



Hello everyone,

Well we are half way through March and I do believe that there is a touch of spring in the air after what has been the longest, darkest wettest winter I have ever experienced. Hopefully it's time to get rid of the wellies and waterproofs and look forward to some longer, drier, warmer days to enjoy with our pooches. The bad weather that we have endured over this winter certainly has made life difficult for all rescues with people putting off adopting until spring, yet ever more dogs are needing to find new homes.

Sadly one of the main reasons for having to rehome a dog these days, seems to be homes being repossessed and people being evicted from their homes and put into accommodation where pets are not allowed. Very sad times when people are losing their homes and having to give up their much loved pets when they need them most.

During February which is only 28 days, we received 168 adoption forms, a staggering 119 rehoming forms and 13 new volunteer forms. The number of dog rehoming forms is shockingly high considering there are so many GSD rescues in the UK now. This number does not include the death row dogs that we have helped.

When I first set up my own rescue all those years ago, we never had to cherry pick the dogs that we helped because there were not that many and we had plenty of good homes waiting to adopt. Times have changed and most rescues now are in the position of having to manage their resources as best they can, which means having to make difficult decisions about not taking on any dogs that have expensive or long term medical conditions as well as those with any major behavioural issues. We have many nice dogs that have been in kennels 6-9 months and poor Scooby has spent 2 years in jail. Where we can, we try to get volunteers or dog walkers in to break the monotony of being shut away in kennels for so long but these dogs desperately need their own homes.

Now that spring is almost upon us, let's have a big push to help all those dogs that have spent so long in kennels waiting for their new mum and dad to come along.

Winter is behind us, so expect lots of activity from the volunteers especially in relation to fundraising which is a key part of ensuring that we have the necessary funds to allow us to help more dogs. Look out for new online auctions where you can grab some fabulous goodies and we will be looking at new merchandise for the warmer months. Don't forget our volunteers who give up their weekends to run promotional stands to help raise awareness and funds. Special thanks go to our Two Fat Blokes who are out there most weekends in all weathers still wearing those shorts and sporting that moostash.

I think it's going to be a busy year so huge thanks to all our lovely volunteers for their continued support.

My quote for this month - 'Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent.' Milan Kundera

Jayne



Storm Seeks Someone Special

This lovely, cuddly, bear of a boy is called Storm. He's twelve years old and is in urgent need of a foster or forever home. His world was turned upside down when his owner passed away and he was surrendered for adoption with the two other dogs he lived with. He's a spritely lad, loves cuddles and would settle in well where lots of love and TLC was on offer. He lived with [Weather](#) & [Padge](#) who are also looking for homes. All three dogs are upset at the loss of their owner and are confused at finding themselves in kennels.

If you can offer this gorgeous boy a warm, comfy retirement home please get in touch. Storm, Weather & Padge are currently in kennels in Newport.

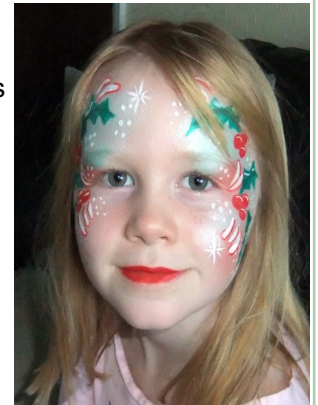


On the 5th April Eileen Welsh will be fundraising at Heighleygate Garden Centre, just north of Morpeth, Northumberland. She's appealing for a couple of volunteers to come along and man the tombola so that she can face paint to raise extra money.

Eileen has a tombola, but is on the look out for more prizes. Eileen says: "I would like to run a 'prize every time' tombola, which I think encourages people to take part. So really anything you have around the house would be useful, even something as small as a bar of chocolate, a bottle of bubble bath, a tube of hand cream, anything at all that would enable me to encourage people to buy a ticket."

If I end up with too many prizes, I'll be going back in early June, so they won't be wasted!

If anyone would like to lend a hand or donate some prizes, you can get in touch with Eileen by email, click [here](#).



Holly models Eileens facepainting handywork.



Anyone fancy a walk?

Details of our walk groups can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

Another fabulous group shot taken by Mark Watkinson at the recent Yorkshire walk.

Springtime Safety

Despite the wet weather the springtime plants are starting to appear. Snowdrops are in bloom and even the Daffs are starting to flower. It's a cruel trick of nature that some of the most beautiful, colorful springtime plants pose a deadly temptation to the four-legged members of your family.

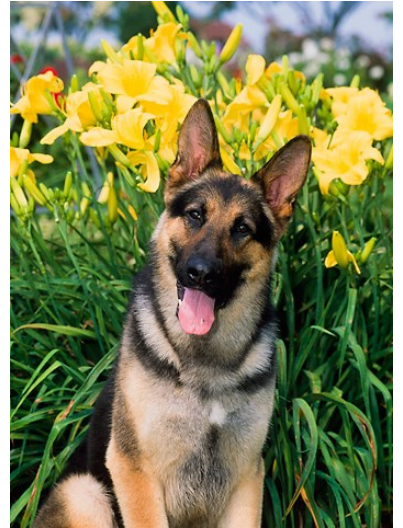
Taking a few simple precautions to avoid any plants known to be deadly to pets can prevent a potential tragedy for you and your family this spring.

Here's a few common plants to be aware of:

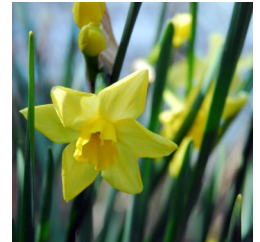


Tulips contain allergenic Lactones. Lactones are derived from chemical compounds and taste a bit like Whiskey.

Hyacinths contain similar compounds. It's the bulbs of these two plants, not the leaves or flowers, which are toxic. There's no antidote if your dog is poisoned by eating a Tulip or Hyacinth bulb, and severe symptoms need immediate treatment.



If your pet licks or eats any part of a daffodil – the bulb, plant or flower – they will ingest an alkaloid called Lycorine which can irritate the tissues of the mouth and throat and cause excessive drooling. Lycorine can also trigger a gastrointestinal response like vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhea. In more serious cases, heart and respiratory problems can occur. Severe symptoms such as these require immediate attention by a vet.



The variety of crocus plants that blooms in the spring is a member of the *Iridaceae* family. Spring crocuses can cause gastrointestinal upset in your pet, typically vomiting and diarrhea.

The substance in Lily of the Valley that is toxic to your pet is called cardiac glycosides. If you think your dog has ingested a Lily of the Valley you should get him to your vet for a checkup asap.



**AUCTION
ENDED**

The recent New Start for Kennel Dogs Facebook auction ended raising a respectable £743.70!

Thank you to everyone who donated items, bid on items and special thanks to Maria Hamilton for setting up and managing the page.



Pets at Home Kettering was the venue for a spot of fundraising for Alan & Emma Thompson, accompanied by Gorgeous George. This is a quiet venue so they took the opportunity to spread the word about the work of GSDR, talking to customers about the rescue and the dogs available for adoption.



Thanks Team Thompson for your efforts, they're much appreciated.

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twitter



We have over 3,500
followers
@GSDRofficial1



Out & About with Team Fat Blokes

A change is as good as a rest—or so the saying goes. So TFB had a change of scenery and set up their stand at Morrisons Supermarket in Yeadon. The generous shoppers dug deep and donated a staggering £305 in just one day. Well done you guys! If you have a few hours to spare and would like to get involved in fundraising then please get in touch. The rescue relies entirely on donations to keep saving our special dogs, every penny counts.

**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**



28th & 29th June 2014

COPMANTHORPE SHEPFEST 2014

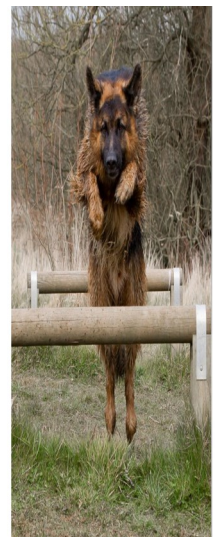


FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF OUR FIRST EVENT LAST YEAR WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

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



EUTHANASIA – IS IT SUCH A DIFFICULT CHOICE? By Eileen Welsh

I waited almost 16 years before my parents would let me have a dog (I think I asked for one as soon as I could say the word!) and my obsession with euthanasia came about seven years later when I was six months pregnant with my first child. Jason, my Labrador was going into the vets to have a tooth removed and I was heartbroken by the look on his face when the vet nurse took him away from me in the waiting room. He pulled desperately to get back to me, looking puzzled and frightened at why he was being taken away from me. When I went back to collect him, he walked along the corridor towards me with his head down and his whole body language was defeatist, until he heard my voice and then his head picked up and I saw joy on his face that I had come back for him. That look on his face haunted me for months - maybe it was because my hormones were raging, but I became obsessed with the thought that if, and when the time came to maybe having to take him to the vet to be euthanised that I would have to be there with him, so that he died knowing I hadn't left him. It was 4 years later when the time came, due to kidney failure. He'd been having good days and bad days and the bad days were happening more often than the good days. On the Saturday I took him to visit my aunt and her friend was watching him running around the garden having such fun and actually asked me if it was my puppy, which really pleased me. On the Sunday he spent most of the day just lying shaking and looking terribly sad. I looked in his eyes and I knew he had had enough, so I took him to the vets the next day and asked for his confirmation that the time was right. My vet agreed and asked if I would prefer to leave him. I think the horrified look on my face as I said that there was no way that I could leave him gave him his answer. The vet went out of the room to get the necessary drugs and came back, holding a syringe in one hand and saying "This is for him" and a box of tissues in the other, saying "This is for you". So I cuddled Jason remembering all the fun and love he'd brought into my life, while the vet injected him with the sedative and he fell asleep in my arms looking at me while I looked at him. That was nearly forty years ago, but I can remember it all as if it happened yesterday.

When I went with my third dog, my vet said "You must be getting used to this by now!" and my answer at that point was that I would never get used to it and that my abiding wish was to have my pets die peacefully at home. My next loss, ten years later was exactly that! I came home from work and found my Havana cat dead at the bottom of the stairs. He was only three years old, but had been diagnosed with Cardiomyopathy only a month earlier. I suffered greatly at his loss because I wasn't there, so I imagined all sorts of awful things about him being in pain and frightened! I felt enormous guilt that if I'd been home I might have saved him and if I couldn't save him at least I would have been there with him. A PM found only heart failure and my vet assured me it would have been sudden and he wouldn't have suffered, but the guilt bore heavily on me for months after that.



That was the point when I began to see euthanasia in a different light. Barely a year or two later I said goodbye to my GSD, Leo – my canine soul mate. It was incredibly hard, but I was now seeing euthanasia in a different light and I knew he was tired, worn out and ready to go. I took him to my vets and he lay on the floor with me with his head cradled in my lap while my poor vet struggled to find a vein, as they kept blowing. She was so apologetic, but he was fine, he was perfectly calm and he died peacefully with my lips on his forehead and with my voice in his ear (blooming eyes are leaking now and it was over twenty years ago!). She then left the room so that I could have time alone with him and I sobbed my heart out – I loved him so much.

Since then every dog and cat I've owned has been euthanised, but strangely I did finally get my wish about five years ago to have a pet die peacefully at home and it was a rat, of all things. He lay on my chest being cuddled and literally slipped away and if I could guarantee that with my dogs and cats, I'd take it every time, but sadly it appears to be a rare occurrence, especially in my household and I am kind of obsessed with doing what is right by the animals I choose to be responsible for, so my feeling is that I would rather give up a week too soon, than risk a day too late and cause them pain.

So over the years, my attitude towards euthanasia has changed. I now believe that to put a sick pet to sleep is the final gift we can give them – a death free from pain and fear. It's an incredibly hard decision to make and after I've been in in this situation, I drive my car and walk around reciting the "If it should be" poem, with a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes. I carry copies of it in my purse and if anyone I meet has had to have a pet put to sleep and tells me how guilty they feel, I give them a copy, as I think it is the most consoling poem I have ever read. There are numerous emotions I go through when I have to do this and, even though I know it is the right thing to do (it is at least fifteen times that I have had to make this decision) my feelings vary between guilt, grief, pain, regret and great sorrow, but somewhere in a remote area of my brain, there is a feeling of comfort that my beloved pet is in a better place, is no longer in any pain and died knowing I was there with it to the end, but it is never an easy decision to make.

Vaccination Guidelines Update from the **Pet Welfare Alliance**

Veterinary groups around the world have introduced new vaccination schedules in response to duration of immunity studies and concerns over vaccine safety. The Pet Welfare Alliance supports these guidelines and welcomes a reduction in the number of vaccine antigens given to companion animals. The aim of this is to practically support these aims by asking you to effect change in line with the current established science and guidelines provided by those veterinary bodies.

The Pet Welfare Alliance is an alliance of pet owners and veterinarians formed as a watchdog for the pet products industry. Pet vaccination is one of the foremost areas in need of revision, and we believe that recent developments pave the way for positive change. It is often believed that annual vaccination is a requirement to establish immunity and that it does no harm.

With the advent of updated science and guidelines by world veterinary bodies there are clear guidelines to adhere to, that dispell the myth that annual vaccination is necessary, beneficial in providing any further protection in already immune animals, or without risk of causing harm. Details of vaccine adverse reactions can be found in the WSAVA guidelines that range from mild (fever, loss of appetite etc), to severe/life-threatening (epilepsy, arthritis, AHA, organ failure).

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association Vaccination Guidelines state:

“Core vaccines should not be given any more frequently than every three years after the 12 month booster injection following the puppy/kitten series, because the duration of immunity (DOI) is many years and may be up to the life-time of the pet. In order to ensure the existence of duration of immunity, titer testing may be used.” Ronald D Schultz, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin; Member of WSAVA and AAHA vaccine guideline groups

In its 2013 puppy vaccine summary, the WSAVA adds: “The WSAVA states that we should vaccinate against the core diseases no more frequently than every three years. This is often taken to mean that we should vaccinate every three years – but this is not the case. If the dog is already immune to these three core diseases, re-vaccinating will not add any extra immunity.”

For the full guidelines click [here](#)

The WSAVA on non-core (optional) vaccines (2013)

Leptospirosis

“Vaccination should be restricted to use in geographical areas where a significant risk of exposure has been established or for dogs whose lifestyle places them at significant risk”

“Protection against infection with different serovars is variable. This product is associated with the greatest number of adverse reactions to any vaccine. In particular, veterinarians are advised of reports of acute anaphylaxis in toy breeds following administration of leptospirosis vaccines. Routine vaccination of toy breeds should only be considered in dogs known to have a very high risk of exposure”

Kennel Cough

“Canine respiratory disease complex (kennel cough) is not a vaccine-preventable disease”

You should check with your kennel because some will demand kennel cough vaccines, and others will not accept dogs that have been vaccinated against kennel cough. Essentially, the kennel cough vaccine datasheets warn that vaccinated dogs can develop a mild case of kennel cough. Although said to be mild, vaccinated dogs can infect other dogs with kennel cough. Again, this vaccine is deemed optional by the WSAVA.

The WSAVA on Titer Testing

“The WSAVA supports the use of titre testing. This is where a small sample of blood is taken from the dog and checked for the presence of circulating antibodies. The presence of circulating antibodies indicates that the dog is immune, and revaccination (with core vaccines) is not required. You may decide to titre test before giving the 12 month booster, as this may show that boosting is unnecessary. New in-practice titre-testing kits are now available which will allow your veterinarian to do a titre test very quickly, without sending the blood sample to a laboratory”

The only reliable way of knowing whether a dog is immune is to ascertain whether the dog has antibodies to the core diseases. Vaccination in itself does not offer a guarantee of protection.

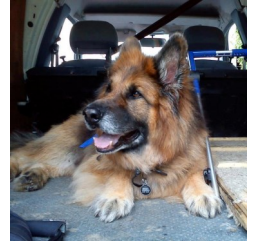


Claire & Morpheus

Claire Hegarty is running the Chester Half Marathon in aid of GSDR on the 18th May, the race starts at the Racecourse and finishes with a killer hill into the city centre!

Claire says: "This is my first Half Marathon and as a lover of GSD's I wanted to raise money for two causes - one set up in memory of our last sheep Neo who battled so bravely against CDRM and also for GSDR. So on the 18th May I'll be pulling on my running shoes and taking part in the Chester Half Marathon. If you could dig deep and sponsor me, I have a Virgin Money Giving page for donations to GSDR, you can visit the page by clicking [here](#).

Neo inspired us to set up a Facebook support group, where owners can seek advice from others who have been through this terrible illness with their dogs and find information which might help them deal with the day to day consequences of living with DM & CDRM. To join our support group please click [here](#)."



Neo

Urgent Dogs in the South East



Amber is 9 years old and is looking for a forever home following the death of her owner. She's a happy girl who loves fuss and cuddles and takes treats gently. She does have a high prey drive so will need a home with no small furry creatures, small dogs or cats. Amber is currently in Surrey.

If you can offer either of these dogs a home please contact Tracy North on 01189 745387 crystalsheps@gmail.com



Oscar is a big fluffy lad who is very much wanting a home to call his own. He was living with an older owner who could not cope with how large he grew and Oscar started to miss out in his education. Oscar gets on with some dogs but not all so with careful introduction he may be able to live with a female. He is not known with cats and therefore he would be suited to a home without please. Oscar can be a little unsure of people he doesn't know but once you play a game of ball with him he relaxes. He is currently in kennels and the staff say he is a lovely boy, he has gone home on a visit with one of the staff where in general he was very well behaved. Oscar would like an experienced home with someone who will continue his education and get him out and about so socialise. He loves playing and being brushed and really needs a home of his own. Oscar is in Essex and has been in kennels for five months now.

The South East region currently has 41 dogs listed on the website looking for homes, they can be found by clicking [here](#).

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Sick and Abandoned GSD's**

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JustTextGiving
by **vodafone**

“OLD DOGS ARE SET IN THEIR WAYS, AND CAN'T BE TRAINED”



I have lost count of how many times I have heard these or similar words as an excuse of why people want a puppy, rather than give an older dog a new lease of life. ALL dogs, regardless of age, CAN be trained, and that is a fact. Dependent upon their background, and history, it may take an older dog longer to adapt to new surroundings and a new regime, but they do get there, and it so worthwhile when they do.

The immense pleasure, and satisfaction that you take from seeing, and actively assisting, the transformation of the dog, from the uncertain, insecure animal that enters your home, into a balanced companion, that loves you unconditionally, is almost indescribable, and is most certainly a positive experience, that will remain with you for a lifetime.

Del, who was 13 years old on 15th March 2014, is absolute proof of this, and here's why..

In April 2012, GSDR received a phone call from a Dog Warden, asking if they could take an 11 year old dog from him. The dog had been owned by a 92 year old man, who needed to go into care himself, but had refused to do so, until he knew that his dog was going to be looked after. His family said that they would 'look after' the dog, and so the man went into a care home. The day after he had done so, the family had taken the dog, Del, to the vet, to be put to sleep. The vet refused to put him to sleep, but took the dog from them, and passed him on to the dog warden, who in turn contacted GSDR, and because of the lack of information about Del's temperament and history, we were approached to see if we would foster him on a short term basis, in order that we could assess him properly, before a permanent home was found for him.



When we collected him, it took 2 of the kennel staff to get him out of the kennel, and although you could see every one of his ribs, he dragged the kennel maid down the corridor, then ragged the lead that he was on. He was absolutely manic, and carried on being that way for the entire 2 hour journey to our home.

Over the next couple of days, he calmed down considerably, but was obviously very headstrong, and had clearly been used to dictating when, how, and if, he wanted to do something.

On day 5 of him being with us, we were all sat outside enjoying the sunshine, when a piece of paper blew off the patio table. Del got to it first, and as I went to take it from him, he flew at me, biting me quite severely on the arm. The injury sustained was serious enough to require hospital treatment.

We were all completely devastated by what had happened, as the level of aggression that Del had shown was extreme. I contacted the area co-ordinator, and told her what had happened, and confirmed that as far as I was concerned, he was now on his final chance.

At this point, I started on a training programme involving just him and I. during the course of his training, I also began to integrate the whole family being involved, and as everybody, including Del became more relaxed and confident, he improved beyond all recognition, in both temperament, and appearance.

Now, almost exactly 2 years on, the transition is so complete, that Del is the dog that I take with me when assisting people, whose dogs have issues with aggression. He is so laid back, balanced and contented now, and he's even enjoying his role as the 'dog father' to our two youngsters, who have also been rescued.

It is with immense pride that I call him 'my dog', and as a family, we really cannot imagine life without him. There is no doubt in my mind that he has repaid the second chance that we have given him, a hundred times over, and I do not regret for one second our decision to take him on. Very few of the older dogs that come into the rescue are as extreme as Del was, but every single one of them is capable of, and deserves the opportunity to, share the unconditional love that is within them, and I can categorically say, that it is both a joy and a privilege to experience it. It is a slow process, and on occasion it will undoubtedly try your patience, but when the rehabilitated dog emerges, and becomes the loyal companion that you only dared dream about when you first took them on, there are very few experiences in life that will give you more pleasure, and satisfaction.

Happy Training Everybody.

Courtney provides post adoption training and support for GSDR. You can visit his website by clicking [here](#).

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

