



Hello everyone,

Welcome to our October newsletter.

October has been a busy month but then these days, all months seem to be busy. We used to be able to predict busy and quiet months but there seems to be no let up now.

The clocks have now gone back so it's the long dark nights, the cold and the damp to look forward to, which does have a major impact for rescues.

Many will not want to take on a new dog during the dark winter months and will want to wait until spring. This is not good for our current residents who have already spent many months in kennels waiting for their new homes. We have 3 dogs who are currently facing their second Christmas in kennels which is not good.

I am conscious that the festive season is looming and we already have too many dogs in commercial boarding kennels. We need homes for these dogs to free up spaces for new ones needing our urgent help. Can you lay an extra space at your Christmas dinner table for a forgotten one?

Expect November and December to be a very active couple of months for GSDR volunteers who are working hard to not only find homes for our dogs, but to raise funds to help cover the cost of our festive season kennel bills.

Please support our online auctions, check out our 2016 GSDR calendar or sponsor a kennel dog to help us over the next few months.

As long as Man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of lower living beings, he will never know health or peace. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seed of murder and pain cannot reap joy and love." — Pythagoras

Would like to thank everyone for their continued support

Best Wishes,

Jayne



Alison Harrison, Mark Panther, Sheila Pankhurst, Gillian Marsden and our gorgeous Bob raised an amazing £534.45 at the Crossgates Centre Leeds for GSDR. They also found a rare Kew Gardens 50p piece in their change which was sold for £30!

Hardworking Bob attended the Animal Ark Aid show raising another £70 on the day. They also received a donation of £150 from the show organisers. We're very grateful for the ongoing support from Animal Ark Aid who, since 2011, have raised and donated £20,000 to animal charities.



With a bit of help from those gorgeous boys Ben & Rocky Collie, the collection boxes at my Halloween wedding contained a grand total of £238.26.

Huge thanks to our lovely friends and family for the donations.



TFB's Ray Lambert says "TFB should've had a cracking month with five Saturday's and four good venues, unfortunately two of the 'good' venues were cancelled and we took two Jollyes stores just to have a 'gig' somewhere and raise whatever we could. So this month's total is £1,043 which is down on last year despite our best efforts!"

However they're not downhearted, they're off to visit their old friends in the York, Birstall and Colton stores this month.

Fingers crossed for a good month guys!

2016 GSDR CALENDAR



Enjoy the whole year with pictures and stories of our stunning rescue dogs.

These top quality calendars are just £10 each,
with an additional £2.80 for p&p

As with previous years multiple orders of up to 3 calendars can be sent for the same
£2.80 postage charge

A great Christmas Stocking filler

To order please visit our website www.germanshepherdrescue.co.uk and make your
payment by using the "Virgin Money Giving" link
(Please DO NOT tick for "Gift Aid". Gift Aid cannot be accepted for purchases)

Then email janinekerr@sky.com with the subject heading "GSDR Calendar"
providing your receipt number, name & address

Beat the Christmas rush and order now

Duchess Donates

Beautiful Duchess has a good reason to be smiling, this gorgeous girl had just completed her 20th blood donation for the Pet Blood Bank which could have saved upto 80 dogs!

Owner Catherine Walker had read about doggie blood donors in a magazine, made enquiries and took Duchess along to an appointment to see if she was a suitable donor.

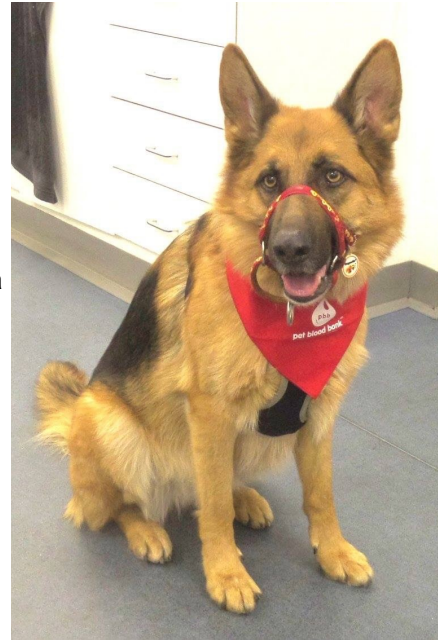
Duchess has been donating for the past six years, attending a short five minute session every three months or so. Afterwards she's rewarded with a bowl of meat and biscuits and toys to take home. She loves people so this is just another chance for cuddles from everyone in attendance.

Dogs like Duchess really are life savers, you can find out more information on how to donate and find a location near to you by visiting the [Pet Blood Bank website](#).

The basic requirements for a donor are:

- The dog needs to have a good temperament with people
- Be over 12 months old - they stop donating at nine years old
- Must be up to date with vaccinations but not have them a closer than a fortnight before donating
- Not to have been abroad or have come from abroad
- If they have any medication near to donating they like to be told in case it will affect the blood

What an excellent ambassador for the breed Duchess is, we're all very proud of this special girl's achievements.



This comfy boy is Ned, he was adopted from us just over two years ago.

Poor little Ned had a difficult start to life, being passed around five homes before he was six months old and came into our care.

His family love him to bits saying " he's a funny little character, very playful and we've never regretted adopting him".

Ned did use to chase birds but luckily he's over that now because his best friend is a chicken! He goes out to find his special friend amongst thirty chickens then carefully carries her to the back door where they sit on the step together!

Ned is a regular on sponsored dog walks and his family don't go anywhere without him.

A happy ending for Ned is just what this young pup deserved.

Did you know? By Ann Leigh, Dog Co-ordinator Eastern Region

Did you know that one of the (many) things that we are really good at here in Norfolk is adopting dogs? That struck me as odd, when I first heard about it. (Naturally I can't remember the per capita statistics to quote them when I need!) But when you think about this, it does make sense.

A good proportion of us oldies are incomers, here to retire. We are sensible enough to value the delights of this beautiful part of the world. We come for the quality of life that we can enjoy here and how much more can this be enhanced than by rehoming a dog? (Okay, I am biased, and I concede that at this point my argument appears less than scientific ... but stay with me.)

A lot of this is clearly something to do with walking, generally acknowledged to be the best and most natural form of exercise. And if you have a dog, you walk, and how can you walk without a dog? I know that people do but this, but it really mystifies me. I had a dog, once, who used to look for another dog when he saw a lone walker ahead. If he could not see one then, I kid you not, his hackles rose and he thought them suspicious immediately, if not an actual pervert! He had clearly been watching too many TV news broadcasts. Seriously though, I just could not walk alone and a lot of people feel the same. Although, I can concede –just- that it might be possible, if you are not a dog lover.

There is more to caring for a dog, of course, than just the walking. And scientists (don't you just love them?) have been doing research into this. We dog lovers could have told them, but will they listen? Are you ready for this revelation? Now don't allow yourselves to be bowled over will you? They have '*discovered*' that dogs do love their owners. They have '*proved*' this by measuring levels of dopamine. Apparently, this is released when we love each other and they were surprised to see phenomenally increased levels of this hormone in the brains of dogs interacting with their owners. And it is mutual! It is so win-win it isn't true. Or rather, it is, if you follow me.

Not only are we happy and mutually 'in love' together but this brings with it all sorts of health benefits as well. Blood pressure decreases when you interact with a dog (I would only go so far as to say, in most circumstances) Patients are known (statistically, so it must be true!) to recover from surgery quicker and to live longer.

They have even discovered that mothers who bond with their babies generate and release the hormone oxytocin. Guess what? Owners who stroke their dogs do so as well. They say that this is designed to foster bonding. But I think there is more. Remember you heard it here first. I posit that there is some evolutionary aspect as well. There would be, of course, even if it were only bonding. Both babies and 'furbabies' need nurturing and this is enhanced by the bonding stuff. But I bet these scientists will get there soon and discover that there is some tonic effect for the carer as well. I've noticed this tendency to 'win-win' in these situations before. It would make evolutionary sense that carers of all kinds are physically enhanced for their work. I know it to be true for myself. When I had surgery, I told the medics that I had to recover superfast as my dogs were in kennels and I had to get them out as soon as possible. They understood, you know.

So, how do we go about acquiring this health giving blessing? In the day, we all used to go to a dog breeder and choose a puppy and then bring our little darling home to rear for life. Sadly, the world has changed since then. There is such a glut of abandoned dogs nowadays, that it is almost immoral to buy a puppy and encourage more breeding (unless you are a specialist owner or competitor or something.) Nowadays we have evolved another huge endeavour, dog rescue organizations. We have desperate need of these.

I could tell you things that would haunt you for life. But I try not to learn about what goes on, even in this country, much less across the world. I only need to know that there are abandoned waifs, who are traumatised by what has happened to them, and that they need our care and love. That is enough to motivate me, in and of itself. But then there are the 'add on' benefits. If you adopt, you feel good about doing something worthwhile and there is no joy, for me, to equal seeing a shattered little soul (of any species) begin to experience the will to live again. But then the really evolutionary bit kicks in! (I find this even more exciting than the nitrogen cycle and that so 'blissed me out' as a youngster! I just love it when synergy kicks in!) Wait for it...

The very waif that you rescue, becomes your saviour. How great is that? And then (can you believe this?) there is even more! There is what nurturing a life (any life) accomplishes for the soul!

Perhaps, an issue for another time?



Volunteer Amanda Henning has this set of wheels which was used by her beloved Floyd before he passed suddenly over Rainbow Bridge.

If anyone could make use of the wheels please contact Amanda by email at amanda.henning62@yahoo.com . The wheels are in Lancashire and Amanda would like a donation to be made to GSDR for them.

easyfundraising
.org.uk



Don't forget when shopping online you can raise money for GSDR for free! Many retailers take part in the scheme, visit easy fundraising by clicking here, searching for your chosen retailer through their site registers and generates a donation from the retailer.

And did you know some retailers such as Argos who operate a click and collect scheme record the sale and make a donation even though you pay in store.

Don't miss out on these free donations, every penny adds up and since using the service I've generated £313.44 in donations!



We currently have two Facebook auctions running, please pop along and visit the page.

There's still time to donate an item and you might even grab yourself a bargain!

There's the GSDR Mega Christmas Auction, click [here](#) to visit the page

And the GSDR North East Kennel Dogs Auction, click [here](#) to visit the page

Miracles do Happen

There are rehomingings and then there are rescues and then...there are miracles.

If you have been around in rescue for a while, you will know what I mean.

Some dogs have a really good life and then there is a change in their circumstances that might mean that things are tough for them, for a while, but then they go to another good home and live out their days. Actually, these are the best! Then there are dogs from a terrible home that need to be rehomed into a better environment. Sometimes they can suffer but they can also be unaware of what life can offer. Then their change of circumstance is just a pleasant surprise and they relax into it and adapt to love and luxury.

But then there are the miracles... We are doing well in Eastern with the rehomingings. Thankfully things have picked up after the summer season. But it's the miracles that we remember!



A few months ago we were contacted through Facebook by another rescue about a GSD x, now known as Max, that they had brought over to the UK. He had been rescued from a life in chains in Cyprus but the foster placement, here in the UK, had broken down: they needed a place for him urgently. We arranged a foster placement, but he proved to be too unruly to handle easily and never actually went there. He had a lovely cheerful nature but was ebullient, large, energetic and apparently completely untrained. So he went to Uncle Dave's. Here he was kennelled for a while, until he was able to understand the social customs of his new life in the UK.

One difficulty we suspected was that he did not understand English. Fortunately, Uncle Dave works free-lance for the military and has access to the services of an interpreter. (Actually he worked for the President of the USA in the past, not to name drop or anything!) And once there was communication, Max's social skills developed apace.

He was recently rehomed to a loving home where he is now the VIP! From a life in chains to a couch – a miracle? I think so.

And then there is our other Max. We came across him and his brother Paddy some time ago. They were kept in poor condition in a back yard. They too went through the wonderful kennels, where so many miracles happen, and his brother was rehomed and then later, Max. All seemed well until there was an incident that resulted in Max being returned. It was alleged that he had attacked another dog horrifically but, when investigated, it turned out that it was, in fact, Max who had been attacked and then he defended himself.

Max was subjected then to a battery of tests. He participated in training sessions with the military dogs on base and was challenged and then better challenged for any sign of aggression. He proved himself, over and over, to be a typical 'gentle giant'.



Now he too has a wonderful home and lives with his new 'little sister', with whom he bonded immediately. She was less sure about sharing her home with the 'beefcake' but even she has been won around by this lovely boy's gentle nature. This picture of the two of them 'almost snuggling' was taken on his first night at his new home.

'Dangerous dog' to 'cuddle bunny'- another miracle? I think so.

And then there is Callie.

I think everyone in GSDR must know about her by now. Our social media experts cooked up a storm for her.

Callie was picked up as a stray with her 'brother' a young collie Spike. Both dogs were terribly emaciated, Callie weighed just 14 kilos. They languished in the pound, while people played politics, and then months later she was deemed 'dangerous', by another rescue, and came to Norfolk (back to the original pound) where GSDR became involved. We could not offer her for adoption, as she is so elderly and is rather blind and deaf. She remains an Eastern Region foster dog but has been wonderfully rehomed by an angel from another region.



Callie aka My Little Old Lady was my kennel buddy. I used to go and take her for a walk to get her out of the routine of kennel life. She 'd had a very tough life, but for an old lady she was really spritely and would trot along on our walks to see the pony down the lane.

She couldn't actually see the pony but I'd tell her it was there, she couldn't actually hear me either but I told her anyway. She really enjoyed our walks and as always happens she got a little more reluctant each time to go back into her kennel until one day when she gave me 'the look' and it was me to who had to walk away so that she could be taken back to her kennel.

I drove home in tears and sent a desperate email to Mandi & Ann to tell them that our little old lady was about to go into a decline if we didn't move her quickly. I've seen the look before and I know what it means. As I typed I prayed for a miracle....

On a visit to the pony

So now, Callie lives with a big brother, whom she adores, in the lap of canine luxury, having only so recently been cruelly treated and then condemned by those who should have been there for her. Never has there been such rejoicing but Mandi has still not got over the strain of engineering this particular 'miracle'!

All of this was thanks to Facebook and her new mum hearing of Callie's sad plight. So, for all that is unpleasant about social media, it can be instrumental in transforming lives for the better as well.

Another miracle? We all think so!



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: Christine Merritt 01702 544974 Christine.merrittgsd@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: Anne Leigh 01263 860864 ajpleighsdr@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

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

