



Hello everyone,

Whilst out walking with the dogs today, I detected a hint of spring in the air at last. The daffodils are blooming, we have warm sunshine and the nights are drawing out.

This is such a wonderful time of year and one that is usually the start of a very busy period for the rescue.

The events calendar is filling up nicely and I think I'm going to be pretty busy driving that gorgeous gazebo around the country. It will be great to meet up with old friends and meet up with some new ones.

We are still getting far too many dogs coming in especially for this time of year with 60 assessment forms received already this month, yet we are only just over half way through the month. We have received just over 100 adoption applications but only around a third of those will go to homecheck for one reason or another.

Whilst we do have many homechecked people waiting for dogs, it's finding the right dogs that is often the problem. Too many people need bombproof, near perfect dogs but sadly, we don't get too many of those these days.

I do wish more people would consider taking an older dog into their home as they are such a pleasure to have around and generally no trouble at all. Kennels is not the right place for an oldie to be, they deserve a home to call their own where they can spend the rest of their retirement in comfort and being loved. Can you squeeze an oldie into your home?



Let us not forget that we still have dogs that have been sitting in kennels for 6 - 12 months which is not good for any dog let alone a large active breed like a German Shepherd. Hopefully we can prioritise these dogs when suitable homes come forward.

Rescue is tough and getting tougher and with limited resources we can only do our best to help the people that contact us. We are all volunteers and none of us should have to tolerate the increasing level of abuse and threats, especially those on the front line dealing with the many telephone calls that we make and receive. We should have a zero tolerance to this behaviour which is unwarranted and not called for.

Again, I thank all the lovely volunteers that make GSDR the success that it is.

Best Wishes,

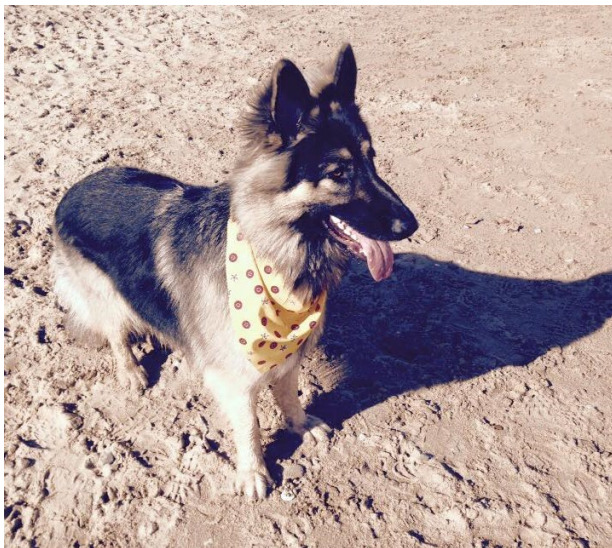
Jayne

'I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death.' - Thomas Paine



On a grey and cold day at Pets at Home Colton store, Leeds, Team Fat Blokes and Nelson were again joined by Harriet Black and Mark Panther, even our favourite photographer Mark Watkinson turned up to capture this snap.

We received £227 donations, a brilliant result for a quiet and cold day!



Well, don't you look posh in your new bandana!

Huge thanks go to Anne Wood who donated £81 from the sale of bandanas, poo pods and from the proceeds of the creative workshops which she runs.

This took the total raised at the Yorkshire group walk held at Fraisthorpe beach to a staggering £208.33.

Mark Watkinson attended and took some amazing shots as always, it looks like you all had a fabulous time.

To visit Mark's website, please click [here](#)



Over in the Eastern region we're trying to organise a team of fundraisers to attend events across Norfolk and Suffolk. If you could spare a few occasional hours to raise awareness and funds for our rescue please contact Linda to register your interest. Linda will be co-ordinating our fundraising activities and can be contacted on lindaturnergsdr@gmail.com.

The Changing Face of Rescue by Jayne Shenstone

We here at GSDR don't just rescue dogs; we like to think long and hard about the wider issues affecting dogs and the people who care for them – health, responsible breeding, cruelty towards dogs (in the UK and elsewhere), lack of awareness/education among dog owners (leading to suffering of animals), increasingly Draconian 'dangerous' dog control legislation, increasing incidences of discrimination against dog owners (particularly by councils and landlords/letting agencies/housing associations) etc.

All of these issues are intimately interconnected in our society and they give rise to the urgent problems which GSDR originally came into existence to try to alleviate and which are now threatening to overwhelm our finite resources. Coupled with this, we are now faced by frequent unprovoked, unwarranted and highly personal attacks from former rescue members who seemingly are intent on causing as much disruption as possible to the efficient running of GSDR, whilst at the same time attempting to raise their own profile and line their own pockets with money which should be destined to help dogs. The German Shepherd rescues (many offshoots started by former GSDR members) that do leave us alone nevertheless work independently and we have the situation where we are often spending time and energy responding to the same dog when a coordinated approach based upon mutual cooperation would be far better and a lot more productive and efficient. Alas, the achievement of such cooperation seems to be rather a dim prospect on the horizon.

In summary, our experiences and instinct tells us that the following is occurring:

- The number of dogs needing rehoming is increasing although people may contact more than one rescue for help
- The number of homes is genuinely falling because society has changed
- Adopters often apply to several rescues when considering adopting a dog
- We are all running around after the same dogs but more of them, and the same homes but fewer of those
- We are wasting time and resources because there is no united effort, rescues are not working together for the benefit of the dogs
- Too much effort is being put into destroying others rather than concentrating on the dogs that need help. Social media is now regularly used for malicious purposes such as hate campaigns against rescue individuals and rescue organisations

If we were to examine some of the main reasons why increasing numbers of German Shepherds (and many other breeds of course) are coming into rescue, we might compile a list as follows (not in order of importance):

- Over-breeding, especially by unscrupulous back yard breeders out to make a profit
- Increasing lack of awareness of the effort required to look after a large dog properly
- Otherwise suitable dog owners not being able to keep their animals because of move into rented accommodation
- Owner having to work longer hours to make ends meet
- Dogs having to be removed from owners due to cruelty/neglect
- Dogs simply found straying and ending up in council pounds facing death if not rehomed
- Increasing intolerance of neighbours & society in general of large dogs especially

In a more general sense, we can say the following:

- The government has done nothing to prevent the explosion in numbers of dogs
- Puppy farming is a thriving industry
- Society treats dogs as disposable items
- Those that really care are struggling financially because of corruption in the global financial system. People are losing homes and jobs or are having to work longer hours so have no time for pets.
- No affordable spay / neuter programs
- Draconian dog legislation which is making life increasingly more difficult for even responsible dog owners
- Rescue has become an industry which some have exploited to the max
- The pet industry relies on growth for increased profitability - they don't want fewer animals
- Vets want more pets - it's good for business

Despite the animal welfare act, cruelty escalates. Without cruelty, RSPCA employees would be out of work!

Rescue has changed quite dramatically over the last 20 years. It has become a lot more competitive and hard-nosed and an increasingly high proportion of people entering it nowadays are tending to be those primarily motivated by the desire to set up a profitable enterprise rather than who have a pressing concern for animal welfare. This has vastly increased the general lack of good will that now exists between us and other rescues and between rescues in general. The economics of free enterprise and a 'dog eat dog' ethic seem to have permeated into the world of dog rescue – sadly not for the better. It is a sad fact that it can be financially profitable to 'rescue' animals, but only at the greater expense of animal welfare accompanied by the diminishment of moral purpose.

It is also a sad fact that the UK (and the world in general) seems to be falling out of love with man's best friend (though of course many countries never did much fall in love with dogs in the first place). Hence GSDR and others are trying to pick up the pieces of an increasingly fractured relationship which sees dogs dumped on the streets, dogs ignored, abused, starved, chained 24/7 and much, much worse.

We domesticated wolves at least 20,000 years ago, probably more; either that, or they domesticated us, which is probably more likely! They became our best friends and guardians and faithful companions. Now society increasingly looks askance at them, sees them as a threat, something to be exploited or disposed of when they become too 'inconvenient'. We cast them aside but the tragedy is they will never cast us aside because they only know how to love unconditionally and to be faithful and they have lost the gritty independence and general indifference to humanity of their wolf cousins. Hence they look to us for love and support and they so often do not find it.

We are here to ensure that some do find it, but we cannot help them all. So please help us to help the lucky few by donating and by trying to spread awareness of the plight of unwanted dogs and the issues which surround this. Thank you so much.

On behalf of the dogs:

We are Anonywoofs, We are Legion, We forgive, We can forget.

Expect us.



Huge congratulations go to Claire Hegarty for completing the Wrexham Half marathon with no training!

Poor Claire was still injured so unable to train but that didn't stop her taking part and completing the race in 2hrs 59 mins: just seven minutes less than her personal best.

Despite pain and blisters she battled on knowing that she was running for the dogs. That really is mind over matter, well done Claire and thank you from the dogs for your continued fundraising efforts.



CALLING INTERNATIONAL RESCUE!



Your mission is to rehabilitate Shanghai Rex and Shanghai Ted and prepare them for travel to the UK where a better life awaits them.

THUNDERBIRDS ARE GO.



Shanghai Rex

GSDR were alerted to the plight of these poor dogs Rex and Ted who are in Shanghai, by a group of international rescuers. Between us, we want to help both of them come to a better life here in the UK because at GSDR we believe all dogs deserve a chance.

We have been criticised by a few for helping dogs from other countries by those who clearly do not understand the concept of rescue or have any compassion for these poor souls. Dogs know no borders, these dogs need help no matter where it comes from. Only by working with international groups and exposing the appalling cruelty towards animals in these countries, can we ever hope to bring about real change. International pressure is a far more powerful tool than anything that local rescues have. They want and need our help.

For those who don't want to help dogs like these, then go join or support a rescue with a more parochial approach.



Shanghai Ted

In China, German Shepherds end up being factory dogs, they can't even be registered in downtown Shanghai. Owners have to hide their dogs and can't offer them the lives they deserve.

Rex has been lucky believe it or not! WADS (Wang Ayi's Dog Shelter) rescued him from the dog pound, treated his horrific injuries and have been providing him with food and shelter. But he is a broken soul and needs people who can give him back the trust that he probably lost a long time ago! They have never seen such a scared and sad dog.

Rex was badly injured all over his neck, a metal collar had cut into his throat so he spent a month at the vets for recovery. Now he is back at shelter and he is just one of the saddest cases we have ever seen.

Ted had been left to starve so he has been moved to a place of safety now where he has had to be put on a drip to help him because he is so

undernourished and dehydrated.

These two dogs have been abused and betrayed by humans so we think they deserve a chance. Together with our international rescuers, we can make a difference for Rex and Ted.

We have a Facebook auction running until the 28th March to raise funds for these dogs to travel which looks hopeful to raise in excess of £1000. You can visit the Facebook auction page Auction for a poor soul, Shanghai Rex by clicking [here](#)

Or to make a donation please visit the Virgin Money Giving page set up especially for these dogs by clicking [here](#)

These dogs will be nursed back to health and will be found their forever homes here in the UK.

Humans have let them down and here that ends. GSDR will not let them down and the life that they deserve awaits.

Our lovely little Luna features in Dogs Today Magazine

Excellent publicity for the breed and our rescue

Sponsored by Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

Talking dogs



Each dog featured on this page will receive a Good Boy hamper of treats, toys and other goodies courtesy of Armitage Pet Care.

The hamper will include these top quality treats which are sure to get those tails wagging! Deli Treats are oven-roasted with real meat and contain no artificial colours or flavours.

To enter, write in to the usual address, marking your email or letter 'Good Boy'.

Good Boy

A cruel owner left Luna with many problems, but with the love of a new family, she has blossomed into the dog she was always meant to be, writes Victoria Heywood



She realised immediately that Luna would just get stressed if you were too loud with her, so we worked on gentle commands to build up her confidence."

Claire's patience and persistence have worked wonders; Luna has since achieved bronze, silver and gold Good Citizen awards in just two years, a remarkable achievement for a dog with such a terrible start in life.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of her," says Claire. "Admittedly, she sometimes forgets her training when she's out in the park, particularly if there's a squirrel involved, but she's a good little thing, if a bit crazy!"

"The big thing that has surprised us, however, is her gentleness. She has such a sweet, lovable, easygoing nature, which for a dog with her history is amazing. She is terrified of the vet, but has never snarled or growled; there is no malice in her at all.

"I won't deny it hasn't always been easy with Luna. She can be a handful sometimes. But just seeing her run around, playing and jumping, makes it all worthwhile. I'd never be without her." ★



Perfect homes can be ten flights up, in a city street or down a country lane. And so can our dogs.

Find your perfect pet at battersea.org.uk



Luna was in a desperate state when she was rescued in 2013. Her previous owner had neglected her terribly; Luna was so skinny that her gums had started to recede from malnutrition, and an untreated skin condition had ravaged her coat. Thankfully, the owner was successfully prosecuted under the Animal Welfare Act, and German Shepherd Dog Rescue was tasked with getting Luna on the road to recovery – and into a suitable new home.

Claire Cotterill and her family already had a rescue GSD named Stella when Luna was brought to their attention. Initially there were concerns that two females wouldn't bond, but the pair surprised everyone.

"Luna was very timid at first, but she settled

remarkably quickly," says Claire. "I think that was down to Stella. Luna could see how relaxed Stella was and I think it helped enormously."

With her health issues taken care of, Luna was introduced to normality – the simple pleasures of long walks and Frisbees. However, her enthusiasm for her new life soon brought its own problems.

"She'd get very excited when she knew she was going out," Claire explains. "Unfortunately, this set Stella off and every time we'd get them ready for a walk, we'd have the two of them making a racket. My neighbours always knew when we were going out!"

"I decided fairly early on that dog training was a necessity. I enrolled with Capable Canines dog training and the lady who ran it was fantastic.

To find out more about German Shepherd Dog Rescue and the dogs available for adoption, visit www.germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

News from the North West & Central Regions



VARDA

Sadly gone to the bridge 25th February 2015

Varda came into GSDR care 19th December 2014 and found a wonderful home with Mike & Cherry and their Springer Spaniel.

Sadly on 25th February Varda lost her life due to cancer – she hadn't really been ill and the diagnosis came as a complete shock. All we can say is that this wonderful girl had the best of care and was very much loved and our thoughts are very much with Mike & Cherry plus our sincere thanks for adopting this girl and providing such a wonderful few weeks of happiness and love.

Everyone who met Varda thought she was a star!



Sheba when she first came in

ADOPT ONE – GET TWO SURPRISES!

Sheba came to our attention in early February, she had done her seven days and as the owners hadn't come forward to claim her, GSDR were asked to help find this youngster a new adoptive home. Laura duly went to meet and assess Sheba and from background info we received from the dog warden it was thought Sheba had recently had pups and was aged around 18 months old. Sheba was put on the site and on Friday 13th Sheba was adopted and safely settled with her new family and they duly named her Eder. Richard & Marion kept in touch and sent a photo of Sheba and were monitoring her eating habits and the fact she was struggling to stay clean over night. Eder was taken to the vets for a check up, nothing untoward found BUT little did anyone suspect Eder was in fact ready to give birth and after an emergency C section two large pups were born. What a shock not least for poor Eder who took a few days to get her head around the fact when she awoke from the anaesthetic she had two pups to feed. The Houghton's rallied round and thankfully now all is well and the pups are thriving and will be ready for re homing in April.

A huge thank you goes out to Richard and Marion for coping with the care of not just their adoptive girl Eder, but the two surprises that arrived on February 24th 2015.





SAM FINALLY HAS A FOREVER HOME!

We took in this young boy after his original owner was evicted back in 2013. He was just 9 months old.

Sam was quickly taken into foster care and although had a fair few meets along the way never really bonded with any potential adopters. The months rolled on (thankfully Sam was always safe in his foster homes) when on Saturday 15th March 2015 he finally found a new mum & dad in Sean and Michelle – there are so many people who are delighted that Sam has finally found his forever home – way to go Sam!



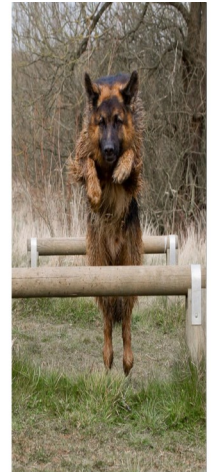
27th & 28th June 2015

COPMANTHORPE SHEPFEST



HAVE A GO AGLITY & FASTEST RECALL
TOMBOLA, RAFFLE & SALE STALL
BBQ AND MUCH MORE

CAMPING ON SITE AND LIMITED KENNEL AVAILABILITY
A WEEKEND NOT TO BE MISSED, PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!



Chris & Ailsa Thomas are in training for the Edinburgh Marathon on 31st May and they'll be running in aid of GSDR.

You can sponsor them through Virgin Money Giving by clicking [here](#)

I AM
GSDR



People that say "Money can't buy happiness" have never paid an adoption fee.

WWW.GERMANSHEPHERDRESCUE.CO.UK

Springtime Safety

Despite the cold weather the springtime plants are starting to appear. Snowdrops are in bloom and even the Daffs are starting to poke their greenery above the surface. 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:

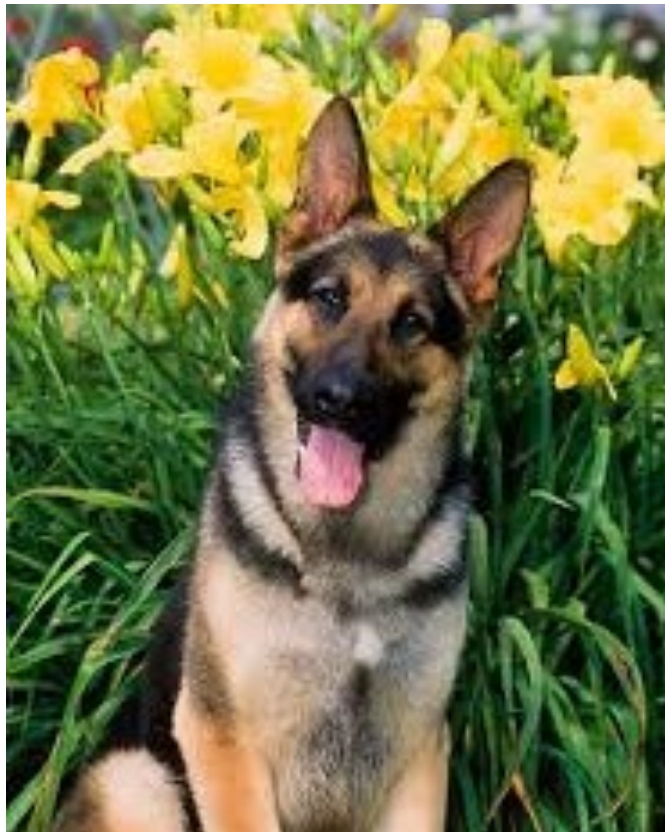
Tulips and Hyacinths - Tulips contain allergenic Lactones. Lactones are derived from chemical compounds and taste a bit like Whiskey. Hyacinths contain similar compounds. It's the bulbs of these two plants, not the leaves or flowers, which are toxic. There's no antidote if your dog is poisoned by eating a Tulip or Hyacinth bulb, and severe symptoms need immediate treatment.

Daffodils - 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.

Crocuses - 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.

Lily of the Valley - 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.

If you are concerned about your dog's health at any time please seek veterinary advice.



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 / 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 mandyj22@live.co.uk

