initial screening interview, practically the first thing that she said was, 'Can I have Buster please'. And then, throughout the usual processes the refrain was repeated, just in case we had forgotten: as if this were possible! Happily, for me, at the time of our first contact Buster was in kennels. I do not know if I could have kept from her that she was in contact with the actual home where Buster was fostered. She would have sensed this somehow, I am sure. He only came to me afterwards, coincidentally, as he had become depressed in kennels.

Imagine my pleasure when I was told that I could tell Pam that her request for Buster had been approved. My heart was bursting for the two of them. By then I knew that Pam was utterly devoted to him before they had even met and, having fostered him even for only a short while, I knew that he was the perfect gentleman and that he would be all that she had hoped for.

Pamela Skeggs, Buster's new Mum tells us: Buster was the best Christmas present in the world, two weeks previously we had lost our Gerry, who was also a rescue. Gerry had brought lots of happiness into all our lives and Buster coming filled a great big void that he'd left behind. Buster was the perfect match for me and I feel very privileged to be allowed to adopt him. As soon as he came to the cottage, he checked out every room, but loves the bedroom and kitchen the best. Since then I've discovered lots of things he's been taught over the years, such as speaking for his dinner. Although he was unable to play with toys on arrival, he sure knows how to play with a ball now, he could only run short distances and now he can run fast. I was reluctant to let him off the lead, but now he's focused on playing and comes back to the sound of rustling sweetie bags. Buster is a real gentleman, he loves his fellow house mates but especially his home comforts.

He has brought so much joy to our lives, I owe all this to GSDR, but especially Ann who was our first contact and Carol, who came to do the home check, I could go on forever talking about Buster, but the main reason for writing this is to encourage more people to take on rescue dogs, especially the older ones, I would highly recommend it!



We have many older dogs looking for their forever home, you can view their profile on the website by clicking [here](#)

An update from NORTH WEST & CENTRAL by Irene Culverwell

One of the nicest things to hear is “yes I’ll foster” but even better are the golden words “we’ve failed - we want to adopt”.

5 lucky dogs were not only kept safe ‘n’ snug over Christmas but the New Year has certainly started very bright when they were adopted....

7 year old Varda – happily settled with the Griffiss family and their Springer Spaniel

3 year old Thor – loving being the only dog in the Penfold household

10 year old Arthur – happy and safe with Dawn and her family with previously adopted Rigby plus the gorgeous Alfie

7 year old Champ – settled and looking really well now adopted by Simon and Anne, with their other two GSDR sheps Blue & Rinty

7 year old Karma – happy with Lisa and her family up in Heysham loving her beach walks



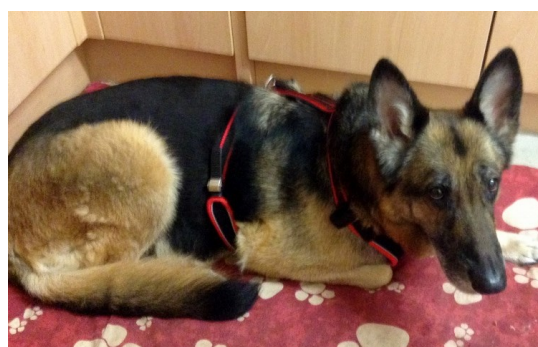
One little dog not so lucky and still waiting to find a foster or forever home is 8 year old Maya.

She was kept out of kennels over the Christmas period but sadly now finds herself back in Crewe kennels.

If anyone has a quiet home with lots of nice walks then Maya is your girl.

She is wary of strangers, bonds very quickly with her carers, a typical girl who wants to protect her pack.

Outside she is fantastic with all dogs and happily lived with cats.



You can view Maya’s profile on our website by clicking [here](#).

Thanks to our foster carers for keeping our dogs safe and out of kennels: the lovely Aurora in Nottingham, cheeky boy Sammy up in Cumbria, the ever playful Blue over in Glossop, the handsome boy Kye in Preston and not forgetting the wild child Madison over in Bolton.

All these beauties are safe but still looking for their forever homes and their details can be found on the GSDR website.

These boys found happiness at last...

Two wonderful updates on Danny and Ice who were both very traumatised, fearful Romanian dogs.

Danny and Ice were in foster together for a long time until both went to separate homes within a couple of weeks of each other. Neither of them were easy dogs, as they had baggage from their ill treatment at the hands of humans.

Danny and Ice were lucky to find new homes that were willing to work through their issues and just look at the results. How wonderful to see these updates.



From Ices' adopter:

'Thought you all might like to have an update on Ice. It is now six months since we adopted him and as you can see he has made himself very much at home! He is a different dog to the frightened and distrustful little boy who we took home back in July. He is now a confident, outgoing and trusting little dog who welcomes anyone to the house. The difference is quite amazing. He has even grown in size too! It took us a while to find a diet that suited him but we seem to have cracked it now and he gobbles up his breakfast and tea with great gusto.

At 12.30 both the dogs have a pigs ear as a treat and if we are more than a few minutes late delivering their snack, Ice comes and taps me on the leg to remind me!

It hasn't been an easy journey and we had months of the house being trashed when he was left for even half an hour and with our other GSD, but perseverance has paid off. It has been such a pleasure to see him grow in confidence and know that we were able to make him happy. I would thoroughly recommend to anyone to take on a rescue dog like this. They are not 'difficult' dogs they just need more time and patience to settle and the rewards are immense. '



From Danny's adopter

'Quick update on Danny dog. He's settled and happy, learning some manners and confidence. Basically, I have a 4 year old puppy!

He comes running with us every Tuesday night now and him and Nia get on brilliant. They play fight and run round, it's lovely.

This is Danny with his Xmas present, his own sofa'

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 / 07546 511647 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 / 07546 511647 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 mandyj22@live.co.uk

