



Hello everyone,

Welcome to one of our summer editions of the GSDR newsletter, I sincerely hope that you are experiencing some warm sunshine now.

Well it has indeed been a very strange year, not only for our weather but on the rescue front too. It's certainly been a bit of a roller coaster ride and it has been difficult to predict how things would go, given that they haven't followed the usual patterns.

What we expect to be quiet months have turned out to be our busiest and vice versa. I had expected July and August to be quieter for adoptions because of the holidays, but that has not turned out to be the case. This of course is very good news for all those lovely dogs waiting for new homes, especially all those that have spent so long in kennels.

We do still have a number of older dogs who have been in kennels far too long because adopters want young dogs. One poor dog has been in kennels 4 years which is no life for him. Please spare a thought for our oldies and maybe consider adopting one, you will not regret it. It's not their fault they were discarded and they should not have to spend the rest of their lives in kennels because they are deemed too old. Many of these dogs have never had homes at all and any time they could spend in a home, would be the best time of their lives.

Volunteers have been kept very busy this year, there really is no let up so my thanks go out to all of them for all their hard work and dedication.

I will be attending the Pup Aid event in Primrose Hill Park, London on Saturday 3rd September so I look forward to meeting team pink and anyone else who can come along for the day.

**"The indifference, callousness and contempt that so many people exhibit toward animals is evil first because it results in great suffering in animals, and second because it results in an incalculably great impoverishment of the human spirit." – Albert Einstein**

Best Wishes,

*Jayne*

# KIRKSTALL FESTIVAL



Despite a very wet day the North East team attending the Kirkstall Festival with their GSDR stand raised a staggering £860!

Huge thanks to all volunteers who worked so hard to make this such a successful event for us.



TFB spent a busy weekend at Morrisons Supermarkets in Horsforth & Morley raising £635 over the weekend.

Reinforcements were called in and they were joined by Mark & Bella and pictured here Symrette with Alice.

Well done team for continuing to get the shoppers to dig deep even when times are hard.



When an event is described like this....

Edinburgh Beast UK

This 25km course features proper Scottish hills that will do their best to drain the energy from your legs. Throw in 30+ obstacles and you have an event that will test your endurance, grit and perseverance...

I wouldn't even consider entering!

But Joe Johnson did, and what's more he did it for GSDR!

Joe is a life long lover of GSD's having grown up around them, so when he decided to take on the challenge of the Spartan Race he decided to run in support of GSDR. His colleague Ray Wakelin is a GSDR volunteer so Joe knows what good work we do and how much his fundraising efforts would help. Joe raised £630 and has submitted a request for his employer for sponsorship as they offer to match up to £500. So after a gruelling 6 hours Joe passed the finish line, knowing how much the money raised would help really spurred him on through the toughest times, it's amazing what your love of dogs can make you achieve.

Well done Joe, a big thank you from all at GSDR, what an amazing achievement.



Ready for the off



Tired, muddy but still smiling



**SE Region - GSDR ESSEX WALKING GROUP**  
**BBQ / Garden Party**

Nancy & Alex held a BBQ on Sunday 24th July after the Hockley Woods Walk in Alex's Grandad's garden. It was such a lovely day and the weather was great, one of the dogs decided to go for a swim with the fish, while another stayed in the bath filled with water. There was a naff raffle and a few games to raise some money. A big thank you to everyone that came and excelled themselves with their generosity and help raise £ 556.88, which included money raised at the BBQ and two collection pots that were given.



Stephen England got more than he bargained for when he decided to adopt a dog—he adopted a mud monster!

Not having a GSD before Stephen went through a thorough screening and homecheck which he passed with flying colours. Stephen had done his research—he also attended the Chelmsford Group walks and walked the kennel dogs to get a realm insight into what he was letting himself in for. It was at kennels where he found Jake and Jake found his new dad.

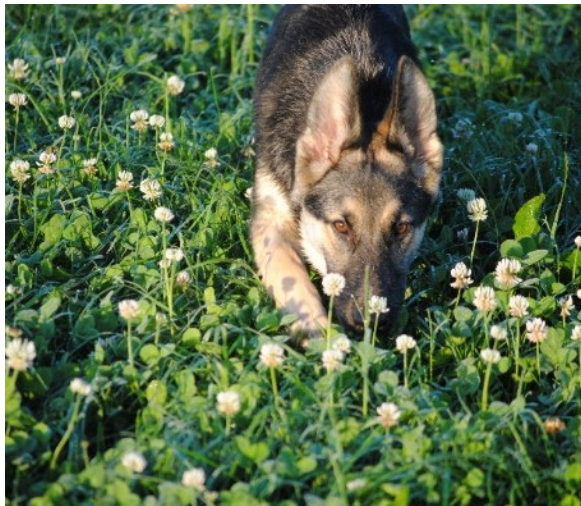
You'll notice Jake was a lot cleaner by the end of his walk thanks to using his dads trousers as a face cloth!

## News from the North West & Central regions from Irene

DOGS in need .... Volunteers to the rescue ...

We have some wonderful volunteers who happily give up their time to help a shepherd in need – I would like to say a huge thank you to all who helped out these urgent dogs during July and glad to say they are all safe and doing well and if we could find a forever home for Millie that would be the icing on the cake!

**Cheers to Mark Knowles a North West volunteer** who happily drove almost a 200 mile round trip to help 10-year-old Millie who was being returned back to the rescue after 6 years of living up in Cumbria. Having collected this gorgeous oldie, he stopped at his own home to let Millie stretch her legs, meet his dogs, have some food and a rest before continuing down to the kennels in Burnley. On route another North West volunteer Janine thankfully called and said she would foster Millie – fantastic news for everyone involved. Mark happily diverted to Janine's and this gorgeous girl is settling into her foster home and bringing lots of smiles to everyone she meets. Very grateful to Janine and Ian (plus their dogs Max & Mollie for sharing their home) **If anyone can give this gorgeous girl a forever home, please get in touch, she really is a sweetheart and loves everyone and everything – Millie simply wants a retirement home and someone to snuggle up with. You can view her profile by clicking [here](#)**



Little Bella was an urgent lift as her owner was about to give birth and made the decision to re home 4 month old Bella as going forward she realised she wouldn't cope. A foster home was found up North and Central vollie Barry gladly collected young Bella and helped transport her further up the M6 to meet our NW Volunteer Ray. Between them they rescued and got this little pup safe within 48 hours. Bella has now found a permanent forever home on a small holding where she is loving the great outdoors and as you can see very much enjoying running free in the fields.



Blake was only 8 months old and another urgent boy requiring help due to family not being able to cope and the young dog was not getting the time and attention he deserved.

Chris our volunteer in the Derby area was quick to assess and meet Blake and within a few days he was re homed to a lovely couple in Cheshire who say he is settling in well and will be a pleasure to own.



Another urgent re home was 2-year-old Sam, originally rehomed back in 2015 but sadly his owner became very ill and felt Sam would be best rehomed as he wasn't sure of his cancer prognosis.

Thanks to everyone involved in getting this young boy rehomed and settled in just a few days – it is a relief to the original family to know their boy is safe.



Gerry was a 3-year-old boy on the site in Central region, but sadly no takers were forthcoming and the 84-year-old owner was getting more and more stressed knowing that although the dog was much loved he wasn't getting out and about and Gerry was getting more and more unruly.

After discussion it was agreed to take Gerry into kennels and once again a transport run was needed to get this lad safely into kennels.

After a few days up at the Pet hotel, Gerry was found to be a very people focussed boy who still had the manners of a pup and the strength of an ox on the lead. Thankfully a NW home check came through who was perfect for Gerry and they are starting the routine this lad needs – looking forward to the follow up on this boy.



7-year-old Meeka was another urgent girl who was looking to be rehomed due to a bereavement in the family, as much as they wanted to keep her it wasn't going to be practical with the other pets in the home.

Thankfully Barry was able to meet and assess Meeka who he found to be a placid, docile dog who although overweight appeared just sad and a little bewildered.

That day a home check came in that was looking for an "easy" dog who was good with cats. Barry took Meeka to meet her potential new mum, very glad to report it was a perfect match and Meeka is settled, relaxed and happy in her new home and around her new housemate - the cat – result!

**“URGENT” IF YOU CAN HELP FOSTER FOR GSDR PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.** It's as easy as completing a form, click [here](#).

Many thanks in advance from all the shepherds who most definitely need your help.

## WELL DONE GSDR GIRLS – CAN'T SAY FAIRER THAN FIRST PLACE!



Ellie Kightley from Shropshire with a message sent from her family...

On Sunday we took Ellie to the Ludlow Dog Day at Stokesay Court. It was a great day out for over 3,000 dog lovers with 20 classes and demonstrations of agility, obedience, fly ball, canine partners and huskies. We entered her into the Best Rescue Dog class and to our delight she came first!

Ellie has been with us for just over a year, she is a pleasure to own and to win on Sunday was the 'icing on the cake'.

Ellie behaved impeccably and was picked out from a class of about 30 dogs. She thoroughly enjoyed being admired and fussed by many people throughout the day. A far cry from the Puppy Farm in Cyprus from where she was rescued, her ability to adapt to her new world never ceases to amaze us.



2-year-old Heidi was originally a kennel dweller up in Burnley until she found a wonderful home with Michael and then she truly settled and became the wonderful happy girl we always hoped she would.

Heidi has taken to farm life in an unbelievable way and has become a true shepherd in every sense of the word.

At the local Whiteacres & Shustoke Show on 30<sup>th</sup> July Michael entered Heidi into two classes where she was 4<sup>th</sup> in prettiest bitch and 1<sup>st</sup> in best rescue dog.



## Our exotic immigrants in Eastern

There are adoptions and then there are adoptions. Each one is unique and is a miracle for the dog and families involved.

At an extreme, a dog's life can be transformed from unbearable anguish into one of happiness and safety, hitherto unknown. This is the birthright of all but how often are our dogs cheated of this? It is always a privilege to be involved in any adoption, but especially these. But beyond this even, there are some adoptions where the dogs seem magically transported from hell to heaven. There is all the anguish and the joy and as well, as a sense of wonderment as to how such a thing could be possible. How could an exotic Caucasian Shepherd from unbearable



hell in Romania end up in the luxury of a beautiful English country home? GSDR know all too well. There is a chain of dedicated brave volunteers who work ceaselessly to rescue these poor abandoned and abused dogs. They are as radicalised as any jihadi fighters, working across borders and through language barriers, all in the cause of these poor helpless waifs. (If a 70kg dog can be thought of as such!)

This is how Sox came to her beautiful new home. She is a Romanian Caucasian Shepherd dog, who came into Jayne's care through her contacts with Romanian rescues. She had been badly abused by a breeder in Romania who cut off her ears and was then going to dispose of her. A rescuer stepped in, as she loved this breed and she came to Jayne in a rendezvous at a Lidl

carpark. Even then the handover of this little scrap attracted a crowd of onlookers. A star in the making already!

Sox stayed with Jayne for three years. She never believed that she would be able to find her a suitable home. And then ...

Bear had been adopted from Jayne about a two years earlier. He was an eleven month old pup at the time, although you would think him in the prime of life. You might remember both of them on Facebook amongst the many hundreds that Jayne cares for in some way. Sox is especially memorable. I am haunted still by the pictures of her as a poor traumatised pup, bewildered by life and still suffering from having her ears cut off. She was an adorable pathetic scrap. In Romania she would not have survived. Instead, after TLC with Jayne for three years, she has joined her new brother Bear. The two of them are working at adjusting to a lifetime of luxury. Sox is greedy and particularly enjoys three fish fillets a day cooked for her by her devoted owners.

I would love to say that Sox and Bear fell into each others' arms and it was love at first sight. However, Bear felt that his position as 'king of the castle' was threatened and Sox was wary of a strange dog bigger than herself, for once. There was a growl and a lip curl even. Now they live equably and soon they will be in love and inseparable. We don't make fairy stories happen.

But we do get to see miracles unfold.





## Who would have thought this poor boy would become a celeb?



Yes, this was the famous Spike.

You probably remember his story. It did not begin well and then it just got worse...and then worse, still.

He first came to our notice as a 'poundie', rescued from a dreadful home as a 'cruelty case' with his 'sister' Callie. They were both in the most dreadful physical condition and needed to be built up before they could be considered for rehoming. At that dreadful time, it was possible to span Spike's waist with two hands, he was so emaciated. We only learned of this pair, as his 'sister' was a shepherd and we are routinely informed of any that come our way. The two were so closely bonded that it was hoped, at first, that they could be rehomed as a pair. And so, they went to another rescue, where it was hoped that they could move on gracefully to a joint forever

home. Sadly, they were again badly treated there and were so badly neglected that they returned to our local pound. GSDR decided there and then that Spike had to become an 'honorary shepherd' (He is a border collie, in fact) So, we did our best to nurse him back to physical health. His condition improved but gradually he became more and more depressed in kennels. The lively boy that he had once been disappeared, as he gradually lost the will to live. He only became more and more introspective and depressed.

He went to stay initially with wonderful foster carers Tom and Angela. Then we found him a home and he bounced within twenty four hours as they thought that he was 'too old'.

He was then 'rescued' by another our own inner circle of volunteers, Sue. She nursed him fully back to bouncing physical health and he transformed into a well developed boy who is a credit to his breed. He became astonishingly handsome and a loving playful boy in the home without any issues. We then started again to find him a forever home. We contacted Border Collie Rescues and Shalini flooded Twitter and Face book. He became a nearly celeb all right. He was by now a fine specimen of a border collie but hey, we rehome GSDs.

So Spike stayed with foster mum, Sue, and she hung in there grimly. As he became well, his personality developed and he became less and less compatible with her own GSD. They did not fight but the problem could best be summed up: Spike was excitable and energetic in the home whereas Sue's dog Rigby was quiet there, and outside where Rigby wanted to be energetic, Spike retained some of his early agoraphobia.



And then, one day we had a call. 'I have lived with GSDs and Border collies all my life and I like both, really.' From that moment onwards, nothing could have been easier than Spike's adoption to his forever home. His new owner lives with her adult daughter with special needs. Immediately upon meeting them, Spike set about diligently training his new owners. (Oh yes, he has the Border collie will, in truckloads, now that he is well.)

They love to accommodate his needs and he now has them doting upon him day and night.

A truly happy ending to this little celeb's story.

## 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: Anne Leigh 01263 860864 [ajpleighgsdr@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleighgsdr@gmail.com)

Dog Co-ordinator: Suzanne Thurman 01472 459528 [s.thurman@sky.com](mailto:s.thurman@sky.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)

